



Security Council

Distr.: General
12 October 2021

Original: English

Letter dated 12 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to draw your urgent attention to the continued inhumane siege and shelling against Abdiyah district, south of Ma'rib. In this regard, I wish to make the following points:

The Houthi militias are continuing their crimes against civilians, most evidently in their strict siege on Abdiyah district, south of Ma'rib, since 21 September 2021. Abdiyah district has no military brigades or camps, nor does it have any military targets. The continuation of the Houthi siege is exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation.

The Houthi militias have been depriving 5,300 families (a total of 35,000 civilians) in Abdiyah of access to food, water, medicine, and baby milk for almost three weeks so far, resulting in the deaths of at least three civilians so far from preventable causes. The lack of food and water storage has forced civilians to drink polluted open water. This may result in a health catastrophe in a country that has not fully recovered from a cholera outbreak.

Among those under the Houthi siege in Abdiyah district, there are at least 9,827 children suffering from malnutrition, of whom 2,465 are suffering acute malnutrition, while 3,451 women are in need of health and maternal care. This siege is also depriving 34 patients of access to urgent health care, 23 of whom are suffering from renal failure and 11 from cancer.

The Houthi militias are denying medical teams access to the villages of the district, causing a medical and health disaster among civilians, while also obstructing the arrival of food, aid, and international and local organizations. This Houthi use of starvation as a method of war amounts to a war crime.

The Houthi militias are also continuing their attacks against Abdiyah. So far, the district has been attacked 2,523 times by artillery, ballistic missiles and explosive-laden drones, which has resulted in at least 135 casualties, including 31 women and 17 children. At the same time, the militias continue to lay land mines in and around the district, including 4,289 prohibited anti-personnel mines, by which a total of 262 civilians (at least 32 women and 26 children) have been killed, maimed or injured.

The Houthi militias have also abducted and arbitrarily arrested 3,278 civilians from Abdiyah, in flagrant violation of freedom of movement.

Eighteen schools have been forced to close in Abdiyah due to the Houthi militias' siege and constant targeting by missiles. One school remains occupied by



the Houthi militias and is used for military purposes. The siege and the targeting of civilian objects have deprived 8,392 students of their right to education.

The Government of Yemen appeals to the Security Council to strongly condemn the Houthi militias' crimes and the inhuman siege of Abdiyah, and requests the Council to take effective measures to immediately lift the siege on Abdiyah and save thousands of civilian lives, most of whom are women, children and the sick; and to allow the flow of food and medical supplies, to stop the systematic killing of civilians with ballistic missiles, drones, and other types of weapons, and to hold the perpetrators to account.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter made available to the members of the Council for their valuable consideration, and also issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Abdullah Ali Fadhel **Al-Saadi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
