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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High
Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by International Association of Justice Watch, 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.

[29 January 2021]

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



The War Economy and Politicization of Human Rights in Yemen

Yemen is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world: 80 percent of its population, including 12.4 million children, are in desperate need of assistance. Ten million people are at the edge of famine and more than 2 million children under 5 are suffering serious malnourishment in Yemen. More than 2 million children have been out of school prior to the spread of Covid-19 and this number has been rising exponentially after the pandemic.

The "indiscriminate" and "disproportionate" airstrikes in this full-fledged war, with 17.500 civilians killed and injured, would not be possible without a huge turnover of the global trade of arms. The United States of America (US) has remained the largest supplier of arms and weaponry to Saudi Arabia as it accounts for 73% of its arms imports during 2015–2019. Unfortunately, countries such as Canada and Australia along with Europeans, in particular the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France, who constantly claim to embody and enforce human rights on the global level are complicit in Saudi atrocities and war crime in Yemen since they supply ammunitions and advanced weapons and profit from ongoing conflict.

Almost half of health facilities in Yemen, some staffed and supported by the Doctors without Borders (MSF), have been annihilated by the Saudi and the United Arab Emirates airstrikes since 2015. The number of cancer patients has increased since the start of the US-backed aggression as Yemeni authorities noted. Covid-19 is spreading fast there when there is no exact, confirmed number of infections.

This delicate and dire situation has made Yemeni civilians victims of the politicization of the human rights for six years. The United States of America has besieged and isolated Yemen through sanctions, pushing it faster towards catastrophe. Despite the Americans' frequent and baseless claim that humanitarian aids are exempt of sanctions, sectors engaged in humanitarian activities such as banks, insurance companies, shipping and airlines, and telecommunications do not feel safe and secure of the US punishment for accounting for needs, moving items or money to Yemen.

Confirming the right of self-determination and right to development for the Yemenis nation, the International Association of Justice Watch recommends the following:

1. Combat the unabated impunity for those who perpetrate serious violations of human rights in Yemen and hold them accountable for their breaching of international law, including the United Nations (UN) Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, provisions of the four Geneva Conventions, Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, etc;
 2. End any double standards in the application of the human rights within the United Nations, e.g. removing the name of Saudi-led coalition from child-killer blacklist, which emboldens certain states and their non-state partners to violate basic human rights;
 3. Support the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in order to identify the depth of the misery in Yemen and integrate it in an intersectional manner in the Security Council and United Nations Secretariat.
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