



The Ministry of Human Rights



Preliminary Report

On the Human Rights Situation in Yemen



During the period from Jan. 1st 2015, Until Jan. 31st 2017

Preliminary Report on the Human Rights Situation in Yemen

During the period from January 1st, 2015, until January 31st, 2017

The Leadership Council of the Ministry of Human Rights:

Dr. Mohammed Muhsin A'skar	Vice Minister of Human Rights
Mr. Maged Ali Fadail	Deputy Minister of Human Rights
Mr. Nabeel Abdulhafeedh Majid	Deputy Minister of Human Rights for the International Partnership and Cooperation Sector
Mrs. Lulah Abdulkareem Saleh	Deputy Minister of Human Rights for the Grievances and Complaints Sector



In a coup d'état, the Houthi and Saleh militias have taken Yemen into a meaningless war and destroyed its social fabric, economic and financial resources, and infrastructure.

The peace that we aspire cannot accept the control of militias and sectarian gangs over the resources of the state, heavy and medium weapons, and missiles with which they target the security and stability of Yemen, the Arab Peninsula, and the Gulf.

We declare our full commitment to the relentless counterterrorism, and I assure you that terrorism in Yemen cannot be uprooted without addressing its drivers, the most important of which are extremism and the terrorism that the Houthis and Saleh are practicing.

The security vacuum that the war has caused and the economic collapse the policies of black markets, impoverishing the state, and looting resources which are consistent practices of the Putschists since their first day have caused a state of abject poverty that terrorist groups are exploiting to mobilize individuals, recruit children, accumulate weapons, and control cities. Unless action is taken to remove these drivers and reasons, Yemen and the whole region will suffer a great deal.

To the Yemeni people, the criminal acts of the militias including the systematic killing of civilians, children, and elderly, especially in Taiz Governorate, kidnappings, forcible disappearances, siege of cities, suppression of public freedoms, and waging a meaningless war on the people are all terrorist acts that are not any different from the acts of Daesh/ISIL, Al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups.

I have called on everyone to build a dignified democratic, civil, federal state where human rights are respected, distinctions of all areas in Yemen are respected, dignity of women is protected, and rights of children and all marginalized groups in the community are protected.

Marshal Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi
President of the Republic of Yemen

Foreword from the Ministry

Yemen lives the reality of a destructive war caused by militias that have seized power, occupied legitimate state institutions and revolted against the duly elected president and the outcomes of the national dialogue conference. National dialogue has represented a beacon of hope for Yemenis who lived in bloody conflicts since the youth revolution in 2011. That revolution attempted to move Yemen into the direction of the democratic transformation as part of the so called Arab Spring. The GCC Initiative and its implementation mechanism secured the peaceful and smooth transfer of power from the regime against which the people of Yemen revolted to an elected power that established democratic institutions and protects human rights. However, the former regime, represented by the deposed president Ali Abdullah Saleh, used all means to obstruct this democratic transformation in the country. The United Nations, through its special envoy, Mr. Jamal Binomar, oversaw this democratic process and the national dialogue conference that encompassed all social and political spectrum and continued for ten months. The national dialogue produced full-fledge outputs and recommendations to build the new democratic Yemen. However, the enemies of democracy and human rights disregarded all these outputs and used weapons against the elected and legitimate government, represented by President Abdrabu Mansour Hadi. Since March 2014, Yemen has been witnessing difficult situations in relation to human rights. These situations were caused by militias that do not recognize democracy or human rights. Their ultimate aim is to seize power regardless of the mean and price. In two years' time, these militias committed myriad human rights violations and abuses including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of people; the abduction of civil, political and media activities; the recruitment of children; the suppression of voices by depriving journalists and media professional from resources; the bombardment of hundreds of houses and the laying of scores of landmines in residential cities and farms.

The war crimes and the crimes against humanity committed by Houthi and Saleh militias makes it imperative for all international organizations and human rights mechanisms to deeply examine the Yemeni crisis in order to achieve a sustainable peace in all parts of Yemen. This peace cannot be realized until the coup d'état is terminated and all international resolutions, notably Resolution 2216, are implemented. Militias have to be disarmed and must withdraw from state institutions. Perpetrators of crimes against civilians, children and women have to be prosecuted in order to laydown real foundations for peace and stability of Yemen. Those politically affiliated to the Houthi group, whose hands were not marred by the blood of Yemenis, would remain a part of the social and political fabric in Yemen in the future. The future of Yemen, peace and prosperity cannot be achieved through a fragile political settlement that grants impunity to criminals and allows militias to retain their weapons. Sound foundations must be laid for permanent and comprehensive peace that guarantees development and coexistence for all Yemenis. A peace that maintains the values of democracy, legitimacy, state institutions and the law and order envisaged by all Yemenis.

While the Ministry of Human Rights, under wise guidance from President Abdrabu Mansour Hadi, and under the oversight of the Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Obaid Bin Daghr, presents this report that documents the crimes of these militias and their violations against human rights during the period from January 1, 2015 until January 31, 2017, the Ministry hopes that the report presents a factual picture of the magnitude of material and moral harm caused by Saleh and Houthi militias against the Yemeni people. The report followed a scientific methodology and provides figures, which some political parties try to conceal or misconceive. By this, we would have made the first step to achieve justice by revealing and documenting crimes so victims and their family members may find justice and relief.

I may not miss expressing my highest appreciation for all the profound efforts made by the Ministry team in preparing this report. Despite limited time and scarce resources, the report represents a great achievement and will motivate us to do more to serve human issues and rights in Yemen.

Mohammed Askar
Vice Minister of Human Rights

Index

Background on the Situation in Yemen	7
The International Position:	9
The Report Methodology	11
Report Executive Summary:.....	11
First: Targeting Civilians (Killing and Injury).....	13
Collective Incidents:.....	15
Victims of Landmines:.....	22
Second: Arbitrary Detentions, Torture, and Forced Disappearance:.....	25
Forced Displacement:.....	27
Violations Against Children.....	28
Killing and Maiming Children:.....	29
Recruitment or Use of Children as Soldiers:.....	30
Denial of Education for Children:.....	33
Denying Healthcare, Food, and Humanitarian Assistance to Children:.....	33
Violations Against Women:.....	34
Violations Against Public and Private Property:.....	35
Blowing Up Homes:.....	35
Freedom of Opinion and Expression:.....	36
Fourth: Arab Coalition Airstrikes:.....	38
Fifth: The Efforts and Activities Carried out by the Ministry of Human Rights (During January 2017):	40
Recommendations:.....	42

Background on the Situation in Yemen:

After the Popular Youth Revolution in the beginning of 2011, which was against corruption and the deteriorating economic, political, and social conditions, where the protesters and demonstrators in the squares for freedom and change called for the regime of the former President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to fall, and with the expanding demonstrations, there were clashes between the protesters and the security forces, and a number of protesters and demonstrators were killed during these clashes. There was an initiative for a political solution that was put forth by the Gulf Cooperative Council in April 2011, and, after many meetings between the political components, the youth groups that were participating in the protests, and the representatives of the former president, the GCC Initiative was approved after an executive mechanism for it was put in place. It was sponsored by the representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the GCC. In accordance with this agreement, the transitional period started with President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi taking over as President of the Republic of Yemen on February 21st, 2012, through general elections.

In implementation of one of the items of the agreement, all of the parties went into a comprehensive national dialogue, including the Houthis, the peaceful Southern Hirak, representatives of women and youth, and some groups like expatriates, the marginalized, and others. The Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference was launched on March 18th, 2013, and it lasted until January 25th, 2014. The attendees of the conference agreed on a document of the Outputs of the NDC, and it included solutions for political, economic, security, and judicial problems, in addition to the Southern Issue and the Sa'dah Issue. They also agreed on a federal system for the country. President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi issued two Republican Decrees, 26 and 27, in 2014, to establish a Commission to draft the constitution. This decree formed this Commission from 17 members. The constitutional drafting Commission worked on this task for 9 months. On September 21, 2014, the Houthi and Saleh militias¹ overran the capital, Sana'a, using force. They took over the institutions of the state and looted the weapons of the army and security forces, as well as all of the resources of the state. This was after it had already overrun the northern gateway into the capital, the governorate of Amran, when, in July 2014, it killed² the leader of the 310 Armored Brigade, General Hameed Al Qushaibi. The Houthi militias had gained control, using force, over the governorate of Sa'dah, and they had forcibly displaced all of the people and families of Dammaj.

1- The mutiny of military units loyal to former President Saleh and his son, and their refusal of the orders of the military leadership, represented by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the President of the Republic, Field Marshal Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, and their conspiring and adhering to the orders of the Houthis, has turned them into militias that are commanded by the leaders of the Houthi militias. We will, in this report, refer to them as the 'Houthi and Saleh militias to refer to them.

2- There are recordings that describe the plan and method of killing General Al Qushaibi and his guards. The recorded leaks, which were broadcast on Al Jazeera, showed that the assassination was carried out with complete planning and supervision from Abu Ali Al Hakim, a Houthi military leader that is sanctioned by the Security Council, Muhammad Yahiya Al Gholi, a tribal sheikh that is close to Saleh, and Yusuf Al Madani, a Houthi military leader.

On January 9th, 2015, the draft constitution was submitted to the President, and, on January 17th, 2015, the Houthi and Saleh militias kidnapped the President's office manager and the Secretary General of the NDC, Ahmad Awadh Bin Mubarak. ON January 21st, 2015, the Houthi and Saleh militias put the elected President, Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, and his Prime Minister, as well as a number of ministers, under house arrest. On February 21st, 2015, President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi was able to escape from the militias and go to Aden, which he announced the temporary capital. On March 19th, 2015, the Ma'asheeq Presidential Palace in Aden was bombed by the Houthi and Saleh militias. On March 21st, 2015, the head of the Houthi militia announced a general mobilization to take over the southern and eastern governorates.

The President, Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, asked for the intervention of Arab nations to deal with the Houthi and Saleh militias, which had overthrown the legitimate government. On March 26th, 2015, President Hadi's request was approved, and the formation of an Arab Coalition was announced to support the legitimacy. This Coalition was made up of 12 countries and led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On March 21st, 2015, the popular resistance was formed against the presence of the militias, and the legitimate Yemeni government formed the National Army, then it started working on integrating the popular resistance and including it into the National Army.

On July 14th, 2015, the National Army and the popular resistance, with the support of the Arab Coalition, freed the governorate of Aden, and they forced the militias out of it. They also took back the governorates of Lahj, Dhale, Shabwa, Abyan, Jawf, and Mareb (there are still some clashes on the edges of the governorates of Jawf and Mareb). The governorate of Hadramawt, whose capital, Mukalla, was under the control of Al Qaeda, was liberated.

