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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 Human Rights Information and Training Center, 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]

* 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.



The siege of Taiz exacerbates the humanitarian situation, human rights violations, and the number of displaced people

Overview

Taiz is the largest Yemeni governorate in terms of population density, as its population constitutes (16.12)% of the population of the Republic. It is located south of the capital, Sana'a, and is about 256 km away from it, while it is more than a hundred km away from Aden, the temporary capital, and the number of its directorate are (23) Directorate.

The war casts a shadow over Taiz every day, more tragically than any other region in Yemen.

Siege of Taiz

Since February 2015, the Houthi militia has taken control of the city's outlets and waged a fierce war against civilians and the government army at that time by various means, including missile and artillery bombardment, direct shooting, sniping and others, which prompted the formation of a popular resistance to confront the Houthi tide, which wanted to tighten its control with violence and excessive force on the city.

After a number of areas were liberated from the Houthi militia, these areas witnessed various conflicts between armed groups that were formed within the resistance outside the framework of the law, or joined under the brigades of the government army and were affiliated with multiple political, partisan or regional factions, its remained armed groups carrying out lightning operations against civilians or military personnel.

The Houthi militia continued to impose its control over the city's crossings, forming a harsh siege, and preventing the entry or exit of civilians, or the entry of food, medical, relief and humanitarian aid.

In 2016, The forces of the recognized government managed to open the southwestern crossing of the city to connect it with the liberated southern governorates, but opening that crossing was not enough in light of the Houthi militia's control of the rest of the city's crossings, including the northern crossing, which is the most important crossing connecting the city with the northern governorates and the capital, Sana'a.

IDPs from Taiz

All this led to the displacement of tens of thousands of families from the city of Taiz to safer areas where food, medical and relief assistance is available.

The Houthi militia refused to implement its commitment to lift the siege on Taiz

In 2019, the Houthi militia committed to opening the siege on the city of Taiz in exchange for stopping the military operations carried out by the government forces to liberate the city of Hodeidah. This happened in the Stockholm consultations in Sweden under the auspices of the United Nations. Although the military operations that were on the outskirts of the city of Hodeidah have already stopped, the Houthi militia has not implemented its obligations to lift the siege on Taiz. Neither the United Nations nor the international community has applied any real pressure to compel the Houthis to implement their obligations.

Less than two months ago, the efforts of the United Nations culminated in a two-month humanitarian truce (April 2 - June 2, 2022) between the Yemeni government and the Houthi militia, which included de-escalation of violence and humanitarian and economic remedies, but the Houthi militia did not take any concrete steps to make it successful, including lifting the siege of Taiz, While the Yemeni government fulfilled its commitments to open Sanaa

airport and Al Hudaydah port for commercial flights, knowing that these two ports were already open for humanitarian aid.

The permanent strategy of the Houthi militia in fragmenting humanitarian issues to achieve its political and military goals, by keeping the siege of Taiz on the evasive table, has become a clear matter and the international community should stand up to this matter and prevent it from happening.

Unless, the number of displaced people will continue to increase and the humanitarian situation will worsen, as will violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, we recommend that the Human Rights Council and the international community quickly take effective measures to lift the siege on Taiz.

We also urge the international community to pressure the parties to the conflict to pay more attention to the reintegration of the displaced and more attention to recovery, especially for children, and to increase in quality education, mental health services and psychosocial support. Most, if not all, of these efforts require the provision of development support in the areas of origin of the displaced; Especially in villages and local places where IDPs used to live.

Centre of My Right for Support the Rights and Freedoms- CRSRF, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.