Report

Unrelenting Bloodshed

Key Incidents and Patterns of Violations Documented During the Escalation of Military Operations in Yemen

1 August – 25 November 2026



Mwatana for Human Rights

November 2026

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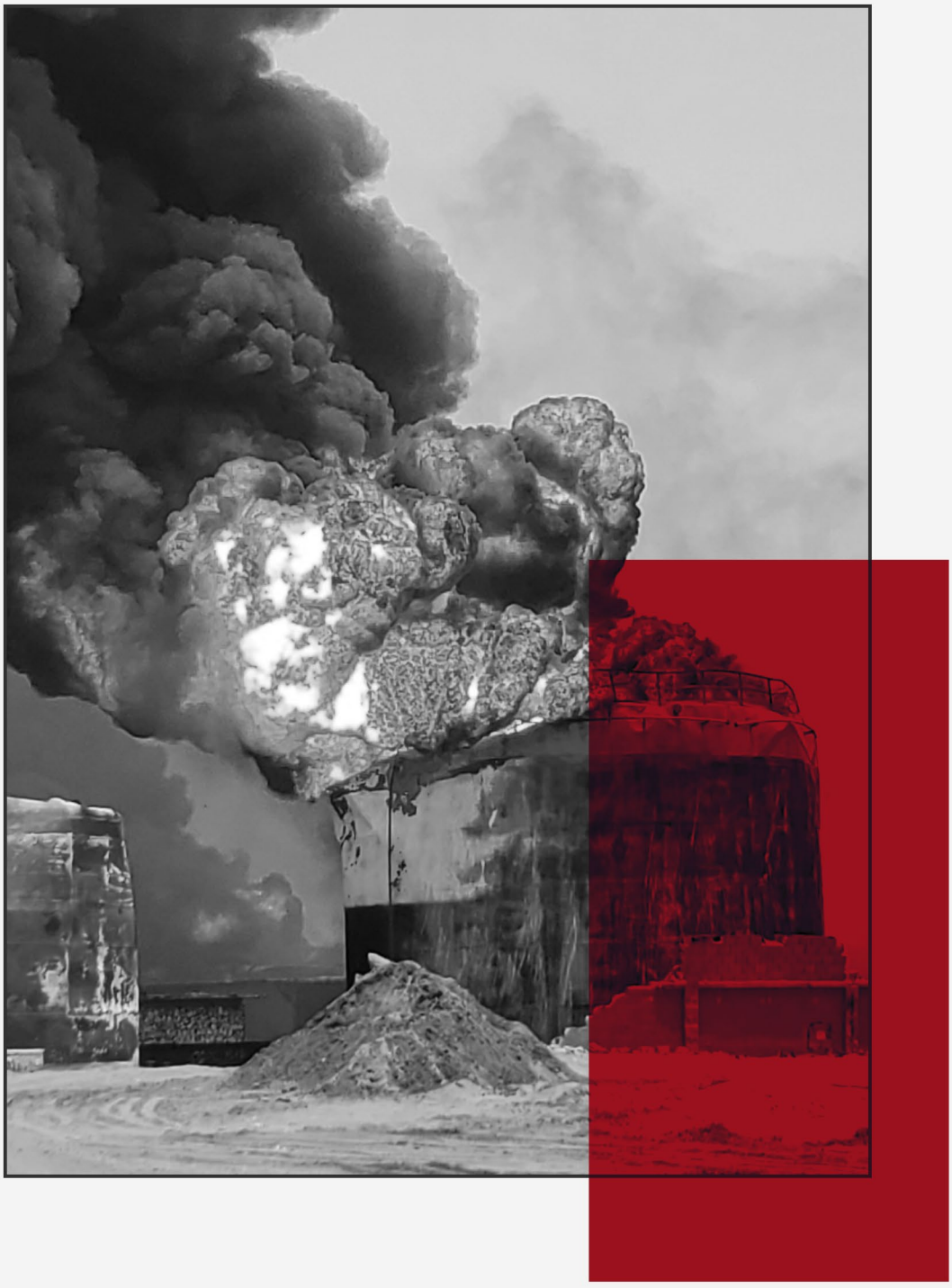
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Executive Summary



— Unrelenting Bloodshed —

Amid the new wave of military escalation that began in early August 2026, the various parties to the conflict in Yemen, including the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, the Saudi-led coalition, the internationally recognized government and the formations operating under the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, the Southern Transitional Council (STC), and the Joint Forces, have continued to commit grave and systematic violations against civilians and civilian objects. These violations continue to drive Yemen's humanitarian crisis—one of the world's worst humanitarian crises—to unprecedented levels, against a backdrop of the near-total collapse of essential services across the country, a sharp deterioration in living conditions, and the flagrant disregard by the various parties to the conflict for their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In this report, Mwatana for Human Rights highlights the key patterns and incidents of human rights violations committed by the main parties to the conflict in Yemen: the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group; the Saudi-led coalition; the forces of the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Presidential Leadership Council, including formations affiliated with the Islah Party; formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council; and the Joint Forces. The report covers the period from 1 August to 25 November 2026 and documents violations across 16 Yemeni governorates: Taiz, Al Jawf, Al Hudaydah, Al-Dale', Hajjah, Shabwah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, the Capital Secretariat (Amanat Al Asimah), Sana'a Governorate, Sa'ada, Dhamar, Ibb, Abyan, and Hadramawt.

During this period, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 458 incidents of violations, resulting in at least 1119 civilian casualties, including at least 377 people killed, among them at least 138 children and 50 women, and at least 712 people injured, including at least 261 children and 129 women. In addition, 30 victims remain missing, including at least 14 children.

Taiz Governorate, which was the primary theater of escalation, accounted for the largest number of documented incidents and patterns of violations covered in this report, with 281 incidents resulting in at least 582 civilian casualties. These included 152 people killed, among them 59 children and 29 women, and 427 people injured, including 139 children and 80 women. In addition, 3 people remain missing, including 2 children.

According to the findings of this report, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group bears responsibility for 275 of the documented incidents of violations during the reporting period, resulting in at least 440 civilian casualties. These included at least 94 people killed, among them at least 39 children and 18 women, and 338 people injured, including at least 145 children and 87 women. In addition, 8 victims, including 7 children, remain missing.

The Saudi-led coalition bears responsibility for 125 of the documented incidents of violations, resulting in at least 583 civilian casualties. These included at least 259 people killed, among them at least 83 children and 30 women, and 307 people injured, including at least 73 children and 34 women. In addition, 17 people remain missing, including 2 children.

Meanwhile, the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Presidential Leadership Council, including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, and the Joint Forces, bear responsibility for 37 incidents of violations, resulting in at least 61 civilian casualties. These included at least 15people killed, among them at least 8 children and two women, and at least 41 people injured, including at least 28 children and 4 women. Five of the victims, all children, remain missing.

Meanwhile, Mwatana's field team continues to investigate 21 additional incidents of violations which, according to preliminary information, resulted in at least 35 casualties. These include at least nine people killed, among them at least 8 children, and at least 26 people injured, including at least 15 children and 4 women.

In addition to highlighting the key patterns and incidents of documented violations, this report examines some of the humanitarian consequences of the escalation and the worsening humanitarian crisis since the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group launched military operations in early August 2026 in parts of Al Hudaydah, the western coast, Al Mokha, Bab al-Mandab, and large areas of the Taiz countryside. These operations culminated in the group re-establishing firm control over the vast majority of areas surrounding Taiz city from all directions. The report also covers the announcement by the Presidential Leadership Council and the internationally recognized government of the launch of Operation "Dawn of Yemen" on 5 October 2026, the resumption of attacks by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group against Saudi interests, and the resumption of large-scale airstrikes across Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition.

The findings of this report are based on field-based investigative documentation carried out by Mwatana for Human Rights' team of female and male researchers and lawyers in the Yemeni governorates that witnessed incidents of violations during the escalation. Mwatana's field team conducted in-depth, face-to-face interviews concerning the incidents of violations with victims, their families, eyewitnesses, reporting persons, first responders, and doctors. The findings are also based on a series of field visits conducted by Mwatana's team for the purposes of on-site examination, verification, documentation, and damage assessment, in addition to the collection, examination, and review of documents, medical records, and corroborating evidence.

From a legal perspective, the documented incidents and patterns of violations in this report demonstrate that all parties involved in perpetrating these violations have breached the provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Specifically, they have systematically and repeatedly violated Common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, which requires all parties to a conflict, including non-state armed groups, to provide minimum humanitarian protections to persons not actively participating in hostilities (civilians), and prohibits, at all times and in all places, violence to life and person, particularly murder of all kinds, mutilation, and cruel treatment. They have also violated the provisions of Additional Protocol II of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions, concerning the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts, which develops and supplements Common Article 3 and establishes general protection for the civilian population and civilian objects (Articles 13–18).

Furthermore, the parties have violated the rules of customary international humanitarian law, which are binding on all parties to the conflict in Yemen without exception, regardless of whether or not they have ratified the relevant treaties. These rules include the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack, as well as the prohibition of indiscriminate weapons and the obligation to facilitate humanitarian relief. They have also violated provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly Article 6, concerning the right to life, and Article 12, concerning freedom of movement; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Articles 11, 12, and 13, concerning the rights to food, health, and education); the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Article 8 of the Rome Statute stipulates that serious violations of the rules of international

humanitarian law in non-international armed conflicts constitute war crimes entailing individual criminal responsibility, pursuant to Article 8(2)(c) and Article 8(2)(e) of the Statute, which reflect established customary rules of international criminal law.

The documented incidents and patterns of violations in this report demonstrate serious breaches by all parties to the conflict in Yemen of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, foremost among them the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack, as well as the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks. Rule 1 of customary international humanitarian law and Article 13(2) of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions require parties to distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and prohibit directing attacks against the civilian population or individual civilians.

Rules 7 and 10 also prohibit directing attacks against civilian objects (including homes, schools, prisons, markets, and fuel stations), unless and for such time as they become military objectives. Rules 11 and 12 prohibit indiscriminate attacks that are not directed at a specific military objective or that employ means of warfare, such as ballistic missiles and unguided projectiles, whose effects cannot be confined to populated areas. Rule 14 prohibits attacks that may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, or damage to civilian objects that would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

Rules 15 to 21 require attackers to take all feasible precautions to verify that targets are military objectives and to avoid causing civilian casualties. Repeatedly bombing the same location while first responders and civil defence teams are assembling there constitutes a flagrant violation of Rules 25 and 28, which afford special protection to medical personnel, medical units, and rescue teams. Such conduct may amount to a war crime under Article 8(2)(e)(i) and (ii) of the Rome Statute.

Direct gunfire by snipers or ground forces targeting civilians who are not participating in hostilities constitutes the crime of wilful killing, pursuant to Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, Rule 89 of customary international humanitarian law, which prohibits murder, and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protects the inherent right to life and prohibits its arbitrary deprivation.

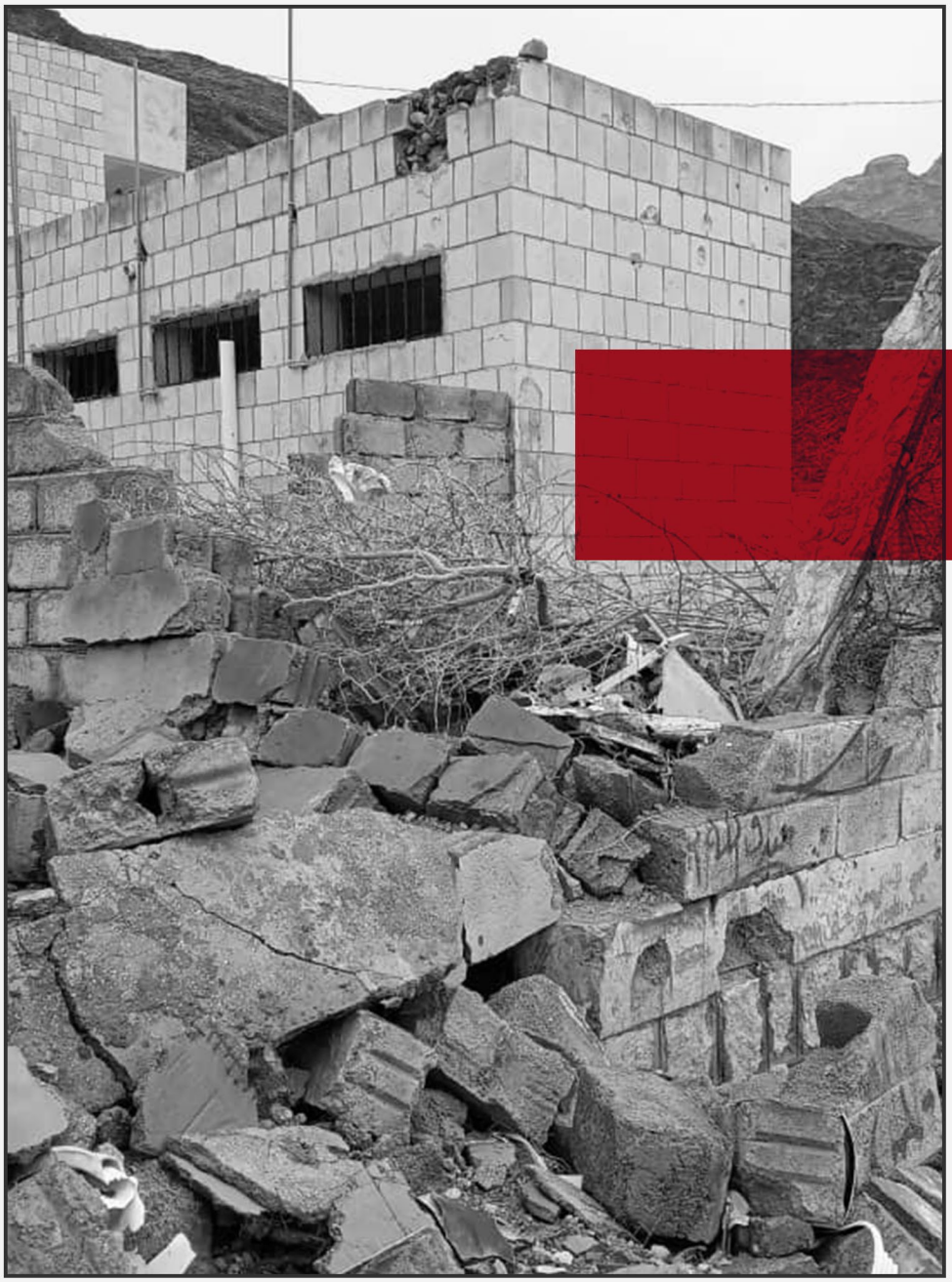
In addition to the introduction, methodology, executive summary, and background on the conflict in Yemen, Chapter One of this report examines the key patterns and incidents of violations committed by the various parties to the conflict across 16 Yemeni governorates during the ongoing period of escalation, from 1 August to 25 November 2026. These violations included ground attacks, airstrikes, drone attacks, live ammunition fire, landmines and explosive devices, the closure and blocking of roads and crossing points, and the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on the movement of individuals, vehicles, goods, essential and medical supplies, and humanitarian assistance.

