



Center for Strategic Studies to  
Support Women and Children



Justice4Yemen Pact  
ميثاق العدالة لليمن



# COMPOUNDED SUFFERING

A Report Documenting the Most Significant Violations Against Women and Children  
in Taiz Governorate (January 2023 - June 2024)

# Compounded Suffering

A Report Documenting

## The Most Significant Violations Against Women and Children in Taiz Governorate

January 2023 - June 2024



Center for Strategic Studies to  
Support Women and Children



Taiz - Republic of Yemen



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## Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women & Children

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children is a non-profit center targeting women and children in particular and society in general. The center was legally and independently established on 20/12/2018 under the license of the Office of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour No. (80/M) based in Taiz governorate (Yemen). It is led by a group of specialists who are interested in community development through programs aimed at preventing violence, exploitation, and abuse, participation and sustainable development programs for women and children. The center works in the fields of psychological, human rights, legal, and political support, providing support to groups affected by violence and war through a scientific and participatory methodology that includes individuals and society, and, by conducting studies and research that serve the Centers objectives.



## Justice 4 Yemen Pact

It is a coalition of human rights organizations and civil society actors that are united for the promotion and protection of human rights in Yemen. The coalition's mission is to advocate for the rights of all Yemeni people, particularly those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. The Pact recognizes the urgency of the situation and is committed to addressing the systemic human rights violations that have plagued Yemen during years of conflict and violence. The Justice 4 Yemen Pact works to empower Yemeni people to claim their rights, raise awareness of violations, and advocate for justice and accountability at local, national, and international levels. Justice 4 Yemen Pact is guided by the principles of respect for human dignity, equality, justice, and non-discrimination. The Pact believes - that by working together- its members can end impunity, provide meaningful support and - redress to victims, and contribute to a more peaceful, just and prosperous future for Yemen.

## Expanded Human Right Investigative Evidence Program in Yemen

The Expanded Human Rights Investigative Evidence Program in Yemen aims to increase the recognition and protection of human rights in Yemen by empowering Yemeni civil society to advocate for justice and accountability through documenting human rights, news reporting, and advocacy efforts. The program systematically documents evidence obtained from a variety of sources by preserving , verifying , analyzing , and preparing reports on human rights violations committed by all parties involved in the Yemeni conflict. The findings of this analysis are then summarized and presented in a series of investigative reports that focus on specific incidents of human rights violations. The program also supports the efforts of Yemeni civil society organizations partners to undertake strategic advocacy, community awareness and intervention to engage victims and survivors at local and international levels.

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# Executive Summary

The humanitarian situation in Yemen was not good before -the war begun- in 2014. The Houthi group, known as «Ansar Allah», -took control of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, and the other Yemeni governorates, the human rights condition in the country has deteriorated to worst levels. As the conflict escalated, the humanitarian catastrophe was compounded, with a particular impact on children and women.

Between March 2015 and September 2023, more than 14,394 children and women in Yemen suffered violations of their right to life, being either killed or injured. According to United Nations statistics, over 11,500 Yemeni children have been killed or injured since the onset of the conflict in 2015 through 2024.<sup>(1)</sup>

In addition, the number of Yemeni women who were killed or injured exceeded 3,300 by the end of 2022.<sup>(2)</sup>

Despite the reduction of the conflict intensity in the country since April 2022 - after signing the truce brokered by the international community with the warring parties - the UN Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen -(UNGEE) recorded 1,436 civilian injuries-, including 253 child injuries, during the period from Dec. 2022 to Aug. 31, 2023.

Within the project to strengthen the mechanisms of justice and accountability in Yemen, the Center for Strategic Studies

(1) «Millions of children are malnourished and stunted after 9 years of conflict in Yemen.», Mar. 26, 2024. United Nations

(2) «Discriminatory Restrictions», a report issued by SAM Organization for Rights and Freedoms, March 2023.



to Support Women and Children has documented 34 cases of violations against children and women in Taiz governorate, specifically in the area under the control of the internationally recognized government of Yemen, during the period from the beginning of January 2023 to May 2024. The number of victims in individual and joint violation cases has reached 47, including 27 children and 20 women.

Cases of violations of the «right to life» including killings and injuries - are among the most documented - in the report, with a total of 21 cases involving 32 victims who are children and women, including 8 deaths and 24 injuries.

A serious indicator put forth by the report notes that half of the violations of the right to life were perpetrated by snipers, which indicates a premeditated intention to target children and women in the area controlled by -the internationally recognized government of Yemen, within the highly populated Taiz governorate. Considering the locations of these attacks and witness statements-, the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» are responsible for all cases of violations of the right to life, including the sniping incidents-, as they are positioned in sites overlooking residential neighborhoods.

Additionally, all of the cases committed by snipers that were documented in the report occurred in the neighborhoods near the front lines between the army forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen and the armed Houthi group «Ansar Allah».

The prevailing pattern of violations of the right to life affecting children and women- in the conflict context and- within the cases documented by the report- is that the victims or their relatives did not take legal action against the perpetrators of the violations. The actions usually end in a technical photographic report at the criminal investigations department.

**The weak stance of law enforcement authorities on violations of the right to life, the slow pace of justice procedures, and the lack of awareness of the importance of legal procedures are challenges facing justice in Taiz, and in Yemen in general.**



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As for cases of violations resulting from abuse of power documented within the report, there were 13 cases of violations experienced by children and women in Taiz governorate- in the area controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen. The local, security, and military authorities are responsible for all violations of this type, which reveals a lack of understanding for the laws of control, causing members of the military and security institutions to commit these violations and evade punishment. Additionally, most perpetrators of the violations are sheltered by the institutions they are affiliated with.

In all of the cases of violations caused by abuse -of power, the victims turned to law enforcement authorities- to pursue legal action, but they faced obstacles that hindered the path to justice. These obstacles include providing protection to the perpetrators of the violations, covering them up, or otherwise involve the elusiveness of judicial institutions.

# Numbers

## ■ Violations Against Children:

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children has monitored 15 individual cases of violations affecting children in Taiz Governorate, including 11 cases of violations of the right to life: -Sniping: 7 cases, resulting in the death of one child and-6 injuries;- Landmines: 1 case;- Indiscriminate Bombing: 1 case;- Remnants of war: 1 case;- Drone strikes: 1 case. The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children also documented 4 cases of violations related to physical violence and violation of legal action: Arbitrary detention: 1 case;- Physical assault: 1 case;- Contrary of legal action: 2 cases.

## ■ Violations Against Women

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children- has documented 12 individual cases of violations against women in Taiz Governorate, including: 5 cases on the right to life violations:- Sniping: 2 cases;- Indiscriminate Bombing: 2 cases;- Landmines: 1 case. Additionally, the Center documented 7 individual cases of violations on personal safety and obstruction of justice affecting women in Taiz Governorate during the period covered by the report: Physical assault: 3 cases;- Attempted murder and protection of the accused: 1 case;- Cover up of the perpetrators' actions: 3 cases.

## ■ Joint Cases

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children has documented 7 cases of joint violations, where the number of victims exceeds one, involving a total of 20 victims - 12 of which are women and 8 of which are children.

Out of the 7 violation cases, 5 were violations of the right to life with a total of 16 victims. 6 were murdered - 3 girls and 3 women - while 10 were injured. The violations of the right to life were distributed as follows:



### ■ Drone strikes

A drone fired a projectile that killed two women and three girls who were bringing the water from a well in the countryside of Maqbanah district - west of Taiz city - on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The conflicting parties are blaming each other for this violation. According to what the Center has documented from the victims relatives and local residents, the Houthis arrived at the site, collected the victims' remains into bags, so they did not find any traces or evidence of the projectile. However, the Houthis did not inform the victims' relatives of any findings, suggesting the group's involvement in the incident in one way or another.

Based on the additional information provided, here is a summary of the distribution of the remaining joint violation cases involving right to life violations:

■ **Sniping** : 1 case with a girl and a woman as victims.

■ **Landmines** : 2 cases with 6 victims - 5 children and 1 woman - one of which was murdered and 5 wounded.

■ **Bombing**: 1 case with 3 victims - 2 children and their mother.

As for cases related to the denial of justice, there were 2 cases:

An **arbitrary detention** of two sisters. A **Detention** without judicial warrants of a woman along with her son's wife.

# Report Importance

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children is issuing a report titled «Compounded Suffering» as part of the project to strengthen the mechanisms of justice and accountability in Yemen and to shed light on the violations that children and women are subjected to in Taiz Governorate. Violations have not stopped, even during the issuing of this report, despite the state of calm accompanying the peace talks and negotiations between the conflict parties, which are being sponsored by the international community.

According to the report «Yemen: Women in the Line of War» issued by the Rights Radar for Human Rights organization in 2020, Taiz governorate tops the list in the number of «killing and mutilation» violations that women have been subjected to in Yemen.<sup>(3)</sup>

The same is true for the violations that children have been exposed to.<sup>(4)</sup> This tragic situation is directly linked to the ongoing conflict in the country.

It is clear that the humanitarian tragedy in Taiz is largely absent as a topic of conversation in the negotiations sponsored by the international community, and its presence is marginal on the meeting's agenda. As a result, the conflict parties continue to violate human rights, including the rights of women and children.

The humanitarian and moral responsibility forces us to stand with the victims and to pursue redress for them. As the humanitarian tragedy of Taiz governorate has escalated due to the war and siege taking place for more than nine years, the suffering of women and children in the governorate has been compounded, as evidenced by the facts and figures. This is of central importance within the report.

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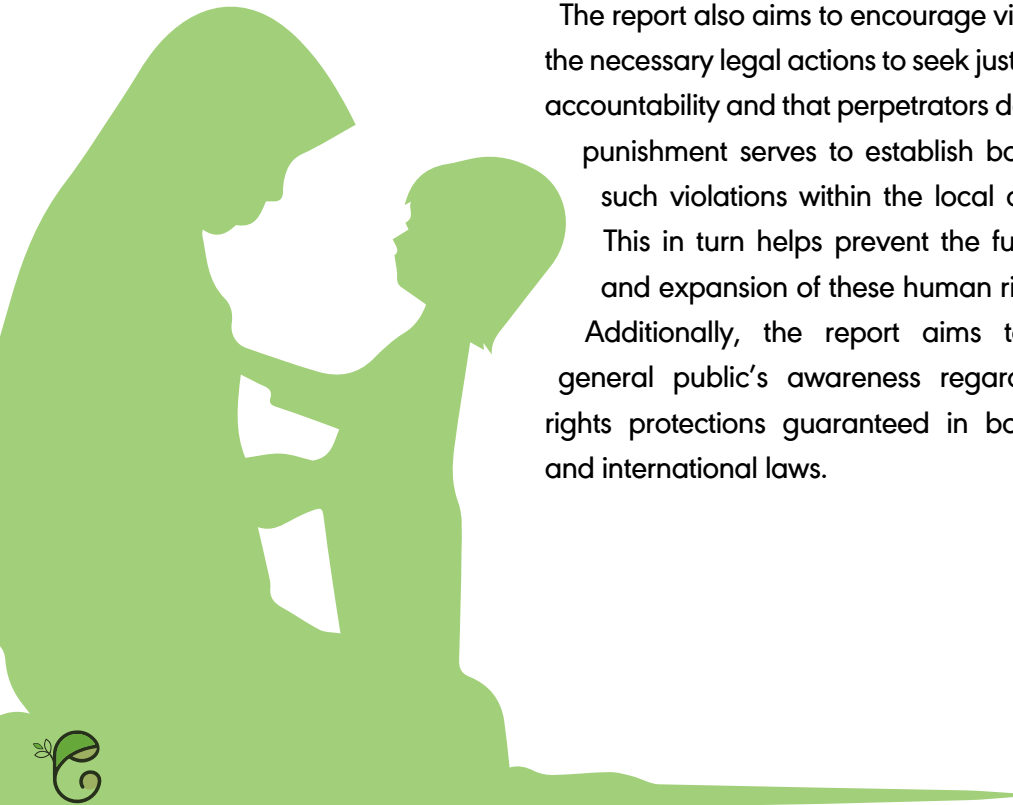
(3) «Yemen: Women in the Line of War . A Human Rights Report on Violations of Women's Rights during the War» Rights Radar for Human Rights , March 2020.

