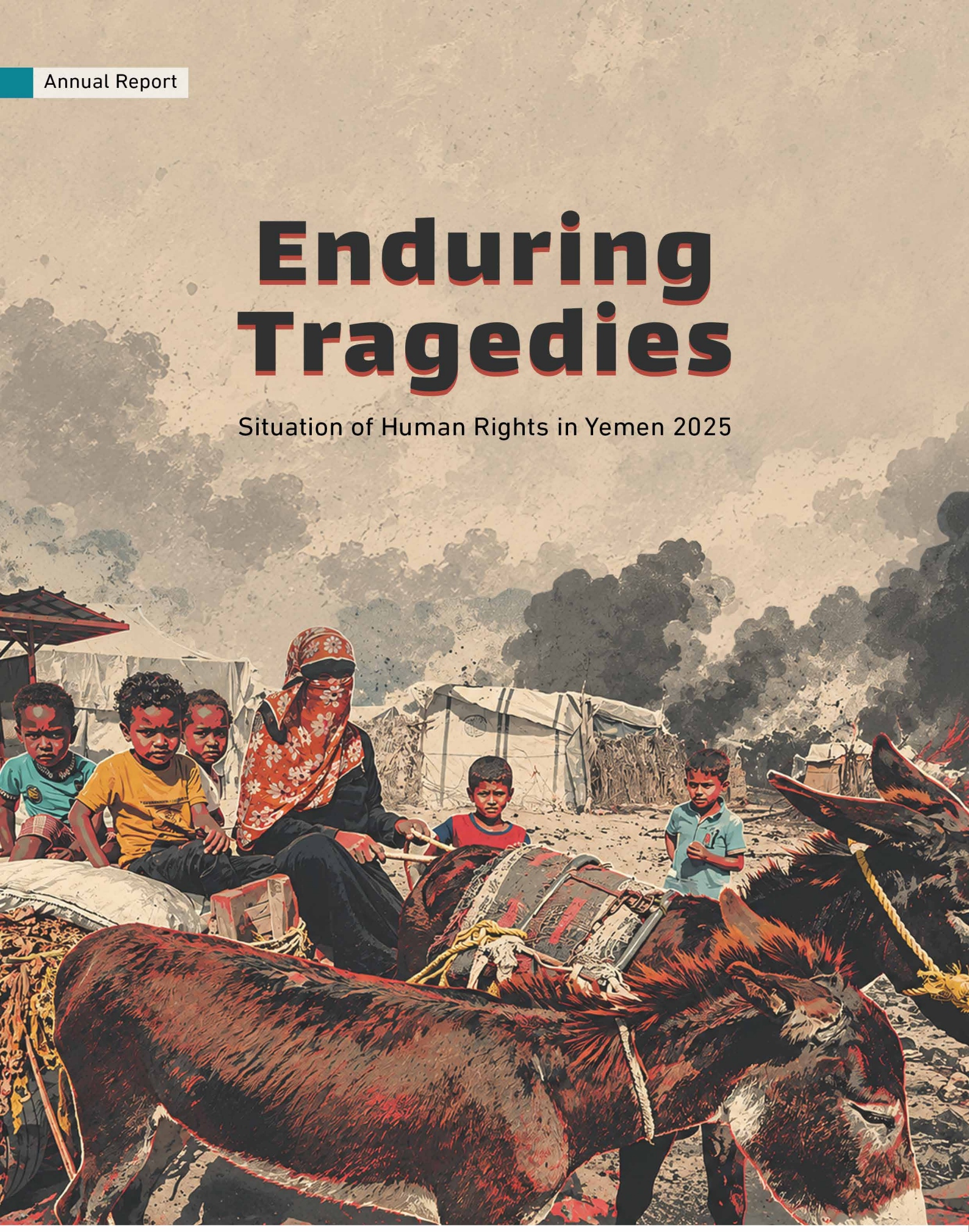
Annual Report

Enduring Tragedies

Situation of Human Rights in Yemen 2025



Mwatana for Human Rights

November 2025

Enduring Tragedies

Situation of Human Rights in Yemen 2025

Ninth Annual Report

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Executive Summary



Enduring Tragedies

As the armed conflict in Yemen enters its twelfth year, the parties to the conflict continue to commit grave and systematic violations against civilians, perpetuating one of the world's worst humanitarian crises amid the near-total collapse of state institutions and the blatant disregard by the various parties to the conflict for their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

This report, the ninth annual report issued by Mwatana for Human Rights, aims to shed light on the state of human rights in Yemen during 2025. It examines the most prominent patterns of violations committed by the various parties to the conflict, including the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, the internationally recognized Yemeni government, the Southern Transitional Council and its various formations, the Saudi/UAE-led coalition, and the Joint Forces. The report also documents violations involving other regional and international actors, most notably the United States and Israeli forces, which emerged as parties committing violations in the conflict during the year.

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 1431 incidents of violations committed by various parties to the conflict in Yemen. These violations resulted in the killing of at least 381 civilians, including at least 105 children and 37 women, and the injury of at least 752 civilians, including at least 214 children and 70 women. In addition, at least 1053 civilians, including at least 204 children and 80 women, fell victim to other types of violations, including the recruitment and use of children, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, forced displacement, and attacks on public freedoms and civic space.

According to the report's findings, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group ranks first among the parties responsible for violations, accounting for 668 incidents out of the total documented. It is followed by the internationally recognized Yemeni government, which is responsible for 353 incidents, while the Southern Transitional Council is responsible for 299 incidents. The Saudi/UAE-led coalition is responsible for 39 incidents, the United States for 40 incidents, Israeli forces for 12 incidents, and the Joint Forces for 10 incidents. Terrorist organizations are responsible for five incidents, while in five incidents out of the total documented, Mwatana's team was unable to determine the party responsible.

The findings of this report are based on investigative interviews conducted by Mwatana's field team, comprising female and male researchers and lawyers, across various governorates of the Republic of Yemen throughout 2025. During the year, Mwatana's field team conducted 2,158 interviews with primary sources concerning 1,431 incidents of violations in different governorates and areas. The report's findings are also based on field visits carried out by Mwatana's central and field teams throughout the year for verification and documentation purposes, in addition to hundreds of supporting documents and regular updates on developments in the situation in Yemen prepared by Mwatana's field team throughout the year.

The report consists of an introduction and methodology, followed by a general background on the armed conflict in Yemen, its origins and evolution, and the map of territorial control in Yemen during 2025. It also examines the humanitarian and human rights situation, as well as the legal framework governing the nature of the armed conflict in Yemen and the applicable legal rules. In addition, the report addresses the most prominent patterns of human rights violations against civilians during 2025, including air attacks of both types—airstrikes and drone attacks—ground shelling, live ammunition, landmines and explosive remnants, runovers by military vehicles, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, torture, extrajudicial killing, the recruitment and use of children, conflict-related sexual violence, attacks on vital civilian facilities protected under international humanitarian law, violations involving the restriction and denial of humanitarian access, and violations of civic space and public freedoms.

Violations Witnessed in Yemen During the Year 2025

1431

Violations

381 Killed

105 Children 37 Woman

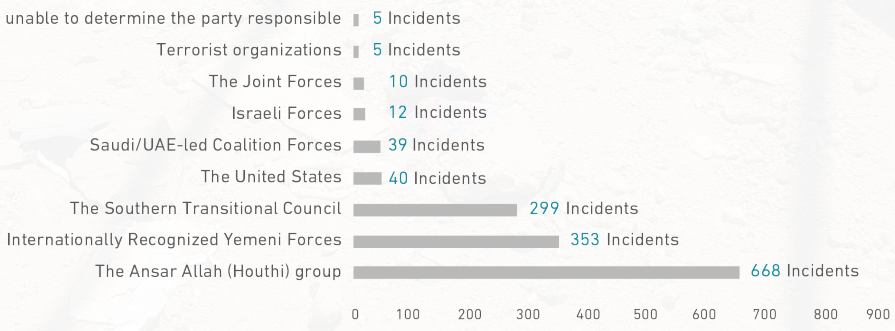
752 Injured

214 Children 70 Woman

1053 Civilians

204 Children 80 Woman

fell victims to other types of violations



Introduction



Enduring Tragedies

In its ninth annual report, Mwatana for Human Rights examines the state of human rights in Yemen during 2025, seeking to shed light on the patterns of violations affecting civilians and the most significant developments and events witnessed across the country during the year. The report reflects the scale of the continued suffering endured by civilians in the context of an armed conflict that has persisted since September 2014, amid the continued prevalence of impunity and the absence of effective investigation and accountability mechanisms. At the same time, the humanitarian situation of millions of people continues to deteriorate, with civilians facing growing challenges in accessing food, healthcare, and basic services, alongside the continued erosion of livelihoods.

During 2025, Yemen witnessed significant military developments that had a direct impact on civilians. These included U.S. airstrikes conducted as part of "Operation Rough Rider" between March 15 and May 6, 2025, which targeted multiple locations, including civilian and service-related facilities and objects, alongside military operations in the Red Sea and the attacks carried out by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. In addition, Israeli airstrikes were conducted against areas under the control of The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group between May and September 2025. These attacks targeted civilian facilities and objects, including ports, electricity generation plants, and Sana'a International Airport, as well as other civilian sites, causing damage to infrastructure and resulting in civilian casualties.

Against this backdrop, the human rights situation in Yemen in 2025 continued to be characterized by multiple violations against civilians by the various parties to the conflict across the governorates under their respective control. These violations included air and ground attacks, the use of live ammunition, the laying of landmines and explosive devices, runovers by military vehicles, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, killings in places of detention, restrictions on freedom of movement, the recruitment and use of children, and attacks on vital facilities, including schools, hospitals, and other service facilities. They also included the restriction and denial of humanitarian access, conflict-related sexual violence, attacks on public freedoms, forced drowning, and looting of property.

In this respect, 2025 was no less severe for civilians than previous years, as violations continued to occur in a context characterized by the multiplicity of parties to the conflict and the overlapping nature of military operations. This resulted in the continued exposure of civilians to violations, alongside a deterioration of the humanitarian situation to increasingly dangerous levels, underscoring the enduring impact of the conflict on the lives and conditions of civilians in Yemen.

Methodology



The findings of this report are based on field data and investigative reporting conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights' team of female and male researchers and lawyers across 21 Yemeni governorates during the period from January to December 2025. The team conducted 2,158 interviews with survivors and victims, as well as victims' relatives and friends, eyewitnesses, and medical and humanitarian workers. The interviews were conducted in Arabic, while interpreters were engaged to document violations against African migrants who do not speak Arabic during their journeys through Yemen.

The report's findings are also based on field visits conducted by Mwatana's field team throughout 2025. The team, comprising female and male researchers and lawyers, conducted 2,857 field visits covering 21 governorates. In addition, Mwatana's central team conducted field visits to the governorates of Al Hudaydah, Aden, and Al-Dale' to verify information, interview victims and their families and eyewitnesses, and inspect the sites where incidents and violations occurred. The documentation was further supported by medical reports, identification and other official documents, statements, photographs, video footage, and other materials. These materials underwent examination and verification at multiple levels by central researchers and lawyers, research and studies officers, legal support personnel, and relevant departments and units. In some cases, international experts with specialized expertise were engaged to analyze photographs and video footage captured by Mwatana's team in order to identify the types of weapons used and establish other relevant details.

As part of its field investigations, Mwatana adopted a methodology based on the independent and secure collection of testimonies and information from primary and reliable sources, while adhering to professional and ethical standards governing human rights work. Before conducting interviews, Mwatana's field team informed victims and witnesses of the purpose of the documentation and obtained their informed consent, in accordance with the ethical principles of documentation and Mwatana's methodology for data collection. This approach was intended to safeguard the dignity and privacy of victims, as well as that of all other individuals interviewed. Mwatana also continued to uphold its commitment not to provide witnesses, victims, or any other interviewees with monetary or in-kind compensation, or any form of promise or inducement.

Mwatana's field team faced numerous risks and challenges while monitoring and documenting violations throughout 2025. Some team members were subjected to arbitrary detention and various forms of threats, in addition to difficulties associated with working and traveling in remote areas contaminated with landmines and explosive devices. These challenges were compounded by the issuance of a memorandum by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor of the internationally recognized Yemeni government ordering the suspension of and prohibition on dealings with Mwatana for Human Rights in areas under the control of the Presidential Leadership Council. This step posed an additional challenge to the organization's work and contributed to an increase in the potential risks faced by its team.

Accordingly, the incidents and figures included in this report represent only what Mwatana's field team was able to document under increasingly difficult and hazardous circumstances and do not necessarily reflect the total number of violations that occurred during the year.

Chapter One
General Background



First: Context of the Armed Conflict in Yemen

Since 2011, Yemen has undergone profound political and social transformations against the backdrop of a broad wave of popular protests that erupted as part of what became known as the "Arab Spring" uprisings. The protests called for an end to the rule of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had remained in power for more than three decades, and demanded far-reaching political and economic reforms. The protests were led by youth and civil society groups and coincided with divisions within the military and security institutions. Amid regional and international pressure, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative was reached in November 2011. It provided for President Saleh's resignation and the transfer of power to his Vice President, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. In February 2012, Hadi assumed power through an election in which he was the sole candidate, marking the beginning of a transitional phase aimed at undertaking constitutional and political reforms.

However, the transitional phase soon faced major challenges, including the continued influence of traditional power structures, divisions within the military and security forces, deteriorating economic and living conditions, and the growing activities of armed groups, foremost among them the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group.

In March 2013, the National Dialogue Conference was launched with the participation of various political and social forces, including the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, to discuss fundamental issues, including the southern issue, the Saadah issue, and the establishment of a federal state.

Despite the hopes placed in the outcomes of the conference, their implementation faced significant challenges, particularly with regard to determining the regions that would constitute the new federal state. This contributed to deepening political divisions among the country's political forces.

Against this fragile backdrop, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group gradually expanded its influence, exploiting the political vacuum. This expansion reached its peak in September 2014, when the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group and its allies seized control of the capital, Sana'a, by force of arms and took control of government institutions. They placed President Hadi under house arrest before he managed to flee to Aden and subsequently to Riyadh in March 2015.

As the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group expanded its control and, in March 2015, succeeded in taking control of parts of Aden Governorate, the conflict in Yemen underwent a major military escalation. On March 26, 2015, Saudi Arabia, through its ambassador to the United States, announced at a press conference held in Washington, D.C., the formation of a military coalition comprising more than ten countries, most notably Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Kuwait, Qatar, and others. According to the announcement of the coalition's formation and launch, its stated objective was to **"restore legitimacy in Yemen and eliminate the Houthi rebels."**

On the same day, the Saudi/UAE-led coalition began conducting its first military attacks in Yemen as part of the operation known as **"Operation Decisive Storm,"** which was subsequently followed by **"Operation Restoring Hope."** The air operations associated with these campaigns continued until April 2022.

During this period, the Saudi/UAE-led coalition conducted hundreds of air and ground attacks, targeting essential infrastructure upon which the population depended and causing extensive damage.

In July 2015, southern forces, with the support of the Saudi/UAE-led coalition, succeeded in regaining control of the city of Aden and several other southern governorates, including Lahj, Al-Dale', Abyan, and Shabwah. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group subsequently withdrew from these areas and consolidated its control over the northern governorates, retaining near-total control over most of them.

On May 11, 2017, southern forces, led by the Southern Movement and supported by the United Arab Emirates, announced the formation of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) under the leadership of Aidarus al-Zoubaidi. The STC maintained an undeclared military grip over the interim capital, Aden, and called for the independence of southern Yemen from the north. In January 2018, tensions between the Southern Transitional Council and forces of the internationally recognized Yemeni government intensified. Following violent armed clashes, STC forces seized control of Aden, including the Presidential Palace. The Saudi/UAE-led coalition subsequently intervened to de-escalate tensions between the two sides. The fighting ceased for several months before resuming in 2019, when STC forces succeeded in regaining control of the Presidential Palace and key military camps in Aden.

On November 5, 2019, the Riyadh Agreement was signed between the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council, along with its various formations, including the Security Belts and Elite Forces, under the auspices of Saudi Arabia. The signing ceremony was held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. The agreement aimed to resolve the dispute between the two parties and establish arrangements governing the economic, political, military, and security situation in Yemen's southern areas.

The agreement provided for the formation of a government of political competencies comprising 24 ministers, with equal representation between the north and south, with the Southern Transitional Council participating in the government. It also called for the restructuring of military and security forces by integrating forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council into the government's Ministries of Defense and Interior, under the internationally recognized government, in addition to other administrative and economic arrangements. Collectively, these measures were intended to strengthen the performance of state institutions and improve living conditions and public services in the southern areas. However, the actual implementation of the agreement's provisions faced persistent delays and challenges.

On the other hand, in late 2017, tensions escalated between the two allies, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group and former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had retained significant influence even after stepping down from power. The conflict ended with the killing of Ali Abdullah Saleh on December 4, 2017, and the dissolution of the alliance between Saleh's forces and the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. The alliance had been officially announced in conjunction with the launch of the military operation by the Saudi/UAE-led Arab coalition in Yemen in March 2015 and lasted until December 2017. Following this, Tareq Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, the former president's nephew, managed to flee areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group and subsequently formed a new military force known as the "**Joint Forces,**" with direct support from the United Arab Emirates. Tareq assumed command of the force, which succeeded in taking control of the city of Mokha and several areas along the western coast.

On April 2, 2022, the parties to the conflict in Yemen reached a truce under the auspices of the United Nations[1]. This provided civilians with a measure of hope by opening some humanitarian crossings and facilitating the flow of essential

01. United Nations, "Yemen: Two-month truce to take effect Saturday evening as Special Envoy calls on parties to respect it." https://news.un.org/ar/story/2022/04/1097862.

humanitarian assistance, including fuel, food, and medical supplies. The truce also included measures to ease restrictions on freedom of movement, particularly in areas that had been subjected to siege. However, the truce formally expired in October of the same year and could not be renewed[2]. Nevertheless, major military operations declined significantly, and the airstrikes conducted by the Saudi/UAE-led coalition ceased. Despite this, violations of various kinds against civilians continued, and did not decline proportionately with the reduction in major military operations.

On April 7, 2022, it was announced in Riyadh that President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi had transferred his powers and authorities to an eight-member Presidential Leadership Council, chaired by Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi. The council represented various political and military forces influential in areas under the control of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, as well as the Southern Transitional Council and the Joint Forces.

Following the events of October 7, 2023, in the occupied Palestinian territory, and amid Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group launched a series of attacks targeting commercial vessels linked to Israel or bound for Israeli ports through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. These attacks were carried out as part of the group's stated position of supporting Palestinian factions.

This led to the direct involvement of international actors in the Yemeni conflict. On December 18, 2023, the "Operation Prosperity Guardian" coalition was announced. It was a multinational maritime coalition led by the United States and the United Kingdom, whose stated objective was to conduct military operations in response to attacks by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group against Israeli vessels or vessels bound for Israel[3], in protest against the continuing Israeli bombardment of Gaza and with the stated aim of bringing the Israeli-Palestinian war to an end. Its operations continued until January 19, 2025.

On March 15, 2025, this was followed by the launch of **"Operation Rough Rider,"** a U.S. aerial military campaign that involved extensive airstrikes against areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. The attacks included strikes on essential infrastructure, residential neighborhoods, and other civilian sites. These operations continued from March 15 until the announcement of a ceasefire on May 6, 2025.

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02. United Nations, "Yemen: Failure to extend truce disappointing, but not the end of the road." https://news.un.org/ar/story/2022/10/1113422.
03. BBC Arabic, "Gaza War: What is Operation Prosperity Guardian, launched to repel Houthi attacks in the Red Sea?" https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/cn04g9exzj3o.

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Between May and September 2025, the Israeli Defense Forces carried out airstrikes against areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, including attacks on civilian facilities and objects such as ports, electricity generation plants, and Sana'a International Airport, as well as other civilian sites. The attacks caused damage to infrastructure and resulted in civilian casualties. These attacks were carried out in response to attacks by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group against Israeli territory, as part of the group's military operations in support of Palestinian factions amid the ongoing genocidal war in the Gaza Strip.

Against the backdrop of escalating internal tensions among the parties to the conflict, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, with the support of the United Arab Emirates, seized control of the governorates of Hadramout and Al-Mahrah in eastern Yemen in December 2025. These developments coincided with the Southern Transitional Council organizing mass rallies and media activities, as well as an escalation in inflammatory and regionalist rhetoric by its leaders and affiliated figures through the media and social media platforms. This was accompanied by calls for, and political mobilization around, these developments.

In late December of the same year, the Saudi-led coalition launched airstrikes against military sites and equipment belonging to the Southern Transitional Council. This escalation occurred amid heightened tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and in response to the escalation resulting from operations by the Southern Transitional Council, with Emirati support, in Al-Mahrah and Hadramout governorates. In early 2026, the internationally recognized government, with Saudi support, subsequently succeeded in regaining control of the two governorates, as well as a broad range of official institutions that had been under the Council's authority in Aden, Abyan, and other governorates.

Second: Map of Control During 2025

Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Yemen in September 2014, the map of territorial control among the parties to the conflict has been characterized by a geographical distribution shaped by the strategic importance of different areas. With regard to the map of control during 2025, it can be said that changes occurred in areas under the control of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the internationally recognized Yemeni government. As for areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, the situation remained unchanged.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group continued to exercise full control over seven governorates: Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a, Amran, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Ibb, and Raymah. The group also continued to control most of Saadah Governorate, which is considered the group's principal stronghold.

Marib Governorate, meanwhile, is of strategic importance in Yemen's armed conflict. It represents one of the principal strongholds of the internationally recognized Yemeni government in northern Yemen and is a base for many members and supporters of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah Party) who were displaced from various parts of the country. It is also strategically important because it serves as a major route connecting northern and southern Yemen, as well as Yemen with Saudi Arabia.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group controls a number of districts in Marib Governorate, including Mahliyah, Rahbah, Al-Jubah, Al-Abdiyah, and Harib Al-Qaramish, in addition to Madghal, Majzar, Jabal Murad, and Bidbadah, as well as extensive parts of Sirwah District. Sirwah is considered the principal administrative center from which the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group administers the areas under its control in Marib Governorate.

In the densely populated Taiz Governorate, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group controls the Al-Hawban area in the east of the governorate and fully controls the districts of Mawiyah, Shar'ab Al-Salam, Shar'ab Al-Rawnah, and Khadir, in addition to large parts of Al-Ta'iziyah District and parts of Hayfan, Sama', Al-Silw, and Maqbanah districts. In the coastal Al Hudaydah Governorate, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group controls extensive areas of the governorate and its various districts, including all of the governorate's seaports.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group also controls a large area of Al-Bayda Governorate, including numerous districts and villages, most notably Al-Bayda City, Rada'a, Sabah, Al-Riyashiyah, Al-Sharyah, Al-Malajim, Al-Qurayshiyah, Wald Rabi', Al-Arsh, Raqmin, Al-Sawadiyah, Al-Wahbiyah, and Dhi Na'im. Its control also extends to Al-Bayda Rural and Al-Tafah districts, most of the villages in Nati', Nu'man, and Al-Zahir districts, a number of villages in Al-Sawma'ah and Mukayras districts, and some villages in Maswarah District.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group also controls most of the districts of Al-Jawf Governorate, including eastern districts that were previously under the control of forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government, such as Al-Hazm City, the governorate's administrative center, and the districts of Al-Ghayl, Al-Maslub, and Al-Khalq. The group also controls the border area of Al-Yatmah, adjacent to Saudi Arabia, northeast of Khab wa Al-Sha'af District, as well as parts of the desert areas within Khab wa Al-Sha'af. Meanwhile, some areas, such as Al-Rayyan on the eastern outskirts of the district, remained under the control of forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

In the border governorate of Hajjah, which borders Saudi Arabia, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group controls most parts of the governorate, with the exception of certain areas, including Midi, Hayran, and parts of Abs District, extending to Bani Hassan and the border areas of Haradh. These areas remained under the control of forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Saudi/UAE-led coalition. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group retains control over 27 districts of the governorate, encompassing the areas with the highest population density in Hajjah.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group also controls parts of Al-Dale' Governorate, small areas on the outskirts of Lahj Governorate, and the outskirts of the districts of Bayhan and Ain in Shabwah Governorate.

As for the internationally recognized Yemeni government, it completely lost control of Hadramout and Al-Mahrah governorates in late 2025 following the military offensive launched by formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, with Emirati support, against Hadramout and Al-Mahrah in December 2025. The government subsequently regained control of both governorates in January 2026.

The internationally recognized Yemeni government controls large parts of Taiz Governorate, including the governorate capital, encompassing the districts of Al-Qahirah, Al-Mudhaffar, Salh, Al-Shamayatayn, Saber Al-Mawadim, Al-Misrakh, Mashra'a wa Hadnan, Al-Ma'afer, and Al-Mawasit. These areas constitute a major stronghold for formations affiliated with the Islah Party within the internationally recognized government. The government also controls the center of Marib Governorate, including the districts of Marib City, Al-Wadi, and Harib, as well as small parts of Sirwah and Raghwan. These are the most densely populated districts in the

governorate and have hosted large numbers of displaced people from across the country. The government also controls parts of Shabwah and Abyan governorates, limited areas of Al-Dale' Governorate, the districts of Hayran and Midi and western Bani Hassan in Hajjah Governorate, as well as areas bordering Saudi Arabia in Al-Jawf Governorate, including the desert area of Al-Rayyan, parts of Khab wa Al-Sha'af District, part of Al-Hazm District, and limited areas of Al-Bayda Governorate.

As for the Southern Transitional Council (STC), it maintained security and military control over Aden, Abyan, and Lahj governorates, as well as parts of Al-Dale', until the end of 2025. It also controlled parts of Hadramout and Al-Mahrah before the internationally recognized Yemeni government, with Saudi support, regained full control of the two governorates in early January 2026. As for the Joint Forces, led by Tareq Saleh and receiving direct support from the United Arab Emirates, they control the western coastal strip extending from the strategic Bab Al-Mandab Strait to the city of Al Hudaydah. This includes Yemen's western coastal districts belonging to Taiz Governorate, namely Mokha, Dhubab, Al-Waziyah, and Mawza', as well as Al-Khokha District in Al Hudaydah Governorate and parts of Hays and Al-Jarrahi districts.

The Ansar Al-Sharia and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continue to maintain a limited presence in villages in Mukayras District, a small number of villages in Al-Sawma'ah District, and a few villages in Maswarah District in Al-Bayda Governorate, as well as in As-Sa'id District in Shabwah Governorate.

Third: Continued Violations During 2025

In 2025, multiple patterns of human rights violations continued to be perpetrated in Yemen. Attacks on civilian infrastructure, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, attacks against humanitarian workers, and the recruitment and use of children ranked among the most prominent violations affecting civilians.

Among these violations, attacks on civilian infrastructure and vital civilian objects continued. U.S. and Israeli attacks focused on civilian infrastructure facilities and vital civilian objects in Yemen, including ports, electricity generation plants in Sana'a and Al Hudaydah, Sana'a International Airport, and other vital civilian sites.

Civilians also continued to suffer from enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention, which various parties to the conflict continued to perpetrate throughout 2025. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was at the forefront, carrying out a series of arbitrary detention campaigns during the year, in which dozens of civilians were detained in successive waves. Those detained included local peace mediators, academics, writers, journalists, human rights defenders, government employees, leaders and members of political parties, and participants in peaceful events commemorating the September 26 Revolution. Those detained also included humanitarian, development, and diplomatic workers, as well as employees of United Nations agencies and international and local organizations, in Sana'a, Dhamar, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, and Saadah, and parts of Taiz and Al-Dale', among other areas under the group's control.

Authorities affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group also referred groups of detainees for trial before the Specialized Criminal Court. These proceedings failed to meet even the minimum standards of a fair trial, while the court continued to issue death sentences through summary proceedings.

In the context of risks associated with hostilities, civilians -particularly those returning to their areas of origin from displacement communities- continued to face risks from landmines, explosive devices, and explosive remnants of war in affected areas. Ground attacks also continued, particularly in areas of contact between the parties to the conflict, most notably in Taiz Governorate. In addition, developments in the southern and eastern governorates during 2025, including periods of military escalation throughout the year, resulted in the displacement of 1,634 families from Hadramout to Marib[4].

In addition, violations involving the use of schools and medical facilities for military purposes continued, depriving children of their right to education and undermining civilians' ability to access essential health care. Parties to the conflict used schools for purposes incompatible with their educational nature, including as shelters for soldiers, food preparation centers, and even as command headquarters and prisons. Some schools were also turned into recruitment centers, constituting a flagrant violation of children's rights and international laws that ensure the protection of educational institutions during armed conflicts.

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04. Yemen: Humanitarian Situation in the Eastern and Southern Governorates – Update as of January 8, 2026, https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-situation-eastern-and-southern governorates-update-8-january-2026.

Parties to the conflict also continued to commit other violations, including the use of live ammunition to target civilians, running over civilians with military vehicles, and obstructing and restricting access to humanitarian aid.

Conflict-related sexual violence also continued throughout 2025 in its various forms, including harassment, rape, and sexual exploitation. In addition, the various parties to the conflict continued to impose restrictions on freedom of movement, public freedoms, and civic space.

These multiple patterns of violations demonstrate that civilians continued to bear the greatest burden of the conflict throughout 2025, amid the ongoing erosion of fundamental rights and freedoms, the widening scope of harm inflicted on the civilian population, and the absence of effective accountability for the violations committed.

Fourth: The Humanitarian Situation in Yemen During 2025

Throughout 2025, the humanitarian situation in Yemen continued to deteriorate dramatically amid the armed conflict that has persisted for more than eleven years. Millions of civilians continued to suffer from shortages of food, water, and health care. In addition, the various forms of denial, obstruction, and restriction of humanitarian access, as well as impediments to the delivery of aid to beneficiaries and those most in need, further exacerbated the already severe humanitarian crisis facing the population in Yemen.

The armed conflict has led to a significant increase in the number of people vulnerable to poverty and famine. According to United Nations estimates, approximately 19.5 million people[5] were in need of humanitarian assistance, while 17.1 million people were experiencing food insecurity[6]. These figures reflect the severity of the humanitarian situation and the direct impact of the conflict and its various consequences, foremost among them restrictions on humanitarian assistance and their impact on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

05. Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2025. 2025. Available at: Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2025 | Humanitarian Action
06. Yemen Emergency. 2025. Available at: https://ar.wfp.org/emergencies/yemen-emergency

The education sector also experienced increasing deterioration throughout the years of conflict, and this decline continued in 2025 as a result of numerous adverse factors, including the widespread destruction of schools and other educational facilities. This left 4.5 million Yemeni children out of school[7]. In addition, some schools have been used as shelters for internally displaced persons or occupied by armed groups, further exacerbating the education access crisis. This has been compounded by poor security conditions, restrictions on movement, and persistent threats, which have prevented many children from attending school. Shortages of resources, teachers, and curricula have also affected the quality and standard of education. Furthermore, students who have been exposed to traumatic events as a result of the war have experienced psychological distress and other mental health difficulties that have negatively affected their ability to learn and interact within the school environment and beyond.

The health sector, as one of the country's vital sectors, has likewise experienced continuous deterioration since the beginning of the conflict. A large number of health facilities and medical institutions have either been destroyed or damaged and are unable to operate at full capacity. Shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies represent another manifestation of the deterioration of the health sector, alongside the spread of communicable diseases. Children are among the groups most severely affected by the health crisis and the deterioration of Yemen's health sector[8].

With regard to the humanitarian response, 2025 witnessed a reduction in the scale of humanitarian programs as a result of multiple interrelated factors, including regional developments, violations against humanitarian workers, and declining funding for humanitarian response plans. This adversely affected the capacity of humanitarian actors to meet the growing needs of the population in Yemen.

Fifth: International Humanitarian Law and the Armed Conflict in Yemen

The armed conflict in Yemen is classified as a non-international armed conflict (NIAC), despite the military intervention led by the Saudi/UAE-led coalition

07. United Nations News. UNICEF: 4.5 million Yemeni children out of school is a ticking time bomb, and allegations of complicity in the destruction of education are unfounded https://news.un.org/en/audio/2024/09/1154396.
08. UNICEF, Yemen Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2 (End of Year), 31 December 2025. Available at: https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/unicef-yemen-humanitarian-situation-report-no-2-end-year-31-december-2025

since March 2015 and the direct or indirect involvement of other international actors in the context of the armed conflict in Yemen. This involvement has included logistical and intelligence support from countries such as the United States, as well as the continued export of arms by certain states to parties and countries involved in the conflict. Nevertheless, these interventions have not altered the classification of the conflict as non-international under the criteria of international law.

As a non-international armed conflict, the conflict in Yemen is primarily governed by Common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, Additional Protocol II of 1977, and customary international humanitarian law. These rules impose obligations on all parties, whether states or armed groups, to comply with the principles of international humanitarian law. These include respecting the principle of distinction between military objectives and civilian objects; observing the principle of proportionality in order to avoid excessive harm to civilians; taking all feasible precautions to protect civilians and civilian objects from the effects of military operations; and refraining from using residential areas for military purposes, such as storing weapons or transforming civilian facilities into military objectives.

International humanitarian law prohibits the use of indiscriminate weapons and disproportionate attacks that cause civilian harm excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage. Common Article 3 and Additional Protocol II also prohibit violence against persons who are not taking part in hostilities, including killing, torture, and cruel treatment; the passing and carrying out of sentences without fair trials; collective punishment; acts of terror; pillage; and rape.

States parties and armed groups are required to investigate crimes committed during the conflict and ensure accountability for those responsible for the most serious crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. Military and civilian leaders also bear responsibility for preventing violations and holding perpetrators accountable. This includes providing appropriate remedies and reparations to victims.

In addition to the application of international humanitarian law, international human rights law continues to apply during armed conflicts, ensuring the protection of fundamental rights, including the right to life, the right to a fair trial, and the prohibitions against torture and arbitrary detention. All relevant actors, including non-state armed groups exercising government-like authority, are also required to respect and protect individuals' rights in areas under their control.

Chapter Two
Major Patterns of Violations

During 2025



I. Airstrikes

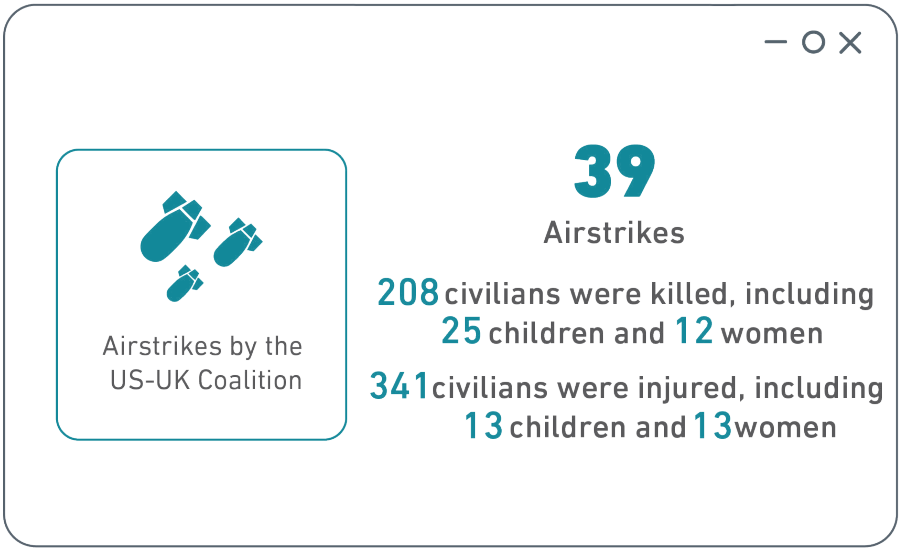
During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 56 airstrikes, including attacks carried out by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and locally manufactured drones, targeting civilian areas and vital facilities in various parts of Yemen.

The United States was responsible for 40 airstrikes, including 39 airstrikes and one drone attack. Israeli forces were responsible for 12 airstrikes, while the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for two attacks involving locally manufactured drones. Saudi Border Guard forces were responsible for one drone attack. And Mwatana was unable to determine the party responsible for one of the documented incidents.

Collectively, these attacks killed 256 civilians, including 39 children and 22 women, and injured 471 civilians, including 46 children and 32 women. They also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, vital facilities, and residential neighborhoods.

01. U.S. Airstrikes

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights verified U.S. responsibility for 39 airstrikes carried out as part of Operation Rough Rider, a military campaign involving large-scale airstrikes against areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group from mid-March through May 6, 2025.



The attacks killed 208 people, including 25 children and 12 women, and injured at least 341 people, including 13 children and 13 women. They also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, vital facilities, and residential neighborhoods.

Case Examples of U.S. Airstrikes

On Sunday, April 6, 2025, at approximately 8:00 p.m., in the Shaab Al-Hafa area of Shu'ub District, Amanat Al-Asimah, U.S. aircraft carried out an airstrike using two missiles against a civilian home, killing four people, including three children, and injuring ten others. The strike completely destroyed the house and damaged several neighboring homes and shops.

One of the injured women told Mwatana: **"I heard the sound of the first missile, which landed directly inside the neighbors' house, and then the second missile landed in their house courtyard. My young son was at one end of the bed, and my other son was at the other end. All I could think about was how to protect my children and make sure they were safe. That is why I did not feel the injuries to my neck and leg caused by the glass[9]."**

She added: **"It was 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 2025, when the bombardment occurred. I was then taken to Al-Nubala'a Hospital. When I arrived, I saw that there were people in more critical condition than I was, so they took me to another place, where my wounds were treated and the wound on my neck, as well as the wound on my left foot, were stitched. We then went to the home of one of our relatives[10]."**

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, at approximately 9:00 p.m., in the Matnah area of Bani Matar District, Sana'a Governorate, U.S. aircraft carried out an airstrike using four missiles against the Al-Sawari Ceramic Factory. The factory was struck by the first and second missiles, and approximately ten minutes later, when an ambulance arrived, two additional missiles struck the site, injuring one of the paramedics. The attack killed six people and injured 25 others, including five children. All of the injured were transported to 26 September Hospital in Matnah to receive the necessary medical care.

09. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Amanat Al-Asimah Governorate, Sana'a, Shu'ub District, on April 7, 2025.
10. Ibid.

One of the victims told Mwatana: "We heard an explosion, which completely ripped the outer door off and threw it inside the house. The wooden interior doors of the house were shattered by the force of the blast. I took my children to the corner and covered them with a blanket. My husband came back home from outside at that moment, shouting, 'Where are my children?' I reassured him that we were all fine, but he said, 'Get out before the bombing happens again.' We left the house, but we had not gone far when the second explosion occurred, this time striking the door of our house[11]."

She added: "Everyone dropped to the ground. My children were thrown in different directions by the force of the explosion, and blocks and dirt fell on them. I began pulling them out one by one from beneath the rubble. Their faces were covered in blood, but they were able to stand and walk. I reached my husband and tried to help him out, but he told me, 'Leave me and go with the children. The missile will strike again.' Then the third and fourth missiles fell. I lost my husband, and all members of my family were injured. My eldest son, who is eight years old, sustained a shrapnel wound to his head that required stitches, and he has been constantly terrified by even the slightest sounds. My middle son wakes up crying at night, calling for his father. I also sustained a shrapnel wound to my left thigh, as well as shrapnel wounds to my head near my ear[12]."

On Monday, April 28, 2025, at 4:30 a.m., in the Al-Sahn area of Saadah Governorate, U.S. aircraft carried out three airstrikes against a hangar used to detain African migrants at the Pretrial Prison. The strikes killed 68 African migrants and injured 47 others, completely destroying the detainees' hangar. A team from the Yemeni Red Crescent, with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), immediately undertook extensive rescue and emergency medical efforts and transported the victims to various hospitals. Following the airstrikes, several detainees attempted to escape, but guards affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group opened live fire on them, resulting in additional injuries.

One of the victims told Mwatana: "I was detained in April 2025 by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group after returning from Saudi Arabia, where I had been working at a car wash. I had 6,000 Saudi riyals with me, which aroused their suspicions about the nature of my work. They searched me but refused to believe me. I was detained

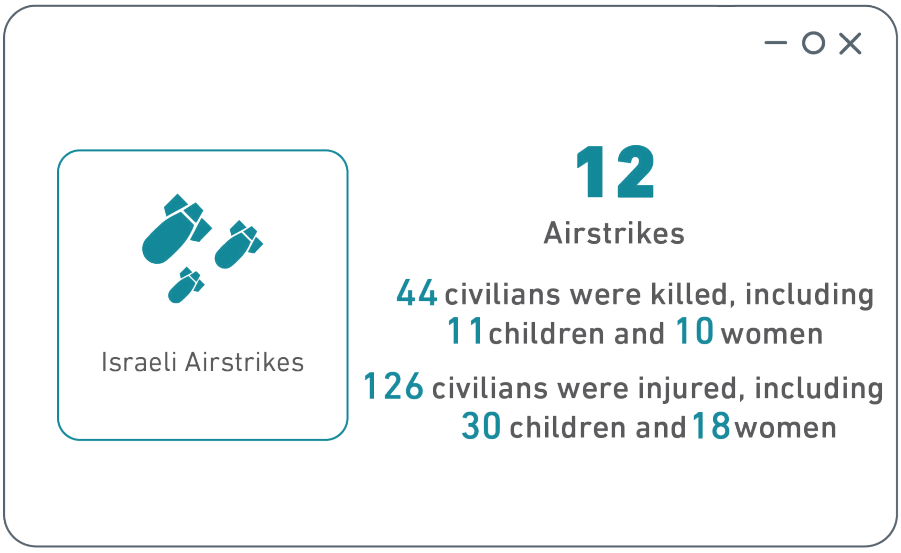
11. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Sana'a Governorate, Bani Matar District, on May 8, 2025.
12. Ibid., supra note 8.

at the Pretrial Prison in Saadah, where they confiscated everything I had. At 4:30 a.m., the hangar where we were being held was hit by a U.S. airstrike, killing many migrants and injuring others[13]."

He added: "Most of the injuries were to the head and neck. We were screaming for help, but we were not given medical assistance for approximately an hour, which contributed to the rising death toll. We tried to get out, but the prison guards opened live fire, which also resulted in more injuries. When the medical teams arrived, they were not adequately qualified, which further aggravated the situation. I was taken to the hospital after being wounded by shrapnel, but I was worried because I would be returned to prison once I recovered[14]."

02. Israeli Airstrikes

During the period from May through September 2025, Israeli forces carried out several airstrikes targeting infrastructure and vital facilities in areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. Mwatana documented 12 airstrikes carried out by Israeli forces, which killed 44 civilians, including 11 children and 10 women, and injured 126 civilians, including 30 children and 18 women.



13. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Saada Governorate, Saada District, on May 1, 2025.
14. Ibid.

Case Examples of Israeli Airstrikes

On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Israeli forces carried out an airstrike using at least two bombs against Al-Muhafazah neighborhood in Al-Tahrir District, Amanat Al-Asimah. The strike targeted the Moral Guidance building and the offices of the 26 September and Yemen newspapers, killing 25 civilians, including seven children, and injuring approximately 60 other civilians, with injuries ranging in severity.

The attack completely destroyed four civilian homes and partially damaged dozens of others. The bombardment also completely or partially destroyed several buses and private vehicles, and damaged the National Museum, a number of commercial shops, as well as a nearby rest house and hotel. Rescue and recovery operations to retrieve victims from beneath the rubble continued for three consecutive days, while the dead and injured were transported to Republican, Kuwait, and Military hospitals.

The attack occurred during peak hours and coincided with university students and employees returning to their homes. A major bus station serving several areas of Amanat Al-Asimah was located adjacent to the targeted area, and numerous passersby were among those killed and injured.

The mother of one of the victims told Mwatana: **"During the bombardment, my son was in a bus with his uncle. The force of the bombing threw him to the ground, and stones fell on him. He could see his uncle and tried to help him, but he could not. Eventually, he lost consciousness. When his father reached him, he tried to wake him up. As soon as he regained consciousness, he said, 'Dad, my uncle is under the rubble.' Even now, while he is sleeping, he suddenly wakes up and screams, 'My uncle is under the rubble.' My son was injured by a stone that fell beside him, causing serious problems. He began urinating blood, and his body was covered in wounds. As for his uncle, he died[15]."**

She added: **"Homes were completely destroyed, and families were torn apart. The neighborhood next to the Moral Guidance building was completely destroyed, and a large number of innocent people were killed[16]."**

15. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Amanat Al-Asimah Governorate, Sana'a, Al-Tahrir District, on September 15, 2025.
16. Ibid.

On Sunday, August 24, 2025, at approximately 3:50 p.m., Israeli forces carried out an airstrike using two missiles against the oil station in the Al-Sittin area of Al-Wahdah District, Amanat Al-Asimah. The attack killed six civilians and injured more than 59 others. The injured were taken to Abdul Qader Al-Mutawakkil Hospital, Al-Ahli Al-Hadith Hospital, and 48 Hospital. The injuries ranged from minor and superficial to moderate and serious.

The bombardment also damaged the oil station, a nearby grocery store, and a car wash, in addition to the headquarters of the oil company and two oil tanker trucks. The windows of several nearby homes were also shattered.

One of the victims told Mwatana: **"My wife and I went out for a walk because the weather was nice. Our house is behind the gas station. After we had walked a short distance, we heard an explosion and decided to go back because our children were at home near the site of the strike. As we were returning along the same road, we heard the second strike. Then I felt the heat of the air hit my face as if I were in a steam bath. The pleasant weather was gone, and it became extremely hot. But I do not remember exactly what happened, as if I had lost my memory[17]."**

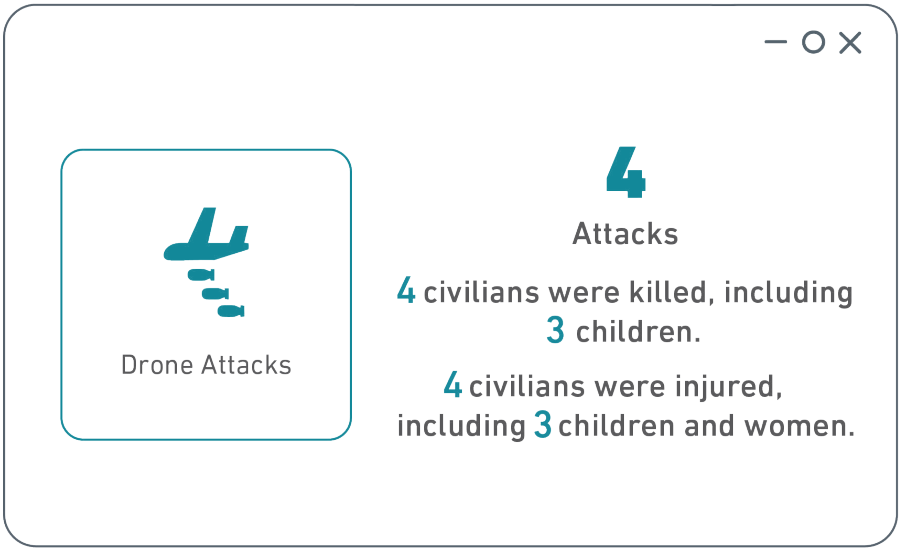
He added: **"I woke up lying on the ground beneath broken glass, with blood pouring frighteningly from my head and also from my leg. The street in front of me was completely empty. I tried to escape, and then I saw my wife. That was when I remembered that she had been with me and was on her way back toward the site of the bombing. I shouted, 'Go back! They will bomb again.' My wife then took me to the hospital[18]."**

17. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Amanat Al-Asimah Governorate, Sana'a, Al-Wahdah District, on August 26, 2025.
18. Ibid.

" I was sitting in my house when I heard a loud explosion. We went outside to find out what had happened and found our children lying on the ground. They were between three and four years old. Their condition was critical. The two girls had suffered severe burns and died immediately, while the other child was still breathing, but his condition was extremely serious. He later died while being taken for medical treatment "

03 Drone strikes

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented four attacks involving unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and locally manufactured drones. These attacks killed four civilians, including three children, and injured four civilians, including three children and one woman. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for two attacks involving locally manufactured drones, while Saudi Border Guard forces were responsible for one drone attack. The United States was responsible for one UAV attack.



Case Examples of Drone Attacks

On Thursday, April 10, 2025, at approximately 8:20 a.m., in the Bayt Bish area of Hays District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, a drone operated by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group dropped a projectile on a civilian home, killing three children who had been playing in the courtyard of their home before the projectile exploded. Two of the children, both girls, died immediately, while the third child, a boy, died while being transported to Al-Khokha Field Hospital. The victims were evacuated by a vehicle belonging to the medical post operated by the Joint Forces, which was located near their home.

One of the victims' relatives told Mwatana: **"I was sitting in my house when I heard a loud explosion. We went outside to find out what had happened and found our children lying on the ground. They were between three and four years old. Their condition was critical. The two girls had suffered severe burns and died immediately, while the other child was still breathing, but his condition was extremely serious. He later died while being taken for medical treatment[19]."**

On Thursday, April 10, 2025, at approximately 3:00 a.m., a U.S. drone targeted a civilian home in the Al-Wasiyah area of Darb Al-Ashraf, Majzar District, Marib Governorate. The attack completely destroyed the two-story house, which consisted of six rooms and their associated facilities. At the time, only women and children were in the house, but they had left the previous evening, thereby preventing any casualties.

The homeowner's son told Mwatana: **"Our house was subjected to an airstrike at 3:00 a.m. I was outside the area, but my wife and children decided to spend one night at her uncle's house after my wife became worried. In the morning, my wife went to feed the sheep and discovered that the house had been completely destroyed on its southern side. She was left shocked. The news was also devastating for me, but I felt grateful that my family was safe[20]."**

On Monday, April 14, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m., in the Al Thabit area of Qatabir District, Saadah Governorate, a drone operated by Saudi Border Guard forces fired a projectile at a home in the border area, injuring a woman and two children from the targeted household. Local residents transported and provided initial medical assistance to the victims at a nearby health facility. They were subsequently transferred to Saadah city, where they received medical treatment at the Republican Hospital Authority in the Old City of Saadah.

One of the rescuers told Mwatana: **"The projectile injured several members of the family, including a woman and two children. When I heard the explosion, I got up in panic because my house is adjacent to theirs and immediately went there. Dust and smoke were rising amid the woman's and children's screams and crying. The woman was crying and speaking incoherently, so I brought my wife to help her. Later, my wife told me that the children were injured and urgently needed to be taken for medical treatment. My wife then cared for the injured woman, and**

19. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Al Hudaydah Governorate, Hays District, on April 11, 2025.
20. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Marib Governorate, Al-Wadi District, on July 30, 2025.

together we transported all of them to a nearby clinic. Because of the severity of the mother's injuries, we informed the medical staff that they needed to be transferred to the Republican Hospital in Saadah. My wife and I took them there because her husband was not present."

He added: "Her husband later arrived there, and my wife and I returned to our home in Qatabir. The father had not been present when the attack occurred, and when he arrived, they were reassured by his presence. The children had been calling for their father, while the mother continued to cry. This will affect the children in the future[21]."

Legal Framework Governing Air Attacks: Airstrikes and Drone Attacks

International humanitarian law (IHL) comprises a body of rules and principles aimed at protecting civilians and others who have ceased taking part in military operations, such as the wounded and prisoners of war. It also requires parties to distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects and prohibits attacks against locations where the anticipated harm to civilians would be excessive in relation to the expected military advantage. Where attacks are expected to cause harm to civilians, the parties are required to take the necessary precautions, including issuing effective warnings to civilians.

International humanitarian law requires all parties to an armed conflict to take the necessary measures to minimize civilian harm to the greatest extent possible during military operations. It requires that all attacks be directed solely against lawful military objectives and obliges parties to the conflict to take all feasible precautions to minimize potential harm to civilians. Those responsible for military operations must assess the anticipated civilian casualties and damage against the expected military advantage of any target before launching an attack, refrain from conducting disproportionate attacks, and, where carried out with criminal intent, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks may constitute crimes under international law.

