



# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

## **THE FORGOTTEN WAR: STOP SAUDI WAR IN YEMEN**

Following the plea and warning from aid agencies that conditions in the impoverished country were deteriorating fast, the United Nations special envoy for Yemen has urged the Saudi led coalition to withdraw troops from the port city of Hodeidah, a lifeline for millions of starving Yemenis.

*"It is what I like to call a prison without walls for the people living in the country at the moment. It is a difficult situation where people are struggling to buy their daily rations to be able to feed their children," said Yemen's Oxfam campaign manager Awssan Kamal.*

Meanwhile A Saudi-led coalition has been launching several air strikes on Sanaa as the United Nations struggles to implement a peace deal reached last month. It is being reported that the Western-backed coalition had conducted 24 air strikes on Sanaa since January 19 evening, including four on the air base. As per usual non-military targets such as a plastics factory were hit during this air raid.

As well today a Saudi-led coalition combat jet's waged airstrike which injured a civilian and destroyed a car in Hajjah province, a security official said. To no one's surprise, Video footage showing moment when the US-backed Saudi-led coalition militiamen targeted demining experts' team has surfaced. The attack led to killing one of the team members in the presence of the UN monitors in the Kilo 13 area east part of Hodeidah city as seen on the video.

The coalition has conducted airstrikes that have indiscriminately killed and wounded thousands of civilians, and implemented a host of economic measures, such as periodic blockades and import restrictions that have caused severe food insecurity and disease. One example of such indiscriminate airstrikes is the Saudi-

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led coalition airstrike in August that hit a school bus, killing 43 and wounding 63, most of whom were children.

Since March 2015, the death toll from airstrikes and combat is estimated to reach 50,000 civilians, and more than 10,000 wounded.



With logistical support from the United States, the coalition has carried out more than 18,000 raids.

The United Arab Emirates, which is also a major player in the coalition, has also been arbitrarily detaining, disappearing and torturing people, even children, thought to be political opponents or security threats. Former detainees testified that they were beaten, forced into shipping containers covered in feces for weeks, sexually assaulted, and tied to a spit in which they were spun around in a circle.

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Rights groups have condemned the coalition for its indiscriminate air strikes that have killed thousands of civilians at hospitals, schools and markets since 2015.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) announced Approximately 84,701 children have died from severe acute malnutrition between April 2015 and October 2018 and malnutrition was taking a huge toll.



“Around 358,000 Yemeni children suffer from severe acute malnutrition,” UNICEF said on Twitter, stressing that the victims required “immediate treatment.”

The UN organization called for “halting attacks” against children in the war-torn country.

According to the UN, two-thirds of the population, close to 19 million, of the war-torn country do not have access to safe drinking water highlighted by the nation's cholera outbreak.

There have been 1,115,378 suspected cases of cholera between April 2017 and July 2018, with 10,000 new cases reported every week since June.

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17.8 million people are food insecure, and approximately 8.4 million civilians are on the brink of famine - there has never been a more urgent time to act.

As a result of the Saudi led war UN's official data has shown that three-quarters of Yemen's population are in need of humanitarian aid, putting the country at risk of famine. It is worth noting that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen is manmade and a direct consequence of the Saudi-led coalition's severe restrictions on access to food, fuel, medical imports and humanitarian aid.

There is no military solution to the end the Saudi-led coalition war in Yemen. Only an inclusive peace process can solve the humanitarian crisis. The blatant disregard by Saudi Arabia for the international rules-based system must be stopped now. As such the international community, particularly the US, the UK and France, need to reassess their partnerships with Saudi-led coalition members. In particular, in light of the ongoing unlawful attacks against civilians by Saudi-led coalition, widely documented by the UN Group of Eminent

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Experts, ICSFT demands that all governments should suspend the supply of all arms at risk of being used in Yemen.

ICSFT urges the Saudi-led coalition to immediately stop any form of hostility. We also call on governments to secure an immediate cessation of hostilities, suspend the supply of arms at risk of being used in Yemen, guarantee unimpeded access and movement for vital imports. Most importantly we urge governments' and other stakeholders including the UN to vehemently condemn any attacks on civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law by the Saudi-led coalition and support international investigations into these violations, including the work of UN Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen.