

التحالف اليمني لرصد
انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان

Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring
Human Rights Violations



CHILDREN OF YEMEN.. ONGOING VIOLATIONS

A Human Rights Report on

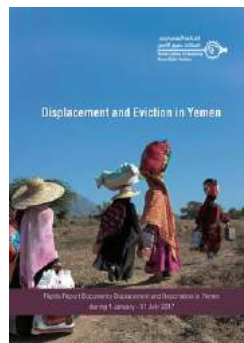
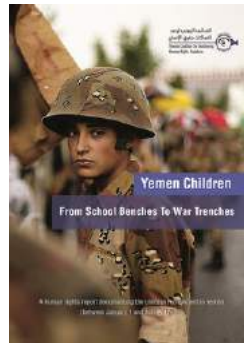
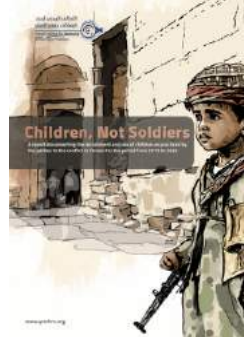
**the Grave Violations Committed Against Children
during the Ongoing Armed Conflict in Yemen**

from April 2022 to December 2023

More reports issued by YCMHRV

Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV), also known as “Rasd Coalition”, is a Yemeni non-governmental organization. Rasd Coalition was established in January 2015, License No. 1240 in response to valid need in the field of human rights, and considering the deteriorating human rights situation in Yemen, the matter that necessitated establishment of such Coalition.

YCMHRV monitors and documents all human rights violations in Yemen and issues specialized reports on them. Also, organizes seminars and various events to disseminate and publicize these reports. YCMHRV submits these reports to relevant concerned entities. Noting that the first step in bringing justice to victims is to document their grievances for the moment of truth, committing ourselves in this respect with relevant human rights standards and laws.



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FIRST: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This investigative report, specializing in the inquiry into grave violations against children committed by conflict parties during the conflict in Yemen, forms part of the project to enhance awareness and guarantee the rights of children during the conflict in Yemen (SAFE), executed by the Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV) in partnership with the DT Institute. It is a component of a series of specialized reports unveiling violations against children produced by YCMHRV. The focus is on facilitating access to justice as sought within the "[Justice for Yemen Pact](#)".¹ The report draws upon information collected by researchers across thirteen Yemeni governorates between February and October 2023, documenting representative samples of violations by all parties to the conflict.

Through verified examples, the report reveals that the children of Yemen have endured nine years of multifarious conflict and suffering, standing under the relentless onslaught of war. The six grave violations, between the announcement of the cease-fire in early April 2022 and the declaration of signing the principles agreement to end the conflict in December 2023, demonstrate the conflict parties' non-compliance with obligations to protect children as stipulated by international humanitarian law and human rights. The report does not convey the full scale of the atrocities faced by children but merely presents cases that the monitoring team was able to document within a short duration.

YCMHRV investigated 127 violation incidents, encompassing the six grave crimes against children, involving 157 victims, including 26 girls, who were killed, maimed, conscripted, subjected to sexual violence, and abducted. Killings and maiming were the most recorded violations due to excessive weapon use, especially by the Houthi group. The shocking figures of conscription victims stem from the exploitation of the Yemeni families' economic situation by conflict parties, and propaganda's role in influencing children, particularly by the Houthis. The low numbers of sexual violence and abducting victims do not reflect reality, as victims and their families, stigmatized in their communities, live in fear and intimidation imposed by

the perpetrators, preventing them from responding to the researchers' inquiries and documentation.

The report's findings indicate that a large number of children – approximately 26,761, including 14,457 girls² – were affected by attacks on schools and hospitals and the obstruction of humanitarian aid by the Houthis.

The report confirms that none of the victims received justice, and the incapacity and division of national justice and accountability mechanisms have encouraged further attacks against children by conflict parties. The report concludes that reducing violations will only be achieved with criminal accountability mechanisms in place. In the context of the continued impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of violations against children, the report calls for the urgent establishment of a human rights court and attorney's office by the legitimate government, with jurisdiction to examine grave violations against children. "And the wide-scale empowerment and support of local organizations by international agencies and organizations concerned with child protection, to play a central role in documenting violations and providing material and psychological support to child victims."

SECOND: INTRODUCTION

A. An overview of the Subject and Significance of the Report

This report is an outcome of the project to enhance awareness and ensure children's rights (SAFE) during the ongoing conflict in Yemen, in partnership with the DT Institute. It reviews the investigative findings pertaining to the six major violations committed by conflict parties against children in Yemen during the period between February and October 2023. The investigation covered thirteen Yemeni governorates including: Aden, Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Marib, Al Bayda, Hadramout, Dhamar, Al Dhale'e, Amran, Lahj, Al Mahwit, and Al Jawf, focusing on the violations committed in the interval between the ceasefire³ announcement in April 2022 and the declaration of a comprehensive ceasefire⁴ in December 2023. The report's significance lies in its inclusion of the six grave violations against children and covering governorates under the control of all parties to the conflict over the course of one year and eight months.



B. The Objective and Goals of the Report

The magnitude of grave violations against children committed by the parties to the conflict in Yemen, and their persistence even amidst declared and undeclared ceasefires, as well as the negotiations between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi group, impelled us to highlight and expose these violations so that justice and accountability on behalf of the children may be recognized in the Yemeni peace talks. This report supports the collective efforts towards the protection of Yemeni children from serious violations to promote local and international acknowledgment of such efforts. The report seeks to present a revealing depiction of the magnitude of grave violations, to identify and expose the responsibilities of the parties to the conflict in Yemen for these violations, and to advocate for the victimized children. The report reviews the available local and international mechanisms for achieving justice and protecting children, advocating for access to and activation of these mechanisms. The report also wishes that the United Nations will actively work with the parties to the conflict to sign new action plans to protect children from the six grave violations not covered by the previously signed action plan concerning the ending of child recruitment and the acceleration of the implementation of the action plan.

THIRD: CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

A. An Overview of the Current Situation in Yemen and the Conflict's Impact on the Lives of Children

The past nine years⁵ have formed the most grievous period experienced by the children of Yemen. The war between the Houthi group (Ansar Allah) and the internationally-recognized Yemeni government forces has led to the worst man-made humanitarian crisis witnessed in modern Yemen.⁶ In a recent report⁷ issued in March 2023, UNICEF points out, "Eight brutal years of conflict have devastated the lives of millions of children in Yemen and left 11 million children in need of one or more forms of humanitarian assistance." UNICEF also notes, "2.2 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, including over 540,000 children struggling with severe wasting." Additionally, it has been estimated that more than two million school-age children are out of school, and six million are at risk of disrupted education.⁸

The Houthi forces, the Arab Coalition, and the Yemeni government were not solely responsible for the grave violations against children; other parties included armed entities such as the Southern Transitional Council, Security Belt Forces, Joint Forces on the West Coast, alongside various armed factions and extremist organizations. These groups have contributed significantly to bringing the humanitarian conditions to this perilous level and have committed grave violations against children. What complicates the conflict in Yemen is the large number of military parties with different orientations and intersecting goals and interests.

Despite widespread grave violations committed by conflict parties against children, the efforts to protect them by governmental institutions, national, and international civil society organizations have been limited. The United Nations has led efforts with the Yemeni government and the Houthi group to prevent child recruitment and signed a recruitment prevention plan with the government and the Houthis. These commitments have not yet resulted in a tangible change in the reality of child recruitment. However, they could serve as a starting point for monitoring the seriousness of the parties in achieving peace and protecting children.

On 2 April 2022, a humanitarian truce signed by the concerned parties came into effect for a period of four months. This truce brought about several humanitarian improvements, most notably including the reopening of Sana'a Airport, the permit for an increased number of ships to dock at the Port of Hodeidah, a significant de-escalation in the intensity of hostilities, a cessation of the Arab Coalition's air strikes. The truce was extended twice consecutively⁹ from 2 June to 2 October 2022. Military activity remained calm until the United Nations announced an agreement in principle to end the war in Yemen on 23 December 2023.

B. United Nations Secretary-General's Reports on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen

From the beginning of 2015 to December 2022, the situation of children during the conflict in Yemen was addressed by the UN Secretary-General across seven¹⁰ annual reports.¹¹ The most frequent crimes documented in these reports were killing and maiming, followed by the obstruction of humanitarian aid, attacks on schools and hospitals, child recruitment, abduction, and finally, sexual violence.

Three thematic country reports on the situation of children and armed conflict in Yemen were released after the establishment of the country task force on monitoring and reporting in October 2012. The first in June 2013, though not included in the reporting period of this report, the second in June 2019, and the third in August 2021. An analysis of grave violations and the parties responsible, reviewed by the two reports from early 2015 to December 2020, revealed 9,655 children killed or maimed, 3,648 children recruited, 103 abducted, and 25 victims of sexual violence. The reports also confirmed 818 incidents of attacks on or military use of hospitals and schools, and 5,399 instances of prevented humanitarian aid delivery. These crimes were attributed to all parties to the conflict, but the Houthi group was identified as bearing the greatest responsibility.

FOURTH, REPORT METHODOLOGY:

A. Data Collection Process:

We have taken great care in gathering preliminary information about the victims of the six grave violations against children, including personal data, the type of violation, and contact telephone numbers. For this purpose, we have relied on several methods, most notably field monitoring conducted by researchers who have been able to access various sources, including the victims' relatives, peers, residents of their areas, activists, teachers, doctors, and humanitarian workers. We have also monitored information published in open sources, including content, images, videos, audio recordings, and data published by parties to the conflict and organizations and entities concerned with children.

B. Verification Methodology:

YCMHRV has selected ten researchers in thirteen governorates who were trained in monitoring and documenting violations of international humanitarian law, human rights, and grave violations of children's rights.¹² Forms have been designed for each type of grave violation that comply with the verification standards applicable in such cases. Researchers made efforts to interview the child, if possible, or their parents, siblings, and other relatives, as well as the surrounding relatives, peers, and witnesses from their areas, educational activists, doctors, and humanitarian workers. To conduct these interviews, researchers have carried out field visits, used telephone and internet communication, and obtained documents, images, and recordings from the respondents or those available to the public after analyzing them and ensuring their reliability. We have included the details of 18 cases documented by Watch4HR Organization, our partners in SAFE project. We have reviewed reports, studies, research, and relevant news issued by local and international organizations and entities that support the information and content included in the report. The team has followed a clear approach to ensure privacy when dealing with children, while keeping considerations of confidentiality, the best interests of the child, and ensuring the safety of their families and witnesses.