(4) «In conjunction with the International Day of Innocent Child Victims of Aggression, SAM Organization calls for serious action to protect children's rights in Yemen» , SAM Organization for Rights and Freedoms, 03/06/2022, <https://samrl.org/?a4455,03/06/2022>

# Report Objectives

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children aims, through this report entitled «Compounded Suffering» to draw the attention of the international community to the violations suffered by women and children in order to work towards permanent solutions that ensure an immediate stop of these violations. This can be achieved through strong lobbying by the international community and humanitarian organizations, aimed towards the parties to whom the perpetrators belong and who provide the perpetrators with protection and power allowing them to continue committing these violations.

The report also aims to encourage victims to take the necessary legal actions to seek justice. Ensuring accountability and that perpetrators do not escape punishment serves to establish boundaries on such violations within the local communities. This in turn helps prevent the further spread and expansion of these human rights abuses. Additionally, the report aims to raise the general public's awareness regarding human rights protections guaranteed in both domestic and international laws.



# Report Methodology

At the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children, we have defined a specific objective for this report: to document violations against women and children in Taiz Governorate, specifically in the areas under the control of the internationally recognized government of Yemen, from January 2023 to May 2024, without overlooking the violations that other targeted populations have been subjected to at any other time.

The Center adopted specific standards for selecting the cases included in the report entitled 'Compounded Suffering,' including: The clarity of the violation and its impact on the affected child or woman in Taiz Governorate; ensuring that the violation occurred during the specified time period between January 2023 and May 2024; the possibility of conducting field research for the case; and the ability to access a list of sources and documents to support the documentation of the abuses.

To obtain accurate information, the Center has ensured that the field monitors were trained using a specific methodology that enables them to thoroughly understand the victim's situation, starting from interviewing the victim, their relatives, and eyewitnesses. In some cases, the team collected details from more than four different sources and carefully cross-checked the information. We also ensured to obtain informed consent from the interviewed individuals and to take measures to guarantee that they would not be exposed to any potential risks when this report is published.

Since the geography of the conflict in Yemen has created significant risks that threaten the movement of the field monitoring teams carrying out their humanitarian tasks, it was difficult to risk sending monitors to the more dangerous areas, specifically those controlled by the Houthi group 'Ansar Allah', which are considered hostile environments for humanitarian workers. Therefore, the Center relied on monitors in relatively less risky areas, in the part of Taiz Governorate that is under the control of the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen, which is divided between the conflict parties.

Field monitoring was the core pillar of this report. The monitoring teams affiliated with the Center carried out a total of 78 personal interviews to document 34 cases of violations. Subsequently, we prepared a file for each violation case containing details of the incident, witness statements, copies of their IDs, as well as any available medical and legal reports, with information identifying the parties responsible for each violation or the individuals involved in committing it.

In this report, the Center also relied on data and reports from local and international organizations, in addition to open-source information, verifying their reliability and citing them within the general statistics and within some details of the violations that we used as informational background to highlight what has happened and is happening to the children and women of Yemen.

The report was divided into three distinct sections:

**The first section:** Violations against children «individual cases.»

**The second section:** Violations against women «individual cases.»

**The third section:** Joint cases, situations where the violations resulted in multiple victims, whether children or women, or children and women.

## Legal Framework

International human rights standards are the primary point of reference for human rights defenders, and local standards cannot substitute or nullify international standards when monitoring or documenting human rights reports on violations committed by local authorities. This is because the legitimacy and basis for any action taken by human rights defenders is adherence to international standards and norms.

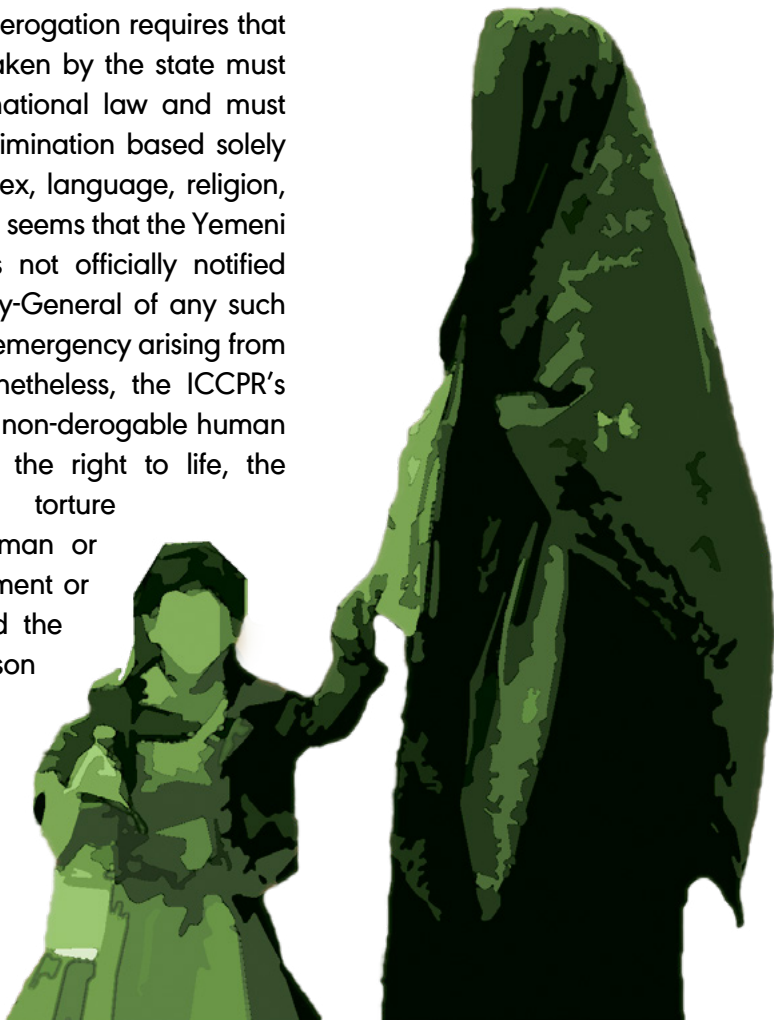
Given that Yemen has signed to numerous international human rights treaties, including The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, The Convention against Torture, The Convention on the Rights of the Child, The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, The Four Geneva Conventions, The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Yemen, as a party to these treaties, is legally bound by the rules of international law. This obligation is explicitly affirmed in Article 6 of the Yemeni Constitution, which mandates that: Yemen must work in accordance with The United Nations Charter, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The Charter of the League of Arab State, and the generally recognized rules of international law.

# Key international legislation on the protection of children & women

International human rights law and international humanitarian law provide numerous extensive standards and rules that require the protection of civilians, including women and children, during both peacetime and armed conflict. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) does permit States to derogate from certain obligations in times of officially proclaimed public emergencies that threaten the nation.

However, this derogation requires that any measures taken by the state must adhere to international law and must not involve discrimination based solely on race, color, sex, language, religion, or social origin. It seems that the Yemeni government has not officially notified the UN Secretary-General of any such general state of emergency arising from the conflict. Nonetheless, the ICCPR's contains several non-derogable human rights, including the right to life, the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the right of every person to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Customary international humanitarian law has granted children and women special enjoyment and protection. Rule No. 134 urges the fulfillment of the special needs of women affected by armed conflict in terms of protection and health, while Rule No. 135 stipulates that children affected by armed conflict shall be accorded special respect and protection. International humanitarian law has also emphasized numerous safeguards for the protection of civilians,



including children and women, during armed conflict, as well as the protected objects such as hospitals, schools, and densely populated neighborhoods.

Additionally, the Second Additional Protocol has stressed the right of children during conflict to receive education and prohibits their recruitment into armed forces/groups or their participation in hostilities. All parties to the armed conflict are considered bound by the relevant rules of international humanitarian law.

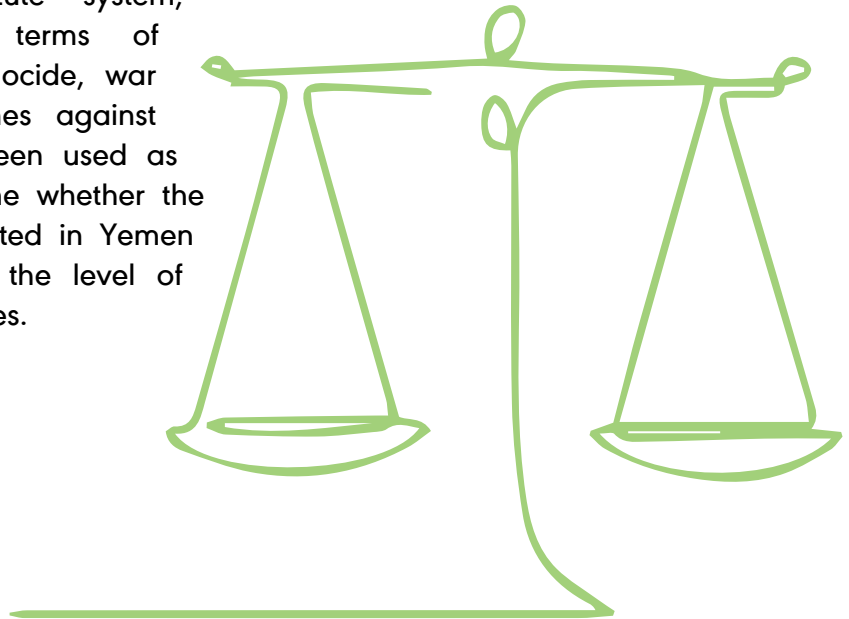
The conflict between the armed forces of the Yemeni government and the Houthis is considered a non-international armed conflict according to the rules of international humanitarian law, and as such, it is subject to common Article No. 3 of the four Geneva Conventions, the joint article, and the Second Additional Protocol thereto. Therefore, the rules

of international humanitarian law become binding on the de facto Houthi authorities, just as they are binding on the official government forces.

Additionally, human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1988, have included rules related to the right to life, education, and protection from economic and sexual exploitation, as well as the prohibition of abduction and torture. On the other hand, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has adopted legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and standards to ensure, through competent national tribunals and other public institutions, the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination

# Criminal Law

International Criminal Law provides the necessary framework to internationally examine serious violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law, which necessitate individual criminal responsibility. While Yemen is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as is the case for the coalition members, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, this does not preclude the referral of the Yemen situation to the International Criminal Court by the Security Council or a future referral by the Yemeni government. Furthermore, this does not prevent third States from exercising their individual legal jurisdiction by enacting legislation covering international crimes. Thus, the Rome Statute system, particularly in terms of coverage of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, has been used as a lens to examine whether the violations committed in Yemen may amount to the level of international crimes.