Chapter Two examines some of the humanitarian consequences of the escalation, including the worsening humanitarian crisis, escalating waves of displacement, and the deterioration of essential services. The report concludes with a set of recommendations addressed to the parties to the conflict, the international community, and relevant stakeholders.

Violations Amid the Escalation of Military Operations in Yemen



Introduction



— Unrelenting Bloodshed —

The armed conflict in Yemen is entering its twelfth year amid rapidly evolving developments on the military and ground fronts, reflecting the fragility of de-escalation efforts and the absence of any clear prospects for a comprehensive political settlement that would end the suffering civilians have endured since September 2014. Despite successive regional and international efforts to de-escalate the conflict, the country has witnessed a new and intense wave of military confrontations since early August 2026, which has reshaped the map of territorial control in several governorates, killed and injured hundreds of civilians, and plunged millions of civilians into a renewed cycle of violence, displacement, and deprivation of the most basic necessities of life.

This latest round of escalation followed a series of interconnected political and military developments on the Yemeni scene during late 2025 and early 2026. Following changes in the map of territorial control and influence across the southern and eastern governorates, and a decline in the intensity of naval and airstrikes associated with the regional escalation in the Red Sea, armed clashes erupted once again on a wide scale between the forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council (STC), and the Joint Forces, on the one hand, and the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, on the other.

In early August 2026, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group launched a military offensive across large areas of Al Hudaydah and Taiz governorates. The group succeeded in taking control of the districts of Hays and Al Khawkhah in Al Hudaydah Governorate, before advancing to seize the western coast, the city of Al Mokha, and the areas of Dhubab and Bab al-Mandab. Its territorial control subsequently expanded to cover large areas of the western and southwestern countryside of Taiz Governorate, including Al Turbah and Al Dhabab.

These territorial gains, combined with the closure of Taiz city's eastern entrance by forces of the internationally recognized government and Islah Party-affiliated formations, and the closure of the city's western entrance and the cutting off of roads connecting Taiz city with the surrounding areas of Aden and Lahj governorates by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, resulted in the reimposition of a suffocating and complete siege on Taiz city. This brought back memories of one of the most devastating humanitarian periods endured by the city's residents, who

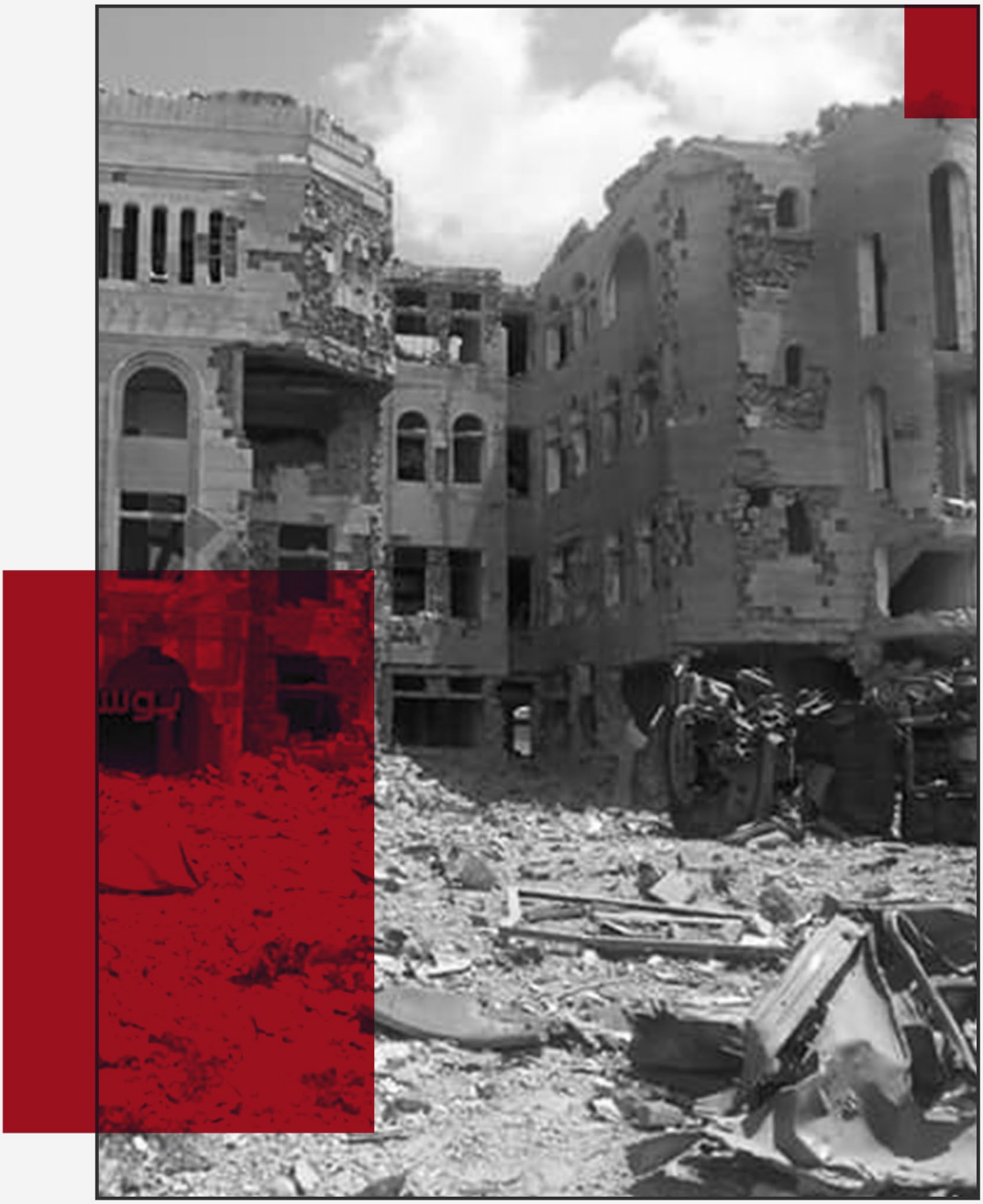
had lived under a suffocating siege for several years following the escalation of the conflict there in early 2015.

On 5 October 2026, Rashad Al-Alimi, President of the Presidential Leadership Council, announced the launch of the military operation "Dawn of Yemen," aimed at retaking areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, including the capital, Sana'a. This military move coincided with the resumption of intensive air operations by the Saudi-led coalition, which carried out dozens of airstrikes targeting the governorates of Sana'a, Taiz, Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, Al Jawf, Dhamar, Amran, and other areas.

During this round of military escalation, specifically between 1 August and 25 November 2026, Mwatana for Human Rights documented horrific human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict, resulting in the killing and injury of hundreds of civilians. The documented incidents of violations revealed a recurring and systematic pattern of disregard by the parties to the conflict for civilian lives and safety, their humanitarian and living conditions, and civilian objects. Military operations made no distinction between military objectives and civilians or civilian objects. Air and ground attacks, ballistic missiles, drones, sniper fire, and landmines struck the homes of civilians, markets, means of transportation, displacement camps and gatherings, and even detention facilities and vital infrastructure.

The consequences of the military escalation extended far beyond the killing and injury of civilians, the targeting and destruction of civilian objects, and other direct violations. They also undermined the basic conditions necessary for the survival of millions of civilians across Yemen, particularly in Taiz Governorate, which became the principal theater of military operations. The military operations exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, triggered successive waves of displacement involving hundreds of thousands of civilians, and led to the closure of crossing points and roads. They also brought food and medicine supply chains and humanitarian assistance to an almost complete standstill, caused sharp increases in the prices of essential commodities and fuel, and severely deteriorated the health and education sectors and public sanitation services.

Methodology



This report, which highlights the key patterns and incidents of violations committed by all parties to the conflict between 1 August and 25 November 2026, during the ongoing round of military escalation across various parts of Yemen, is based on field visits conducted by Mwatana for Human Rights for the purposes of documentation, on-site examination, verification, and damage assessment. It also draws on in-depth, face-to-face field interviews conducted by Mwatana's field team, comprising female and male researchers and lawyers, with victims, victims' relatives, eyewitnesses, first responders, and informed sources in the Yemeni governorates that were the main focus of the military escalation.

The report also draws on interviews conducted by telephone with eyewitnesses, survivors, victims' relatives, and local residents in areas that field teams were unable to access due to ongoing military operations. In addition, it relies on corroborating information and evidence, photographs, documents, and medical records collected by Mwatana. The organization also consulted multiple and diverse sources, including open sources, to verify and cross-check information wherever possible. With regard to the humanitarian situation and related data, Mwatana relied on reports and documents issued by the United Nations and independent specialized humanitarian organizations.

Before conducting the interviews, participants were informed of their purpose, and Mwatana's team obtained their informed consent, while taking into account their wishes regarding the confidentiality of their identities, their safety considerations, and the potential risks to which they might be exposed.

In accordance with Mwatana's methodology, the information and evidence collected and documented by female and male field researchers and lawyers underwent several levels of internal review and scrutiny within Mwatana to verify their accuracy and consistency before being used in this report.

This report focuses primarily on the key patterns of violations committed during the specified period of military escalation, which defines the report's temporal scope and for which Mwatana's team devoted most of its efforts to prioritizing and completing documentation. These include ground attacks, airstrikes, drone attacks, live ammunition fire, landmines and explosive devices, the closure and blocking of roads and crossing points, and the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on the movement of individuals, vehicles, goods, essential and medical supplies,

and humanitarian assistance. The report does not cover all patterns of violations. Mwatana is working to document other patterns, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and other violations, in separate publications.

During the documentation of the incidents and patterns of violations covered in this report across various areas, Mwatana's team faced a wide range of restrictions, risks, and challenges that escalated to unprecedented levels, significantly affecting its ability to access and document a large number of incidents and patterns of violations. The most prominent of these challenges included the continuation of military operations in many areas; the escalation of security restrictions imposed by the parties to the conflict; wartime incitement campaigns targeting the work of independent human rights organizations; and the closure of crossing points and roads. In addition, some victims and witnesses were reluctant to provide statements for fear of being exposed to risks or reprisals.

Mwatana has established updated records containing a dedicated classification of the basic information relating to incidents that it was unable to access, with a view to documenting them as soon as the obstacles that prevented their documentation have been removed.

The data and information presented by Mwatana for Human Rights in this report cover only those incidents that the organization was able to access, verify, and document. They do not constitute a comprehensive account of all incidents and patterns of violations committed by the various parties during the reporting period. Meanwhile, Mwatana's team continues its field investigations into dozens of additional incidents of violations that resulted in the killing and injury of dozens of civilians but have not been included in this report because their documentation and verification processes have not yet been completed. These incidents will be included in Mwatana's subsequent publications once their documentation has been finalized.

Background on the Armed Conflict in Yemen



— Unrelenting Bloodshed —

Since 2011, Yemen has undergone rapid political and security-related transformations, beginning with the popular protests that erupted in February of that year, demanding an end to the rule of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and calling for political and economic reforms. In November 2011, the Gulf Initiative was concluded, providing for the transfer of power to Saleh's Vice President, Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi. The country subsequently entered a transitional period that was intended to lead to political and constitutional reforms. As part of this transition, the National Dialogue Conference was held between March 2013 and January 2014, with the participation of various political and social forces, including the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. However, political disagreements, the failure to implement the outcomes of the National Dialogue, and weak state institutions prevented the completion of the transitional process and paved the way for an escalation of the political and security crisis.

In September 2014, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group seized the capital, Sana'a, by force of arms and took control of a number of civilian and military state institutions, before armed confrontations spread to other governorates. In January 2015, the group placed President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and several government officials under house arrest following its siege of the presidential palace and state institutions in Sana'a. As the group advanced towards the southern governorates, Hadi relocated to Aden before subsequently leaving for Saudi Arabia. On 26 March 2015, the Saudi/UAE-led coalition launched a military intervention in support of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, conducting air, sea, and ground operations targeting areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. Since then, the scope of hostilities has expanded, and multiple front lines have emerged, transforming the political crisis into a protracted war involving local, regional, and international actors.

As the war continued, new military and security formations emerged, and centers of influence and territorial control multiplied across the country. In May 2017, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) was established. Forces affiliated with or associated with the STC subsequently managed to extend their influence over large parts of the southern governorates, including the city of Aden. In December of the same year, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh was killed by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group following the collapse of the alliance between the two parties, which had been formed in 2014. This was followed by the emergence of the National Resistance Forces, led by Tareq Saleh, which subsequently joined the Joint Forces on the western coast, alongside other military formations.

