

November 20, 2024

"We strongly condemn the reported decision by the Biden administration to transfer antipersonnel landmines to Ukraine, as highlighted by The Washington Post. This decision directly contradicts U.S. policy on landmines, reaffirmed under President Biden's leadership, which prohibits the export or transfer of antipersonnel landmines except in specific cases, such as for mine detection, removal, or destruction. The decision undermines the credibility of U.S. commitments and sets a dangerous precedent that could weaken global efforts to eliminate the use of landmines. The use of landmines in Ukraine has already left a devastating legacy of human suffering, hindered post-conflict recovery, and endangered future generations. We urge Ukraine to consider the profound human and moral costs associated with landmines and to uphold principles that prioritize the protection of civilians during armed conflict.

As the 5th Review Conference on the Mine Ban Treaty convenes on November 25 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, we call on the 164 state parties to the Mine Ban Treaty to strongly condemn this decision, which risks eroding the treaty's integrity. Failure to act not only undermines the treaty's authority but also emboldens other states to disregard or violate its provisions. We must urgently rally all state parties to take a firm stand, defend this vital norm, and refuse to remain silent in the face of this alarming development."

Disarmament and Protection of Civilians Advocacy Manager Alma Taslidzan