



منظمة مساءلة لحقوق الإنسان  
Musaala Organization for Human Rights

# CONTINUOUS DEATH

**A Human Rights Report** Documenting the Human Rights Violations Committed by the Parties  
to the Conflict Against Civilians and Displaced Persons in Marib Governorate  
During the Period (January 2019 – March 2024)

[www.musaala.org](http://www.musaala.org)

### Musaala Human Rights Organization

Musaala Human Rights Organization is a Yemeni non-governmental non-profit organization working in the field of defending and protecting human rights, by monitoring and documenting human rights violations, supporting and redressing the victims, and holding accountable those responsible for these violations in order to stop these violations and ensure that they do not recur.

The organization was established on 10 December 2017 and holds a license No. 275 to practice civil activity. The license was issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Office in Marib Governorate on 10 April 2018 and its headquarters is located in Marib Governorate.



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## Executive Summary

This report surveyed 60 cases of violations that varied between targeting civilians, whether by aerial bombardment, ground bombardment, direct targeting, arrest, enforced disappearance and torture, in addition to violations related to public and private property, whether by destruction, bombing or looting, which occurred between January 2019 and March 2024. These violations which were monitored by the field research team in Musaala organization and verified by visiting the places of incidents of violations, interviewing victims and witnesses and examining medical reports.

The figures collected and verified by the field research team reveal nine cases of targeting civilians, including four cases of aerial bombardment, two cases of ground bombardment and three cases of direct targeting, including one case of extrajudicial killing.

The responsibility in two cases of aerial bombardment falls on the Arab Coalition, which killed seven people, including four children, and injured another seven individual including a child. These two incidents occurred before the UN truce took effect in early April 2022. The responsibility also falls in two cases of aerial bombardment and two cases of ground bombardment, and two cases of direct targeting on Ansar Allah group (Houthis), in which the number of victims in this various shelling was two killed, including a child, and 13 people were injured, including a child, in addition to a case of extrajudicial killing, for which the responsibility falls on "Amalika Forces" and "Mihwar Saba Forces".

The field research team was also able to monitor and document 11 cases of mine explosion or remnants of war that led to the death of six individuals, including one child, in addition to the injury of 14 others, including six children and two women. The responsibility of planting those mines falls on the Ansar Allah Houthis Group.

The figures documented by the team show 21 cases of arrest and enforced disappearance committed by all parties to the conflict in Marib. The responsibility lies in 14 cases of arrest on the security and military authorities in Marib Governorate, including four cases that occurred on women. The responsibility also falls in three cases on the "Amalika forces" and the "Mihwar Saba Forces" in the Harib district, which fall within the forces of the legitimate government, in addition to four cases whose arrest and disappearance are the responsibility of Ansar Allah (Houthis).

The report monitors 11 cases of attacks and destruction of public and private property, whether by ground bombardment, aerial bombardment, or bombing, eight cases in which the destruction occurred completely, of which six cases the Ansar Allah group (Houthis) are responsible. Herein details about the building: A school, one health center and four houses, in addition to one case of complete destruction of a citizen's house in Harib.

## Executive Summary

The responsibility for destroying it falls on the Arab coalition forces, and another house's destruction responsibility falls on the legitimate government forces in the Marib al-Wadi district. A number of three cases of partial destruction were also documented, two of which the legitimate government forces are responsible, and one case on the Ansar Allah group (Houthis) in Harib District.

The report also included the documentation of four cases of child recruitment, including one case for which the legitimate government is responsible, and three cases of recruitment and one case of looting of Madghal hospital, for which Ansar Allah (Houthis) found responsible, and two cases of marriage of minors and one case of assault and suspension from work, for which the legitimate government forces are responsible.

During the reporting period, Musaala Organization documented the most prominent patterns of human rights violations committed by all conflicting parties in Yemen, the victims of which were civilians. In this report, Musaala Organization reviewed patterns of attacks that affected a group of fundamental rights and freedoms, which were selected and presented in this report to ensure diversity in these patterns, the alleged perpetrators, and the importance and impact of these patterns and facts. It is important to note here that these violations are not inclusive, but they are what the field team was able to reach, and the organization was able to verify and analyze according to the available capabilities.