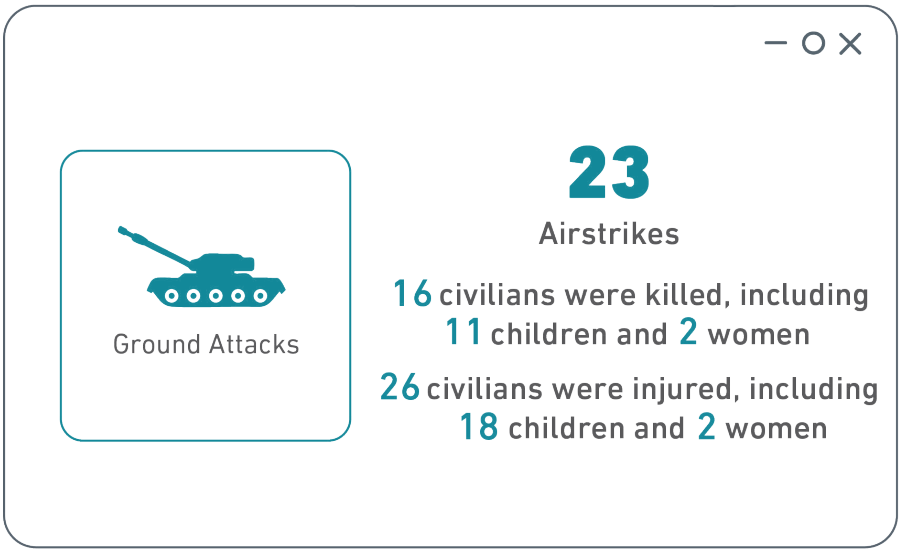
Given that most of the attacks documented by Mwatana for Human Rights during 2025—including U.S. and Israeli airstrikes, drone attacks, and attacks involving locally manufactured drones—targeted civilian sites and objects, some of which were indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and given the

21. Ibid.

absence of any military objectives in the vicinity of most of the sites targeted in these attacks, such attacks constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

II. Ground Attacks

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented at least 23 incidents of ground shelling, which killed 16 civilians, including 11 children and two women, and injured 26 civilians, including 18 children and two women. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 16 incidents of ground shelling, while Saudi Border Guard forces were responsible for seven of the documented incidents.



Case Examples of Ground Attacks

On Monday, July 14, 2025, at approximately 10:00 a.m., in the Al-Tawhid area of Al-Qahirah District, Taiz Governorate, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group fired a projectile from the direction of Al-Sittin Street, killing a 15-year-old boy after he sustained severe injuries to his head, face, chest, and neck. The projectile struck the ground near the victim, causing shrapnel to ricochet and resulting in the loss of his right eye and complete loss of vision in his left eye, as well as shrapnel becoming lodged in his brain and deep wounds to his chest and neck.

The boy was taken to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz City and was transferred the following day to Al-Safwa Hospital, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit and remained there for five days before dying from his injuries on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m. His body was then transferred to the morgue at Al-Thawra Hospital.

The victim's friend told Mwatana: **"My friend, who was 15 years old, sustained a serious injury from a projectile. After we took him to Al-Thawra Hospital, we found that his face was covered with wounds and shrapnel, including an injury to his eye. The projectile came from the direction of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. He was later transferred to Al-Safwa Hospital for treatment, and he needed surgery to repair his eye[22]."**

He added: **"On Saturday, July 19, 2025, my friend died after suffering from his injuries. I felt sad, but I also wished that he could finally rest because he had been suffering from his injuries[23]."**

On Monday, April 28, 2025, at approximately 1:43 p.m., Saudi Border Guard forces fired a military projectile toward the village of Al-Akashiyah, located in the Bani Hassan subdistrict of Abs District, Hajjah Governorate. The attack killed one civilian and injured two others with injuries of varying severity while they were tending to their camels in the area as part of their work. One of the civilian herders was torn apart by the blast and died immediately, while the other two herders sustained severe physical injuries. The injured men were immediately transported to Abs Rural Hospital, supported by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), to receive the necessary medical care.

One of the victims told Mwatana: **"I was with a group of camel herders. At around 1:43 p.m., we heard a loud explosion, and the smoke was very thick. We had a friend, but we could not see him because of the smoke. Rescue workers came and took us to Abs Rural Hospital. I was treated for severe injuries and underwent surgery. My other friend also sustained serious wounds, while our friend who was near the site of the bombardment died immediately[24]."**

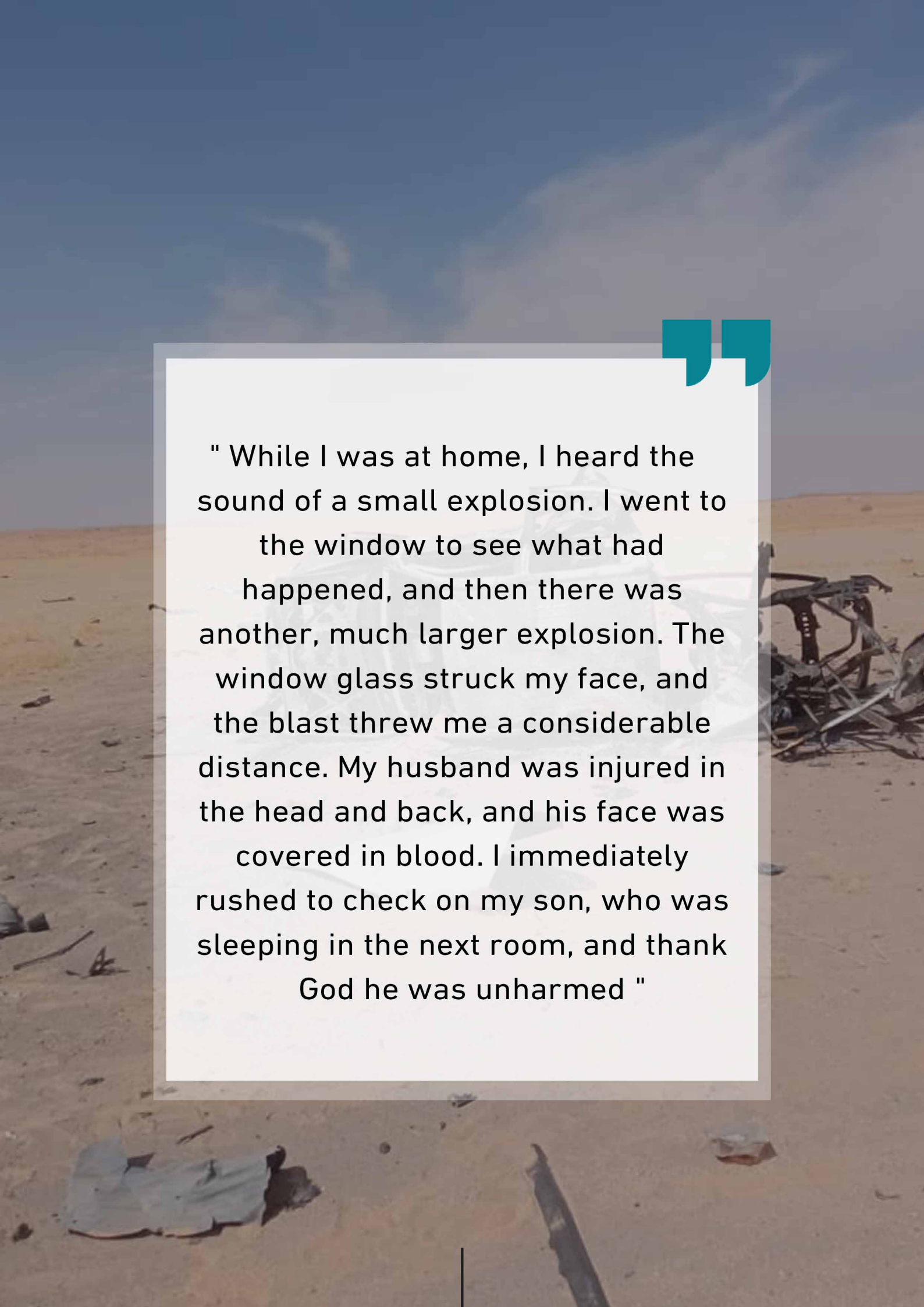
22. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Taiz Governorate, Al-Qahirah District, on July 23, 2025.
23. Ibid., supra note 19.
24. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Hajjah Governorate, Abs District, on April 30, 2025.

Legal Framework Governing Ground Attacks

International humanitarian law (IHL) prohibits indiscriminate attacks. The rules applicable to air attacks under international humanitarian law also apply to ground attacks. Parties to an armed conflict are prohibited from launching disproportionate attacks that may cause civilian harm excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage. Attacks in populated areas are also prohibited except in specific circumstances and subject to certain conditions, following the adoption of necessary precautions, including the issuance of effective warnings to civilians. Any attacks that fail to comply with these principles constitute violations of international humanitarian law and require accountability and the holding of those responsible to account.

International humanitarian law also requires parties to take the necessary measures to protect civilians in areas under their control by avoiding the placement of military objectives near civilian objects or in populated areas, thereby exposing civilians to the risk of attack and consequent harm.

International humanitarian law prohibits the use of weapons that cannot be accurately directed against military objectives, particularly in the context of ground attacks. It requires parties to the conflict to select means and methods of attack and weapons that can be accurately directed in order to minimize potential harm to civilians and their property.



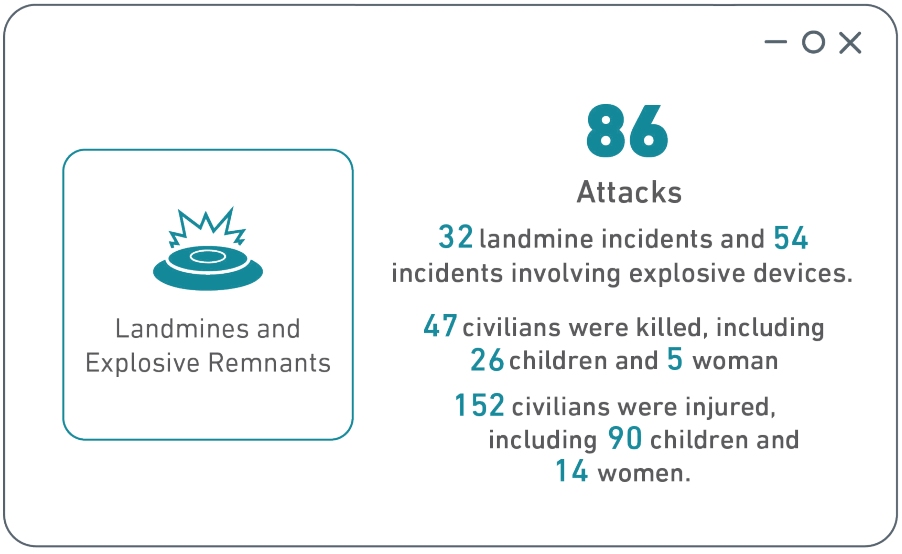
" While I was at home, I heard the sound of a small explosion. I went to the window to see what had happened, and then there was another, much larger explosion. The window glass struck my face, and the blast threw me a considerable distance. My husband was injured in the head and back, and his face was covered in blood. I immediately rushed to check on my son, who was sleeping in the next room, and thank God he was unharmed "

III. Landmines and Explosive Objects

Landmines and explosive objects continued to threaten the lives of civilians in Yemen throughout 2025. Landmines planted in various areas, including agricultural land, roads, and residential areas, have killed and injured hundreds of civilians over the years of conflict. Many victims have suffered permanent disabilities. In addition, landmines and explosive objects have obstructed civilians' access to essential services, humanitarian assistance, and places of work, and have forced thousands of civilians to flee their villages and homes, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group has extensively used both types of landmines—anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines—as well as explosive objects and explosive remnants of war, which have been used indiscriminately by various parties to the conflict. These weapons have threatened the lives and safety of civilians and adversely affected individuals' rights to life, food, safe movement, work, and other fundamental rights.

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 86 incidents involving landmines and explosive objects, including 54 incidents involving explosive objects and 32 incidents involving landmines. These incidents included the detonation of both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines, booby traps, concealed explosive devices, and remnants of weapons, such as spent ammunition casings, hand grenades, improvised explosive devices, and other ground-launched projectiles. They resulted in the deaths of 47 civilians, including 26 children and five women, and injuries to 152 civilians, including 90 children and 14 women.



The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for all 32 documented landmine incidents, involving both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, as well as 29 incidents involving explosive objects. In addition, Mwatana documented an incident involving the explosion of a weapons storage facility belonging to the group near a densely populated civilian area at Khashm Al-Bakrah checkpoint in Bani Al-Harith District, Amanat Al-Asimah.

On Thursday, May 22, 2025, at approximately 9:00 a.m., a weapons storage facility belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group exploded in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The explosion killed 14 civilians, including nine children and three women, and injured 27 civilians, including 18 children and seven women. It also completely destroyed two civilian homes and partially damaged a large number of surrounding homes. Despite the considerable distance between some of the homes and the site of the explosion, they sustained damage, including shattered windows, as did a number of commercial shops.

The injured were transported to several hospitals, including Zaid Hospital, Al-Thawra Hospital, Kuwait Hospital, and Al-Jumhouri Hospital. Others with superficial injuries received medical care at nearby clinics. Following the incident, the families of those killed refused to bury their relatives until they received compensation from the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group for the damage caused to their homes and families.

One of the victims told Mwatana: **"While I was at home, I heard the sound of a small explosion. I went to the window to see what had happened, and then there was another, much larger explosion. The window glass struck my face, and the blast threw me a considerable distance. My husband was injured in the head and back, and his face was covered in blood. I immediately rushed to check on my son, who was sleeping in the next room, and thank God he was unharmed[25]."**

She added: **"The sounds of explosions continued. My husband was covered in blood, and I was injured, but I could think only about my husband, whose condition was critical. We went to the hospital and received treatment. Afterwards, I could not sleep because of the severe pain and terror following the explosion. All of our relatives were killed, as were our neighbors and the owner of the grocery store. It was a terrifying day[26]."**

25. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Amanat Al-Asimah Governorate, Sana'a, Bani Al-Harith District, on May 24, 2025.
26. Ibid.

International humanitarian law requires armed groups to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians under their control from the dangers arising from military operations, including refraining from militarizing civilian objects or establishing military objectives, such as weapons storage facilities, in or near populated areas. Accordingly, this incident constitutes a serious violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the precautionary principle, as a result of establishing the storage facility near populated areas and failing to provide a safe environment for storing weapons. The explosion was not caused by an attack on the facility by an opposing force, but rather resulted from a malfunction within the storage facility itself. This renders the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group fully responsible, both criminally and legally, for the incident and the resulting harm.

In addition to the responsibility borne by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, the internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for 14 incidents involving explosive objects, while the Southern Transitional Council was responsible for four such incidents. The Saudi/UAE-led coalition and terrorist organizations were each responsible for one incident involving explosive objects. Mwatana was unable to determine the responsible party for four of the documented explosive-object incidents.

Case Examples of Landmine and Explosive-Object Incidents

On Sunday, February 2, 2025, at approximately 5:00 p.m., in the Al-Suwaidiyah area of Al-Khokha District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, a landmine left behind by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group exploded, killing a child and injuring his father. The 10-year-old boy sustained shrapnel injuries that resulted in the amputation of his left lower leg and right foot at the ankle. He died the following day from his injuries. His father, a 50-year-old man, sustained shrapnel injuries to his face, chest, and arms, as well as injuries to his ears.

The incident occurred as the father and his son were returning from Al-Khokha riding two donkeys carrying food supplies purchased from the market. As they reached the Al-Suwaidiyah area, the donkey carrying the child stepped on a landmine, causing it to explode and tearing the animal apart. The child sustained severe injuries, while his father suffered moderate injuries. Following the incident, farmers who witnessed the explosion transported the victims to Al-Khokha Field

Hospital. Due to the severity of the child's condition, he was transferred to the Saudi Hospital in Al-Mokha, where he remained under medical treatment until he died at noon the following day from his injuries. On the second day after the incident, demining teams arrived at the site and removed six additional landmines, while also discovering a new minefield in the same area. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for the incident.

The victim's brother told Mwatana: **"My father and my brother went to Al-Khokha to shop, and each of them had a donkey to help carry the goods. My father was carrying wheat flour on his donkey, while my brother was riding the other one. As they were traveling along a side road in the Al-Suwaidiyah area before sunset, a landmine exploded beneath them. The direct blast struck my brother and his donkey, resulting in the amputation of both of my brother's legs. My father was also injured by shrapnel and sustained various wounds to his face, chest, and hand. They were immediately taken to one of the hospitals in Al-Khokha. Because of the critical condition of my brother, he was transferred to the Saudi Hospital in Al-Mokha, where he died the following day, February 3, 2025, from his injuries. Following the incident, a demining team went to the site and succeeded in removing six additional landmines from the same location[27]."**

On Friday, September 5, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m., in Al-Darjaj area, Al-Ramlah village, Khanfar District, Abyan Governorate, a 23mm anti-aircraft round exploded, injuring two brothers, aged 13 and 15, while they were herding sheep. One of them found the round near Jabal Sarar, an area that had previously been a position of the Southern Transitional Council. He struck it with a stone, causing it to explode. A nearby herder heard the explosion and saw smoke rising from the site. He rushed to the scene, found the two brothers amid the smoke, and contacted their brother, who arrived on a motorcycle and transported them to Al-Razi Hospital in Abyan.

The victims' father told Mwatana: **"We moved to Al-Ramlah village several years ago because agricultural production in the Al-Miyuh area of Khanfar District had declined. There were several positions belonging to the Southern Transitional Council in Al-Ramlah village. My children go herding most days. They leave the house in the morning and return around sunset. On Friday, at around 2:30 p.m., my son and his maternal uncle called me and told me that I needed to go to the hospital and that two of my sons had been injured by shrapnel from a projectile."**

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27. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Al Hudaydah Governorate, Al-Khokha District, on May 23, 2025.

He added: "I arrived at the hospital and found my sons in a terrible condition, covered in blood and wounds all over their bodies. After examination, it was found that my 13-year-old son had sustained shrapnel injuries to his right leg, additional shrapnel injuries to his left leg, and shrapnel wounds to his chest. My other son, aged 15, sustained shrapnel injuries to his left leg and his right hand. This is a very dangerous area, near the site of a front that had been held by the Southern Transitional Council. Security Belt forces had also been deployed throughout the area[28]."

He continued: "One of my sons found the projectile on the road where Security Belt forces had been stationed. He picked it up, and he and his brother wanted to find out what was inside it. One of them struck it with a stone, and it exploded, injuring them. Someone came and took them to a hospital and contacted their brother."

He further commented: "This incident has made the people of the village afraid to go to this area, which has cost everyone additional time and effort. One of my sons screams at night because of what happened. In this vast area, remnants of war are scattered everywhere. Some are buried underground while others remain exposed on the surface. They have also caused the deaths of many animals and livestock[29]."

On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at approximately 10:30 a.m., east of the Al-Yatmah area, Khab wa ash Sha'af District, Al Jawf Governorate, a 23mm machine-gun ammunition remnant left behind by the internationally recognized Yemeni government exploded, injuring a 13-year-old boy. The victim was in a sheep-grazing area with his mother when he found the ammunition remnant on the ground and began playing with it. When he threw it, it exploded upon striking the ground, causing shrapnel injuries around his right eyebrow and superficial wounds to his face and chest. The victim was transported to the Al-Yatmah Health Center, where he received the necessary medical treatment.

Legal Framework Governing Landmines and Explosive Objects

The use of anti-personnel mines is prohibited under the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel

28. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Abyan Governorate, Khanfar District, on September 9, 2025.
29. Ibid.

Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention)[30]. The Convention requires States Parties to comprehensively prohibit the use, possession, stockpiling, production, development, and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and requires their destruction, whether stockpiled or emplaced in the ground. It also obligates States Parties to provide the necessary assistance and care to mine victims. Yemen is a State Party to the Convention, having ratified it in 1999; it entered into force for Yemen in March 2003.

Although the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention does not apply to anti-vehicle mines, the use of such mines becomes prohibited when they are employed in indiscriminate attacks — that is, when they are deployed extensively and outside areas of active hostilities, such as on public roads, agricultural land, and other locations, thereby exposing civilians to the risk of becoming victims of their detonation.

The use of mines and other explosive objects that fail to distinguish between civilians and military personnel is also prohibited under Article 7 of Amended Protocol II[31]to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons[32].

The Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which regulates the use of mines, booby-traps, and other devices, restricts their use in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law. It prohibits the use of such weapons indiscriminately or in a manner that fails to distinguish between civilians and military objectives, and requires all feasible precautions to be taken to limit their effects on the civilian population and civilian objects.

More broadly, the use of landmines, explosive objects, and other means and methods of warfare is governed by the rules of international humanitarian law, which require parties to a conflict to respect the principles of distinction and proportionality and to take precautions in attack. These rules prohibit directing attacks against civilians or civilian objects, or launching attacks that may be expected to cause incidental civilian loss excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage.

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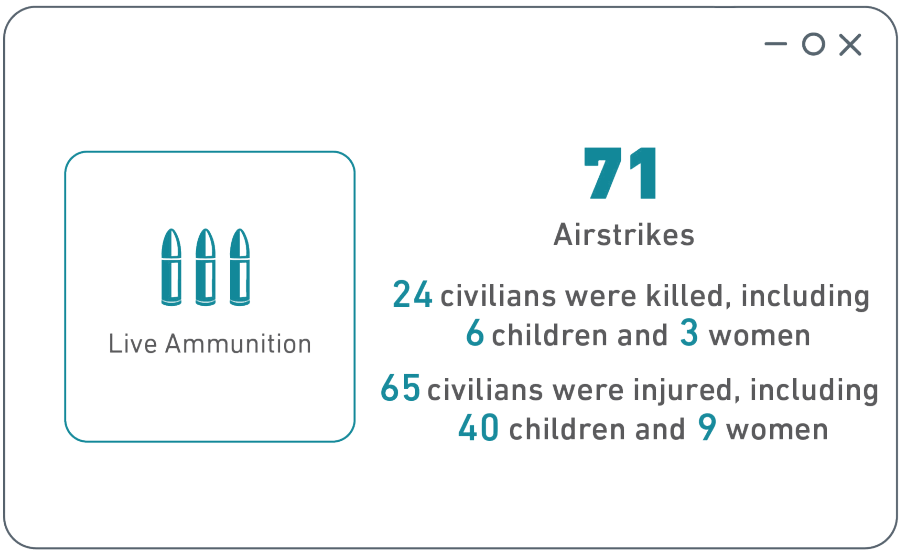
30. Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention), 1997. Available at: https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/anti-personnel-landmines-convention.
31. Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, 1996. Available at: https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/pdf/9b_CCW_Protocol_II_ar.pdf.
32. Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, 2001. Available at: https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons.

The rules of customary international humanitarian law affirm that these obligations apply to all parties to an armed conflict, including non-state armed groups. They prohibit indiscriminate attacks and the use of means and methods of warfare that cannot be directed at a specific military objective or whose effects cannot be limited as required by international humanitarian law. They also require parties to take feasible precautions to protect civilians and civilian objects from the effects of military operations.

Yemen's Law No. (25) of 2005, on the prohibition of the production, possession, use, transfer, and trade in anti-personnel mines[33], also absolutely prohibits the production, possession, use, transfer, and trafficking of anti-personnel mines.

IV. Live Ammunition

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 71 incidents involving live ammunition, including both direct fire and ricocheting rounds. These incidents resulted in the deaths of 24 civilians, including six children and three women, and injuries to 65 civilians, including 40 children and nine women.



33. Law No. (25) of 2005 on the Prohibition of the Production, Possession, Use, Transfer and Trade in Anti-Personnel Mines. Available at: http://mail.yemen-nic.info/db/laws_ye/detail.php?ID=11868.

" When I saw that there was a fight and the voices were getting louder, and they were all armed, I ran away and entered one of the shops in the neighborhood where one of my friends was. I stayed inside watching them and thought that I was now far away from them. Suddenly, one of the soldiers fired a round toward the ground. The bullet fragment ricocheted and struck the palm of my left hand, penetrating it "

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 30 incidents involving live ammunition; the internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for 17 incidents; the Southern Transitional Council was responsible for 15 incidents; and the Saudi Border Guard Forces were responsible for nine incidents of live ammunition among the total documented cases.

Case Examples Involving Live Ammunition

On Friday, May 9, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m., a civilian vehicle was subjected to direct live fire as it passed through a military checkpoint operated by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group on the main road linking the Al-Habaj and Al Burman areas, Al-Zahir District, Al Bayda Governorate. The checkpoint was under the direct supervision of a military position belonging to the group, stationed atop a mountain overlooking the road.

As the vehicle passed near the checkpoint, it came under direct live fire, killing a nine-year-old girl instantly after she was struck by a bullet in the chest and left palm. Her 13-year-old sister was also struck by a bullet below the rib cage.

The injured girl was taken to Taiba Hospital in the Al-Hadd area of Yafa', and was subsequently transferred to the main hospital operated by the same institution in the center of Al Bayda Governorate to receive treatment.

On Thursday, December 18, 2025, at approximately 5:00 p.m., in the Al-Ba'arara area of Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate, a 16-year-old boy was injured by a bullet fragment in the palm of his left hand after a soldier affiliated with the Taiz Axis, which falls under the forces of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, fired a round toward the ground during an altercation between several soldiers in the area.

The boy was near his home and on his way to a grocery store when the altercation broke out. He attempted to move away from the scene and entered a nearby shop. However, a fragment from the bullet ricocheted after it was fired and struck him in the palm of his left hand. The boy returned home after sustaining the injury without receiving first aid, before his mother later took him to the hospital for treatment.

The victim told Mwatana: "I was in the area near the house where I live. I crossed the street heading to the grocery store to buy something. At that moment, two soldiers came into the neighborhood, and a dispute broke out between them and three other soldiers[34]."

He added: "When I saw that there was a fight and the voices were getting louder, and they were all armed, I ran away and entered one of the shops in the neighborhood where one of my friends was. I stayed inside watching them and thought that I was now far away from them. Suddenly, one of the soldiers fired a round toward the ground. The bullet fragment ricocheted and struck the palm of my left hand, penetrating it[35]."

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, at approximately 6:00 a.m., while an Ethiopian national migrant was passing through an the Ansar Allah (Houthi) security checkpoint in the Al-Ajashir area, Al-Hashwah District, Saadah Governorate, one of the checkpoint personnel fired live ammunition directly at the 17-year-old male victim. The migrant was struck by two bullets: the first in the middle of his left leg and the second in the back of his right shoulder. The victim was left bleeding at the scene for approximately 15 minutes without receiving medical assistance. He was later allowed to be transported in a passing vehicle after being searched and having his personal belongings confiscated.