The report reviews 127 documented incidents in the specific forms dedicated to them. We have listened to the testimonies of three victims, 64 parents and siblings of the victims, 26 first-degree relatives of the victims,

170 peers of the victims or individuals from their areas, and 33 individuals working in educational and medical institutions and activists

C. Informed Consent

We have made sure to adhere to the practice of utmost diligence in documenting human rights violations through the document of informed consent, signed by the victim's parent, sibling, or the guardian directly responsible for the child's care. The purpose of such consent is for signatories to be aware of the aim of documenting, which contributes to creating a record that might be used in the pursuit of justice and accountability, telling the story of the child victim, or sharing it with international entities and organizations focused on justice and accountability. Out of 127 incidents, we have obtained informed consent for 25 of them, as this approach has been implemented in the last four months of the project. In selecting the case studies for the report, we made sure to include those that have obtained informed consent whenever possible. When reviewing a case where informed consent was not obtained, the report does not mention any names or information that could indicate the victim's identity.

D. Concepts and Terminology

Victim: The child who has been subjected to any of the six grave violations.

Child: A person under the age of 18.

Six grave violations: Refers to violations covered by relevant Security Council resolutions, namely killing, mutilation, recruitment and use of children, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and preventing humanitarian access.

Houthis: This term refers to the Houthi group, also known as Ansar Allah, which controls Sana'a and several governorates in northern Yemen.

Government of Yemen (GoY): The internationally recognized government led by the Presidential Leadership Council headed by Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi.

Non-government- aligned forces: This term, used in the report, refers to forces and entities such as the Southern Transitional Council, the Security Belt Forces in Aden, Lahj, and Abyan, along with the Hadhrami and Shabwani Elite Forces. It also includes the Joint Forces in the western coast of Yemen.

E. Identifying the Perpetrators

YCMHRV commits to identifying the perpetrators in each incident through the testimonies collected, which include, where possible, the perpetrator's name or a description of their appearance, the insignia they bear, the type of weapon and means used, the origin of the attacks, or the crime's background and motives. Additionally, we conduct an evaluation based on the evidence pointing towards the guilt of one party or another, taking into account the control over the location and the affiliation of the individual perpetrator to the armed group. In attributing responsibility, we also rely on information and documents obtained or data available to the public, or as reported by media outlets of the parties to the conflict, after verifying their trustworthiness. In cases of sexual violence and abduction, the lack of serious engagement with the victim by the controlling party is considered as evidence indicating the party's potential complicity or cover-up of the individual perpetrators.

F. Evaluating Sources and Evidence

The information undergoes an analysis that adheres to the standards of accuracy and objectivity, wherever possible, for assessment, review, and corroboration. This analysis is based on the statements of victims or their immediate relatives and/or those in the child's immediate environment, eyewitness accounts, or residents of the area where the victim resides, in addition to documents, photographs, and data available in open sources. Any source or information that is doubtful in credibility or biased is excluded.

G. Challenges in the Course of Research

Access to child victims has been a challenge for all researchers, as their families are often reluctant to facilitate meetings, report on their situation, or assist in investigations, due to cultural stigmatization, particularly for those who have experienced sexual violence, abduction or recruitment. This has led us to rely on testimonies from relatives, acquaintances, activists, schoolteachers, and medical staff. Access to certain areas and local communities remains fraught with risks, as parties to the conflict perceive civil society as hostile, and victims' families fear retaliation from perpetrators in the absence of substantial support programs and effective accountability mechanisms.



FIFTH: TYPES OF VIOLATIONS

A. ANALYSIS OF THE DATABASE ACCORDING TO THE SIX GRAVE VIOLATIONS AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

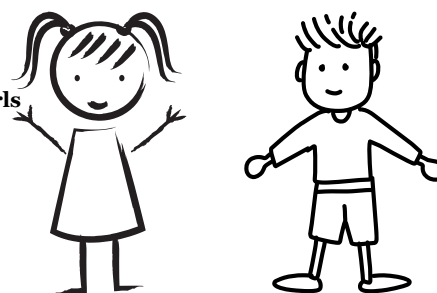
Over the reporting period, the Monitoring Coalition has investigated 127 incidents of grave violations committed against children across 13 Yemeni governorates, resulting in 157 casualties, 26 of whom are girls, due to acts of killing, maiming, recruitment, sexual violence, and abduction.¹³ A total of 26,761 children, including 14,457 girls, have been impacted by assaults on educational facilities and hospitals, as well as by the denial of access to humanitarian aid to children.¹⁴

Although the report spans from April 2022 to December 2023, a timeframe defined by the declaration of a humanitarian truce and the announcement of an agreement on principles leading to a comprehensive ceasefire, the grave violations recorded imply a failure on the part of the parties to the conflict to adhere to their pledges, particularly the Houthi group.

With respect to victims of killing, maiming, recruitment, sexual violence, and abduction, Dhamar has registered the highest number of victims totaling 26 victims, despite not experiencing conflict directly. It is followed by Taiz with 25 victims, Al Mahwit 21, Hadramout 8, and both Lahj and Hodeidah with 7 victims each. Marib has 6, and Aden as well as Al Jawf have 2 victims each, with Sana'a accounting for one victim.

Pertaining to those affected by the assaults on schools and the denial of access to aid, we have recorded 24,501 affected child in the governorates of Al Mahwit and 2,260 affected child in the governorate of Amran, which, notably, have not been directly stricken by the conflict and which are under the control of the Houthi group.

26 of whom are girls



127

incidents of grave violations committed against children

- Geographical locations of victims of violations against children, according to the highest numbers (dark red) to the lowest numbers (light red)
- Locations not monitored
- Territories under Houthi control
- Territories under IRG control

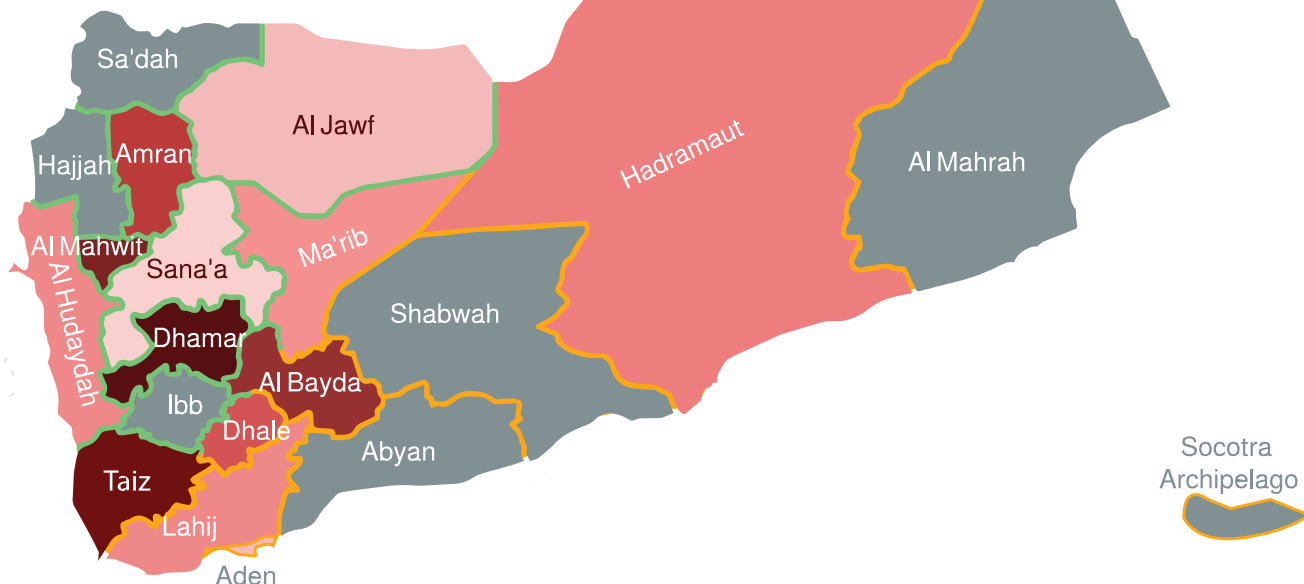
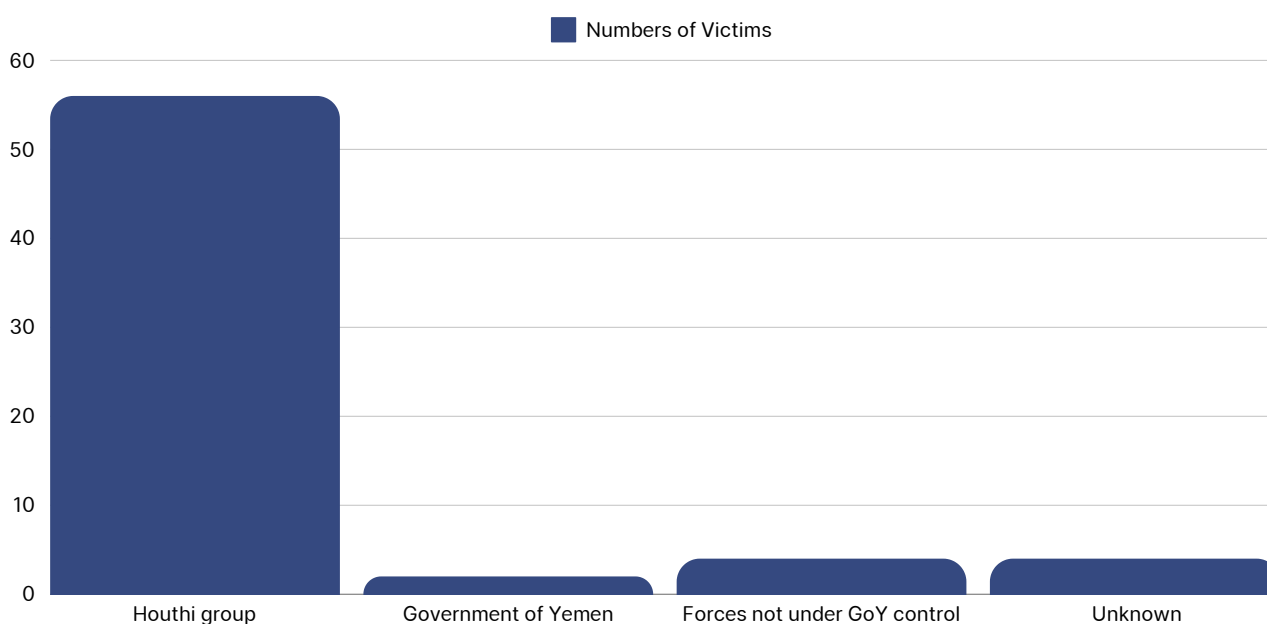


Chart 1 showing the numbers of murder and mutilation victims and their proportions relative to the perpetrators.



