

December 1, 2025 3:30AM EST | News Release

Available In [English](#) [Français](#)

# Landmines: Action Needed to Reinforce Ban

## New Use, Country Withdrawals Threaten Treaty



Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click 'Accept.' You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).

[English](#)[DONATE NOW](#)

strong action to counter these life-threatening developments.

The 163-page report assesses implementation of and adherence to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, which comprehensively prohibits the use of antipersonnel mines and requires states parties to destroy stockpiles, clear mine-affected areas, and assist victims.

“Governments should be loud and clear in condemning states’ withdrawal from the Mine Ban Treaty and rejecting attempts to suspend core treaty obligations during armed conflict,” said [Mark Hiznay](#), associate Crisis, Conflict, and Arms director at Human Rights Watch and an editor of “Landmine Monitor 2025.” “A strong response is vital not only for saving lives but also preserving respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law.”

Antipersonnel mines kill and wound people indiscriminately. They are typically placed by hand but can also be scattered by aircraft, rockets, artillery, and drones or dispersed from specialized vehicles. Uncleared landmines remain a danger until located and destroyed. Mined land can drive displacement of civilians,



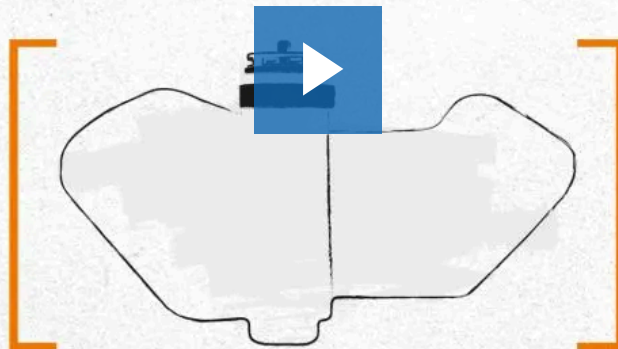
The “Landmine Monitor 2025” cover depicts mine/ERW survivors, who joined a protest in response to the United States’ decision to transfer antipersonnel landmines to Ukraine during the Mine Ban Treaty’s Fifth Review Conference in November 2024 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. © International Campaign to Ban Landmines, November 2024

**Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click ‘Accept.’ You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).**

[Privacy policy](#)

[English](#)[DONATE NOW](#)

# EXPLAINED



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

As of December 1, 2025, 166 countries have joined the treaty, including the [Marshall Islands](#) and [Tonga](#) in 2025.

Five states parties moved to withdraw in 2025, citing regional security concerns. [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), and [Estonia](#) submitted their instruments of withdrawal on June 27, [Finland](#) on July 10, and [Poland](#) on August 20. These withdrawals will take effect six months after those dates if states do not reconsider their position or engage in armed conflict during that period.

At least [22 states parties](#), the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#), and the [International Campaign to Ban Landmines](#) as well as the [United Nations secretary-general](#), more than [100 Nobel laureates](#), and other [distinguished individuals](#) have expressed deep concern at these withdrawals. At least 80,000 people from across Europe signed a [petition](#) urging the countries not to withdraw.

Ukraine's announcement on July 21 that it would suspend its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty

Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click 'Accept.' You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).

[Privacy policy](#)

[English](#)[DONATE NOW](#)

[information](#) also suggests that Ukraine is making mines, including for placement by drones.

Ukraine continues to [investigate reports](#) that their forces used antipersonnel mines in and around the city of Iziium during 2022, when it was occupied by Russian forces.

“Landmine Monitor 2025” also includes documentation of new use of antipersonnel mines by national armed forces in Myanmar, Iran, and North Korea in 2024 and the first half of 2025.

In the midst of [border clashes](#) in July 2025, Thailand alleged that Cambodian military forces placed antipersonnel landmines along their shared border, and reports have emerged of Thai soldiers injured by antipersonnel mines. Cambodia has denied these allegations.

Nonstate armed groups used landmines in at least 13 countries during 2024 and the first half of 2025, particularly in the Sahel region of Africa, Colombia, India, Pakistan, and Myanmar.

“Landmine Monitor 2025” reported at least 6,279 new casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war in 52 countries and areas in 2024, including 1,945 deaths. Civilians made up 90 percent of all recorded casualties, while children accounted for 46 percent in which the age was recorded.

The Myanmar armed forces’ use of mines led to 2,029 recorded casualties from landmines or explosive remnants of war in 2024, the most of any country. In 2024, Human Rights Watch [documented](#) that the Myanmar junta planted landmines in homes, villages, and farms.

Syria had the second largest number, with 1,015 recorded deaths or injuries. Earlier in 2025, Human Rights Watch [documented](#) the significant harm from extensive landmine contamination across Syria, including for displaced people returning home after the fall of the Bashar al-Assad government in December 2024.

Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click ‘Accept.’ You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).

[Privacy policy](#)

[English](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)

*The “Landmine Monitor 2025” is a publication by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the global coalition of nongovernmental organizations that received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. Human Rights Watch co-founded the campaign in 1992 and contributes to its Landmine Monitor reporting initiative.*

**Your tax deductible gift can help stop human rights violations and save lives around the world.**

<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b><u>\$250</u></b>
<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	<b>Other</b>

[DONATE NOW](#)

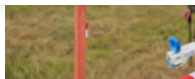
Region / Country [Cambodia, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine](#)

Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click ‘Accept.’ You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).

[Privacy policy](#)

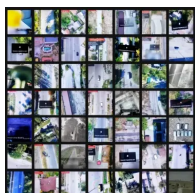
[English](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)



## the Mine Ban Treaty

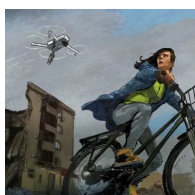
### REPORTS



June 3, 2025 | Feature

## Listen, Run, Hide

How Russia Uses Quadcopter Drones to Hunt and Kill Civilians in Kherson, Ukraine



June 3, 2025 | Report

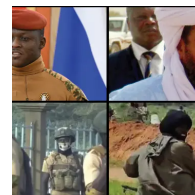
## Hunted From Above

Russia's Use of Drones to Attack Civilians in Kherson, Ukraine

### MOST VIEWED

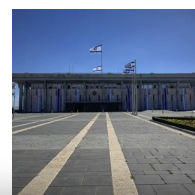
1 April 2, 2026 | Report

## “None Can Run Away”



2 March 31, 2026 | Statement

## Israel: Discriminatory Death Penalty Bill Passes



Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click ‘Accept.’ You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).

[Privacy policy](#)

[English](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)

## Protecting Rights, Saving Lives

Human Rights Watch defends the rights of people in close to 100 countries worldwide, spotlighting abuses and bringing perpetrators to justice

[DONATE NOW](#)

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

## Get Updates On Rights Issues Worldwide

Enter an email address

[Sign Up](#)

## Connect With Us



[Contact Us](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Permissions](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Child Safeguarding](#) | [Text Version](#)

© 2026 Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch values your privacy, and we care about how your personal data is used and shared online. We use cookies and similar technologies for marketing and analytics purposes. To allow us to disclose your personal data to third parties for such purposes, click 'Accept.' You will not be tracked unless you choose to allow us to do so. Read our [privacy policy](#).

[Privacy policy](#)