Mwatana for Human Rights was able to interview the victim, who recounted the incident in his testimony: "I had stayed in the Al-Hashwah area for approximately 20 days before I was shot, as I was looking for work in most of Saadah Governorate. Some people told me that I might find a job opportunity in Al-Hashwah District with a monthly salary of around SAR 500, with expenses covered. On Saturday, April 19, 2025, I headed toward the Al-Ajashir area, which is the nearest crossing point to the Kataf wa Al-Buq' district, and I arrived at the checkpoint at around 6:00 a.m. A soldier at the checkpoint stopped me and motioned with his hand for me to continue. After I had walked about 20 meters away, I heard the sound of a weapon being loaded. I turned around in great fear, but he was no longer there. He had entered a trench, and I could no longer see him. I thought that it had nothing to do with me and that he had loaded the weapon for some other reason. But suddenly, he opened fire at me, and the first bullet struck me in the middle of my left leg[36]."

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34. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the child victim in Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate, on December 21, 2025.
35. Ibid.
36. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim in Al-Hashwah District, Saada Governorate, on May 23, 2025.

He added: "I tried to turn around, and he immediately fired a second bullet, which lodged below my right shoulder in my back. I felt overwhelmed by anguish, fear, and excruciating pain. I wondered why he had shot me even though I had followed his instructions. He had told me to continue on my way, and I did so. I had seen migrants and others passing through this place, and I was not the first person to cross there. I tried to get up, but I could not. I was sweating more heavily than I was bleeding, and I was trembling with fear. I felt an unfamiliar cold that I had never experienced before, and I thought I was going to die. For about 15 minutes, silence prevailed over the area. I was screaming and crying and reaching out my hand toward him, pleading for help[37]."

He concluded his testimony with sadness, saying: "After he shot me, he came out of the trench, searched me while I was injured, and took my phone and money. About 15 minutes later, he allowed a passing vehicle to transport me. I heard him tell the driver: 'Do not take him to the hospital unless he pays for it. Let him die[38].'"

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m., in the Joul Al-Raydah area of Mifa'a District, Shabwah Governorate, soldiers belonging to the Shabwah Defense Forces, affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council forces and backed by the United Arab Emirates, opened live fire on two migrants on the main road near the security checkpoint in the Joul Al-Raydah area.

The shooting resulted in the injury of a 17-year-old Ethiopian migrant boy, who was struck by a bullet that ricocheted off the asphalt and entered the right front side of his chest. The soldiers fired randomly at the asphalt road to prevent the migrants from crossing at that time. One of the bullets struck the victim, who was traveling from Radum District toward the city of Ataq, the governorate capital, accompanied by another migrant.

The soldiers did not provide medical assistance to the victim, who remained lying at the scene until he was transported in a vehicle operated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to Habban Hospital in Habban District, where he received treatment with support from the IOM.

37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.

The victim told Mwatana: "My friend and I were walking around noon. We walked from an area called Al-Ain until we reached a point before the checkpoint. My friend told me that we should walk away from the checkpoint, but we did not know the road. We decided to walk along the asphalt road until we reached the checkpoint. One of the soldiers began searching us, and we decided to continue on our way. After we had walked approximately ten meters or more, the soldiers fired several rounds into the asphalt. As they were shooting, I tried to turn around, and a bullet struck me in my right side below the shoulder. I sat down on the ground, and my friend came and moved me away from the road. Then one of the soldiers came, looked at the place where I had been injured, and took us with him to the checkpoint. They made us sit beside the checkpoint. After approximately half an hour, an IOM vehicle arrived and took us to Habban Hospital. They treated me there, and I remained in the hospital for two months. They removed the bullet from my shoulder and performed surgery on me[39]."

On Monday, September 22, 2025, at approximately 6:00 a.m., in the border area of Al-Jabana, Shada'a District, Saadah Governorate, Saudi border guard forces opened fire with a machine gun on a group of porters as they attempted to cross the Yemeni-Saudi border. The attack resulted in the death of a 16-year-old boy, who was struck by multiple bullets and shrapnel in the head, abdomen, and right leg.

The boy's body was transported from the Al-Jabana area in a qat-transport vehicle to the morgue of Al-Salam Hospital in Saadah city, where it remained until his relatives could collect it.

An eyewitness who was accompanying the boy told Mwatana: "We were climbing the mountains toward the Al-Jabana area and the Saudi border barrier. At daybreak, as we approached Saudi territory and were climbing the last mountain along the border, at a distance of approximately 300 to 400 meters from a Saudi border guard tower and observation post, the post began firing at us with a machine gun[40]."

39. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Shabwah Governorate, Habban District, on September 4, 2025.
40. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with an eyewitness who was accompanying the victim, in Minbih District, Saadah Governorate, on October 17, 2025.

He added: "My companion was struck by several bullets and shrapnel in different parts of his body. He was walking a few meters ahead of me, and as soon as the first burst of gunfire was fired, he fell to the ground. We abandoned the loads and fled the area[41]."

He continued: "A few minutes later, when we saw that he was still lying there, we returned to rescue him. We tried to approach him while taking cover from the gunfire. We carried him down the mountain under the trees, but we found that he had died. He had suffered deep wounds to the head, abdomen, and right leg, which caused his rapid death[42]."

He added: "One of the people who had been with us helped me carry his body to the market area. There, we looked for people from his governorate and told them what had happened so that they could inform his family. Some of them also arranged for his body to be transported to the hospital and placed in the morgue until one of his relatives arrived to collect it[43]."

Legal Framework Governing the Use of Live Ammunition

The use of live ammunition is subject to strict legal restrictions under the international legal framework governing the use of force and firearms, which seeks to strike a balance between protecting life and respecting human rights. International instruments emphasize that the use of live ammunition must be governed by the principles of necessity and proportionality, with strict compliance with international humanitarian law.

The use of live ammunition should be a measure of last resort, in accordance with the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, adopted in 1990[44]. It is permitted only when strictly necessary to protect life against an imminent threat of death or serious injury. Its use must also be proportionate to the level of threat and may be resorted to only after all other less-lethal means have been exhausted.

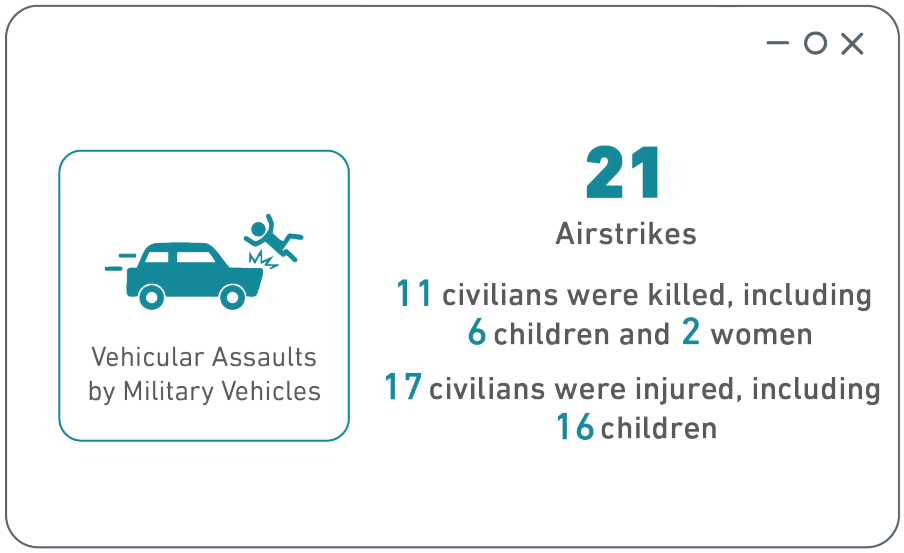
41. Ibid.
42. Ibid.
43. Ibid.
44. United Nations. Available at: https://2u.pw/k3UlIVl

In the context of armed conflicts, Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1977 establishes the principle of distinction[45], which requires attacks to be directed exclusively against legitimate military objectives and all necessary measures to be taken to avoid harm to civilians and civilian objects. This principle requires that live ammunition be used only for a clear and legitimate military purpose and that any incidental harm caused be proportionate to the anticipated military advantage.

In areas affected by armed conflict or security tensions, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)[46], the use of firearms by law enforcement authorities must comply with the fundamental standards established under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The guidance emphasizes that lethal force may be used only when it is strictly necessary and unequivocally proportionate to the legitimate objective of protecting life.

V. Death and Injury Caused by Military Vehicles

During 2025, violations involving military vehicles running over civilians continued, with "Mwatana" documenting 21 incidents, resulting in the death of 11 civilians, including six children and two women, and the injury of 17 civilians, including 16 children.



45. Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. Available at: https://2u.pw/UzO47
46. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Arms and Human Rights." Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/arms-and-weapons

The Southern Transitional Council was responsible for 11 of these incidents, while the internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for six incidents, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for three incidents, and the Joint Forces were responsible for one incident of the total documented.

According to Mwatana's documentation, most incidents involving military vehicles running over civilians resulted from the recklessness of vehicle drivers affiliated with parties to the conflict and their disregard for civilian lives, as well as violations of traffic regulations and excessive speed.

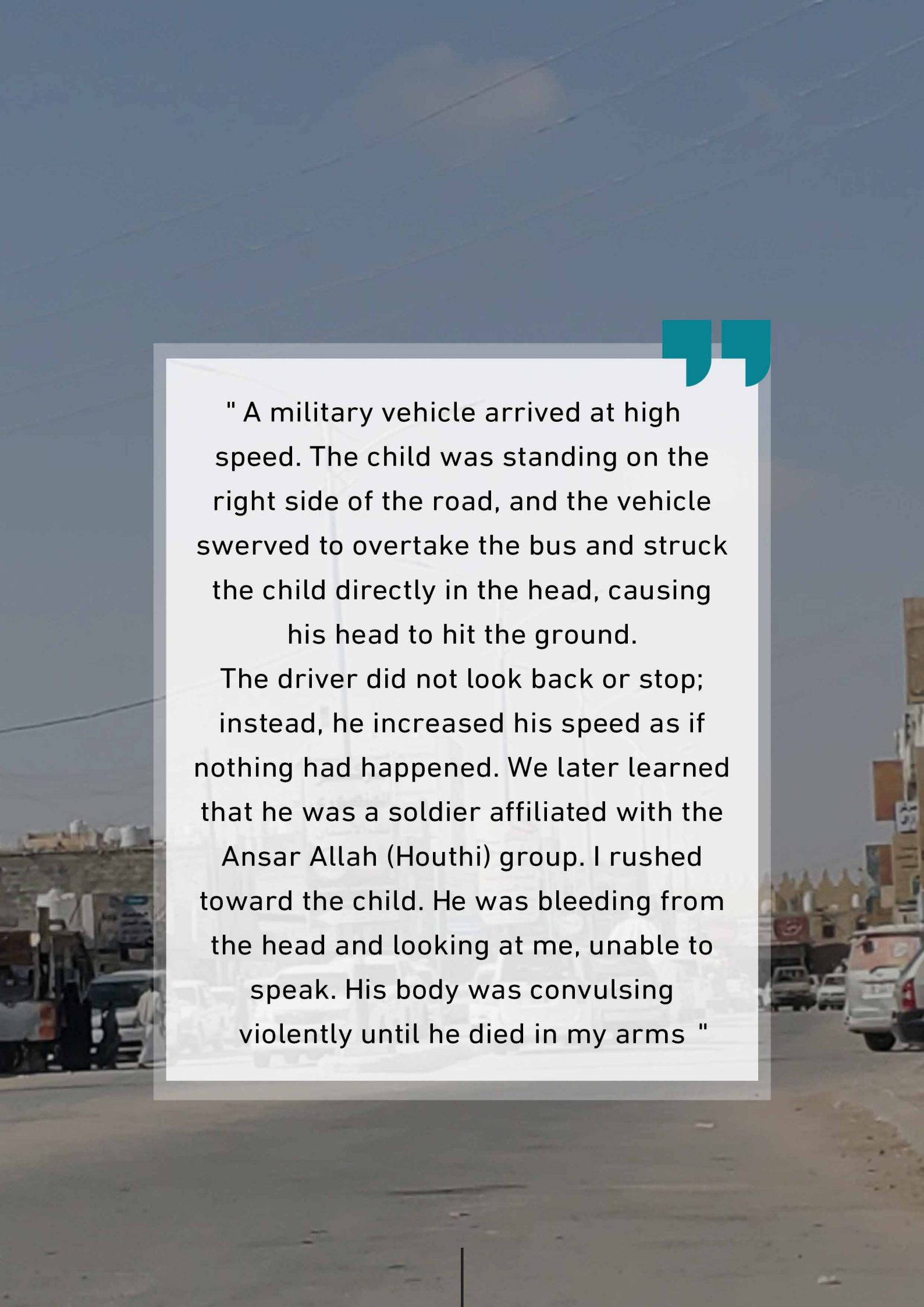
Case Examples of Death and Injury Caused by Military Vehicles

On Friday, February 7, 2025, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a military vehicle ran over a child in Hassan village, Zinjibar District, Abyan Governorate, along the international road. The incident was carried out by forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council when a vehicle belonging to the Southern Transitional Council was traveling at high speed along the international road. It ran over a nine-year-old boy and threw him approximately five meters to the opposite side of the road, causing his death.

The military vehicle was traveling at extremely high speed when it ran over the child. The child's mother rushed toward him and looked at the military vehicle, but it did not stop. A few minutes later, a bus passed by, stopped, and transported the child for medical assistance.

The victim's mother told Mwatana: **"I was there when the incident happened. My son was trying to get away, but the vehicle hit him. The sound of the impact was very loud. After the vehicle hit my son, it turned sharply to return to the road, almost causing the soldier standing at the back and holding a weapon to fall. The force of the impact threw my son off the road onto the opposite side. I was screaming, but the vehicle did not stop. Everyone on the vehicle was looking toward where my son was lying, while dust covered the area. I reached my son, quickly lifted him and held him in my arms. I was crying, and there was blood, but I did not know where it was coming from[47]."**

47. An interview conducted by Mwatana with the victim's mother in Zinjibar District, Abyan Governorate, on May 30, 2025.



" A military vehicle arrived at high speed. The child was standing on the right side of the road, and the vehicle swerved to overtake the bus and struck the child directly in the head, causing his head to hit the ground.
The driver did not look back or stop; instead, he increased his speed as if nothing had happened. We later learned that he was a soldier affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. I rushed toward the child. He was bleeding from the head and looking at me, unable to speak. His body was convulsing violently until he died in my arms "

She added: "I stood waiting for a vehicle to take my son for medical treatment. The minutes passed like hours. The blood was flowing, and my child's movements were gradually becoming weaker. I saw a vehicle approaching and stopped it. There was only one person driving it, and he was elderly. We went with him. When we reached the checkpoint at the entrance to Abyan and then the hospital, the doctor told me, 'Your child has lost a large amount of blood, and his pulse is extremely weak. He must be transferred to Al-Razi Hospital.' Someone volunteered to take my son to Al-Razi Hospital. My son was admitted to the emergency department, where a doctor examined him and told us that he had died. The news was devastating to me. He had been my support and the man of the house after his father's death[48]."

On Saturday, October 11, 2025, at approximately 3:00 p.m., in Al-Sahn Junction area, Saadah District, Saadah Governorate, individuals affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, traveling in a 2018 Toyota Hilux with a military license plate and assigned to provide military supplies to the Al-Ajashir–Kitaf wa Al-Buq'a front, ran over a 13-year-old boy. The vehicle did not stop to take the victim to a hospital for medical assistance.

The child was transported to a hospital by the driver of a 2023 Toyota Hilux pickup, acting on the instructions of the military checkpoint located near the scene at the time of the incident. However, as a result of bleeding caused by a skull injury, the child died. Two days after the incident, the child's family was forced to withdraw the case concerning their son under pressure from the area supervisor.

The child's uncle, who also witnessed the incident, told Mwatana: "A military vehicle arrived at high speed. The child was standing on the right side of the road, and the vehicle swerved to overtake the bus and struck the child directly in the head, causing his head to hit the ground. The driver did not look back or stop; instead, he increased his speed as if nothing had happened. We later learned that he was a soldier affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. I rushed toward the child. He was bleeding from the head and looking at me, unable to speak. His body was convulsing violently until he died in my arms[49]."

He added: "Moments later, the father arrived on a motorcycle and asked me, 'Did you see my son?' His son was a lifeless body in my arms. The father cried out in shock, 'My son,' and began striking the ground with his hand. The child was taken to the hospital. An hour later, the Criminal Investigation Department asked us to come

48. Ibid.

49. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Saadah District, Saadah Governorate, on October 21, 2025.

to the hospital to receive the body. At that time, the father was gathering his son's belongings and holding them against his chest. Two days later, due to pressure from the area supervisor, the victim's father was forced to withdraw the case[50]."

On Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at approximately 5:00 p.m., in Ma'zoub Amer village, Qatabah District, Al-Dale' Governorate, a four-year-old boy sustained serious injuries to his head, upper lip, and left thigh after being run over by a military vehicle (pickup) belonging to the "Second Commando Brigade" of the Joint Forces. The child was walking with his grandfather and brother along the side of the main road connecting the cities of Qatabah and Ibb, as the military vehicle approached from the "Al-Fakher" front at extremely high speed. The vehicle was being driven by a lone driver, who directly ran over the child. Following the incident, the driver continued on his way without stopping or attempting to provide medical assistance to the victim. People in the vicinity immediately transported the injured child by taxi (bus) to the field hospital in the "Sanah" area, where he received first aid. Due to the severity of his condition, he was subsequently transferred by a private ambulance to Aden Charitable Cooperative Hospital in Aden City to receive the necessary medical treatment.

On Sunday morning, May 4, 2025, at approximately 11:00 a.m., in the Western Al-Ribat area, at the entrance to Green City, Dar Saad District, Aden Governorate, a 10-year-old boy was run over by a military vehicle belonging to the Fourth Brigade, one of the military formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, while it was traveling at high speed along a public road in a densely populated civilian area. The incident resulted in the child sustaining multiple serious bodily injuries.

The victim's mother told Mwatana: "My son left at 6:00 a.m. accompanied by three children from the camp to collect plastic bottles and scrap metal. They usually returned to the camp at around 2:00 p.m[51]."

She added: "On that day, while my son and the other children were collecting scrap metal and plastic bottles from the dirt road at the entrance to Green City, a military vehicle passed by at extremely high speed, ran over my son, and then fled the scene[52]."

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50. Ibid.
51. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim's mother in Dar Saad District, Aden Governorate, on May 21, 2025.
52. Ibid.

She continued: "The children returned to the camp at around 11:30 a.m., crying and trembling with fear. They told us that a military vehicle had run over my son while traveling at high speed along the dirt road and had not stopped. They also told us that a traffic police vehicle was at the scene and transported him for medical assistance, but they did not know which hospital he had been taken to[53]."

One of the victim's relatives told Mwatana: "I immediately went to Al-Ta'awun Hospital in Lahj Governorate and searched all the hospital departments for the child, but I could not find him. The staff there told me that he had been transferred to Ibn Khaldoun Hospital, so I went there immediately[54]."

He added: "When I arrived at the Ibn Khaldoun Hospital, I saw the traffic polic vehicle, so I knew that the child was there. I asked about his condition, and they told me that he had been admitted to the intensive care unit immediately upon arrival because of the severity of his injuries[55]."

He continued: "The doctors explained that he had sustained an open fracture of the left leg, a closed fracture of the right femur, a skull fracture, and an open wound to the left cheek. He was provided with first aid[56]."

He added: "The doctors subsequently informed us that he needed to be transferred to another hospital because the necessary medical capabilities were not available. We therefore transferred him to Al-Jumhuriya Teaching Hospital in Aden Governorate, where he remained in the intensive care unit for five days before being transferred to the inpatient ward. He underwent surgery to insert a metal plate into the right femur and still requires surgery on his left leg."

Legal Framework Governing Death and Injury Caused by Military Vehicles

Running over civilians with military vehicles constitutes a form of excessive use of force and disregard for the lives and property of individuals. It constitutes a violation of the rights to life and security and falls among violations that cause unnecessary harm. Most such incidents do not occur in the context of a military operation, rendering them indiscriminate and disproportionate acts, sometimes

53. Ibid.
54. Ibid.
55. Ibid.
56. Ibid.

characterized by an intent to cause harm, or by recklessness and disregard for civilian lives and traffic rules. As such, they constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

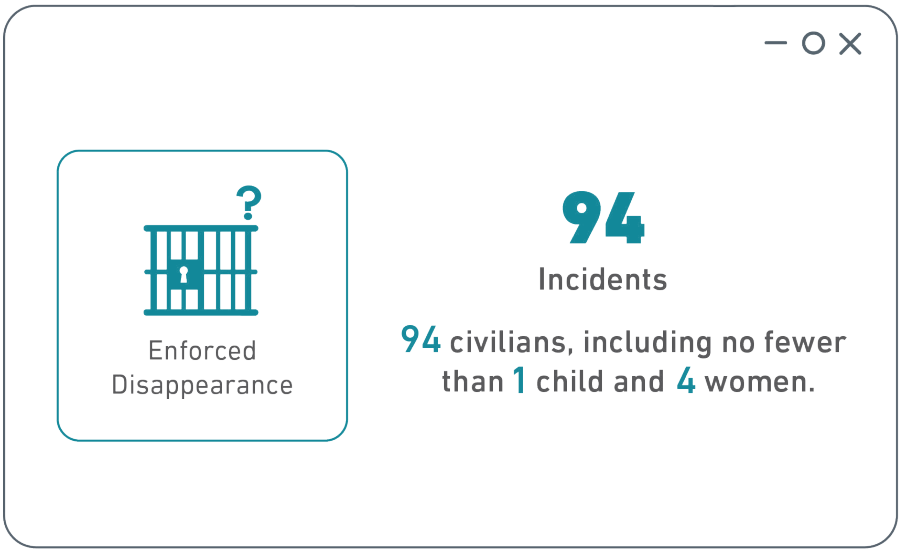
Violations involving military vehicles running over civilians constitute serious breaches of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, particularly when civilians are deliberately targeted or physically harmed. The right to life is a fundamental right of every human being, as stipulated in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[57], which obliges states to protect this right and not arbitrarily deprive any individual of life.

In addition, some of these acts are classified as war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court[58], particularly when civilians are deliberately targeted or when such acts are carried out indiscriminately and disproportionately, including in non-international armed conflicts.

VI. Enforced Disappearance

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented the enforced disappearance of 94 civilians, including one child and four women. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for the enforced disappearance of 53civilians, including one child and two women. The Southern Transitional Council was responsible for the enforced disappearance of 25 civilians, including one woman, while the internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for the enforced disappearance of 12 civilians, including one woman. The Saudi/UAE-led coalition bears responsibility for the enforced disappearance of 4 civilians out of the total documented cases.

57. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, available at: https://2u.pw/SJXLG
58. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, available at: https://2u.pw/Q6c9eg



Examples of Enforced Disappearance Incidents

On Monday, August 1, 2025, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a 43-year-old male civilian working for a humanitarian organization in Yemen was detained by members of a security checkpoint in Yarim District, Ibb Governorate, affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, while traveling from Sana'a to Aden to obtain a passport. The victim was stopped and the identities of the passengers were checked. He was then informed that he was prohibited from traveling because he worked for an international organization. Contact with him was subsequently lost. Two days later, his home in Sana'a was searched without an official search warrant, and his personal belongings were confiscated. His family was able to communicate with him only once following his detention, and his whereabouts remained unknown at the time of preparing this report.

The victim's brother told Mwatana: **"While my brother was traveling from Sana'a to Aden to obtain a passport, he was detained at a checkpoint at the exit of Yarim District in Ibb Governorate on the grounds that he worked for an international organization and was prohibited from traveling. His house in Sana'a was subsequently raided, searched, and his personal belongings were confiscated. A week later, my brother contacted his wife, and after that we heard nothing from him and do not know where he is until now[59]."**

59. An interview conducted by Mwatana in the Amanat Al-Asimah, Al Tahrir District, on November 8, 2025.

He added: **"My mother's condition is very difficult as a result of my brother's detention. The anxiety never leaves us, and we are constantly wondering about my brother's physical and psychological condition[60]."**

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at approximately 1:00 p.m., a 53-year-old male victim was detained after a military convoy passed in front of his workplace in Al Mualla District, Aden Governorate. The convoy belonged to the Southern Transitional Council. The victim said to them, "Eat, you thieves." Less than half an hour later, a brown military vehicle arrived carrying three soldiers wearing brown spotted military uniforms and armed with automatic rifles. They belonged to the Security Department of the Security Belt Forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council. They detained the victim and took him to an unknown location.

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, at approximately 8:30 a.m., on Al-Arfaf Road in Damt District, Al-Dale' Governorate, armed men affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group detained a 55-year-old man who worked as a teacher and mosque imam. He was leaving his home to find transportation to take his ten-month-old child to the hospital. The detention was carried out in front of his wife and daughter, before he was taken to an unknown location because of the approaching anniversary of the September 26 Revolution and on the pretext of his affiliation with the Islah Party. The victim remained detained and forcibly disappeared as of the date of writing this report.

The victim's wife told Mwatana: **"On the morning of Thursday, September 18, 2025, we were preparing to go to the hospital because our youngest child, who was ten months old, was ill and needed an oxygen session due to inflammation of the trachea. My husband went out to look for a taxi for us, and only moments had passed when someone knocked on the door of our home[61]."**

She added: **"My daughter opened the door after the person knocking told her that he was a friend of her father. It turned out to be two armed men wearing military uniforms. I asked them why they had come, and I told them that my husband had gone out to find a vehicle to take our child to the hospital. They followed him and forcibly took him away. My daughter and I went outside after them, and I was**

60. Ibid.

61. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim's wife in Damt District, Al-Dale' Governorate, on October 21, 2025.

carrying my child in my arms. I saw them put him into a white car in which there was another person wearing civilian clothes. They then drove away with him to a place I do not know[62]."

