



## Statement on Grave Violations Against Children in Yemen

### Introduction:

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Yemen in 2014, grave violations against children have been committed arbitrarily and without accountability. These violations amount to war crimes under international humanitarian law, making children the most severely affected victims. This dire reality calls for an urgent appeal to halt these violations, to press for accountability of perpetrators, and to safeguard the future of children.

The scale of violations committed against children in Yemen demonstrates that none of the warring parties have upheld their international obligations to protect children under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This tragic reality starkly reflects the devastating impact of armed conflict on the most vulnerable, reveals the collapse of child protection systems in Yemen, and threatens to perpetuate the cycle of violence.

The **Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)**, a member of the **Justice4Yemen Pact (J4YP)**, has for the past three years specialized in documenting the six grave violations against children under the *Supporting Awareness and Facilitating Enforcement of Children's Rights in the Yemeni Conflict (SAFE II)* project, in partnership with the DT Institute.

Our work focuses on three main tracks:

- **Monitoring and documentation:** Recording violations through field teams, research staff, and open-source investigations.
- **Awareness and psychosocial support:** Targeting displaced children, their families, victims, and survivors.
- **National and international advocacy:** Engaging with government bodies, UN agencies, and civil society to strengthen child protection.

### Scale and Severity of Violations:

- UNICEF reports indicate that 9.8 million children are in urgent need of assistance, and over 2.7 million children suffer from acute malnutrition.
- More than 3,900 children have been killed, while 7,600 have been injured or maimed since the beginning of the war—bringing the total number of child victims to 11,500.



- Between 2023 and August 2025, YCMHRV documented **845 grave violations** against children:
  - 636 cases of recruitment
  - 47 arbitrary arrests
  - 64 injuries
  - 33 killings
  - 13 cases of sexual violence
  - 48 attacks on schools
  - 5 cases of denial of humanitarian aid
- The Houthi group is responsible for 763 cases, while the government and affiliated forces account for 61 cases, with 16 additional cases linked to insecurity or shared responsibility.

In addition, media disinformation is being used to distort facts and evade accountability, worsening violations and obstructing victims' access to justice. Our teams have documented the use of sophisticated disinformation strategies by parties to the conflict to manipulate narratives and absolve themselves of responsibility, thereby impeding justice for victims. Examples of such disinformation can be found at [ycmhrv.org](https://ycmhrv.org).

### **Appeal to Relevant Parties:**

#### **To the Houthi group:**

- Immediately end all six grave violations against children.
- Cease child recruitment and the use of schools and summer centers for war propaganda.
- Stop attacks on schools and hospitals and ensure unhindered humanitarian access.
- Facilitate access for civil society and UN agencies to victims and affected areas.

#### **To the internationally recognized Government of Yemen:**

- Amend the Child Rights Law to criminalize child recruitment and align national legislation with international treaties.
- Establish a specialized human rights court and prosecution office, and activate the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.
- Create specialized police and judicial units for child protection.
- Facilitate access for civil society and UN agencies to victims and affected areas.
- Include child victims and integrate child justice in any future peace consultations.

#### **To Yemeni civil society organizations:**



- Strengthen community awareness campaigns on the dangers of recruitment and violations.
- Provide psychosocial support to child victims and their families.
- Independently document violations and amplify victims' voices in international forums.

#### **To the United Nations and the international community:**

- Establish a national independent monitoring mechanism integrated with international frameworks.
- Incorporate children's rights into transitional justice processes and reparations.
- Condition humanitarian and development aid on concrete commitments to halt violations and ensure protection.

#### **Conclusion:**

The continuation of war in Yemen remains the most destructive factor for children, causing mass displacement, collapse of education and health systems, and deepening family vulnerabilities.

Children in Yemen can only be protected and guaranteed a safe future if the war is ended immediately, perpetrators are held accountable, and a secure environment is established where children can live in dignity and continue their education.

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