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In 2018, Al Hudaydah Governorate witnessed large-scale military confrontations as part of operations aimed at gaining control of the city and its port, one of Yemen's most important maritime entry points for imports. In December 2018, the parties reached the Stockholm Agreement under United Nations auspices. The agreement included arrangements for a ceasefire in Al Hudaydah and the redeployment of forces. However, its implementation faced significant challenges, and hostilities continued on other front lines across the country.

In April 2022, the parties to the conflict entered into a truce under United Nations auspices, which helped reduce the intensity of military operations and included a cessation of offensive operations, as well as arrangements concerning fuel shipments and commercial flights through Sana'a International Airport. The truce officially expired in October 2022 without an agreement to extend it. Subsequent efforts failed to produce a comprehensive political settlement that would end the war or address the political, military, and institutional divisions.

In late 2023, the war entered a new phase when the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group announced that it had launched attacks targeting commercial vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, against the backdrop of the war in the Gaza Strip. This was followed by the formation of a US-led maritime coalition under the name Operation Prosperity Guardian. In January 2024, the United States and the United Kingdom began conducting military strikes against areas under the group's control, after which the United States continued carrying out airstrikes independently. These operations escalated during 2025, when the United States launched a large-scale military campaign under the name Operation Rough Rider, which continued until a ceasefire agreement was announced in May of that year. These developments coincided with Israeli airstrikes targeting ports, facilities, and infrastructure in areas under the group's control.

On the domestic front, late 2025 and early 2026 witnessed new military developments in the southern and eastern governorates, following the expansion of the influence of formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council in Hadramawt and Al Mahrah governorates. Clashes subsequently broke out between these formations and forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government, which received Saudi air support. The confrontations ended with forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government regaining control of several areas, including Hadramawt, Al Mahrah, and Aden, resulting in changes to the map of military control in the south and east of the country.

Unrelenting Bloodshed

During the second half of 2026, hostilities resumed between forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group along several front lines, including Taiz, Al Jawf, Sa'ada, and the western coast. On 5 October 2026, Rashad Al-Alimi, President of the Presidential Leadership Council, announced the launch of Operation "Dawn of Yemen," marking a new chapter in the country's ongoing war. These developments were accompanied by military movements by government forces, including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, and the Joint Forces, with support from the Saudi-led coalition. These developments reflected the continued state of political and military instability amid the absence of any clear prospects for ending the conflict and reaching a comprehensive political settlement.

Chapter One

Key Incidents and Patterns of Violations Committed During the Current Round of Escalation 1 August – 25 November 2026

Unrelenting Bloodshed

The military escalation that Yemen has witnessed since early August 2026 has resulted in the killing and injury of hundreds of civilians and the destruction of dozens of civilian objects and vital infrastructure facilities. These losses have been caused by airstrikes, ground attacks, drone attacks, ballistic missile strikes, landmines, explosive devices, and gunfire. The escalation has also displaced tens of thousands of people and exacerbated the suffering of millions of civilians across several governorates. In addition, it has led to the renewed closure of main roads and crossing points; restrictions on population movement; and restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance, essential and medical supplies, and vital provisions to hundreds of thousands of people. Other violations have included the occupation of schools and their use for military purposes, attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and the recruitment and use of children, amid the flagrant disregard by the various parties to the conflict for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

Despite extremely complex conditions on the ground and significant challenges and risks, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 458 incidents of violations between 1 August and 25 November 2026, resulting in at least 1119 civilian casualties, including at least 377 people killed, among them at least 138 children and 50 women, and at least 712 people injured, including at least 261 children and 129 women. In addition, 30 victims remain missing, including at least 14 children. These violations were committed by the various parties to the conflict, including the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, the Saudi-led coalition, and forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government, including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council (STC), and the Joint Forces. The documented incidents occurred in the governorates of Taiz, Al Jawf, Al Hudaydah, Al-Dale', Hajjah, Shabwah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, the Capital Secretariat (Amanat Al Asimah), Sana'a Governorate, Sa'ada, Abyan, Ibb, Dhamar, and Hadramawt.

Taiz Governorate, which was the primary theater of escalation, accounted for the largest number of documented incidents and patterns of violations covered in this report, with 281 incidents resulting in at least 582 civilian casualties. These included 152 people killed, among them 59 children and 29 women, and 427 people injured, including 139 children and 80 women. In addition, 3 people remain missing, including 2 children.

— Unrelenting Bloodshed —

During the current round of escalation, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group intensified its military operations across large areas of Taiz Governorate and seized control of the vast majority of its countryside, including the roads and crossing points connecting the city with Aden. In doing so, the group reimposed a complete siege on Taiz city, which had remained under siege for many years following the outbreak of the war in Yemen. The siege inflicted immense humanitarian suffering on hundreds of thousands of residents and remained one of the most complex issues throughout the years of the war.

Of the total documented incidents, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group bears responsibility for 275 of the documented incidents of violations during the reporting period, resulting in at least 440 civilian casualties. These included at least 94 people killed, among them at least 39 children and 18 women, and 338 people injured, including at least 145 children and 87 women. In addition, 8 victims, including 7 children, remain missing.

The Saudi-led coalition bears responsibility for 125 of the documented incidents of violations, resulting in at least 583 civilian casualties. These included at least 259 people killed, among them at least 83 children and 30 women, and 307 people injured, including at least 73 children and 34 women. In addition, 17 people remain missing, including 2 children.

Meanwhile, the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council (STC), and the Joint Forces, bear responsibility for 37 incidents of violations, resulting in at least 61 civilian casualties. These included at least 15people killed, among them at least 8 children and two women, and at least 41 people injured, including at least 28 children and 4 women. Five of the victims, all children, remain missing.

Meanwhile, Mwatana's team continues its field investigations 21 additional incidents of violations, which involved ground attacks, live gunfire, and explosive devices, and resulted in at least 35 casualties. These include at least nine people killed, among them at least 8 children, and at least 26 people injured, including at least 15 children and 4 women, in order to determine the party responsible for them.

The team is continuing its investigations into these 23 incidents, which involved ground attacks, live gunfire, and explosive devices, and resulted in 39 casualties, including nine people killed and 30 injured, in order to determine the party responsible for them.

The patterns of violations documented by Mwatana during the reporting period varied. They comprised 174 incidents of ground attacks, 111 incidents of airstrikes, and 106 incidents of live gunfire. In addition, Mwatana documented 18 incidents involving drone attacks, 27 incidents involving landmines and explosive devices, and 22 incidents involving the recruitment and use of children.

Ground Attacks

During the period of escalation from 1 August to 25 November 2026, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 174 ground attack incidents, resulting in at least 317 civilian casualties, including 64 people killed—28 children and 14 women—and 252 injured, including 86 children and 69 women. One person was also reported missing.



The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 143 of the documented incidents, which resulted in at least 262 casualties, including at least 51 people killed—at least 22 children and 12 women—and 210 injured, including at least 76 children and 64 women. One person was also reported missing.

The Saudi-led coalition was responsible for 13 ground attack incidents, resulting in at least 26 casualties, including four people killed, one of whom was a woman, and 22 injured, including two children. The ground attacks carried out by the Saudi-led coalition were concentrated in the border areas of Sa'ada Governorate, where it launched numerous attacks against residential areas and neighborhoods, including civilian homes.

The internationally recognized government was responsible for 11 ground attack incidents, resulting in at least 19 casualties, including six people killed -three children and one woman- and 13 injured, including 4 children and three women. Mwatana is continuing its field investigations into 7 additional ground attack incidents, which collectively resulted in at least 10 casualties, including three children killed—and 7 injured, including 4 children and 2 women.

On Tuesday, 6 October 2026, at approximately 1:30 a.m., in Um Al-Dhah village, Al-Atan subdistrict, Bakeel Al-Meer District, Hajjah Governorate, forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government fired a mortar shell that struck a civilian's home. The home was a makeshift hut built from palm fronds, where the man was living with his displaced family. The attack killed six family members, including four children, and seriously injured a fifth child. The strike caused the hut and all its contents to catch fire and burn down completely. The incident also prompted other families living in the area to flee to another location for fear of further shelling.

The victim's brother told Mwatana:

"It was an ordinary night, like any other, but for us it turned out to be different. In this area, most people go to bed early. Some residents had already fallen asleep, while others were getting ready to go to bed. Suddenly, we heard the first strike nearby, and we all woke up. Each family gathered its children and brought them inside the house, fearing that another shelling might follow."

He continued:

"A short while later, the shell struck my brother's home directly while the family was asleep inside. It was the loudest explosion we had heard in the area, and it happened right near us. I knew then that my brother's home had been hit. I rushed outside, calling out to the family from a distance, but no one answered. When I reached the front of the house, I found my youngest nephew, who was nine months old, in his final moments, struggling to stay alive."

He added:

"The flames were consuming what remained of the house. I went straight inside to check on my brother and his family. I found my brother dead, his body severely mutilated and split into two parts. I could not identify the lower half of his body, while his upper body and head were visible, with blood flowing profusely. That was when I realized my brother had died. I then began searching for the other family members and found the little girl, Fatima Ali, injured. I immediately picked her up and handed her to my other brother, who rushed her to the nearest health center in the area to receive emergency first aid and have the bleeding stopped."

He went on:

"After that, I continued checking on the other children. I carried them out of the house and gathered them on a tarpaulin. Once I had gathered the children, I realized that my brother's wife was not among them and was still missing inside the house. I was in a state of extreme shock at the horror of what I had witnessed. I could hardly register what was happening around me. Seeing my brother in that condition caused me indescribable pain. At that moment, I wished I could die, so deeply was I affected by what had happened to him and his children."

He concluded:

"I was still searching for my brother's wife when my father arrived. He had been delayed because he was busy taking the other children to our home and putting them somewhere safe. As he arrived, he found my brother's wife lying beside the house. Her body was bleeding and severely mutilated, with blood flowing from her head, face, and other parts of her body. It appeared that the force of the explosion had thrown her out of the house. I heard my father shouting at the top of his voice and crying, 'This is your brother's wife! She is here!' Overwhelmed by the shock, my father collapsed beside her, crying and in anguish, until he lost consciousness."

On Tuesday, 20 October 2026, at approximately 1:00 p.m., the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group launched a ground attack targeting a residential home in the Sinah neighborhood, in the Sinah area of Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz city. Members of the family were inside the home at the time of the attack. The attack killed two women and injured three other women and two adult men.

In her testimony documented by Mwatana, one of the survivors recounted the attack on the home and the resulting deaths and injuries, saying:

"The missile struck our home, and the ceiling collapsed on those who were in the part of the house that had been hit. Thank God, I was in my room at the back of the house. When the explosion happened, I rushed outside, feeling as though what had happened was a dream because I was so shocked. I was calling out for my daughter, who was at the neighbors' house at the time and was not inside our home."

She added:

"I went outside to see what had happened and found my sister-in-law, my children's aunt, trapped beneath the rubble after the ceiling had collapsed. In another room, the ceiling had fallen on my children's uncle, injuring him. What saddened and pained me most was that our neighbor's daughter used to come to our home to collect water for her family because we have a tank in which we collect rainwater. Given the circumstances and the shortage of petroleum products, water trucks no longer reach our area, so she had started coming to get water from us. When the missile struck, the neighbor's daughter was filling containers with water. Shrapnel flew through the air, penetrated her body, and struck her abdomen. She fell to the ground and died."

The witness concluded:

"It was not a shell; it was a missile, and its remnants are still there to this day. We accept God's will, but this is one human being wronging another. We were in our home, safe and at peace. Why were we targeted?"

On Thursday, 3 September 2026, at approximately 3:30 p.m., forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government shelled Al-Abbasiyah village, in the Al-Basil area of Abs District, Hajjah Governorate, using artillery. The shelling originated from the western area under the control of those forces. It injured two children, set fire to some homes, and damaged and destroyed others. A number of livestock were also killed, forcing the family of the two injured children to flee to another location.

"When the shelling began and the shells started landing in the area, we were terrified. We did not know where the next strike would hit. **Our first concern was to protect the children and move them away from danger.** As we were trying to get them to safety, another shell landed, and my two children were injured in the attack. I witnessed what happened to them, and it was an extremely frightening sight for me and my family."

The father of the two injured children told Mwatana about the moments of the shelling and the resulting injuries and damage, saying:

"When the shelling began and the shells started landing in the area, we were terrified. We did not know where the next strike would hit. Our first concern was to protect the children and move them away from danger. As we were trying to get them to safety, another shell landed, and my two children were injured in the attack. I witnessed what happened to them, and it was an extremely frightening sight for me and my family."

He added:

"Some homes caught fire and were destroyed as a result of the shelling, and our livestock, which are an important source of our livelihood, were killed. My two children's injuries and their transfer to the hospital placed an additional burden on us. With the shelling reaching our area, my children injured, homes damaged, and livestock killed, we felt that we had lost our sense of security once again. The continued shelling forced many families in the area to flee again to more distant and safer places, in search of shelter that would protect them from the bombardment and ensure the safety of their family members, particularly the children."

On Thursday, 24 September 2026, at approximately 11:30 a.m., in the Al-Hajlah area of Razih District, Sa'ada Governorate, Saudi border guard forces fired a short-range missile from Saudi territory in the Jazan area toward the opposing Yemeni areas. The missile landed approximately 50 meters from Jamila Ahmed (female, 13), as she was returning from fetching drinking water. The attack injured her with shrapnel, which severed her right arm above the elbow.

An eyewitness told Mwatana:

"I was at home, waiting for the call to the noon prayer to approach so that we could go out and pray at the village mosque. When we heard the explosion, we left the house, women and men alike, to see where the strike had landed. Only a few minutes had passed when Jamila's mother returned. She had gone to check on her daughter after the strike. She was screaming and crying, saying, 'My daughter is dead!' Those of us who were near the house rushed to the scene and found the girl lying on the ground, her face and clothes covered in blood."