The report documented

**47** / **34**  
Victims / Cases

**Taiz Governorate**



**Murder**



**Misuse of force,  
Obstruction of justice  
& Arbitrary detention**



**Injury**

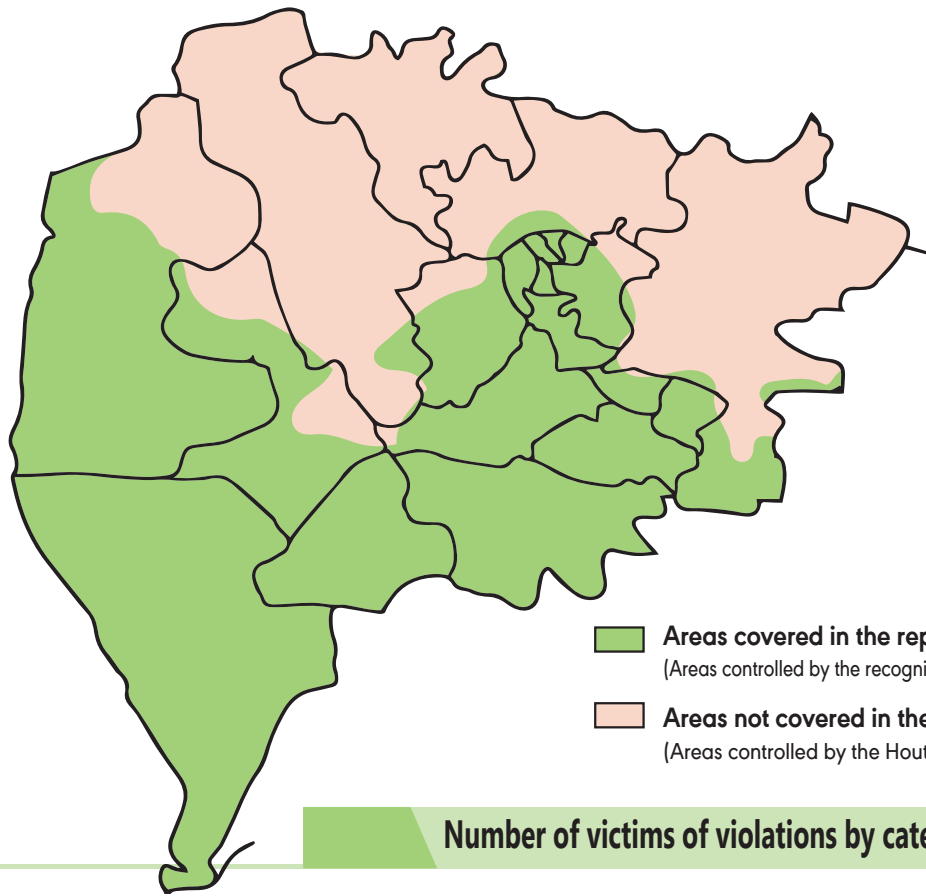
from January 2023  
to May 2024



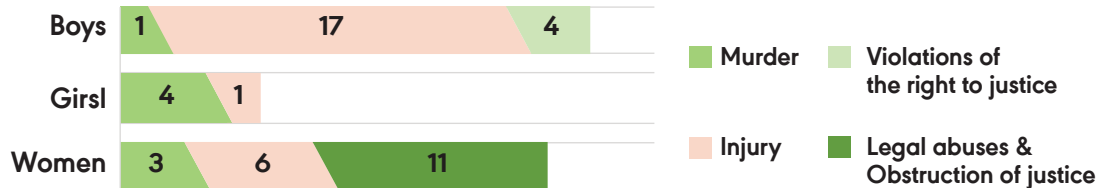
**22** Boys

**20** Women

**5** Girls



Number of victims of violations by category



**Right to Life Violation**

Houthi Group Responsibility

**32**

**Victims**

**18** Boys / **5** Girls / **9** Women

**Right to justice Violation**

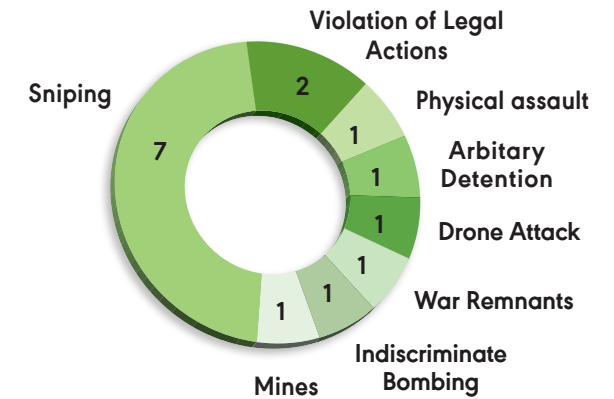
Recognized Government Responsibility

**15**

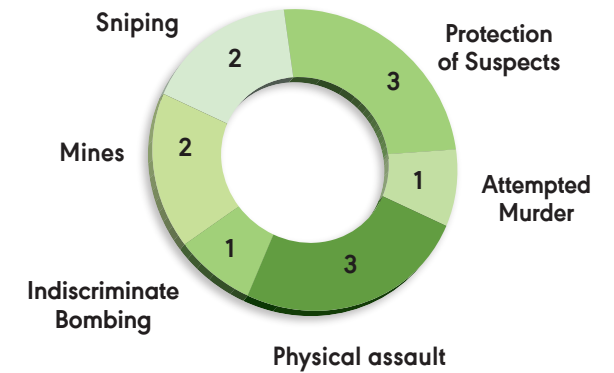
**Victims**

**4** Boys / **11** Women

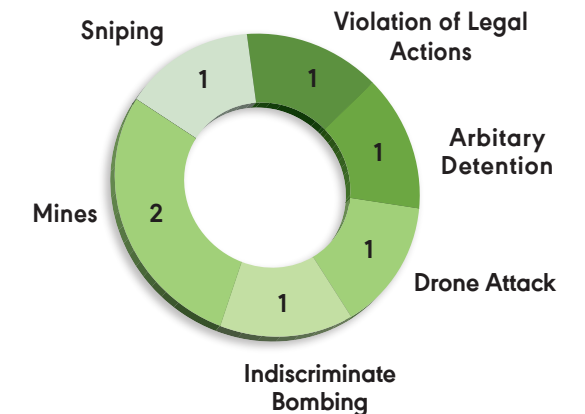
**Types of Violations against Children**



**Types of Violations against Women**



**Types of Violations in Joint Cases**



Victims	Type of Violations				Total	Responsible for the violation	
	Right to Life Violation		Right to justice Violation			Recognized Government	Houthi Group
	Murder	Injury	Right to justice	Arbitrary detention		Right to justice Violation	Right to Life Violation
Boys	1	17	-	4	22	4	18
Women	3	6	11	-	20	11	9
Girls	4	1	-	-	5	-	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>

A table of victims number of violations that have been documented by:



CSWC

Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children



# Section I

## Violations Against Children

The forms of violations that children in Yemen have been subjected to since the beginning of the conflict in 2014 are numerous. In addition to killing and injuries by snipers, bombs, airstrikes, landmines, or remnants of war as well as arbitrary detention and sexual violence, there have also been other violations, including child recruitment, denial of access to education, and sectarian indoctrination campaigns targeting hundreds of thousands of school students in areas controlled by the Houthis.

Since the outbreak of the conflict in 2015, 3,900 children have been killed, while 7,600 have been injured as of 2024.<sup>(5)</sup> In 2023, UNICEF verified the killing or maiming of 11,019 children from March 2015 to September 2022. Among these cases about 3,774 involved death, including 2,742 boys and 983 girls, while 49 of these children's identities remain unverified by the center.

### Violations Against Children

from March 2015  
to September 2022

**983**  
Girls



**2742**  
Boys



(5) «Nine years of conflict in Yemen have left millions of children and injured persons...» Press Release, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), March 26, 2024.

# Recruitment

The Recruitment is one of the gravest violations faced by children in Yemen. Until September 2023, international and local organizations have documented 3,680 cases of recruitment of children.

However, it is certain that this number is significantly lower than the actual number, which has surged since October 2023. The report of United Nations experts submitted to the Security Council highlighted the Houthi exploitation of the situation in Gaza/ Palestine after October 7, leading to the recruitment of thousands.

According to estimates of SAM Organization in the report titled «Still on the Frontline» published in February 2023, the number of recruited children involved in combat exceeds 10,000 children within the Houthi group only.

In Taiz Governorate, the number of children recruited by the Houthis stands at 1,100.<sup>(6)</sup>

The Houthi group, known as «Ansar Allah» signed an Action Plan with the United Nations to end the serious violations committed against children, and they were committed to

demobilize recruited children within six months. However, they have not adhered to the plan. In the 2024 report to the Security Council, the UN expert team confirmed that the indoctrination and military training of children is increasing. They noted that the summer camps established by the Houthis between May and June 2023 in 9 governorates targeted nearly one million children, organized into three models:



# 1100

## Child soldiers

### Houthi recruited them in Taiz Governorate

(6) «Still on the Frontline», A report of SAM Organization, February 2023.

- A. Open Camps for boys and girls aged 6 to 12 years.
- B. Model Camps for boys and girls aged 6 to 17 years.
- C. Closed (Residential) Summer Camps, where boys aged 13 to 17 spend between 30 and 45 days without returning home.<sup>(7)</sup>

The Houthis employ various methods to recruit children, including exploiting economic conditions, forcing the families to send their children to participate in indoctrination or military training courses in exchange for humanitarian aid, and coercing children from schools, as Yahya Badar Al-deen. Al-Houthi, the brother of the Houthi leader, oversees the Ministry of Education in Sana'a.

Additionally, some children are abducted to force their participation in these programs.

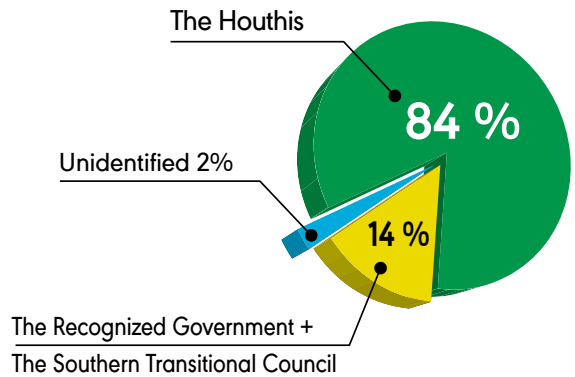


(7) Final Report of the Group of Experts on Yemen, November 2023, with modifications.

## ■ Perpetrators of Violations

The Houthi group tops the list of perpetrators of violations against children in Yemen. In 2023, local organizations documented that the percentage of violations committed by the Houthis against Yemeni children reached 84%. This was followed by the internationally recognized government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council - which is supported by UAE-which accounted for 14% of the violations, while 2% were committed by unidentified officials. This information was included in a statement submitted to the United Nations by local and international organizations, including the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children.

However, this does not excuse other parties from responsibility for the violations faced by children in Yemen. In the early years of the war, the Arab coalition formed by Saudi Arabia, conducted air attacks that resulted in the deaths of 450 children, as confirmed by SAM Organization for Rights and Freedoms.<sup>(8)</sup>



Perpetrators of Violations against children in Yemen In 2023

Chart No. (1)

One of the most notable incidents occurred in 2018 in the Dhahyan market in northern Sa'ada Governorate, where air attacks targeted a bus carrying children. The Red Cross reported on its Twitter account that its medical team at a supported hospital in Sa'ada received the bodies of 29 children, all under the age of 15, and the hospital also received 48 injured persons, including 30 children.»<sup>(9)</sup>

(8) « On the occasion of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.... SAM calls for serious action to protect the rights of children in Yemen...», SAM Organization for Rights and Freedoms, 03/06/2022. <https://samrl.org/?a4455>

(9) «Dozens killed, including children, in coalition air attacks in Yemen» By Reuters, 08/10/2018 <https://samrl.org/?a4455>

## ■ Children in Taiz

Children in Taiz Governorate rank among the most affected by killings and injuries in Yemen during the years of war. As of mid-2024, violations related to killings and injuries in Taiz, specifically in the areas controlled by the Yemen's internationally recognized government, have reached approximately 5,500 cases, according to estimates from the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children. This number is based on an analysis of data from local and international organizations as well as from cases monitored by the center team during this period.

**On October 30, 2021, a group of children was playing in front of their home in the Al-Kamb neighborhood - east of the city of Taiz - when they were hit by an artillery bombing, resulting in the deaths of three siblings: Mahmoud Mustafa Abduldaim, 7 years old, Hamid Mustafa Abduldaim, 7 years old; and Laila Mustafa Abduldaim, 10 years old, while their fourth sibling called Hamid, age 4, was injured.**

Despite the truce that was sponsored by the United Nations between the warring parties in April 2022, the victimization of

civilian, particularly among children and women, has not stopped, especially in Taiz City.

In late October 2022, three children were injured by an artillery bomb in the Old Airport area - west of Taiz city<sup>(10)</sup> which is controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen. The Education Office in Taiz Governorate held the Houthi group responsible for targeting the three students while they were returning from school, and shared that two of the students, Muhammad Nasser Fare, 10 years old, and Badr Nasser Al-Majnahi, 8 years old, had their legs amputated, while third student, Hashim Nasser Al-Majnahi, 9 years old, sustained shrapnel wounds to various parts of his body.<sup>(11)</sup>

In March 2023, SAM Organization condemned the targeting of three children by a Houthi projectile in western Taiz. The organization reported that one of the Houthi group snipers positioned on Tal Al-Saliheen, south of the city, targeted a group of children, resulting in the death of «11-year-old Ahmed Sufyan» and injuring «12-year-old Abdullatif Sufyan.»