Killing and Maiming

Victims of killing and maiming constituted the majority of incidents that have been documented, totaling 66 children, including 22 girls, with 20 killed and 46 injured. Most of these casualties have been in Taiz with 22, Al Bayda 15, Amran 9, and 10 for both Hodeidah and Al Dhale'e. In addition, there were 3 victims in Hadramout and 4 in both Al Mahwit and Marib, with 3 each in Sana'a, Dhamar, and Lahj. Regarding the type of weapon, most victims 33 were affected by landmines, 18 by shelling, 7 by sniper attacks, and the remainder 8 by gunshot, vehicular assault, or other means.¹⁵ The analyses indicate that the majority of victims were residents 50, while 9 others IDPs and 7 victims belong to the marginalized group of people. The organization has documented that 35 of the victims have received medical care, whether supported by organizations or facilitated by government and private hospitals, while the status of the rest regarding the reception of such services is unknown, or they had perished.



66 Victims of killing and maiming

Recruitment and Exploitation of Children:

YCMHRV's field team has documented the recruitment of 53 children, aged between (12-18) years, throughout the reporting period. Around a third of them were in Dhamar 19, 15 in Al Mahwit, and 15 across Al Dhale'e, Amran, and Hadramout, with 2 in Marib, and 2 in Lahj and Al Jawf. Data analysis indicates that the majority of victims were permanent residents in their communities 39, with 7 being from the IPD population and 7 belonging to the marginalized group of people.¹⁶ This classification reflects the parties' ability to mobilize children within local communities. Propaganda in schools had a significant impact, particularly by the Houthi group, with 29 child recruits influenced, whereas 9 child recruits were school dropouts, and 12 had not received an education, with the status of the remaining cases remaining unknown.

Besides the use of schools for propaganda, the allure of economic incentives also impacted children, with 29 child recruits lured by economic incentives. In addition, 8 children were recruited due to ideological influence, 7 joined voluntarily, 5 were abducted and enlisted, and 4 were pushed by their families due to alignment or involvement with one of the parties.¹⁷ 31 children have been thrust into combat, 6 employed at security checkpoints, 3 tasked with guarding facilities, one assigned to planting landmines, 2 tasked with transporting supplies, and 4 with conveying information, with 6 unspecified in their role.¹⁸ The current fate of these children shows, according to the analysis, that the vast majority 35 continue to be recruited, 11 have been killed, 5 have left recruitment, one is missing, while one has been injured in combat.¹⁹

Means of Recruitment



Exploitation and Incentives



Intellectual Influence



Self-belief



Abduction



By family

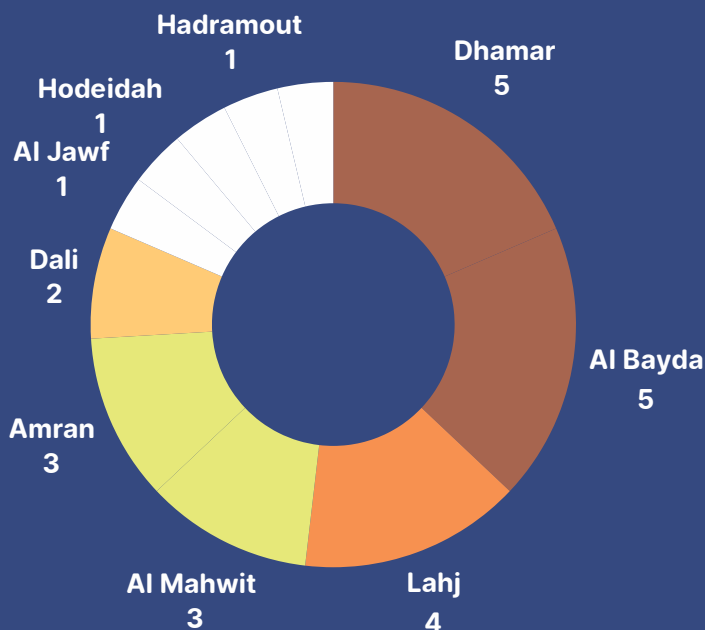
Sexual Violence

The social stigma surrounding victims of sexual violence in Yemen has had a significant impact on their access to support. The organization has investigated a total of seven cases, primarily involving rape, including two cases of young girls. These incidents occurred during 2023, with only two cases occurring in 2022. The victims originate from seven governorates, namely Hodeidah, Ad Dali, Al Mahwit, Taiz, Hadramout, Aden, and Lahj. Analysis indicates that the age groups of the victims varied between 8 and 15 years old, with most being residents within their communities 5 and one being a displaced child.²⁰

Abduction

YCMHRV has investigated a total of 31 abduction cases, including 2 cases involving young girls. The abductions were distributed evenly between the governorates of Dhamar and Al Bayda, with 10 cases each. Additionally, there were 4 cases in Lahj, 6 cases each in Al Mahwit and Amran, 2 cases in Dali, and five cases each in Al Jawf, Hodeidah, Taiz, Hadramout, and Marib. Among these victims, 5 children suffered enforced disappearances, while 9 experienced physical torture. The majority of the abduction victims were children residing in their communities, accounting for 27 victims, alongside 2 IDP victims and 2 children belonging to the marginalized group of people.²¹ Currently, 20 children have been released, 8 remain in detention, 2 were killed in battles after their recruitment, and the fate of one child remains unknown²²

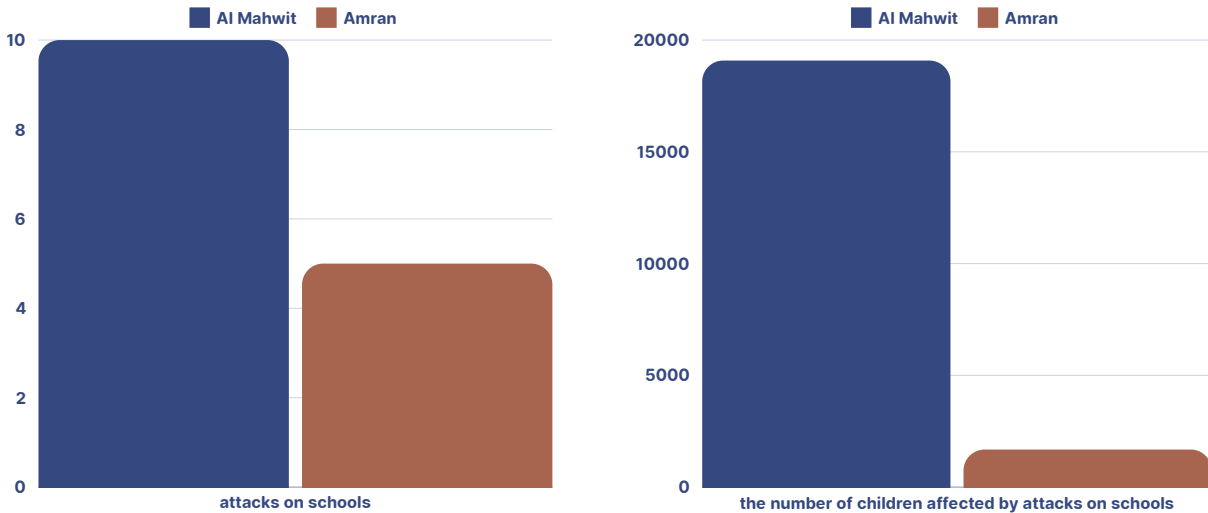
Chart 2 shows the number of cases in a number of governorates



Attacks on Schools and Hospitals

Among the numerous attacks, YCMHRV has managed to document 15 incidents of assaults on schools, affecting a total of 45 schools and causing harm to approximately 20,764 children, including 11,830 girls. This represents the highest number of victims reported in the document.²³ The attacks were distributed with 10 incidents in Al Mahwit against 39 schools, impacting 19,084 children and girls, and five incidents in Amran against six schools, impacting 1680 children. The form of aggression primarily involved raids, intrusions, and the conduct of propaganda activities²⁴ promoting recruitment and combat. It is observed that all of these attacks were carried out by Ansar Allah (Houthis).

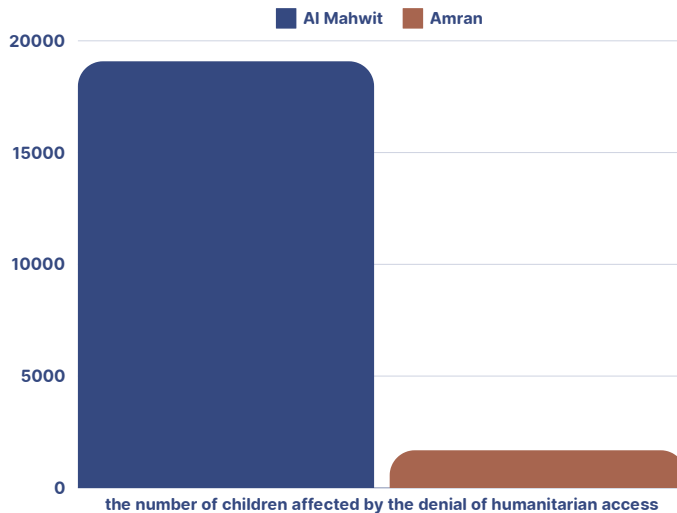
Chart 3 shows the number of children affected by attacks on schools



Denial of Humanitarian Aid Access to Children

In 4 verified instances, the denial of access to humanitarian aid by Ansar Allah group affected 5,997 children, including 2,627 girls. 3 incidents were in Al Mahwit, impacting 5,417 children, and one incident took place in Amran affecting 580 children.²⁵ The cases varied, encompassing two instances of medical aid denial, one of shelter assistance obstruction, and one involving the prevention of food aid.