## Introduction

**Musaalah Human Rights Organization** is a Yemeni non-governmental non-profit organization working in the field of defending and protecting human rights, by monitoring and documenting human rights violations, supporting and redressing the victims, and holding accountable those responsible for these violations in order to stop these violations and ensure that they do not recur. The organization was established on 10 December 2017 and holds a license No. 275 to practice civil activity. The license was issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Office in Marib Governorate on 10 April 2018 and its headquarters is in Marib Governorate. Musaala organization is one of the human rights organizations that is a part in the Justice Charter Alliance for Yemen within the organization's strategy in building civil partnerships and alliances with the aim of strengthening the human rights situation in Yemen.

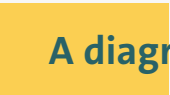
**The Justice Charter for Yemen<sup>(1)</sup>** is a coalition of human rights organizations and civil society actors that unite to promote and protect human rights in Yemen. The mission of the coalition is to advocate for the rights of the Yemeni people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. The coalition is committed to addressing the systematic human rights violations that Yemen has suffered through years of conflict and violence. This charter empowers the Yemeni people to claim their rights, raise awareness about violations, and advocate for justice and accountability at the local, national, and international levels. This Charter is guided by the principles of respect for human dignity, equality, justice and non-discrimination.

**The Yemen Human Rights Expanded Survey Program** aims to increase recognition and protection of human rights in Yemen by empowering Yemeni civil society to advocate for justice and accountability through human rights documentation, news reporting, and advocacy efforts. This program works to systematically document, retain, confirm, analyze and report on evidence, obtained from a variety of sources, relating to human rights violations committed by all parties involved in the Yemeni conflict. The results of this analysis are summarized and presented in a set of investigative reports focusing on specific incidents of human rights violations. This program also supports the efforts of Yemeni CSO partners to conduct strategic advocacy, community outreach, and intervention to engage victims and survivors locally and internationally.

This report aims to shed light on the patterns of violations committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen against civilians and displaced persons, which were monitored by the field research team of Musaala Organization in Marib Governorate. The field research team of the organization consists of lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders who have extensive experience in monitoring, documenting and analyzing violations related to international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We also aim to strengthen the responsibility of the parties to protect human rights, as the protection of human rights and the prevention of violations is their legal responsibility. The role of the report is to help them fulfill their legal responsibilities towards their citizens, in addition to the contribution in raising public awareness about human rights violations related to civilians and changes in patterns of violations during the reporting period.

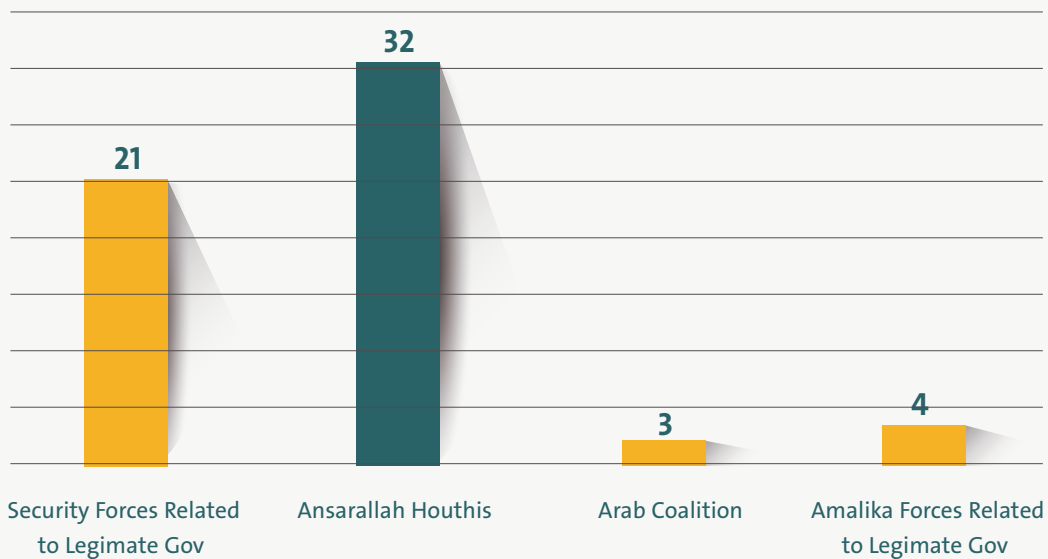
The report covers incidents and violations committed during the period from January 2019 to March 2024 through field visits to interview victims, relatives of victims and eyewitnesses. The Monitoring and Documentation Unit at Musaala Organization analyzed the data and prepared this report.