(10) «Injury of 3 children by an artillery Bomb...», 26 September website, affiliated with the Ministry of Defense of the Yemen's internationally recognized government, 30/10/2022. <https://www.26sepnews.net/2022/10/30/1-9532/>

(11) «The Education Office in Taiz condemns the Houthi Bombing that resulted in the injury of 3 children...», Taiz Time News, 31/10/2022. <https://taiztime.com/taiz-news/3-202210302133>

The organization described the repeated targeting and sniper operations carried out by the Houthis in Taiz Governorate as «a predictable result of the continuing policy of impunity».

These violations continue despite a decrease in the intensity of armed confrontations and a relative calmness on

the front lines in recent years, indicating that children of Taiz Governorate remain vulnerable to targeting. They continue to fall victim periodically through various means: indiscriminate bombing, sniper fire, landmines, drones, and remnants of war.

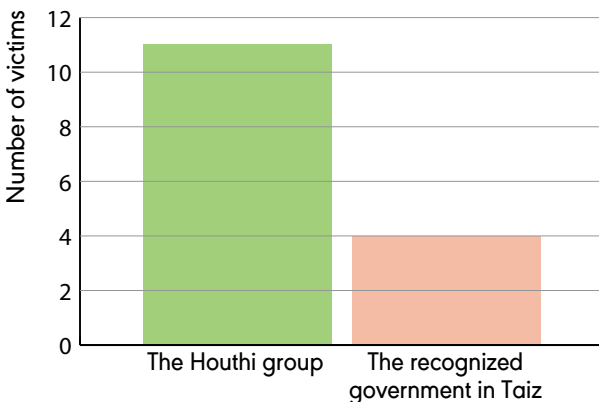
### ■ Violations Documented in the Report

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented 15 individual cases of violations against children in Taiz Governorate from January 2023 to May 2024.

The Houthi group is responsible for 11 of these cases, while the security, military, and judicial bodies affiliated with the internationally recognized government

of Yemen in Taiz are accountable for 4 cases.

It is evident that all violations attributed to the Houthi group, Ansar Allah, relate to the right to life, whether these violations affected children individually, women individually, or involved joint violations, as will be detailed further.



#### Violators against Children in Taiz Governorate

from January 2023 to May 2024

Chart No. (2)



## ■ Violations Committed by the Houthi Group

Dangerous indicator that the Center has derived from the cases documented in the report is that more than half of the violations of the right to life among children were targeted by Houthi snipers.

Out of 12 individual cases verified, 7 children fell victim to snipers from the Houthi group (Ansar Allah), in Taiz during the period covered by the report: 1 case of a murdered child, and 6 cases of injuries.

## ■ Sniping

**Case Summary:** Amjad Al-Kassah, 17 years old, was killed by sniper fire on March 24, 2024, east of Taiz city  
**Party Responsible for the Violation:** Houthi Group «Ansar Allah»

Amjad was on his way to the market when a sniper from the Houthi group shot him, resulting in his death on March 24, 2024, east of Taiz city.

The monitors reached his family and obtained the medical and criminal report documenting what happened to him. His family confirmed that he was not involved in the military; Amjad was a high school student about to graduate and go to university, but a sniper's shot changed his way to the grave.

Violations have not stopped in eastern Taiz, in neighborhoods like Kalabah, Al-Rawdhah, and other densely populated areas near the front lines between the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen and Houthi fighters. Victims have been falling in this particular front since 2015, especially since Houthi fighters have taken positions overlooking residential neighborhoods close to the presidential palace and the Central Security camp.

While Amjad was on his way to the market, the Houthi sniper fired at passersby. A bullet struck a man named Ahmed Mohammed, exiting and hitting Amjad in the head, killing him instantly.

The area does not only suffer from sniper fire, other victims have fallen due to various means, according to eyewitness reports, including explosive devices, landmines, and bombs that have exploded, claiming the lives of children and innocent civilians, including Mukhtar, Shahab, Abbas, Saeed, Abdulsalam, and others, as documented by residents and the center's reports.

### **Injury**

**Case Summary : (N-S-F) is 17 years old, was injured by sniper fire on June 25, 2023, in Osaifrah area, north of Taiz city.**

**Party Responsible for the Violation: Houthi Group «Ansar Allah».**

(N-S-F), 17 years old, lives in the Al-Tawheed neighborhood of Osaifrah, located north of Taiz.

These residential areas are often frontline areas where armed clashes occur intermittently. Over nearly nine years of conflict in Yemen, between the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen and Houthi fighters, many civilians, including children and women, have fallen victim to Houthi gunfire in Taiz city.

**While the child was playing with his phone, a bullet penetrated his right leg, fired from a hill where the Houthi fighters were stationed.**

On June 25, 2023, (N-S-F) was playing with his friend (M-N) near Bilqees factory, around 08:00 PM, he was hit by a bullet. Immediately after being shot, both (N-S-F) and (M-N) shouted out for help.

The witnesses who rushed to assist the child talked with the Center, sharing that the bullet came from Jabal Wa'ash, a small hill on the outskirts of Taiz city where the Houthi fighters are positioned.

People gathered to help (N-S-F), whose right leg was bleeding heavily; the bullet had also fractured his bone. He was subsequently taken to Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz.

According to the medical report, which we obtained a copy of, the child underwent a procedure to stabilize the fractured right leg using a temporary external fixator, and he will require an internal fixation surgery later.

(N-S-F) is currently living with his injury. Residents of the area have constructed earthen barriers to cover their roads from the view of Houthi fighters. The neighborhood where (N-S-F) lives is partially exposed to Houthi snipers from the eastern area of Al-Kabab, while other parts of the

region are targeted by Houthi fighters from Jabal Wa'ash in the west.

Residents say these measures have helped reduce victims, but violations have not stopped. Injuries continue to occur, and innocent people still fall victims to Houthi gunfire from time to time.



## ■ Landmines

The Houthis are planting landmines across vast areas in Yemen. Landmines have become a key military strategy for the Houthis, as they sow mines in areas from which they withdraw, turning the land into minefields to prevent the advance of government forces and their supporting factions.

When other parties find safe routes to avoid mined areas and move forward, these mine-laden regions become hazardous spaces for civilians, especially given the slow pace of engineering

teams working to clear the mines and the Houthi refusal to provide maps of mined areas, making it difficult for civilians to avoid them.

During the period covered by this report, from January 2023 to May 2024, the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children verified the injury of 4 children in two incidents due to landmines in Taiz Governorate, including one individual case involving (A-F-A).

**Case Summary: (A-F-A), 14 years old, was injured by a landmine explosion on March 28, 2024, in Maqbana, west of Taiz.**

**Party Responsible for the Violation: Houthi Group «Ansar Allah».**

Maqbana is known for its residents' interest in agriculture and breeding animals. Although the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen managed to expel Houthi fighters from the area, the Houthis had previously planted mines and explosive devices in various locations, posing a significant danger to civilians, especially children grazing and to women collecting firewood or fetching water.

On the morning of March 28, 2024, (A-F-A), a 14-year-old from Maqbana, was grazing sheep on Jabal Al-Shoaib. He found an unfamiliar object; when he touched it, the landmine exploded, resulting in his injury, then he was taken to the hospital.

## ■ Indiscriminate Bombing

One of the types of violations faced by children in Yemen is indiscriminate bombing. Despite peace negotiations between the conflict parties and the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to advance these negotiations, artillery bombardments have not completely stopped. Bombs continue to fall occasionally in populated areas of Taiz Governorate.

While it is likely that the Houthis are aiming at military targets and positions belonging to the internationally recognized government of Yemen, the frequent civilian victims in the bombing directed at government-controlled areas suggest that the Houthis do not distinguish between military objectives and civilians. This indiscriminate bombing is especially prevalent in areas close to frontline areas.

At times, civilians can hear the sound of bombs being fired or see their flames from nearby areas along the front lines. Their accounts align with the analysis of data and information related to the effects, indicating potential trajectories and types of bombs.

In this regard, we relied first on statements from the victims' relatives, followed by analysis of the collected information. However, we were unable to definitively identify the precise locations of the artillery due to the difficulties in conducting investigations in Houthi-controlled areas.

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented the deaths of three children in Taiz Governorate as a result of indiscriminate bombing during the period from January 2023 to May 2024, including one individual injury case.

**Case Summary: (M-A), 13 years old, was injured by shrapnel from a mortar bomb on January 14, 2024, north of Taiz city.**

**Party Responsible for the Violation: Houthi Group «Ansar Allah».**

(M-A) was returning from school, when suddenly a mortar projectile landed nearby, sending shrapnel into his head and injuring another person beside him, named (A), who is 20 years old.

(M-A) lives in a neighborhood near to the front lines in the Al-Arbaieen area, north of Taiz. According to testimonies documented by the Center, the mortar projectile was shot from the Al-Haraieer area, which is high ground controlled by the Houthi group.

The child's father reported that his son has been suffering from insomnia and is unable to sleep since the shrapnel was lodged into his head. Since the injury,

(M-A) has also complained of pain in his lower neck, as also confirmed by the medical report we obtained.

### ■ War Remnants

According to the annual report of the UN Secretary-General released in 2023, about 282 children were verified as having been killed or maimed in Yemen in 2022 due to unexploded ordnance from war remnants.

Many areas in Yemen that have experienced conflict are still littered with remnants of war and unexploded objects. Occasionally, reports emerge of innocent civilians—shepherds or passersby in vehicles—falling victim to landmines or leftover munitions.

All conflict parties bear responsibility for the violations against civilians due to remnants of war. The Houthi group is most responsible for this type of violation. They have managed to seize weapon and explosive stores in the early years of the war, in addition to receiving shipments and explosives from Iran through maritime smuggling routes. Recently, they have also relied on traditional manufacturing methods

to produce ammunition, making them the most responsible party for the remnants of war.

On the other hand, the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia has dropped many explosives on Houthi targets, and it is certain that there are unexploded remnants as a result. Due to the challenges of working in Houthi-controlled areas, monitors are unable to document violations caused by these remnants of war or analyze the remains of these objects to determine the responsible party.

Identifying responsibility for violations resulting from war remnants begins with analyzing the munition and its components, or examining the location where it exploded, and tracking the battles that occurred in that area, as demonstrated in the case documented by the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children:

**Case Summary: (A-F-A), 12 years old, was injured by a war remnant on August 7, 2023, west of Taiz city.**

**Party Responsible for the Violation: Houthi Group «Ansar Allah».**

Among the victims of war remnants is (A-F-A), a 12-year-old from Wadi Al-Dhabab, west of Taiz. This area has been a military target for Houthi fighters, who continue to aim for it to cut off the city's last remaining supply line from the temporary capital, Aden. The Houthis have established positions along the main roads surrounding the city since 2015, effectively besieging it as part of the ongoing conflict between the Houthi group and the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen.

**(A-F-A), 12 years old, found a war remnant and thought it was a toy. When he picked it up, it exploded, injuring him in various parts of his body.**

(A-F-A) found an object while grazing sheep in the Al-Sayahi area, on August 7, 2023. When he tried to play with it, the object exploded, injuring him with shrapnel that spread across various parts of his body.

The child's father (A-F-A) and his cousin took him to a local clinic in the area, but his condition worsened. After three days, he was moved to an intensive care unit at Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz, where he underwent surgery. (A-F-A) continues to suffer from his injuries, as documented by the Center of Strategic Studies to Support of Women and Children.

## ■ Drone Attack

The report «Compounded Suffering» documented two cases involving violations against children in Taiz Governorate due to drone attacks. The Houthi group's possession of drones and their early use in combat is a clear indicator of the violations committed against children and women in Yemen.

While we have observed the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen showcasing several drones in Marib, the drones - whether reconnaissance or offensive - that fly over the government-controlled areas of Taiz are attributed to the Houthis.

According to statements documented by our center, there were two violation cases in which six individuals were affected, including five fatalities in a case of joint violations, and one injury in an individual case, which is detailed as follows:

**Case Summary: (K-A-S), 10 years old, was injured by a projectile fired from a drone on October 10, 2023, in the Al-Rawdhah neighborhood in the center of Taiz.**

**Responsible Party for the Violation: Houthi Group «Ansar Allah».**

While (K-A-S) was playing with his friends in the neighborhood, a drone fired a projectile that damaged his face.

