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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, 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.

[03 June 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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Yemeni women victims to Houthi violations

Houthi violations against Yemeni women

The Iranian-backed Houthi militias overturned the legitimate authority in Yemen in March 2015. Since then, these militias have committed numerous abuses, including rape of women, arrest, abduction and enforced disappearance, and their placement in secret prisons, particularly in Sana'a and in the absence of Yemeni state institutions due to armed conflict. The Houthis continue to carry out many violent practices against Yemeni women¹.

Maat condemns all the shameful acts including rape of girls, and the attempt to kidnap a university girl. The incident which took place on April 10, 2018, when a Houthi militia leader tried to kidnap her in the city of Hodeidah and rape her, but the rest of the students tried to prevent her abduction. But he gathered Houthi gunmen and beat her brother and kidnapped the girl and moved her to an unknown location². Women in Yemen are the victims of a brutal war between the parties to the conflict, where they are subjected to enforced disappearance and abduction and the extortion of the families of the poor and are being arrested. The Houthi militias are carrying out an arrest campaign for dozens of women, particularly in the capital Sana'a. In 2019 that there were 120³ women in the capital Sana'a were arrested⁴.

On January 8, 2018, the Houthi militia arrested a 55-year-old woman from her home in the town of Hajjah. One of her relatives said Houthi gunmen arrested her and transferred her to a Houthi prison in Hodeidah province to pressure her to hand over her son, Ahmed Haddad. For two years in the prisons of the Houthis, and released after two days in return for money and jewelry and pledged to bring her son. In the first half of 2018, 278 Yemenis were documented disappeared were forcibly dispersed among a number of groups.⁵ Of those, 8 were women, and until 2018, the number of women disappeared reached 160⁶.

It is worth mentioning that the Houthi violations against women in detention centers are carried out by Houthi women, specifically a faction called "Zinbiyat", Houthi female soldiers working under the leadership of "Hadi Al-Emad". The Zinibat Brigade was formed in 2014 before the fall of the capital Sana'a in the hands of the Houthis. They torture women by beating them with rifle butts and using electric sticks, and deliberately beating their victims of Yemeni women in sensitive places, or beating on the spine.

And in contact with a number of human rights organizations concerned with women in Yemen, it was found that violations of women between January and June 2018 killed 129 women, while 122 others were injured by attacks, firearms, sniper weapons and mines. The Houthi militia was directly responsible for the majority of these violations, as well as for its worst abuses, including mutilation, physical and verbal harassment, exploitation of terrorist acts and others, denial of education and work, and forced early marriage, Guaranteed by the Constitution, national laws, conventions and international conventions ratified by Yemen⁷.

Maat's statistics show that in recent years, the Houthis have committed more than 20,000 cases of violations against women in Yemen between killings, injuries, physical assaults and violence, particularly in cities and areas controlled by the Houthi group, which has

¹ Yemen Women Victims of Harsh Violations of Houthi Militias - 7 December 2018
<https://bit.ly/2GgQdRw>

² Houthi violations against women A full-fledged daily crime - Union - 1 June 2018 -
<https://bit.ly/2v0Vqaz>

³ Houthis go beyond red lines to kidnap and torture women in Sana'a - 22 January 2019
<https://bit.ly/2P6Y1t0>

⁴ Report on Arbitrary Detention and Forced Evictions Issued by the Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations in Yemen - From 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018 <https://bit.ly/2UxtiLs>

⁵ Report on Arbitrary Detention and Forced Evictions Issued by the Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations in Yemen - From 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018 <https://bit.ly/2UxtiLs>

⁶ Women in Al-Houthi prisons - shocking figures and crimes against Yemeni women - March 2019 - Arab Scene <https://bit.ly/2Is88r3>

⁷ On World Day Against Violence Against Women Militant Militias Continue Worst Violations Against Women in Yemen - Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations - 25-11-2018 - <https://bit.ly/2IhZBHJ>

compounded the suffering of women. Have become the most vulnerable to the war in Yemen since the end of 2014. The Houthi militias continue to violate all segments of society, and women have the largest share of these crimes.

Child marriage in Yemen

Houthi's disregard for international justice has made girls and women pay the price in Yemen, where there are many reasons why the marriage rate of minors in Yemen has been rising, including the fear of the parents about the girls being lost or raped by the Houthis, or the need for money because of the harsh economic conditions suffered by the majority of Yemeni families, especially those located in the countryside where the countryside is fertile environment dominated by ignorance and lack of awareness of the damage to the bodies of girls psychological and health, in addition to the traditions and customs in those cities.

In 2018, the proportion of underage marriage increased to 66%, after 2017 constituted 52% of all marriages in Yemen. The current war forced 21% of girls under the age of 18 to take responsibility for supporting their families in one form or another. The United Nations in 2018 stated that nearly 3 million women and girls are at risk of violence and underage marriage in Yemen.

Houthi customary courts violate women's rights

Houthi abuses reached the hands of customary courts that violated the rights of women, making them implicate themselves in execution of sentences up to the death penalty. This was when a Yemeni girl in 2018 was sentenced to death by her brother when the girl was forced to resort to a Houthi court because of the conflict. The capital of Sana'a in order to be fair to her brother, who wants to force her to marry a young man she does not want, but the ruling of the Houthi judiciary sentenced her to death by her brother's hand⁸.

The case of the girl was not the first to be sentenced to death, but the case of 22-year-old Asma al-Amisi, a mother of two children, was tried in January 2018. In a trial that lacked all standards of transparency and integrity, She was arrested on October 5, 2016, along with her father and two of their neighbors, while traveling from Ibb city to Sana'a. They suffered from torture, enforced disappearances and ill-treatment. They are among four women who face torture and malicious charges in militia prisons⁹.

The Houthi abuses against Yemeni women continued to increase, as they continued to be raped and sentenced to death, flogging, detention and abduction. Maat urges to pressure the Houthi militia to stop abuses against Yemeni women and protect girls from early marriage. We commend the efforts of the Human Rights Council in all its concerns on human rights issues. We hope that this session will serve as a wake-up call to improve the situation of women in Yemen and to protect them, and to exert strong pressure on the Houthis to stop these practices against women.

Recommendations

We have already stressed on numerous occasions that the humanitarian situation in Yemen has deteriorated to an unacceptable level of widespread violations and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and therefore:

- We call upon Member States to take immediate action to hold the Houthi militias accountable for their violation of international law.
- We call on the Human Rights Council to show strong support for the pressure to protect Yemeni women from Houthi abuses.

⁸ Total 40 thousand violations against women in Yemen during 4 years - 19 December 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2Iq13Y0>

⁹ Houthi violations against women A full-fledged daily crime - Union - 1 June 2018 <https://bit.ly/2v0Vqaz>

- Maat is asking the international community to pressure the Houthi militias to protect women.
 - We ask the United Nations system to issue a resolution on the formation of a committee to investigate the facts and violations of women in Yemen by the Houthis and to hold them accountable for these violations.
 - Use all possible means to deal with violations of the Houthis, especially the imposition of sanctions referred to in the laws of war.
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