Chart 4 shows the number of children affected by the denial of humanitarian access



B. Representative Incidents from Each Violation Category

- **Killing and Maiming**

The incident left Bushra Al-Humaiqani (girl) dead and Ayman Al-Humaiqani (boy) injured (8 and 11 years old respectively, pseudonyms)

Date: 31 August 2023

Location: Dhi Mekhshab village, Al-Zaher, Al Bayda

Perpetrator: The Security Belt Forces and the Southern Giants

Consequences: Death of Bushra (a girl), while Ayman (a boy) sustained multiple injuries, several families contemplating moving from the area after the incident.

Criterion for Case Selection: The parties to the conflict, including the armed actors, employ uncontrollable weaponry within civilian areas, which predictably results in casualties among civilians, including children.

Summary of the incident: While playing in front of their home in Dhi Mekhshab village, the children were caught in the crossfire between Houthi fighters positioned on the outskirts of Al-Zaher district and the Security Belt Forces and the Southern Giants stationed in Al-Sar, a buffer zone between the district of Al Had Yafa'a in Lahj Governorate and Al-Zaher district in Al Bayda Governorate. A mortar shell fell near the house, injuring the children with shrapnel. After their transfer to Al Zahra Hospital, it was determined that Bushra was dead and Ayman required surgery to remove the shrapnel from his body.

YCMHRV listened to three testimonies and obtained two medical reports for the child victims, as well as photographs illustrating their injuries. Ayman's father said: "This is not the first time that shells have landed in our village from the direction of the Security Belt Forces and the Southern Giants' positions, resulting in casualties among children, even though the Houthi forces are stationed at the outskirts of the Al-Zaher district. We are in a difficult economic situation and unable to afford displacement from our areas, but we are not prepared to lose our children." YCMHRV had previously documented the maiming of two other children in February and August of the same year, attributed to artillery shelling by those forces positioned in the areas surrounding Al-Zaher district in Al Bayda Governorate. The medical reports issued by Al Zahra Typical Hospital dated 17 September 2023 state that the victim Bushra arrived dead due to "fatal" injuries above the chest and in the abdomen. Ayman sustained multiple injuries in the

middle and the lateral side of the abdomen, a shrapnel wound in the second lumbar vertebra, lacerations of the lateral abdominal muscles, and wounds on the right leg.

Recommendations: The Southern Transitional Council forces should refrain from using uncontrollable weapons and from launching them at civilian gatherings. They should also provide compensation to victims and residents affected by the shelling in those areas.

- **Mutilation Caused by landmines**

Sarah Haitham Fiteeni, aged 14 years (pseudonym)

Date: Monday, 13 February 2023

Location: Al-Hali area, 7 Kilometer, City of Hodeidah

Perpetrator of the Violation: According to the victim's father, the Houthi group is responsible for planting the land mines in that area, under the supervision of the military zone official known as "Abu Ali".

Consequences: The landmine explosion led to the amputation of the girl's right leg and hand, rendering her physically disabled.

Criterion for Case Selection: landmines are among the most common means of attack that often kill and maim children during the armed conflict in Yemen, particularly in the Governorate of Hodeidah where landmines have been extensively planted across the region.

Summary of the Incident: Sarah (girl) was collecting empty water bottles to sell them and help her family with household expenses. While collecting the bottles, a landmine exploded, leading to the amputation of her right leg and hand. YCMHRV met with the child's father and two witnesses from the area and obtained a photograph of the victim post-injury.

Her father stated, "My daughter was collecting empty water bottles near City Max in Kilometer 7 area when a landmine exploded. She can no longer lead a normal life," adding that this was due to the Houthi group planting landmines haphazardly.

Recommendations: The Houthi group should cease planting landmines and should work towards the removal of the ones they have planted already, along with providing medical treatment for the child and offering compensation.

- **Recruitment and Exploitation of Children**

Nouri Abu Rukab, aged 15 (pseudonym)

Date: Tuesday, 21 March 2023

Location: Kharef Amran, enlisted at 23 Mika Brigade, Hadhramaut

Perpetrator of the Violation: Government forces in Hadramout under the command of Yahya Mohammed Abu Awja

Consequences: The child remains engaged in military ranks during the documentation of the case.²⁶

Criterion for Case Selection: The case has been selected with the aim of exposing how military leadership takes advantage of the economic hardships experienced by the children's families to recruit them.

Summary of the Incident: Nouri, not going to school and living with 15 other siblings in dire economic conditions, due to their father's inability to find a job to support his family, found that joining the ranks of the army was a common path for young individuals in the region. Yahya Mohammed Abu Awja, the military leader in the government's first military zone and commander of the 135th Mika Brigade in Hadramout, even before his dismissal by the president of the Presidential Leadership Council,²⁷ recruited many young men and boys from the region - YCMHRV has documented the recruitment of three children, including Nouri. Influenced by others, Nouri left his hometown and joined the 23rd Mika Brigade in Al Abr area in Hadramout governorate. His family supported him, given that they regard him as a man following in the footsteps of other locals who had joined the military ranks.

One witness we listened to said: "I met Nouri in Marib, as he was planning to travel to Hadramout. I tried to dissuade him from joining the army, pointing out that his personal ID card stated he was 15 years old. Nouri responded that he was a man and his father and family were proud of his recruitment, like most of the village youth. The witness added that the next day Nouri travelled to Hadramout with men from his relatives, arriving in Al Abr, and he joined the 23rd Mika Brigade under Brigadier General Abdullah Mohammed Mua'iz. I kept asking about him from time to time but received no updates on his situation."

Recommendations: The government forces must demobilize all child recruits from their military and security units and establish contact points to monitor the presence of child recruits, to end their recruitment and return them to their families.

- **Sexual Violence**

Ahmed Fadel Hashif, 14 years old (a pseudonym)

Date: 1 May 2022

Location: Al Mowaslat Street, Mahwit City

Perpetrator: A Houthi group supervisor in Mahwit City, known as "Abu Abdullah".²⁸

Consequences: The child's family filed a complaint with the city police, but due to threats received from Houthi-affiliated individuals, they dropped the case and stopped demanding bringing the perpetrator to justice.

Criterion for Case Selection: Considering that the violation was committed by influential figure in the Houthi-controlled area of Al Mahwit City, and that justice is a challenging pursuit for victims who experience intimidation and obstruction of access to it, as well as the stigma felt by the victims' families in their local communities which makes them psychologically responsive to it.

Summary of the Incident: Due to the conflict in Hajjah Governorate, Ahmed and his family moved from the city of Haradh to Al Mahwit City in 2016, settling in one of the IDP camps in the area. The perpetrator exploited the child's situation and lured him into one of the buildings, owned by him, in the neighborhood, and then raped him at gunpoint. Leveraging his friendship with the officials from the criminal investigation department, they threatened and intimidated the victim's family, compelling them to drop the complaint the complaint, for reasons related to their being a vulnerable IDP family.

The victim's brother says: "The Houthi supervisor Abu Abdullah lured Ahmed under the guise of delivering humanitarian aid, got him into an apartment he owned and then forcefully raped him. In the evening, Ahmed returned home crying and informed me of what had happened. We took him to the Republican Hospital in the city, where medical examination revealed severe anal tearing."

He adds: "I then went to the city's Criminal Investigation Department to file a complaint about what had happened. One of the investigators recorded the complaint, and the next day a criminal investigation officer called me asking me to come in. Upon my arrival, he ordered me to drop the complaint, claiming that the issue would rather be resolved amicably with the perpetrator. I refused, so he threatened me if I did not drop the complaint and if I told others what happened. Three days later, they forced me to drop the case and gave me fifty thousand riyals."

Recommendations: The Houthi group should hold the perpetrator accountable and bring him to justice. They are also obliged to provide psychological and social rehabilitation for the child, compensate him and his family, and repair the harm suffered.



- **Abduction**

Ridwan Ali, Ahmed Mohsen, Yusuf Mohsen (pseudonyms, 16, 14, and 16 years old respectively)

Date: 23 June 2022

Location: Radfan area, Lahj Governorate

Perpetrator: The 13th Special Forces Brigade led by Ali Al-Noubi, one of the formations of the Security Belt Forces

Consequences: The victims were detained at the 13th Special Forces Brigade's prison, where they were subjected to physical and psychological torture. They were still in custody as of the date of the documentation of the incident,²⁹ despite being referred to the local court.

Criterion for Case Selection: The cases have been selected with the aim of exposing the harsh treatment of children by military entities and their disregard for judicial orders. According to the victims' families, the abduction occurred for political reasons, framed under allegations that tarnish the children's dignity within their community.

Summary of the Incident: At around 9 pm on Thursday, 23 June 2022, military forces from the 13th Special Forces Brigade, comprising two vehicles and approximately 30 soldiers, surrounded residents' homes north of the Education College in Al- Habilein area, Lahj Governorate. Nine local youths, including three children, were detained and transferred to cells within the camp. During their imprisonment, they were interrogated and pressured to confess to raping a child a year prior to their detention.

When the children refused these accusations, they were harshly treated by the soldiers. The three children were beaten with batons, suspended by their arms, and burnt with hot iron rods. They were also placed in a cell with adult prisoners with only a small window for ventilation. YCMHRV obtained testimonies and documents. One of the released youths, who had been detained with the children, stated: "We begged the prisoners to have mercy on the children; arguing that adults can bear the torture, but they refused, saying if we wanted mercy and release, we had to give them the confession they needed. Our families were denied any visits to us for a whole month." Saleh, a relative of the children, adds: "They detained Ridwan, Ahmad, and Yousef, tortured them, and fabricated rape charges against them due to my oppositional stance against the practices of the Brigade's soldiers and my public political activity critical of the

Southern Transitional Council. The soldiers did not have any judicial orders to arrest the children, denied allowing any visits to them and the cell in which they were detained within the camp was unfit for human habitation, lacking proper lighting or ventilation amid the soaring temperatures in the region."

We obtained a document directed by the children's families to the Attorney of Al- Habilein, stating that the camp leadership had defied orders from Al- Habilein's prosecution office allowing them to visit the children. The document, marked to indicate receipt by the Attorney, confirms the prevention of family visits despite the presence of the Attorney within the camp, who attended in response to the families' demands.