The incident occurred on October 10, 2023. Karam Abdulrazaq, 10 years old, was playing with his friends in Al-Rawdhah neighborhood in the center of Taiz. At around 05:00 PM, a drone belonging to the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» fired a projectile into the midst of the children. Fortunately, the projectile did not explode, according to statements documented by the Center of Strategic Studies to Support of Women and Children.

The father of (K-A-S) stated that the projectile struck his child's face, causing lacerations and shattering the lower jaw and facial bones. This was confirmed by the medical report obtained by the monitors at the Center, along with a photograph of the projectile fired by the Houthi drone that hit Karam.



The projectile instilled fear among the children, and often, those exposed to the traumas of war do not receive the necessary psychological support. In Karam's case, he was taken to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz to treat the immediate effects caused by the projectile on his face, bones, and left jaw.

## ■ Violations by Government Bodies

The violations experienced by children and women in Taiz Governorate, particularly in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen, are linked to the state apparatus itself, specifically the security forces and affiliated components, as well as the military institutions and their factions. The war has led to the inclusion of thousands of civilians in police institutions under the Ministry of Interior and military brigades under the Ministry of Defense. The lack of proper training for these individuals, along with the central disorganization of state institutions, has resulted in dysfunctions in the operational performance of certain security and military personnel, adversely affecting civilians, including children and women.

Consequently, violations for which the agencies of the internationally recognized government of Yemen in Taiz are responsible manifest in various forms: misuse of power, extra law detention, arbitrary arrests, covering up for perpetrators, and physical assault. This is compounded by the shortcomings of judicial institutions tasked with achieving justice and redress for victims. While this pattern is more pronounced in violations against women, it is also evident in violations against children.

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children has documented four cases of violations affecting children in Taiz, for which government agencies bear responsibility, including the following:

## ■ Physical Assault and Protection of Suspects

**Case Summary:** (M-Q), 17 years old, was injured and faced obstacles to justice in the center of Taiz.

**Party Responsible for the Violation:** Taiz Security Police / Government.

(M-Q-A), 17 years old, was involved in an altercation with another individual named (A-Sh), according to eyewitness statement. Following this, armed men in a military vehicle attacked the home of (Q-A) and the father of (M-Q) in the city center. The assailants fired into the courtyard of the house, severely injuring (M-Q).

The suspects include (A-M), (A-A), (A-S), (A-A), and (A-A), all of whom are soldiers belonging to a local police department.

The Center obtained correspondence from the Prosecution and Appeals Court directed to the security agency, requesting the surrender of the suspects for necessary legal action. However, the security agency did not respond to these judicial directives. The father of (M-Q-A) confirmed that this agency is providing protection to the suspects, who continue working.

# Section II

## Violations Against Women

Since the outbreak of the war in Yemen in 2014, the situation of women in the country has deteriorated significantly. This nearly decade-long period is considered one of the most challenging times for Yemeni women. Alongside social restrictions, patriarchal views, and the stigma of traditions, women have become victims—killed, injured, displaced, and abducted.

If it weren't for the harsh conditions in Yemen and the social traditions that treat women's issues with skepticism and silence—considering the discussion of women's rights and related matters to be a taboo—monitors would have been able to document cases of sexual violence and exploitation against women in the country. However, the adherence to social customs and the pressure of the patriarchal views has led many women who have endured sexual violence to hesitate in sharing any details for fear of facing even greater persecution.



Over the past ten years, exactly from 2014 to 2024, violence and violations against women in Yemen have been increasing. The geographic division of the country among various war parties has made it difficult to fully monitor assaults and violations against women.

From September 21, 2014, to December 31, 2019, Rights Radar for Human Rights reported that it documented 16,667 violations committed by the different conflict parties in Yemen against women.<sup>(12)</sup>

From 2014 to the end of 2022, the number of Yemeni women who were murdered reached 1,100.<sup>(13)</sup>

The details on the targeting of Yemeni journalist Rasha Al-Harazi highlights the extent of violence against women in Yemen. While Rasha was on her way to a hospital in the temporary capital, Aden, for checks related to her upcoming childbirth, she was targeted by an explosive device that instantly claimed her life and that of her unborn child on November 9, 2021.

Mahmouh AlOtmī - Rasha's husband - stated, «While I was with my wife, journalist Rasha Al-Harazi, in Aden, our car exploded after an explosive device was attached to its underside.» According to the findings of an investigation with Free Media Organization for Investigative Journalism, the Houthi group, known as «Ansar Allah,» is believed to be behind this targeting.<sup>(14)</sup>

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(12) «Yemen: Women in Storm of War» Rights Radar for Human Rights Report, March 2020.

(13) «Discriminatory Restrictions» issued by SAM Organization for Rights and Freedoms, March 2023.

(14) «Explosive Device Kills Journalist about to give birth» Free Media Organization for Investigative Journalism, February 15, 2024.

<https://free-medias.com/context/context-of-the-story/ةيفدص/>



## ■ Responsible Parties for Violations

The Houthi group, “Ansar Allah,” topped the list of entities responsible for these violations, followed by the forces of the Arab coalition and then the drones. The Houthi group, “Ansar Allah,” is considered to be among those responsible for assaults on Yemeni women, including violations such as detention, abduction, and denial of justice.

In its 2023 report to the United Nations Security Council, the group of experts reaffirmed its findings that women detained by the Houthis: «are subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment, they also face sexual assault, and in some cases are subjected to Virginty Test. They are often denied access to basic necessities, including women’s hygiene products».



## ■ Kidnapping and Torture for Recruitment

In 2019, Amnesty International Organization revealed shocking information regarding the pressure exerted by the Houthis on Yemeni women, employing tactics to force them into recruitment or espionage for the group. The report noted that «one of the issues that has clearly driven women to enlist and refuse to remain silent is the arrest and/or enforced disappearance of one of their family members».<sup>(15)</sup>

Yemeni actress and model Intisar Al-Hamadi is considered to be one of the women who has faced this violation in Houthi prisons since February 2021.

The Houthis arrested Intisar with her friend, Yusra Al-Nashri, while they were on their way to complete an advertising deal for a garment store. These women were working as fashion models to support their families; the Houthis spread rumors that they are dishonorable women. These girls were tortured inside the prison and were also denied access to the outside world, so their parents did not know where they

were being held easily.

During the interrogation of Yusra Al-Nashri, blood flowed from her mouth due to torture and electrocution, and one Houthi investigator tried to rape her. This is what Yusra said after she was released from the prison. Then, she fled to an area under the control of the internationally recognized government of Yemen.

Intisar, who supports her mother, her blind father, and her brother who has a mental disability, was physically tortured and verbally humiliated, which involves «discriminated against on the basis of gender and racism»<sup>(16)</sup> by prison guards who called her a «the maid» and «the whore» because of her dark skin and Ethiopian origin, according to the assertions of international organizations, which also referred to the refusal of the Houthi Public Prosecutor's Office to request a lawyer to obtain her case file. The lawyer was also threatened and later he was notified of his stop in court, and the Houthis banned the publication of information on the case of Intisar Al-Hamadi.

(15) « Yemen: One of the Worst Places in the World to be a Woman, « Amnesty International, December 16, 2019. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/about-us/>

(16) More details about the case can be found in the website of Human Rights Watch.» Yemen: Houthis Subject Model to Unfair Trial». <https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2021/06/30/379085>

A group of activists, human rights defenders, writers and lawyers visited Al-Hamadi, accompanied by her mother. The group revealed shocking information about the visit. Human Rights Watch quoted two members of the group as saying that Al-Hamadi had told them that there was no evidence against her and that the Houthi Authorities had forced her to sign a document blindfolded. She also told them that during the first interrogations the Houthi officers told her that she could be released if she agreed to work with them in setting a trap for their enemies by seducing

them with sex, drugs, and alcohol, but she refused.<sup>(17)</sup>

In February 2023, The Court of Appeal of the Houthi Group in Sana'a upheld the judgement of the Criminal Prosecution Service.

In November 2022, the Houthi-controlled Criminal Prosecution Service sentenced Intisar Al-Hamadi to five years' imprisonment for immorality. In February 2023, the Court of Appeal of Sana'a upheld the sentence and Intisar thanked the judge who threatened her with five additional years.<sup>(18)</sup>

## ■ Execution Sentences

In December 2023, the Houthi-controlled Criminal Court in Sana'a sentenced human rights defender, Fatima Al-Arwali, 34, to death on charges of intelligence with the enemy and, by that accusation, intended for Al-Arwali to cooperate with the United Arab Emirates. This represents a charge often levied against their opponents by the Houthis.

International and local organizations condemned the verdict as unjust. According to Human Rights Watch, the prosecution did not provide any evidence to support these accusations, nor did Al-Arwali - an activist and former head of the Yemen Bureau of the Arab Women's Leadership Federation of the League of Arab States- meet with any legal

(17) Ibid.

(18) «She thanked the judge, who then threatened her with five more years... Houthi Court upholds a five-year prison sentence...», Almasdar Online, 12/02/2023. <https://almasdaronline.com/articles/268859>

representation in the trial, and her family has only been able to contact her twice since her arrest in August 2022.

Fatima Al-Arwali was on her way back from visiting her family in the UAE, but the Houthis arrested her at a checkpoint in Al-Hawban - east of Taiz- while she was heading to Sana'a, on August 12, 2022.

The Houthis denied knowledge of Fatima's whereabouts at first. After follow ups by her relatives and lawyers, they reached her after nearly 120 days.

Fatima Al-Arwali's execution by the Houthi judicial authorities was not the first sentence announced by the Houthi authorities for political purposes, as it was preceded by a similar sentence against the activist, Asma Al-Omaisi.

Asma Al-Omaisi was on her way to Sana'a to visit her father when she was arrested on October 7, 2016. Asma was subjected to torture and deprived of her right to treatment and to visit her children. The charge was cooperation with terrorism. However, on December 13, 2016, the investigating member of

the Specialized Criminal Prosecution Service issued a decision that «there is no case for the absence of crime.» The appellate prosecutor overturned the decision and issued a decision that included a charge of «Supporting the enemy», i.e. cooperating with the Saudi-led Arab coalition to counter the Houthi group «Ansar Allah.»

On January 30, 2018, the Trial Court commenced the trial of Asma Al-Omaisi without allowing the defense counsel to attend. At this session, the judge issued Asma the «death sentence.» After an appeal and with the absence of any evidence of Al-Omaisi's charge, the Appeals Division sentenced her to 15 years of imprisonment. On June 27, 2022, the last sentence was handed down for the second time on a charge other than the charge contained in the indictment. This charge is the allegation that she guided the UAE aggression - against the Houthi group called «Ansar Allah» - against her husband. This charge is not substantiated, nor is it punishable under Yemeni legislation or regional and international legislation.<sup>(19)</sup>

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(19) " Journalism Bleeding : A report examines 100 violations against journalists in 3 Yemeni governorates from 2015 to 2022 « , Free Media Organization for Investigative Journalism 2022, p. 59



## ■ Women Humanitarian Workers

Human rights activists working in relief and humanitarian assistance programs in Yemen are subjected to varying and repeated violations throughout the country and from all conflict parties. In Taiz governorate, parts controlled by the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen, the report documents two cases of such violations, and recalls a previous case of a Houthi shooting a humanitarian worker, resulting in their death. United Nations human rights experts sent a letter to the Houthi group «detailing (the systematic violation of women and girls rights), including their right to freedom of movement, freedom of expression, health and employment, as well as widespread discrimination against them.» Meanwhile, Amnesty International revealed that Yemeni women working with humanitarian agencies «face travel restrictions to various governorates to carry out their work.»<sup>(20)</sup>

Bardees Al-Siyaghi worked as a delegate with relief teams working with humanitarian organizations. She was attacked by armed men in a street in the middle of Sana'a and

severely beaten. She resorted to the judiciary but did not receive any response.

