



## Statement

### **The Highest Death Toll Due to Landmines Worldwide Was Recorded in Syria, According to the 2021 Annual Landmine Monitor Report**

**SNHR Is a Member of the International Coalition and Its Main Source of Data for Syria; 2,773 Civilians Have Been Documented Killed by Landmines in Syria Since March 2011**

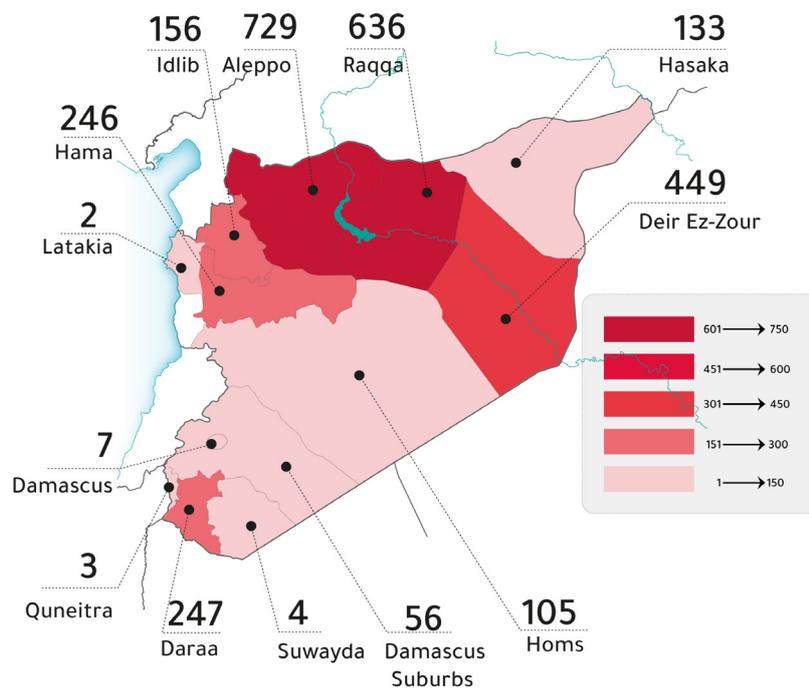
[The International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition \(ICBL-CMC\)](#) recently released its twenty-third annual report on monitoring the use of landmines worldwide. The Coalition leads global civil society efforts to popularize and implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the 1997 Ottawa Convention<sup>1</sup>, which includes 164 states.

<sup>1</sup> ICRC, Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the 1997 Ottawa Convention, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Treaty.xsp?documentId=B587BB399470269441256585003BA277&action=openDocument>

The latest report, which provides an assessment of the international community's response to the global landmine situation, focusing on the calendar year 2020, concludes that Syria saw the highest documented number of annual casualties due to mines globally in 2020 accounting for 2,729 of the casualties (dead and injured) from the total of 7,073 killed or injured worldwide. The report notes that 80% of the mine casualties it documented in 2020 were civilians, with at least 50% of these casualties being children. The report additionally reveals that the 2020 total represents an increase of 20% on the casualties recorded in 2019. The report further indicates that the number of annual casualties recorded in Syria is the highest since the ICBL-CMC began its reporting in 1999.

As a [member of this international coalition](#), the Syrian Network for Human Rights has spent over 10 years to date monitoring and documenting the use of cluster munitions and landmines, and the resulting casualties in Syria, building up a detailed database on this issue which includes the locations and dates of all the incidents reported.

Between March 2011 and December 2021, the Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the deaths of at least 2,773 civilians, including 672 children, 292 women (adult female), eight medical personnel, six Civil Defense personnel, and nine media workers, all of whom were killed in hundreds of mine explosion incidents in various Syrian governorates. The following map shows the distribution of the death toll due to mines according to the governorates where they took place, as follows:



Landmines have been used extensively during the Syrian conflict by all parties to the conflict, and we believe that there are dozens of minefields that have not yet been discovered; the Syrian Network for Human Rights works with partners and specialists to identify as many of these locations as possible, and we have repeatedly called for increased support to organizations working in clearing landmines, especially the Syrian Civil Defense (White Helmets).

The Syrian Network for Human Rights works under extremely difficult circumstances to collectively achieve the strategic goals of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition, including:

- No more use of cluster munitions and antipersonnel landmines.
- Decrease in land contaminated by cluster munitions or landmines.
- Measurable progress in the quality of life for victims of mines and cluster munitions.

Finally, the Syrian Network for Human Rights stresses its willingness to contribute to all international reports on the human rights situation in Syria, placing its database and the extensive information collected there over more than 10 years and still being added to, at the service of all those who wish to show the true extent of human rights violations perpetrated against the Syrian citizens and state. The Syrian Network for Human Rights also hopes that documenting violations will contribute to accountability and transitional justice, including protecting the rights of victims, and deterring the recurrence of violations.

To read the full report, which was issued on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, please visit [this link](#).