He added:

"After that, the girl's father carried her, and we accompanied him as we hurried to Razih Hospital in the Sha'arah area. The hospital received her and provided treatment until her condition stabilized. She was then transferred to Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sa'ada to continue receiving treatment."

On Friday, 2 October 2026, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group launched a ground attack using a mortar shell, which landed in front of a home in the Al-Zunuj area, on Al-Arba'een Street, Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz city. The attack killed an adult woman and injured a girl and two other adult women. The shelling occurred while the victims were standing outside their grandmother's home. The woman who was killed was holding a piece of dough and had stepped outside the house to bake it in a wood-fired oven (tannour) when the mortar shell struck her directly, killing her and injuring the other victims with shrapnel.

One of the survivors told Mwatana:

"At around 10:30 a.m., in the Al-Zunuj area, on Al-Arba'een Street, Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate, we came under a ground attack. I sustained multiple shrapnel wounds to the front middle part of my head, which caused tissue injuries. I subsequently underwent surgery to remove the shrapnel."

She added:

"On the day of the incident, my sister and I went to visit my grandmother. When we arrived, we sat outside the door for a while, talking with my grandmother and my maternal uncle's wife. They had a wood-burning oven (tannour). My uncle's wife came outside carrying some dough to bake in the oven. Our home was close to my grandmother's, and our area is a frontline zone. Just a few minutes after we arrived, the shell landed directly on my uncle's wife, striking her in the abdominal area while she was still holding the dough. Shrapnel scattered everywhere. I was hit by shrapnel in the head, while my sister sustained shrapnel injuries to her right leg, resulting in a fracture. My uncle's wife, however, died."

On Friday, 9 October 2026, at approximately 1:00 p.m., the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group launched a ballistic missile toward Al-Shaqb village, Saber Al-Mawadem District, Taiz Governorate. The missile landed near two civilian homes, injuring a child and a woman as they were walking to one of the homes near the impact site to have lunch with the victim's family. The two victims were transported

to Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz city, but both had died by the time they arrived. The explosion also damaged neighboring homes, shattered windows, and scattered glass in the surrounding area.

An eyewitness told Mwatana:

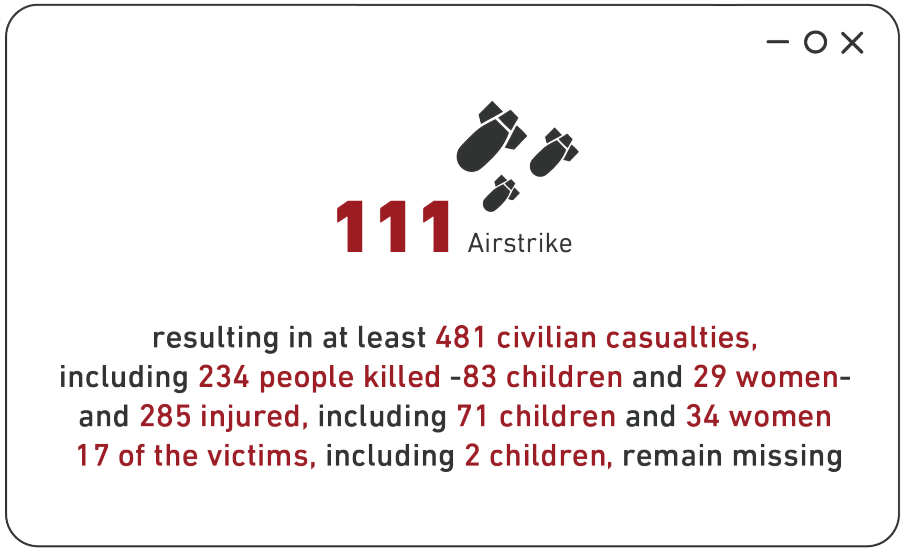
"Thikrayat Abdulwahed lived with her parents, and their home was close to that of their neighbors, the family of Mohammed Abdulwahed, a young boy. Given the difficult living conditions the boy's family was experiencing, Thikrayat would regularly take them food and invite the child to have lunch with her and her parents. On Friday, 9 October 2026, at around 1:00 p.m., Thikrayat went, as she usually did, to the neighbors' home to invite Mohammed, who was in the sixth grade, to have lunch with them. After she had picked him up, as the two were walking back to her home, a missile landed near Thikrayat's house and struck its wall, sending shrapnel flying in all directions. One fragment struck Thikrayat in the neck, causing a deep wound and bleeding that led to her death. A large fragment also struck Mohammed in the head, causing a severe injury and bleeding, which ultimately resulted in his death."

The witness added:

"The two victims were taken to Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz city, but they had already died by the time they arrived, so no medical services were provided to them. Death certificates were issued for both. Their bodies were then taken to Al-Saeed Mosque, where they were washed, shrouded, and funeral prayers were performed over them. They were supposed to be buried in the Al-Saeed Cemetery next to the mosque, but the cost of a single grave was 400,000 rials. Given their difficult living conditions, neither family could afford this amount. The bodies were therefore taken back to Al-Shaqb village, where they were buried. I was present while the bodies were being washed and shrouded."

Airstrikes

During the period of escalation from 1 August to 25 November 2026, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 111 airstrike incidents, resulting in at least 557 civilian casualties, including 255 people killed—83 children and 29 women—and 285 injured, including 71 children and 34 women. 17 of the victims, including 2 children, remain missing.



The Saudi-led coalition was responsible for all documented airstrike incidents during the reporting period

On Monday, 5 October 2026, at approximately 12:00 noon, aircraft belonging to the Saudi-led coalition carried out an airstrike targeting the main road on Al-Arba'een Street, in the Sawwan area of Shu'ub District, Capital Secretariat (Amanat Al Asimah), Sana'a. The strike killed a girl and injured three people, including two girls and the school bus driver. The bus was transporting several female students home from Hunaish School in the Sawwan area after they had completed their mid-year examinations. According to the testimony, an earlier airstrike had targeted a small farm beside the main road, and another strike occurred as the bus was passing by.

“We were travelling along our usual route, hearing the sounds of aircraft and airstrikes, as we do every day. When we reached Atiyah gas station, **there had been a nearby strike** – the first missile strike. There were no military sites, weapons depots, or armed groups present in the area. There was only a water desalination station and a small farm beside the main road.”

In his testimony to Mwatana, the school bus driver, who was injured in the airstrike, said:

"We were travelling along our usual route, hearing the sounds of aircraft and airstrikes, as we do every day. When we reached Atiyah gas station, there had been a nearby strike—the first missile strike. There were no military sites, weapons depots, or armed groups present in the area. There was only a water desalination station and a small farm beside the main road."

He added:

"We continued along our way, when we suddenly heard a powerful explosion at exactly 12:00 noon. It was extremely close to us and caused us to sustain shrapnel injuries. One fragment struck Atheer Sameer (female, 14), who was sitting in the rear seat on the right-hand side of the bus. She was hit in the head and died instantly. Her classmate Rehab bassam (female, 14) was also injured by shrapnel behind her ear and in her back and leg. Another student, Reem Ghaleb (female, 14), who was sitting in the back seat, sustained no physical injuries but suffered severe shock and panic. I was also hit by multiple fragments in the head and sustained burns on the right side of my back."

On Saturday, 7 November 2026, at approximately 10:40 a.m., aircraft belonging to the Saudi-led coalition carried out several airstrikes targeting the residential village of Al-Shariyah in Bani Hushaysh District, Sana'a Governorate. The strikes hit five homes inhabited by several families, killing at least 43 people, including 19 children, and injuring 36 others, including 13 children. Search and rescue operations to locate and recover victims from beneath the rubble continued for five days.

The first airstrike struck a home at approximately 10:40 a.m., followed by further strikes targeting neighboring homes. A Civil Defense ambulance team subsequently arrived, accompanied by several local residents who volunteered to help rescue the victims. However, the airstrikes continued, and one of them struck the rescuers while they were carrying out rescue operations. The strikes continued, reaching approximately 11 in total by around 12:00 noon.

After the bombardment stopped, those killed and injured were transported to various hospitals in the Capital Secretariat. Search and rescue operations to locate and recover victims from beneath the rubble continued until 11 November 2026.

An eyewitness told Mwatana:

"I was on my way home after going out to buy household necessities. It was around 11:00 a.m. I had been hearing the sound of an aircraft circling overhead for some time, but we in Bani Hushaysh did not expect an airstrike in the area and were not afraid that one would happen. Suddenly, I saw a large bomb falling from the sky. It seemed to grow larger as it approached the ground. I watched it with my own eyes, and then an enormous explosion occurred. It was one of the loudest sounds I have ever heard in my life. I was about a kilometer away, yet the force of the explosion threw me to the ground, and the money I was holding fell from my hand. I got back up and saw people rushing to help the victims. But soon another missile struck near the rescuers, and then the airstrikes continued, with only a few minutes between each one. I believe there were around 11 strikes in total."

He added:

"The subsequent explosions were not as loud as the first one, but the scene was terrifying. Five homes were completely destroyed, and dust rose into the sky as though Judgment Day had arrived. People were rushing to rescue the victims, yet the area continued to be targeted. I remained where I was, unable to move because of the shock, until around 12:30 p.m., when the bombardment stopped and people began heading toward the site. I went there with them. The scenes were heartbreaking. Women were pulled from beneath the rubble still holding pieces of bread in their hands. A mother was also pulled from beneath the rubble while embracing her dead child, while her daughter emerged alive."

The eyewitness concluded:

"I tried to stand up, but I kept falling because of severe dizziness and nausea. I could not move. I felt as though the earth was closing in on me, and I had lost all sensation in my legs, even though I had not sustained any physical injuries. What, then, must it have been like for the injured and for the families of the children and women who lost their loved ones?"

On Sunday, 18 October 2026, at approximately 1:20 p.m., aircraft belonging to the Saudi-led coalition carried out an airstrike targeting a house in Al-Tawilah village, Al Qahm area, Sahar District, Sa'ada Governorate, while the family members were having lunch. The targeted house was a two-storey reinforced-concrete building comprising five apartments, occupied by a family consisting of four sons and their families, together with their father. The attack killed at least 10 people, including five children, and injured at least 16 others, including 14 children, all of whom were family members. The strike completely destroyed the house.

Following the bombardment, local residents and Civil Defense teams rushed to the site to retrieve victims from beneath the rubble. Rescue operations continued for several hours, while the injured were transported to Al-Jumhuri Hospital and Al-Talh Hospital in Sa'ada city for treatment.

A relative of the victims and eyewitness told Mwatana:

"At around 1:20 p.m., as I was returning home, I heard the sound of an aircraft, followed by a missile striking my uncle's house. The house was completely destroyed and reduced to rubble within moments. Once the dust had settled, I began hearing women and children screaming around the destroyed house. My uncle's house was large and contained five apartments. He lived there with his four sons, each of whom had his own family. The family had gathered for lunch when the bombardment caught them inside the house. Local residents immediately gathered and began searching through the rubble and retrieving the victims. They managed to pull out nine people who had been killed, including five children, two women, and two men."

He added:

"Residents were transporting the victims and injured directly to hospitals in private vehicles belonging to people from the village. Each time an injured person was pulled from beneath the rubble, they were immediately taken away for treatment. They managed to rescue several people who were still alive, most of them women and children. Some people who happened to be passing near the house also sustained minor injuries."

The eyewitness concluded:

"This family has lost its only home and now has nowhere to live. Its members are currently staying with relatives. We have never witnessed such a tragedy before, and we are still asking ourselves why a civilian home with no connection to the war was targeted, when the people inside were women and children."

On Friday, 30 October 2026, at approximately 11:00 a.m., aircraft belonging to the Saudi-led coalition carried out an airstrike targeting a house in Al-Barh area, Maqbanah District, Taiz Governorate. The strike killed nine civilians, including four children and four women, and injured three other civilians, including one child and one woman.

The bombardment occurred while members of the homeowner's family and his brother's family were inside the house. It completely destroyed the building, causing it to collapse on those inside. With no ambulance, Civil Defense, or rescue teams present, the homeowner was forced to pull his family members and relatives out from beneath the rubble with his bare hands.

The head of one of the targeted families, who is also the homeowner, told Mwatana:

"At around 10:00 a.m., I was outside the house working when I heard aircraft flying overhead, followed by a powerful explosion unlike anything I had ever heard before. I was terrified, and it never crossed my mind that our house had been targeted. A few minutes later, one of my relatives, who was near the house, called me and told me that my house had been bombed, urging me to come immediately."

He added:

"I dropped everything I was doing and ran towards the house. When I arrived, all I could see was rubble and stones. The scene was devastating. I had no time to cry or scream; all I could think about was finding my family —my wife and children— and my brother's family, who were buried beneath the rubble. I began moving the stones and pulling out the victims with my own hands. Some had already died, while others were still alive and making faint groaning sounds that were barely audible."

He continued:

"I moved the bodies of those who had died to one side and began providing assistance to those who were still alive. No ambulances, Civil Defense teams, or rescue teams arrived at the scene. The only people helping us were one neighbor and my elderly father. As for those who had been killed, I personally buried them in the same area."

Visibly distressed and weeping bitterly, he concluded:

"Even now, I still cannot comprehend what happened. I lost my wife and children, and only one son remains. He is in an extremely critical health condition. We no longer have a home to shelter us, and I have nowhere else to go or any source of income to rely on. I do not know what to do."

On Saturday, 24 October 2026, at approximately 1:00 p.m., aircraft belonging to the Saudi-led coalition carried out an airstrike targeting a five-story residential building designated to accommodate workers at the South Hamdan Cement Factory, in the Haz area, Hamdan District, Sana'a Governorate. The strike killed at least seven civilians, including three children, and injured at least three others, including one child. It also destroyed the building and caused extensive damage to several occupied residential apartments.

