



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 August 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

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 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.

[19 August 2021]

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



Taiz - years of siege and chaos

Overview

Taiz is the largest Yemeni governorate in terms of population density, as its population constitutes 12.16% of the population of Yemen, and the war casts its shadow on Taiz every day in a more tragic way than any other region in Yemen.

Since February 2015, the Houthi militia has taken control of the city's outlets and launched a 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 resistance to confront the Houthi tide, which wanted to tighten its control with violence and excessive force on the city and its surrounding districts and villages.

The areas that were retaken from the Houthi militia witnessed various conflicts between armed groups, either formed within the resistance outside the framework of the law, or joined under the brigades of the government army and belonged to multiple political, partisan, or regional factions, or remained armed groups carrying out lightning operations against civilians or military personnel.

The splintering forces fighting Taiz made it a model for a city completely divided between the Houthi militia in the east of the city, which controls the airport and the main entrances to the city, and between the army and the National Resistance in the other part of the city center and some districts, while a force affiliated with Tariq Saleh, nephew of former President Ali Saleh, occupies The "joint forces" that are not under the authority of the state are parts of the western coast, particularly the Mocha district, which is the main port of Taiz and its window on the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait, along with other brigades of the southern forces on the coast of the besieged governorate.

During the first half of this year 2021 the field team monitored 1,061 violations in Taiz Governorate, the conflicting parties bear responsibility for violations the Houthi militia is at the top of the list of violators, and then Governmental Army & Armed outside the state, Tariq Saleh's joint forces.¹

The siege

By the end of February 2021, Taiz bid farewell to six years of a severe siege imposed by the Houthi militia on the city and most of the governorate's districts; Houthi militants set up dozens of checkpoints and checkpoints to prevent entry to the most basic needs of the population, prevent the flow of humanitarian aid and loot aid and humanitarian aid.

The siege cast a shadow over the city in the continued prevention of citizens' movements and the rise in prices due to the high wages for transporting various goods and impeding the delivery of emergency humanitarian supplies to the city, and the deterioration of services, especially in aspects of health that are witnessing a continuous deterioration that will lead to a health disaster represented in the spread of epidemics and the exacerbation of chronic diseases among tens of thousands of people.

Intense bombardment

The Houthi militia continues its attacks and bombardments on cities and residential neighborhoods from its areas of control and intensifies its bombardment on the seam areas separating it from the government army and the resistance.

In monitoring by the HRITC team during the first six months of 2021 of the areas bombed by the Houthi militia with various heavy weapons, including missiles, anti-aircraft, and heavy artillery, it is clear that the Houthi militia intensified its bombardment of the western neighborhoods of Taiz with medium weapons and bullets in Al-Nashiri neighborhood and

¹ <https://hritc.co/22628?lang=en>.

Hara. Al-Dar and Bir Pasha, and bombed with anti-aircraft the Al-Rawda neighborhood in the Cairo district and Al-Hurriya Square and the Bazara district in the Salh district during the month of January.

The Houthi militia also bombed the Asaifra neighborhood, the Salam neighborhood, and the old airport in the Cairo Directorate with medium and heavy artillery shells from their positions in the Softel hill.

In February, the HRITC's team monitored nearly half of the dead and injured of the categories of women and children who fell at the hands of the Houthi militia, whether by artillery shelling or by anti-aircraft, which it launched on the Muroor neighborhood in the Mudhaffar district, Al-Arbaeen Street in the Salh district and the Al-Tawhid neighborhood in the Cairo district and intensified its bombardment on the Old Airport neighborhood and Bir Pasha west of the city.

In March, the Houthi militia committed several massacres while bombing the Tariq bin Ziyad School in Al-Kadha neighborhood, Moqbna district, and with anti-aircraft missiles on Al-Rawda neighborhood in Cairo District, and bombing it with a mortar shell from the Faculty of Arts in Al-Aradi district, and another shell on Al-Ahkom village in Al-Shamatin District.

The Houthi militia intensified its bombardment of residential neighborhoods crowded with civilians since the early hours of dawn and the first morning of Eid al-Fitr in May and targeted the areas of Kallabah, Al-Safa, Al-Berarah, Al-Noor City, the vicinity of the old airport, Jabal Jarrah, and the densely populated neighborhoods behind Al-Borihi Hospital, Harat Al-Dar, and in the vicinity of the air defense. Families for displacement have also increased campaigns to mine homes and roads and booby them, especially in areas that are still under their control.

Massacres

The field team of the HRITC documented the occurrence of 6 bloody massacres in Taiz governorate during the month of March, 4 of which were committed by the Houthi militia, which killed 7 civilians, including 4 children, and injured 18 civilians, including 4 children as well.

While members of the government army committed one massacre and militants outside the framework of the state committed another massacre.

Taiz minefield

The Houthi militia continues to randomly plant large areas in Taiz with various types of mines and has recently intensified its laying of mines with the recent confrontations raging on the fronts, forcing it to leave some areas that it mined before withdrawing in an attempt to impede the progress of the government army and resistance men.

The use of mines was limited to the Houthi militia exclusively, and according to a recent statistic by the Yemeni Mine Monitor, mines planted by the Houthi militia in Taiz governorate have killed and injured 3,263 civilians from 2015 to early March 2021.

The number of documented civilian deaths was 942 (223 children, 217 women, and 502 men). It was also documented that 2,321 people were injured: 406 children, 365 women, and 1,550 men.

The center's team received information about the Houthi militia mining the villages of Al-Aqhous, including the village of Al-Tamma, during March to impede the progress of the government army.

Infrastructure destruction

The city's landmarks changed, and public buildings suffered their share of devastation and destruction and were greatly damaged, after the coup militia targeted them, by bombing them with various heavy weapons.

Public buildings and infrastructure were systematically bombed, in addition to the militia's targeting of schools, monuments, and hospitals, as well as many mosques.

The targeting of the public and the private property remained a familiar pattern for the Houthis, and crowded markets, residential neighborhoods, hospitals, and schools were subjected to frequent artillery shelling with mortars, artillery, and Grad rockets.

The destruction of the health sector was concentrated in terms of hitting the infrastructure of health facilities or targeting workers in this sector, as the first cases of destruction, and with it, the education sector, where educational and educational facilities were hit by direct bombardment or seizure as headquarters of the conflicting forces, and workers in this sector were deeply affected.

Chaos and lawlessness

In the areas under the control of the national army of the legitimate government, a lot of chaos and instability prevails as a result of riots and violations committed by armed elements, either affiliated with multiple partisans, regional, or regional factions within the army, or armed gangs outside the framework of the state, or unknown armed men, represented in recording many assassinations. Breaking into homes, blocking streets, firing shots, and clashing among themselves.

The increase in robberies of homes and lands belonging to civilians by influential people or affiliated with the military and civil establishment in Taiz is a cause for concern. The HRITC team monitored many incidents of robbery, looting, and repeated attacks on health facilities and facilities, which were the beginning of the commission of heinous crimes and the loss of civilian lives, including women and children, and the execution of extrajudicial executions.

Crime rates increased day after day, and the incidence of assassinations, killings, looting, and attacks increased, amid the inability of the security forces to put an end to these chaotic actions, and despite the efforts made by the security authorities, they are still unable to stop those groups that were formed after the Houthis stormed the governorate and withdrew from the areas where they reside. where those aggregates are.