This has caused a severe and unprecedented deterioration in the human rights situation and the humanitarian situation in Yemen. The Houthi and Saleh militias have committed, while taking over the governorates in the country, different types of violations. They have shelled cities and popular markets, and they have committed crimes against civilians. They have killed thousands and injured tens of thousands, including women and children, and they have caused a large amount of destruction to the infrastructure. They have used different public and private facilities as military centers and barracks, and they have put their military vehicles near them. They have destroyed thousands of facilities, and used some of them as military training centers. The Houthi and Saleh militias have used a policy of collective punishment and starvation against the people, and they have also forcibly displaced them. They have bombed and booby-trapped civilian homes, besieged cities, not allowed medicine, medical supplies, and food from being brought into cities, and looted most of the relief supplies and humanitarian aid, to use them for the so-called 'war effort', which is only to feed into the conflict and kill civilians. The Houthi and Saleh militias have taken advantage of and used tens of thousands of children for its war, they have turned residential

areas, roads, and farms into areas full of landmines, and they have silenced the press and journalists. They have used terror, threats, and destruction as tools to extort civilians and businessmen, and they have committed, and are still committing, the crimes of kidnapping, forced disappearance, and torture, to the death, of the youth, activists, journalists, and politicians that oppose them.

The Houthi and Saleh militias and their leaders have committed violations and crimes against humanity and war crimes against civilians, and they threaten international peace and security.

The International Position:

On February 15th, 2015, the Security Council issued Resolution 2201, and unanimously condemned the Houthis taking over authority and the institutions of the state, as well as them using violence to achieve political goals. It also condemned them taking over the media of the state and using it to incite people to violence, and asked for the Houthis to pull their armed men out of these institutions. The Resolution also asked them to released President Hadi and his Prime Minister, along with the ministers that they had. On February 24th, 2015, the Security Council issued Resolution 2204, deciding that the situation in Yemen is still a danger to international peace and security, and dealing with it using Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and it confirmed sanctions against the individuals and entities that the Commission established to work within paragraph 19 of resolution number (2140) (2014) decides are taking part in actions that threaten peace, security, or stability in Yemen, or those that support these actions. The resolution also decided that United Nations remain actively seized in the matter. The Houthi response was escalation and more violence, and the Security Council held, after this, an emergency meeting on March 22nd, 2015, and issued a Presidential Statement that strongly condemned the unilateral actions being taken by the Houthis, saying that they are putting the stability of Yemen in danger, as well as its unity. The statement also condemned the airstrikes that targeted Aden Airport and the Republican Palace in Ma'asheeq in Aden, where the President was residing. On March 24th, 2015, the Permanent Representative of Yemen at the United Nations, Ambassador Khalid Al Yamani, sent a message with a letter from the President, Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, where he told the President of the Security Council that he had "requested from the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League to provide immediate support in every form, and take the necessary measures, including military intervention, to protect Yemen and its people from the ongoing Houthi aggression." On March 25th, 2015, the Arab Summit issued decree number 625, where it confirmed its support for the legitimate government in Yemen, represented by President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, and that it would wholly commit to preserving Yemen's unity and its territorial integrity. It welcomed the Arab Coalition, announcing its complete support for the military procedures that the Coalition was

taking to defend the legitimacy. It asked the Houthis to immediately withdraw from the capital, Sana'a, and the rest of the cities, to return the heavy and medium-sized weapons that they had taken to the legitimate Yemeni state. On April 14th, 2015, the Security Council issued Resolution 2216, confirming its commitment to a unified Yemen with sovereignty, independence, and regional integrity. It also reconfirmed the Yemeni legitimate government, represented by President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi. It talked about the dangers of the humanitarian situation and people not getting the relief supplies that are sent to them, and it asked the Houthis to retreat with their forces, leave all of the weapons that they took, stop doing anything that is the job of the authorities and the legitimate government, and safely release General Mahmoud Al Subaihi, the Minister of Defense in Yemen, as well as all of the political prisoners, people under house arrest, and those arbitrarily detained. It also called for the Houthis to stop recruiting children and release all of the children in their ranks, and it decided to add Abdulmalik Al Houthi and Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh to the sanctions in paragraphs 11 and 15 of Resolution 2140 of 2014. The scope of these sanctions was expanded in Resolution 2204 of 2015, in which all of the Member States decided to freeze all of the funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, and it decided that all Member States shall ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the individuals or entities designated by the Commission. All Member States shall also take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories. On February 24th, 2016, the Security Council issued Resolution 2266, confirming its previous resolutions, and the resolution stated that the Council was gravely distressed by the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in Yemen, expressing serious concern at that. On April 25th 2016, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement in accordance with the previous resolutions and statements, and recalled that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue conference, and relevant Security Council resolutions provide the basis for inclusive negotiations for a political settlement of the crisis in Yemen.

The Report Methodology

This report is a preliminary report on the human rights situation during the period from January 1st, 2015, until January 31st, 2017, and the Ministry prepared this report based on the following:

- Field visits made by the field observers and coordinators in the Ministry of Human Rights in a number of governorates in the country in order to get testimony and documents, record interviews, and take photographs.
- Relying on the reports resulting from the investigations sent by the National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations.
- Field visits by officials in the Ministry, and meeting with a number of the victims of violations in order to get their testimony and see, first-hand, the sites and effects of the violations.
- The reports of civil society organizations and alliances that have worked to observe and document human rights violations during the previous two years.
- Reports and complaints that have gotten to the Ministry from eyewitnesses, the families of the victims, or the victims themselves.
- Testimonies, reports, and responses received from a number of government entities regarding the violations that they have been subject to, including those from the health, education, interior, and other related sectors.

In this report, the total statistics for human rights violations during the period from 1/1/2015 to 31/1/2017 will be presented, and we will also discuss a number of incidents of violations in general, while some of them will be discussed more.

Report Executive Summary

The crimes and violations committed by the Houthi and Saleh militias in Yemen have been diverse, ranging from killing, maiming, disfiguring, using kidnapped individuals as human shields, torturing them to death, arbitrary detentions, forcible disappearance, targeting residential neighborhoods and popular markets with different kinds of weapons and shells, like mortar shells and Katyusha rockets, in addition to planting landmines in agricultural lands or side roads.

The numbers and statistics that the Ministry of Human Rights has during the period from January 1st, 2015 until January 31st, 2017 show that the total number of civilians killed or injured has reached **37,888** cases, including **10,811** cases of civilians killed. Among these cases, there were **649** women that were killed, **1,002** children, and **9,160** men. The number of cases of civilians injured reached **27,077** cases, including **3,875** women, **3,334** children, and **19,868** men.

Most of the victims died in 2015, where the number of casualties reached **29,084** for that year, or 77% of the total casualties. The number of casualties in 2016 was **8,508**, which is

22% of the total number of victims. The number of injured and dead during the first month, January, of 2017 were 296 dead, or 1% of the total number of victims killed. This report will display some of the collective incidents against civilians, and some of them will be presented as statistics and in more detail to show the documentation and evidence that have been found and prove who committed them.

The Houthi and Saleh militias planted landmines in residential areas, villages, farms, and public roads, and their intention in doing this was to kill the highest possible number of civilians. The number of victims of landmines has reached more than 673 cases, including 315 who were killed and 358 who were injured. A lot of these victims are women and children, and they are either killed or permanently disabled.

There are still a lot of journalists, students, activists, academics, and politicians are languishing in the prisons and detention centers of the Houthi and Saleh militias. The number of cases of arbitrary detentions, torture, and forced disappearance during the period of the report has reached 16,804 cases, including 13,938 cases of arbitrary detention. Those that are released suffer from psychological and health problems. The number of cases of forced disappearance has reached 2,866 cases, and a lot of times, the detainees and those that have been forcibly disappeared are tortured, and a lot of these victims have been tortured to death.

The Houthi and Saleh militias have used children as fuel for their war, and the number of children that the Houthi and Saleh militias have recruited and used are estimated to be more than 10,000 cases of children that have been recruited and are still not of legal age. In addition to recruiting children, they also recruit women and use them on the frontlines of the fighting.

The Houthi and Saleh militias have carried out a systematic destruction of the infrastructure, whether it is public or private, and the number of these cases has reached 29,422 cases of violations, including 3,557 cases of violations against public property, including government offices, schools, hospitals, water, electricity, and communication networks, roads, bridges, and others, while the number of violations against private property has reached 25,865 cases, including homes, buildings, shops, vehicles, farms, companies, factories, and others. There have been different types of damages in these cases, ranging from complete or partial destruction to looting, violation of privacy, or confiscation.

There is no more freedom of opinion and expression under the control of the Houthi and Saleh militias, as they have looted the official and private media sources that oppose them, blocked most news sites, and taken a policy to gag and detains dozens of journalists. They have detained dozens of journalists in prisons and private detention centers, and they have also killed and assassinated journalists and used them as human shields. The number of cases of violations against journalists and media employees during the previous two years, according to the Journalists Syndicate, have reached 450 violations, including torture, de-

tention, looting, raiding headquarters of newspapers and channels, in addition to closing of-fices, satellite channels, and local radio stations. The cases of journalists killed has reached 19 cases, and the number of journalists kidnapped in Houthi and Saleh militia prisons has reached 125.

