

## THE ARMS TRADE TREATY AND THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS: Side Event



The city of Sa'ada in Yemen has been heavily hit by airstrikes. *Credit: OCHA / Philippe Kropf*

**Tuesday 29 January 2019, 13.15 – 14.45**  
**Kruzel Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor WMO building, Geneva**

This side event will present new research on the gendered impact of explosive weapons, examining the ongoing situation in Yemen. Civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) is a major humanitarian priority as a result of conflicts increasingly taking place in urban settings, leading to high levels of civilian casualties. Beyond death and injury, bombing and shelling in towns and cities damages and destroys property, vital infrastructure and services upon which the civilian population relies, and is a driver of forced displacement. While there is a pattern of harm associated with explosive weapons in populated areas in general, the risk to civilians is most severe when the weapons have wide area effects.

This event will also examine the use of explosive weapons in populated areas more broadly, as a growing issue of humanitarian concern, and how this is being addressed by a growing number of states and civil society. It will suggest actions that can be taken to address such harm, including actions at the political level towards the development of an international political declaration on explosive weapons and will also provide an update on ongoing work at the regional and international level.

Chair: Cesar Jaramillo, Project Ploughshares

### Speakers:

- Martin Butcher, Oxfam
- Roos Boer, PAX
- Laura Boillot, Article 36
- Anna Macdonald, Control Arms