



General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 February 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

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 the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, 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.

[11 February 2019]

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



Written statement of the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies -Human Rights Council 40th session

The Amman Center for Human Rights Studies would like to emphasize the current disastrous situation occurring in Yemen.

People in Yemen are enduring a tragic humanitarian situation, amid the increase in civilian casualty numbers, the destruction of the country's infrastructure, and the annihilation of its economy, social fabric and territorial integrity. 22.2 million people (79% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance and among them, according to Oxfam, 14 million Yemenis are at risk of famine and 85,000 children have died of starvation. UNICEF adds that every ten minutes, a Yemeni child dies as a result of the war. It is likely to worsen, as 274 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed and in addition, less than 50% of the healthcare facilities in Yemen are completely functioning, causing a limited access to sanitation (WHO, 2017). The critical blockade currently occurring in the main ports of the country and at the airport of Sana'a is aggravating the humanitarian crisis. According to OCHA, 29 ships carrying essential supplies were hindered by the coalition from reaching the port of Hodeidah last November. These shocking events are happening now, amidst a black-out by international media. In Yemen, the civil, political, economic, social cultural, environmental and developmental rights are trampled upon. It is of importance to stop this growing humanitarian catastrophe in the country. This situation is in total opposition with the declaration of human rights, international humanitarian law and several resolutions adopted by the member states of the Human Rights Council.

Health, food security, education, displacement, infrastructure, detention, torture and forced disappearance are all elements of one of the biggest humanitarian crises of our century. While a blockade is keeping out any help from outside and thereby worsening the crisis day after day, how can the international community stay away from this? Why is there such a lack of support? There is no obvious indication on how the war will proceed, but it remains vitally clear that without the help from the international community, the sufferings are unlikely to end.

In order to build a durable peace in Yemen that would include the cessation of all hostilities, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies demands:

1. The end of the marine blockade in the port of Hodeidah and the re-opening of Sana'a Airport to allow humanitarian aid into the country.
2. The creation of an informative media platform to monitor, document and expose all violations resulting from the war in Yemen as a way to enhance transparency and overcome misinformation.
3. The application of the Stockholm agreements adopted in December 2018 concerning the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa.
4. The adoption of the several reports issued by the different bodies of the OHCHR regarding the situation in Yemen.
5. To emphasize the right of Yemeni people to self-determination in all international negotiations.
6. The adoption of transitional justice mechanisms for the establishment of peace, the releasing of all war prisoners and the disclosure of the fate of those missing.
7. The end of arms sales to all warring parties, in order to strengthen the peace building efforts.
8. The establishment of an international commission for investigating the crimes caused by the war and aggression in Yemen.