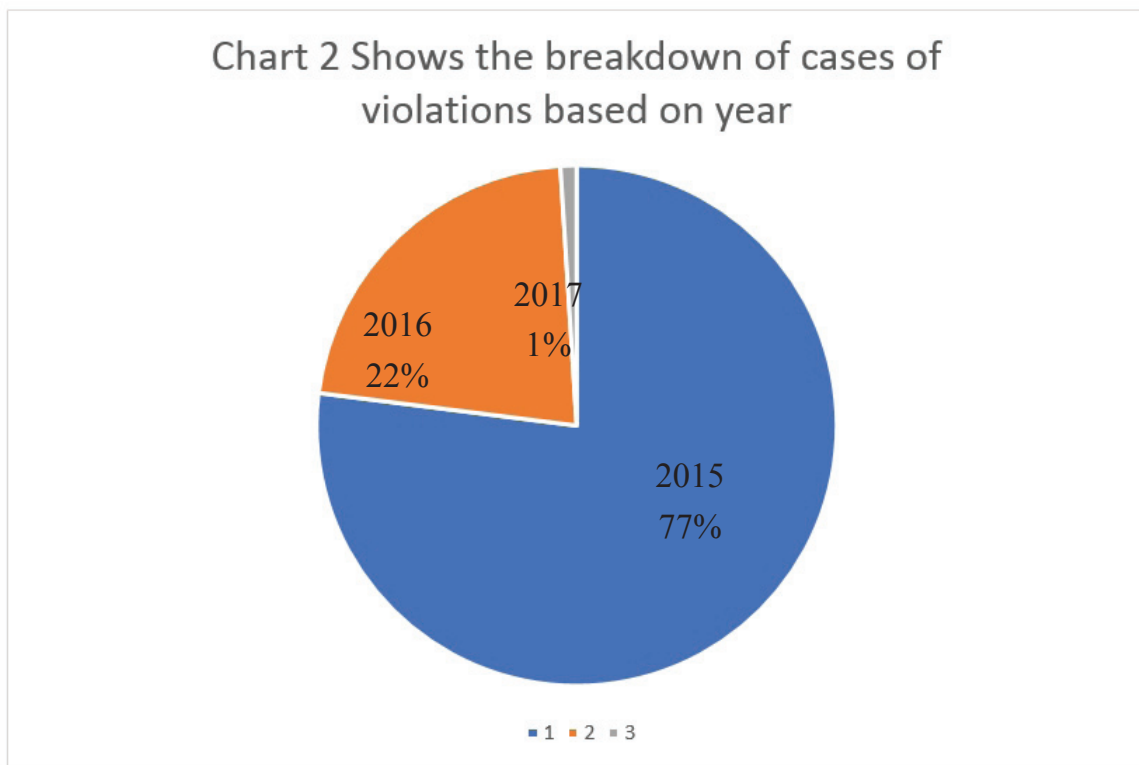
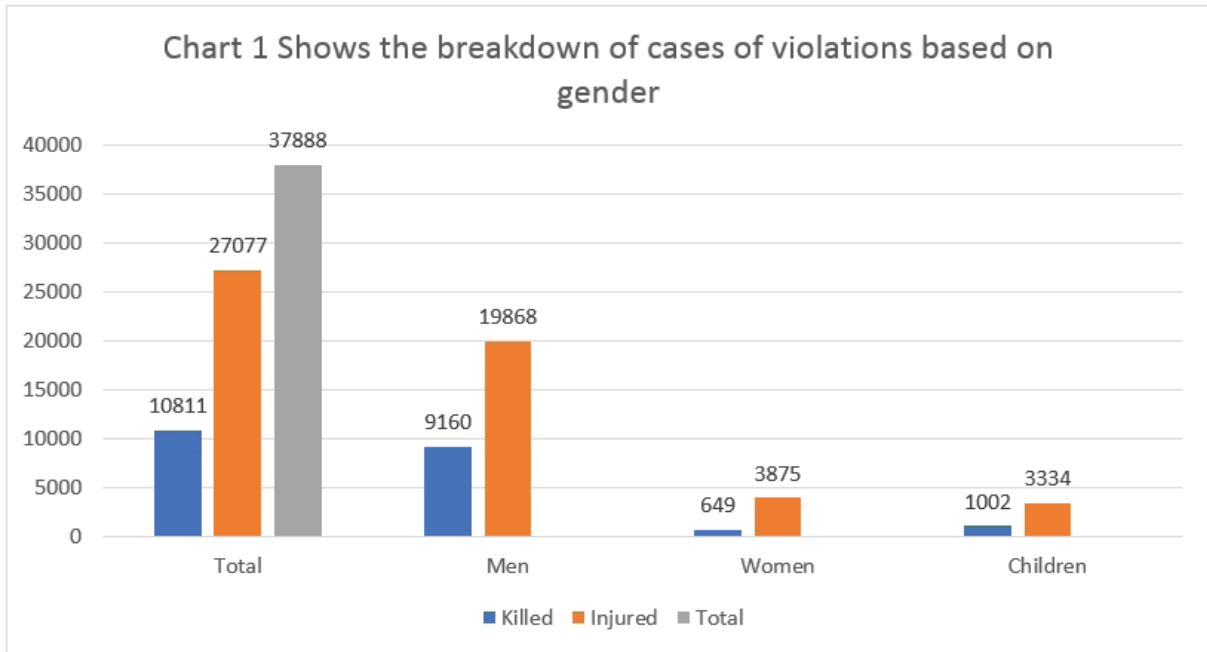
The report will go into other violations as well, and it will present the results of the investi-gation, going into a number of incidents and crimes that were committed against civilians. These statistics during the period of the report do not reflect all of the reality, but a part of it, and they only reflect what has been gotten by or submitted to us, while the true numbers are much more than the ones that we have in this report. There are some violations that are dif-ficult for us at the Ministry to investigate, or for any civil society organizations, as a result of the security situation and out of fear of the observers being kidnapped, tortured, or killed. Also, some of the families of the victims, and eyewitnesses, refuse to give any informa-tion or statements on a lot of the incidents out of fear that there will be criminal retribution against them by the militias.

First: Targeting Civilians (Killing and Injury)

Targeting civilians is considered a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, and extrajudicial killing is considered a violation of international human rights law. The Houthi and Saleh militias has targeted civilians and carried out thousands of cases of extrajudicial killing, and it has left in its wake thousands of injured, a lot of whom are permanently disa-bled.

During the period of this report, the total number of cases of people killed and injured reached 37,888 cases, including 10,811 killed, among whom are 649 women, 1,002 chil-dren, and 9,160 men. The number of injuries among civilians has reached 27,077 cases, including 3,875 women, 3,334 children, and 19,868 men.

Most of the casualties took place in 2015, where the number of victims was 29,084, or 77% of the total number of victims. The number of victims in 2016 was 8,508, which makes up 22% of the total number of victims. The number of victims that were killed and injured dur-ing the first month, January, of 2017, was 296 victims, or 1% of the total number of victims included in the report.



We notice that there is a sharp increase in the number of civilian victims during 2015, and this was because the Houthi and Saleh militias took over the middle and southern governorates. They would shell areas that were full of civilians, and they would do so indiscriminately, using all different types of weapons, including mortar shells, Katyusha rockets, tanks shells, and other weapons. The Houthi and Saleh militias have committed mass murders against civilians in Aden and Taiz, and we will present a number of them here.

The National Commission has stated, in its report on the targeting of civilians, that it has investigated 1,181 cases of killings, among them 100 women and 221 children, while the number of cases of injuries resulting from the targeting of civilians that it investigated reached 2,697 cases, among them 170 women and 300 children. The injuries ranged from serious injuries to simple ones. This shows that the Houthi and Saleh militias used shelling indiscriminately, using cannons, mortar shells, and Katyusha rockets against areas that were full of civilian residents, and targeting homes, schools, and hospitals. These attacks are grave violations of international humanitarian law, and they are considered war crimes.

Collective Incidents:

Here, we will present some of the collective incidents and massacres that were proven to be committed by the Houthi and Saleh militias against unarmed civilians, and they did this through indiscriminate bombing of residential areas and popular markets. We will choose, as examples, and not limited to, two incidents to go into depth about, and including a number of statements given by the victims and eyewitnesses. These collective incidents are considered grave violations in international humanitarian law, and they are crimes against humanity that have no statute of limitations. Their perpetrators must be punished.

Targeting Refugees in Tawahi – Aden:

The incident took place at 10:30 on Wednesday, May 6th, 2015, while civilians were leaving the area of Tawahi. They had been leaving since the early morning that day, and they were escaping the hell of the shelling by the Houthi and Saleh militias. A number of mortar shells fell on a group of small boats that were taking displaced civilians out of the area, which led to a large number of casualties. According to the investigation carried out by the National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations for this incident, it proved that the Houthi and Saleh militias carried out this violation, and they included a list of the number of victims and their names in its report¹. The National Commission confirmed that the number of victims whose cases and information were investigated reached 13 that were killed and 17 that were injured, and these are the figures that we use. A number of civil society organizations stated that the number is more than that, and they estimate that the number of casualties was 28 dead, most of them women and children, and

1- The report of the National Commission, titled (Preliminary Report on Allegations of Human Rights Violations in the Republic of Yemen), and the incident is on pages 6367-.

22 injured.

Targeting Sha'b City (University Residences and Single Residences) – Aden:

On June 24th, 2015, between 11 and 12 at night, two shells fell. The first struck the student residences. It was confirmed that the two shells were launched by the Houthi and Saleh militias, who were positioned in the area of Bir Ahmad and Bir Ali, to the north west of Sha'b City. The second shell fell on the single neighborhood, and it came from the same source. The number of casualties that were investigated was 6 dead, including children, and 38 injured, most of them children and women.

Targeting Mansoura – Aden:

During the final hours of the night on June 30th, 2015, during Ramadan, the Houthi and Saleh militias launched four rocket shells on Mansoura, and these shells fell in the area between Blocks 4 and 5 and the Military Buildings at the end of the Central Prison Street. A shell hit the 90 Intersection, and, a few hours later, two other shells hit civilian homes. The number of casualties reached 31 dead and 45 injured, among them women and children. The National Commission investigated¹ 11 deaths and 15 injuries from this incident. Most of them went to the Doctors Without Borders, Naqeeb, and May 22nd hospitals.

Targeting Dar Sa'd – Aden:

During a number of days in July 2015, a number of mortar shells and Katyusha rockets fell on residential neighborhoods in Dar Sa'd, specifically in the eastern part and Al Maydan street, near the Shaikhan Masjid. The indiscriminant shelling continued until Eid Al Fitr, and the number of casualties that were investigated and proven to be casualties from this incident included 56 who were killed, among them 15 children and 8 women, and 89 who were injured, including 16 children and 17 women. These are the cases that were investigated².



A picture of an eyewitness holding a shell that was used by the Houthi and Saleh militias (Picture taken by the True Human Rights Institution team).

Some of the testimony from the incident that got to the Ministry, from witnesses and victims:

FAA, who was injured by shrapnel in his stomach and leg while he was near his home, says: “My brother and nephew were injured. My brother is Raed, and my nephew is Ahmad. My neighbor is Rashad. When the shell fell, it was 10:30 in the morning, and 8 more shells fell after it.”

The witness continued, saying: “A large

1-The second report from the Commission (An Objective Report on Investigations Into Allegations of Human Rights Violations in the Republic).

2-They were investigated by the National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations, and these incidents were included in its second report.

number of shells fell on us, and people were gathered in the Shaikhan Masjid to get water. A lot of them died, and the people that did not die were injured. We heard a lot of explosions in Dar Sa'd.”

FHS says: “A shell hit our neighbor’s home three days Eid Al Fitr, on July 19th, 2015, and another shell hit near the masjid while the people that had been praying were leaving. It killed six individuals and damaged three cars, and also damaged the masjid. From among the dead, I know Saeed Nasser and his son, who was injured, Khalil Muhammad Ibrahim, a mute and disabled man, Jawad Hunaish, Thabet Al Qubati, Rami, and his son, and a person that I do not know, and his name was Omar Al Mukhtar. The first shell struck at 10 or 10:30, or around that time, and it hit the home of Raed and Fahd. The second shell hit the home of Hani, and he was injured. The third shell hit near the Al Sufi Restaurant, and two shells hit Blocks 4 and 5 near the home of Hussein. The sixth shell hit in front of the door of the masjid, and the seventh hit a home near the old post office, and it killed people from that family.”

From the testimony that was confirmed by the National Commission and included in its report, are the statements made by MSN, MAH, and MSQH, people who live in the area that the shells hit. They said that the Houthi and Saleh militias fired a number of shells in a heavy barrage, and one after the other, on the neighborhoods of Dar Sa'd, including Al Maydan Street, the streets near the Shaikhan Masjid, and the eastern part. There were a



Pictures showing the effects of the shelling and the shrapnel on the walls, and the destruction of vehicles and private property (Picture taken by the True Human Rights Institution team)

number of civilians killed and injured, and they added that these areas are civilian areas that are full of people and far from any military operations or resistance forces. These shells were launched indiscriminately from the areas where the Houthi and Saleh militias are positioned. After listening to the testimony of the victims, the families of the victims, and the witnesses through the comprehensive investigations, the National Commission, through the investigations that it carried out on the ground, came to the conclusion that the Houthi and Saleh militias are responsible for carrying out those violations that resulted in a number of people killed and injured in the area of Dar Sa'd.

Two Incidents of Targeting of the Masbah Neighborhood – Taiz:

On April 26th, 2015, numerous mortar shells hit a crowded neighborhood in the Masbah area, to the south of the center of the city of Taiz. While people were gathering in the area that the shells hit, another shell hit, bringing the number of casualties from this incident to 5 dead and 16 injured, including 4 children that were at the site.