We also accessed records from Al- Habilein court, where the children stood trial after prosecution accused them of rape a year before their detention. The records note that the court was not apprised of the children's torture claims, arrest procedures, or their ages verified by attached birth certificates, which confirm they are minors – a fact warranting their referral to juvenile detention facilities and receiving care despite the allegations charged against them.

Recommendations: The Government of Yemen and the Attorney General must ensure the observance of judicial procedures pertaining to children during conflict, guaranteeing that they receive justice in accordance with their status. The Southern Transitional Council and the Security Belt Forces should cease the recruitment of children and prevent their involvement in political strife; allegations of torture suffered by the children must be addressed, perpetrators must be brought to justice, and detainees and their families must be provided compensation and reparations for the damages they suffered.

- **Assault on Schools and Hospitals**

The assault on Khawla bint Al-Azwar Standard & Secondary School for Girls

Date: Tuesday, 10 January 2023

Location: Al Sharqi area, Al Mahwit City

Type of Violation: Assaults on schools by disrupting the schooling process and using them for war propaganda
Perpetrator: Ibrahim Hamoud Al-Zein, Director of Education office in Al-Mahwit Governorate, Malek Al-Shahidhi, Director of Education office in Al-Mahwit City and Ms. Drahman Mohammed Al-Haimi, Head of the Women's Committee for the Houthi group Ansar Allah in Al-Mahwit,

Consequences: The suspension of schooling for one day with students compelled to attend an event organized by the Houthi group, inciting them to persuade their male family members to join the fighting and collect financial support.

Criterion for Case Selection: This case has been selected with the aim of exposing the Houthi group's exploitation and intentions of targeting boys' and girls' schools in various governorates that are not directly experiencing combat, whereby their attacks on schools have expanded substantially during the humanitarian ceasefire to exploit them for war propaganda and recruitment purposes.

Summary of the Incident: YCMHRV has received testimony from schoolteachers and residents of the area. A schoolteacher stated: "On Tuesday morning, the Director of the Education Office in the city of Al Mahwit and the Head of the Women's Committee of Ansar Allah in the governorate arrived at Khawla bint Al-Azwar School, accompanied by armed men as well as armed women, also known as 'Zainabiyat'. They ordered that girls should not enter into the classrooms. Instead, they were to attend the event celebrating the birthday of Fatimah Al-Zahra, daughter of Prophet Mohammed (peace be Upon him). The event took all the school day. They commanded the girls to chant the Houthi slogan, locally known as Al Sarkhah (cry) and delivered speeches encouraging fighting, financial donations for the war fronts, and incitement against the group's opponents. The witness added that more than 400 girls attend this school."

The Ansar Allah website reported the event, which was a celebration of the birthday of Fatimah Al-Zahra, part of a program designed to teach 'faith identity' through field visits by Al-Mahwit Education Office and the Cultural Women's Committee, targeting girls' schools, as per the report on the group's [website](#).³⁰

Recommendations: The Houthi group should refrain from targeting schools, particularly girls' schools, abstain from disrupting the educational process, and prevent using them for celebrations of events specific to the group or for combat recruitment and mobilization.

- **Denial of Aid by Coercing Residents to give up Supplies to Combatants:**

Date: April 2022

Location: Habur Dhulaymah District, Amran Governorate

Perpetrator: Supervisors from the Houthi group in Habur Dhulaymah District, Amran Governorate

Outcome: Nearly six thousand families were hindered from receiving their food portions, resulting in distribution delays extending an entire month.

Criterion for case selection: It highlights the Houthi leadership's utilization of their authority to force recipients into reallocating the humanitarian assistance they receive for military use, thus depriving children of these provisions.

Summary of the incident: At the initiation of the World Food Programme's food assistance distribution to the populace in Habur Dhulaymah District in mid-April 2022, Houthi-affiliated supervisors urged beneficiaries to renounce a portion of their allocations, subsequently claiming these directly from the storage facilities. Upon notification, the World Food Programme officials directed their local partner to cease disbursement for an entire month. Following reconciliations with the Houthis, who appointed coordinators to document the distribution procedures and verify full receipt by the citizens, the distribution process resumed.

A beneficiary recounted that the Houthi supervisors arrived to claim parts of the recipients' shares, those who had been pressured to forgo part of their rations, for the purpose of arranging a food convoy for Houthi fighters, under the pretense of voluntary contributions from civilians. This beneficiary added that upon organizational discovery, the aid distribution halted for approximately a month before delegates were designated to oversee and confirm the beneficiaries' full receipt.

According to information published on the National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response's website, the local partner of the World Food Programme in Habur Dhulaymah District, the number of beneficiary families reaches [5765](#).³¹

Recommendations: The Houthi group (Ansar Allah) must cease its meddling in the operations of humanitarian organizations and abandon its practices of blocking humanitarian aid from reaching children, the displaced, the impoverished, and the marginalized.

SIXTH: THE PERPETRATORS

A. Ansar Allah (Houthis)

YCMHRV has verified the group's involvement in the killing of 15 children and the maiming of 41 children, of whom 22 were girls³². A third of these victims, 22 children were in Taiz, Al Bayda 11, Amran 6, Hodeidah and Al Dhale'e each accounting for 10 victims, Lahj 1, Marib and Al Mahwit 4 each, and Dhamar, Lahj, and Sana'a 3 each. Regarding the nature of the attacks, the majority, 31, fell victim to landmines planted by the group, 14 from ground shelling or drone strikes, and 9 from sniping and small arms fire, with one casualty resulting from being run over.³³ The Houthis have recruited and used 40 children, nearly half of whom were in Dhamar, 19, and Al Mahwit, 15, and one in Al Jawf. One case of sexual violence committed by members associated with the group in Al Mahwit has been confirmed. The Houthis kidnapped 19 children, with 3 of whom enduring enforced disappearance, mostly from Dhamar with 6, Al Bayda with 5, and Al Mahwit and Amran with 6, and Al Dhale'e and Al Jawf with 2. The Houthis have also committed assaults on all 45 schools documented in the report, affecting 20764 children, including 11830 girls. Notably, these incidents occurred in Al Mahwit in 39 schools and 6 schools in Amran, although direct combat did not reach these governorates.³⁴ The organization has confirmed 4 incidents relating to the prevention, obstruction or looting of humanitarian aid to children by the Houthis, including 3 cases in Al Mahwit and one in Amran, affecting 5997 children, of whom 2627 are girls. It is important to note that all recorded cases of assaults on schools and prevention of aid delivery to children were carried out by the Houthis.

In view of this, it may be inferred that Ansar Allah (Houthis) commit the most frequent and grave violations against children. This is due to their lack of regard for obligations under international law and human rights. Publicly, they view the engagement of children in combat as a heroic deed, fitting within what they describe as "defending the nation."

B. The Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen

YCMHRV has verified the killing and maiming of 2 children in Al Bayda due to shelling, attributed to government forces, and the recruitment of 6 children, 5 in Hadramout and the sixth in Marib. Two rape victims in areas controlled by government forces from Hadramout and Taiz were documented, with the incidents attributed to unidentified assailants and the government authorities failing to identify or pursue the perpetrators. Regarding abductions, the report has documented 3 cases of children abducted by government forces, 2 in Marib and the third in Taiz, with 2 of them remaining in custody as of the documentation of the cases.³⁵

C. The Southern Transitional Council and the Joint Forces:

YCMHRV has documented 4 cases of mutilated children, with the attacks against them carried out by the Southern Transitional Council forces in Al Bayda and Hadramout. It has been confirmed that the Security Belt and Joint Forces have recruited 7 children from the governorates of Al Dhale'e (5), and 2 from Lahj and Marib. The report has verified one rape case perpetrated by individuals associated with the Southern Transitional Council in Aden, and 2 rape cases committed in areas under Southern Transitional Council- control in Al Dhale'e and Lahj, as well as one rape in areas under the Joint Forces control in Hodeidah. Four children who have been abducted and tortured by these forces were documented, with 3 in Lahj and 1 in Aden; all remain in custody as of the documentation of their cases.³⁶

SEVENTH: PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

The majority of documented cases exhibit a need for psychological support. Many children, particularly victims of sexual violence, abduction, recruitment, and physical maiming, are socially affected, with stigma pervasive in their communities. According to a study by the International Committee of the Red Cross³⁷ on the consequences of the conflict on the children of Yemen, "the violence they face has caused them considerable psychological distress, with many suffering from nightmares, sleep disturbances, guilt, and altered social behavior, among other issues. Their daily lives are disrupted, they lose their sense of stability, and they are overwhelmed by fear of the future."

The mother of a victim named "Halim," who suffered sexual violence, said, "When I visited him in the Fifth Brigade's prison in Lahj, he did not speak to me and remained silent and stunned throughout the visit." Halim was lured to the perpetrator's house on an accusation of harassing his daughters and was then bound and stripped of his clothes in preparation for rape. Unable to bear the ordeal, he was overcome with rage and decided to jump from a high window onto the house courtyard, resulting in fractures to his body. Instead of receiving treatment, he was taken from the hospital after 12 days and placed in prison while the perpetrator remained free. The victim is suffering from psychological trauma due to the incident and the absence of justice, as he was imprisoned while the perpetrator remained at large.

The report confirms that the psychological and social impacts do not merely affect the victims but have an effect on their families as well. The father of seven-year-old Khalifa Saleh suffered from a mental illness, but following his child's injury by shrapnel in Taiz, his condition deteriorated significantly.



EIGHTH: LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEASURES

A. Review of International Standards for Children's Rights and Obligations of International Parties

International humanitarian law and international human rights law furnish numerous standards and rules mandating protection for children during conflict from the six grave violations, as well as additional standards guaranteeing children's rights in general. These are enshrined in a multitude of conventions, protocols, resolutions, and declarations, many of which have been ratified by the state of Yemen.

45. As for the standards specific to international human rights law, of particular note is the 1988 Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Yemen has been an early signatory.³⁸ This treaty encompasses a wide range of rules, including those related to the right to life, health, and education, as well as the protection from economic and sexual exploitation and the prevention of abduction and torture. Additionally, the Convention is complemented by three protocols. The first two were issued in May 2000 and have been ratified by Yemen, while the third was released in June 2011 yet remains unratified by Yemen. The first protocol prohibits children's involvement in armed conflicts as combatants. The second lays down measures concerning the prevention of the sale of children, their exploitation in prostitution, and the use of children in pornographic materials, with the recruitment of children and sexual violence considered forms of trafficking. The third protocol regulates the procedures for the submission of individual communications regarding the violations stipulated in the Convention and the two preceding protocols.

