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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Agence pour les droits de l'homme, 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.

[04 September 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The quarterly statement about the deteriorating human rights situation in Yemen

Aerial bombardments continue by the Saudi coalition's warplanes and so is the funding of internal armed conflicts causing them to expand. This resulted in more casualties and the spread of terrorist groups. Our role is to document the crimes and the protection of human rights by guaranteeing accountability and lack of impunity.

Middle East Development and Human Rights Foundation follow up and monitor war events and the constant aerial bombardment on residential regions and citizens in Yemen. Air strikes are waged by the international coalition led by Saudi Arabia for 16 months. Meanwhile, thousands of innocents were killed and wounded, including women and children because of what is considered by the international organizations and the UN "serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law". They count as war crimes and should be punished for by law.

We also pursue the news of armed internal battles and confrontations witnessed by (Taiz- Marib) governorates and the expansion of terrorist organizations in southern governorates. Hundreds of killed and wounded citizens come as a result of terrorist organizations, which have carried out more than (200) operation during months. It is no longer a secret to the UN that internalized factions under the name of "resistance", whether they are in Taiz, Marib or other southern governorates, they are factions of partisan, political and religious armed groups. Forces of the "resistance" in the south claim to be very local and reflects social conditions and specific prominent policies in various areas. The power of the resistance partly depend on training and technical support provided by the coalition's advisers and receiving direct and indirect funding from external actors.

As a result, Experts Committee of the UN gave in this definition of the resistance's components (Taiz - Marib - Southern Governorates) in his report referred to the margin ¹

We keep track of Taiz updates and the spread of armed clashes to villages in (Jabl Sabr) region, it is a region belonging to Sabr Al-Mwadim district. These villages have been completely besieged by armed groups in the ranks of the so-called "resistance" which has used heavy artillery weapons, machine guns and mortars to shell the village of Sarari for over a week. People lost their lives and others have been wounded, according to pursuits documented by the monitoring team of the institution.

Having come from the reality of our responsibility to protect human rights, we condemn all armed actions and denounce crimes that lead to murder, destruction, deterioration of human rights and development in our country.

We stress on all sides to abide by the principles and ethics of war, in the context of confrontations between parties. We also affirm that Saudi Arabia and the international coalition hold full responsibility regarding the crimes committed in Yemen, whether they are crimes caused by fighter jets or internal clashes fought by terrorist groups and in the factions of the so-called resistance.

The UN experts team emphasized that it is working directly and indirectly from abroad through Saudi Arabia and its allies. Furthermore, we confirm and stress the point that the outgoing president Hadi and his government take responsibility for violating human rights and committing war crimes, causing the death and injury of citizens. Protecting human rights is considered to be a primary duty for Hadi and his government as they put themselves in a position of responsibility while not only do they lack capability, they support the perpetration of crimes against a population.

For all of the reasons mentioned, work is required to protect human rights and put an end to the daily series of killing innocents and start looking at the sufferance of women, children and the vulnerable groups. They must assess the conditions of the food and medicine deprived because of the imposed illegal siege for a year and four months.

¹ Pages 27-33 of the Expert Group Report of the (2014) Security Council resolution 2140

We say that the perpetrators of these atrocities and violations hold full responsibility of murder, emphasizing that we have on our side all the liberals of the world and will work to ensure the support the accountability and the lack of impunity. Each participant of the crimes must face punishment, whether he supported, funded or tolerated them serving political interests and strengthening his positions and political demands which should be resolved and discussed by political actions and dialogue instead; not expanding conflicts in villages and other areas. Such ways result in the rise of murder and the control by terrorism and terrorist groups.

We and through our closely pursuing of events, people living in regions witnessing armed clashes struggle through humanitarian disasters and face killing systematically which count as war crimes and genocide. In addition, the demolishing of the infrastructure leads to the extension of terrorism and the lack of security and development. What they do to threat residents and subject them to daily suffering is reflected in looting, stealing, confiscating their property, applying the so-called "religious penalties" on them, attacking civilian young activists by death threats or assassinations and fulfilment of the threats against opponents of such groups.

In the end, we call on the UN by appealing the secretary-general, Mr. / Ban Ki-moon to put an end to crime violations and daily killings in Yemen through a clear statement of the responsibilities of those behind war crimes and funded them, and that criminals must not escape punishment.

We call on the representative of the secretary-general, Mr. / Ismail Wald Al-Sheikh to condemn the spread of armed groups beleaguering the village of Sarari in Taiz and work to stop this dangerous development in the armed conflict in Taiz. We have warned that these events must not progress to to a social fight where revenges take place and no intervention can stop it unless it halts now and these groups withdraw.

We also call on political and party forces led by the leadership of the Yemeni Al-Islah gathering party, to put in the effort and stop this tragedy, especially the killing of the people of Al-Sarari village. Those imposing a blockade on the village belong to Al-Islah party and the other force involved is named "the military council in Taiz". When we pursued efforts, we applaud the efforts and good intentions by the social and tribal parties and dignitaries in Taiz governorate. They are taking roles for mediation between the parties to end the siege and make conciliation attempting to prevent the progress of this sedition. This role is quite influential for activists, civil society organizations and media in covering the latest news and publishing them in order to achieve the defense and protection of human rights.

Finally, we call on all parties involved in the internal conflict to appeal for reason and logic, and put the national interest and the principles of humanity, display reverence towards the sanctity of blood and stop serving political interests by violence and murder but rather go back to political solutions because homeland is a human and when a human is slaughtered, no homeland will exist for you to fight over.

Middle East Foundation and Human Rights NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.