One of the victims' relatives told Mwatana in an interview:

"They targeted the residential building inside the cement factory compound. My brother's wife and her young daughter were inside their apartment at the time of the bombardment. There were also casualties in the neighboring apartments, but I do not know their names."

He added:

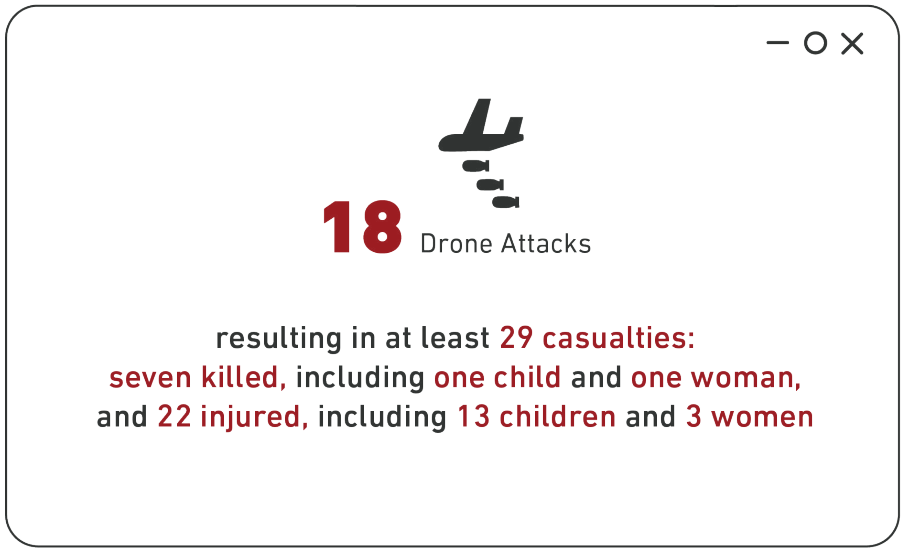
"The building consists of five floors, with two apartments on each floor. The direct hit struck the apartment on the right-hand side of the fourth floor, causing extensive destruction. This resulted in the killing of my brother's entire family, as well as everyone in the neighboring apartment, namely a woman and two girls."

He continued:

"We were at the cement factory during our official working hours. Before the bombardment, we heard aircraft flying overhead, and then the explosion occurred. We did not know that the airstrike had targeted the residential building itself because it was so close to the cement factory where we work. Behind the targeted building are the cement factory and a salt factory, which had been bombed some time earlier. I have been working at this site for some time, and there is no military headquarters or military presence there, contrary to what some people claim."

Drone Attacks

During the period of escalation from 1 August to 25 November 2026, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 18 drone attack incidents, resulting in at least 29 casualties: seven killed, including one child and one woman, and 22 injured, including 13 children and Three women.



Of the total documented drone attack incidents, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 15 incidents, resulting in at least 27 casualties: seven killed, including one child and one woman, and 17 injured, including 10 children and two women. The Saudi-led coalition was responsible for one incident targeting civilian site, neither of which resulted in civilian casualties. The internationally

recognized government was responsible for two incidents that injured at least 5 civilians, including them three children and one woman.

On Sunday, 9 August 2026, at approximately 5:00 p.m., in Al-Thawbani village, Al-Mashalhah subdistrict, Al Mokha District, Taiz Governorate, a drone belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group fired a projectile towards an open area where village children regularly played and gathered, and where residents also usually sat. The projectile struck a rock near the area where the children were playing, causing shrapnel to scatter and injure three children who were present. The children were taken to Al-Thawbani Health Centre, where they received first aid.

A relative of one of the injured children and an eyewitness to the incident told Mwatana:

"On the day of the incident, I was in an agricultural hut in a field in the Al-Thawbani area, Al Mokha District, Taiz Governorate, when I heard a drone flying over the area. Moments later, I heard a loud explosion. The projectile struck a nearby rock, and shrapnel scattered towards the area where the children were playing. Around 30 children were playing there. When the explosion occurred, I was terrified."

He added:

"At first, my immediate reaction to the explosion was to run away from the area. Then we heard screaming, so I headed towards the scene. I could hear the children screaming, and initially thought that a large number of them had been injured. Thankfully, however, the explosion occurred some distance away from them, and the injuries were caused by flying shrapnel."

He continued:

"The place where the children play is a recreational space for the village's children. They gather there every day, particularly in the afternoon, to play in front of the houses and beside the small shop. It is an open area where they have been accustomed to gathering for years."

“What do they want from us?! It was not enough that we had to leave our homes and flee from Al Hudaydah to come here; now the bombardment has followed us once again. God is sufficient for us against them and this war that has destroyed the country. Our homes in Al Hudaydah were located along the front line, **and we were forced to flee to protect our lives. But it seems that the war follows us wherever we go.**”

He concluded:

"What do they want from us?! It was not enough that we had to leave our homes and flee from Al Hudaydah to come here; now the bombardment has followed us once again. God is sufficient for us against them and this war that has destroyed the country. Our homes in Al Hudaydah were located along the front line, and we were forced to flee to protect our lives. But it seems that the war follows us wherever we go."

On Tuesday, 8 September 2026, at approximately 3:00 a.m., in Al-Kadamah Bani Arjan village, Abs District, Hajjah Governorate, a drone belonging to the internationally recognized Yemeni government carried out an attack using bombs dropped on the area. One of the bombs landed inside the courtyard of a house, near family members who were asleep, injuring two civilians. The explosion left a crater in the courtyard and caused a fire to break out inside the house. Other bombs landed near the house, and a water tanker truck was damaged by flying shrapnel. The two injured civilians were transported to Abs Hospital for treatment. They were among the internally displaced people living in the area and left following the attack.

The victims' father told Mwatana:

"We were all asleep inside the house. My son was sleeping normally, and there was nothing that made us anticipate any imminent danger. While we were in a state of calm and deep sleep, a very powerful explosion suddenly occurred. We heard a loud blast, and then a bomb landed near the chair where one of my sons was sleeping."

He added:

"The strike was so sudden and powerful that, in the first few moments, we could not comprehend what had happened. The explosion occurred at night, when the area was dark. The force of the blast filled the house courtyard with dust, making it difficult for us to see what was around us or identify the source of the danger, or know whether further strikes would follow. It was a terrifying moment in every sense of the word. We had not been prepared for what happened, and there was no time to think or react calmly. All I felt at that moment was fear for my children and the urge to move them away from the place where the explosion had occurred."

He continued:

"Immediately after the explosion, while I was trying to gather my children and move them away from the danger, I saw my son quickly getting up from where he had been. I rushed towards him and took hold of his hand. When I got closer and looked at his body, I saw blood running down him. It was an extremely distressing moment for me. Just moments earlier, I had seen my son sleeping peacefully; now he was injured and bleeding in front of me."

On Sunday, 1 November 2026, at approximately 8:00 a.m., the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group used a drone to attack a house in Al-Saeed neighborhood, Wadi Al-Tabaddud district, Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate. The attack killed a girl and a woman and injured another woman while they were inside the house.

A neighbor of the victims and one of the people who provided first aid told Mwatana:

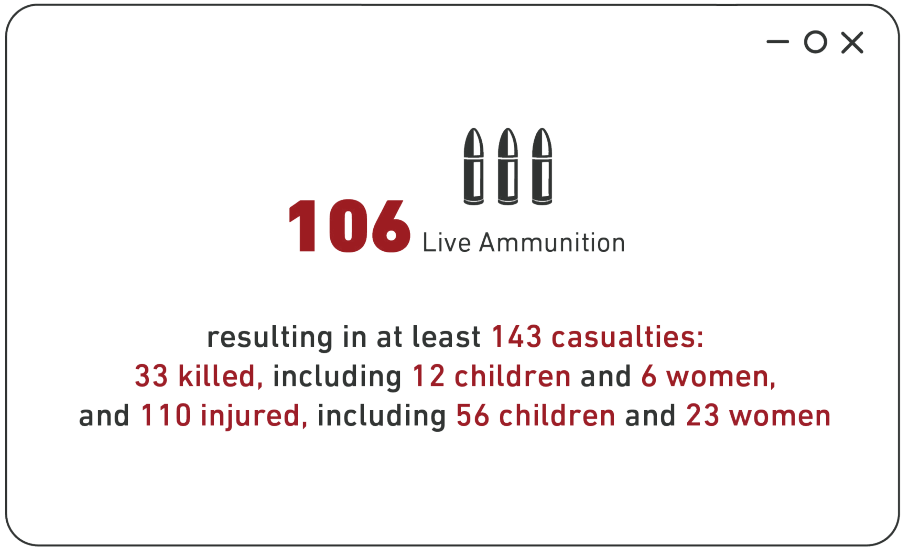
"At around 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, 1 November 2026, I was at home in the neighborhood when I heard the sound of a drone overhead, although I could not see it. Suddenly, I heard an explosion at our neighbor's house in Al-Saeed neighborhood, in the Wadi Al-Tabaddud area. I rushed to the scene, where several residents of the neighborhood had also gathered. I found our neighbor's wife lying on the ground and bleeding from shrapnel wounds to various parts of her body. Both her legs had been severed, and she had also sustained shrapnel injuries to her chest, head, and abdomen. She kept telling us, 'Get my children to safety. I am already as good as dead.'"

He added:

"Her young daughter had also sustained multiple shrapnel injuries and died immediately. One of the neighbors took her to Al-Madinah General Hospital to confirm her condition, where they were informed that she had died. Her older daughter had sustained shrapnel injuries to her right knee and other parts of her body. Her brother and several neighbors transported her to Taiz Model Hospital in the Al-Hasab area, Al-Mudhaffar District, for treatment."

Live Ammunition

During the period of escalation from 1 August to 25 November 2026, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 106 incidents involving the use of live ammunition, resulting in at least 143 casualties: 33 killed, including 12 children and 6 women, and 110 injured, including 56 children and 23 women.



The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 86 incidents, resulting in at least 114 casualties: 23 killed, including 7 children and 5 women, and 91 injured, including 46 children and 21 women.

The internationally recognized government was responsible for nine incidents, resulting in at least 12 casualties: five killed, including one child and one woman, and seven injured, including 6 children.

Mwatana is continuing its field investigations into 11 other incidents which, according to preliminary information, resulted in at least 17 casualties: five killed, including four children, and 12 injured, including four children and two women.

On Monday, 5 October 2026, at approximately 11:00 a.m., in Taba' village, Dhira' Sulayman area, Saber Al-Mawadem District, Taiz Governorate, a sniper belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, positioned at Al-Sharaf School, fired live ammunition at a 16-year-old girl, Fatima Hayel, while she was standing in front of her home. She was shot on the right side of her head, sustaining a skull fracture and a severe brain injury that left her in a coma.

A relative of the victim told Mwatana:

" Fatima was standing in front of the house when she came under fire from a sniper belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, who was positioned at Al-Sharaf School. She was shot on the right side of her head, fell to the ground, and lapsed into a coma following the injury."

He added:

"Because no means of transportation or vehicles could reach the village due to the security situation and the difficult roads, residents were forced to carry her on their shoulders over a long distance. It took them approximately one hour to reach Al-Aridah subdistrict, specifically Al-Qaba' village, where they obtained a stretcher to carry her to the place where vehicles were available. They continued carrying her on the stretcher for nearly two hours until they reached the vehicles, after which she was immediately transported to Al-Thawra Hospital in Al-Qahirah District, Taiz city."

He concluded:

"Fatima was admitted to the intensive care unit at Al-Thawra Hospital. Medical examinations revealed that she had sustained a severe brain injury and skull fractures. She remains in the hospital receiving treatment to this day."

On Wednesday, 14 October 2026, at approximately 2:00 p.m., the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group fired live ammunition towards a house in the Dhahih area, Kahlan village, Saber Al-Mawadem District, Taiz Governorate. The gunfire injured an eight-year-old boy, Othman Wahb, who was shot in his right ear, causing severe tissue damage to his right cheek and heavy bleeding. His mother, Tahani qaed (42 Years old), was also injured by a ricochet bullet that struck the left side of her abdomen.

"Since early October 2026, our village has become a battlefield throughout the day and night, with clashes and the continuous firing of bullets, shells, and missiles. The situation has deteriorated further, and **we have been witnessing people killed and injured every day.** We can no longer live normally. Armed men are everywhere, and clashes and gunfire come from every direction. We have become trapped and unable to leave, as though we were prisoners."

The child's mother told Mwatana:

"Since early October 2026, our village has become a battlefield throughout the day and night, with clashes and the continuous firing of bullets, shells, and missiles. The situation has deteriorated further, and we have been witnessing people killed and injured every day. We can no longer live normally. Armed men are everywhere, and clashes and gunfire come from every direction. We have become trapped and unable to leave, as though we were prisoners."

She added:

"On Wednesday, 14 October 2026, at around 2:00 p.m., we were sitting inside the house, trying to take cover from the gunfire. I was frightened, but I tried to appear brave in front of my children so they would not become afraid. The situation was terrifying, and the sound of gunfire was coming from every direction. My eight-year-old son, Othman, who is in the third grade of primary school, got up to go to the bathroom. When he came out, several bullets entered through the main door of the house, from the direction controlled by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. One of the bullets struck my son in the ear, causing severe tissue damage to his right cheek. I was also struck in the abdomen by a ricochet bullet. But when I saw my son in that condition, I did not even feel my own injury."

She continued:

"I called the children's paternal uncle and told him what had happened to my son Othman. He said he would come to us. My children and I remained hidden, frightened and waiting for him to arrive, while my son continued bleeding. Out of sheer fear, I administered an injection that I had on hand, which was intended to stop bleeding, believing it would help control his bleeding. My son continued bleeding in front of me, and I could not take him out for treatment because we feared that we would all be killed if we left the house."

