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Technical assistance and capacity-building

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 August 2022]

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



Human Rights Situation in Yemen

Since seven years, Yemen has been suffering from a devastating war waged by the forces of the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates coalition. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the war on Yemen has killed nearly a quarter of a million people. As a result, millions of Yemenis have been subjected to the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with more than half of the population experiencing unprecedented food insecurity. Noting that Yemen depends primarily on importing almost all food and commodities, the ability to secure food and medicine needs has declined owing to the circumstances of the Coalition States' unjust siege. On the other hand, the collapse of the domestic currency contributed to catastrophic inflation as well as a sharp rise in food and other commodity prices and a decline in households' purchasing power. As a result, in addition to the great risks experienced by millions of Yemenis in the war diaries, they cannot meet their basic needs.

The "Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen" and other human rights groups have documented the continuation of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by the aggression Coalition, including those likely to amount to war crimes. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and their supporting countries continued to exert intense pressure on the Human Rights Council in order to conceal the scale of its violations in Yemen in the human rights file. Indeed, in October 2021, the Human Rights Council announced the termination of the mandate of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Experts. Thus, the work of the only independent international body investigating violations committed during the war on Yemen has ceased.

Over the years of the war on Yemen, the Saudi Arabia-the United Arab Emirates-led coalition has launched illegal and unjustified attacks against civilian targets, such as residential homes, hospitals and schools, leaving hundreds of thousands of civilian, child and women victims.

As a result of Yemen's ongoing aggression, Yemeni children continue to suffer grave violations of their rights. More than half of Yemen's 20.7 million Yemenis are children who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance or protection. Yemeni children suffer the highest levels of severe malnutrition recorded in Yemen since the escalation of aggression in 2015, with 2.3 million severely malnourished, and some 400 thousand children under the age of 5 at risk of imminent death, not to mention the dropout of more than 2 million children, according to UNICEF figures.

The unjust blockade imposed on Yemen by the coalition forces is one of the most significant aspects of the suffering suffered by the people of Yemen. 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. Also, in March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced a peace initiative that included the prospect of reopening the airport, but remained closed until October 2021.

Despite the announcement of an armistice in Yemen on 2 April 2022, coalition forces continued to impose a blockade and impede the work and activity of the Yemeni Ports and Ports Corporation, which they oversee in Hodeidah, Salif, Mkhlat and Ras Issa, and prevented the entry of more than 600 items and commodities, spare parts for equipment, machinery and bridges have not been allowed in explicit contravention of all international treaties, conventions and covenants providing for the delivery of materials to the population during periods of war.

The armistice announced after considerable efforts by the United Nations did not provide the Yemeni people with an opportunity to get rid of the coalition forces' unjust blockade. The blockade continued and the suffering, which will only end with a clear and strict attitude towards the international family, compels the Saudi Arabia-United Arab Emirates coalition forces to halt their aggression against Yemen and to reverse their violations against the Yemeni people that amount to war crimes.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights deplores violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by Saudi Arabia's coalition forces and the

United Arab Emirates in their war on Yemen, and demands a blanket ban on arms exports against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The International Council also calls for the crimes committed by the Coalition over the years of aggression and demands that the aggressor States cease their aggression and compensate the Yemeni people by contributing to reconstruction and ensuring unconditional access to Yemen for humanitarian, food and pharmaceutical needs and by immediately opening the port of Hodeida and the Sana 'a international airport.