The International Labour Organization's Convention No. 182 of 1999 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, ratified by Yemen, recognizes that enforced recruitment of children and their exploitation in prostitution constitute a form of exploitation. The International Labour Organization's Convention No. 189 of 2011 regarding domestic workers deems child labour as exploitation. Additionally, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of November 2000, characterizes recruitment as a form of trafficking of children. The United Nations also adopted the Beijing Declaration in November 1985, which includes standard

minimum rules for the administration of juvenile justice, incorporating specific standards for children deprived of their liberty.

Human rights law becomes applicable during both peacetime and wartime, with the rights protected therein becoming customary rules of international humanitarian law. For instance, Rule 135 of the International Committee of the Red Cross study states, "Children affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection" in both international and non-international armed conflicts.³⁹

International humanitarian law has recognized numerous guarantees within several conventions to protect children during conflict, notably the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, especially the common Article No. 3 which emphasizes the necessity of protecting civilians, including children, as well as safeguarding protected entities such as hospitals and schools. Its two additional protocols of 1977 further stress the rights of children during conflict to access education, and the prohibition of their recruitment into "armed forces and groups" or their involvement in hostilities. Yemen has ratified the four conventions and their protocols.

The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court—"to which Yemen is not a party"—includes several provisions to protect children within its protection of civilians. These criminalize the intentional targeting of civilian populations, medical units, structures designated for educational purposes, rape and sexual slavery, and the compulsory or voluntary recruitment of children under the age of 15 into armed forces or groups, Article No. 8(2) (b) (i, ii, iv, vi, viii).

This statute can be applied to the situation in Yemen even though it is not a signatory, should the Security Council decide to refer Yemen's case to the Court, or if the Court's Prosecutor General directly initiates an investigation. Moreover, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1261 of 1999 culminated international efforts to protect children, acknowledging the deleterious impact of armed conflicts upon them and identifying six grave violations against them. This resolution commenced a series of related decisions, mandating conflict parties to protect children during armed conflicts.

These standards bear an obligation upon the Yemeni government to protect children given its status as a party to the majority of them. Even where it is not a party, it remains bound by customary international law.

International jurisprudence, legal doctrine, and United Nations reports, including those from the regional group of experts on Yemen, recognize that de facto authorities exercising government-like functions, such as the "Ansar Allah group, the Southern Transitional Council, and the Joint Forces", are obliged to adhere to human rights law standards. States forming part of the Arab Coalition also carry human rights law responsibilities, insofar as they conduct operations in Yemen.⁴⁰ The application of the standards of international humanitarian law and customary humanitarian law to armed groups is widely accepted. Considering the publicly declared acknowledgment by these forces to apply such laws on many occasions, this also applies to the States of the Arab Coalition as parties to the non-international armed conflict, which thereby become complicit in respecting all applicable international humanitarian laws.⁴¹

B. Review of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention includes a number of rights, which are standards presumed to be applied during armed conflict and have been adopted by international jurisprudence and legal doctrine. Its preamble also endorses various standards, including the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict Situations. It obliges states to respect the rules of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts and to take all feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children affected by armed conflict, as stated in Article No. 38(1,4).

Reviewing rights relevant to the protection of children from the six grave violations, the Convention guarantees the right to life in Article No. 6(1), countering the killing and maiming of children. It compels states to adopt measures to prevent the recruitment or use in hostilities of any child beneath the age of fifteen by armed forces in Article No. 38(2,3).⁴² The Convention also underscores the obligation to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect, including sexual abuse in Article No. 19(1), and protection from all forms of exploitation, sexual abuse, and prostitution in Article No. 34. States parties must take all measures to prevent the abduction, sale, or trafficking of children in Article No. 35 and safeguard them from deprivation of liberty or

subjection to torture and cruel treatment in Article No. 37. It highlights a child's right to the highest attainable standard of health and access to healthcare facilities in Article No. 24(1), the right to education in Article No. 28, and considers that a child has the right to an adequate standard of living, for which states should take measures to assist the parents and others responsible for the child and provide material support and programs related to nutrition, clothing, and housing in Article No. 27(1,3).

C. Review of Local Laws Related to Child Protection

Effective Yemeni laws and legislation include various protective measures for children in times of peace and specific measures during armed conflict. These combined laws, despite any contradictions or shortcomings, can potentially provide acceptable levels of prevention against the grave violations committed against children. Despite this, Yemen asserts it has enhanced the compatibility between national legislation and international conventions, provided it does not conflict with the principles of Islamic Sharia.⁴³ This section reviews standards related to child protection believed to be significant in contemporary laws, referencing congruent or contrasting standards from other laws where possible.

Child protection legislation should be based on rules set forth by the Constitution, particularly the rule asserting the state's work in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the Arab League, and the recognized rules of international law, committed to protecting motherhood and childhood, as stated in Articles No. 6 and 30 of the Constitution promulgated in 1991 and its amendments until 2001.

Law No. 45 of 2002 on Child Rights, instituted as Yemen's commitment to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, epitomizes the pinnacle of Yemen's standards for child protection, ensuring the right of the child to life is unharmed pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article No.1. It sets special measures for their protection during armed conflict, including safeguarding them from its effects, not involving them in warfare, or recruiting them until they surpass the age of eighteen pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article

No. 149.⁴⁴ The law also emphasizes protecting children from various forms of exploitation, especially sexual and economic, from use in prostitution and debauchery, and narcotic substance abuse pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Articles No. 147 and 148. The law also stipulates standards that do not permit detaining any juvenile under the age of twelve within any security facility⁴⁵ and criminalizes the abduction, sale, and trafficking of children pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Articles No. 124 and 164. Furthermore, it does not overlook the child's right to health care pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article No. 68 and their right to education and the establishment of schools pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Articles No. 81 and 86.

Law No. 12 of 1994 on Crimes and Penalties includes numerous standards that can be utilized and applied to protect children from grave violations, enacting the death penalty for those who murder an innocent person, and enhancing the enforcement of the penalty if the murder is committed brutally or upon two or more individuals pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article No. No. 234. It also enforces retribution, compensation, and payment for any assault resulting in mutilation, permanent disability, or precise wounding of any person pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article No. 243.⁴⁶ The law also provides special protection for minors and juveniles⁴⁷ from the deprivation of liberty and abduction, doubling the punishment if the victim is under fifteen years of age and further increases it if the abduction occurs forcibly, through threat or deception, and harshens the penalty if accompanied by harm, assault, or torture pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Articles No. 246 and 249.⁴⁸

The Crimes and Punishment Law criminalizes the act of rape, enhancing the punishment if the perpetrator is in charge of supervising, protecting, educating, guarding, or treating the victim. The severity of the penalty increases if the victim is a girl under the age of fourteen according to Article No. 269. Moreover, the law punishes sexual violence, any act other than rape, referred to as "indecent assault," which occurs against girls who have not reached the age of fifteen or boys under the age of twelve, as stated in Article No. 272. It also decrees the criminalization of inciting debauchery and prostitution, intensifying the punishment if the victim is a child under the age of fifteen pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article No. 279. Additionally, individuals who start arson or cause explosions in buildings or facilities that serve the public interest or those designated for public use are

punishable under Article No. 137, which naturally encompasses health and educational establishments. Law No. 21 of 1998 on Military Crimes and Penalties includes specialized standards that members of the government armed forces are presumed to adhere to during armed conflict. The law criminalizes causing harm to protected persons and property, including the killing or harm to the physical, mental, and health safety of civilians, detention, attacks on civilians and those incapacitated from fighting, and assaults on civilian facilities pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article No. 21.

D. Justice and Accountability Mechanisms Related to the Six Violations Against Children in Yemen

Access to justice poses a challenge for victims in countries embroiled in war, and it is even more challenging for children as a particularly vulnerable group. The Yemeni context is no exception to this scenario; access to justice and accountability proves more difficult due to the limitations of its mechanisms. This paragraph outlines the available mechanisms, which could be utilized or activated with more effort and resources.

The judiciary serves as the primary vehicle for achieving justice, tasked with adjudicating all crimes.⁴⁹ According to its configured independence, it should operate untethered to any authority other than the law and free from interference. However, in reality, the judiciary has succumbed to the influence of conflict parties and bifurcated into separate entities. The prominent expert panel notes that Yemen's judicial system lacks the means and capacity to conduct independent, credible investigations and hold trials for those responsible for egregious violations.⁵⁰

The Yemeni government's move toward establishing a specialized office for human rights violations is a positive endeavor, having been discussed by the government's Judicial Council in conjunction with the National Committee for Investigating Human Rights Violations⁵¹. Should this step materialize, it would signify a pivotal shift in the pursuit of justice for victims of severe abuses.

The National Committee for Investigating Human Rights Violations stands as the sole governmental mechanism for monitoring and investigating human rights violations claims. Despite the lack of response to its actions by armed groups such as the Ansar Allah group, the committee announced the transfer of a number of case files, for which investigations were completed, to the Public Prosecutor.⁵²

The committee's influence on achieving justice for children in grave infringements nonetheless remains limited amid the judiciary's inability to act upon referred cases.

To fulfill its obligations regarding children's rights, the Yemeni government established the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, acknowledging it as the responsible body for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is recognized as the highest governmental institution and institutional framework designated for the enactment and reinforcement of children's rights.⁵³ It should be noted that this council failed to perform its role during the armed conflict, at a minimum in monitoring violations or providing care to those affected, amidst its complete inactivity in government-controlled areas and diminished role in Houthi-controlled regions.

The Ministry of Human Rights is one of the local mechanisms for child protection. Its mandate encompasses receiving complaints from individuals, bodies, and institutions regarding all human rights violations and addressing them via coordination with competent authorities. The ministry chairs the joint governmental technical committee tasked with preventing and ending the recruitment of children, in coordination with UNICEF, asserting its conduct of visits to camps in government areas, including those affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council and Joint Forces, and forming 80 military contact points.⁵⁴

Regarding international roles in achieving justice for children, the United Nations established the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Violations against Children in Yemen, producing two reports on children during the armed conflict in Yemen and contributing, alongside the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children, to monitoring numerous perpetrated violations and their announcement in seven annual reports. This mechanism could provide the basis for local or international judicial prosecution through the records of violations it accumulates.⁵⁵

Yemen signed the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court in December 2000 but has yet to ratify it. However, this does not preclude the Court's jurisdiction over serious violations against children. The UN Security Council holds the authority to refer the situation in Yemen to the Court but has not done so. According to the international and regional prominent expert panel, there is no principled reason preventing the Security Council from acting. If it exercises its authority in this case, it would make a substantive contribution to combating impunity in Yemen.⁵⁶ The Council continues to pay attention to the work of the Sanctions Committee specific to Yemen, and through its appointed team in 2015, has issued nine reports.⁵⁷ Based on its findings, the Security Council imposed sanctions on several leaders of the Houthi group, listing them on financial sanctions and travel ban lists; however, this measure does not appear to have had a significant impact on the group in ending violations against children.



