



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

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

## **Written statement\* submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux 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.

[27 May 2019]

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



## **It is high time for real action beyond papers to stop the war in Yemen**

ICSFT continues to be deeply concerned and disappointed by the ongoing systematic violations of rights, particularly economic rights, by the Saudi Arabia-led intervention in Yemen. The unlawful economic coercive measures employed by the Saudi led Coalition are illegally imposed on the entire population, resulting in devastating impacts on the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and the elderly.

The crisis in Yemen is far from over as Saudi-led coalition backed by United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continues its illegal war with complete impunity. Despite several efforts to uphold a binding peace agreement, the country remains to be a victim to Saudi Arabia's regional political game at the cost of innocent civilian lives.

We are witnessing war crimes, collective punishment, and humanitarian catastrophe on the Yemeni people. The humanitarian crisis in war-torn Yemen is worsening, with the number of cholera cases rising. Despite the whitewashing United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America media effort to create a narrative of reform and emancipation regarding Saudi Arabia, the new prince has managed to secure multi-billion arms deals with his western allies that will be used to kill innocent Yemenis' including women and children. Saudi-led coalition's disproportionate or indiscriminate air strikes continue to claim the lives of thousands of Yemenis' with complete impunity.

The coalition airstrikes which have struck civilian infrastructure including health facilities, schools, factories, power facilities, bridges and roads is a clear violation of the Law of the War. More often than not such strikes have been and in many cases they appear to have directly target civilians and, or civilian objects. Additionally the Saudi-led coalition has continued using internationally prohibited weaponries including cluster bombs that has resulted in an increased level of displaced people and shortage of food, water and other basic necessities.

This Saudi-United Arab Emirates led war has killed more than 10,000 and caused the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis. UN agencies say up to 14 million Yemenis are at risk of starvation if the port of Hodeidah is closed by fighting or damage. This month only several girls under the age of nine in a Sanaa school have been killed by the coalition's airstrike on school.

According to save the children report as many as 85,000 children may have starved to death in the past three years during this genocidal war by Saudi-United Arab Emirates coalition.

As well Saudi imposed full blockage on Yemen's ports is pushing the country to brink of famine. An estimated 17.8 million are food insecure, 16 million lack access to safe water and sanitation, and 16.4 million lack access to adequate healthcare in Yemen, of which women and children are disproportionately worse off. Yemeni children continue to be affected by grave child rights violations committed by the Saudi-led coalition.

At the core, the unlawful military action is marked by indiscriminate violence against civilians, resulting in severe human rights violations, particularly against those civilians who are most vulnerable: the elderly, women and children. The Coalition airstrikes, coupled with the blockades, amount to comprehensive unilateral coercive measures that seriously impede the Yemeni people's right to self-determination by killing and silencing civilians, destroying civilian infrastructure, and disrupting the import and export of commercial goods, including food, medical supplies, fuel and much needed humanitarian aid.

As well the unlawful blockade and restriction on imports and exports resulted in sharp price increases for commodities available in the market. Of note, it is reported that businesses have laid off over half the workforce and because of the systematic targeting of the agriculture and fishery sectors, which was the main source of income for three quarters of the population prior to the escalation of conflict, livelihoods have been severely impacted. Mobility of people and goods continues to be a major issue with the continued imposition

of an unlawful flight ban to and from Sanaa International Airport which negatively affects commerce and exacerbates the dire humanitarian situation.

The international community has failed to take the action needed to end this man-made catastrophe. Millions of Yemeni women, men and children feel abandoned by global leaders who seem to put profit and politics above human lives. The silent diplomacy has failed to halt violation after violation by the Saudi – led coalition.

In lieu of international action that is focused in practice rather than merely displayed on paper, this man made crisis will continue to intensify as violations against civilians continue with impunity.

Despite cease fire agreements and UN brokered unsuccessful peace accords, the Saudi-led war in Yemen continues with no accountability at the expense of civilians.

ICSFT supports a political solution in line with a U.N. resolution that calls for an inclusive democratic transition and calls on Saudi-led coalition to stop war and withdraw from Yemen. We put high value in investing in a new Yemeni led inclusive peace process in which women, youth and diverse civil society meaningfully participates to bring sustainable peace and development to the war-ravaged country, Yemen.

We reiterate our call to the Saudi-led coalition to immediately stop its illegal military operation and blockade in Yemen.

Most importantly ICSFT urges United States of America<sup>1</sup> and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to stop supplying the Saudi - led coalition with weapons, munitions, military equipment that is fueling the war western support has emboldened the coalition's illegal pursuit in Yemen. Therefore seizing this support is the only significant way to relieve the suffering of the Yemeni people.

There can be no military victory in a battle that will further worsen a situation that has been declared as the worst humanitarian crisis in the World today. Taking stock of the Stockholm agreement, we urge the United Nations and members states to pressure the Saudi-led coalition to stop the war and come to an agreement that avoids an entire collapse of the economy and alleviates the suffering among millions of civilians!

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<sup>1</sup> President Donald Trump has vetoed a congressional resolution that sought to end U.S. involvement in the Saudi led war in Yemen, the White House said on this month.