On Saturday, September 19th, 2015, between 5 and 7 o'clock in the evening, three mortar shells fell on a shopping center, Farah Mall, in the Masbah neighborhood in the middle of the city of Taiz, right before Eid Al Adha, while the center was full of shoppers, men women and children. According to the investigation of the National Commission, the number of casualties was 12, including 5 dead, among them two women, and 7 injured.

Targeting the Livestock Market on Tahrir Street – Taiz:

During the first days of Eid Al Adha, on September 24th, 2015, a Katyusha rocket hit the livestock market on Tahrir Street in the middle of the city of Taiz, and this happened at the same time as heavy shelling from a canon that targeted a number of residential neighborhoods near the market. These attacks led to 9 dead and 30 injured, all of whom were civilians, and among them 5 children.

Targeting the Qariyah Neighborhood in Osaifirah – Taiz:

On August 20th, 2015, a Katyusha rocket struck the Qariyah neighborhood in the Osaifirah area, which is a crowded residential area, and the shelling led to 10 dead, 9 of them children, and a number of people were injured, most of whom were women and children.

Targeting the Sha'b Al Daba Neighborhood in Salah – Taiz:

On April 8th, 2016, a mortar shell hit while people were leaving Maghreb prayer, and shrapnel from the shell flew around the area that it hit. This led to a number of casualties, including 2 dead and 12 injured.

Targeting Residential Neighborhoods in the Madam Valley – Taiz:

On June 22nd, 2016, a number of shells hit the neighborhood of the Madam Valley in the Qahirah District, and the shelling led to 5 dead, among them 4 women, and 6 injured.

Targeting the Qimmah Market in Bab Kabeer¹ – Taiz:

In June 3rd, 2016, a Katyusha rocket hit the Qimmah Market, inside a popular market known as the Bab Kabeer Market, in the middle of the city of Taiz, and it led to 9 civilians dead, including a child and two women, and 19 civilians injured. The casualties included shop owners, traders, passersby, shoppers, and nearby residents. According to the statement by the military expert, AAA, the shell that hit the Qimmah Market in Bab Kabeer that afternoon was a Katyusha rocket that was fired from a BM-21 missile launcher that was on Mount Awman, near the Janad Airport, and also near the area of Kasarah in the direction of 60 Street to the south of the city. He added that the Houthi and Saleh militias have BM-21 missile launchers that can carry 40 missiles, and that this vehicle is on the top of Mount Aw-

1- From the report of the Yemeni Coalition, the Rasd Coalition, titled The Katyusha Massacre – Taiz, and documentation from the National Commission.

man, in addition to a Howitzer cannon near the Janad Airport. He said that the distance between Mount Awman, where the Houthi and Saleh militias are positioned, and the area that the Katyusha rocket struck in Bab Kabeer in the middle of Taiz is estimated to be around 18 kilometers squared through the air, and this is the normal range of these kinds of missiles. The military expert said that all of the shelling that targets the neighborhoods and markets in the city of Taiz are carried out by the Houthi and Saleh militias, who are positioned on the outskirts of the city, and that all of these attacks are on purpose, not accidents, like some people claim, especially since the clashes in the city are in the outskirts, and there are no military targets in the middle of the city.

A witness, MAAM, talks about what happened, and he says: “I went into the Bab Kabeer market and parked my car, an SUV, in the Qimmah Market, then I went to the nearby bakery. While I was going back to my car, I suddenly heard an explosion, and I ran to the market where I had parked my car. I found bodies, and some of them were no more than flesh and organs, and blood was everywhere.”

An eyewitness, ASA (45 years old), says that, at 3:30 in the afternoon, on Friday, June 3rd, 2016, a Katyusha rocket struck the middle of the Qimmah market in Bab Kabeer, and it killed a number of people, including a child that was buying medicine from the pharmacy in that area. He also said: “This is not the first time that the popular markets and residential neighborhoods of the city have been targeted by the Houthi militias and Affash’s forces, who do not respect any truce or talks.”

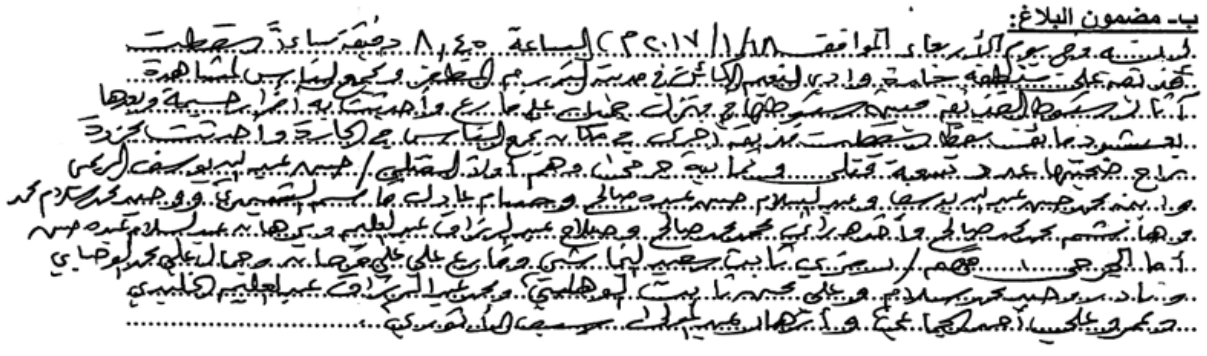
BHS, a witness and the son of SB, one of the people injured during this incident, talked about what had happened and said: “At 3:30 in the afternoon of Friday, June 3rd, 2016, a shell hit the Qimmah Market in the Bab Kabeer Market, in the middle of the city of Taiz, and it killed two women from our village. It also injured my mother, whose leg was broken and arteries cut. She also broke her hand and sustained an injury in her back and stomach from the shrapnel, and that injury cut up her intestines.”

SM, who is 55 years old, is a victim of this incident, and she is in the Rawdhah Hospital. Both of her legs were broken, as was her hand, and she also sustained injuries in her stomach when some shrapnel went through her body. She says: “I was with Wasfiyah Abbadi and Fakihah, and we were selling qat, when we were surprised, in the afternoon, when we were going to go back to our homes, by a shell falling on us while we were in the market, near the café.” The victim confirmed that there had been no clashes in the market, and she said that the shell came from the area of Hawban, an area that is under the control of the Houthi and Saleh militias.

Targeting Noor City – Taiz:

On January 18th, 2017, mortar shells hit the Naeem Valley neighborhood in Noor City, in the Mudhaffar district of Taiz, and they led to 17 casualties, including 9 dead, among whom was a child, and 8 injured, among whom were two children.

A witness, JSMS, says that “on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017, at 8:45 in the evening, a shell hit the area of the Naeem Valley, which is in Noor City in Mudhaffar. While people were gathering to see the effects of the shell, which had hit the home of Jameel Ali Farea and caused a lot of damage to it, and around 10 minutes after the first shell, another shell hit the site where the people were gathered in the neighborhood, and there was a massacre. 9 people were killed, and 8 were injured.” The witness finished up by giving a list of the names of the people killed during this massacre.



A scan of a report form for an eyewitness of the incident:

The Thawrah Hospital, where a number of the people injured during the incident were being treated, was visited, and video recorded interviews were carried out with a number of the victims, including FAF, who said: “At around 8:30, they shot a canon, I am not sure from where, but from around 60 Street, and they shot a missile into the middle of the neighborhood. We went down to see what had happened, and, while we were gathering, and were about to leave, they shot another missile, and killed around 8 people. They injured a lot of people as well. This was around 9 o’clock, and the Houthis did this.”

Another witness, MFA, says: “A shell hit one of the civilian homes in Noor City, and there were no casualties, but it destroyed the house. The people were gathered around where the shell struck so that they could help anyone that needs medical treatment because they thought that there might be casualties. After around a quarter of an hour, a Katyusha rocket or mortar shell hit, and it led to the death of Waheed Abdulsalam Al Salihi, Burhan, and many others. Around 10 people died, and there were a lot of people that were injured. The criminals that attacked the area could only be the Houthis and Affash’s forces.”

Official reports and documents were made for each one of the victims, and they explained the details of their death or injury with information from the person that submitted the report. The Ministry has these documents, and will provide the whole file to the National Commission so that it can investigate this incident, as well as other incidents, and we will work to make sure that the perpetrators face justice.

cluding 47 children and 37 women. These are just the cases that the National Commission investigated, and the real number of cases is much higher.

Victims of Landmines:

Planting landmines is a criminal violation of international humanitarian law, related conventions, and the Ottawa Treaty on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The Houthi and Saleh militias found new ways to use anti-vehicle mines, and started using them as anti-personnel mines, and they did this to try to kill the highest number of people and cause the most damage to property. Many times, women and children are victims of these mines, which can kill, injure, or cause permanent disability.

The number of cases of victims of landmines that were documented during the period covered by this report reached 673 cases, including 315 deaths, among them 175 children, and 358 cases of injuries, among them 241 children. The National Commission has investigated 169 cases of landmines, and, among these cases, there were 76 dead, among them 8 children and 3 women, and 93 injured, among them 22 children and 7 women. Human Rights Watch has investigated 5 cases of individuals that were injured by anti-personnel mines in Taiz, and, it said that the doctor said that he has treated 50 cases in Taiz of people who have had one of their limbs amputated since April. It is believed that they have been injured by landmines. The Houthi and Saleh militias use anti-vehicle landmines, and anti-personnel landmines that were produced in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Some of them were made in the 1980s, and they are still being used, even though Yemen ratified a 1997 treaty in 1998 that banned the use of landmines, and this treaty started being implemented in March 1998. This treaty makes countries commit to not using anti-personnel landmines under any circumstances. But, after the militias gained control of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, and after gaining control, by force, of the institutions of the state in the end of 2014, Houthi militias gained control of the Executive Mine Action Center in Sana'a, where they looted all of the content and used them to continue their aggression against the people in most of the governorates.

When the Houthi and Saleh militias are defeated and run away from an area, they leave behind large fields of hundreds of thousands of anti-personnel landmines, as well as anti-vehicle landmines and IEDs. All of them were planted randomly, without maps that could allow teams to remove the more than 30,000 landmines in Aden and Lahj. At the end of November last year, the National Army announced that its own specialist teams were able to remove 36,000 landmines that had been planted by the Houthi and Saleh militias in different parts of Mareb.



Using pedals in anti-vehicle mines to turn them into anti-personnel mines, Mareb - November



PPM-2 Anti-Personnel Mine

The different kinds of mines that the Houthi and Saleh militias planted are estimated to be more than 250,000 in number, and they are planted in the different streets, roads, residential areas, farms, and civilian homes. Some of them are in Aden, in the areas of Khawr Maksar, the Nasr neighborhood, Areesh, Alam, the Oceanside Road, in Dar Sa'd, Lahoom, Ja'oolah, Rubat, Green City, Basateen, the Falaheen village, Mansoura, Bir Fadhl, in Buraiqah, in Bir Ahmad, 31 Military Base, Bir Na'amah, north of Saladin, from the village of Ra's Amran to the Waht junction in Lahj. In Abyan, they are in the area of Khanfar, Zinjibar, areas near the ocean, on the main roads, near the Hassan and Wadi intersections, Akd, Lawdar, in Mount Yusuf, and the area of Thurah. In Shabwa, they are in the areas of Bayhan, and, in Dhale, they are on the main road, Sanah, the area of Minshar Al Shawtari, and Mutawasit. In Taiz, they are in the Waziyah district, the village of Hannat Ali, in Bab El Mandab, Mocha city, in the main road and around it. In Lahj, there are mines on the main road in Anad, the main road to Mount Zaitoon, the road to Saloom, the Kirsh Sharijah road. In Al Jawf, they are in the area of Ghail and the areas surrounding it. In Mareb, there are mines all down the branch roads and on the sides of the roads, as well as in Sirwah, Mas, Mount Haylan to the west of Mareb, and in the area of Faw, Jafinah, and Majzar, in addition to 35 areas that have landmines, according to the statement by the head of operations for the third military region, Brigadier General Zaid Ahmad Sheikh.

