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Written statement* submitted by the Agence pour les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Human Rights Report on Yemen as a result of Attacks by the Arab Coalition Led by Saudi Arabia

“First of all, Human Rights Agency (referred to as HRA hereafter) notifies that the current report has been prepared on the basis of documents and evidences obtained from Yemen war victims who are ready, if possible, to testify in international forums regarding the crisis in Yemen.”

Preface

More than a year has passed since Arabic Coalition -led by Saudi Arabia- warplanes launched attacks against Yemen. During this time, terrible cases of human rights violations and also shocking crimes has happened against defenseless civilians in Yemen which requires the pursuit and attention of international institutions. So far, tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and wounded in Yemen due to direct airstrikes by Arabic Coalition warplanes that a significant percentage of the numbers includes women and children. Also, dozens of Yemeni citizens have lost their home due to airstrikes by Arabic Coalition warplanes so far. Simultaneously due to these attacks, a large number of schools, places of worship, markets, roads and historical and ancient sites have been destroyed.

Meanwhile, a number of Yemeni institutions and NGOs have made an effort to collect documents on human rights abuses by Arabic Coalition and its allies and sent them to HRA to reach the attention of the international community and to be a basis for pursuing human rights violations in Yemen.

The report goes on to mention some of the most important events happened in Yemen:

A. Human rights violations (in the period from March 25, 2015 to October 25, 2015)

1. Killing the civilians

Most instances of killings of civilians by airstrikes of Arabic Coalition warplanes led by Saudi are briefly referred to as follows:

- In Sana'a (the capital), 90 civilians of whom 26 were children and 31 women. Also, 166 civilians have been wounded of which 43 were children and 32 women.
- In Taiz province, 120 civilians of whom 19 were children and 73 women.
- In Saada province, 248 civilians of whom 52 were children and 45 women. Also, 299 civilians have been wounded of which most were children and women.
- In Hajjah province, 73 civilians of whom 34 were children and 19 women. Also, 86 civilians have been wounded of which 23 were children and 19 women.
- In Hodeidah province, 49 civilians of whom 24 were children and 7 women.
- In Marib province, 37 civilians of whom 8 were children and 9 women.
- In Amran province, 28 civilians of whom 8 were children and 9 women. Also, 43 civilians have been wounded of which 11 were children and 8 women (...)

2. Targeting civilian areas and infrastructure:

Arabic Coalition warplanes led by Saudi Arabia during the mentioned period have bombarded several civilian facilities and infrastructures (such as schools, residential houses, mosques, bridges, roads and ...) in Yemen of which some are referred to:

- Historic mosque “Al-falihi” in Sanaa which aged 800 years-old.
- Targeting a residential area in “Al-hasbe” region in Sanaa with 4 missiles that resulted in destroying “Al-mofarah” family home over their heads. Due to this attack, 19 civilians of the mentioned home residents were also killed.
- Saudi warplanes three times bombarded “Al-sovari” ceramics factory in Sanaa after which the mentioned factory was completely destroyed; also, the buildings surrounding the factory such as “Matne” hospital was damaged. **(This has led to “Matne” hospital closures.)**
- Targeting (four times) “Martyr Abdullah Al-vazir” school in Sanaa after which three Yemeni civilians including two children were killed.