Recalling those moments, she said: "When they took him away, I no longer felt aware of what was happening around me. I returned home with nothing left to do but entrust my suffering to God. My husband is a teacher and a mosque imam, and his life revolved around the school, the mosque, and home. He never interfered in anyone else's affairs[63]."

She continued: "After his detention, I became ill, and neither I nor my children were able to search for him. They are still young, and the eldest, who is about 17 years old, was afraid that he would be detained if he tried to search for his father[64]."

She added: "One of his relatives tried to inquire about him at one of the detention facilities, but he was threatened with detention if he continued searching for him. His presence there was also denied[65]."

She said with profound sadness: "Since my husband was taken away, there has been no one to help us, and our lives have become extremely difficult. Even some of our relatives no longer provide us with any assistance. Whenever we try to contact them, we find their phones switched off. There is no one left to support us financially after him[66]."

She concluded by saying: "I was forced to put my son, who is about 17 years old, to work in a workshop so that he could support us. After all avenues became closed to us, we had no one left but God. We remain patient and hold firmly to His rope[67]."

62. Ibid.
63. Ibid.
64. Ibid., supra note 56.
65. Ibid., supra note 56.
66. Ibid., supra note 56.
67. Ibid., supra note 56.

" Throughout the thirty-day period, until May 2025 ,4, I was, in every sense of the word, forcibly disappeared. My family had no means of communicating with me, and no one knew what had happened to me, despite their repeated attempts to inquire about me and search for me "

On Friday, April 4, 2025, at approximately 6:00 a.m., a force of approximately 30 military personnel aboard five security vehicles affiliated with the General Security Department in Al Mukalla District, under the Ministry of Interior of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, detained a 34-year-old man and transferred him to the detention prison at the General Security Department in Al Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate, where he was held for two days. He was charged with possessing explosives, promoting and selling drugs, and belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. He was subsequently transferred to the Criminal Investigation Prison in Al Mukalla, where he was subjected to enforced disappearance for 30 days. He was released on May 21, 2025[68].

Mwatana interviewed the victim, who said: **"Throughout the thirty-day period, until May 4, 2025, I was, in every sense of the word, forcibly disappeared. My family had no means of communicating with me, and no one knew what had happened to me, despite their repeated attempts to inquire about me and search for me[69]."**

He added: **"After the Public Prosecution's investigations were completed, my family was allowed to visit me and see me for the first time since my detention. During my detention, I felt a profound sense of injustice, humiliation, and fear. I was not treated as a citizen, but rather as a criminal, despite there being no evidence against me. The treatment of detainees inside the prison was degrading[70]."**

He concluded: **"I was deprived of communicating with or seeing my family for thirty days. The psychological pressure was so severe that I would cry inside the bathroom so that no one would see me[71]."**

Legal Framework Governing Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance is defined as the arrest, detention, abduction, or any other form of deprivation of liberty carried out by agents of the State, or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by

68. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim in Al Mukalla, Hadramout Governorate, on May 13, 2025.
69. Ibid.
70. Ibid.
71. Ibid.

concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the person concerned, which places such a person outside the protection of the law[72].

Persons who effectively disappear following their arrest by State authorities, or by any person acting with the authorities' consent, and whose whereabouts or knowledge of their whereabouts is subsequently denied, are victims of enforced disappearance. Enforced disappearance, whether perpetrated by State authorities or armed groups, constitutes a serious crime under international law.

The families and friends of persons subjected to enforced disappearance live in a state of confusion, fear, and constant anxiety over the victim's fate: whether they are still alive, whether they are being subjected to torture, whether they are receiving adequate food and water, and the many questions surrounding the conditions and circumstances of their detention and the charges brought against them. This causes long-term psychological effects that do not end merely upon the victim's return or the disclosure of their fate.

International humanitarian law and international human rights law criminalize enforced disappearance and recommend imposing the maximum penalties on those involved in such violations in any capacity. Enforced disappearance is considered one of the violations for which laws criminalizing and prohibiting the practice remain applicable under all circumstances and in all cases, with no exceptions.

Enforced disappearance deprives its victims of their right to the protection of the law, their right to a defense, their right to a fair trial, and their right to communicate with their families. Persons subjected to enforced disappearance are also frequently subjected to torture and other forms of inhuman treatment and cruel and degrading treatment or punishment.

Although Yemen has not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and despite the absence of explicit provisions in national laws criminalizing enforced disappearance as such, laws concerning arbitrary detention and the prohibition of torture are consistent with international provisions in criminalizing practices that may lead to enforced disappearance.

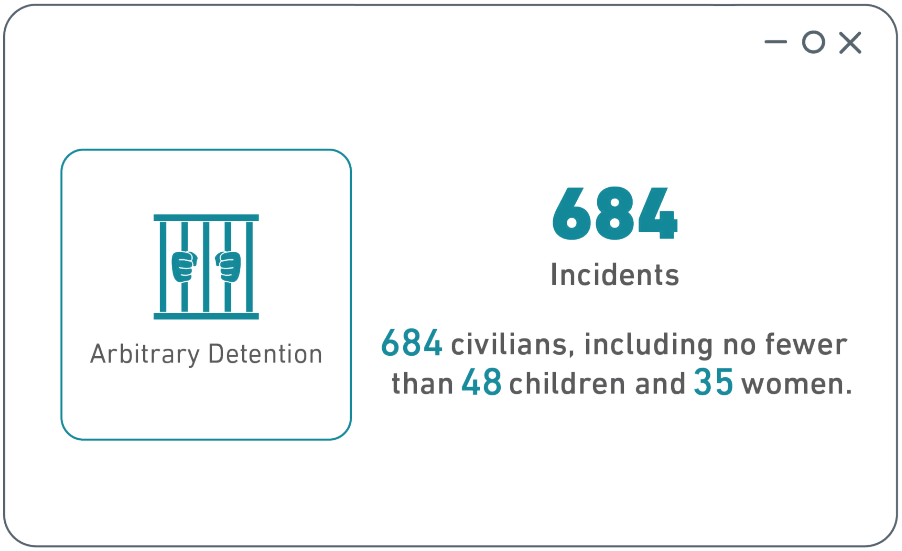
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72. Definition of enforced disappearance, Article 2 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, available at: https://2u.pw/VPcaLc

Under the Rome Statute, the widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity. In addition, detention or threats of detention, or the taking of hostages for the purpose of compelling a third party to perform or refrain from performing a particular act, constitutes a war crime, reflecting the gravity of these violations in both international and non-international armed conflicts.

VII. Arbitrary Detention

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented the arbitrary detention of 684 civilians, including 48 children and 35 women, by various parties to the conflict. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for the arbitrary detention of 329 civilians, including 20 children and four women. The internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for the arbitrary detention of 195 civilians, including 20 children and 10 women. The Southern Transitional Council was responsible for the arbitrary detention of 144 civilians, including seven children and 21 women. The Saudi/UAE-led coalition was responsible for the arbitrary detention of 12 civilians, while the Joint Forces were responsible for the arbitrary detention of three civilians, including one child. Terrorist organizations were responsible for the detention of one civilian among the total cases documented during the year.



These findings indicate a dangerous escalation in human rights violations in Yemen, particularly with regard to the deprivation of liberty and violations of freedom of opinion and other fundamental freedoms, in contravention of the law and the rights guaranteed under national legislation and international law.

The conditions of arbitrary detention in Yemen are of grave concern, whether in official or unofficial places of detention, given the serious human rights violations associated with them. Even in official places of detention, conditions are in many cases inhumane, lacking basic standards of safety and health. This undermines the dignity of detainees and places their physical and psychological well-being at risk.

Unofficial places of detention are an even greater source of concern due to the absence of oversight by judicial authorities, independent bodies, or families. In these places, opportunities for monitoring by human rights organizations, or even for family visits, are almost nonexistent. This creates an environment conducive to further violations, including torture and cruel and inhuman treatment, and reinforces impunity.

Examples of Arbitrary Detention Cases

On Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., a military group at Al-Urfaf checkpoint, beneath Nasiyah Mountain in Damt District, Al-Dale' Governorate, arbitrarily detained a 43-year-old male civilian. The group consisted of 30 armed military personnel carrying rifles and wearing blue camouflage military uniforms. They were affiliated with the Military Police Director, who reports to the Security Director of Al-Dale' Governorate and is affiliated with The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. The civilian was taken to Dar Al-Quran Prison, where he was interrogated and accused of belonging to former President "Saleh." He remained detained until his release on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

The victim's relative told Mwatana: **"He was prevented from traveling, thereby cutting off his livelihood and that of his children for no reason. They accused him of belonging to former President 'Saleh,' but he is a person who does not belong to anyone. He only travels in search of a livelihood to support his family and pay for the treatment of his sick wife[73]."**

73. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Damt District, Al-Dale' Governorate, on December 17, 2025.

On Friday, June 6, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., two male civilians, aged 34 and 31, were detained. The two victims were traveling from Taiz Governorate to Abyan Governorate when they were stopped at Al-Hadeed checkpoint in Tuban District, Lahj Governorate, by a number of soldiers wearing brown uniforms with dotted patterns and carrying automatic weapons. The soldiers were affiliated with the Security Belt, which is affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council. The two men were arbitrarily detained on charges of joining The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group at Al-Hadeed Camp. They were subsequently transferred to Al-Shaab Camp and then to Bir Ahmed Prison before being referred to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution on the same charges. The two victims remained in arbitrary detention until their release on April 15, 2026.

On Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 9:00 p.m., five armed individuals wearing green uniforms with brown dotted patterns and affiliated with the Central Security Forces, which are affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government, detained a 28-year-old male civilian, four women aged between 20 and 60, and a two-year-old girl who was accompanying her mother at Al-Sharika checkpoint in Marib Governorate. The male victim was transferred to the Second Security District Prison, while the women were transferred to the Central Women's Prison. All the victims remained in arbitrary detention until August 25, 2025, when they were all released.

The victim's wife told Mwatana: **"My husband was the sole breadwinner for our family. Today, we face the risk of being evicted from our home if we are unable to pay the rent, while my children need food, clothing, and care. I have a five-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son, and I am five months pregnant. Since my husband's detention, our living conditions have become extremely difficult, and we struggle every day to meet our most basic needs[74]."**

She added: **"Since that day, I have been living in a state of anxiety and psychological distress. I know nothing about my husband's physical or psychological condition while he remains detained and is denied visits[75]."**

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., a 28-year-old male civilian was detained while he was in front of the gate of the General Prison, located in Al-Gharbiyyah neighborhood, Al-Shihr District, Hadramout Governorate. A force of approximately seven armed individuals wearing light-brown military uniforms, affiliated with Al-Rayyan Airport Camp, which is part of the Al-Rayyan Military Axis

74. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Al-Madina District, Marib Governorate, on July 6, 2025.
75. Ibid.

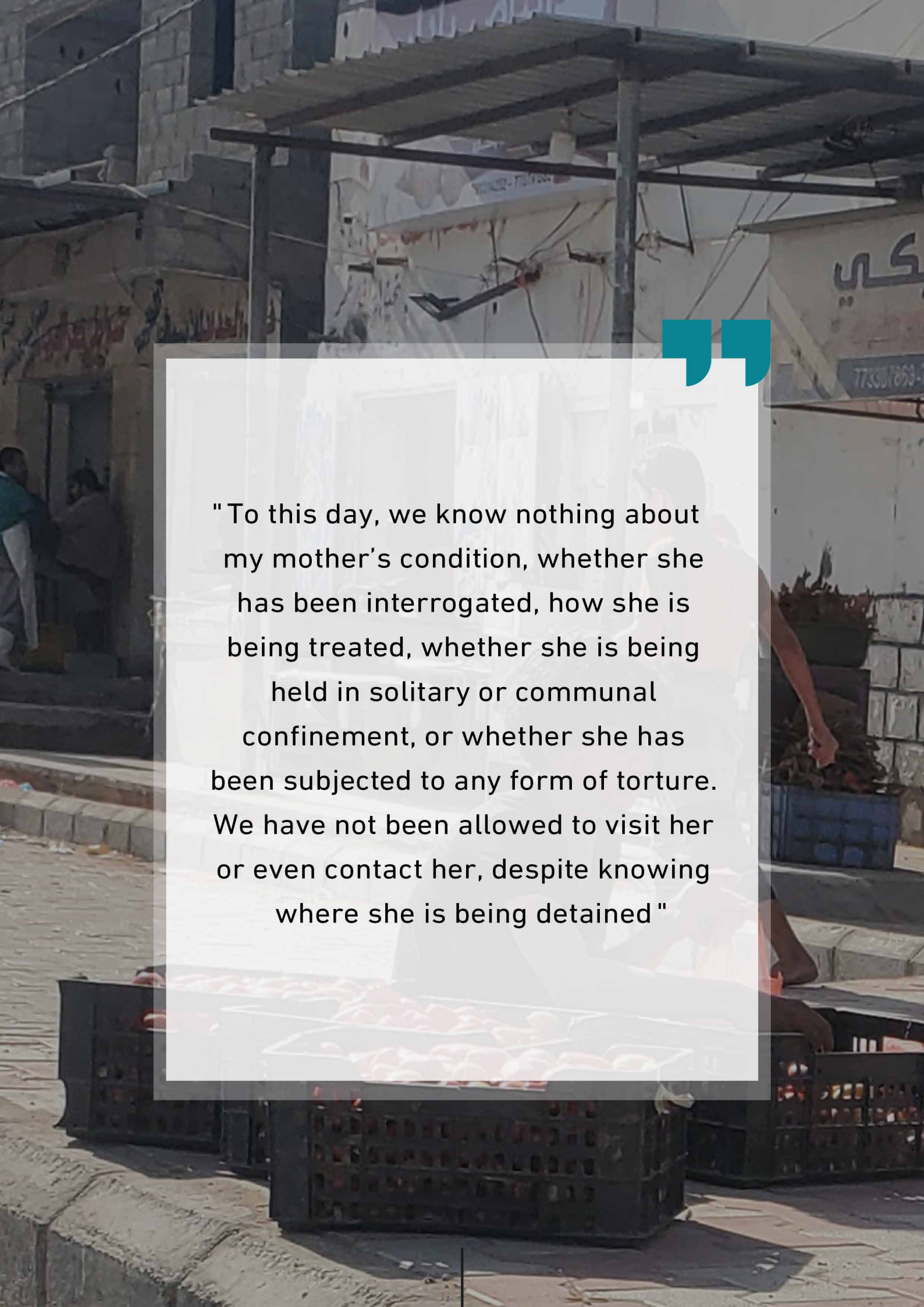
affiliated with UAE forces, which in turn are part of the Saudi/UAE-led coalition, detained him and took him to Al-Rayyan Airport Camp in the Al-Rayyan area of Al-Mukalla District. On October 12, 2025, he was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department Prison in Al-Mukalla, where he was interrogated on charges of belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group and spying on its behalf. The victim remains in arbitrary detention as of the date of preparation of this report.

On Monday, June 9, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., an armed group affiliated with the Seventh Giants Brigade, which is part of the Joint Forces, raided Al-Shifa Specialized Medical Clinic, located in the city of Hays, south of Al Hudaydah, and detained a 33-year-old male civilian who was at the clinic to undergo medical examinations. Following his detention, he was taken to the headquarters of the Seventh Giants Brigade and was subsequently transferred to the Hays Security Department. He remained detained until the incident was documented on June 16, 2025.

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at approximately 6:00 a.m., a force affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, consisting of four unarmed women (Zainabiyat) and seven armed military personnel wearing military uniforms, raided the 62-year-old female victim's home in Ma'een District, Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a. The force was traveling in a white Hiace van without license plates. The force arbitrarily detained her from her home without presenting an official arrest warrant. The victim remains in arbitrary detention as of the date of writing this report.

Mwatana interviewed the victim's daughter, who said: **"When they entered the house, one of the Zainabiyat immediately asked me about my mother. Out of fear for her, I pretended that I was the person they were looking for. She told me to put on my coat and go with them for interrogation. I asked them to wait and not to act violently because my children were still asleep and had been frightened by their entry. As I was heading to my room, my mother came out and told them that she was the person they were looking for, and asked them if there was something (they wanted)[76]."**

76. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim's daughter in Ma'een District, Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a, on September 16, 2025.



"To this day, we know nothing about my mother's condition, whether she has been interrogated, how she is being treated, whether she is being held in solitary or communal confinement, or whether she has been subjected to any form of torture. We have not been allowed to visit her or even contact her, despite knowing where she is being detained"

She added: **"My mother was so frightened and confused that she urinated on herself out of fear. When I asked them to allow me to change her clothes, they refused and told me that they would take care of it themselves. They also treated her violently during the arrest, gripping her arms forcefully. When I asked them not to treat her that way because she was an elderly woman with weak bones, they pushed her. I then asked my mother not to resist and to go with them, and we gave them the medications she takes before they left[77]."**

She concluded by saying: **"To this day, we know nothing about my mother's condition, whether she has been interrogated, how she is being treated, whether she is being held in solitary or communal confinement, or whether she has been subjected to any form of torture. We have not been allowed to visit her or even contact her, despite knowing where she is being detained[78]."**

Legal Framework Governing Arbitrary Detention

Arbitrary detention constitutes a serious violation of human rights and is prohibited under international laws and instruments, including the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights[79], which affirms in Article 9 that: **"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."**

The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)[80] further reinforces this principle in Article 9(1), which provides: "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention." Article 9(4) of the Covenant guarantees every person deprived of their liberty the right to bring proceedings before a court, without delay, so that the court may decide on the lawfulness of their arrest or detention and order their release if the arrest or detention is unlawful.

The 1984 Convention against Torture[81], to which Yemen is a party, prohibits all forms of cruel or inhuman treatment, including arbitrary detention, particularly where such detention is accompanied by violations that undermine human dignity.

77. Ibid.
78. Ibid.
79. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at: https://2u.pw/cuZKf8.
80. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, available at: https://2u.pw/SJXLG.
81. Convention against Torture, available at: https://2u.pw/wTP0GP.

The United Nations principles concerning arbitrary detention[82] establish a strict legal framework setting out the conditions that must be met to ensure that detention is lawful, while emphasizing respect for due process and the protection of detainees' rights. Similarly, Principle 4 of the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment affirms that: **"Any form of detention or imprisonment and all measures affecting the rights of a detained or imprisoned person shall be given by, or be subject to the effective control of, a judicial or other authority."**

In the context of international humanitarian law, the 1949 Geneva Conventions[83] and their Additional Protocols prohibit arbitrary detention during armed conflicts, considering it a serious violation of international law.

At the national level, the Yemeni Constitution prohibits arbitrary detention through several provisions, including Article 47(b), which stipulates that: **"No person may be arrested or detained except by order of the competent judicial authority."**

The Yemeni Code of Criminal Procedure (Law No. 13 of 1994) likewise reinforces these protections by establishing legal safeguards for persons who are arrested or detained. Article 7 provides that the liberty of any person may not be restricted, nor may any person be arrested or detained, except in accordance with the law. It also requires the immediate release of any person whose liberty has been restricted unlawfully or whose detention has continued beyond the legally prescribed period[84]. Article 73 further requires that an arrested person be immediately informed of the reasons for their arrest, be allowed to review the arrest warrant, communicate with a person of their choice to inform them of what has occurred, obtain the assistance of a lawyer, and be promptly informed of the charge against them[85].

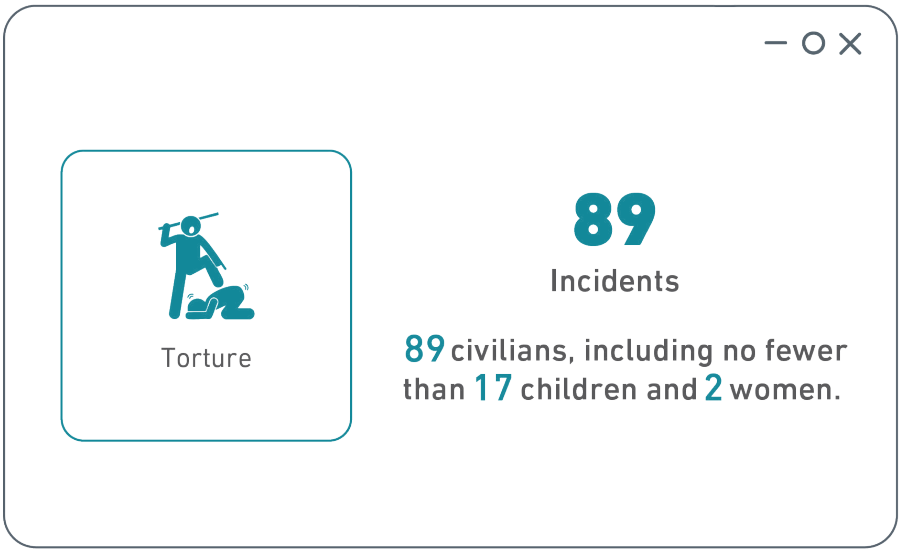
The Yemeni Criminal Code (Law No. 12 of 1994) criminalizes unlawful arrest or detention. Article 167 provides for the punishment of anyone who arrests or detains a person without legal grounds, thereby providing criminal-law protection for the right to personal liberty and affirming the unlawfulness of arbitrary detention[86].

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82. United Nations, Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, available at: https://2u.pw/oOhf8.
83. Geneva Conventions, available at: https://2u.pw/vol0Uis.
84. Ibid.
85. Law No. 13 of 1994 concerning Criminal Procedure, available at: http://mail.yemen-nic.info/db/laws_ye/detail.php?ID=11425.
86. Yemeni Crimes and Penalties Law and its Amendments (Law No. 12 of 1994), available at: https://agoyemen.net/lib_details.php?id=5.

VIII. Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment

Mwatana for Human Rights documented the torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of 89 people, including 17 children and two women. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group bears responsibility for the torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of 41 people, including 13 children. The Southern Transitional Council bears responsibility for the torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of 28 people. The internationally recognized Yemeni government bears responsibility for the torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of 14 people, including four children and woman. The Saudi/UAE-led coalition bears responsibility for the torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of four people, while terrorist organizations bear responsibility for the torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of two people including one woman, out of the total number of documented cases.



Examples of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment Cases

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a force of approximately seven military personnel at a military checkpoint, traveling in a military vehicle and affiliated with the Fifth Shabwa Defense Brigade, arrested a 39-year-old male civilian. The victim was stopped at the military checkpoint operated by the Fifth

Shabwa Defense Brigade, located on the main road in Khawrah, Lower Markhah District, Shabwa Governorate, and was taken to the detention facility at Balhaf Port Camp in Rudum District, Shabwa Governorate. On April 21, 2025, he was transferred to the detention facility at Al-Dhabba Camp in Al-Shihr District, Hadramout Governorate, one of the detention centers directly operated by UAE forces affiliated with the Saudi/UAE-led coalition. He was detained on allegations of belonging to Al-Qaeda and transporting weapons to the group. He was subjected to torture, death threats, and enforced disappearance.

The victim told Mwatana: "I underwent approximately six interrogation sessions. The first took place on the sixth day of my detention at Al-Dhabba Camp detention facility, and the interrogation lasted for five hours. During that time, I was subjected to various forms of torture. I was taken from my solitary cell to what I believe was a caravan or an isolated room within the detention compound. They shackled my hands with metal restraints and placed me on a chair. Three Emirati officers, judging by their accents, arrived with masked soldiers whose number and names I was unable to determine. They began questioning me about my relationship with Al-Qaeda and whether I had participated in transporting weapons from Marib to Abyan through Shabwa[87]."

He added: "When they were dissatisfied with my answers, they slapped and punched me in the face and chest, while avoiding my abdomen because I had undergone surgery there. They also submerged my head in a plastic basin filled with water until I felt that I was suffocating. They then subjected me to electric shocks several times on my arms and beat me with a plastic whip on my upper back and limbs, leaving marks that remained visible for several days[88]."

He continued: "They threatened to kill me during the torture if I did not confess to what they wanted me to admit. They said they would cut open my abdomen and tear apart my intestines, and reopen the surgical wound in my abdomen until I died. They also threatened to transfer me to Aden, where they would cut me into pieces, and no one would ever know what had happened to me[89]."

87. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Hadramout Governorate, Al-Mukalla District, on September 10, 2025.
88. Ibid.
89. Ibid.

He concluded: **"The second session took place at the same camp and lasted approximately three hours. I was again subjected to various forms of torture. They took me back to the same location in the same manner and tortured me in the same way as during the previous interrogation session[90]."**

On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., a 35-year-old male victim was detained while he was on the main road in Al-Nasr neighborhood, Al-Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate. A force of approximately six armed men wearing civilian clothing, traveling in a white bus, and affiliated with Al-Dhabba Camp, which is operated by UAE forces affiliated with the Saudi/UAE-led coalition, took him to the detention facility at Al-Dhabba Camp in Al-Shihr District. There, he was severely beaten and subjected to electric shocks during interrogation. He was interrogated and detained on allegations of participating in and joining Al-Qaeda, involvement in smuggling weapons to Somalia, supplying Al-Qaeda with weapons, and smuggling and illegally bringing foreign nationals of Somali nationality into Yemeni territory[91].

The victim told Mwatana: **"When the interrogator began questioning me, I answered his questions, but he was not satisfied with my answers. He then ordered the soldiers to beat me. They beat me with thick sticks, punched me with their hands, and kicked me. When I became more insistent on denying the allegations against me, the interrogator ordered them to submerge my head in a plastic basin filled with water until I nearly suffocated. At that point, I had lost hope of surviving. They then subjected me to electric shocks several times, and the marks from the shocks are still visible in various parts of my body. The torture became even more severe when they completely stripped me of my clothes and left me naked[92]."**

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at approximately 10:00 p.m., a force of five military personnel affiliated with the military checkpoint of the Belfaqih Military Center, which belongs to the Elite Brigade and reports directly to the Command and Control Axis Camp at Al Rayyan Airport, operated by the Saudi/UAE-led coalition, detained a 29-year-old male civilian as he was passing through the military checkpoint located on Al-Qasr Street, Engineering District, Al-Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate. They took him to Al-Rabwa Camp, and several hours later transferred him to the detention prison operated by the Hadramout Coast Security Department, located

90. Ibid.
91. Ibid.
92. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Hadramout Governorate, Al-Mukalla District, on November 17, 2025.

inside Al-Thawra Camp in the Passport District, Al-Dis area, Al-Mukalla District. He was detained there on allegations of possessing explosives and narcotics and assaulting military checkpoint personnel. He was subjected to torture.

