



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda items 2 and 10

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

**Technical assistance and capacity-building**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), 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.

[20 August 2020]

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

GE.20-11585(E)



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## The Human Rights Situation in Yemen

In his briefing, before the Security Council during its 8745 meeting held on 12 March, 2020, Martin Griffiths, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yemen, said, “Yemen is at a critical juncture, it may lead to the outbreak of conflicts in other areas, creating a new cycle of violence that will lead to devastating humanitarian and political consequences.”

The two catastrophic factors at the present time are the war lords in both sides, the Houthis and the Islah party (the Muslim Brotherhood) and the decision maker in the Yemeni government. They are both the main elements who created chaos and spread terror that has led to the outbreak of civil conflicts and perpetrated war crimes that are taking place today, and who are the one who should take responsibility for fueling and perpetuating the conflict.

The Houthi movement refers to the Houthi family and adherents to the Zaydi branch of Islam, which venerates Ali as the legitimate heir to the prophet Mohammed, and based on that, the Houthi has spread and foster intolerance and hatred and claims that the Houthi has the right to lead the country. On the other hand, the Islah Party has paved the way for the domination of political Islam by using the existence of ignorance and illiteracy and used Al-Qaeda and ISIS as instruments launch attacks to establishing an Islamic caliphate, especially, their leaders are fully allied with al-Qaeda and ISIS ideologies.

Despite the conflict of interests and ideologies between the two parties to the conflict, the Houthis and the legitimate government led by the Islah party, they have turned the war towards the south, and are clandestinely cooperating to defeat the Southern Transitional Council to achieve and impose the domination of the north over the south.

Thus, the situation of fanaticism, extremism and terrorism carried out by both the Houthis and the legitimate government led by the Islah party have led to acts of violence and nonstop conflict will make and deepen the obstacles and continued challenges to conflict prevention post conflict and peace building in the country, and will threaten security and stability at local, regional, and international levels as well.

Although the agreement has been reached on a mechanism to speed up the implementation of the Riyadh agreement signed between the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the legitimate government for the ceasefire in Abyan, the militias of the Islah party have not complied with, as the ceasefire in Abyan continues to be breached to this day.

On August 16, 2020, the spokesman of the Southern Armed Forces revealed that Brotherhood militias had changed their front lines with al-Qaeda elements in Abyan, assigning operational functions to al-Qaeda. He said, Muslim Brotherhood militias have made changes to the Abyan front that resulted in the handover of all front-line positions to al-Qaeda and ISIS elements whose numbers have doubled, and that operational command tasks have been assigned to princes of the two terrorist organizations who came from their stronghold in Al-Bayda province.

Sources from Hadramaut also reported that during the second half of August 2020, the security and military intelligence services in the province monitored the arrival of ISIS operatives from Marb, Al-Bayda and Shabwa in large numbers consisting of Yemenis and foreigners since the end of last week to join the Islah party militias which are below to the government forces present in that area.

The Civil Network for Media, Development and Human Rights (CNMDHR) which based in Aden issued a report in which documented violations against human rights in the South and west coast regions for the period of March 26, 2015 to December 31, 2019 contains qualitative monitoring of cases of murder that are out of the law for children and women and targeting civilians in Dhalea, where acts of violence and heavy shelling are still committed by Houthi forces. Besides, these crimes are added to the violations committed by the militias of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islah party, and the Yemeni government forces in Shabwa and Abyan governorates since they seized control over the governorates in August 2019.

## **Monitoring and documentation of all types of violations of international humanitarian law**

This includes killing, attacking bodily integrity, arresting, forcible kidnapping, torturing of detainees in prisons, using them as human shields, landmine victims, and suppressing public rights and freedoms. A total of 68,236 violations was monitored and documented, of which 6,335 civilians were killed, including 386 children, 353 women, and 126 elderly people. Aden recorded the highest percentage with 2,993 cases, followed by Lahij with 1126 cases, then Al-Dhalea with 886 incidents, Shabwa with 381 cases, then the West Coast with 232 cases.

The investigations carried out by the network have proven that the Houthi forces are responsible for killing 5,801 civilians, including 372 children, 337 women, and 105 elderly people. While the terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS groups are responsible for killing 398 cases, 19 cases were attributed to members of the government forces, 26 cases to the militia of Islah Party.

The Houthi forces bear responsibility for the injury of (26105) cases among them (586) children and (281) women and (614) elderly. Also, (12) children, (3) women, (17) elderly people, (53) injuries by members of the government forces. (316) injuries were caused by bombings and killings of terrorist groups and organizations, and a number (41) cases caused by bombings and killings of terrorist groups and organizations, in which (41) cases caused by Islah Party militias.

Investigations conducted by the network investigating the file of mine casualties planted by the Houthi forces in the areas from which they withdrew after their defeat in the south, especially Aden, Lahj and Abyan, shows that 569 people were killed. 58 of them were children, 48 women, and 40 elderly. 458 injuries included 54 women and 81 children.

It has also monitored and documented many cases of detention, enforced disappearance, and torture, whether those committed by Houthi forces during their invasion to the south in March 2015 or those committed by the Islah militias and the government forces in the south. The total number of detainees and abductees that the monitoring team documented reached 2,659 people, including 77 children and 28 elderly people.

Monitoring Group investigations in the network confirm that Houthi forces are responsible for committing 2323 arrests and kidnappings, including 58 children, 219 Islah militias, and 84 cases of Yemeni government forces. The network also monitored 223 cases of torture among them, 15 children. Houthis are responsible for 128 cases of torture among them 7 children, and the responsibility of the government forces for 6 cases, including 3 children, while the militias of Ekhwan and Islah Party are responsible for 89 cases of torture, of which 5 are children, mostly in Shabwa.

Health and education sectors were not excluded from these attacks, 31 health facilities and centers that were bombed and destroyed during the period of the Houthi invasion of the south, especially Aden, Lahj and Al Dhalea. (22) of them were partially damaged, (9) their contents were looted, or were converted into military barracks. As for the educational sector, (74) schools and educational establishments were subjected to bombing and destruction. (36) schools and facilities were totally destroyed while (24) were partially damaged and (14) others were used as military barracks and armories.

The network also monitored the displacement of thousands of displaced families, while the Houthis invaded the southern governorates and the west coast, and increased shelling targeting civilians in the districts of Demt, Qataba, Hajr and other northern border areas of Al Dhalea, and (985) were displaced from the District of Mukairas. The network was able to monitor and record the number of (1985) cases of violations, including the killing of (629) women (617) children were killed, where 58 children were killed as a result of individual mines planted by Houthi forces.

The network has been able to monitor the use and abuse of children (7914). Among these children (90%) were recruited by the Houthi forces, (367) by Islah militia, and (158) children by the Yemeni government forces. The network also documented the kidnapping of (77) children, of whom (15) was subjected to torture. According to the investigations conducted by the network, the Houthi forces are responsible for the kidnapping of (58) children and the

torture of (5) children tortured. Most of them were in Shabwa and were used as hostages, to put pressure on their fathers to surrender. Also, Yemeni government forces are responsible for kidnapping and torturing (3) children.

The International Organization For Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) therefore, recommends the Human Rights Council to provide a framework to establish stop the ongoing war and to find a peaceful solution and to recommend the Security Council to identify the war lords and forward them to the International Criminal Court.

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