



# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

## ICSFT DEPLORES SAUDI-UAE-LED COALITION'S PLANNED OFFENSIVE IN HODEIDAH



The Saudi-UAE-led and USA and UK backed military coalition has killed and wounded thousands of civilians in airstrikes, tortured detainees, raped civilians and used child soldiers as young as 8 which amounts to a war crime and crime against humanity.

Several UN bodies and experts, International rights groups, and governments have condemned this aggression and called for an end of war in Yemen to no avail. The horrific man-made humanitarian and human rights crisis in Yemen continues as Saudi Arabia and UAE with the support of their western allied continues to bombard the country with complete impunity- a recent report from the Group of Eminent Experts appointed by the UN has confirmed that the

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coalition is committing war crimes in Yemen which the coalition members vehemently deny despite overwhelming factual evidence to the contrary.

Taking full advantage of the lack of international accountability mechanism and impunity, the Saudi-UAE-led military coalition has sent more than 10,000 additional troops towards the port city of Hodeidah- the entry point for the vast majority of aid going into Yemen and a lifeline for the starving, aid agencies warned the offensive could make Yemen's humanitarian catastrophe much worse- as part of its ongoing offensive attack against civilians. This new offensive the mission is expected to commence in the coming days and forces from Sudan have moved in to the port city ahead of the planned attack.

As per the usual, Civilians in particular, Yemeni women and children, have borne the brunt of this senseless war, which has sparked the world's worst humanitarian crisis and a cholera epidemic. Thousands of civilians have been killed, thousands more horribly injured. Collapsed infrastructure, coupled with blockade, have deprived most of the population of clean water and proper healthcare, unleashing the worst cholera outbreak in modern history.

Ironically, this round of attack is going to be launched just days after the UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock announced "...half of the Yemeni population completely relying on humanitarian aid for survival, Yemen is facing an imminent widespread Famine. There is a clear and present danger of an imminent and great big famine engulfing Yemen...the famine would be much bigger than anything any professional in this field has seen during their working lives." According to his briefing, 14 million - about half of Yemen's population, are expected to experience pre-famine conditions.

In his address Lowcock attributes the current worsening of humanitarian crisis in particular, food crisis, to the ongoing attack on the key port city of Hodeidah.



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It is clear as day that the coalition is disregarding the international outcry specifically, warning reports of the UN, as a result of emboldening support, huge amounts of advanced military equipment and technical intelligence, facilitating a military campaign characterized by repeated violations of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes from USA, UK, and France.

This war has revealed in the starkest possible terms the real cost of the lucrative global arms trade, not to mention the challenge of implementing the UN arms trade treaty and humanitarian standards. USA, UK, and France and other western allies profess their support for human rights and adherence to the treaty while similarly lavishing hi-tech weaponry on the Saudi coalition. These countries face a legal and moral quandary for pouring weapons into the bloody war while claiming to have a high moral ground for human rights.

In light of the upcoming planned offensive by the Saudi-UAE-led coalition, the moral and legal bankruptcy of western support for the Saudi-led coalition has never been clearer.

If the international community doesn't stand up and does even the bare minimum for the people of Yemen by pressuring the coalition to stop the war and give safe access for aid and ultimately bring the authors of these violations to justice, the war criminals will continue to act with impunity. As of now, the coalition doesn't seem to fear being held to account for violating the laws of war thanks to the safe haven of culture of impunity. ICSFT urges concerned governments' and UN bodies to seek accountability for past and ongoing violations and immediately suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

The Western governments' should immediately shift their concern from keeping the Saudis and their allies happy to protecting the lives of civilians in Yemen. The time is now.