On August 2, 2019, at 4 AM, gunmen raided her house with five military crews and two buses carrying armed women, who shot her and injured her shoulder. Bardees confirmed that she was handcuffed and beaten during the investigation in an attempt to force her to confess to many charges, including espionage with the Arab coalition.

Al-Siyaghi revealed that the Houthis forced her to use «drugs that make me not feel my body.» Due to the torture, she lost part of her right eye.<sup>(21)</sup>

In March 2019, the Houthis arrested the human rights activist and the head of WWD organization, Sonia Saleh Al-Ghabash. They transferred Sonia to the Notorious National Security Service (NSS). During the investigation, they accused Sonia of working for political figures opposed to the Houthis. These accusations were the reason for Sonia's torture before she was transferred to the central prison in Sana'a.

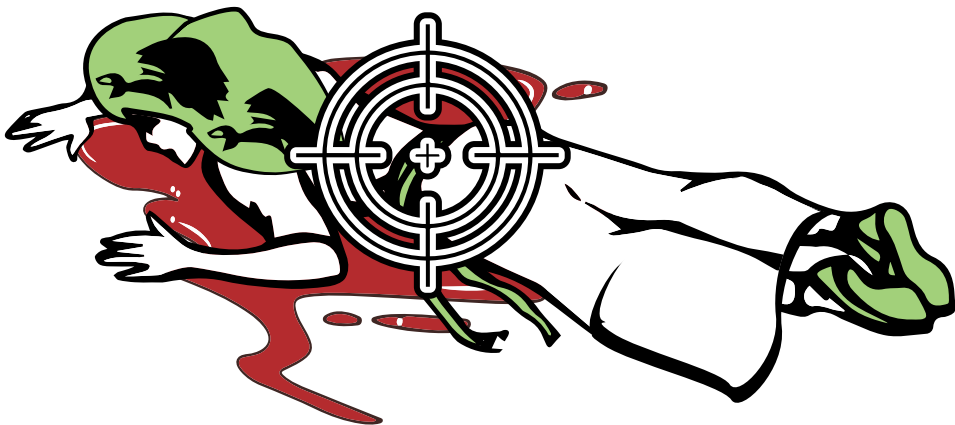
(20) «Human Rights Experts: Systematic Violation of Women's Rights by the Houthis», Al Jazeera Center for Public Liberties & Human Rights, February 7, 2023. <https://liberties.aljazeera.com/اهتزاز-ن-ن-وئحدث-ن-ویمما-ن-وبقوة-ع-ل-رذ>

(21) « Journalism Bleeding », Ibid. p. 61



Abdulfattah Al-Samit, one of the young men who accompanied Reham in the recent aid convoy, said: «the martyr Reham Al-Badr, Mo'min - a young man in the convoy who was martyred alongside Reham as well - and me were heading to Al-Korifat area, when we arrived to Al-Najd Al-Ahmar, heavy fire began shooting on us, we went quickly to one of the flood lanes and hid for about half an hour. After that, we went out and continued our walk to the besieged areas, distributing the aid convoy to the besieged families there».

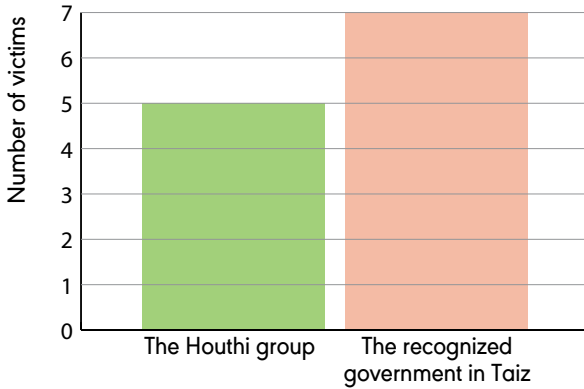
Al-Samit asserted that when they returned to the city there was renewed fire, then a bullet penetrated Mo'min's head, and another shot hit Reham's hand and then penetrated her abdomen. While Reham was bleeding and her intestines were out, Al-Samit said: «We had no medical materials to stop the bleeding, we were besieged and the medical assistance was prevented to us for an hour and a half, and unfortunately, Reham passed away.»<sup>(23)</sup>



[23] «Dangerous Work» : A report issued by SAM Organization for Freedoms and Human Rights in 2020.

## Violations documented in the report

During the period examined by this report, from January 2023 to May 2024, the Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented 12 individual violations of women in Taiz governorate. During this period, the violations of the 'right to life' against women amounted to five cases, which the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» is held to be responsible for.

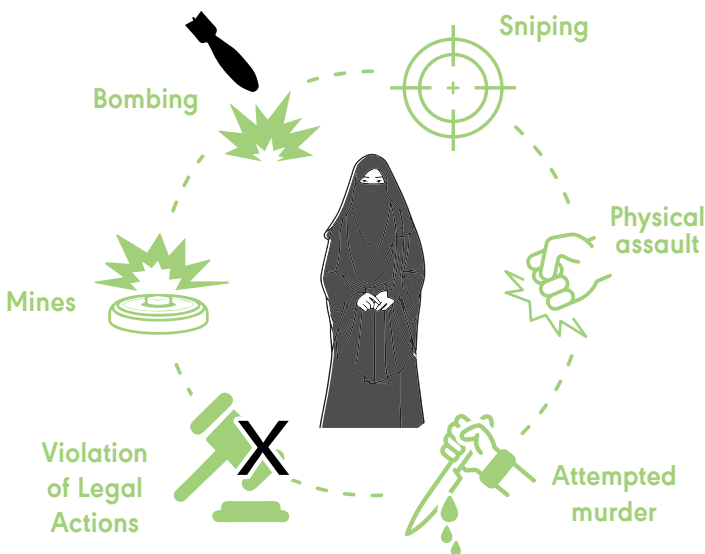


### Violators of the right to life against Women in Taiz

from January 2023 to May 2024

Chart No. (3)

## Types of Violations against Women in Taiz Governorate



## ■ Violations committed by the Houthi Group

Violations of the «right to life,» which occurred individually against women, were divided during the period examined by the Report of Compounded Suffering, and the Center was able to document them as follows:

Sniping: 2 cases.

Bombing: 2 cases.

Mines: 1 case.

«This number increases when victims of joint violations occurring for more than one, as will be seen in the next chapter».

## ■ Sniping

**Case Summary: (T. A. M.), age 22, was killed by a sniper in the Al-Shaqb area in Saber Al-Mawadim district - located in the south of Taiz governorate on July 8, 2023.**

**The party responsible for the violation: Al-Houthi Group/“Ansar Allah”**

(T. A. M.) went out with her brother’s wife to fetch firewood in the Al-Shaqb area «the southern countryside of Taiz, which belongs to Saber Al-Mawadim district.» In this area, victimization of civilians occasionally occurs, because the Houthi Militants, «Ansar Allah,» are stationed on Tal Al-Saliheen, the hill overlooking the areas controlled by the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen, although the government forces are relatively far from the area.

The absence of (T. A. M.) from the house did not last long. One resident in the area heard the voice of a woman shouting: «The sniper hit (T. A. M.)» The man asked her to pull (T. A. M.) to a safe place, far from the sniper’s sight. After that, he carried her with another person on foot to get medical help.

The area was very bumpy and cars were unable to reach it, so they continued walking for an hour while (T. A. M.) was bleeding.

(T. A. M.), age 22, was a mother of two, and the bullet she sustained penetrated her abdomen near the right side of the kidneys.

In statements documented by the Center, one of the inhabitants of the area where (T. A. M.) was injured, confirmed that there had been no clashes, and that the sniping was from Tal Al-Saliheen, where the Houthis were stationed.

The victim arrived at Al-Thawra General Hospital in the middle of Taiz at exactly 10:30 AM, but unfortunately (T. A. M.) had died.

## ■ Injury

**Case Summary:** (L-A-A-M), age 23 years old, was shot by a sniper on October 27, 2023, in the Kalabah neighborhood, which is located in eastern Taiz.

**The party responsible for the violation:** The Houthi group / "Ansar Allah".

(L-A-A-M) lived in the Kalabah neighborhood, which is located in eastern Taiz, near the frontline of fire where the national army affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen clashes with the Houthi armed group on the other side.

**One night, (L-A-A-M) climbed onto the roof of the house to collect clothes, but a sniper knocked her down with a gunshot, and then she was taken by an ambulance.**

Civilians within Taiz city - the part controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen -

are sometimes subjected to sniping. As the war prolongs, many find themselves having to return to their homes or live in the frontlines of fire, and because of this, they pay the price. Innocent victims fall from time-to-time from bullets of Houthi snipers.

The sniper's shot penetrated the left hand of (L-A-A-M), then hit the wall and returned to hit her right jaw, exit through the throat, and up the neck. This is confirmed by the case of the Center's monitoring team and the medical documents they have obtained.

## Landmines

**Case Summary:** (Q.H), age 70 years old, was injured by a landmine explosion on October 11, 2023, in Saber, which is located in the south of Taiz city.

**The party responsible for the violation:** The Houthi group / "Ansar Allah"

(Q.H) was displaced from her house when the war reached her area in Taiz Governorate. The arrival of Houthi fighters to various areas and the outbreak of clashes with the army forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen, as well as with civilians who are against the Houthis, led to a large number of displacement at the beginning of the war.

Years later, the seventy-year-old woman (Q.H) decided to return to her home to check on it, after the Houthi fighters retreated from the area near Tal Al-Saliheen - located in the western area of Sabir Al-Mawadim district. She did not know that they had planted a mine when they left. In a statement documented by the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children, (Q.H) recalls what happened on the evening of October 11, 2023: "when I was walking beside the house, a mine exploded over me," and from the force of the explosion, "threw me onto my back." (Q.H) cried out, and neighbors rushed to help her to Al-Thawra Hospital: "Now my right leg is amputated, and the other is injured."



## ■ Indiscriminate Bombing

**Case Summary:** (B.A.Gh.A), 21 years old, was injured by a projectile shrapnel on March 5, 2023 in the Sallah area, which is located in the east of Taiz city.

**The party responsible for the violation:** Houthi/“Ansar Allah”.

While (B.A.Gh.A) was in the courtyard of her home in Taiz city, an artillery projectile landed nearby, and the shrapnel scattered across various parts of her body.

**(B.A.Gh.A), who had been displaced along with her daughter from the western part of the city due to the war, did not survive her injuries, obtained due to the shrapnel of a Houthi artillery projectile in the east of the city.**

(B.A.Gh.A) and her daughter were displaced to the area near the General Post Office in Sallah district on the eastern side of the city, leaving their home in Sha’ab Doba after a mortar shell fired by the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» exploded. They had previously been displaced from the western part of the city in an attempt to escape

the bombing, but they did not survive injury from shrapnel they faced in the east side of the city.

According to witness statements made to the Center Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children, the artillery shell was fired by the Houthis around noon on March 5, 2023, and exploded near (B.A.Gh.A)’s home, causing shrapnel to disperse into different parts of her body, particularly her chest and thigh. After that, her husband took her to Al-Thawra General Hospital, where the doctors removed some superficial shrapnel.

(B.A.Gh.A) still needs surgery to extract the deeper shrapnel that continues to affect her body, according to the medical report we received.



## ■ A projectile enters the room

**Case Summary:** (R-J-A), 20 years old, was injured by shrapnel from a projectile in February 2024 in the Al-Irqain area of Sabir district, south of Taiz city.

**The party responsible for the violation:** Houthi/“Ansar Allah”.

In February 2024, an artillery projectile fell on the roof of her house in the village, penetrating the roof of the traditional house and reaching the floor of the room below. (R-J-A), a twenty-year-old, was in one of the rooms of the house.

**(R-J-A), 20 years old, was in her room when an artillery projectile penetrated the roof of said room, scattering shrapnel over her body from the projectile, which came from the areas where the Houthi group was stationed.**

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children obtained the medical report detailing (R-J-A)'s condition, along with images of the remnants of the projectile and the damage it caused in the area. We also documented a statement from (J-A), the father of (R-J-A), who said: «While I was

inside my house at 7:30 PM, a projectile fell on the roof and reached the floor of the room... My daughter was hit by several pieces of shrapnel in her face and body.”

