



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 2

**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 Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, 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.

[21 August 2021]

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



## **The Situation of Human Rights in Yemen**

### **Preface**

Led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and participation of a number of Arab countries, supported by the United States of America and Western states, primarily the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the war on Yemen enters its seventh year, claiming the lives of thousands of civilians, mostly children and women. The United Nations and impartial international organizations reported the war crimes carried out systematically against civilians and civil infrastructure. The grave crimes are a disgrace to humanity, unprecedented in the history of warfare, such as attacking school buses, condolence gathering halls, wedding ceremonies, mosques, schools, homes, historical places, etc. In addition, the air, sea and land blockade imposed on the whole people of Yemen is in violation of all rules of international law, international conventions and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Additionally, foreign countries provide direct and clear support to terrorist groups (including Al-Qaeda or ISIS) in Yemen, which the Sana'a Government has managed to expel from all governorates under its control (where 80% of Yemen's population live, i.e. 24 out of 30 million people).

It is appalling that the Coalition did not support the Sana'a Government efforts to combat the terrorist groups who have been in the Arabian Felix for decades. Western intelligence reports confirmed that Yemen has become a haven for terrorists in the Arabian Peninsula, but those groups were defeated thanks to the sacrifices of honorable army heroes, Popular Committees and tribesmen.

However, the Coalition provided direct support to the terrorist groups, during the clearance battle, by money and various types of ground and aerial weapons. This was clearly evident in Al-Jawf and Al-Baydha governorates, which used to be a haven for those groups before the clearance battle. Several intelligence and media reports disclosed such information, the most recent of which is a report by the BBC showcasing documented footages of terrorist groups' camps, with their flags flying in their positions, fighting side by side with mercenaries of the Coalition, receiving weapons, money and close air support in a number of locations including Shabwah and Hadhramaut governorates which are controlled by the Coalition.

This is contrary to the claims made by the Coalition that they are leading the fight against terrorism in the region because they are fighting brutally side by side with terrorist's being in the same camp with the groups who have killed and tortured civilians and prisoners in various areas.

All this took place, despite the growing voices of the international community to stop the unjust and criminal war on Yemen. The prospect for the Coalition victory is blurred, despite the use of all the internationally prohibited types of weapons in the war against the Yemeni people.

The Sana'a Government has made practical peace initiatives to address all parties' claimed concerns. The initiatives are accompanied by a presidential declaration of a unilateral ceasefire despite the crimes and humanitarian violations of the Coalition. Nevertheless, the initiatives were rejected and met with further military escalation or submission of proposals one might call capitulation, including keeping Yemen without sovereignty or independence as a subordinate country that is not allowed to develop its economy or genuinely build the state with its various military, security, agricultural, democratic aspects, among others. Yemenis should make a decision for their country to build a strong, democratic, republican Yemen, keeping it strong without sovereignty, stature and development, regardless of the agenda of the neighboring (and foreign) countries who consider a strong and democratic Yemen as a threat. This is not acceptable for the Yemeni people who have presented thousands of martyrs and made sacrifices in the battle for the homeland dignity and the Yemeni people's pride, striving for stability, development, friendly relations and mutual respect with all countries.

Following six years of war on Yemen, it is now the time for the free and honorable voices in the whole world to leave the shameful silence towards this unjust war to which the

international community turned a deaf ear which will be a disgrace to those governments throughout history. Victory goes for the honest and free people.

## **The economic situation**

Since the beginning of the military operations on March 26, 2015, with the arbitrary restrictions, the economic sector has been the top priority for direct and deliberate air strikes carried out by the Coalition. Therefore, the economic situation has deteriorated significantly, impacting the livelihood and human rights of all citizens, and increasing their sufferings dramatically.

The Coalition occupied a number of southern governorates and another part of the northern governorates (Marib), where they took over and governed the most vital sectors such as oil and gas, sea, air and land ports. They have also resorted to discriminatory policies, serving their interests in destroying the national economy, which has greatly affected the lives of millions of citizens.

The Coalition inflicted extensive damage to Yemen's productive capabilities, despite the calls of human rights organizations and United Nations urging not to target Yemen's economy and to avoid using it as a method of warfare, negatively impacting the human rights of millions of civilians, against the rules and provisions of international law, which affirms that targeting the economy as a means of warfare is a war crime.

Production declined in all sectors and economic activities achieved negative growth rates during the six years between March 2015 and March 2021. The national economy suffered substantial losses. The economic growth indicators, decreased to the lowest level, due to the arbitrary measures and restrictions imposed by the Coalition. Key measures and restrictions that violate Yemen people human rights include:

- Systematically and directly targeting the infrastructure and state institutions and destroying the commercial, industrial, agricultural, fish and animal facilities as well as other public and private facilities.
- Taking over the Central Bank after moving its main headquarters from the Capital City of Sana'a to Aden governorate, and suspending the salary payments.
- Imposing land, sea and air blockade on the economic activity and placing arbitrary restrictions on the import of gas, oil, foodstuff, and medicine.
- Targeting the national capital and taking over and exhausting the financial resources.
- Triggering inflation in the money supply by printing billions of illegal banknotes and adopting fiscal and monetary policies aimed at weakening the national currency.
- Targeting and standing against Yemeni fishermen across the coasts stretching from Midi to Nishtun; killing hundreds of them; sinking fishing boats; tampering with fisheries in the Yemeni territorial waters by using internationally prohibited means; and deliberately polluting the marine environment.

## **Crimes and violations**

Six years have passed since the beginning of the military attacks on Yemen with mercenaries committing the most heinous crimes and violations against civilians and civilian targets. In the seventh year, the Coalition continued air strikes, direct bombardments and indiscriminate attacks on populated areas and vital civilian places in various governorates. This resulted in the demolition of homes and vital civil facilities, leading to some casualties including children and women.

The Coalition, through their armed groups in Hodeidah and its surrounding areas, keep on violating Stockholm Agreement with their indiscriminate attacks on citizens' homes in Hodeidah and its various districts, before the eyes of the United Nations observers (the UN envoys in Hodeidah who are affiliated to the UN Secretary-General's Envoy in Hodeidah) without taking the necessary actions against them. The Coalition have intensified the

warplanes flights and direct targeting of many vital facilities and homes with mortars and heavy weapons in the various districts of Hodeidah Governorate.

The arbitrary restrictions imposed by the Coalition continue to prevent the entry of ships and vessels loaded with the fundamental items needed by the Yemenis including foodstuffs, medicine, oil and gas derivatives through Hodeidah seaport. The Coalition continues to stop and prevent ships from entering Hodeidah port, despite having the UN pass permit documents to enter after inspection. However, these procedures and UN permit documents do not take effect due to the intransigence of the Coalition, which rejects these procedures and prevent ships from docking in Hodeidah port.

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INSAN for human rights, Peace Organization, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.