- Targeting a wedding ceremony hall in “wahaja” region in the west Taiz after which dozens of women and children were wounded and killed. The bombardment reportedly has led to severe burns of the bodies of some victims and also fragmentation of them so that it is not possible to identify some bodies. **Some relatives of the mentioned victims have claimed that the Coalition warplanes have used unconventional weapons during the bombing.**
- Targeting seven trucks containing food and consuming materials in “Al-mokha” city in Taiz province after which seven of the drivers were killed and eight of them were injured.
- Targeting “Al-manar” school in “Al-noor” city in Taiz.
- Attacking a local market in “Al-moghanaa” region in “Manbe” city in Saada province after which 72 civilians were killed and 14 wounded. Also due to this attack, several business units caught fire. The Coalition warplanes also targeted several business units in “Al-mahazher” marketplace at “Bani Maazh” area.
- Targeting four trucks containing food in “Ghamar” city which led to the killing of three of the drivers and food waste in the trucks.
- Bombarding “Sharawi” bridge in “Baghem” city which led to the destruction of it and cutting off the public road.
- Bombarding “Al-shohada” school in “Al-amar” region in “Razeh” city after which the aforementioned school was completely destroyed.
- Bombarding “Sharas” bridge three times. The bridge connect the provinces Hajje and Sanaa. As a result of the bombing, four passers died.
- Bombarding a farm near “Diko” factory in Alhadidah province which led to the destruction of its products.
- Targeting a pisciculture pool in Alhadidah province which led to its complete destruction.
- Saudi warplanes bombarded “Al-salif” port in Alhadidah province 15 times whose level of destruction and consequences of human rights have been reported as dire.
- Bombarding a civilian area near “Al-sora” and “Al-zanam” hospitals (in Alhadidah province) which led to causing considerable damage to the two hospitals.
- The Coalition warplanes bombarded “Ahmad Al-faz” school in “Al-tahita” city in Alhadidah province after which the mentioned school was completely destroyed. The warplanes also three times bombarded a farm and a tourism place belonging to “Abdullah Al-rahbi” in Alhadidah city that brought significant physical damage.
- The Coalition warplanes bombarded the post office in “Al-razma” city in “Ab” province; also they targeted a learning center and a girl’s school nearby.
- The house of Judge Yahya Muhammad Rubaid in Sanaa was hit in an airstrike on January 25, 2016, killing the judge and four members of his family, according to Human Rights Watch (...)

3. The humanitarian situation in Yemen:

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is very wretched, so that most of the Yemeni people are exposed to hunger, lack of medicines and food shortages. 15 million Yemeni civilians are in need of immediate medical and food aid. Also, 4 million Yemeni laborers and employees have been sacked or lost their jobs according to poor security situation. Of these, three million people were employed in the construction sector and a million people in the administrative and technical section.

As a result of the blockade and also due to power outage and failure of electricity generation plants in many areas and also stopping the services of government offices as a result of preventing the import of oil derivatives and successive bombing against various regions of Yemen, Yemeni people -especially those living in the tropics- are pervasively facing with a very difficult situation. Such conditions have exposed the Yemeni people to outbreak of contagious diseases especially malaria. (This disease is mostly visible in areas like Alhadida, Taiz and Aadan; because these areas require urgent assistance more than other areas from the World Health Organization and UNICEF and Doctors without Borders.)

In situations where the health system is collapsing in Yemen and given that the services associated with the catering is stopped, it is estimated that 2.6 million Yemeni children under fifteen years are prone to typhoid fever and 2.5 million children are prone to diarrhea.

In this wretched situation, Arabic Coalition warplanes proceed to bombarding the infrastructures, airports, roads, bridges, state institutions, learning centers, schools, hospitals, mosques, refugee camps, power plants and drinking water wells, whereas neither international entities nor conventions prevent such cases.

A summary of the prevailing humanitarian situation in Yemen is presented in terms of numbers and figures as follows:

- 25 million Yemeni civilians are exposed to the airstrikes of the Coalition warplanes and any moment faced with the threat that their homes be destroyed over their heads.
- 15 million Yemenis need to get food and drug as soon as possible; because the storage of food and medicine is running out.
- 2.5 million Yemeni children are at risk of fatal diseases.
- 4 million job opportunities have been lost as a result of Arabic Coalition airstrikes and closure of public and private institutions.
- 230000 residential houses in residential areas have been damaged partly or wholly due to the Coalition warplanes bombings.
- Thousands of poor citizens are at risk of hunger without given any help to live out.
- More than 21,000 people have been suffering from malaria in Taiz.
- More than 9000 people have been suffering from chronic injuries or full and partial paralysis due to the Arabic Coalition attacks.
- More than 1221 schools are fully or partially damaged due to Arabic Coalition airstrikes.
- More than six million students have been deprived of education due to Arabic Coalition attacks (...)