NINTH: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ADDRESSING VIOLATIONS AND SUPPORTING AFFECTED CHILDREN

Out of the 157 victims documented in the report, 45 children received care after the violation, be it health, psychological, financial care, or reintegration. This figure underscores the urgent need for the children affected by the conflict to receive increased care and support from international and humanitarian organizations. Indeed, reports suggest that international organizations have significantly aided children affected by conflict, particularly as national government institutions have waned due to war and division, marking an evident intervention by international organizations. Save the Children Charity stated that it has "assisted more than four million children with life-saving aid since May 2015 and continued to execute numerous critical programs".⁵⁸ Many organizations have contributed to providing aid and awareness for children and the community to protect them and prevent their involvement in conflict or recruitment.⁵⁹ UNICEF announced it has provided psychosocial support and life-saving educational activities regarding the dangers of landmines to more than 410,000 children and their caregivers in conflict-affected areas, while 4.1 million other children and women have received services for interventions aimed at mitigating, preventing, or addressing gender-based violence.⁶⁰

While humanitarian agencies deliver aid to an average of 9 million people each month,⁶¹ a significant gap remains. According to recent reports, 11 million children are at risk and require protection and basic services.⁶² The efforts in response to these needs do not meet the scale of the children's requirements affected by the conflict, nor do they address the humanitarian needs of the population. Therefore, the only way to remedy this dire situation lies in political efforts and finding a serious resolution to the conflict, as stated by Catherine Ritz⁶³, head of the International Committee mission in Yemen. Prior to this, revitalizing government institutions, local bodies, and, specifically, institutions that protect children is essential.

In terms of addressing violations against children, there is no observable significant activity in investigation and monitoring operations, except for some conducted by entities such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen, and the regional group of experts on Yemen, which produced four reports⁶⁴ before its termination by the Human Rights Council in October 2021. In addition, efforts by a number of international non-governmental organizations documented and advocated for thematic issues concerning children. However, effective counteraction related to conducting investigations remains limited, and inquiries to prepare files with a criminal nature for future accountability have not yet occurred. Moreover, funding programs and efforts to empower and build capacity within local human rights organizations are still somewhat limited. International organizations and donors can focus their efforts on comprehensively and broadly empowering local human rights organizations, which would significantly impact efforts to address child violations, given the ability of local organizations to spread and endure.



TENTH: RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE ACTIONS

- **The Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations calls upon the government of Yemen:**

1. To stop attacks against children, work towards their protection, reintegration of those affected, and to increase engagement with the United Nations in expediting the implementation of the action plan to end and prevent child recruitment.
2. To prioritize child justice in the ongoing peace negotiations, leading to tangible justice and accountability.
3. To align local child-protection legislation with international conventions ratified by Yemen, and to take practical steps towards ratification of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, and to engage with initiatives advocating the formation of a judicial committee to investigate grave and serious violations.
4. To expedite the establishment of a human rights court and prosecution office, granting it jurisdiction to examine grave violations against children, and to hold those responsible for attacks against children accountable.
5. To activate child protection mechanisms, including the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

- **The Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations calls upon the Houthi group:**

1. To immediately cease recruitment, exploitation, and involvement of children in military operations.
2. To identify and remove landmines and unexploded remnants of war.
3. To immediately stop all attacks against children and work earnestly to implement the action plan for ending and preventing child recruitment.
4. Cease all attacks on schools and hospitals, eliminate war propaganda within these institutions, and halt any forms of propaganda or mobilization targeting children, including the use of summer centers for influencing their involvement in conflicts.
5. To spare educational facilities from being used as military barracks or weapons depots, ensuring these places are reserved for education.
6. To facilitate immediate, safe, and unobstructed delivery of humanitarian aid to children and other civilians in need.

7. To work towards the protection and care of children and their reintegration into society, especially for recruited children and those returning from combat.
8. To interact with international investigation teams for monitoring and reporting, civil society organizations, and humanitarian organizations working to protect and assist affected children.

- **The Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations calls upon the United Nations, its agencies, and international organizations:**

1. To assess the roles and programs provided by organizations and relevant bodies in assisting affected children, ensuring integration into the response to attacks against children instead of merely providing aid, and to work diligently to establish accountability mechanisms concerning Yemen.
2. To intensify efforts to swiftly implement action plans and understandings signed with conflict parties concerning the end and prevention of child recruitment, and to exert pressure for signing new action plans that include ending and preventing further grave violations.
3. To enhance protection programs and reintegration for children affected by war, focusing on affected areas, including remote regions.
4. To enable and build capacities of local human rights organizations focused on children, comprehensively and broadly, to support efforts in addressing grave violations and protecting children.

ELEVEN: CONCLUSION

The dire situation of the children in Yemen calls for an immediate cessation by all parties to the conflict of all forms of severe attacks against children and the reintegration of those affected, in order to salvage what can be for the future of this generation of children. Moreover, fair and sustainable peace necessitates urgent action to incorporate children's justice into ongoing peace negotiations, persuading the warring parties, regional and international mediators that achieving justice and accountability for the children of Yemen ensures a reliable safeguard against the recurrence of violence and the protection of children.

ANNEXES

Table No. (1) illustrating victims of killings, maiming, recruitment, sexual violence, and abduction, segregated by gender and their geographical location.

Governorate	Killing and maiming		Total	Child recruitment male	Total	Sexual violence		Total	Abduction		Total	Grand Total
	female	male				female	male		female	male		
Al Bayda	2	13	15							5	5	20
Al Jawf				1	1					1	1	2
Hodeidah	4	1	5			1		1	1		1	7
Al Dhale'e	1	4	5	5	5		1	1		2	2	13
Al Mahwit		2	2	15	15		1	1		3	3	21
Taiz	12	10	22				1	1		2	2	25
Hadramout		3	3	3	3	1		1	1		1	8
Dhamar	1		1	19	19					6	6	26
Sana'a		1	1									1
Aden							1	1		1	1	2
Amran	1	8	9	7	7					3	3	19
Lahj		1	1	1	1		1	1		4	4	7
Marib	1	1	2	2	2					2	2	6
Grand Total	22	44	66	53	53	2	5	7	2	29	31	157

Table No. (2) showing the number of children affected by attacks on schools, denial of humanitarian access, geographical breakdown, and gender breakdown. All of these attacks are attributed to the Houthi group, and we have obtained these figures from private sources in the affected areas.

Governorate	Number of attacks on schools	Affected by attacks on schools		Total Affected	Number of aid blocking attacks	Those affected by denial of humanitarian access		Total	Grand Total
		Female	male			Female	male		
Al Mahwit	10	10876	8208	19084	3	2297	3120	5417	24501
Amran	5	954	726	1680	1	330	250	580	2260
Total	15	11830	8934	20764	4	2627	3370	5997	26761

Table No. (3) shows the analysis of victims of murder and maiming according to the nature of the attack and the type of weapon and its ratio to the perpetrators.

Nature of attack	Houthi group		Total	Government of Yemen		Total	Forces not under government control		Total	Anonymous parties		Total	Grand Total
	female	male		female	male		Female	male		Female	male		
Mine	9	22	31					2	2				33
Bombing	8	6	14	1	1	2		2	2				18
Sniping	2	5	7										7
Gunshots	2	1	3							1		1	4
Run over and other tools		1	1							3		3	4
Grand Total	21	35	56	1	1	2		4	4	4		4	66

Table No. (4) shows the means of recruitment used by the perpetrators.

Means of recruitment	Houthi group	Government of Yemen	Forces not under government control	Grand Total
Exploitation and temptation	20	2	7	29
Ideological influence	7	1		8
Self-conviction	5	2		7
Abduction	5			5
Enticed by the family	3	1		4
Grand Total	40	6	7	53

Table No. (5) showing the nature of the tasks in which children were employed after recruitment.

Nature of use of children	Houthi group	Government of Yemen	Forces not under government control	Grand Total
Battle Front	26	4	1	31
Security Point	5	1		6
Guarding a facility	2		1	3
Transporting Supplies	1		1	2
Transfer of information	2		2	4
Mine Planting	1			1
Not Specified	3	1	2	6
Grand Total	40	6	7	53

Table No. (6) shows the current fate of children.

The fate of the child	Houthi group	Government of Yemen	Forces not under GoY control	Grand Total
Still recruited	23	6	6	35
Killed on the frontlines	11			11
Left military ranks	4		1	5
Injured	1			1
missing	1			1
Grand Total	40	6	7	53

Table No. (7) shows the categories of victims of violations of sexual violence and abduction.

Nature of the violation	Resident	Marginalized	Internally displaced	Grand Total
Abduction	27	2	2	31
Sexual violence	6		1	7
Grand Total	32	2	3	38

Table No. (8) shows the fate of abducted children.