The medical report describing (R-J-A)'s injury confirms that she arrived at the hospital with injuries affecting the entire front half of her face, as well as scratches on the back of her neck, other scratches on her entire back, a bruise in the pelvic area, and swelling along the entire left leg.

The victim's father, who lives in the village south of Taiz city, stated that his village and the surrounding areas are subjected to indiscriminate bombing from the direction where the Houthi group is stationed, despite being far from military sites.

## ■ Violations by Government Authorities

Among the total individual violations experienced by women in Taiz Governorate during the period covered by the report, the number of violations committed by the security and military agencies affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen exceeded half. Out of 12 cases, government authorities are responsible for 7 cases of violations.

**It is notable that most of these violations are double in their nature, starting with physical assault and ending with obstruction of justice actions and cover ups for perpetrators.**

## ■ Physical Assault

**Case Summary:** (E-M-H), 37 years old, was subjected to physical assault, and there was a cover-up conducted for the perpetrators.

**The party responsible for the violation:** A military faction affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen.

When one of the organizations came to register the houses damaged by the war in order to work on repairing and restoring the houses that are capable of being fixed, (E-M-H) worked as a member of a community committee in the eastern part of Taiz city.

(E-M-H) was part of a community committee to register the houses damaged by the war in the eastern part of Taiz city when she was confronted by a soldier who slapped her in the face.

The houses in the eastern part of Taiz city are among those most affected by the war between the army forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen and the armed fighters of the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» that begun in Yemen in late 2014.

At the beginning of their control over Taiz, the Houthis positioned themselves in residential neighborhoods in the city. Due to the intensity of the clashes, they were forced to withdraw after

destroying several houses, in addition to some which were targeted by the Arab coalition's airstrikes.

Some areas of the Sallah district are considered military sites due to their proximity to the front lines. Therefore, living in these areas or returning to these areas involves certain procedures imposed by the controlling parties, such as obtaining permits.

(E-M-H), who is 37 years old, was guiding the organization's monitors to the damaged houses for registration. However, the next day, a person named (M-A) - who belongs to one of the military brigades affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen - confronted the team and prevented them from passing into the neighborhood. As a result, several residents of the neighborhood went to the military faction to which the accused

belongs to file a complaint.

The next day, while the victim (E-M-H) was transporting furniture to her home, after the van of furniture passing through the army checkpoints, the same soldier came and messed with the contents of the furniture, then threatened her and raised his hand several times, «the last being a slap to my face.”

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children obtained documents that recorded the violation against (E-M-H), including orders directed to the military faction to hand over the accused and a request for the presence of the prosecution to deliver the perpetrator. The commander of the brigade to which (M-A) belongs committed to appearing to the prosecution; yet despite all the orders, the accused did not comply with the legal procedures.

## ■ Attempted Murder

**Case Summary:** (E-A-A), 50 years old, was subjected to an attempted murder, and her son was killed. There was a cover-up conducted for the perpetrators.

**The party responsible for the violation:** A military faction affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen.

(E-A-A), 50 years old, returned to her home at 01:00 PM. She went for her usual afternoon nap, but at 03:00 PM, she was woken up by voices of many different soldiers and by gunfire. She jumped into the living room, and she was shocked to see the door opening and three soldiers entering the house, according to statements documented by the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children.

(E-A-A) lives in the eastern part of Taiz city, and her son (A-M-M) was sleeping in the next room. A bullet struck her son from the fire of the armed men belonging to one of the military brigades. One of her relatives said, «No one was able to save us.» The soldiers were shouting at them, «turn yourselves in.» (E-A-A) and her son had no idea what they had done or what the security forces wanted from them. (A-M-M) went out into the street asking for help; he was bleeding profusely. There were about twenty-

five soldiers and three military vehicles surrounding the house, led by individuals named (A-A) and (S-A).

One of the witness statements clarifies: «There was a man in the neighborhood whom we heard telling the soldiers: «This is not the person you are looking for; his name is (A-M).’ After that, they took him for medical assistance. Until now, we do not know the reason; they told us that: «the house is of a wanted person by the authorities.’ We think that one of the neighbors informed the security forces about us, while the accused they are searching for is in the street.”

The victim’s family submitted a complaint to the official entities and contacted the security forces and military institutions in Taiz to hand over the accused, who have not yet faced justice.

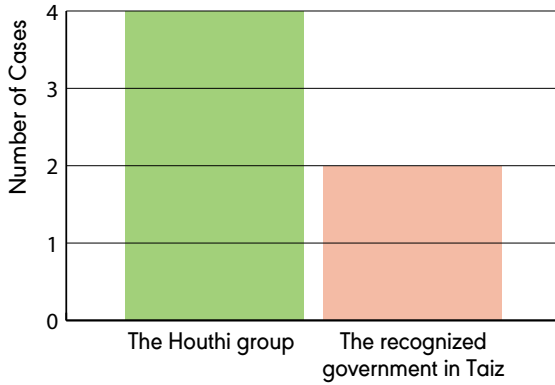
# Section III

## Joint Violations



During the period covered by the report, the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented 7 cases of violations involving multiple victims, including children and women separately, or involving children with women.

The total number of victims in these seven cases was 20: 12 women and 8 children, including 6 deaths, 10 injuries, and 4 cases of illegal detention and arbitrary arrest.



**Violators in Joint Cases in Taiz Governorate**

from January 2023 to May 2024

Chart No. (4)

**Joint Violations Committed by the Houthi Group**

In one way or another, the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» are responsible for 4 cases of joint violations documented in the report, while the state machinery in Taiz affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen are responsible for 2 cases.

As for the seventh case, which involves violations against two women and three girls who were killed by drone strikes, the conflict parties exchange accusations. The Center team worked to gather as much data as possible to analyze it in order to document the case, as detailed below:

## ■ Drone Strikes

**Case Summary:** On April 27, 2024, (B-A-A-S), 33 years old, (A-S-A-S), 25 years old, (A-A-A-A), 17 years old; (T-A-A-A), 12 years old, and (G-A-A-A), 8 years old, were killed by a drone strike in the Maqbana district, west of Taiz Governorate.

**The party responsible for the violation:** Houthi/Ansar Allah.

Two women and three girls went to a well about a half-hour walk from their home to bring water. None of them returned with water. People in the nearby village heard a huge explosion, and when they rushed towards the scene, they found the remains of five victims: two women and three young sisters.

During the preparation of the report «Compounded Suffering,» the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented the joint violation, likely caused by a drone strike, which resulted in the deaths of five individuals—two women and three girls—in Maqbana district, west of Taiz Governorate, on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

The five victims of this attack are:

(B-A-A-S), a mother of five children, 33 years old, who was three months pregnant.

(A-S-A-S), unmarried, 25 years old.

In addition to the three sisters:

(A-A-A-A), 17 years old.

(T-A-A-A), 12 years old.

(G-A-A-A), 8 years old.

The monitors were unable to reach the mountainous area under the control of the Houthi group, «Ansar Allah,» which accused its opponents from the government forces and other factions of committing the crime. Meanwhile, the government and its affiliated factions blamed the Houthis for this violation.

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children was able to conduct phone interviews with several relatives of the victims. According to the statements we documented, the two women and three girls went to bring water from Wadi Al-Shajeen in Maqbana district, west of Taiz Governorate.

The area is approximately 4 hours away from the front lines between the Houthi fighters and the forces of the internationally recognized government of Yemen. Given this information, it is unlikely that the targeting was by government forces, due to the distance of the area and the type of weapon used in the attack, or at least, this places the government side in a weak possibility for committing the violation.

The statements we received indicated that people rushed immediately after hearing the huge explosion that occurred in the early hours of Saturday, April 27, 2024. Houthi fighters “Ansar

Allah” also arrived at the well and «collected the remains into plastic bags.» Relatives of the victims confirmed in their statements that they reached the site and were shocked by the horrifying scene: «Just torn remains with traces of gunpowder, and there were no shrapnel or remnants of the projectile.»

(Ashraf Al-Mansh)- a journalist from the Jabal Habashi district, adjacent to the Maqbana district- reported from local sources that the Houthis enforced a security blockade on the village following the explosion. Although the statements say that the residents arrived first, Al-Mansh’s declarations suggest otherwise; he assured that Houthi fighters arrived first and cut off communication networks for several hours, concluding that the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» did this «to hide any evidence or signs of the crime, including any shrapnel from the exploding drone.»<sup>(24)</sup>

(24) The journalist’s Facebook account on social media, two posts: <https://www.facebook.com/100006535476633/posts/pfbid02FudsDWzKYXnqy46374RBmmwgA5PWVJX83wpZEQPnYefqFv9ZTJSJvtYuuzhKH2aZPI/?app=fbl>



## ■ Those Responsible for the Violation

According to the journalist (Ashraf Al-Mansh), the Houthis attempted to launch drones to target ships in the Red Sea from their positions in the village of «Barh Al-Sayed» or «Al-Shajeen,» which is part of the Al-Barasha area in Maqbana (west of Taiz). However, one of the drones fell onto the women and girls.

The U.S. Department of Defense announced, in late 2023, the formation of an international coalition to safeguard cargo ships from Houthi assaults in the Red Sea. This force, which includes several countries, was named «Operation Prosperity Guardian.»

In January 2024, the Pentagon announced that it had begun conducting airstrikes and launching attacks on Houthi targets in Yemen. Activists and eyewitnesses reported some airstrikes in Maqbana district, west of Taiz Governorate, in areas controlled by the Houthis.

According to the data analysis obtained by the Center, along with available open-source data and an assessment of the scale and location of the air attack, it cannot be discounted

that the international coalition aimed at safeguarding cargo ships in the Red Sea was involved in the Maqbana incident, which resulted in the deaths of two women and three girls on Saturday, April 27, 2024. However, there are some indications that the Houthis are behind the attack.

Based on the statements documented by the Center, the Houthis initially promised the victims' relatives that they would investigate the attack, but later made excuses that they could not find any evidence of the projectile. The possibility that the Houthis arrived first at the location where the two women and three girls were killed and hid the shrapnel or signs of the projectile places the responsibility for this serious violation on the Houthi group. It doesn't make sense for the projectile to completely dissolve and for the remnants of the drone's structure to disappear entirely. One of the victims' relatives stated that the Houthis informed them that «the investigation is still ongoing to determine where the drone came from, but they have not reached any conclusions yet.»

## ■ Sniping

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented a joint sniping case during the period covered by the report in Taiz Governorate, resulting in two victims: a girl and a woman.

**Case Summary:** On April 24, 2024, (A-S-M-H), 7 years old, and (J-Y), 21 years old, were injured by sniper gunfire in eastern Taiz city. The party responsible for the violation: Houthi Group /“Ansar Allah”.

In this joint sniping case, both the girl (A-S-M-H), 7 years old, and her brother’s wife, (J-Y), 21 years old, were injured in April 2024. This was not the first time the victim’s family had suffered from such targeting. From May 15, 2015 until April 4, 2024, seven members of the family had been subjected to violations of their right to life either through «killing or injury.»

The family has not left their home or been displaced from Al-Zahra neighborhood in eastern Taiz since Houthi fighters took control of the former Central Security camp, which is situated on a hill overlooking the residential area, from which they began targeting civilians.

The first sniping event that the family experienced occurred when a Houthi sniper targeted (A-S-M) on May 15, 2015, who died instantly, according to witnesses.

The most recent incident took place on April 4, 2024, during the period covered by this report, resulting in two victims from the (S-M) family: the girl (A-S-M-H), 7 years old, and her brother’s wife, (J-Y), 21 years old.

(A-S-M-H) and her brother’s wife, (J-Y), were returning in the evening from Al-Rawdha neighborhood to the family home in Al-Zahra neighborhood, behind Al-Rawdha post office. Before they arrived, a Houthi sniper from «Ansar Allah» fired at (A-S-M-H), injuring her in her left foot, while (J-Y) was hit in her right hand. No one was able to reach the victims quickly as the sniper continued firing for about half an hour, as confirmed by the statements we documented.

## ■ Landmines

The report issued by the Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented 2 cases of joint violations resulting from landmines, which led to 6 victims: 5 children and 1 woman.