The victim told Mwatana: **"During the interrogation, whenever I rejected the fabricated allegations against me, I was subjected to torture. They beat me with a copper wire and a thick plastic stick. They then suspended me by metal restraints attached to iron chains and pulled me upward, leaving me hanging in that position for three hours in an attempt to force me to confess to false allegations[93]."**

On Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 6:00 a.m., a 28-year-old male victim was arbitrarily detained when military vehicles affiliated with the Military Police Intelligence Service, which belongs to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, arrived at his home. The force consisted of more than 50 personnel, accompanied by armored vehicles and a tinted van. They were wearing military uniforms and carrying automatic weapons. They searched the victim's home and took him to an undisclosed location, where he was subjected to torture during his detention. He was subsequently brought to trial on charges of espionage on behalf of foreign countries. The Specialized Criminal Court sentenced him to death, and the judgment was appealed before the Specialized Criminal Division.

The victim's sister told Mwatana: **"At first, he was held in solitary confinement and subjected to torture. They took him, with his hands and eyes bound, to a dark solitary cell and denied him food and water. They gave him only a small amount of food so that he would not die. They then took him to a torture room in the prison, where five to six officers would take turns torturing him each day. He was suspended and beaten with a whip. They also suspended him over a grill and beat him with metal objects[94]."**

On Monday, February 3, 2025, at 10:00 p.m., Special Security Forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government, stationed at the Al-Jafina checkpoint in Al-Madinah District, Marib Governorate, forcibly disappeared, detained, and tortured a 22-year-old male civilian. He was taken to the Fourth Security Zone, where he remained for three days before being transferred to a cell at the Military Preventive Security facility in Marib Governorate.

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93. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Hadramout Governorate, Al-Mukalla District, on June 18, 2025.
94. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Amanat Al-Asimah Governorate, Ma'een District, on December 31, 2025.

" The checkpoint personnel stopped me at the entrance to the camp and then contacted a military vehicle carrying seven personnel. They forcibly took me with them, pulling me by my hands and kicking me. They took me to the Fourth Security Zone and left me in a dark cell without interrogating me for three days. They then transferred me to another prison, where the torture continued for 20 days. They would spray me with water and then drag me across the ground until I vomited blood. They also kicked me with their feet "

The victim told Mwatana: "The checkpoint personnel stopped me at the entrance to the camp and then contacted a military vehicle carrying seven personnel. They forcibly took me with them, pulling me by my hands and kicking me. They took me to the Fourth Security Zone and left me in a dark cell without interrogating me for three days. They then transferred me to another prison, where the torture continued for 20 days. They would spray me with water and then drag me across the ground until I vomited blood. They also kicked me with their feet[95]."

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, a group of counterterrorism forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council detained a 30-year-old male victim in Zinjibar District, Abyan Governorate, while he was walking along the road. A military vehicle stopped him and took him to the Counterterrorism Prison in Ja'ar, Khanfar District. He was held in solitary confinement and subjected to torture during his detention, including electric shocks and burning with fire, before being released on November 18, 2025[96].

Mwatana for Human Rights interviewed the victim, who said: "I was released, but to this day I still do not understand the reason for this injustice or what I was subjected to without any mercy or compassion. They subjected me to the most severe forms of physical violence. I was tortured by electric shocks and burning with fire, using a heated metal rod, over the course of two days."

He added: "On the first day, three people came to me carrying electrical devices. They placed them on my head and then subjected me to electric shocks until I lost consciousness for approximately half an hour. On the second day, the same people came and heated a metal rod until it was red-hot, then used it to burn various parts of my body."

Legal Framework Governing Torture and Cruel or Inhuman Treatment

Article 1 of the Convention against Torture, to which Yemen is a party, defines torture as: "Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from that person, or from a third person, information or a confession, punishing them for

95. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Marib Governorate, Al-Madinah District, on April 17, 2025.
96. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim in Zinjibar District, Abyan Governorate, on November 23, 2025.

an act they or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing them or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or incidental to, lawful sanctions[97]."

Under Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment[98].

Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 7 establishes the right not to be subjected to torture, while other provisions of the Covenant stipulate that all persons deprived of their liberty must be treated humanely[99].

Under international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, to which Yemen is a party, prohibit torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment. Civilians are afforded protection under Article 37 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which requires that civilians in detention be treated humanely and prohibits any form of cruelty, including detention in facilities that fail to meet adequate standards of hygiene, lighting, water availability, space, food, drinking water, and other basic requirements[100].

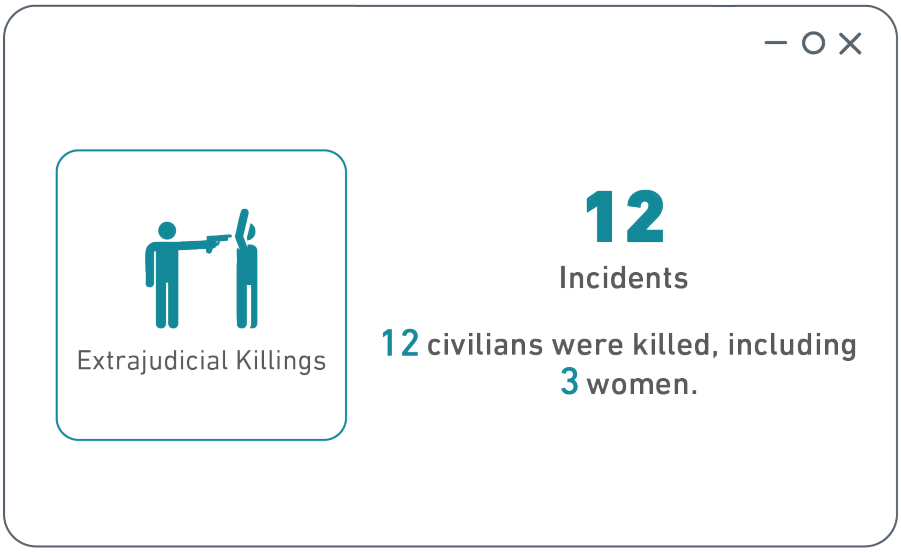
In non-international armed conflicts, Common Article 3 provides protection to persons in detention, including civilians and detained combatants. It prohibits violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, cruel treatment and torture, and outrages upon personal dignity.

IX . Extrajudicial Killing

Mwatana for Human Rights documented the extrajudicial killing of 12 civilians including three women. Extrajudicial killing refers to the killing of individuals without following legal procedures that guarantee justice and fairness, including fair trial guarantees and the requirements of due process. The

97. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, available at: https://www.ohchr.org/ar/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading.
98. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at: https://2u.pw/79VT7J.
99. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, available at: https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arabic/hrc-gc20.html.
100. Fourth Geneva Convention, available at: https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949.

internationally recognized Yemeni government bears responsibility for five incidents, while the Southern Transitional Council bears responsibility for five incidents. The Ansar Allah (Houthis) group and terrorist organizations each bear responsibility for one incident out of the total documented incidents.



Examples of Extrajudicial Killing Incidents

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., a 30-year-old male victim was subjected to extrajudicial killing while he was being held at the Central Prison in Al Madinah District, Marib Governorate, which is under the authority of the internationally recognized Yemeni government. His family found him at 12:00 midnight, lying in a location near the Central Prison, with a blanket underneath him. He was naked and had a urinary catheter inserted, with coagulated blood visible on various parts of his body. Prison officials had neither informed his family of his illness nor notified them that he had been taken into custody. The Governor of Marib formed a committee to investigate the incident. To date, however, no forensic doctor has examined the body, and the case has not been resolved.

The victim's mother told Mwatana: **"My son went out to buy qat during curfew, which led them to accuse him of false charges. Because he suffered from depression, his speech was confused and incoherent, which increased their suspicions of him. They accused him of using hashish. After an order was issued for his release, we**

went to collect him, but we found him lying dead on the ground near the Central Prison. At that moment, the world went dark before my eyes. My son was gone in the blink of an eye[101]."

On Monday, May 12, 2025, a group of Security Belt Forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council detained a 36-year-old male victim in the Zinjibar area of Abyan Governorate, in front of the former governorate administration building, while he was participating in an anti-corruption demonstration. The victim was taken to the October 7 Prison in a brown military vehicle and was subsequently transferred to one of the prisons in Aden Governorate. One month after his detention, the victim's family was contacted and informed that he had been killed and that his body was at Al Jumhuriya General Hospital. Two weeks later, a photograph of the victim was sent to the family showing signs of torture on his body, including the amputation of his penis.

The victim's mother told Mwatana: "My son went out to the demonstration that was being held in front of the governorate building, along with other young men from the area. They returned, but my son did not. I was told that a Security Belt vehicle had taken my son and several other young men. We tried to contact many people in the hope that they could secure his release, but to no avail. A month later, we received a call informing us that my son was at Al Jumhuriya General Hospital in Aden. We went there and asked about him, but they told us that he was not among the patients. After a long search, we discovered that his body was in the hospital morgue. He had died from severe torture, and his penis had been amputated. There were traces of blood on his body[102]."

Legal Framework Governing Extrajudicial Killing

Extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary killing is defined as any intentional killing of individuals carried out outside the scope of any recognized legal or judicial process. This form of killing constitutes a grave violation of the fundamental human right to life, a fundamental right enshrined in all international instruments concerned with the protection of human rights.

101. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Marib Governorate, Al Madinah District, on March 16, 2025.
102. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Abyan Governorate, Khanfar District, on July 8, 2025.

This right is protected under international law, which emphasizes that any act resulting in the deprivation of human life must be subject to legal and judicial safeguards that ensure fairness. International instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 3) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 6), prohibit and criminalize extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary killings, while emphasizing the importance of respect for the rule of law and the application of standards of justice. These instruments also require states to take effective measures to prevent such violations, including holding those responsible accountable, ensuring that every case is investigated transparently and impartially, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

X . Recruitment and Use of Children

The recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict by various parties to the conflict continued throughout 2025, with a significant escalation in such violations by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group under various political and religious slogans.

The parties to the conflict exploited the difficult economic and social circumstances facing families, with financial need being one of the most prominent reasons for children becoming involved in recruitment. In addition, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group used claims of confronting the United States and Israel, as well as supporting and assisting Gaza, to recruit and use children.

Schools and summer centers constitute a conducive environment for the recruitment of children, as they offer educational and cultural activities aimed at promoting certain ideas and beliefs, supporting specific ideological orientations, and encouraging recruitment or the adoption of particular positions.

According to Mwatana's documentation, recruited children are assigned a variety of combat and non-combat tasks, including combat duties on front lines, guarding facilities and installations, transporting ammunition and supplies, working at checkpoints, and working in kitchens to prepare meals for soldiers. During periods of recruitment, children are subjected to grave violations that affect their lives, including killing, injury, and various forms of violence, in addition to psychological trauma. They are also deprived of their right to education and the necessary rehabilitation.

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 141 incidents of child recruitment and use. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 61 incidents, the internationally recognized Yemeni government for 42 incidents, the Southern Transitional Council for 35 incidents, and the Joint Forces for three incidents of the total documented.



Examples of Child Recruitment and Use Incidents

On Monday, February 3, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., in the Malah area of Nihm District, Sana'a Governorate, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group recruited a 15-year-old male child. He was taken to a closed facility known as the "Al-Falah Center" located in the same area, which is used to provide military training and ideological indoctrination to recruited children.

At the center, the child underwent intensive physical training in addition to ideological and cultural indoctrination programs. Several days after arriving at the center, on February 8, 2025, the child clearly expressed his desire to withdraw and refused to continue the training. He attempted to leave the facility, but was subjected to a violent assault by those running the center. He was severely beaten on the head and face, sustaining a serious injury. Despite his critical condition, he was provided with neither first aid nor medical care. Instead, he was isolated in a room under inhumane conditions, causing his health to deteriorate rapidly. Two days after his

health condition worsened, he was transferred to Hospital 48 in the capital, Sana'a. However, medical intervention came too late, and the child died from his severe injuries on February 13, 2025[103].

On Sunday, April 20, 2025, at approximately 8:00 a.m., in the Al-Sarh area of Al-Khalq District, Al Jawf Governorate, forces of the internationally recognized government recruited a 16-year-old male child into road security units. This occurred after residents of the area received repeated reports that recruitment was being opened for a brigade affiliated with a sheikh loyal to the internationally recognized government. At the time, the child, accompanied by other young men, went to a military camp located in the Al-Ruwaik area, north of Marib Governorate, and enrolled in a 45-day training course, during which he received training in physical fitness, weapons use, and combat skills. Upon completion of the training, he received 500 Saudi riyals and returned to his family for a two-week visit only. He then returned to the camp, where he was assigned to the road security units.

The child joined the recruitment process in an effort to overcome his family's difficult living conditions, particularly as his father has a physical disability that prevents him from working. The child had previously performed strenuous labor before joining the recruitment program. He receives a monthly salary of approximately 90,000 Yemeni riyals, equivalent to approximately US$60.

Mwatana for Human Rights was able to interview a relative of the victim, who stated in his testimony: **"My 16-year-old cousin is the eldest son in a family of six. His father has suffered from a physical disability since a traffic accident three years ago that left him bedridden, forcing him to assume responsibility for the family from an early age. The family lives in difficult conditions in Al-Sarh, Al-Khalq District, Al Jawf Governorate, and suffers from extreme poverty, with no stable source of income. They depend heavily on whatever income their son can earn from odd jobs[104]."**

He added: **"His decision to join the recruitment program was driven by the need and poverty experienced by his family. However, the economic circumstances and promotion of recruitment without regard for age pose a danger to his life. He currently works in a tense and dangerous military environment, performing duties at military sites and along front lines. His presence at military positions exposed**

103. An interview conducted by Mwatana in Sana'a Governorate, Nihm District, on June 25, 2025.
104. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim's cousin in Al-Khalq District, Al Jawf Governorate, on July 7, 2025.

to attack places his life at constant risk, in addition to the psychological effects resulting from separation from his family and the burden of military pressures that are inappropriate for his age[105]."

On Sunday, February 9, 2025, at approximately 8:00 a.m., in the Batis area of Khanfar District, Abyan Governorate, Security Belt Forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council recruited a 12-year-old child who had dropped out of school in the seventh grade. The child underwent 40 days of military training from February 10 to March 22, 2025, at the October 7 Camp in the Al-Rawa' area of Khanfar District. His training included combat, driving heavy vehicles, and the use of light and heavy weapons. After completing the training, he was assigned to the camp's operations section and tasked with participating in military operations when needed. In June 2025, he participated in a military operation in Mudiya District. He received a daily allowance of 2,000 Yemeni riyals and a monthly salary of 500 Saudi riyals and 7,000 Yemeni riyals. He was also forced to purchase an automatic weapon on credit, with the cost deducted from his salary, as providing a weapon was one of the conditions of employment. The child remained recruited at the October 7 Camp as of the time this report was prepared.

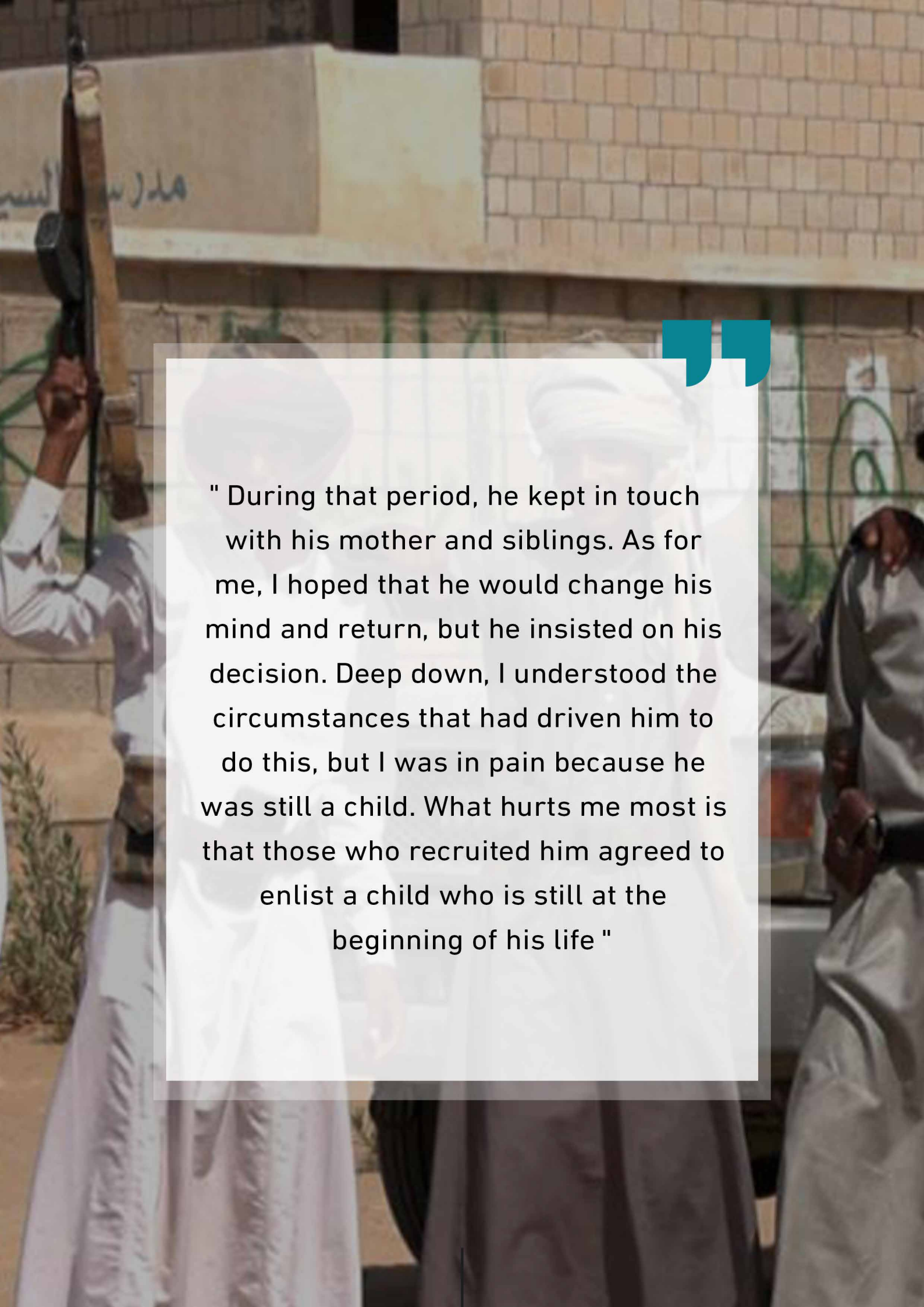
The child's father told Mwatana: "My son dropped out of school so that he could work and help me support the family. He worked at several jobs, but our living conditions did not improve, so he left them[106]."

He added: "When he heard about recruitment and military work, he went without telling me or his mother because he knew that we would not agree; he is still a child. I wanted him to work on a farm in the evening and continue his education in the morning, but he could not balance work and school, in addition to the fact that the pay was very low[107]."

He continued: "His mother, his siblings, and I were surprised by his decision to join the recruitment program. I tried to convince him to change his mind, but he would not listen to me. I became angry with him and beat him, but he threatened that if I did not agree, he would leave and never return, or that he might harm himself. At that point, I stopped arguing with him. He left on Sunday, February 9, 2025, and remained in training for forty days[108]."

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105. Ibid.
106. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the victim's father in Khanfar District, Abyan Governorate, on August 17, 2025.
107. Ibid.
108. Ibid.



" During that period, he kept in touch with his mother and siblings. As for me, I hoped that he would change his mind and return, but he insisted on his decision. Deep down, I understood the circumstances that had driven him to do this, but I was in pain because he was still a child. What hurts me most is that those who recruited him agreed to enlist a child who is still at the beginning of his life "

He concluded: **"During that period, he kept in touch with his mother and siblings. As for me, I hoped that he would change his mind and return, but he insisted on his decision. Deep down, I understood the circumstances that had driven him to do this, but I was in pain because he was still a child. What hurts me most is that those who recruited him agreed to enlist a child who is still at the beginning of his life[109]."**

On Monday, October 20, 2025, at approximately 8:00 a.m., in Al-Khazzan neighborhood, in the city of Qatabah, Qatabah District, Al-Dale' Governorate, the Joint Forces (Al-Maghawir) recruited a 17-year-old male child. The child had heard that recruitment was open in the ranks of the Second Al-Maghawir Brigade, so he went to register his name with the official responsible for registering those wishing to join. A few days later, he traveled by bus, accompanied by other young men, to Al-Khokha District in Al Hudaydah Governorate to participate in a 30-day training course, during which he received training in physical fitness and combat skills. He subsequently returned to Qatabah District in Al-Dale' and was assigned to combat positions on the Al-Fakher front. In return, he received a monthly salary of approximately 1,000 Saudi riyals. His decision to join the recruitment process was driven by the family's difficult living conditions and his assumption of responsibility for supporting his family after his father suffered a stroke. The child had previously dropped out of school while in the preparatory stage .

Legal Framework Governing the Recruitment and Use of Children

The legal framework prohibiting the recruitment and use of children is grounded in international conventions and domestic laws aimed at protecting children from being drawn into armed conflicts. Foremost among these instruments is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to which Yemen became a party in 1991. Article 38 of the Convention prohibits the participation of children under the age of 15 in armed conflicts and requires states to take all appropriate measures to ensure that children do not take part in hostilities[110]. This protection was strengthened by the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which Yemen ratified in 2007. The Optional Protocol

109. Ibid.

110. Convention on the Rights of the Child, available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child.

raised the minimum age for compulsory recruitment to 18 and requires states to take effective measures to prevent such recruitment[111].

In addition, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, particularly Additional Protocol II, prohibit the use of children under the age of 15 in armed conflicts and consider their recruitment a war crime[112]. Similarly, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court considers the recruitment of children under the age of 15 and their use in armed conflict to constitute crimes subject to international prosecution.

International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, which Yemen ratified in 2000, also identifies the recruitment of children for use in armed conflict as one of the worst forms of child labor that must be eliminated as a matter of urgency[113]. In addition, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) established a framework for monitoring and reporting grave violations against children, including recruitment, making this crime a violation that cannot be overlooked[114].

At the national level, the Yemeni Constitution provides for the protection of children's rights and their safety from all forms of exploitation. Law No. 45 of 2002 on the Rights of the Child requires the state to protect children from involvement in armed conflicts and, under Articles 149 and 150, prohibits the recruitment of children or their participation in combat operations[115]. In addition, Law No. 15 of 2000 on Military Service sets the legal age for enlistment in the military at 18, making any attempt to recruit children a violation of the law[116].

The Yemeni Penal Code also criminalizes all forms of exploitation of children, including involving them in armed conflicts.

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111. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-involvement-children.
112. Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-additional-geneva-conventions-12-august-1949-and.
113. International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, available at: https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/543a59376.pdf.
114. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005), available at: https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/1612(2005).
115. Law No. 45 of 2002 on the Rights of the Child, available at: https://2u.pw/qeiEzX .
116. Law No. 15 of 2000 on Military Service, available at: http://www.yemen-nic.info/db/laws_ye/detail.php?ID=11711.

XI. Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 19 incidents of conflict - related sexual violence, 13 of which involved child victims. These incidents included various forms of sexual violence, ranging from sexual harassment and rape to sexual exploitation.



Individuals affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council were responsible for eight incidents, while individuals affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government were responsible for six incidents. Individuals affiliated with the Joint Forces and the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group were each responsible for two incidents, while individuals affiliated with the Saudi/UAE-led coalition were responsible for one incident of conflict-related sexual violence out of the total documented incidents.

The Mwatana team faces significant challenges in accessing and documenting this type of violation due to the sensitivity of the subject and the reluctance of survivors and their families to disclose what they have experienced, out of fear of social stigma or concern that they may be subjected to further harm by perpetrators. Consequently, the figure cited in this section of the report is likely to be significantly lower than the actual total number of violations.

Examples of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Incidents

On Saturday, March 1, 2025, at approximately 5:00 p.m., on a public road in Al-Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate, a survivor, Samir (pseudonym/male/12 years old), was subjected to an attempted rape and sexual assault by a soldier affiliated with the Military Police Brigade of the Second Military Region, which falls under the Ministry of Defense of the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

The soldier lured the child away from the public road under threat, displaying a military identification card and leading him to believe that he had official authority. He then forcibly took him to an enclosed place and asked him to remove his clothes in exchange for money. The soldier began sexually harassing the child, using humiliating methods, and attempted to rape him. The survivor resisted, but the soldier continued his attempts until several people intervened after hearing the sounds. They broke down the door and rescued the child, while the soldier was subsequently detained in connection with the incident.

Mwatana for Human Rights was able to interview the child survivor and his father. In his testimony, the survivor said: **"I was on the public road when a man approached me, displayed a military identification card, and threatened to kill me if I did not go with him. He took me to the market and led me into a restroom in one of the mosques. He asked me to take off my trousers in exchange for money, then began sexually harassing me and attempting to sexually assault me. He asked me to perform humiliating acts, then tried to rape me by force, but I resisted. At that moment, some men intervened after hearing the sounds and broke down the door. They took me out while I was crying, while the soldier was later detained[117]."**

The survivor's father told Mwatana: **"I received a call from the police station in Al-Mukalla District. They told me that my son was with them and asked me to come immediately. I was extremely worried. When I arrived at the station and heard the details, I felt as though the ground had collapsed beneath my feet. I could never have imagined that my child could go through such a terrible experience[118]."**

117. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the survivor in Al Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate, on April 14, 2025.
118. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the survivor's father in Al Mukalla District, Hadramawt Governorate, on April 14, 2025.

He added: **"I filed an official complaint against the soldier. He was investigated and confessed to what he had done, but the military entity to which he belongs took no action against him and did not even offer an apology. We received no support or redress, and we are living under difficult financial circumstances as displaced persons in Al Mukalla for more than five years."**

He concluded his testimony by saying: **"I demand that justice be served and that this soldier be held accountable for what he did to my son, and that no leniency be shown toward anyone who abuses their authority to commit crimes. Such acts violate human dignity and undermine the security of society as a whole. I hope that he will be brought to trial and receive the punishment he deserves."**

On Sunday, February 9, 2025, at Al-Ribat Displacement Camp in Tuban District, Lahj Governorate, a soldier affiliated with the Joint Forces sexually harassed and attempted to rape a 12-year-old girl while she was sleeping at her home inside the camp.

