

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

**OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION** 

# ICSFT DEPLORES SAUDI-LED RAIDS THAT KILLED 11 YEMENI CIVILIANS, INCLUDING STUDENTS



On Sunday Saudi-Led coalition air-raids in a residential area in Sanaa, have killed at least 11 civilians, including children and students. This illegal attack on Sunday left more than 39 people wounded.

Fatehiya Kahlani, principal of Al Raei School said "Everyone was hysterical, some were crying and shouting in panic, the situation was horrible as the school population is 2,100." He further added "Some girl students were killed and others were wounded and are in a hospital as a result of the missile strike. The school building was destroyed too."

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Ali Ahmed, a wounded student, recalled the horrifying event stating "We suddenly heard a fighter jet while we were at school. We then heard the first strike. We remained calm. Then came the second strike and then the third, which was the strongest of them all, the building was damaged and we were injured by broken glass. As the fourth air strike came in, we panicked and ran home".

Under the laws of war applicable to the war in Yemen, civilians and civilian objects may never be deliberate targets of attack. Attacks that fail to discriminate between civilians and combatants or that cause civilian harm disproportionate to the expected military gain of an attack are prohibited.

That is consistent with the coalition's frequent attacks on civilian targets, which have consistently made up one third of their airstrikes over the last four years of war on Yemen. In August 2018 the coalition air attack killed +40 students enroot to school. Attacks on schools have unfortunately been all too common. 2,500 schools in Yemen have been damaged or destroyed over the last four years. Millions of Yemeni children are coping with malnutrition and the threat of disease, and even worse at their schools they are not safe from being killed by coalition airstrikes. In addition to being killed and wounded by the coalition's indiscriminate air strikes, Yemeni children are traumatized by the ongoing war compromising the mental wellbeing of an entire generation.

Indiscriminate air bombardments by the coalition have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties, killing and wounding thousands of Yemeni civilians, and left millions suffering from food and medical shortages, and pushed the country to the brink of famine.

Humanitarian aid agencies have declared that Yemen is just a step away from famine with 80 percent of Yemen's population - 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including nearly 240,000 "facing catastrophic levels of hunger".



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Meanwhile Saudi –led coalitions western allies, including USA and UK, continue to back the coalition as they bomb hospitals and kill students at school.

The ongoing lack of respect for civilian life and civilian property is reprehensible. As well the disregard of international humanitarian law in Yemen cannot be tolerated. Nothing can justify this loss of life.

Saudi Arabia and allies must be held to account for human rights violations in Yemen

ICSFT urges USA and other coalition allies to stop their support and press the coalition to abide by its international legal obligations, and should also investigate alleged violations in any attack where they played a direct role.

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