(1) Justice Charter for Yemen: <https://justice4yemenpact.org/>

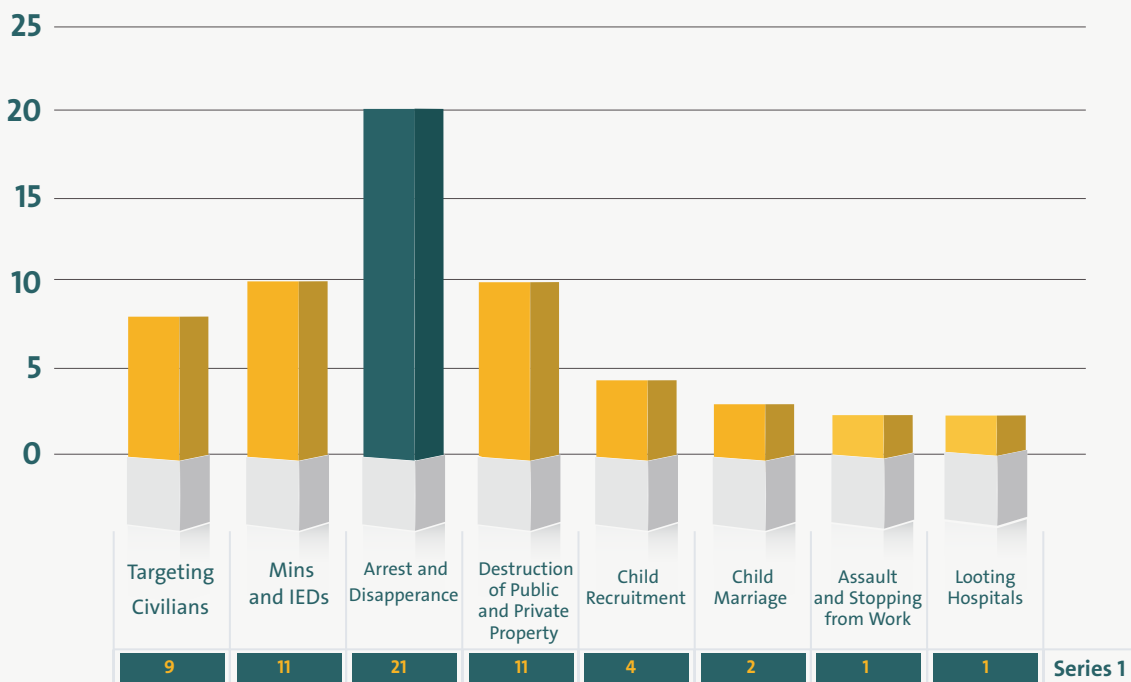


A diagram showing the responsibility of the parties to the conflict for the violations investigated in the report :

◆ Infograph Showing the Responsibility of the Parties to the Conflict for Violations



◆ Diagram showing the numbers and types of violations addressed in the report



## Methodology

In order to minimize these violations and work toward preventing them in the future, we at Musaala Human Rights Organization made a concerted effort to prepare this report in accordance with the standards and principles that are in effect in both local and international human rights organizations. These include transparency, independence, objectivity, impartiality, and professionalism, as well as the organization's contribution to the protection of victims' rights and the holding of those responsible for these violations accountable. In order to establish a clear understanding of the human rights standards that are pertinent to each violation, special legal standards governing violations have been identified. Key sources of analysis methodology in this report include national legislation, international human rights law, and conventions falling under international humanitarian law.

The nature of data needed to evaluate whether or not human rights violations have occurred was identified based on the documentation methodology. Direct sources like victims and witnesses are included as well as secondary sources like media reports and/or from other human rights organizations.

### Designing The Documentation Methodology and Work Team:

- Based on the financial and human resources available, a timeline has been set for completing the monitoring objectives. This timeline covers the period from January 2019 to March 2024.
- The regions and directorates of Marib Governorate have been designated as the geographical scope for the monitored violations, which are violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- When the field research team was formed, the organization was keen to select field researchers who have good knowledge of the local context and the population's nature, as well as the ability to communicate with others and ensure gender balance within the team. This helped to maintain the team's credibility, neutrality, and independence.
- The organization was also keen to train all members of the field research team on how to use a safe and effective way to resolve issues that would arise once the team and project management adopted this system. To ensure the effectiveness of the case management system, a record was kept of all activities, and documentation files were arranged in a systematic manner, as follows:
  - Maintain accurate, detailed and clear records of all work performed for each case, including dates and times.
  - Keeping evidence in classified files, such as: the respondents' statements file, the photos file, the physical evidence file, the documents file, the copies file taken from all documents and/or a record of all documents obtained, and the drawings and maps file.
  - Storing all files in a secure place, encoding information and encrypting data.