Some Incidents of Victims of Landmines¹ :

On July 25th, 2015, at 2 in the afternoon, a landmine blew up the family of SAM while they were coming back from being displaced. They were on the Aden Ribat Road, going into Ja'olah, and this is the road that led to the deaths of 21 people. The family lost four of its children, and they are Salma, Yusfra, Bahiyah, and Nasser, and the his child nephew Abdullah, and his wife, KhAMM. Three of his other children were injured, and one of them can only speak with difficulty, while another is suffering from an injury in her foot. The three children are still suffering, psychologically, and their economic conditions are very difficult.

In the middle of July 2015, a military mine engineer, Brigadier General Ali Saleh Al Bara-

1- Included are authenticated by the True Human Rights Institution

kani, was injured by an exploding mine in Aden. He lives in the area of Mumdarah in Aden, and he lost his right foot. His son, Muhammad, continuing his work, also lost his foot in a similar incident. He was injured and had to have his foot amputated. That same mine killed Muhammad Ali Al Mash'oof, an engineer, and injured Ali Abdullah Muhammad and Salem Ayash. Al Barakani and his son returned from medical treatment abroad to continue their work, but, this time, through a campaign to raise awareness in the different neighborhoods of Aden, Abyan, and Lahj. Al Barakani is the head of a team to raise awareness about the dangers of mines in schools in the city of Aden, specifically in the neighborhoods of Dar Sa'd and Basateen, two areas that are full of mines.

On February 6th, 2016, Muhammad Abdullah Hassan, a civilian, was killed, along with one of his children, and his wife was injured, after a landmine blew up their car in the intersection of the Mimlah Nasr and Solban, near the Rahbi stores in the district of Khawr Maksar in Aden.

On August 9th, 2016, a number of civilians in the district of Waziyah in Taiz were caught in an explosion of a landmine that killed 10 of them, including children, while they were on a car going to one of the valleys to farms that they owned. While they were on the road, in the village of Hinnah, a landmine for vehicles exploded, and ten of them were killed. There were also 9 that were injured, and they were all civilians. There were 6 children among them.

On April 20th, 2016, a landmine blew up in Lakmat Salah in Dhale, and it blew up a large truck. The landmine had been planted near one of the cement factories, and it had been planted there when the Houthi and Saleh militias were in charge.

On April 22nd, 2016, Hussein, Ahmad Mahmoud Ahmad Hussein Awad, and Muhammad Nasser Al Humaiqani, from the district of Zahir in Al Baydha, left their homes to take their herds to graze. Hussein, while being interviewed by the National Commission, said: "We got to one of the mountains, and I saw something planted in the ground. I thought that it was a toy, and my brother and I took it. Then, my cousin Muhammad Nasser came, and he pressed it, and it blew up. Muhammad Nasser was killed instantly, and my brother's face burned, and his left eye was torn out. His face was disfigured. I was injured in my shoulder, stomach, back, and face. They took us to the Taybah Hospital in Yafa, then to Aden."

After the investigations that were carried out by the National Commission regarding this incident, which were carried out during a field visit to the Zahir district in Al Baydha, and other incidents of landmines being planted, the Commission has reached the conclusion that these violations were carried out by the Houthi and Saleh militias, which do things that none of the other parties to the armed conflict in Yemen do not do, and they do these things regularly in all of the areas that they control.

Second: Arbitrary Detentions, Torture, and Forced Disappearance

These crimes are considered violations of international human rights law. After the Houthi and Saleh militias took over and overran the capital, Sana'a, in the end of 2014, they started carrying out oppressive and systematic detention campaigns, and they also carried out the forcible disappearances of a number of people that opposed them. There are still many journalists, students, activists, academics, and politicians that are languishing in the prisons and detention centers of the Houthi and Saleh militias. The Security Council issued Resolution 2216, and in it, it asked the Houthi militias to safely released General Mahmoud Al Subaihi, the Minister of Defense, and all of the political prisoners, people kept under house arrest, and those arbitrarily detained.

On March 25th, 2015, General Mahmoud Al Subaihi, the Minister of Defense, and General Nasser Mansour Hadi, the head of the Political Security Organization in Abyan, Lahj, and Aden, Faisal Rajab, the head of the 119th Brigade in Abyan, were captured by the Houthi and Saleh militias. In April 2015, around 10 armed men wearing civilian clothes kidnapped Mr. Muhammad Qahtan, one of the top officers in the Islah Party, and he is still, until this moment, counted among the disappeared. His family has not been allowed to visit him, and the Houthi and Saleh militias refuse to talk about his current situation. His current location is still unknown, and has been since he was taken, and this has scared his family because there is a possibility that he had die. He is one of any thousands of similar cases.

The number of cases of arbitrary detention, torture, and forcible disappearance, during the period of this report, was 16,804. Of these cases, 13,938 were cases of arbitrary detention, while the cases of forcible disappearance were 2,866 cases. The National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations has investigated 256 cases, including 242 cases of men, 2 of women, and 12 of children. The investigations being carried out by



Picture showing the effects of torture on the body of a civilian who was tortured by the Houthi and Saleh militias

the Commission into the different allegations submitted to it are ongoing. Amnesty International, in its report, reported 60 cases of detentions that were investigated by the organization. James Lynch, the Deputy Head of the Middle East and North Africa division in the organization, said: "Houthi forces have presided over a brutal and deliberate campaign targeting their political opponents and other critics since

December 2014. Hundreds of people have been rounded up and held without charge or trial, and in some cases they have been forcibly disappeared in flagrant violation of international law. Enforced disappearance is an abhorrent crime and cannot be justified under any circumstances."

The detainees that have been released are suffering from psychological and physical health problems because a lot of the detainees and those that were forcibly disappeared were tor-

tured. Some of them were tortured to death, and there have been complaints and reports of hundreds of cases of torture, dozens of them that were tortured to death. A lot of the people that are kidnapped are whipped, beat with sharp instruments on their backsides, electrocuted, and burned to force them to confess to crimes that they did not commit. This is all because they supported the Legitimacy. The National Commission investigated 50 cases of torture, among them 39 where the victims were men, 7 where they were women, and 4 cases involving children. The Ministry of Human Rights has a detailed list of more than 3,600 people that were detained or forcibly disappeared that are still under the control of the Houthi and Saleh militias. The mothers of a number of these detainees have demonstrated in front of and around the prisons and detention centers in the capital, Sana'a, calling for the release of all of the people who were kidnapped and detained in the prisons. They confirmed, to the Ministry, that, while their sons were imprisoned by the militias, they were subject to different kinds of physical and psychological torture, and they were also extorted financially. They said that they have formed an association for the mothers of abductees in Sana'a, and that they have organized more than 120 protests. During these protests, they were attacked, beaten, threatened, and subject to insults and verbal abuse. The mothers of the abductees believe that the militias, their leaders, and their members are fully responsible for the lives of their sons, as well as their safety.

Forcible Arrest and Torture of 25 Activists (Water March) – Ibb:

While 25 activists were organizing a march to provide humanitarian relief for the people besieged in the city of Taiz on Monday, October 12th, 2015, at 5:30 in the evening, they were kidnapped by armed men from the Houthi and Saleh militias. There were around 50 armed



The signs of torture on one of the bodies of a victim of the Water March Incident.

men, and they forcibly took the activists to the Political Security building in the city of Ibb. They were tortured and forced to sign papers and documents that they did not read. Some of them were released after six days, some after 17 days, others after 30 days, and there were some that were released after a year and six months.

The Ministry of Human Rights contacted one of the victims, Ameen Al Shafaq, who said: “I was tortured in very horrible ways while being interrogated about the water march. I was beaten by a large stick during the whole period of interrogation, which continued for around 5 hours, and I was also electrocuted and threatened with execution. Rifles were loaded and put to my neck, and I was also insulted and verbally abused. I was constantly humiliated. All of this was done while I was handcuffed and blindfolded, with my hands behind my back, and they took off my pants, leaving me in my underwear, then they forced me to sign a confession that they had written. I did not know what was in this confession, then I was taken to

the cell. It was hard for me to go because I could not walk, and I fainted three times. They kept pouring water on me to wake me up, and they kept beating me. I learned that some of us had been released after six days, others after 17 days, and others after 30 days. Antar Al Mubarizi was released after six months, and I was released after a year and four months.”

Kidnapping, Detaining, and Torturing AYNA in Sharas Valley – Hajjah:

Here is an example of a torture incident that was investigated by the National Commission and included in its second report. It is the kidnapping, detention, and torture of AYNA, from the Sharas Valley in Hajjah. The victim said, in his statements, the following: “On Tuesday, at 9 in the morning, while he was going to visit his parents before he traveled for Hajj, he was stopped on the road and kidnapped. He was taken to a prison by the Houthi militias and Saleh’s forces, and he was beaten and tortured while being interrogated. He was blindfolded and his hands were bound. He was verbally abused, and he was tortured until he fainted. Two witnesses, DhAMASh and AAAAT said that, on 23/8/2016, while AYNA was going to visit his parents before he traveled for Hajj, the Houthi militias stopped and kidnapped him, then they put him in a prison in Hajjah. Afterwards, his family started looking for him. A while after he was detained, he was released. When he was let out, they saw that he had been tortured and burned all over his body.

After the investigations that were carried out by the Commission, it became clear that the Houthi militias and Saleh’s forces, who are in Hajjah and Sharas Valley, were responsible for this violation and for torturing and detaining the victim, AYNA.

The total number of documented secret prisons and detention centers operated by the Houthi and Saleh militias is more than 480 sites, including 227 government buildings that were changed into secret prisons, 27 hospitals and medical facilities, 49 public and private universities, 99 public and private schools, 25 stadiums and sports clubs, 47 courts, and 10 civilian residences that are used as private prisons.

Forced Displacement:

Forced displacement and illegal deportation of a group of individuals that live in a certain area is considered a war crime, genocide, and a crime against humanity in accordance with the Rome Statute and the ICC, because “deportation of populations and forced displacement of populations, whenever it is committed in the scope of a wide scale or in a systematic manner against any group of civilians is a crime against humanity.”

The Houthi militias started by forcibly displacing thousands of civilians from the area of Dammaj after months of war to end them and a siege that they carried out against them. The Rashad Party said, in the statement that they released on this matter, that the crime of forced displacement is a systematic practice of the Houthi militias, who, before displacing the people of Dammaj, had displaced more than 150,000 tribesmen, businessmen, and members of political groups that do not agree with them from Sa’dah, Harf Sufyan, and

other areas that they control. This includes the forced displacement of the peaceful Jewish people of the Al Salem.

The Local Documentation Network in Taiz said that the Houthi and Saleh militias have, since March 2015, displaced more than 3,582 families in Taiz, and that the district of Waziyah, which is near Bab El Mandab, saw most of this displacement. The militias forced the residents of 28 villages, residents who were farmers and laborers, to leave and leave their homes. They displaced more than 3,000 families in Waziyah, in addition to 142 families in the village of A'bos in Hayfan. In the village of Dabh, which is in the area of Rabee'i in the Ta'iziyah district, they displaced 175 families. The number of families that were displaced from the village of Seer in the district of Silw was 250 families.

The Houthi and Saleh militias also forcibly displaced the population of the villages of Dhale (the villages of Rammah, Sawn, Rahbah, and Gharb Murais), and the number of families displaced from these areas is 500 families.

The National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations investigated a number of incidents, including the forced displacement of 175 families from the village of Dabh in Ta'iziyah, in the governorate of Taiz. In the morning of November 1st, 2016, the Houthi militias, which were in control of the village of Dabh, forced out all of the families (175 families), or around 1,050 individuals. These families are estimated to be made up of around 65% women and 20% children, and they were forced out under the threat of violence.

From the investigation that was carried out by the Commission into this incident, it became clear that the Houthi and Saleh militias were responsible for forcing the men, elderly, children, and women, under the threat of violence. The goal from this was collective punishment, and they did not allow the people being forced out of their homes to bring any vehicles to take their belongings. They were forced to walk out of their village, in difficult and unsafe roads, and the people were under threat of violence the whole time. The people of the village were forced to leave their homes and farms behind, and some of them were arrested and forced to leave. This is a violation of international humanitarian law and the Second Additional Protocol of the Geneva Convention, which was written on August 12, 1949, relating to the protection of victims of conflicts and forced displacement in Paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the mentioned protocol.

Violations Against Children

Children are among the groups most harmed and whose rights are violated the most because they are the weakest group in society, and this is why there have been a number of national laws and international conventions that aim to protect children, specifically the Yemeni Children's Rights Law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified by the Republic of Yemen, in addition to the optional additional protocol of the treaty.

The fourth article of the second part of the second protocol states: “The aid and care that children need must be provided for them.” This was confirmed by the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of Child in 1989, which is a decisive turning point in the history of childhood, when children’s rights started being seen as universal human rights that cannot be ignored.

Yemen has ratified the four Geneva

Conventions of 1949 and their two additional protocols in 1977 and the additional protocols. The Fourth Geneva Convention and its Second Protocol determines the crimes in the third shared article, as well as the violations against civilians, and it criminalizes putting their lives in danger.

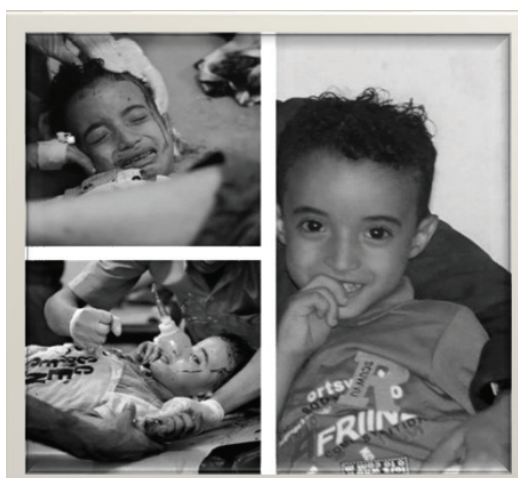
All of this prohibits the use of children in armed conflict, as well as recruiting, killing, injuring, maiming, or disfiguring them. It also prohibits not allowing them access to education by bombing schools and educational facilities, not allowing them access to health services by targeting hospitals and health facilities, starving them by besieging cities and not allowing food, clothes, or humanitarian supplies in, or looting these supplies. The Houthi and Saleh militias have committed all of the six grave violations of children’s rights.

Killing and Maiming Children:

The number of child casualties reached 1,002 children killed and 3,334 children injured. Due to the Houthi and Saleh militias planting landmines, whose victims are usually women and children, the number of children who were victims to landmines was 420, including 179 killed and 241 injured, some of whom were disfigured or permanently disabled.

The Incident of Fareed and His Famous Statement: ‘Don’t bury us’¹ :

This incident² turned into a matter of public opinion because of the innocent statement that the child victim, Fareed Shawqi Muhammad Ali Al Dhammari said, who was 5 and a half years old, while the doctors were trying to save his life and take out the shrapnel from a mortar shell that had fallen near his home in the Thawrah School neighborhood in the middle of the city of Taiz. The shell struck while he was playing with other children. The boy’s father said, describing the incident: “On Thursday, October 13, 2015, at 5:30 in the evening, there was a group of children playing in the place that they played in every day. Suddenly, a shell fell and was followed by a large explosion and loud sound. It fell on the area that this group of children were playing in. I was at home during the explosion, and I quickly went out to look for my children, Haytham and Fareed, and



A picture of Fareed smiling and full of life, and pictures from after he became a victim and was killed by the Houthi and Saleh militias.

1- He said do not bury us.

2- Documentation and statements from the Yemeni Coalition, the Rasd Coalition, in the report called Yemen’s Children: A Lost Dream and an Unknown Future

I found a child named Luai MuhammadDirham on the ground. I asked about Fareed, and they told me that he had been taken to the Al Rawdhah Hospital for treatment. I saw two other people on the ground. I went to the Al Rawdhah Hospital, and I found Fareed bleeding from his head. He had a number of operations, and he died 3 days after the incident. He told me, while he was bleed from his head while he was in the hospital, to not bury him in the ground.”

A witness, NNMH, says: “I was three houses away from the location of the explosion, so I went to where the shell fell, and I saw children thrown on the ground, including Fareed Shawqi. They were taken to Al Rawdhah Hospital for treatment by some of the guys in the neighborhood.”

Recruitment or Use of Children as Soldiers:

The Houthi and Saleh militias used children as fuel for their war, and it is estimated that the number of children recruited and used by the Houthi and Saleh militias is 10,000 cases. They have reached very high levels of abuse of human dignity. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, visited Yemen in November 2012, and she visited the governorate of Sa’dah (in north Yemen). During that visit, she encouraged the government and the Houthi armed group to adhere to international laws to protect children and not recruit them into armed forces.

On May 14th, 2014, the Yemeni government signed, with the United Nations, a work plan that included released the children that were recruited in the state military, but, according to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, the recruitment and use of children went up in 2015 to around three times what it was the previous year, and she confirmed that 82% of the cases of children being recruited that were investigated were the responsibility of the Houthi militias. This rate has reached, in our estimates, 95% of the children recruited by the Houthi and Saleh militias, and this increase in the number of children recruited into the conflict is based on local estimates, which are, in turn, based on reports and other documentation. Based on all of this, it is estimated that, in 2016, the number of recruited children is now six times what it was in the previous years.

The work team of the Ministry found military training bases for children in the governorates under the control of the Houthis and Saleh, and the people responsible for all of this (the Ministry keeps detailed lists of these bases and the people responsible for the recruitment of children, as well as a list of the children that were captured while involved in the fighting). The team also discovered that most of the children that were used by the Houthi militias were from poor families, the Houthi militias find it easy to take advantage of the needs of these families and recruit their children, using them as fuel for its war. The Houthi militias work to brainwash them so that they are more loyal and easier to control, and we find that a lot of the recruits in the ranks of the Houthis repeat their slogan and are convinced that they

are fighting against Israel and America, the main enemy. They believe that fighting is the quickest way into paradise. We also find that this crime has become a phenomenon in some of the northern tribal areas, where we find people that send their children to fight, and are proud of doing so. The Houthi and Saleh militias have played a large role in taking advantage of this and feeding into it, like we said, and they have taken advantage of the poverty and need that most of the people of these areas are living in. The Houthi militias recruit children and train them for money, and pay from 100 to 150 dollars a month.

We have noticed, during the past two years, that the Houthi and Saleh militias have started to recruit children out in the open, and they have started trying to recruit students, passing out recruitment forms from the militias themselves, and sometimes from the Ministry of Defense, which is under the control of the Houthi and Saleh militias.

There are tens of thousands of children that should be in school, studying, that joined the training bases of the militias in Dhamar, Hajjah, Amran, and other governorates. There are also some children that are taken without their families knowing, and others are taken after their parents are pressured and threatened if they oppose this. Some others were recruited with the approval of their families, the families hoping to get an income.

Sometimes, when recruiting children, they are told that they will be used for guard duty in their areas, and they are convinced that they will not go to fight on the frontlines. This is just a trick to get them hooked, and, as soon as these children join from their schools or neighborhoods through a network of individuals working for the Houthi and Saleh militias, they are taken for a cultural and ideological brainwashing program for a period between three weeks and a month. After that, these children are taken for military training for another month, and, after that, they are sent to the different frontlines of fighting. The children are surprised to find that it is difficult for them to go back to their families, and a lot of them come back dead.

The Recruitment of KKhA¹ - Amran:

KKhA is 14 years old, and, like a lot of the people of Amran, lives in poverty with his family. He is a mute, and his father kicked him out of their home, saying that he had become a burden to his family, and that he was unable to support him any longer. This was on March 4th, 2015. He was found by a member of the Houthi militia, who is also from the neighborhood, and he took him with him to the militia's center in the area. This child would serve them, and, over time, he was seen, with a weapon, in his same neighborhood. On April 7th, 2015, they took this child for a cultural and training workshop in Dhamar, and it continued for a whole month. His family was not happy with the Houthis in the neighborhood because they took the boy without getting permission from his parents. On May 7th, 2015, the boy went back to the same center in Amran, and he had been named Abu Muhammad. On May 14th, 2015, they took him to the area of Suwadiyah, in Al Baydha, 160 kilometers

1- The statement was taken from the Wethaq Organization for Civil Orientation

to the south of Sana'a, the capital. This was an area on the frontlines of the fighting, and, to placate his family, they said that he was being taken to that area just to secure it, and that the reason they were sending him there is that most of the people there are Houthis from the same neighborhood, and that he would not feel homesick with them. He stayed in this area for a few months, and, on November 11th, 2011, they took him to the area of Mikairas, between Al Baydha and Abyan, where he would participate in the battles against the forces supporting the legitimate government. This was after they had convinced him, along with a group of his friends, that the Israeli army wanted to invade Yemen. KKhA went, along with a lot of his friends, to fight in Mikairas. After a week of fighting in Mikairas, he was transferred, along with a group of fighters, to Shareejah, in Taiz. In the morning of December 2nd, 2015, while he was taking supplies for the Houthis on the frontlines, he was killed, along with 9 others, by airstrikes from fighter jets allied with the legitimate government. On December 3rd, 2015, the Houthis went to congratulate his father for his son's martyrdom, and they promised him that the bodies will arrive on December 4th, 2015.

The body of KKhA returned and was buried in the cemetery for the Houthi fighters in the area of Bait Al Faqih in Amran, and the Houthis gave his family 100,000 YER, or around 450 USD, and they also gave them a Chinese AK-47. They congratulated the parents for their son, who was a martyr and in paradise, then they left them and started looking for other children.