The perpetrator, identified as a military serviceman affiliated with the Joint Forces and stationed in Al-Khokha City, Al Hudaydah Governorate, exploited the conditions in the camp and the lack of security protection there to enter the survivor's home in an attempt to sexually assault her. The assault was thwarted before an actual rape could occur when the girl's father returned home, saw the perpetrator sexually harassing his daughter inside their home, and apprehended him.

Immediately following the incident, the perpetrator was arrested by local security authorities and detained at the Fifth Brigade Camp prison. However, after only three months in detention, he was released without a public trial or clear legal proceedings.

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, at approximately 1:45 p.m., in the Azzan area of Mayfa'a District, Shabwah Governorate, a survivor, Samira (pseudonym/female/15 years old), was subjected to sexual assault and an attempted rape by a soldier from the Fourth Infantry Brigade affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council.

The incident occurred as the survivor was leaving her home and walking along side road leading to her aunt's house, approximately half a kilometer from her home. The soldier followed her and attempted to assault and beat her. A local resident intervened and rescued the survivor before the rape could occur.

" The perpetrator followed the survivor from the time she left the main road until she entered the side roads leading to her aunt's house, which is approximately half a kilometer from her family's home. When she reached one of the quiet passages, he took advantage of the limited pedestrian traffic at that time, which was around midday. He approached her from behind, grabbed her, and sexually assaulted her by touching private parts of her body. He then pushed her against a nearby wall, covered her mouth, and began removing her lower clothing despite her continued resistance "

Following a complaint filed by the survivor's family, the offending soldier was detained for only one day by the command of the Fourth Infantry Brigade and was then released on the grounds that the allegation had not been substantiated. Since the incident, the survivor has been experiencing severe psychological distress. She is afraid to go out alone, stopped attending school for approximately ten days, and continues to suffer recurrent panic attacks.

An eyewitness told Mwatana: "The perpetrator followed the survivor from the time she left the main road until she entered the side roads leading to her aunt's house, which is approximately half a kilometer from her family's home. When she reached one of the quiet passages, he took advantage of the limited pedestrian traffic at that time, which was around midday. He approached her from behind, grabbed her, and sexually assaulted her by touching private parts of her body. He then pushed her against a nearby wall, covered her mouth, and began removing her lower clothing despite her continued resistance. In the meantime, a local resident happened to pass by and witnessed what was happening. He immediately intervened and confronted the perpetrator, forcing him to flee toward the main road, while the man remained with the survivor and provided her with assistance[119]."

The witness added to Mwatana: "After the soldier fled the scene, a local resident assisted the survivor by helping her rearrange her clothing and calming her down. He then accompanied her to her aunt's house and informed the family of what had happened. As a result, the family filed a complaint with the command of the brigade to which the soldier belonged. He was summoned and detained for only one day before being released on the grounds that the testimony was insufficient, in an attempt to avoid attributing such an allegation to one of the brigade's soldiers[120]."

He concluded his testimony to Mwatana by saying: "Because of its vulnerable social status, the family was unable to pursue the case and remained silent about it. The survivor fell into a poor psychological state, as she became constantly fearful, stopped attending school for approximately ten days, and became afraid to leave the house alone. At the same time, the soldier continued to walk around the street every day without being held accountable, which constitutes a clear crime[121]."

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119. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with a witness in Mayfa'a District, Shabwah Governorate, on November 10, 2025.
120. Ibid.
121. Ibid.

On Sunday, January 5, 2025, at approximately 7:00 p.m., at Al-Khamis Camp in Al-Mahriqah Village, Abs District, Hajjah Governorate, a 14-year-old girl, Hadeel (pseudonym/female/14 years old), was subjected to an incident of sexual violence and rape by an armed man affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. The incident occurred as she was returning from work as a domestic worker. The armed man intercepted her and, under threat of a weapon, forced her to accompany him to a facility affiliated with the group. There, he beat her until she lost consciousness, then raped her and threatened to kill her if she disclosed what had happened.

The Mwatana for Human Rights team was able to interview the survivor and her father. The survivor described her living conditions and the circumstances of the incident, saying: "I work cleaning houses, washing clothes, and doing other household chores to help my family meet its basic needs. I earn 1,000 Yemeni riyals a day (approximately two U.S. dollars) for work that lasts from morning until evening. I was forced to drop out of school because I could no longer balance education and work. I am not the only one working; my mother and younger sisters also work in people's homes because of our difficult living conditions, while my father is no longer able to work because of his advanced age[122]."

She added: "On the evening of Sunday, January 5, 2025, while I was returning from one of the houses where I worked, a person working with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group stopped me and asked me to go with him, claiming that his wife was ill and needed someone to care for her. I refused and told him that it was late, but he insisted that I accompany him. When I threatened to scream, he pointed his pistol at my face and said he would kill me and leave me on the road without anyone knowing who had done it. I was therefore forced to go with him out of fear for my life[123]."

She continued: "I was terrified and my body was trembling, while the pistol remained pointed at me. He forced me to get on with him. We arrived at a facility affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, and he took me inside on the motorcycle. I tried to escape as soon as we arrived, but he chased after me. I was crying and begging him to let me go, and I told him, 'This is not your home. What do you want from me? I beg you, for God's sake, let me go.' But he did not respond. He slapped me violently until I fell to the ground and lost consciousness. When I regained consciousness after he splashed water on my face, I found myself naked.

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122. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the survivor in Al-Mahriqah District, Hajjah Governorate, on June 21, 2025.

123. Ibid.

I screamed in terror, but he covered my mouth with a piece of cloth and prevented me from calling for help. I tried to resist him and push him away, but he assaulted and raped me by force while threatening me with the weapon. I felt severe pain during the assault and was unable to defend myself[124]."

She added: "I returned home bleeding and trembling with fear. As soon as my mother saw me, she noticed the blood and asked what had happened. I told her that a member of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group had raped me. My father came, but at first he did not believe me and blamed me. He slapped me across the face before I told them both what had happened. My mother was crying and trying to calm me, while my father kept expressing his fear of society's reaction and the stigma that the incident might bring upon the family. The following morning, my parents took me to the hospital, where I underwent a medical examination that confirmed that I had been raped[125]."

The survivor's father said: "I filed a complaint with the security administration, but I did not feel that there was any genuine desire to provide my daughter with justice. When I told them that the perpetrator worked with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, they asked me to complain to his supervisor and then said that they would look into the matter. I followed up with them repeatedly without any result. When I asked one of the officials, 'If this were your daughter, would you accept what happened to her?' he replied, 'Uncle, who are you going to complain to? Even if you go to his supervisor, he will say that your daughter is the one at fault, and they will not allow us to take action against him because he works with the group.' At that point, I realized that I was powerless to obtain justice for my daughter, and I had nothing to say to her except to pray to God to restore her rights. Since then, my daughter has been confined to the house, and our family continues to suffer the consequences of what happened to her[126]."

The survivor concluded her testimony by saying: "Since that day, I have no longer been able to leave the house after what happened to me became known, and my family has been subjected to harsh social judgment. Even my sisters have been affected by what happened, and people no longer treat them as they did before. My mother is now blamed for something that was not my fault. I feel that we have become outcasts because of a crime committed against me, and I can no longer think about returning to school or facing my classmates. All I can say today is: 'God is sufficient for me, and He is the best disposer of affairs[127].'"

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124. Ibid.
125. Ibid.
126. Ibid.
127. Ibid.

On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at approximately 9:00 a.m., Saeed (pseudonym/male/35 years old) was detained while he was on a public road in the Al-Nasr neighborhood of Al Mukalla District, Hadramawt Governorate.

A force consisting of approximately six armed men in civilian clothing, traveling in a white van without number plates, arrested the victim and transferred him to the Al-Dhabah Camp detention facility, which was under the control of UAE forces affiliated with the Saudi/UAE-led coalition, in the Al-Dhabah area of Al-Shihr District.

Mwatana for Human Rights was able to interview the survivor, who said in his testimony: **"I was interrogated for the first time at the Al-Dhabah detention facility. The interrogation lasted approximately six hours, during which I was subjected to torture and even sexual violence. The interrogation was conducted by an Emirati officer, assisted by three masked soldiers whose names or nationalities I do not know[128]."**

The survivor added: **"The torture became most severe when they completely stripped me of my clothes and left my body naked. The interrogator then tampered with my genitals using a stick, while mocking and ridiculing me and threatening to rape me and destroy my manhood. He even mocked me, saying that he would reduce my penis to nothing more than a memory of a man. The torture continued for many hours, and they provided me with no medical assistance."**

Legal Framework Governing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

The Fourth Geneva Convention, the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and other instruments of international humanitarian law prohibit sexual violence in its various forms and require all parties to an armed conflict to prohibit sexual violence and hold perpetrators of such violations accountable.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is an important legal mechanism in this regard. It classifies sexual violence, including rape and, under certain circumstances, sexual slavery, as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

128. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with the survivor in Al Mukalla District, Hadramawt Governorate, on November 15, 2025.

International humanitarian law and international human rights law complement one another in prohibiting all forms of sexual violence at all times and against all persons. With regard to the protection of children, international law accords particular attention to this group, especially during armed conflicts.

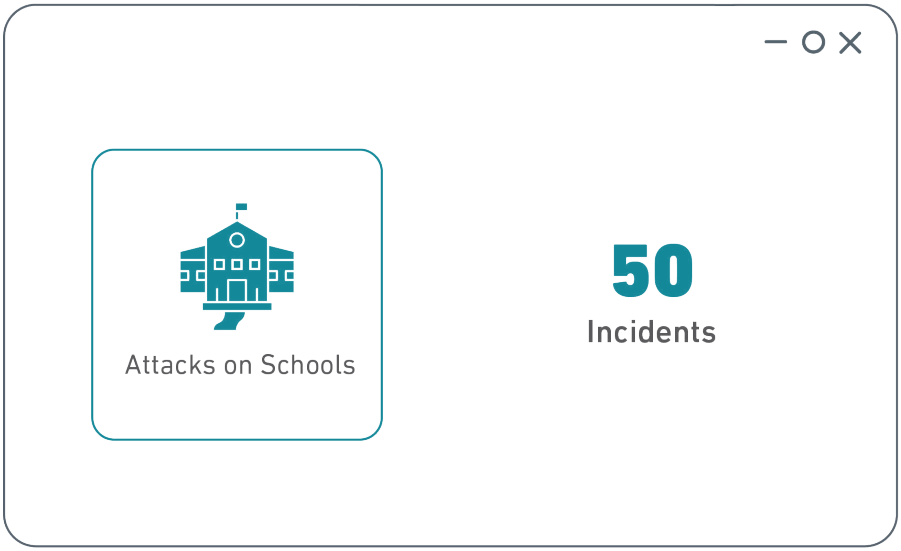
The Convention on the Rights of the Child is one of the key pillars in this context. It obligates states to protect children from all forms of exploitation and violence, including sexual violence. Article 34 of the Convention calls for appropriate measures to prevent the sexual exploitation of children or their exploitation in any other form[129]. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict likewise strengthens protections for children, including protection from risks that may arise from sexual violence[130].

The United Nations Security Council has also adopted resolutions providing clear guidance on the protection of children in armed conflicts. Resolution 1612 (2005) and Resolution 1882 (2009) established mechanisms for monitoring and documenting grave violations against children, including sexual violence. Resolution 2427 (2018) affirmed the importance of protecting children from sexual violations during armed conflicts and called on states and parties to armed conflict to take effective measures to hold those responsible accountable.

XII. Attacks on Schools and Educational Facilities

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 50 incidents of attacks on schools and educational facilities. Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 45 of the documented incidents, as the group used schools in areas under its control for mobilization and recruitment purposes, in clear violation of children's right to safe and neutral education. The internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for four incidents, while the Southern Transitional Council was responsible for one of the documented incidents.

129. Convention on the Rights of the Child, available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child.
130. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-involvement-children.

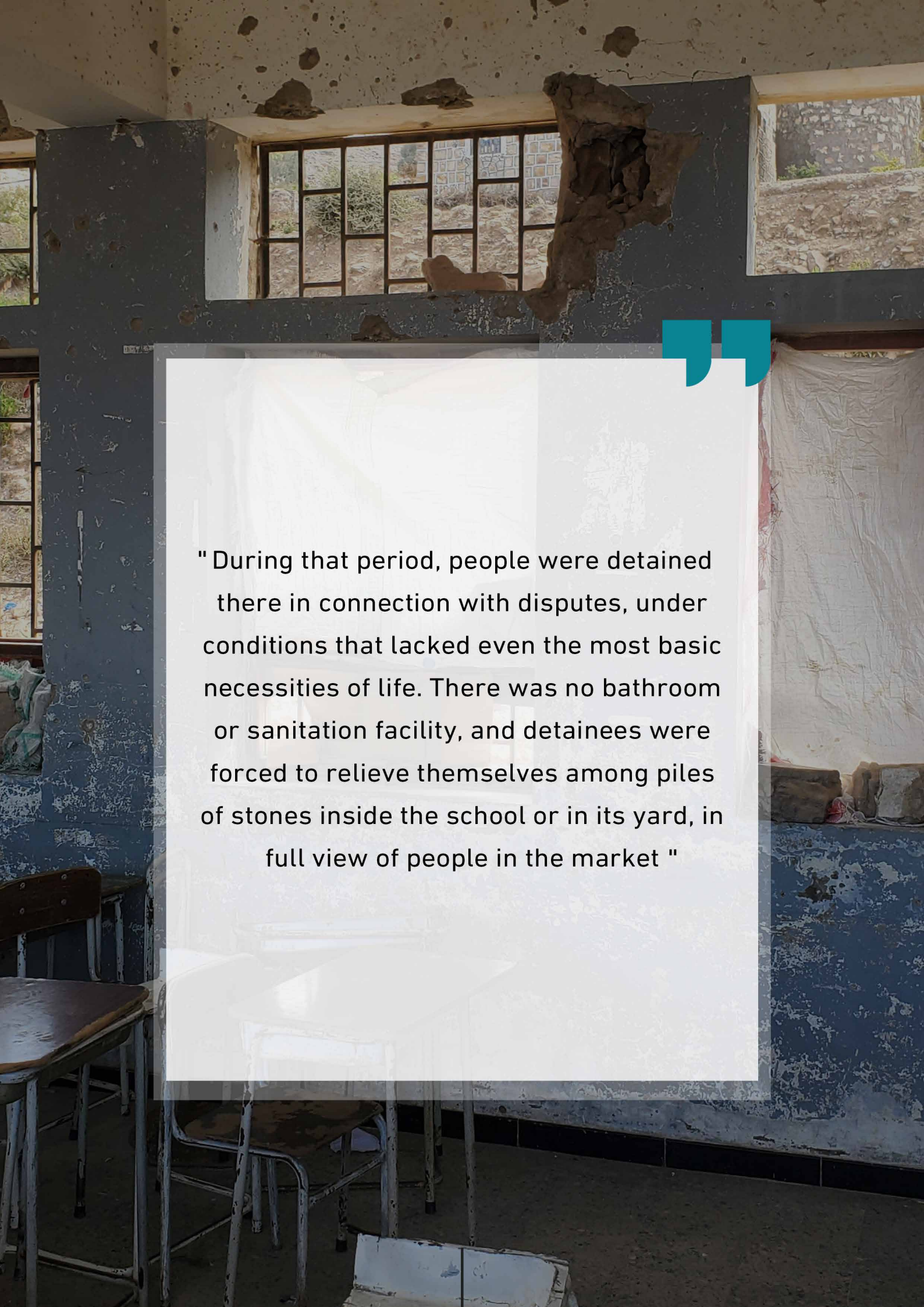


Examples of Attacks on Schools and Educational Facilities

On Saturday, May 17, 2025, at approximately 7:00 a.m., in Khamis Mihwar village, Saqayn District, Saada Governorate, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group converted two classrooms at Al-Nasr Basic School into a prison operated by the Saqayn District Security Administration. Throughout the period during which the school was occupied, which lasted until Sunday, June 15, 2025, a military vehicle and several members affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group were permanently stationed there. They vacated the school following pressure from local residents and the district's Office of Education. The occupation coincided with the annual school vacation.

One of the area's residents and an eyewitness told Mwatana: **"The school is located in the middle of the market and has around 320 male and female students, almost all of whom are from the area. The residents categorically rejected the occupation of their school in this manner, but their objections received no response, and the school continued to be used for non-educational purposes for nearly a month[131]."**

131. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with a resident of the area and eyewitness in Saqayn District, Saada Governorate, on June 23, 2025.



"During that period, people were detained there in connection with disputes, under conditions that lacked even the most basic necessities of life. There was no bathroom or sanitation facility, and detainees were forced to relieve themselves among piles of stones inside the school or in its yard, in full view of people in the market "

He added: "During that period, people were detained there in connection with disputes, under conditions that lacked even the most basic necessities of life. There was no bathroom or sanitation facility, and detainees were forced to relieve themselves among piles of stones inside the school or in its yard, in full view of people in the market[132]."

He continued: "The families of the detainees were also prevented from visiting them, and no one was allowed to enter the school while carrying a phone, so that they could not take photographs documenting its use in this manner. Following pressure from local residents and the district's Office of Education, the school was vacated on Sunday, June 15, 2025[133]."

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, at approximately 4:00 p.m., in Al-Badi' area, Bayhan District, Shabwah Governorate, a military force from the Seventh Brigade of the Shabwah Defense Forces, affiliated with the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council, occupied Al-Badi' Basic Education School and stationed there from that date until the preparation of this report. The military force consisted of three military vehicles, an armored vehicle, an ambulance, and approximately 35 soldiers. This deprived students of access to education at the school and forced them to attend another school in the area that had only two classrooms.

An educator from the area told Mwatana: "We were forced to teach students from the first through the fourth grades in two shifts, using only two classrooms. Meanwhile, fifth-grade students were transferred to a school in an area far from Al-Badi', and they now travel long distances every day to reach the school. As for the girls, some of them stopped attending school because they were unable to travel, or because their parents refused to allow them to continue their education outside the area[134]."

Another resident of the area told Mwatana: "The two classrooms received first- and second-grade students until 9:30 a.m., after which third- and fourth-grade students attended classes until noon. This placed significant pressure on teachers and deprived male and female students of receiving an adequate education[135]."

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132. Ibid.
133. Ibid.
134. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with an educator from the area in Bayhan District, Shabwah Governorate, on December 19, 2025.
135. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with a resident of the area in Bayhan District, Shabwah Governorate, on December 19, 2025.

Legal Framework Governing Attacks on Schools and Educational Facilities

Attacks on educational facilities constitute a clear violation of international and domestic laws that protect educational institutions as civilian objects of particular importance. International humanitarian law and international human rights law clearly establish this protection, as schools are among the places that must be protected at all times and must neither be targeted nor used for military purposes. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols affirm the protection of schools and educational facilities from attack or military use and emphasize the importance of ensuring the neutrality of these institutions. Direct attacks against them or their conversion into military objectives are prohibited.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) likewise obligates States Parties to ensure children's right to education and protect them from the adverse effects of armed conflict, including by safeguarding schools as safe educational environments. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict further strengthens this protection by emphasizing the prohibition against using educational facilities in ways that expose children to risks.

United Nations Security Council resolutions provide an additional framework for such protection. Attacks on schools or their use for military purposes constitute a serious threat to the right to education. Security Council Resolution 1998 (2011) highlighted the importance of holding accountable parties that violate children's right to education by attacking schools. Resolution 2143 (2014) emphasized the need to respect the legal protection afforded to educational facilities and prevent their use in armed conflicts. In 2021, Resolution 2601 reaffirmed the urgent need to protect education during armed conflicts and ensure the continuity of the educational process in a safe environment[136].

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court considers the targeting of educational facilities or their military use to constitute a war crime subject to accountability.

136. United Nations Security Council, available at: https://2u.pw/zBsky

At the national level, the Yemeni Constitution provides that education is a fundamental right of every citizen and requires the state to ensure a safe educational environment. The Yemeni Child Rights Law No. 45 of 2002 also focuses on protecting children from all forms of violations, including by ensuring the safety of schools[137].

XIII. Attacks on Health Care Facilities and Services

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 10 incidents of attacks on health care facilities and services. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for three incidents, while the internationally recognized Yemeni government was also responsible for four incidents, and the Southern Transitional Council was responsible for three of the documented incidents.



These violations included armed attacks on hospitals and threats against medical personnel, as well as the use of health care facilities by parties to the conflict as their bases and their conversion into military barracks. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group also used health care facilities to conduct military training courses.

These violations are not limited to the destruction and disruption of health care facilities; they also deprive civilians of access to necessary medical care, thereby exacerbating the suffering of the population and contributing to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

137. Yemeni Child Rights Law No. 45 of 2002, available at: http://www.yemen-nic.info/yemen/dostor.php.

Examples of Attacks on Health Care Facilities and Services

On Monday, November 24, 2025, at approximately 7:00 p.m., forces of the Fourth Mountain Infantry Brigade, also known as the Tor Al-Baha Axis, affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government and formations of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) Party, attacked the Ikhwan Thabet Medical Center, located in the Hijat Al-Abd area of Al-Maqatirah District, Lahj Governorate.

The attack occurred following clashes between two armed groups belonging to the same forces at a military checkpoint operated by these forces approximately 250 meters east of the medical center. The clashes resulted in a number of deaths and injuries among members of the two groups.

The site opposite the entrance to the medical center was converted into a newly established military position, from which the forces opened heavy fire using medium-caliber weapons. This military deployment resulted in the complete closure of the health center and deprived residents of the medical services it had provided, as a result of its conversion into a military position. The center remained closed as of the date the incident was documented, December 2, 2025.

On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at approximately 12:00 p.m., in the city center of Al-Masloub, Al-Masloub District, Al Jawf Governorate, an armed man affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group stormed Al-Masloub Health Center and assaulted the medical staff by pointing his weapon at them and verbally abusing them. The incident occurred after they refused to provide him with medication that could only be dispensed with a prescription. The armed man was carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a fully loaded ammunition vest. Some people present at the center intervened, managed to restrain the armed man, and removed him from the facility.

Following the incident, the health center ceased operations for two days until mediation by the district's executive authorities and several tribal sheikhs resolved the dispute. The center resumed operations after the perpetrator apologized to the doctors and health workers. No action, however, was taken against the armed man who committed the assault.

"Panic spread throughout the facility, which filled with shouting and threats. The armed man demanded specific medications, even though they were available only in extremely limited quantities and had been reserved for patients most in need"

Following the incident, the health center ceased operations for two days until mediation by the district's executive authorities and several tribal sheikhs resolved the dispute. The center resumed operations after the perpetrator apologized to the doctors and health workers. No action, however, was taken against the armed man who committed the assault.

An eyewitness told Mwatana: **"I was in the emergency room when an armed man stormed the health center carrying his weapon after the pharmacy attendant on duty refused to give him medication without a prescription[138]."**

She added: **"Panic spread throughout the facility, which filled with shouting and threats. The armed man demanded specific medications, even though they were available only in extremely limited quantities and had been reserved for patients most in need[139]."**

She continued: **"Following the incident, all services at the health center were suspended for two days because of damage to medical equipment and the theft of some essential medicines[140]."**

She added: **"The closure of the center disrupted the provision of essential medical services, including treatment for chronic diseases, maternity services, and first aid. This increased the suffering of patients who had no nearby health care alternatives[141]."**

On Monday, October 6, 2025, at approximately 8:30 a.m., at Ahwar Hospital in Awhar District, Abyan Governorate, a soldier affiliated with the Security Belt Forces in Ahwar District, which are affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, attacked Ahwar Hospital. He brandished his weapon and threatened the medical staff with death, claiming that they were treating African Christians. The incident caused widespread panic among medical personnel and patients.

138. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with an eyewitness in Al-Masloub District, Al Jawf Governorate, on July 8, 2025.
139. Ibid.
140. Ibid.
141. Ibid.

The soldier subsequently closed the hospital and threatened to return if it reopened and to carry out his threats to kill the staff. As a result, the hospital remained closed for two weeks, until external security guards were assigned to protect it. To this day, many nurses and doctors remain afraid to enter the hospital, as do many patients. A large number of patients, particularly children, have consequently been deprived of health care services, especially with the onset of winter, when the number of patients suffering from colds increases.

Legal Framework Governing Attacks on Health Care Facilities and Services

The 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II of 1977 enshrine the principle of protecting hospitals and health care facilities dedicated to the treatment of the wounded and sick and prohibit attacks against them or their use for military purposes[142]. This principle is consistent with the obligation to distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects, which constitutes a fundamental principle of international humanitarian law and aims to prevent indiscriminate attacks that may affect health care facilities or turn them into military objectives[143].

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court further strengthens this protection by classifying attacks against hospitals and health care facilities that are not being used for military purposes as war crimes. This is consistent with United Nations resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016), which expressly condemns attacks against health care facilities and calls for respect for their neutrality and their protection.

At the national level, the Yemeni Constitution guarantees the right to health as a fundamental right of every citizen, emphasizing the state's obligation to provide health care to all, particularly in times of crisis. The Yemeni Crimes and Penalties Law also criminalizes attacks against civilian facilities, including hospitals, and penalizes the disruption of the provision of essential services to the population. In addition, the Yemeni Child Rights Law strengthens provisions for the provision of health care to children and their protection from risks, an obligation that places a clear responsibility on parties to the conflict to ensure the safety of health care facilities.

142. Geneva Conventions, available at: https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-19/commentary/2016?activeTab=1949GCs-APs-and-commentaries.
143. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/rome-statute-international-criminal-court.

XIV. Denial and Obstruction of Humanitarian Access

In 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 25 incidents involving the denial or restriction of access to humanitarian aid in Yemen. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 16 incidents, while the Southern Transitional Council was responsible for 8 incidents, and the internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for one of the documented incidents.



The various parties to the conflict employed different methods to prevent or restrict access to humanitarian aid. These included reducing beneficiaries' allocations, interfering with aid distribution mechanisms, detaining relief shipments, and imposing names of individuals affiliated with parties to the conflict. Humanitarian workers were also subjected to assault and threats with firearms and were prevented from carrying out their work.

