



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 November 2023

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-third session

19 June–14 July 2023

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Human Rights Situation in Yemen

Yemen suffers from more than eight years of devastating war waged by the forces of the Saudi-Emirati coalition. Temporarily stopped due to a fragile and incomplete truce, and according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the war in Yemen is the cause of the worst humanitarian catastrophe in contemporary history and the death of about a quarter of a million people. As a result, millions of Yemenis are exposed to this humanitarian catastrophe, with more than half of the population suffering from food insecurity in an unprecedented manner. Noting that Yemen depends mainly on the import of almost all foodstuffs and basic commodities, the ability to secure food and medical needs has declined due to the conditions of the unjust blockade imposed by the coalition countries. On the other hand, the collapse of the local currency contributed to a catastrophic rise in inflation rates, in addition to a sharp rise in the prices of food and other commodities, and a decrease in the purchasing power of families. As a result, in addition to the great dangers that millions of Yemenis live in during the war, they are unable to meet their basic needs.

The Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen and other human rights groups have documented that the coalition of aggression continues to commit serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including violations that may amount to war crimes. Despite this, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the countries that support them continued to exert intense pressure on the Human Rights Council to conceal the extent of the violations they are committing in Yemen regarding the human rights file. Indeed, in October 2021 the Human Rights Council announced the termination of the mandate of the UN Group of Eminent Experts. Thus, the work of the only independent international body investigating the violations committed during the war on Yemen ceased.

As a result of the ongoing aggression against Yemen, Yemeni children continue to be subjected to grave violations of their rights, as 16.2 million people suffer from food insecurity and 1.2 million employees are deprived of their salaries, in addition to the high poverty rate to 95% and the unemployment rate to more than 65%, not to mention the interruption of some. More than two million children are out of school, according to UNICEF figures.

In addition to the destruction of a large number of civilian facilities, infrastructure, hospitals, schools, gas stations, several public service facilities, and several homes.

The unjust blockade imposed on Yemen by the coalition forces, with the continuation of the truce, is one of the most important aspects of the suffering of the people of Yemen. The Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emirates-led coalition has forced Sana'a International Airport to remain closed since August 2016, severely restricting the flow of food, fuel, and medicine to civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law. Also, in March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced a peace initiative that included the possibility of reopening the airport, but it remained closed until October 2021.

Despite the announcement of the armistice in Yemen on April 2, 2022, the coalition forces continued to impose the blockade and impede the work and activity of the Yemeni Ports Corporation and the ports it supervises in Hodeidah, Saleef, Mokha, and Ras Issa and prevented the entry of more than 600 items and commodities, and did not Spare parts for equipment, machinery, and bridges are allowed to enter, in clear violation of all international treaties, agreements and covenants that stipulate the delivery of materials to the population during periods of war.

The truce that was announced after great efforts by the United Nations did not provide the Yemeni people with an opportunity to get rid of the unjust blockade imposed by the coalition forces. The siege continued, and the suffering continued, which will not end except with a clear and firm position on the part of the international community that compels the Saudi-Emirati coalition forces to stop their aggression against Yemen and to retreat from the violations they are committing against the Yemeni people, which amount to war crimes.

The International Council for the Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights condemns the violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates coalition forces in their war on Yemen and calls for reactivating the role of the Committee of Independent Experts by the Security Council resolution, and calls for a comprehensive ban on arms exports to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It also calls on the International Council to prosecute the perpetrators of grave crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the aggression coalition over the past 8 years and to demand the aggressor countries stop their aggression and compensate the Yemeni people by contributing to the reconstruction and ensuring that humanitarian, food and medicine needs reach Yemen without any restrictions or conditions, And immediate action to open the port of Hodeidah and Sana'a International Airport.
