

**Consultations on the Draft Political Declaration on the  
Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas  
Statement on Section 4 (4.2)  
Action on Armed Violence  
Delivered by Iain Overton – March 5, 2021**



Thank you, Ambassador.

I am speaking on behalf of Action on Armed Violence in support of INEW's position that signatories should: "Endeavour to ensure that all civilian deaths are promptly recorded, correctly identified, and publicly acknowledged, by recording any information available to us regarding civilian casualties irrespective of which party is presumed responsible; share this information and make it publicly available promptly".

The recording of civilian deaths and injuries from explosive violence is crucial towards understanding the impact of explosive weapons on civilians the world over. In addition, the hoped-for recorded fall in casualty figures will inform us all how political commitments such as the one being discussed has had impact for the better.

Over the last ten years, day in and day out, a team of researchers at AOAV has scoured English language media reporting of explosive incidents around the world.

Between 2011 and 2020, AOAV recorded 357,370 deaths and injuries by explosive weapons in 28,879 incidents. Of these, 262,413 were civilians – three quarters.

Crucially, civilian deaths and injuries in populated areas represented 91% of all reported civilian deaths and injuries. In total, some 238,892 civilians were killed and injured in populated areas around the world.

In the last decade, manufactured explosive weapons accounted for at least 47% of civilian casualties from explosive violence. Air-launched explosive weapons were responsible for 23% of all civilian deaths and injuries. Ground-launched explosive weapons were responsible for 21%.

Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen saw the highest number of civilian deaths and injuries in the last decade. But nine countries and territories saw over 5,000 civilian deaths and injuries in the last decade. And we recorded incidents in 123 countries and territories around the world in the ten years.

Our most important finding, though, is this - when explosive weapons were used in populated areas, 91% of those killed and injured were civilians. This compares to 25% in other areas.

Such statistics – that 9 out of 10 ratio seen year in and year out - should serve as a stark reminder to the urgency of this political commitment.

AOAV supports INEW's calls for better transparency in regard to data collection on the impact of explosive violence on civilians and that there should be an additional commitment on gathering data on the use of explosive weapons, including types, locations and quantities used.

Thank you, Ambassador.