



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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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 International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, 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.

[22 May 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## Human Rights Situation in Yemen

Seven years have passed since the outbreak of the war on Yemen by the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates coalition forces, which has led to catastrophic effects on the Yemeni people. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that this war has killed about a quarter of a million people. However, millions of Yemenis continue to face the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with more than half the population facing acute levels of food insecurity. In a related context, the Yemeni people's economic, food and pharmaceutical crises are intensifying and Yemen is mainly dependent on the import of almost all food and commodities, this has been an unprecedented burden as a result of the collapse of its currency, the imposition of external sanctions and a strict blockade by the Coalition States supported by the United States of America and Western countries, which has hampered access to ration, food, petroleum derivatives, medicines and all needs of life. This resulted in a sharp rise in food and other commodity prices and a decline in households' purchasing power, as millions of Yemeni citizens declined their ability to fulfill their obligations, secure their life needs, and secure their basic services.

The intensification of the war has also caused an internal displacement crisis, with over 4 million internally displaced persons. The spread of the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis of Yemeni citizens. This has been accompanied by many environmental disasters that have deepened the Yemeni people's crises, such as heavy rains and floods in Yemen in May 2021, which have killed dozens of people and damaged homes and infrastructure across the country.

It should be noted that the continued aggression and escalation of the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates Alliance has become a grave violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, including violations likely to amount to war crimes. The denial of access by coalition States to Yemen's ports by vessels transporting oil derivatives is a direct reason for increasing the suffering of the Yemeni people and placing further unwarranted pressure on them, without regard for human rights and the growing humanitarian needs that have come to be imposed as a result of the prolonged war on Yemen.

Also, necessary to stop the ongoing incursions by the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates-led coalition against civilian targets, such as residential homes, hospitals, and schools, which have resulted in the death of thousands of Yemeni civilians, including women and children.

The Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates coalition's aggression against Yemen has caused a real humanitarian disaster. Yemeni children face the highest levels of severe malnutrition recorded in Yemen since the escalation of the war in 2015, with 2.3 million children suffering from severe malnutrition and some 400 thousand children under the age of 5 at risk of imminent death.

In this context, the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates-led coalition forced Sana'a International Airport to continue to close since August 2016, imposing severe restrictions on the flow of food, fuel, and medicine to civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law in March 2021. Although Saudi Arabia announced a peace initiative that included the prospect of reopening the airport, it remained closed until October 2021.

On the other hand, nearly 2 million children suffer from school dropouts, while one in six schools can no longer be used due to war damage.

It is worth mentioning that although the illegal attacks of the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates Alliance on Yemen had been documented over the past years, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Canada, Spain, Germany, Australia, and other countries continued to license the sale of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other members of the Alliance.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights renew its call to States members of the Human Rights Council and relevant international organizations to address the lack of accountability for serious crimes committed by the coalition in Yemen, including possible war crimes.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights also called on the Member States of the Human Rights Council, the international community, and relevant United Nations bodies to take immediate action to halt the attack on Yemen by the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates coalition. It also calls for action to ensure that food, medical, and oil derivatives reach Yemen's ports in order to avoid the catastrophic humanitarian situation resulting from the delay in the detention of ships and the prolongation of the blockade.

The International Council stresses that the difficult humanitarian reality in Yemen, in conjunction with the insistence of the aggression coalition States on continuing maritime piracy on ships, demonstrates that the policy of aggression is aimed at mass execution and genocide of the Yemeni people, which requires immediate intervention to stop aggression, save the lives of the Yemeni people and preserve human rights in that country.

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