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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, 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.

[03 June 2019]

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

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Houthis violations affecting the poverty rate in Yemen

Economic and social impact of Houthi abuses

Yemeni citizens live under severe violations of economic conditions, especially after the cessation of payment of salaries, and high prices of fuel and electricity, in addition to the high dollar exchange rate, the price of food has been more than doubled, Commercial flights, and the lack of full and regular operation of the port of Hodeidah, which had a wide negative impact on the humanitarian situation¹.

UNICEF estimated that damage to various aspects of the Yemeni economy (in October 2017) was about \$ 25 billion. According to a report released jointly by UNICEF and the Ministry of Planning in Yemen, cumulative losses in gross domestic product reached \$ 32.5 billion, The report states that the transfer, reconstruction and recovery requirements in Yemen will reach \$ 88 billion in 2022².

Since the Houthis took power in 2015, Yemen's GDP has shrunk by 50% and more than 600,000 jobs have been lost, with hundreds of thousands of employees and retirees not receiving regular payments since late 2016, and no more than 1.5 million Families receive support through public safety nets, and more than 80% of Yemenis are below the poverty line.³.

The report pointed out that the exports have been disrupted and the collapse of the state budget and rising inflation, deepening poverty and exacerbating malnutrition, and Yemen is facing one of the major humanitarian crises in the world, adding that the initial costs of reconstruction needs in the health sector amounted to \$ 2.66 billion, 27% of the 301 health facilities in four cities suffered damage and destruction. The report of the Ministry of Planning pointed out that the cost of damages in the energy sector amounted to 765 million dollars, pointing out that 44% of the power plants in the four cities are partially damaged, 6% , And 33% of the substations for electricity transmission Harm in part, and 50% of the substations for the distribution of electricity were partially and completely damaged⁴.

In the transport sector, roads, bridges, ports and airports were damaged, with a cost of \$ 770 million. Damage to the Salif and Hodeidah ports, which account for about 70% of Yemen's food imports, has been damaged. The World Bank in the Middle East and North Africa Economic Observatory warned that the war in Yemen led to an increase in inflation which caused erosion of household incomes, while reports show that 40% of households lost their main source of income, It also warned that the massive increase in extreme poverty is a serious threat to peace-building. Peace targeting requires diversifying economic activity, making jobs more productive, and designing other fiscal and political policies that support investment to create jobs and access to the large proportion of Yemenis who were unemployed and suffering of exclusion Conflict.⁵ Maat Association believes that the intrusion of Yemen's main ports into the conflict and the attempt by Houthi militias to control them further weaken the ability to import basic commodities, including food, fuel and medical supplies, throughout the country.

The Houthis looted the cash reserve to destroy the national economy, which was reflected on the living conditions of citizens and led to a general cessation in basic services such as water, electricity, health, education, roads and others, began looting and destruction of the Central Bank of Yemen, and government sources confirmed that the Houthi group robbed (5 billion

¹ United Nations News, UN: Food supplies that began to reach Yemen are insufficient to prevent a disaster, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/11/374571>

² UNICEF estimates Yemeni losses at \$ 25 billion due to war, Arab Yemen, October 16, 2017. <https://www.alyamanalaraby.com//231541>

³ UNICEF estimates Yemeni losses at \$ 25 billion due to war, Arab Yemen, October 16, 2017. <https://www.alyamanalaraby.com//231541>

⁴ Yemen needs \$ 88 billion for reconstruction, Middle Gate, 21 October 2017. <http://alwasat.ly/news/economy/147081>

⁵ UNICEF estimates Yemeni losses at \$ 25 billion due to war, op. Cit.

dollars), which caused an economic disaster, the most prominent manifestations of the rapid collapse of the local currency against foreign currency, and the consequent rise in the prices of various foodstuffs, and also Salary payments and the destruction of education in order to make the citizens forced to fight in their ranks, especially students⁶.

