



For Yemeni Women: We Demand Justice and Accountability for Sexual Violence Crimes

Sexual Violence in Yemen: A Systematic Crime Used as a Weapon of War

June 19, 2025

Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition – On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition [reaffirms](#) its commitment to exposing the truth about sexual violence in the context of the Yemeni conflict—a crime that has become systematic and is used as a weapon of war against civilians, especially women and girls.

[Statistics](#) indicate that over 6.3 million women and girls in Yemen are at risk of gender-based violence amid the collapse of legal and service infrastructures. This harsh reality has driven many to adopt desperate coping mechanisms, such as child marriage, which affects over 30% of girls in Yemen. Women and girls from [minority](#) and marginalized communities face targeted attacks, including torture, violence, and exploitation, reflecting deep-rooted societal discrimination.

The United Nations has [documented](#) the ongoing occurrence of sexual violence against women and girls in the conflict, [including](#) sexual assaults and so-called "virginity tests" carried out by armed groups as [tools](#) of repression against dissenters and activists. Reports [confirm](#) that sexual violence is no longer incidental, but rather a deliberate strategy used to terrorize and dismantle communities, with increasing cases of rape, forced marriage, and sexual enslavement, particularly in remote areas.

Survivors [suffer](#) from a severe lack of medical and psychological support, as [fewer](#) than 5% of health facilities provide specialized services for sexual violence cases. The collapse of the justice system and the weakness of laws—which do not even recognize marital rape—further compound the suffering of women and contribute to a culture of impunity.

UN reports [highlight](#) the rise of sexual violence against women and children in the conflict, with both local and international actors [exploiting](#) the [fragility](#) of Yemen's legal and social systems to use sexual violence as a weapon of terror in the absence of [effective](#) victim protection mechanisms.

[Technology](#) has also exacerbated the phenomenon, with cyber-harassment and blackmail becoming prevalent forms of violence amid weak governmental response and the absence of effective protection mechanisms on digital platforms.

It is not only women who are [affected—children](#) are also subjected to [sexual violence](#) in detention centers and training camps, with numerous cases reportedly committed by various parties to the conflict. [Marginalized](#) women are especially vulnerable to repeated targeting due to the nature of their work and the social stigma that increases their exposure to abuse. The Justice Charter for Yemen Coalition asserts that sexual violence in Yemen constitutes a systematic war crime aimed at destroying individuals and communities. It calls for full justice and accountability for all perpetrators and insists that the issue of sexual violence must be a core priority within transitional justice frameworks in any future political settlement.



The Coalition also urges the international community and the United Nations to establish an independent investigative mechanism to hold perpetrators accountable, provide comprehensive support for survivors, and develop redress mechanisms that restore trust and break the cycle of silence and impunity.

Our fight against sexual violence is a fight for dignity and safety. We will not relent until every perpetrator is prosecuted and every survivor's rights are restored.

Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition Members:

- SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
- Abductees' Mothers Association (AMA)
- Al Amal Women, Social, and Cultural Foundation (AWSF)
- Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children (CSWC)
- Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
- Mareb Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF)
- Musaala Organization
- Studies&Economic Media Center (SEMC)
- Watch for Human Rights
- Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)