She concluded:

"Time passed extremely slowly. I could see my son beginning to lose his strength, while his siblings stared at his injured face, crying and screaming. I was helpless and unable to do anything. This continued until 6:00 p.m., at the time of the Maghrib call to prayer. That was when I felt blood in my abdomen and realized that I had been injured, although I had not felt the injury before. The boy's uncle arrived after sunset and took Othman and me for treatment in Al-Shaqb village. The journey took a long time because of the war and the clashes. We had to stop

for extended periods because the situation was extremely dangerous, and we did not arrive until around 1:00 a.m. When we reached Kahlan Health Centre, the staff provided first aid to the child and stitched his wound. We were then transferred to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz."

On Wednesday, 19 August 2026, at approximately 4:30 a.m., anti-aircraft fire launched from the Maashiq Presidential Palace, which is under the control of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, injured Mohammed Lutfi (32 years old), a resident of Al-Salvador neighborhood, Crater (Sirah) District, Aden Governorate, while he was in bed inside his home.

The victim told Mwatana in his testimony:

"I was lying in bed inside a room in my house when, at that moment, anti-aircraft weapons were suddenly fired from Maashiq Palace. A fragment from one of the anti-aircraft rounds ricocheted through the window and struck my wrist, tearing it open. It also caused an open wound on the right side of my abdomen. I was subsequently rushed to Al-Jumhuri Teaching Hospital."

He added:

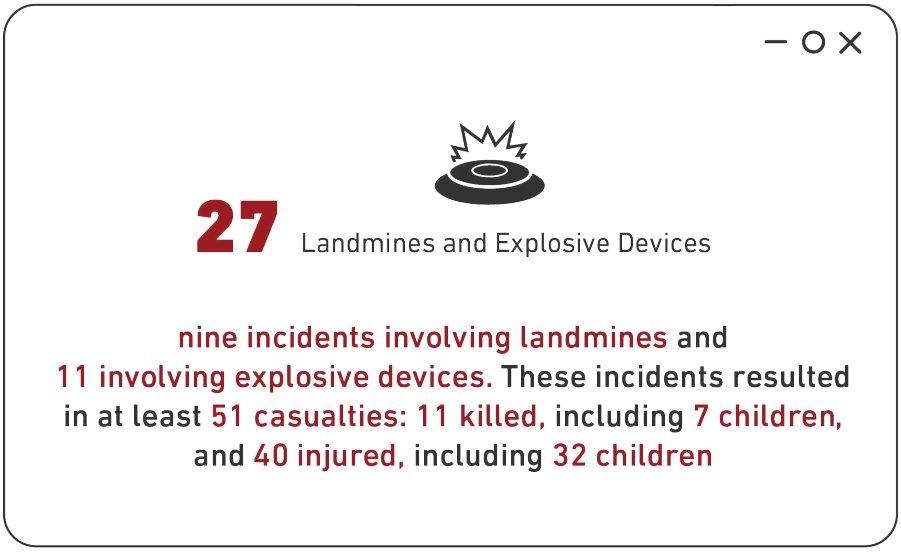
"I spent approximately five hours at the hospital waiting for the bleeding from my hand to be stopped. Once the bleeding had been brought under control, I was transferred directly to Al-Noor Hospital, where I underwent several medical procedures because of injuries to the fingers of my right hand and the lower right side of my abdomen."

He concluded:

"There is no doubt that these injuries have had serious psychological and health consequences for me. I will be unable to work for some time, particularly because I rely primarily on my right hand in my job. The laceration damaged some of the arteries, which had to be ligated, and the wounds required treatment, ultimately including the insertion of medical plates."

Landmines and Explosive Devices

During the period of escalation from 1 August to 25 November 2026, Mwatana for Human Rights documented 27 incidents involving the detonation of landmines and explosive devices: nine incidents involving landmines and 11 involving explosive devices. These incidents resulted in at least 51 casualties: 11 killed, including 7 children, and 40 injured, including 32 children.



The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was responsible for 17 incidents, these incidents resulted in at least 26 casualties: 6 killed, including two children and 20 injured, including 13 children. The internationally recognized government was responsible for 7 incidents involving explosive devices, resulting in at least 17 civilian casualties: Four children killed and 13 injured, including 12 children.

Mwatana is continuing its field investigations into Three other incidents which, according to preliminary information, resulted in at least one child killed and 7 Children injuries, including one child.

On Saturday, 17 October 2026, at approximately 1:00 p.m., in Um Al-Shaddad area, Al-Yatmah District, Al Jawf Governorate, a landmine left behind by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group exploded beneath a double-cab Toyota Hilux pickup truck carrying 22 Ethiopian Oromo passengers of African nationality, as they were being transported from Marib city towards Al Hazm, Al Jawf. The explosion caused the vehicle to catch fire, killing its driver and injuring all 22 passengers.

One of the victim's relatives told Mwatana:

"Abdullah Hadi (33, male, driver) arrived in the Um Al-Shaddad area of Al-Yatmah District, an area under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. While travelling through the area, he lost his way and saw a military position belonging to the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group on an elevated hill. He approached them and asked for directions to the correct route and a safe road free of landmines. He called out to them from the foot of the hill, but they told him they did not know the way. He asked them to wait until another vehicle that knew the route arrived so that he could follow it. However, they refused and told him that he could not wait there because the area was witnessing military confrontations and could be targeted by aircraft at any moment. He was therefore forced to continue driving."

He added:

"After Abdullah had driven away and travelled more than 100 meters from the military position, a landmine exploded beneath his vehicle, causing it to catch fire. A fragment struck the fuel tank, and there was also a gas cylinder in the rear cargo bed, which exploded as a result of the fire, causing the vehicle to burn. Abdullah and the passengers managed to get out of the vehicle. However, Abdullah sustained burns and multiple shrapnel injuries, while several of the African passengers travelling with him were also injured."

The witness concluded:

"Abdullah and ten of the injured African passengers were taken to Al Hazm General Hospital in Al Jawf Governorate, where they received first aid. Abdullah was in critical condition and was therefore transferred to Al-Jumhuri Hospital for further treatment. He remained in hospital for several days before passing away on Sunday, 25 October 2026."

On Tuesday, 20 October 2026, at approximately 6:30 p.m., a landmine left behind by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group exploded in the Al-Jabaliyah area, Al-Khabt, Al-Tuhayta District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, as two brothers, Mohammed Ayyash (13 years old) and Waleed Ayyash (20 years old), were returning on a motorcycle after collecting firewood in the area to sell. The explosion seriously injured both brothers and completely destroyed the motorcycle.

Mohammed sustained a concussion and internal bleeding, lost consciousness, and suffered a shrapnel injury to his left leg. Waleed sustained a shrapnel injury to his pelvis, causing fractures, as well as another shrapnel injury to his left leg.

Mwatana for Human Rights interviewed a relative of the two victims, who said:

"The explosion was so powerful that it hurled the two brothers and their motorcycle several meters into the air, completely destroying the motorcycle. When the landmine exploded beneath them, 'Mohammed was thrown several meters into the air before falling on his head, causing a concussion and internal bleeding and leaving him unconscious. He also sustained a single shrapnel injury to his left leg. Waleed, meanwhile, sustained a shrapnel injury to his pelvis that caused fractures, as well as another shrapnel injury to his left leg."

He added:

"There were other people riding motorcycles approximately 50 metres behind the two brothers. They were also collecting firewood. According to what they told us, they witnessed the moment the landmine exploded beneath the brothers, and they were the ones who informed us about the incident. Mohammed and Waleed were taken to Al-Khawkhah, and their father and I followed them to the field hospital there. When it was decided that they should be transferred to Al-Thawra Hospital, we accompanied them in the hospital ambulance."

The witness concluded:

"When we received the news, we were overcome with fear and terror for their lives. Their financial situation is extremely difficult. They depend on collecting and selling firewood to meet their basic needs, and can barely earn enough to feed themselves each day."

The use of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines on public roads and in areas frequented by civilians constitutes a violation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention), to which Yemen acceded in 1998. The Convention absolutely prohibits the use, production, and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines under any circumstances.

Such use also violates Rule 81 of customary international humanitarian law, which requires particular care to minimise the indiscriminate effects of landmines. Rule 82 requires parties using landmines to record their locations, while Rule 83 requires them to remove or render them harmless once active hostilities have ended. The emplacement of landmines along routes used by civilians constitutes an indiscriminate attack prohibited under Rule 71.

Road Closures, Blocking of Access Routes, and the Imposition of Arbitrary Restrictions

The military escalation that Yemen has witnessed since August 2026 has led to the resumption of clashes on several frontlines and resulted in the closure of major roads and vital access routes. This has restricted civilians' movement, impeded their access to essential services and necessities, and disrupted the flow of essential goods, medical supplies, and humanitarian assistance.

The escalation of military operations by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group during the current round of hostilities across large areas of Taiz Governorate, and the group's seizure in early October 2026 of the vast majority of its western and southern countryside, including Al-Turbah city and the roads and access routes connecting Taiz city to Aden, led the group to reimpose severe restrictions on the movement of civilians, vehicles, and trucks transporting essential goods, medical supplies, and humanitarian assistance. This has once again plunged the city into the catastrophic conditions it experienced following the outbreak of the war there in mid-2015, causing immense humanitarian suffering for hundreds of thousands of residents. For several years, this issue was among the most complex challenges arising from the war.

At the same time as the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group consolidated its control over the city's western access route, forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government, including Islah Party-affiliated formations in Taiz city,

announced on 3 October 2026 the closure of the city's eastern access route.This followed an announcement by the military spokesperson for the internationally recognized government's forces on 2 October that traffic would be prohibited along 19 roads, including the road leading to Taiz city's eastern access route. This further restricted residents' ability to travel through the eastern access route to Ibb, Dhamar, and Sana'a governorates.

The Ansar Allah (Houthi) group's field control over the vast majority of areas surrounding Taiz city from all directions has restricted the freedom of movement of individuals and vehicles into and out of the city, whether through the western access route towards Aden and other areas under the control of the internationally recognized government, or through the eastern access route towards Sana'a and other areas under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. This control has also made civilian movement along several alternative routes into and out of the city more difficult and fraught with danger, particularly given the absence of any effective mechanism to protect civilians from arbitrary detention, which has become increasingly frequent during the escalation.

According to accounts provided to Mwatana by local residents, the cost of travelling via Jabal Habashi Road, one of the alternative routes, has risen sharply to between YER 30,000 and YER 40,000 (in the new currency) per person, equivalent to approximately USD 25. The cost of travel for a family of four has therefore reached nearly USD 100, compared with approximately USD 7–8 per person before the city's access routes were closed. This sharp increase has further compounded the additional economic and living costs imposed on civilians, particularly those who depend on daily travel to earn their livelihoods, amid the increased risks and costs associated with alternative routes.

In a statement provided to Mwatana on Tuesday, 13 October 2026, a 29-year-old civilian said that he had left the city with his wife on Monday, 12 October 2026, taking the route through Al-Dhabab, Najd Qaseem, Jabal Habashi, Al-Ruba'i, and the Shar'ab Junction. While passing through the Al-Dhabab and Najd Qaseem areas west of the city, they found themselves trapped amid armed clashes.

The witness stressed that he would not have undertaken the journey had he known in advance that he would face the danger of passing through an area where clashes were taking place under a barrage of gunfire. He noted that conditions inside

Taiz city had become unbearable and that he felt compelled to leave because of the worsening humanitarian situation.

Difficulties in movement also extended to the roads connecting Taiz city with the southwestern areas, and onward to Aden via Al-Turbah, Tur Al-Bahah, and Lahj. Since 2015, this route had served as the main channel for the delivery of food, fuel, medicines, and other essential supplies to Taiz city. In early October 2026, supplies arriving from Aden to Taiz city via the Hijeh Al-Abd road came to a halt. Following the announcement by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group on Sunday, 4 October 2026, that it had taken control of Al-Turbah city, west of Taiz city, signs of a food crisis began to emerge in Taiz. Commercial shops closed their doors to civilians, while prices of fuel and essential goods rose.

Military confrontations along Taiz city's southwestern and western roads resulted in their complete closure during periods of fighting. During lulls in the clashes, arbitrary restrictions and measures continued to obstruct the movement of civilians and trucks transporting goods and supplies, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis facing hundreds of thousands of the city's residents.

Following the closure of the eastern road, civilians were forced to take rugged mountain routes, including those through Jabal Habashi and Al-Aqroudh, to reach other areas within the governorate or neighboring governorates. Their suffering was not limited to longer distances and the risk of being caught in clashes; it also included increased transportation costs, lengthy travel times, and repeated security checks along the routes.

A 39-year-old civilian resident, who had to travel from Taiz city to Aden in preparation for departing for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reported facing considerable financial and security burdens from the outset of his journey. He was forced to pay SAR 200 to travel in a private Toyota Hilux vehicle to ensure that he arrived on time, as public transport buses had stopped entering Taiz city since the beginning of the escalation.

The witness explained that his journey turned into an arduous ordeal, which worsened as soon as they reached Naqil Karbah, where they encountered rainfall. The overturning of a truck blocked the road, leaving travellers stranded for more than five hours along a route that lacked even the most basic safety measures and essential facilities, such as toilets.

He added that vehicles were subjected to repeated and continuous inspections by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group along the entire route. These checks extended the journey to Aden from six hours to approximately 14 hours. He noted that travellers experienced fear and panic throughout the journey because of the sounds of shelling and their apprehension that armed clashes might break out.

Alternative routes also compounded the financial and living burdens on families forced to leave the city. In this regard, a 34-year-old woman who left Taiz on 1 November 2026 via the Al-Dhabab road reported that the driver advised her not to bring any furniture or bags of clothing, and to take only a limited amount of hand luggage, in order to avoid delays and harassment during security inspections. This forced her to leave behind all the contents of her home and incur additional expenses to purchase new clothes, including winter clothing, after reaching her destination.