The prices of basic commodities increased during February 2019 in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Marib, Hodeidah and Hadramout with an average rise of 2% compared to January of the same year and a 132% increase compared to the pre-war period of January 2015. Al-Hodeidah recorded the highest increase in the prices of basic commodities in February by 8% compared to January 2019, followed by the capital Sana'a and the governorate of Marib with a rise of 2%. Taiz governorate and Mut and Aden recorded an increase of 1% in February.⁷

Siege and starvation Houthis weapons against Yemenis

In February 2019, the United Nations announced that Yemen was suffering from the worst humanitarian disaster in history and that more than 80,000 Yemeni children were dying from starvation and malnutrition.⁸ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Marc Lokoc stated that 24 million people in Yemen, 75% of the population, will need during the year 2019 to humanitarian aid, including 11.3 million in urgent need of assistance to survive,⁹ and even though it deliberately militias Houthis starve the population and the siege of areas to impose its conditions and to consider the population adversaries, and constitutes a blockade imposed by the militias on the city Taiz is the most prominent of all operations. Despite appeals issued by a number of human rights organizations and reports filed from UN envoy to Yemen, as well as humanitarian reports issued from the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, the International Red Cross and a number of international organizations and all warn of the consequences of this blockade on The population of the city of Taiz and at various levels, but the Houthi militias are still not impressed by all those appeals and warnings, where the militias prevented Houthi, Under Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Yemeni humanitarian and emergency relief coordinator in Yemen, "Stephen O'Brien" from traffic to the city of Taiz on 28 February 2017.

Violations committed by militias Houthis have caused acute malnutrition for Yemenis, and confirmed the World Health Organization, the suffering of children and new-borns in Yemen, heart disease, kidney failure, pneumonia and other life-threatening diseases, and United Nations agencies estimated that 17.8 million people in Yemen are suffering insecurity And 8.4 million people are at risk of starvation. The collapse of economic services and public services has led to more than 16 million Yemenis without access to safe water and sanitation and about 16.4 million without adequate health care. All these factors have led to a cholera epidemic leading to more than 2,500 deaths since April 2017. There are about 1.2 million cases of suspected cases, according to the World Health Organization.

According to the report of the Humanitarian Aid Commission for 2017, about 14 million people in Yemen are in need of food, half of them under the line of danger, and 14.4 million people need drinking water and infrastructure, the organization "save the children" humanitarian stated that about 85 thousand children died from hunger and disease in the period April 2015 to October 2018 in December 2018 the agency of the United Nations food accused the Houthis of stealing food "from the mouths of" the Yemeni people hungry, and aid stolen from the most vulnerable groups in the country, food prices rose 68% On average,

⁶ Welfare in the time of hunger. Houthi rich stories endless - October 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2FH2QG4>

⁷ Yemen Economic Indicators Report February 2019 - Center for Economic Studies and Information <https://bit.ly/2FJ4nLZ>

⁸ UN Secretary-General: Yemen suffers the worst humanitarian disaster in history, Wafd Gate, 26 February 2019. <http://bit.ly/302bveI>

⁹ Continued suffering of millions around the world in 2019, Yemen at the head of countries in need of assistance, United Nations News, 4 December 2018. <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/12/1022791>

commodity prices rose For gasoline, diesel and cooking gas by at least 25% during the year 2018¹⁰.

The deterioration of the situation in Yemen has led to the spread of begging in most of the cities of Yemen due to the absence of salaries and the absence of job opportunities. The deterioration of the local currency (riyal) led to a sharp rise in prices, which made many citizens unable to meet their basic needs due to weak capacity And the lack of financial liquidity. In 2018, there was a great deal of talk about the emergence of famine in many parts of Yemen, which resulted in the death of a large number of citizens.¹¹

Recommendations

- The international community should continue efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen and pressure the Houthi militias to lift the siege imposed on some Yemeni cities in order to bring humanitarian aid to these cities.
- Pressuring the Houthi militias to put an end to the human tragedy and to investigate all the facts of restricting, preventing or confiscating humanitarian aid and holding those responsible accountable to prevent recurrence.
- The need to end of all restrictions and measures imposed by the Houthis, which would impede access of humanitarian assistance to the various areas under their control. And stop the looting of food, and urge them to pay the salaries of employees
- Constant emphasis on accountability and to put an end to the policy of impunity for violations by Houthi militias.

¹⁰ General of Blood and Hunger, Sanaa Center for Strategic Studies, p. 4.
<http://sanaacenter.org/files/Yemen-at-the-UN-Special-Issue-2017-en.pdf>

¹¹ From the storm to the Hudaidah Agreement .. Four years of war in Yemen, France 24, 26 March 2019. <https://bit.ly/2UU3CVu>