Millions of Yemenis live in extreme poverty and face hunger, while experiencing significant difficulties in accessing essential services such as health care, food, and education. As a result of the numerous restrictions imposed by the parties to the conflict, delivering aid to areas most in need has often become extremely difficult.

Examples of Incidents Involving the Denial of Humanitarian Access

On Saturday, August 30, 2025, at approximately 10:00 a.m., in the Deir Rajeh area of Al Zahrah District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, members affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group attempted to impose the names of four individuals who were not among the intended beneficiaries while the Jeel Al-Binaa Foundation for Humanitarian Development was distributing winter assistance, including mattresses and blankets, to displaced persons at a camp in the area.

When the distribution officials refused to comply with the order, one of the affiliated individuals got into an argument with several displaced persons, which escalated into an armed assault. He opened fire on them, killing one person and injuring another. As a result, the distribution of the remaining assistance was suspended, depriving approximately 300 displaced persons, representing 60 percent of the camp's population, of the assistance.

One of the beneficiaries told Mwatana: **"The assistance was being distributed to the displaced persons, and after about an hour and a half, only 40 percent or less of the beneficiaries had received their assistance. After one of the men affiliated with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group had received his own assistance, he asked the organization's staff to add the names of some of his associates. The organization's workers refused his request, so he stopped the distribution of the assistance. The beneficiaries confronted him, and an argument broke out, followed by a physical altercation. They were then separated. Half an hour later, he returned with his associates, armed, and opened fire on the people with whom they had argued, as well as on the organization's staff. Everyone fled for fear of being shot, including my brother. They fired at one of the people who had been involved in the altercation, who was standing next to my brother, and my brother was hit by five bullets. The organization then left and stopped distributing the assistance, and we were deprived of it because of this man[144]."**

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, at approximately 10:00 a.m., in the Al-Farsi area of Al Buraiqah District, Aden Governorate, the Social Coexistence Foundation attempted to distribute sacrificial meat to between 460 and 480 displaced families residing in displacement settlements in the area. During the distribution, the local council of Al Buraiqah District, affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, prevented the

144. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights in Al Hudaydah Governorate, Al Zahrah District, on September 23, 2025.

foundation from completing the distribution unless 80 families were allocated from the assistance quota for the council, as a precondition for allowing the distribution to proceed.

This resulted in the suspension of the distribution process for two days. Distribution resumed only after the council's demand was met, and the assistance was ultimately distributed to just 240 families, fewer than the intended number of beneficiaries. As a result of this interference, nearly half of the targeted households -approximately 220 to 240 displaced households- were deprived of the assistance allocated to them[145].

On Monday, November 24, 2025, at approximately 4:00 p.m., in the Al-Wahti area of Al-Maqatirah District, Lahj Governorate, forces of the Fourth Mountain Infantry Brigade, also known as the Tor Al-Baha Axis, affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government, along with formations of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) Party, closed an aid distribution point where beneficiaries were receiving cash assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP). The closure occurred following clashes between two armed groups belonging to the same forces. Subsequently, several military positions were established in the area, including one adjacent to the beneficiaries' aid distribution point, preventing beneficiaries from reaching it. The assistance provided consisted of cash payments of 35,000 Yemeni riyals per beneficiary[146].

One of the beneficiaries from the area, who witnessed the incident, told Mwatana for Human Rights: **"When the clashes broke out between the two sides, which were intense and resulted in deaths and injuries among members of both groups, we closed our shops out of fear for our safety[147]."**

He added: **"Immediately afterward, those forces deployed heavily throughout the area and established military positions at various locations nearby and along the road, using dozens of military vehicles and armed soldiers. Even after the faction stationed at the military checkpoint withdrew, the forces continued firing into the air, creating a state of fear and panic among all the residents[148]."**

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145. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights in Aden Governorate, Al Buraiqah District, on July 17, 2025.
146. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights in Al-Maqatirah District, Lahj Governorate, on December 2, 2025.
147. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights with a beneficiary from the area and eyewitness in Al-Maqatirah District, Lahj Governorate, on December 2, 2025.
148. Ibid.

He continued: "The forces also carried out arrest campaigns targeting citizens who were present in the area or who attempted to approach the locations where they were deployed[149]."

He added: "As a result, all commercial shops were closed, including the assistance distribution point and the Najd Al-Bard Medical Center. The security situation became more dangerous, as anyone who attempted to leave or approach the locations where the armed men were deployed was at risk of arrest[150]."

He concluded: "This deprived beneficiary of receiving their cash assistance from the distribution point located in our area, and many of them were forced to travel long distances and go to other areas to collect their cash assistance[151]."

Legal Framework Governing the Denial of Humanitarian Access

In the context of the ongoing conflict in Yemen, humanitarian aid faces significant challenges despite the existence of an international and domestic legal framework intended to protect such assistance and ensure its delivery to affected populations. International humanitarian law governs non-international armed conflicts and includes the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, which affirm the need to protect civilians and ensure access to humanitarian assistance.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also provides for the provision of food and health care during times of conflict, consistent with United Nations principles such as humanity and neutrality. The Yemeni Constitution likewise establishes the responsibility of state authorities to ensure the basic rights of citizens under all circumstances, including during wars and armed conflicts.

Despite these legal obligations, the reality in Yemen is characterized by significant obstacles, including the various forms of military control, obstruction of humanitarian aid movements by the parties to the conflict, and attacks against humanitarian facilities, all of which impede the delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable and impoverished groups.

149. Ibid.
150. Ibid.
151. Ibid.

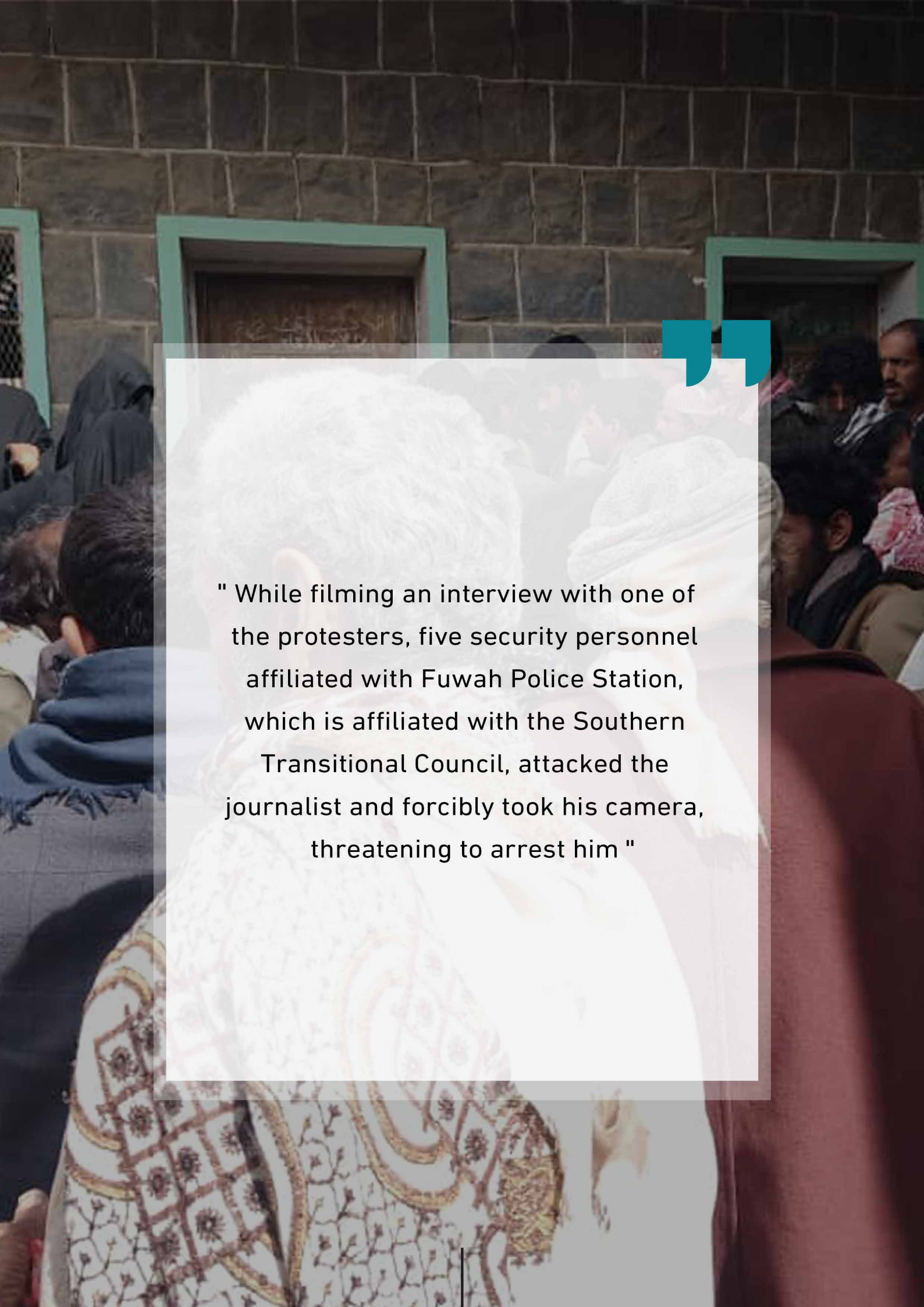
XV. Violations of Civic Space and Public Freedoms

During 2025, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 32 incidents involving violations of public freedoms across several governorates, comprising 22 incidents involving attacks on civic space and 10 incidents involving restrictions on freedom of movement. The internationally recognized Yemeni government was responsible for 23 incidents, while the Southern Transitional Council was responsible for 6 incidents, and the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for three of the documented incidents.



Incidents involving attacks on civic space constituted the largest proportion of the documented violations, with 20 incidents encompassing various forms of violations, including attacks on the right to peaceful assembly and violations of freedom of the press, in addition to other forms of violations.

Mwatana for Human Rights also documented 10 incidents involving restrictions on freedom of movement. These included the imposition of severe restrictions on travel between governorates on the grounds of individuals' alleged affiliation with particular parties, as well as other unlawful grounds. In most cases, women's freedom of movement was restricted or prevented because they were not accompanied by a male guardian (mahram).



" While filming an interview with one of the protesters, five security personnel affiliated with Fuwah Police Station, which is affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, attacked the journalist and forcibly took his camera, threatening to arrest him "

Examples of Violations of Civic Space and Public Freedoms by Parties to the Conflict

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, at approximately 9:00 a.m., a 25-year-old journalist and correspondent for one of the television channels was subjected to physical and verbal assault in the Fuwah area of Al Mukalla, outside the premises of Ibn Sina General Hospital.

The journalist was covering a protest organized by contract-based medical staff at the hospital to demand their outstanding financial entitlements, which had remained unpaid since 2023.

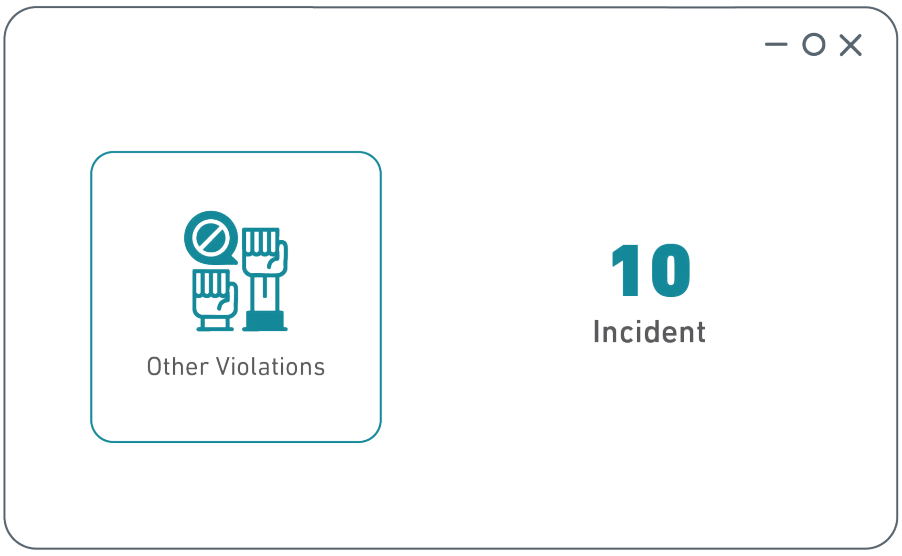
While filming an interview with one of the protesters, five security personnel affiliated with Fuwah Police Station, which is affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, attacked the journalist and forcibly took his camera, threatening to arrest him. Had the protesters not intervened and the journalist managed to escape, he would have been detained. Later, a military vehicle arrived at the protest site, further heightening tensions at the scene.

On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at approximately 11:00 a.m., on Jamal Street in Al Muzaffar District, Taiz Governorate, in front of the governorate administration building, a member of the Taiz security campaign, affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government, verbally assaulted and threatened with a weapon one of the organizers of a peaceful assembly at the protest camp demanding justice in the case of the killing of Iftihan Al-Mashhari. The incident occurred while she was leading the gathering.

The armed man approached her and began striking the bus accompanying the protesters and assaulted one of the participants. He then directed obscene and insulting language at the victim and threatened her. The protesters attempted to calm him down, but he continued making threats and carrying out assaults, taking advantage of the fact that he was armed.

XVI. Other Violations

During 2025, Mwatana documented a series of other violations, including 10 incidents of physical assault against civilians (stabbing and beating). The internationally recognized Yemeni government bears responsibility for seven of these incidents, while the Southern Transitional Council (STC) is responsible for three incidents. The documented violations also included four incidents of looting, the Southern Transitional Council bears responsibility for three and the internationally recognized Yemeni government bears responsibility for one. Furthermore, Mwatana documented three incidents of attacks on civilian objects, for which and the internationally recognized Yemeni government bears responsibility for two, and the Ansar Allah (Houthis) group bears responsibility for one. In addition, Mwatana documented one incident of enforced drowning, for which the Joint Forces bear responsibility.



Cases of Violations

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, at approximately 10:00 AM, an assault involving the physical beating of a civilian occurred in Al-Turbah city, near the government complex in Ash-Shamayatayn District, Taiz Governorate. The assault targeted the victim, Ahmed Saad (pseudonym, male, 23 years old), while he was inside his grocery store. The perpetrators were personnel affiliated with the internationally

recognized Government of Yemen. The personnel arrived at the scene, and one of them immediately proceeded to beat and kick the victim without questioning him, before forcibly removing him from the premises[152].

On the morning of Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at approximately 8:30 AM, on the northern side of Ba Harthah Roundabout in the market area of Seiyun District, Hadramout Governorate, forces belonging to the Southern Transitional Council (STC), accompanied by groups of civilians, attacked three commercial shops and looted their contents entirely. One of these shops belonged to the victim, Ammar (pseudonym, male, 43 years old), along with three of his warehouses: the first adjacent to the shop from the south, the second near it to the north, and the third located in the livestock market, approximately 40 meters east of the shop.

These attacks coincided with the Southern Transitional Council forces taking control of Seiyun District and the fall of the First Military Region, resulting in the complete destruction of the victim's commercial business and warehouses[153].

152. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights in Al-Turbah city, Taiz governorate. On May 29, 2025.
153. An interview conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights in Say'un Distrct, Hadramaut governorate. On December 18, 2025.

Recommendations



To All Parties to the conflict

1. Immediately cease unlawful attacks against civilians and comply with the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

2. Facilitate safe, rapid, and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and relief personnel to all Yemeni governorates and to the areas where beneficiaries are located.

3. Respect international human rights law, including cultural, economic, and social rights, and uphold the obligations set out in relevant international human rights treaties.

4. Close all unlawful detention facilities; immediately release persons arbitrarily detained; disclose the fate and whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced disappearance; investigate allegations of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment in detention facilities; and provide humane and sanitary detention conditions for persons facing criminal charges.

5. Immediately cease the recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict in Yemen, immediately demobilize recruited children, and take the necessary measures to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.

6. Take all necessary steps to end and prevent conflict-related sexual violence, investigate violations committed, and hold those responsible accountable.

7. Cease targeting civilian objects and conducting indiscriminate attacks that may cause harm to civilian objects, particularly vital civilian infrastructure.

8. Cease targeting health care and educational facilities, refrain from using them for military purposes, and remove all manifestations of their militarization.

9. Respect human rights principles relating to freedom of movement, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and all other public and fundamental freedoms.

10. Cease the laying of landmines and the deployment of explosive devices of all types; clear contaminated areas; take the necessary measures to protect civilians from them; place warning signs; provide maps indicating their locations; and adopt other measures capable of reducing the resulting civilian harm.

11. Conduct impartial and transparent investigations into grave violations and serious crimes, hold those responsible accountable, and provide comprehensive remedies for civilian victims.

To the Ansar Allah (Houthi) Group

1. Immediately cease indiscriminate attacks and attacks targeting individuals and civilian objects, and refrain from using landmines and explosive devices in all their forms.

2. Cease the arbitrary detention of civilians without lawful grounds; disclose the fate and whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced disappearance; immediately cease torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment; provide appropriate and sanitary detention conditions for persons facing criminal charges; enable humanitarian agencies to have regular access to detainees; and close all unofficial detention facilities.

3. Immediately release arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared humanitarian workers, including employees of local and international humanitarian organizations; respect national laws and international standards; enable victims to exercise their legal rights; and ensure that security and judicial authorities are subject to independent oversight in a manner that guarantees justice and the rule of law and safeguards the dignity and fundamental rights of the Yemeni people.

4. Allow independent humanitarian access to individuals and families most in need; cease arbitrary interference in the transportation or distribution of aid, the selection of beneficiary lists, and other forms of interference that obstruct the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

5. Provide the necessary facilitation and support to international organizations to enable them to deliver humanitarian assistance to affected people and the poorest families in areas under its control.

6. Commit to ending the use of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines; provide maps of areas affected by mines to facilitate clearance operations and prevent harm to civilians; and place clear warning signs for residents in areas contaminated by mines and other explosive devices.

7. Immediately cease using schools and other vital facilities and respect the neutrality of the educational process, refraining from exploiting it to achieve political or military objectives.

8. Conduct transparent and impartial investigations into gender-based violations, including conflict-related sexual violence; hold those responsible accountable; establish effective mechanisms for reporting such violations; and take the necessary measures to prevent and reduce them.

9. Conduct independent investigations into the various violations committed by its forces and affiliated personnel, hold those responsible accountable, and provide redress to victims.

10. Immediately cease the recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict, immediately demobilize recruited children, and take the necessary measures to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.

To the Internationally Recognized Yemeni Government

1. Immediately cease indiscriminate attacks and attacks targeting individuals and civilian objects, and refrain from using explosive devices in all their forms.

2. Immediately cease violations involving arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment; disclose the fate and whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced disappearance; provide humane and appropriate detention conditions for persons facing criminal charges; and allow international agencies safe, rapid, and regular access to detention facilities.

3. Conduct transparent investigations into grave violations against civilians, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide redress to victims.

4. Ensure access to humanitarian assistance and cease all forms of arbitrary interference that may prevent, restrict, or delay the delivery of humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries.

5. Conduct transparent and impartial investigations into gender-based violations, including conflict-related sexual violence; hold those responsible accountable; establish effective mechanisms for reporting such violations; and take the necessary measures to prevent and reduce them.

6. Cease targeting health care and educational facilities, refrain from using them for military purposes, and remove all manifestations of their militarization.

7. Immediately cease the recruitment and use of children, immediately demobilize recruited children, and take the necessary measures to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.

To the Southern Transitional Council

1. Immediately cease indiscriminate attacks and attacks targeting individuals and civilian objects, and refrain from using explosive devices in all their forms.

2. Conduct transparent and impartial investigations into gender-based violations, including conflict-related sexual violence; hold those responsible accountable; establish effective mechanisms for reporting such violations; and take the necessary measures to prevent and reduce them.

3. Close all unofficial detention facilities and immediately cease arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment; disclose the fate and whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced disappearance; provide humane and sanitary detention conditions for persons facing criminal charges; and allow international agencies safe, rapid, and regular access to detention facilities.

4. Ensure access to humanitarian assistance and cease all forms of arbitrary interference that may prevent, restrict, or delay the delivery of humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries.

5. Cease targeting health care and educational facilities, refrain from using them for military purposes, and remove all manifestations of their militarization.

6. Immediately cease the recruitment and use of children, immediately demobilize recruited children, and take the necessary measures to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.

To the Joint Forces

1. Immediately cease indiscriminate attacks and attacks targeting individuals and civilian objects, and refrain from using explosive devices in all their forms.

2. Immediately cease arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment; disclose the fate and whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced disappearance; provide humane and appropriate detention conditions for persons facing criminal charges; and allow international agencies safe, rapid, and regular access to detention facilities.

3. Conduct transparent investigations into grave violations against civilians, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide redress to victims.

4. Ensure access to humanitarian assistance and cease all forms of arbitrary interference that may prevent, restrict, or delay the delivery of humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries.

5. Conduct transparent and impartial investigations into gender-based violations, including conflict-related sexual violence; hold those responsible accountable; establish effective mechanisms for reporting such violations; and take the necessary measures to prevent and reduce them.

6. Cease targeting health care and educational facilities, refrain from using them for military purposes, and remove all manifestations of their militarization.

7. Immediately cease the recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict, immediately demobilize recruited children, and take the necessary measures to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.

To the Saudi/UAE-Led Coalition Forces

1. Conduct credible, impartial, and transparent investigations into violations of the law against civilians and civilian objects in Yemen.

2. Immediately cease indiscriminate and unlawful attacks inside Yemeni territory that cause harm to civilians and civilian objects, including hospitals, markets, and homes, and comply with the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, namely distinction, proportionality, and precautions.

3. Immediately cease arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in detention facilities operated by the Saudi/UAE-led coalition forces in various parts of Yemen, and facilitate safe, rapid, and regular access for international agencies to those detention facilities.

4. Provide prompt and adequate remedies to victims and their families for harm caused to them and to property as a result of unlawful attacks, and establish a unified, comprehensive, and easily accessible mechanism for providing compensation to victims.

To United Nations Member States

1. Support efforts to halt hostilities in Yemen, achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace, and ensure accountability for violations and serious crimes in Yemen, while ensuring that human rights issues are a central priority in any future peace programs.

2. Take effective steps to reduce escalation in Yemen and the region and work to end the prevailing policy of impunity.

3. Promote the establishment of an international criminal mechanism to investigate human rights violations in Yemen, including grave violations, including those committed by Israeli and U.S. forces during their recent operations in Yemen.

4. Support independent civil society organizations and strengthen their capacity to monitor and document violations and abuses committed in Yemen.

To the United Nations Human Rights Council

- Establish an international investigative mechanism to identify those responsible for alleged violations, grave violations, and related crimes, with the aim of ensuring full accountability for perpetrators, achieving justice, and providing redress to civilian victims.

To the United Nations Security Council

1. Use the means at the Council's disposal, including, where appropriate under existing authorities, imposing sanctions on individuals or entities responsible for attacks against civilians, to exert pressure for the full and

unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance and to support the political process as the only viable means of ending the armed conflict in Yemen, while ensuring that human rights issues are a central priority in any future peace programs.

2. Emphasize the human rights dimensions of the conflict in Yemen and ensure that there is no impunity for the most serious crimes.

3. Direct the Secretary-General to publish a complete and accurate list of perpetrators in the annual report on children and armed conflict.

4. Refer the human rights situation in Yemen to the International Criminal Court in a manner that ensures comprehensive criminal accountability and provides redress to victims.

To Civil Society Organizations

- Establish an independent investigation and reporting mechanism comprising independent local and international civil society organizations, tasked with exposing violations and abuses committed in Yemen.

Acknowledgments

This report, in both its Arabic and English editions, was produced through the joint efforts of a team of female and male researchers and lawyers working within Mwatana for Human Rights' Research and Studies Unit and Legal Support Unit. Various units and departments within the organization also contributed to its preparation. The report underwent multiple levels of review by the organization's management and relevant units, while the Media and Communications Unit was responsible for its design and publication.

Mwatana for Human Rights extends its sincere thanks and deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed to producing this report in its intended form, foremost among them the witnesses, survivors and victims, victims' families, health care workers, activists, and others whose cooperation in providing the information and testimonies that form the basis of this report played a vital role in bringing it to light. Mwatana also extends its gratitude to all the organization's supporters, partners, allies, and advocates.

Mwatana further expresses its appreciation to the female and male field researchers and lawyers who contributed to the documentation and in-depth verification processes undertaken in preparing this report. Mwatana calls on all parties to the conflict in Yemen, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, the European Union, United Nations bodies and agencies, the Member States of the Security Council, and all actors in the international community, as well as local and international civil society organizations, media outlets, and researchers, to take into consideration the contents and findings of this report, as well as those of previous annual reports and their various recommendations, when addressing the Yemen file. Mwatana further calls on them to prioritize human rights issues in all peace plans and programs and in any forthcoming transitional processes, in order to ensure the achievement of justice, accountability for perpetrators, and redress for victims.

Enduring Tragedies

Situation of Human Rights in Yemen 2025

In its ninth annual report, Mwatana for Human Rights reviews the most prominent violations committed throughout 2025 by various parties to the conflict, including the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, the Southern Transitional Council, the internationally recognized government forces, the Joint Forces, The Saudi/UAE-led coalition, as well as the United States and Israel. Documented by Mwatana's field team of female and male researchers and lawyers, these violations demonstrate a blatant disregard for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and domestic legislation.

The report sheds light on the human rights situation in Yemen during 2025, highlighting the continuous suffering endured by the civilian population on various levels since the outbreak of the armed conflict in September 2014, and the atrocities they have been subjected to for nearly twelve years.

The report calls upon the parties to the conflict in Yemen to immediately cease all forms of violations, conduct credible and transparent investigations into breaches of international laws and offenses against civilians, and provide prompt and adequate remedies for victims and their families. It further urges United Nations member states to support peace efforts, prioritize human rights, accountability for perpetrators, and redress for victims in the planning of peace programs and any future transitional phases, and to establish a criminally-focused investigative mechanism to investigate human rights violations, foremost among which are potential international crimes.

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