

## Statement



## SNHR Becomes an Official Member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC)

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition ([ICBL-CMC](#)) is a network of more than 100 civil society organizations from various nations worldwide working in the humanitarian disarmament field; the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is a member of the coalition in light of its work in Syria on these issues. The vision of the coalition stipulates reaching a world free of antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions, establishing a situation that ends the suffering the weapons have caused, and preserving the rights of their victims.

The [ICBL-CMC](#) research arm, namely the [Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor](#), is the de facto monitoring tool supporting State Party commitments to the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Monitor produces research reports, with perhaps the most prominent of these being the annual global reports in which it outlines steps taken by the ratifying countries of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on and Cluster Munitions, as well as the countries that still use mines and cluster munitions, in which victims are killed and injured by their remnants. In recent years, the SNHR has contributed to the reports by sharing data on incidents caused by landmines and cluster munitions and the resulting deaths and injuries in Syria. Cluster munitions use by the Government of Syria has been ongoing and over 80 per cent of global casualties since 2010 have occurred in the country.

To date, 164 countries have ratified the Mine Ban Treaty, and the ban on the use of anti-personnel mines has become the global norm, whether they ratified the convention or not. A total of 109 countries have ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions to date. We hope that more countries worldwide will join this convention, and that all use of cluster munitions will end.

The SNHR has worked for nearly eight years in monitoring and documenting the locations of cluster munitions bombardment and some locations of landmine fields. It has also determined the types of cluster munitions, starting with the missiles used to carry cluster munitions and continuing through to the various types of submunitions used, and the parties responsible for using them, which is either the Syrian regime or the Russian regime, as we have not previously documented the use of cluster munitions by the other parties to the conflict, such as the Armed Opposition forces, extremist Islamist groups, Syrian Democratic Forces / PYD, or the US-led coalition forces.

In contrast to this, meanwhile, landmines have been used by all parties to the conflict in Syria, except for the US-led coalition forces. Because of this, there is difficulty in determining which parties have planted landmines, due to the continual changes in different parties' areas of control over the past eight years.

The SNHR has published hundreds of news reports about incidents in which victims were killed or injured as a result of landmines and cluster munition remnants and other ERW, to provide a kind of warning to the local population reminding them to remain alert to the dangers of these munitions. In addition to this, we've also interviewed dozens of the individuals injured in these incidents, as well as many witnesses. SNHR's work includes documenting victims who were killed directly as a result of the munitions' use at the time of their deployment, or by their subsequent explosion at a later date. Victims include men, women and children. We also have an extensive collection of hundreds of photos and videos showing the devastating impact of landmines and explosive remnants on victims, buildings and facilities, and have archived all of this in a database specifically dedicated to material concerning these weapons.

With regard to children specifically, SNHR has worked with the UNICEF Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism to prepare a study on children killed and injured as a result of these explosive ordnance. In the future, we seek to work on creating maps of the locations where cluster munitions have been used, and of the sites where we documented incidents of landmine explosions. The information will be published widely and distributed particularly among the residents of those affected areas.

We work towards and aspire to collectively achieving ICBL-CMC strategic goals 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

Ongoing use of these weapons has left a deadly legacy that will continue to threaten Syrians for decades. The Syrian Network for Human Rights seeks to contribute in shedding more light on the enormity of the use of cluster munitions and landmines in Syria, the urgency to end all use, and the need for material, logistical and training support and assistance to humanitarian organizations in the country, to address this legacy.