She added:

"May God be our only recourse against those waging this war. Before the eastern access route was closed at the beginning of this war, I could travel to Al-Hawban in just ten minutes."

These testimonies illustrate how vital routes for the movement of people and the delivery of supplies to Taiz residents have been transformed into arduous journeys fraught with security and economic risks as a result of developments on the ground and stringent movement restrictions and inspection procedures.

The Flow of Essential Goods, Commodities, and Medicines

The impact of this situation is not limited to exposing civilians to direct risks to their lives while travelling and increasing the financial burdens on families. It also creates tangible obstacles to the flow of food and essential goods, further exacerbating the fragility of the humanitarian situation and undermining residents' right to safe access to livelihoods and essential services.

The effects of road closures and deteriorating security conditions in Taiz have also extended to commercial supply movements and the delivery of food, fuel, medicines, and other essential necessities to the city. These difficulties have been compounded by the disruption of some main roads, reliance on alternative routes

that are more rugged and time-consuming, and delays caused by inspection procedures and the transfer of goods between trucks at certain checkpoints. This has affected the availability of goods in local markets and increased the burdens on residents.

A truck driver who transports goods to and from Taiz reported that, following the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group's seizure of Al-Turbah city and the Saudi-led coalition's aerial bombardment of the Hijeh Al-Abd road on Saturday, 31 October 2026, all freight traffic was rerouted via the Karbah–Al-Suha road. The driver explained that this road, which has a single lane for both uphill and downhill traffic, frequently brings movement to a standstill for hours. In the event of a truck overturning, the road may remain closed for an entire day.

He added that trucks subsequently face stringent inspection procedures imposed by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group at the Jabal Habashi Junction. These procedures sometimes involve unloading goods and transferring them to other trucks, a process that takes considerable time. As a result, the time required for food supplies to reach the city has increased from a few hours to between five and seven days, raising the prospect of severe shortages of food and other essential goods for residents inside the city.

He concluded:

"It is not an officially declared siege, but it is clearly an obstruction to the entry of food supplies. Many goods are also prohibited from entering, including all types of powdered milk, all types of baby diapers, certain types of vegetables and food products, and other necessities."

A wholesale trader, in a statement to Mwatana dated 13 November 2026, confirmed that delays in the arrival of trucks had directly affected the availability of food and essential goods in local markets. He explained that trucks coming from Aden, which previously reached Taiz within two days, now take between seven and ten days to arrive. Moreover, they often arrive carrying only half their original loads, resulting in declining stock levels in warehouses.

He stated:

"A truck loaded with food supplies travelling from Aden to Taiz used to arrive safely within two days. Now, however, each truck takes between seven and

ten days to arrive and carries only half its load. This directly affects the availability of food and essential goods, as warehouses now contain only a quarter of the stock that was available before August 2026."

The decline in supplies coincided with an increase in the prices of several essential goods, making them more difficult for families to obtain amid a decline in their purchasing power. According to testimonies collected by Mwatana on Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 October 2026, the price of a domestic gas cylinder rose from approximately YER 11,000 (equivalent to around USD 7) to YER 40,000 (approximately USD 25), before falling in November to YER 30,000 (equivalent to USD 19).

In addition to the increased cost, domestic gas was not available in sufficient quantities to meet residents' needs. Some gas stations would open for a few hours and then close, forcing many residents to obtain gas from the Al-Dhabab area, which is under the control of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group.

The price of a 40-kilogram sack of flour also rose from YER 40,000 (equivalent to approximately USD 25) to between YER 60,000 and YER 66,000 (equivalent to approximately USD 38). Some bakeries also experienced overcrowding, forcing residents to wait to obtain bread, while restrictions were imposed on the quantities they could purchase.

The restrictions were not limited to food and household goods; they also affected medicines and medical supplies. Pharmacists and residents reported that bringing a number of imported medicines into the city had become difficult, and that some medicines arriving through checkpoints were prohibited or confiscated. Traders were instead instructed to source locally manufactured alternatives from factories in Sana'a. This resulted in shortages of medicines needed by people with chronic illnesses, increased prices for some alternatives, and further difficulties for patients in obtaining their treatments regularly.

A 68-year-old resident with diabetes told Mwatana that he had spent two days searching for his medication at several pharmacies without finding it. His daughter had managed to purchase it in Al-Hawban and send it to him, but the medication was barred from entering the city during an inspection.

He added:

"I have diabetes and take Glucovance 500 mg. I used to be able to buy it easily from any pharmacy. Now, I have spent two days going from one pharmacy to another along Jamal Street and at the pharmacies on Al-Mughtaribeen Street in Lower Al-Tahrir, but I have not been able to find the medication. The problem is that my daughter bought it in Al-Hawban and sent it with someone who was travelling on a bus. At the Jabal Habashi Junction checkpoint, the medicines were inspected, thrown away, and prevented from entering by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group. Later, I wanted to get medication for my wife, who has a heart condition, but the pharmacy owner told me: 'Uncle, please don't get me into trouble. They are preventing medicines from entering.'"

Another civilian, aged 59, added that he used to purchase a particular German diabetes medication. However, between 30 October and 10 November, he visited numerous pharmacies in Taiz city without being able to find his medication. He explained that pharmacists had told him that the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group was preventing many types of medicines from entering the city, and that transporting them had also become difficult because of the adverse conditions affecting access to the city.

The shortage of medicines, medical supplies, and fuel also increased the difficulties faced by patients and healthcare facilities in providing care. One resident told Mwatana that he had taken his mother to a hospital after she suffered a health emergency, only to be informed that her case could be deferred because priority was being given to critical cases amid shortages of medicines, oxygen, and medical supplies. Patients with chronic illnesses also faced difficulties in obtaining their treatments regularly, while some families were forced to move between pharmacies and health centres in search of medicines and essential vaccines for children.

Access to Humanitarian Assistance

According to a statement issued by the World Food Programme (WFP) on 14 October 2026, the Programme warned that life-saving humanitarian assistance to approximately 800,000 people could be cut off as a result of escalating fighting, road closures, and growing insecurity. It noted that more than 600,000 people in Taiz alone, including over 200,000 women and children, had been affected by restrictions on access to assistance.



On 3 November 2026, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) warned of the deteriorating conditions facing women and girls in Taiz and its surrounding areas, noting that they lacked access to essential services needed to protect their lives. Regarding maternal and newborn healthcare services in Taiz, UNFPA explained that only five of the 27 hospitals designated to provide emergency maternal and newborn care remained operational, and even these were providing only limited services. The Fund estimates that more than 13,000 pregnant women are currently without access to essential services, including 1,500 women expected to give birth within the next two weeks.

Taiz Governorate is facing extremely difficult humanitarian conditions amid restrictions on civilian movement and the closure of major roads connecting the city with its surrounding areas and other governorates. These measures have obstructed the delivery of food, medical supplies, and fuel, while making it more difficult for residents to travel and secure their daily necessities. In this context, Laurent Bukera, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, expressed concern in a statement issued on 20 October 2026 over the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and economic situation in Taiz. He noted that road closures and insecurity were obstructing the delivery of vital supplies, and that shortages of fuel and medical oxygen were putting patients' lives at risk and bringing the health system to the brink of collapse. He also reported that water supplies had fallen by half, making it difficult for hundreds of thousands of families to obtain water.

As conditions continued to deteriorate, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned in a statement issued on 2 November 2026 that the humanitarian crisis was worsening, noting that nearly 300,000 people had been forced to flee their homes since early August. OCHA explained that the situation in Taiz city was of particular concern, as all roads leading to the city had been closed due to fighting, commercial supplies could no longer reach it, and healthcare services had deteriorated because of shortages of supplies. It added that approximately a quarter of a million people had been deprived of access to essential healthcare, including more than 186,000 children under the age of five and 23,000 pregnant women. Twelve hospitals were also at risk of closure and had already been forced to scale back their services due to shortages of fuel and vital supplies. OCHA further reported that more than 1,400 cases of acute diarrhoea and suspected cholera had been recorded in a single week.

Amid the continued military escalation and the spread of clashes into Lahj Governorate in southwestern Yemen, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in a statement issued on 15 November 2026, expressed grave concern over the clashes reaching Kharaz Refugee Camp, placing approximately 9,600 refugees at risk. UNHCR called on all parties to protect refugees and other civilians, respect the civilian and humanitarian character of the camp, and ensure safe passage for people forced to leave it.

On 17 November, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned of deteriorating health, water, and sanitation conditions in Taiz city amid continued fighting and restrictions on humanitarian access. According to OCHA, hospital officials reported approximately 5,600 cases of water- and vector-borne diseases during the four-week period from 25 October to the previous Sunday. They warned that difficulties in accessing hospitals could prevent the true scale of the outbreak from being established.

Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesperson for the United Nations, said that conditions on the ground were increasing the risk of disease outbreaks, amid limited solid-waste collection and difficulties accessing safe drinking water. Water supplies were meeting only 8 per cent of the city's needs, as fuel shortages were disrupting water pumping and distribution operations.

In this regard, OCHA and its humanitarian partners stressed the urgent need to ensure safe and sustained access to fuel, medicines, clean water, and healthcare services. During the daily press briefing, Haq said that road closures were intensifying the economic and humanitarian pressures on residents. He pointed to reports indicating that truck traffic bound for Taiz had declined by 80 per cent, transportation costs from Aden had increased by more than 150 per cent, and journeys between the two cities were taking approximately 26 hours instead of three. The cost of the basic food basket had also risen by 75 per cent, while cooking gas prices had surged by more than 170 per cent.

Haq explained that these conditions were making it increasingly difficult for civilians to obtain their basic necessities, particularly displaced people and the most vulnerable population groups. In other parts of Taiz Governorate, continued fighting in the Saber area had damaged homes, destroyed livelihoods and livestock, and further restricted residents' access to markets and healthcare services.

The obstruction of the passage of relief and food trucks, the confiscation of imported medicines, medicines for chronic illnesses, and infant formula at checkpoints, and the resulting doubling of food prices, collapse of hospitals, disruption of education, and accumulation of waste violate obligations relating to the following:

• The prohibition of using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, pursuant to Article 14 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions and Rule 53 of customary international humanitarian law, which prohibits the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. Such practices also violate Rule 54, which prohibits attacking, destroying, removing, or rendering useless objects and materials indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, water supplies, and medical facilities.

• Article 8(2)(b)(xxv) of the Rome Statute, as well as the amendment to Article 8(2)(e) of the Statute, which criminalize the intentional use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including by wilfully impeding relief supplies.

• Rules 55 and 56 of customary international humanitarian law, which require parties to the conflict to facilitate the passage of humanitarian assistance and ensure the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, as well as to guarantee freedom of movement for humanitarian personnel.

Closure of the Al-Labanat Road Connecting Sana'a, Al Jawf, and Marib

In the same context, the military escalation on the Al Jawf front led to the closure of the Al-Labanat desert road linking Sana'a, Al Jawf, and Marib. For years throughout the conflict, this road had served as an alternative lifeline for travel and movement between Sana'a and other areas via Al Jawf, Marib, and Hadramawt, and onward to Saudi Arabia and other countries. The military escalation in the Al-Labanat area, east of Al Jawf, in early September 2026, involving forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government, including Islah Party-affiliated formations, and the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, resulted in the complete closure of this route to travellers and transport trucks. This left civilians facing two involuntary choices: either suspend their journeys or take rough and unsafe desert routes through the Al-Yatmah Desert in northeastern Al Jawf.

The shift to this alternative route has substantially compounded the hardship and travel costs faced by travellers. Journey times increased from approximately three hours under normal conditions to more than ten hours of arduous travel through a harsh desert environment lacking telecommunications networks and

road signs, with no basic safety provisions. Travellers also face the constant danger posed by the widespread presence of landmines and explosive devices.

Field incidents document the scale of the deadly risks facing those travelling along this route. On Saturday, 17 October 2026, a landmine exploded beneath a Toyota Hilux transport vehicle as it crossed the sand dunes in the Al-Yatmah Desert. The vehicle was carrying 20 African migrants travelling from Marib to Al Hazm, the capital of Al Jawf Governorate. The explosion seriously injured the driver and three passengers, who were taken to Al Hazm General Hospital for first aid. Given the severity of his condition, the driver was subsequently transferred to Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a.

The risks are not limited to explosions; they also include the danger of becoming lost in the desert. In late September 2026, a long convoy of vehicles travelling from the Al-Wadiah border crossing between Yemen and Saudi Arabia became stranded for several hours deep inside the Al-Yatmah Desert after sandstorms obscured the route. Dozens of travellers, who were relying on a local guide to direct them, were forced to wait in harsh weather conditions and share their limited supplies of food and water. The guide eventually managed to find the route again and lead the convoy to the outskirts of Marib Governorate by nightfall. This incident illustrates the direct threat that the military escalation has posed to civilians' lives and their right to freedom of movement and safe passage.

The closure of main crossings and vital roads, together with the imposition of arbitrary inspection procedures that prevent residents from leaving safely or accessing their livelihoods, violates several legal provisions. These include Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees everyone the right to freedom of movement and freedom to choose their place of residence. Rule 53 of customary international humanitarian law also prohibits the imposition of a siege intended to starve civilians or place their survival at risk. Furthermore, Rule 131 requires parties to a conflict to take all feasible measures to ensure that displaced persons have access to safe shelter under satisfactory conditions of safety, health, and nutrition.