The fate of the victim	Houthi group	Government of Yemen	Forces not under GoY control	Anonymous parties	Grand Total
Released	16	1		3	20
In custody	1	2	4	1	8
Killed on the frontlines	2				2
Unknown				1	1
Grand Total	19	3	4	5	31

Table No. (9) showing the analysis of the victims of killings, maiming, child recruitment, sexual violence and abduction and the perpetrators

Perpetrator	Killing and maiming		Total	Child Recruitment	Total	Sexual violence		Total	Abduction		Total	Attacks on Schools		Total	Denial of Humanitarian Access		Total	Grand Total
	fe-male	male				female	male		female	male		female	male		female	male		
Houthi group	21	35	56	40	40		1	1		19	19	11830	8934	20764	2627	3370	5997	26877
Government of Yemen	1	1	2	6	6					3	3							11
Forces not under government control		4	4	7	7		1	1		4	4							16
Unknown		4	4			2	3	5	2	3	5							14
Grand Total	22	44	66	53	53	2	5	7	2	29	31	11830	8934	20764	2627	3370	5997	26918

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1. The Justice for Yemen Pact is a specialized alliance comprising human rights organizations and actors within civil society, which endeavors to enhance and safeguard the human rights of all segments of the Yemeni population. Its mission is deeply rooted in advocating for the rights of those affected by the conflict in Yemen and striving to bring about enduring positive change in the landscape of human rights in Yemen. The Pact's platform can be accessed via the following link: <https://justice4yemenpact.org/>
2. The accompanying table, labeled as Figure 2, illustrates the geographical distribution of the affected individuals resulting from the attacks on schools and obstruction of aid, perpetrated by the Houthi group.
3. The Yemen ceasefire has come into effect, and the Special Envoy emphasizes the importance of building upon this agreement. This update was reported by the United Nations on 2 April 2022. For more information, please refer to the following link: <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2022/04/1097982>
4. Updates regarding the ongoing efforts facilitated by the United Nations to establish a roadmap for ending the war in Yemen have been released. This information was provided by OSESGY on December 23, 2023. For further details, please refer to the following link: <https://osesgy.unmissions.org/ar/%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%A3%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%B0%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B5%D9%84-%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%86>
5. The period of armed conflict, which has erupted extensively following the seizure of Sana'a by the Houthi group in September 2014, continues to persist.
6. "Ten Facts About Yemen: Conflict, Famine, and Lives at Stake," United Nations, dated 27 February 2021, provides insightful observations on the dire situation prevailing in Yemen. <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2021/02/1071582> Despite updates in March 2023 indicating a decrease in the number of people suffering from starvation, the situation is still deemed a vast humanitarian emergency, as "over 17 million individuals rely on aid and protection from relief agencies." Encouraging developments in Yemen call for a peaceful resolution and the prioritization of humanitarian efforts, as emphasized by the United Nations, in an article dated 15 March 2023. <https://www.un Geneva.org/ar/news-media/news/2023/03/79021/twrat-ayjabyt-fy-alymn-wdwt-lltws-aly-hl-slmy-wtzyz-alml-alansany>
7. More than 11 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of eight years of devastating conflict in Yemen, according to a report by UNICEF dated March 24, 2023. The protracted conflict has plunged Yemen into a severe humanitarian crisis, with children bearing the brunt of the suffering. The present perfect tense highlights the ongoing nature of the crisis and the continued need for urgent assistance. The situation calls for immediate action and a concerted international effort to alleviate the suffering of millions of vulnerable children in Yemen. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/ar/%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%86-11-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B7%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%86%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%AC%D8%A9-8-%D8%B3%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8F%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%8A/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%A9>
8. UNICEF issues a warning that the number of children at risk of disrupted education in Yemen may reach up to 6 million, according to a report dated July 4, 2021. The present simple tense effectively communicates the immediacy and urgency of the situation. This alarming statistic demonstrates the deepening crisis in Yemen, where the ongoing conflict has severe implications for children's access to education. The present perfect tense further emphasizes the ongoing nature of the issue and the urgent need for intervention. Immediate action is required to prevent the further deterioration of the educational opportunities for millions of children in Yemen. <https://www.unicef.org/yemen/ar/%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%B3%D9%81-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%B0%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B7%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%B6%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%82%D8%AF-%D9%8A%D8%B5%D9%84-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-6/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%A9>
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10. Reports of the Secretary-General, United Nations Security Council The annual reports are renowned for deliberating upon the issues mandated by the Security Council on its agenda pertaining to the enhancement and safeguarding of children's rights in specific countries.
11. The annual reports are renowned for deliberating upon the issues mandated by the Security Council on its agenda pertaining to the enhancement and safeguarding of children's rights in specific countries.
12. YCMHRV concludes today the training course on the international mechanisms for monitoring and documenting serious violations of children's rights in #Taiz, Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations, dated February 25, 2023.
<https://www.facebook.com/YCMHRV/posts/pfbid033nzRGJ6ZokMcnoZLb6opaVurddbjsjvs261KBq6FUdm9C38rhrqLfgC1AwxBMbbdl>
13. Attached is Table No. (1) which illustrates the victims of attacks involving killing, maiming, child recruitment, sexual violence, and abduction, segregated by their gender and geographical location.
14. Attached is Table No. (2) which illustrates the number of children affected by attacks on schools and the denial of access of humanitarian aid, segregated by their gender and geographical location.
15. Attached is Table No. (3) which provides an analysis of the victims of killing and maiming according to the nature of the attack, type of weapon used, and their attribution to the perpetrators.
16. The term 'marginalized' in Yemen refers to individuals with dark skin, also known as "Akhdam."
17. Attached is Table No (4) which details the recruitment methods utilized by the perpetrators.
18. Attached is Table No. (5) which shows the tasks in which children were used following recruitment.
19. Attached is Table No. (6) which indicates the current status/ fate of child recruits.
20. Attached is Table No. (7) which outlines the groups of victims for violations of sexual violence and abduction.
21. Refer to Table No. (7).
22. Attached is Table No. (8) which shows the fate of the abducted children.
23. Refer to Table No. (2).
24. In accordance with the UNICEF's Guidelines and Field Manual pertaining to Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, issued in March 2012, interventions that disrupt the routine functioning of facilities, such as the occupation of schools or medical facilities, shelling, targeting them for propaganda, or causing any other form of harm to them or their staff, are considered among the six grave violations related to attacks on schools and hospitals.
25. Refer to Table No. (2).
26. Documented on 2 April 2023.
27. Abu Awja Comments on His Dismissal from the Chief of Staff of the First Military Region: What Did He Say?" Crater Sky, 7 December 2022.
<https://cratersky.net/posts/126324>
28. We refrain from mentioning the name, out of a concern to avoid causing harm to the victim.
29. The abductions of the first and second individuals were documented on 19 March 2023, while the third abduction was documented on 14 April 2023.
30. A commemorative event celebrating the birth anniversary of Fatima Al Zahra, organized by Khawla's female students in Al-Mahwit, Ansar Allah, 10 January 2023 <https://www.ansarollah.com/archives/578139>
31. The National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response has commenced the distribution of food assistance to 5,765 families in the Habbour Dhulaymah district of Amran governorate. The National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response, 12 August 2021.
<https://www.nfdhr.org/news/7325>
32. Attached is Table No. (9) which provides an analysis of victims of killing, maiming, child recruitment, sexual violence, abduction, and their attribution to the perpetrators.
33. Refer to Table No. (3).
34. Refer to Table No. (2).
35. Refer to Table No. (8).
36. Refer to Table No. (8).
37. "Childhood interrupted: Conflict's toll on Yemen's children," the International Committee of the Red Cross
<https://www.icrc.org/ar/document/yemen-childhood-interrupted-conflicts-toll-yemens-youth>
38. 20 November 1989. HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER IV. United Nation https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=_en
39. Guide to Humanitarian Law, Médecins Sans Frontières, <https://ar.guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/5/tfl/>
40. Paragraphs 82, 83, 84, and 85 of the report A/HRC/42/CRP.1
41. Paragraphs 31, 32, 33, and 34 of the report A/HRC/45/CRP.7
42. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict has effectively addressed the minimum age of recruitment for children under the age of eighteen, thereby establishing a unified age threshold that prohibits child recruitment in both international humanitarian law and human rights law.
43. Paragraph (2) of the fourth periodic report CRC/C/YEM/4 submitted by Yemen to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2008
44. This criterion has been mentioned in three other legislations. First, in Article No. (3/A) of Law No. (22) of 1990 on National Defense, which mandates military service for males who have reached the age of eighteen. Second, in Article No. (4/B) of Law No. (23) of 1990 on General Reserve, which stipulates that general human reserve applies to males between the ages of eighteen and fifty. And third, in Article No. (139/2) of the Republican Decree of Law No. (15) of 2000 on the Police Authority, which required a minimum age of eighteen for recruitment into the police service. The latter two laws allowed recruitment at the age of eighteen, but the Convention on the Rights of the Child replicated this criterion in the report, advocating for the prevention of recruitment before the age of eighteen.
45. This criterion is also mentioned in Article No. 11 of the Republican Decree of Law No. (24) of 1992 and its amendments by Law No. 26 of 1997, which adds that a person may be detained who has reached the age of twelve in a security facility, as long as the period of detention does not exceed 24 hours and they are not held with individuals who are older than them. Furthermore, the detention of individuals in general, including children, should only occur in implementation of a judicial ruling or an arrest order from the public prosecution, as stated in Article No. 8 of the House of Representatives Decision No. 3 of 1996, approving the Republican Decree of Law No. 48 of 1991 on Prisons Regulations.

46. The legislator has prohibited anti-personnel mines, which often kill or maim, and has dedicated an independent law to them, namely Law No. (25) of 2005. Producing, possessing, using, transporting, trafficking, importing, storing, and gifting such mines have all been criminalized under Article No. (3) of the law.
47. In accordance with the Law on the Rights of the Child, a minor is deemed as someone who has not reached the age of fifteen, as stated in Article No. (60). Additionally, an infant is defined as an individual who has not yet reached the age of twelve, as specified in Article No. (124).
48. The Yemeni legislator was not convinced by this measure, which was stipulated in the Law on Crimes and Punishments regarding the protection of children at a certain age. Therefore, another law was enacted, namely Republican Decree No. (24) of 1998, concerning the combat against crimes related to abduction and road- blockage, which included remarkably stringent provisions. It stipulates the capital punishment for anyone leading abduction and road- blockage gang, as stated in Article No. (1). Moreover, a prison sentence of twenty years is imposed if the victim is a minor, while a prison term of twenty-five years is enforced if the abduction is accompanied by harm or assault. If the abduction is followed by rape of the victim, the punishment is death.
49. Article No. 49 of the Constitution.
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51. "The Investigative Committee discusses with the Supreme Judicial Council the Establishment of a Special Court and Prosecution for Human Rights Violations," the Office of the Prime Minister, 31 July 2023. <https://pmo-ye.net/post/5168>
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53. Paragraph (16) in report CRC/C/129/Add.2, the third periodic report submitted by Yemen to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2003.
54. "The Joint Technical Committee for the Prevention of Child Recruitment Reviews Achievements and Priorities for the Coming Phase," Aden Alghad, 13 September 2023. <https://adengad.net/posts/700979>
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