**Case Summary:** On January 23, 2024, (M-A-M), 20 years old, (J-W-A), 7 years old, and (A-S-A), 11 years old, were injured in an explosion of a landmine in Al-Kadaha area located in west of Taiz city.

**The party responsible for the violation:** Houthi/“Ansar Allah”.

(M-A-M), a 20-year-old woman, moved from her husband’s village in Bani Hamad area - located in the southwestern part of Taiz Governorate, where the internationally recognized government of Yemen is in control - to her family’s village in the Al-Kadaha area - in the northwestern part of the same governorate. (M-A-M) and her 7-year-old daughter (J) were visiting her mother and some relatives in the area, a visit that was expected to last several days.

The Houthi group «Ansar Allah « had taken control of the «Al- Kadaha « area at the beginning of the war, nine years ago, as the area leads to the Al-Mokha coast in western Taiz, which gives it strategic value: securing the road leading to the Al-Mokha coast near Bab Al-Mandab.

Years ago, the government forces managed to drive the Houthis out of Al-Kadaha, but various places remained planted with landmines.

The planting of landmines is a prevailing tactic used by the Houthi group, especially in strategic locations where they had previously established their positions, aimed at hindering any advances by government forces or any other armed factions opposing the Houthis. This is why government entities, as well as specialized demining programs and residents of those areas, often point fingers at the Houthis when it comes to planting landmines and other explosive devices, as seen in the Al-Kadaha area leading to the Al-Mokha coast in western Taiz.

A week after (M-A-M) visited the Al-Kadaha area, specifically on May 20, 2024, her daughter (J) was playing with (A-S-A), 11 years old, who is her nephew, near the house. (M-A-M) was close to the children when a landmine exploded in the area, injuring all three: (M-A-M), her daughter (J), and her nephew (A).

The two children suffered from shrapnel wounds all over their bodies, while (M-A-M) had shrapnel in her leg.

The right hand of the girl (J) was amputated, and she lost three toes from her left foot. Additionally, (M-A-M)'s right leg was severely injured, and the girl later died from her injuries.

**Case Summary: On January 23, 2024, (A-M-Y), 6 years old, (A-A-R), 15 years old, and (J-A-A), 18 years old, were injured by a landmine explosion in western Taiz city.**

**The party responsible for the violation: Houthi/"Ansar Allah".**

Houthi fighters, «Ansar Allah,» have control over certain parts of Taiz city for several years, even in areas where they have left from due to the pressure of military clashes with the Yemeni army affiliated with the internationally recognized government, the remnants of Houthi presence persists in the form of various landmines, explosive devices, and unexploded projectiles.

In the western part of the city, near Sha'ab Al-Doba area, which is close to

Al-Ba'arara neighborhood, the Houthis are positioned next to the residential city behind the roads that they have planted with landmines.

On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, one of the landmines exploded, resulting in three victims: (A-M-Y), a six-year-old, (A-A-R), a 15-year-old boy living with his aunt in the mined neighborhood, and (J-A-A), who is 18 years old.

## ■ Bombing

The center documented the deaths of two children and their mother in a case of indiscriminate bombing in mid-March 2024.

**Case Summary: On March 16, 2024, the child (A-A), who is 12 years old, and his brother (A-A), who is 2 years old, were injured along with their mother by a shell shrapnel in northern Taiz city.**

**The party responsible for the violation: Houthi Group /“Ansar Allah”.**

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children documented the injuries of two children and their mother as a result of indiscriminate bombing in March 2024.

The father (A-M-A) lives in an apartment relatively far from the front lines, seemingly keeping his family safe from sniping, landmines, and explosives. He did not realize that a mortar shell could reach his house and its shrapnel could fly toward his children, one of whom is two years old.

The (A-M-A) family lives in Al-Kahraba neighborhood, near the Yemeni News Agency in the city center. On the evening of Saturday, March 16, 2024, a mortar shell landed near their home, resulting in injuries to (A-M-A)’s wife and their children, (A-A), 12 years old, and (A-A), who is two years old, who then were taken to Al-Thawra General Hospital.

According to statements documented by the Center, the artillery shell came from the direction of Al-Arbaieen, from areas controlled by the Houthi group, “Ansar Allah.”

## ■ Joint Violations Committed by Government Authorities

The Center of Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children reached two cases of joint violations committed by military and security institutions in Taiz Governorate, as documented in this report. The total number of victims in these cases is four women.

### ■ Arrest

**Case Summary: (A-A), 40 years old, and (Y-A), 35 years old, were subjected to arrest in downtown Taiz.**

**The party responsible for the violation: Political Security Apparatus.**

Although the sisters (A-A) and (Y-A) do not know the reason for their arrest to this day, their detention in one of the military institution's facilities indicates the nature of the accusation: collaboration with the Houthis.

**The story begins when (A-A), aged 40, and her sister (Y-A), aged 35, were on a family visit in downtown Taiz. Unexpectedly, they found themselves detained by the Political Security Agency, which is one of the intelligence agencies in the country.**

The sisters live in the eastern part of Taiz city, near the wholesale market in a neighborhood controlled by the Houthi group, while several of their relatives live in the city center within areas controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen.

The ongoing conflict has resulted in the division and disruption of the roads linking the Yemeni governorates. As the Houthis have increased their siege on Taiz, the city's routes have been divided into two: one part is controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen, while the other is under Houthi control, leading to severe restrictions on movement from and to the city.

Under normal circumstances, (A-A) and (Y-A) would need only seven minutes to reach their sister (A-A). The challenging road conditions now extend the journey to seven hours, which requires passage through sharp and dangerous hills, making it exceedingly difficult for relatives and patients to visit family members or healthcare facilities, with possibly no more than five visits occurring over nine years.

According to what was documented by the Center Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children regarding the violations faced by (A-A) and (Y-A), the sisters had previously traveled from Al-Hawban «east of Taiz» which is under the control of the Houthis, to the part of the city controlled by the government. They had not encountered harassment before, aside from the difficulties of the roads, but during their last visit, they found themselves detained.

Three cars belonging to the Military Apparatus arrived at (F-H)'s house. The soldiers stated that there was a report against (A-A) and (Y-A), who were visiting their sister (A-A) at that time. They did not mention the reason for it or who submitted it, and they took the sisters to a detention center.

(A-A) was suffering from several health issues such as high blood pressure, and she was unable to stand due to osteoporosis. Additionally, she had a child who was only 14 months old and whom she could not breastfeed. She remained in detention with her sister (Y-A) for nearly three weeks, without any contact with the outside world or permission for their relatives to visit during that time.

When (A-A) and (Y-A) were released from detention, a debt was accumulated against them for about 200,000 riyals for the food that the soldiers were bringing to them from the grocery store adjacent to the military institution.

## ■ Detention

**Case Summary: (H-A), an elderly woman, and (S), her son’s wife, were subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention.**

**The party responsible for the violation: The Security Police.**

In late 2023, armed soldiers stormed (A-A)’s house and took four family members, including two women, one of whom was «pregnant.»

On that day, (H-A) was at home with her children and her daughter-in-law, (S), who was awaiting her newborn. Suddenly, two military vehicles from Al-Dhabab police station—one of the security centers under Taiz Governorate police administration, which is controlled by the internationally recognized government of Yemen—arrived at (H-A)’s home. The family members were shocked when they heard the soldiers forcefully knocking on their door before entering the house and beginning to raid the rooms, creating fear in the hearts of the children and women present.

According to statements documented by the Center Strategic Studies to Support

Women and Children, the soldiers clarified, «They had a coercive order from the security administration.» One family member stated, «We did not receive any coercive order or notification to appear from the security authorities.» Nevertheless, they took the mother and the wife, who suffered from chronic illnesses, to one of the security offices in the city center while keeping the male members in the police station. The investigation focused on a piece of land owned by the mother.

The pregnant woman was released at 05:00 PM on the day of the arrest, while (H-A), the elderly mother, remained in detention for 15 days and then she was released based on a medical report.





# Conclusion

There is a real problem that explains the ongoing violations against civilians, including children and women in Taiz Governorate, despite the decrease in tension since the truce agreement two years ago. The essence of this problem lies in the failure to follow legal procedures that ensure justice for victims and punishes those involved in the violations. This legal issue is evident in all cases documented in the report «Compounded Suffering».

Generally, civilian victims who fall due to sniper fire, bombing, landmines and remnants of war do not seek justice through the courts, nor do their relatives. In all violations for which the Houthi group «Ansar Allah» is responsible, the law enforcement procedures cease once the victim obtains a medical report and another technical report prepared by the

criminal investigation department, at best. Justice procedures stop at this point.

In cases of violations for which the authorities in Taiz Governorate, affiliated with the internationally recognized government of Yemen, are responsible, there is a blatant disregard for legal procedures by institutions that are supposed to support law enforcement agencies. The forms of violations documented by the Center Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children include physical assault, use of power, arbitrary detention, and covering up for the perpetrators. This negative image perpetuated by state institutions that are meant to enforce the law and uphold the right to justice does not encourage victims or their relatives to confidently demand their usurped human rights.

# Recommendations

## ■ To the International Community:

Urgently initiate negotiations aimed at finding a lasting solution to the conflict in Yemen and exert pressure on the conflict parties to immediately stop violations against civilians, especially those affecting children and women in Taiz Governorate.

Support initiatives that encourage victims to seek justice through the courts and ensure that perpetrators do not escape accountability. This includes monitoring and verification projects adopted by local organizations and human rights defenders to advocate for an end to violations as well as psychological support programs for victims.

## ■ To the Houthi Group:

- Hold accountable those responsible for violations of the right to life affecting children and women in Yemen in general, and in Taiz in particular, whether through sniper fire, landmines, indiscriminate bombing, or drone strikes, and bring them to urgent prosecution before an independent and impartial judiciary.
- End the recruitment of children, including those serving in non-military roles.
- Properly investigate and punish those who allow children to join their units or those responsible for the war crime of recruiting or using children under the age of 15 in military or security operations.
- Fulfill obligations under international law in line with the action plans signed with the United Nations and take all necessary measures to protect children, including rehabilitation measures, and to cease violations against them.
- Urgently provide maps of landmine planting in Yemen, particularly in Taiz, to facilitate their removal and reduce the risks to women and children in grazing areas, roads, or any other areas frequented by civilians.

- Immediately abandon the policy of coercing and enticing Yemeni children or women into recruitment or espionage, whether through arrest and torture, sexual exploitation, or by taking advantage of economic conditions to do so.

### ■ To the Institutions of the Yemen's Recognized Government:

- Release detained women and children who have not been charged with any offenses and have not been brought to prosecution and hold accountable those responsible for their unjust detention.
- Urgently deliver those involved in serious violations, particularly those affiliated with military or security institutions, to the judicial authorities and hold accountable those who cover up for the perpetrators.
- Ensure effective and independent investigations into human rights violations and breaches of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Enable investigative bodies, including the National Commission, to operate independently and effectively within the country, protect prosecutors and witnesses, and pursue accountability for those responsible in accordance with international standards for fair investigation and prosecution.

# Annex

## ■ Relevant National Laws:

- The Yemeni Constitution of 1994 (Articles 47, 4, 48, 149).
- Crimes and Penalties Law No. 12 for 1994 , which is punishing acts committed against children and women, including detention and physical assault(Articles 244, 246, 254, 253, 168, 159, 151, 131, 165, 168, 181, 190, 9, 236, 21, 22, 23, 247, 249).
- Criminal Procedures Law No. 13 of 1994 ,which is regulating proceedings and protects individuals from abuses by authorities (Articles 98, 99, 100, 101, 234, 237, paragraphs 1-3-4-5-6-11-7-13-14-15-16).
- Child Rights Law No. 45 of 2002, which was enacted following Yemen’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring state protection of children from various forms of exploitation.
- Child Rights Law No. 45 of 2002 , which is requiring the state to respect applicable international laws concerning children during armed conflict and to protect them from all forms of exploitation and detention.
- Military Crimes and Penalties Law No. 21 of 1998 criminalizes acts by government forces that harm individuals during wartime.
- Prison Organization Law No. 48 of 1991, Article (8).
- Juvenile Law No. 42 of 1992, Articles (2, 12, 11).



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