B. International organizations testimonies about crimes in Yemen

- Amnesty International has stipulated in its 18/08/2015 report named “There is no safe place for civilians” that aerial bombardment which Saudi Arabia and its allies are carrying out against Yemen includes civilian areas and has also continuously been killing dozens of civilians, while military targets within these areas have not been established. A board affiliated to Amnesty International during its field visit to Yemen in June and July 2015, has done an extensive research on the eight airstrikes by the Arabic Coalition led by Saudi Arabia. The attacks killed 141 civilians and wounded more than 101 others, most of whom were women and children. Evidences collected by the mentioned commission shows that Arabic Coalition has targeted populated civilian areas, including civilian houses, a school, a mosque and a market; however, no military targets near the bombed places have been seen in most of these attacks. In this regard, "Donatella Rovera" has stated: “Arabic Coalition forces have openly refused to take necessary precautions to reduce the size of losses among civilians according to international humanitarian law. As well as arbitrary and non-targeted attacks that kill and wound civilians are deemed to be tantamount to war crimes”.
- Human Rights Watch in its report dated 27/08/2015 has accused the Arabic Coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia to use banned cluster munitions during airstrikes against Yemen. The organization has written in its report: “it seems that the Coalition forces have used missiles containing cluster munitions during seven airstrikes against Hajja province in North Yemen”. Human Rights Watch has clarified in this report that each of Bahrain, Egypt and the UAE (Arabic Coalition members) hold the aforementioned missiles and their launch devices. In the report of Human Rights Watch has been stated that the aforementioned missiles have caused losses of life among civilians, either during the airstrikes or after that (through the explosion of unexploded missiles).
- 54 human rights organizations and networks from 12 Arabic countries have issued a statement during which requested the Arabic Coalition led by Saudi Arabia to stop their hostile attacks against Yemen as soon as possible and also to end the unjust siege against the people of Yemen. It has been said in the statement that the hostile attacks of the Arabic Coalition have increased the civilians problems, particularly children and women; it has also caused a shortage of food and medicine, a shortage of oil derivatives and power outage; the problem that has put the humanitarian situation in Yemen in the worst-case scenario.
- It should be noted the international media on numerous occasions while presenting news report of cases of human rights violations in Yemen, have informed and warned the deteriorating situation of human rights.
- Human Rights Watch has documented new coalition airstrikes that appear to be unlawful. Six attacks in and around the capital, Sanaa, in January and February, killed 28 civilians, including 12 children, and wounded at least 13 others. In the past year, Human Rights Watch has documented 43 airstrikes, some of which may amount to war crimes, which have killed more than 670 civilians, as well as 15 attacks involving internationally banned cluster munitions. The Saudi Arabia-led coalition of nine Arab countries has carried out indiscriminate airstrikes against residential neighborhoods, markets, and other civilian

structures causing several hundred civilian casualties. Although a ceasefire was announced on April 10, fighting has continued across Yemen.

C. Demands of Human Rights Agency

Given the deplorable humanitarian situation prevailing in Yemen and also in terms of the sheer volume of losses of life and property caused by military strikes by Arabic Coalition led by Saudi Arabia and egregious violations of human rights in Yemen, HRA requests the following demands from the international community:

- Establishment of an independent and impartial investigation committee to investigate human rights violations in Yemen and Arabic Coalition led by Saudi Arabia's continuous crimes against civilians in Yemen. Fitting that committee members be composed of civil rights activists and human rights defenders from inside and outside Yemen and have no political and party affiliation to any of the parties to the conflict in Yemen.
 - Effort, following up and informing the public about the harmful effects of Arabic Coalition airstrikes led by Saudi Arabia against Yemeni civilians and also condemning the Arabic Coalition countries for handling these attacks at the international level.
 - Exerting pressure on the Arabic Coalition countries, including Saudi Arabia, UAE and Egypt to stop airstrikes against civilian areas.
 - Exerting pressure on the Arabic Coalition countries, including Saudi Arabia, UAE and Egypt to compensate for damages caused by airstrikes against civilian facilities and infrastructures in Yemen through setting up an international fund under the auspices of the United Nations.
 - Following-up and coordination in the field of collecting humanitarian aid (especially food and medicine) for the besieged people of Yemen.
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