Chapter Two

Humanitarian Consequences of the Escalation

The devastating consequences of the ongoing military escalation have not been limited to direct violations against civilian victims. They have also exacerbated Yemen's already deteriorating humanitarian crisis, triggered new waves of large-scale displacement, and led to the closure of dozens of roads and access routes. These developments have further compounded the burdens facing affected families, particularly those forced to flee their homes and deprived of their sources of livelihood. Their suffering has been intensified by the lack of safe passage, difficulties in delivering humanitarian assistance and essential food and medical supplies to the population, rising prices of basic commodities, the collapse of essential services, the disruption of education, and the worsening conditions of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Escalating Waves of Displacement

According to a statement issued by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 2 November 2026, hundreds of thousands of people had been forced to flee their homes as a result of escalating fighting in western Yemen. Displaced families were facing difficulties finding shelter and meeting their basic needs amid access restrictions that were hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need. The fighting had also caused a sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities, with prices of basic goods in Taiz city rising to between three and five times their previous levels. This was attributed to the closure of roads leading to surrounding areas, which had made basic food supplies unaffordable and inaccessible for many families.

In a displacement data update issued on 13 November 2026, the International Organization for Migration reported that more than 340,000 people had been forced to flee their homes in Yemen amid continuing hostilities and growing insecurity. The organization warned that restrictions on major transport routes threatened to further disrupt the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance. The data showed that approximately 99 per cent of displaced people originated from three governorates: Taiz, which recorded 224,819 displaced persons (66 per cent of the total); Lahj, with 72,018 displaced persons (21 per cent); and Al Hudaydah, with 40,782 displaced persons (12 per cent). The organization noted that many of these people had been displaced within their own governorates, placing additional pressure on local communities that were already struggling to meet their basic needs.

Deterioration of Essential Services

The impact of the escalation in Taiz and other parts of Yemen has extended beyond attacks on civilians and civilian objects and other direct violations to affect the essential services on which people depend in their daily lives, including healthcare, education, and public sanitation services. This has coincided with declining sources of income for many families and the closure of numerous shops and small businesses, making it increasingly difficult for them to cope with mounting living costs, particularly displaced families and those on limited incomes.

Undermining the Educational Process

The impact of the military escalation in Taiz city has extended to the disruption of the educational process. In-person classes have been suspended at a number of schools in the city, prompting some schools to resort to remote learning. However, poor internet connectivity and high subscription costs, the lack of sufficient phones and other devices in many households, as well as power outages and some teachers' difficulties using online platforms, have limited students' ability to continue their education.

The mother of a ninth-grade student at a public school in Taiz reported that efforts to implement remote learning had encountered significant difficulties due to poor internet connectivity, the high cost of data packages, and the fact that her family had only one phone, which three children needed to use for their studies. She added that sending lessons through WhatsApp groups had not proved an effective substitute for attending classes and interacting in the classroom.

She explained:

"My daughter is in the ninth grade at Khadija Public School, and she has now switched to remote learning. During the first few days, classes were supposed to be held through Zoom or Google Meet, but we faced considerable difficulties because the internet connection was poor. The number of female students attending was also low, because many of them had been displaced and had returned to their villages. Internet packages are very expensive, and I send my children to public schools because we cannot afford the fees charged by private schools. Even among the school's teachers, not all of them are able to use online learning platforms. There is another obstacle: I have only one phone, but three

children attending school. How are they supposed to share one phone? On top of that, the phone keeps malfunctioning."

She added:

"Two days later, the teachers said they would send the lessons through the WhatsApp group, and we began helping our children study at home. At present, lessons are being sent through the WhatsApp group, but there is no actual teaching, learning, or attendance, and students gain nothing from this approach. I do not know how to explain mathematics, English, or science to my daughter. Education requires students to attend school and take part in interactive lessons in the classroom. But this war has exhausted us and deprived our children of even their most basic right: the right to education."

In the same context, a teacher at a public school explained that most of the female students came from poor and displaced families, whose circumstances did not allow them to rely on online learning as an alternative to in-person classes.

She said:

"We are a public school, and most of our female students come from vulnerable, displaced, and impoverished backgrounds. Under these circumstances, online education is simply a fantasy."

A teacher at another school located near the front lines also told Mwatana:

"At our school, we suspended classes around mid-September. Our students are from the Al-Matar and Al-Murabba'a areas, and they have been displaced from those areas to the villages. A week ago, the school contacted us to provide training on remote-learning applications, including one that I believe is called 'Al-Sabourah' [the Blackboard], as well as other programmes. We resumed contact with our students and their families, but most of them refused, because remote learning requires electricity, modern phones, and a strong internet connection. Teachers also need the same resources, whereas people are living in dire conditions and can barely manage to meet their daily basic needs."

Another teacher at a public school in the Bir Basha area of Al-Mudhaffar District said:

"Our school arranged a training course for a number of teachers on a remote-learning platform or applications. Once the course is over, the participating teachers will pass on what they have learned to the other teachers. This is a lengthy process that requires serious consideration. We are a public school, and most of our female students come from vulnerable, displaced, and impoverished backgrounds. Under these circumstances, online education is difficult and simply a fantasy."

She added:

"At present, the focus is not so much on education as on how to preserve our lives and protect our mental health, which have been damaged and exhausted by the war."

Accumulation of Waste and Debris

The military escalation also disrupted public sanitation services in several areas of Taiz city, following the suspension of waste collection and the transportation of refuse to designated disposal sites amid the evolving military situation. This resulted in waste accumulating in flood channels, including the channel near the Lower Al-Tahrir area. Some of the waste was also burned, causing foul odours and smoke and raising residents' concerns about the associated health and environmental hazards.

A 45-year-old resident said that waste had remained piled up near his home for more than two weeks, and that the resulting odours and smoke had adversely affected his family's daily life.

He added:

"They started dumping rubbish in the flood channel near my house, where it remained for more than two weeks. The foul smells and smoke throughout the day were exhausting us and making us sick. Imagine, we did not open a single window in the house for days. The rubbish piled up until it looked like mountains. Then it rained, and the floodwaters swept it away, which was another disaster in itself. But will it rain every time and wash the rubbish away, especially since rainfall is not consistent during the winter?"

The witness added:

"I mean, within just two days, mountains of rubbish could accumulate. A solution must be found for the waste, and the parties must reach an agreement and remove it. It is simply unreasonable to have war, a siege, rubbish, and hunger all at once."

These testimonies reflect the growing burdens borne by residents of Taiz amid the ongoing escalation. Their suffering is no longer limited to difficulties accessing essential goods or travelling between areas; it now extends to accessing healthcare and education and living in a healthy environment. This is happening at a time when many families have lost their sources of income and have been forced to close their shops and home-based businesses or flee their residential areas. These conditions further increase families' vulnerability, placing additional burdens on children, patients, displaced persons, and low-income households that they are increasingly unable to bear.

Recommendations



To All Parties to the Conflict in Yemen

- Immediately and comprehensively cease all indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks targeting civilians and civilian objects, including residential homes, hospitals, schools, markets, fuel stations, detention facilities, camps and settlements for internally displaced persons an refugees, and other civilian sites. Also cease the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas.

- Comply with the principles of customary international humanitarian law, the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and their Additional Protocols, particularly the principles of distinction between military objectives and civilian objects, proportionality, and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to spare civilians the harm caused by military operations.

- Cease attacks on locations that have already been bombed when rescue teams and medical personnel are present, and ensure full protection for medical teams, Civil Defense personnel, and vehicles transporting the dead and wounded.

- Immediately and unconditionally reopen all main roads and vital access routes closed as a result of the escalation, particularly the roads and access routes in Taiz Governorate, including the eastern access route and the Hijeh Al-Abd road, as well as the Al-Labanat desert road linking Al Jawf and Marib Governorates. Keep civilian routes and corridors free from military operations.

- Immediately lift all arbitrary restrictions and obstacles imposed on civilians' freedom of movement, and end stringent inspection procedures, harassment, and confiscations at checkpoints.

- Allow the safe, rapid, and unimpeded passage of commercial supplies, essential food commodities, fuel, medicines, and medical supplies, and facilitate the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to all affected areas.

- Immediately cease the recruitment or use of children in any combat or logistical activities, and release all recruited children, providing them with rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

- Vacate schools, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities of any military presence or use, and facilitate the safe resumption of the educational process.

- Ensure full protection for internally displaced persons and migrants, and provide safe corridors for those wishing to leave areas of hostilities.

- Conduct independent, transparent, and impartial investigations into all incidents and violations documented in this report, and hold those responsible accountable.

- Provide fair compensation and comprehensive reparation to victims and their families for losses of life, property, and livelihoods.

To the Ansar Allah (Houthi) Group

- Immediately lift the siege imposed on Taiz city and end restrictions on the entry of goods, medicines, and medical supplies at checkpoints operated by the group, including Jabal Habashi Junction and Al-Dhabab.

- Immediately cease indiscriminate sniping operations and direct gunfire against civilians in residential neighborhoods, and halt ballistic missile and drone attacks affecting civilian gatherings and displacement routes.

- Immediately cease the emplacement of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines and explosive devices; hand over maps identifying minefields laid in conflict areas, particularly in Al Jawf, Taiz, and Al Hudaydah; and fully cooperate in mine-clearance operations.

To the Saudi-led Coalition:

- Immediately cease airstrikes in or near populated areas, and review rules of engagement and targeting procedures to prevent the recurrence of violations against civilians.

- Cease artillery and missile shelling and the firing of live ammunition by Saudi border guard forces towards Yemeni villages and border areas in Sa'ada Governorate.

To the Internationally Recognized Yemeni Government, Including Islah Party-Affiliated Formations, the Southern Transitional Council, and the Joint Forces

- Revoke decisions to close roads and access routes, including the decision prohibiting passage along 19 roads in Taiz, and coordinate efforts to secure alternative routes and facilitate the movement of civilians and goods.

- Cease indiscriminate artillery and missile shelling and drone attacks against residential areas and gatherings of displaced persons.

- Ensure the neutrality of public-service and healthcare facilities, allocate the necessary resources to support hospitals at risk of closure, and address the accumulation of waste and deterioration of essential services in areas under their control.

To the United Nations and the International Community

- Exert effective and urgent diplomatic pressure on all parties to the conflict to halt military operations and return to de-escalation and an inclusive political negotiation process under UN auspices, with a view to ending the conflict and addressing its root causes.

- Press the parties to the conflict to lift the siege on Taiz and open all roads and humanitarian corridors without restriction or condition, and make any political or military support contingent upon the parties' compliance with international humanitarian law.

- Establish an independent and impartial international mechanism to investigate serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed in Yemen, including violations perpetrated during the current escalation; collect and preserve evidence in preparation for prosecuting those responsible for violations and the most serious international crimes, and ensure that they do not enjoy impunity.

- Suspend arms sales and transfers of weapons and military equipment to parties to the conflict in Yemen, given the substantiated risk that such weapons and equipment may be used to commit serious violations against civilians.

- Address the severe funding shortfall in the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, and provide urgent financial and logistical support to UN agencies and humanitarian organizations operating on the ground to prevent assistance from being cut off to hundreds of thousands of people affected by the conflict.

- Provide emergency and direct support to the deteriorating healthcare sector in affected governorates, particularly Taiz, Al Jawf, Sa'ada, and Al Hudaydah, including the provision of fuel, medical oxygen, and essential medicines, as well as support for maternal and child healthcare hospitals to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and combat outbreaks of diseases such as cholera.

- Allocate urgent response programmes to provide shelter and relief to the hundreds of thousands of newly displaced people, and support the education sector to ensure that children can continue to exercise their right to education in a safe and appropriate environment.

To UN Agencies and Humanitarian Organizations Operating in Yemen

- Strengthen field coordination to expand humanitarian access to besieged areas and areas experiencing new waves of displacement, and maintain pressure on the de facto authorities and the internationally recognized government to ensure that humanitarian assistance is not politicized or obstructed.

- Give the highest priority to providing safe drinking water, improving environmental sanitation services, and removing accumulated waste from densely populated cities such as Taiz, in order to prevent environmental disasters and the spread of infectious diseases.

- Strengthen protection and psychosocial support programmes for victims, particularly children, women, and persons with disabilities resulting from shelling and landmines, and intensify awareness-raising programmes on the dangers of landmines and explosive remnants of war in areas of displacement and return.

Unrelenting Bloodshed

Key Incidents and Patterns of Violations Documented
During the Escalation of Military Operations in Yemen

1 August – 25 November 2026

In its report, **(Unrelenting Bloodshed),** Mwatana for Human Rights presents the key incidents and patterns of violations documented during the escalation of military operations in Yemen. These violations were committed by the various parties to the conflict -including the Ansar Allah (Houthis) group and the forces of the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Presidential Leadership Council, including formations affiliated with the Islah Party, formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council (STC), and the Joint Forces- between August 1 and November 25, 2026. Verified by Mwatana's field team of female and male researchers and lawyers across the Yemeni governorates that witnessed violations during the escalation, these incidents demonstrate grave breaches of the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) by all parties to the conflict in Yemen.

Beyond direct violations, the killing and injuring of civilians, and the targeting and destruction of civilian objects, the report sheds light on the repercussions of the military escalation on the means of survival for millions of civilians across various regions of Yemen in general, and in Taiz Governorate -which served as a primary theater for military operations- in particular. The military operations have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, triggered waves of displacement for hundreds of thousands of civilians, and led to the closure of crossings and roads. Furthermore, they have resulted in a near-total paralysis of food, medical, and humanitarian aid supply chains, a sharp surge in the prices of basic commodities and fuel, and a severe deterioration in the healthcare, education, and public sanitation sectors.

The report calls upon all parties to the conflict in Yemen to cease the horrific violations affecting civilians and civilian objects, comply with the rules of International Humanitarian Law, and take the necessary measures to protect the population. It further urges them to reopen closed roads and crossings for civilian movement, lift all arbitrary restrictions impeding the access of essential supplies, medicines, medical equipment, and humanitarian aid, and ensure the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the most vulnerable groups. Additionally, the report calls on the United Nations and the international community to exert effective pressure on the parties to the conflict to halt violations, support independent and effective investigative mechanisms, work to halt the transfer of arms that could be used to commit violations of international law, and ensure accountability for those responsible.

Mwatana
for Human Rights