The National Commission investigated a number of cases of allegations of children being recruited, including:

Recruitment of 18 children from the governorates of Hajjah, the Capital Secretariat, Sana'a, Amran, Al Jawf, Sa'dah, and Dhamar:

The Commission listened statements of these children, who were recruited by the Houthi militias and Saleh's forces, and the interviews with them were videotaped and are kept in the archives of the Commission. The Commission also interviewed witnesses of the killing of AMR, a child who was recruited by the Houthi and Saleh militias to fight in their ranks. The witnesses, AMS and SBH, who live in Hajjah, said that they were present when the family of AMR received his body from the Houthi and Saleh militias after he had been taken to fight on the frontlines of the clashes, which led to his death. The witnesses confirmed that the Houthi militias in Hajjah always take children from their families, and. They take advantage of their poverty, in order to recruit them and send them to fight in their battles in different parts of the country.

The National Army and the authorities of the legitimate government have released hundreds of children who were recruited by the Houthis. These children were captured while they were fighting for the Houthi and Saleh militias, and they were released after they were documented. There was also work to rehabilitate many of them, psychologically, in order for them to be able to overcome the psychological effects of what they went through while

being recruited and fighting with the militias. There has also been coordination with the Arab Coalition to release dozens of children that were captured while fighting with the Houthi and Saleh militias on the border between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They were released after they were rehabilitated psychologically and physically.

Denial of Education for Children:

Since the Houthi and Saleh militias started their war and coup against the legitimate authorities, millions of children have been deprived of their right to education at all levels, including primary education and secondary education. The number of children displaced due to this war is 1.4 million children, and it has resulted in 2 million children outside schools. The Houthi and Saleh militias have destroyed thousands of schools and educational institutions, and they have used a number of them as training bases or military barracks, while some of them have been used as shelters for refugees. The number of schools that have been destroyed is 1,300 schools, and more than 400 schools have been turned into military bases, military training centers, or secret prisons. Some of them have been used as shelters for refugees.

UNICEF has stated that the result of this will be very bad if a generation of Yemenis do not go to school, confirming that it is a priority to invest in education and protection so that children can achieve their dreams in creating a better Yemen now and in the future.

Denying Healthcare, Food, and Humanitarian Assistance to Children:

Due to the insurgency of the Houthi and Saleh militias and their overthrow of the legitimate authorities, millions of children have been denied their right to medical treatment, and they have also been denied access to enough food and the humanitarian assistance they need. Based on that, and on accurate estimates from international organizations, including UNICEF, in Yemen, a child dies every ten minutes due to illnesses that could have been prevented, like diarrhea, malnutrition, and respiratory inflammations. Diseases, like cholera, measles, and dengue fever have spread, and around 2.2 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition, while an estimated 462,000 children are suffering from acute and severe malnutrition. If these children are not treated quickly, then they will be 11 times more likely to die in comparison to healthy children. Even if they survive, they will face a danger from not being able to reach their development potential, which threatens a whole generation. The highest rates of acute malnutrition can be seen in children in the governorates of Al Hudaydah, Sa'dah, Taiz, Hajjah, and Lahj. These governorates have the highest rates of severe acute malnutrition in Yemen.

The number of hospitals and health facilities damaged by the Houthi and Saleh militias is more than 650, and they were damaged by the indiscriminate bombing. Some of them were looted or closed by the militias, and the militias have not allowed medicine, medical supplies, and oxygen tanks to go to most patients and civilians that need them. According to the office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, 600 medical facilities closed in 2016

because of damages from the conflict, a lack of basic supplies, and shortages in the staff. In general, 21.2 million people, from a total of 27 million people in Yemen, need urgent humanitarian assistance in different fields. 19.3 million of them do not getting healthy drinking water, and 14.1 million do not have enough water. There has been a 200% increase in these figures in the last two years, and this shows that more than 80% of the population needs humanitarian assistance. Despite this, the Houthi and Saleh militias have taken most humanitarian assistance and relief aid, including food and medical supplies, and used them for the war effort and to fund its war against civilians. They have also denied some of them access, and the militias have brought about the almost total collapse of the healthcare system in Yemen.

There has been repeated looting by the Houthi and Saleh militias of relief convoys that have humanitarian assistance and food from the WFP or provided from the King Salman Center for Relief in Taiz, Al Hudaydah, Raymah, and the rest of the governorates.

Violations Against Women:

Women are also considered among the weak groups affected by violations of their rights physically, psychologically, and financially. Yemeni society has worked, over hundreds of years, to respect women and not subject them to any harm, and they have been kept away from conflict. But, ever since the Houthi and Saleh militias started their war and their insurgency, women have been subject to different violations. They are constantly being killed, injured, maimed, beaten, and humiliated. Women are also attacked and abused while the Houthi and Saleh militias raid their homes when the men are absent. They also take advantage of women and children, and use them as fuel for their war against Yemenis.

Yemen is a party to 8 international conventions, out of a total of 9 human rights conventions, in addition to being a party to the four Geneva Conventions and their protocols, which call for all parties to respect and protect civilians and keep them away from the effects of wars and conflicts, especially women and children. All violations and infractions against civilians are subject to legal and criminal accountability.

Yemen is also party to the International Convention on the Political Rights of Women, and has to implement it, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1984, which states that discrimination against women is a violation of the principles of equality in rights and the respect of human dignity. Yemen is also party to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, including violations against women and children.

Statistics at the Ministry show that the number of violations against women is 4,524 cases of killing and injury. The number of women killed is 649, while the number of women injured is 3,875 women. Women have been subject to a lot of other violations committed by the Houthi and Saleh militias against them, including arrest, attacks, harassment, sexual

violence, denial of education and medical care, and denying them access to humanitarian assistance. The Houthi and Saleh militias have caused the displacement of thousands of women, and they have forced them out of their homes, and there are also hundreds of thousands of women that have left their homes and been displaced while running away from the Houthi and Saleh militias and their war against Yemenis. This has also led to tens of thousands of female students dropping out of schools, and a lot of women lost their breadwinners during the war of the militias. This only increases their suffering, and forces them to look for work to support their families. There are no job opportunities in light of the war being carried out by the militias, and this only increases the poverty and hunger that they go through.

Despite all of this, we find that women are still fighting to take their rights in different fields. We find that the mothers of the people that were kidnapped are bravely organizing hundreds of protests under the control of the militias and demanding the release of their sons and all of the people who were kidnapped and are in the prisons and detention centers of the Houthi and Saleh militias. They have been attacked and beaten, but they continue and are still doing this, according to their statements, and they say that they will continue until their demands are met. They are role models for a lot of female activists, journalists, and rights activists that are fighting to take their rights, end the coup, and hold the perpetrators of violations against their rights and the rights of all civilians accountable.

Violations Against Public and Private Property:

The Houthi and Saleh militias have systematically destroyed the infrastructure, including private and public property, and the number of cases of violations against public and private property is more than 29313 cases, including 3,557 cases of violations against public property, like government buildings, schools, hospitals, water, electricity, and communication networks, roads, bridges, and others. The number of cases of private property violated is 25,857 cases, including homes, buildings, stores, vehicles, farms, companies, factories, and others. The damage ranges from complete or partial destruction to looting, and there are hundreds of government buildings and residential buildings that the militias turned into private prisons, military barracks, or command centers.

Blowing Up Homes¹ :

The bombing and booby-trapping of homes of opposition is a violation that the Houthi militias are known for and practice systematically with the people that oppose them or have differences with them, and it targets their homes or the homes of their relatives. The number of homes that have been blown up since the beginning of the coup is more than 192 homes, and the total number of homes that the militias have blown up since 2011 is 528

1-Documentation by the Wethaq Organization for Civil Orientation

homes. Sa'dah has had the highest number of homes blown up, with 327 homes blown up in Sa'dah, and Al Baydha is second, with 41 homes, then Taiz with 36, Sana'a with 31, Dhale with 26, Lahj with 21, and Ibb with 15. Mareb, Dhamar, and Amran have 9 homes each, and Al Hudaydah is last, with 4 homes. The National Commission has investigated 86 cases of homes being blown up, including the raid of the village of Janadibah in the Shakir area of Arhab, where the Houthi and Saleh militias blew up 6 homes after they were surrounded for three days. This was on Friday, August 14th, 2015, and they are the homes of Hussein Muhammad Muhammad Al Daba, Sameer Yahiya Ahmad Luqman, Khalid Muhammad Muslih Al Janadi, Saleh Mahdi Faraj Al Janadi, Ibrahim Ali Saleh Al Janadi, and Hamood Al Sayyid Abdullah. After investigating, the Commission reached the conclusion that the Houthi militias are responsible for committing this violation against the civilians mentioned above.

Freedom of Opinion and Expression:

The Houthi and Saleh militias started, in September 2014, targeting the media and journalists in the capital, Sana'a, by surrounding and bombing the headquarters of the first official state channel in the country. They used different heavy weaponry, despite knowing that there were hundreds of journalists inside the building.

In light of the Houthi and Saleh militias gaining control of Sana'a, there has been no more freedom of opinion and expression at all. The militias have carried out a lot of raids against a lot of media organizations, and they have looted their property and arrested their employees. This has forced most international media organizations to move their correspondents from Sana'a to the areas that are under the control of the legitimate government or to another country out of fear that they will be arrested. The militias have also put in place very strict procedures for the oversight of journalists visiting the areas that are under their control, in addition to blocking independent and opposition news sites in Yemen. They spy on those using the internet, and look through their emails and other communication methods, and this is considered taking an important right from Yemenis and not allowing them to have their right to free expression and communication.

The Houthi and Saleh militias have used a policy of gagging people, and they have thrown dozens of journalists and activists in private prisons. They consider a journalist to be more dangerous for them than fighters, according to their leader, Abdulmalik Al Houthi. This is why they practice the most heinous violations against journalists, and it has gotten to the point where they have used journalists as human shields, and they have assassinated and tortured journalists in the militias' prisons, in addition to hunting down journalists, not allowing them to do their jobs, and taking their rights.

The Houthi and Saleh militias have killed around 19 journalists, and this is the largest amount of journalists killed in the history of Yemen. The violations against journalists dur-

ing the previous two years, according to the Journalist Syndicate, reached 450 violations, including torture, detentions, confiscation and looting of headquarters, raiding headquarters of newspapers and news channels, in addition to closing the offices of satellite channels and local and Arab radio stations. The number of kidnapped journalists in the prisons of the Houthi and Saleh militias is 125 journalists.

The Houthi militias have taken over all of the media organizations that are funded by the government, and it appointed its members in leadership positions in these organizations to use them for what it calls the war effort, which is used to incite people against those that oppose the Houthis and to rip apart the social fabric of Yemeni society.

The Killing of the Media Photographer Muhammad Al Yamani¹ – Taiz :

On March 21st, 2016, while the photographer Muhammad Al Yamani was carrying his camera to cover the battles and violations that were happening, he was shot and killed by a sniper. A number of other journalists were also injured during the same incident. A witness, who was also injured during the same incident, HA, says: “At noon on March 21st, 2016, a battle started between the National Army and the popular resistance on one side and the Houthis and the forces of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh on the other side, and they fought over control of the Dhabab Road, which links the city of Taiz to the city of Turbah. There were a number of journalists and photographers for local and international channels, and they were there to cover those battles. While working there, I met with the martyr, Muhammad Al Yamani, half an hour before he was killed, and we talked. I had known him since 2005. The legitimacy forces were on the battlefield, but things quickly changed and the other side got the upper hand, and the legitimacy forces started collapsing and retreating, while the Houthi and Saleh forces surrounded us from the direction of the Saleh Parks. While this was happening, Muhammad Al Yamani and I, along with some other journalists and military and resistance leaders, hid behind a building that was still under construction. We did not know that Houthi fighters had surrounded us, and that we were a target. While we were standing in front of that building on the main street, with heavy clashes around us, we were surprised that we were being shot at from the direction of the Saleh Parks. I was injured by one of those shots in my lower back. When I tried to escape and take myself to safety because we were still being shot at by a group of Houthi fighters, I saw my colleague, Muhammad Al Yamani, and he had fallen to the ground. I continued running towards an ambulance, which took me to the Rawdhah Hospital, and I was given first aid treatment, and the bullet was taken out from my body. I saw that the journalists around me looked very upset, and, when I asked about our colleague, Muhammad Al Yamani, they told me that he had been killed after being shot in his face, next to his nose. When I heard that, I collapsed. He had been a non-combatant, and he was there as a journalist trying to bring the truth to the people. Despite that, and all international treaties and conventions that provide protection

1- Documented by the Rasd team

for journalists, we were targeted directly in more than one situation.”

Another witness, photographer AA, said: “While we were covering the battles in the middle of last year between the Houthi militias and the popular resistance on the Dhabab road, and the militias were surrounding the city from the west, I saw Muhammad Al Yamani covering the battles and carrying his video camera. He was shot by a Houthi sniper and was the first martyr during that battle. Afterwards, they started firing at us, and Haykel Al Areeqi was injured during that attack, as was Abdulhakeem Mughlis. After that, Al Yamani was taken to the Rawdhah Hospital, but he was already dead.”

Fourth: Arab Coalition Airstrikes

The Houthi and Saleh militias forced the elected president, Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, his Prime Minister, and a number of ministers into house arrest on January 21, 2015. After that, President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi was able to escape the militias and go to Aden on February 21, 2015, and he announced that Aden is the temporary capital.

After the Houthi and Saleh militias bombed the Presidential Palace in Ma’asheeq in Aden on March 19, 2015, and the head of the Houthi militia announced a general mobilization to take over the southern and eastern governorates, President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi asked for the intervention of Arab nations to deal with the Houthi and Saleh militias, which had overthrown the legitimate government. On March 26th, 2015, President Hadi’s request was approved, and the formation of an Arab Coalition was announced to support the legitimacy. This Coalition was made up of 12 countries and led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On March 25th, 2015, the Arab Summit issued decree number 625, where it confirmed its support for the legitimate government in Yemen, represented by President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, and that it would wholly commit to preserving Yemen’s unity and its territorial integrity. It welcomed the Arab Coalition, announcing its complete support for the military procedures that the Coalition was taking to defend the legitimacy. It asked the Houthis to immediately withdraw from the capital, Sana’a, and the rest of the cities, to return the heavy and medium-sized weapons that they had taken to the legitimate Yemeni state.

The National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations investigated a number of incidents where the Air Force of the Arab Coalition has been accused of making a mistake in targeting that led to civilian casualties or the destruction of public or private property. We would like to discuss a number of these cases, as well as the results of the investigation carried out by the Commission:

Funeral Hall Incident – Sana’a:

On Saturday October 8, 2016 in Sana’a, in the area of Bait Baws on 50 Street, the Al Kubra Hall was being used for the funeral of the father of Gen. Jalal Ali Al Rowaishan. At around 3 in the afternoon, the funeral hall was hit with two missiles, which killed 140 people and injured 525 others. According to the testimony of a witness that were there, S.A.M.H., he

was there with a military leader that was in the hall for the funeral. He heard the airplane, then he heard an explosion, and he did not feel anything after that. He woke up to smoke, fire, and bodies all over the hall.

A witness, M.A.H., who works as a guard for the building next to the funeral hall, says that he heard a strong explosion that shook the place, and the windows in the building broke. He went out to see what had happened, and he saw that the hall was burning. Then he heard a jet flying around again, and he saw a second explosion after that.

The Commission has gotten other testimony, and worked hard to investigate the incident, and it has also contacted, according to its report, the High Commission for Human Rights (Yemen Office), and asked them to cooperate with the Commission and give it experts in the field of explosives, as well as for them to make it easier for the members of the Commission to carry out field investigations, but they, unfortunately, have yet to get a response from them.

The Commission continued to investigate the incident despite the obstacles in its way, and it listened to the testimony of a number of witnesses and victims. The Commission also reviewed the statement that was released by the team to evaluate the incidents of the Arab Coalition Forces. This statement was given to the Commission during a meeting that was held between the two sides on January 15, 2017.

From the investigation that was carried out by the Commission, it became clear that the entities responsible for this incident are the Arab Coalition Air Force, the Ministry of Defense, and the Yemeni General Staff, which gave the coalition air force the coordinates for the strike.

The Commission welcomes the procedures that were carried out by the General Staff and the Ministry of Defense, as well as the incident evaluation team, but they believe that it is very important for the investigations to be completed by the military courts with the suspects in the case. Those charged with submitting the coordinates should be taken to court, and it is very important that there be an initiative to compensate the victims and treat the injured by the Coalition Forces and the Yemeni Government. The Commission also stresses the importance of adhering to the principles of international humanitarian law and taking the necessary steps to stop these kinds of unfortunate incidents from happening again.

Another incidents where the incident evaluation team confirmed that the Coalition Air Force had targeted by mistake¹ :

It should be noted here that, according to the information given to the Commission by the joint incident evaluation team of the Coalition leadership in the meeting that was held between the two on January 15, 2017, there was information that shows that the joint incident evaluation team reached the conclusion that there were at least 8 incidents of sites that were targeted by mistake. These incidents include: The allegations of bombing the Sha'arah

1- National Commission Report Titled Objective Report on Allegations of Human Rights Violations in the Republic of Yemen, page 30

Medical Facilities in Sa'dah, the bombing the Abs Hospital in Hajjah, the bombing of the main street in Sa'dah City, the targeting of the Al Sham water bottling plant in Hajjah, the bombing of a well in the Bait Sa'dan village in the governorate of Sana'a, the damage to Saba University as a result of the bombing of the new Parliament Building, the bombing of two homes in the 70 Street neighborhood in Sana'a, the Al Hayah Medical Center in Sa'dah, and the bombing of a residential complex in Al Makha in Taiz. The memo also said that the Coalition leadership is ready to provide suitable compensation for the families of the victims and those affected by them submitting official requests to the reparation Commission responsible for these kinds of cases. The Commission expresses its appreciation for these statements, and the Commission believes in the importance of the investigations being completed on the ground in order to protect the rights of the victims and determine the situation and circumstances of each incident.

Fifth: The Efforts and Activities Carried out by the Ministry of Human Rights (During January 2017):

The Ministry of Human Rights works to strengthen human rights and protect them in coordination with other ministries and specialized bodies, and it also works to activate a mechanism for national protection and strengthening of human rights. It embodies the efforts of the government to be diligent in the protection of civilian's lives and their rights and freedoms.

In order to achieve that, and based on the instructions of His Excellency, the President of the Republic, Field Marshal Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, and Prime Minister Dr. Ahmad Obaid Ben Dagher, may Allah preserve them, to activate the Ministry of Human Rights from the temporary capital, Aden, and commit to working professionally in the Ministry. The leadership Commission of the Ministry of Human Rights, which is made up of the Vice Minister of Human Rights and the three deputies, has issued a number of decrees, including the decree to immediately start working in Aden and with the resources available to the Ministry. The Ministry has also implemented a number of activities during January 2017, including:

- Started the preparation of a report on the general situation of human rights in Yemen during the period from January 1, 2015 until January 31, 2017. It relied, in making this report, on the observers and coordinators to make field visits to inspect the sites of the violations and listen to the victims, in addition to reporting and analyzing the reports received from the organizations and coalitions that worked on documenting and investigating violations during the previous period. The Ministry aimed to benefit from these reports, and communicate with the National Commission to receive its reports and the results of the investigations that they carried out for allegations of human rights violations so that it can benefit from them in this report. It also aimed to coordinate with the related entities and Ministries with regards to human rights so that they can report the

violations that their departments or employees were subject to, or any other violations. After that, the Ministry aims to work in preparing briefs for the report and summaries of the situation of human rights in accordance with each violation.

- Preparing a preliminary plan for the projects that can be provided by the Ministry, and working on them after getting the necessary support for them.
- Working to analyze and study international reports that discuss the situation of human rights in Yemen and relying on them or responding to any fabrications or problems in the information in them.
- Carrying out field visits to the central prison, the sites and locations of the violations of the Houthi and Saleh militias, and interviewing a number of victims of violations, and working to solve a number of problems and violations that happened, if possible.
- Attending some social events and festivals relating to human rights, and holding important meetings with the leaders and representatives of a number of international organizations in order to coordinate with the international organizations that are working in the field of human rights, as well as working to develop the fields of cooperation with them (meetings with child protection officers in UNICEF, meeting with the head of the UNDP, meeting with the Commissioner for Refugees, regular meetings with the rest of the international organizations, representative of Human Rights Watch, and others).
- Holding formal and informal meetings with the representatives of civil society to increase cooperation with local civil society organizations that work in the field of human rights, and working to build important partnerships with them. We welcome all civil society organizations in Yemen, and ask them to submit their files and reports about any issues or violations against human rights by any party so that we can direct them to the National Commission to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations to investigate and the court system to take the necessary steps towards them.
- Preparing the main plans for the work program of the Ministry in all of its departments during the first half of 2017, and working to open the headquarters of the Ministry and furnish it. There is work to reconnect with a number of the staff of the Ministry and completely reactivate the Ministry from the inside so that it can start doing its main tasks again in these exceptional circumstances.
- Being completely prepared to participate in the 24th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- The leadership of the ministry had television interviews, submitted statements to the media, and had interviews in newspapers on human rights and the violations against civilians carried out by the Houthi and Saleh militias.

Recommendations

The Ministry calls upon the Human Rights Council:

- To implement Resolution No. 16/33 of 2016 on the provision of urgent technical support and assistance to the Human Rights Program in Yemen by the Office of the High Commissioner.
- To condemn the Houthi and Saleh militia, to hold them accountable for the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, to attribute the deteriorating humanitarian situation to them, and to work on inflicting the fair punishment on them.

The Ministry calls upon the National Commission to Investigate the Alleged Violations of Human Rights:

- To continue the investigation in the remaining facts of alleged human rights violations in order to know the circumstances of each incident as to protect the rights of the victims, hold the perpetrators accountable, and strive to access areas controlled by the Houthi and Saleh militias for investigation.

The Ministry calls upon the Joint Incident Assessment Team:

- To continue the investigation into the facts of alleged mistaken Coalition airstrikes to protect the rights of the victims and decide the circumstances of each incident.

The Ministry calls upon the UN Security Council:

- To immediately implement the Security Council Resolutions in Yemen starting with the Resolution 2216 of 2015.
- To list the Houthis militias as a terrorist organization that supports terrorism.