## Methodology

### Field visits, collection of information and evidence:

From August 2023 to March 2024, the field research team conducted field visits and interviews with victims, their families, and eyewitnesses, monitoring and documenting more than 90 incidents<sup>1</sup> of violation that occurred between the beginning of 2019 and March 2024, including aerial bombardment, ground bombardment, destruction of public and private property, arrest, and disappearance, etc., through field visits to places where violations occurred and interviewing victims and witnesses, their testimonies and statements were documented in forms prepared by the project management with the participation of the field research team, and the monitoring team was keen to obtain the consent of victims and witnesses using these data and information in preparing the report.

During the field research for this report, the field research team encountered numerous obstacles and challenges, including the general state of security, the difficulty of finding the families of the victims, the difficulty of obtaining medical reports and other documents, and the general public's awareness of human rights, which caused some witnesses or victims to decline to testify under the pretext that it would be pointless to monitor and document these violations. We would like to clarify that the field research team only investigated the violations for which it was possible to obtain information and speak with victims and witnesses. These are not all of the violations that took place during the reporting period.

#### Data Analysis

After reviewing the collected data and adhering to the monitoring and recording requirements, the research team approved 60 incidences out of a total of over 90 incidents that were monitored and documented. These instances were confirmed through field visits to the incident sites, interviews with victims and witnesses, and reviewing of medical reports. While the team continues to do additional searches and gather information in order to finish the documentation for the remaining incomplete instances in a professional manner.

The data gathered and confirmed by the field research team shows that there have been 21 arrests and disappearances, 11 cases of mine explosions and war remnants, 11 cases of assault and destruction of public and private property, 9 cases of targeting civilians, 4 cases of child recruitment, 2 cases of underage marriage, 1 case of security forces attacking media professionals and suspending them from work, and 1 case of looting of a government hospital<sup>(2)</sup>.

Musaala Human Rights Organization also documented, in a previous human rights report titled: Internally Displaced Persons and the Scourge of the Conflict<sup>(3)</sup>, patterns of violations against internally displaced people in Marib Governorate during the period 30 ,2022–2019 military attacks, nine landmine and explosive object explosion incidents, 14 cases of arbitrary arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance, five cases of child recruitment, and three incidents of extrajudicial killings carried out by the parties to the conflict in Yemen that resulted in deaths and material damages among internally displaced people in Marib Governorate, as more than 100 victims were killed and injured among the displaced, mostly women and children, and the direct targeting of villages and cities caused the displacement of thousands of them.

(2) Attachment No. 3

(3) Report on the Internally Displaced Persons and the Scourge of the Conflict –Musaala Human Rights Organization, March 2023: <https://www.musaala.org/ar/articles/reports/idps-and-the-scourge-of-the-conflict>

## Methodology

The conflict in Marib Governorate between the forces of Ansar Allah (the Houthis) and the internationally recognized Yemeni government continues to rage on for the ninth year in a row. Even though there hasn't been as many clashes since the United Nations declared a ceasefire in April 2022, the conflict's effects are still felt, particularly when it comes to the lives of civilians and their property. In order to give the reader a complete background on the war in Marib, its geography and its repercussions, please refer to Attachment No. (1) at the end of the report.

During the reporting period 2019 until March 2024, a number of military, political and humanitarian events occurred. On the military side, the control of Ansar Allah (the Houthis) expanded to a number of directorates in Marib Governorate. Since September 2020, Ansar Allah (the Houthis) regained control of the directorate of Majzar and Madghal north of Marib, in addition to its control of the directorates of Mahliya, Al-Abdiyah, Jabal Murad, Rahba and Al-Jubah southwest of Marib in 2021. During the confrontations, civilians were subjected to various forms of violations and damage of property. This caused them to be displaced again in search of safety. On the other hand, the launch of drones and ballistic missiles by Ansar Allah (the Houthis) continued on a number of areas, especially the city of Marib, which hosts thousands of internally displaced people. This caused countless damages to civilians. On the other hand, the coalition forces launched many air raids on some sites in Marib Governorate before the UN truce, resulting in a number of civilian deaths and injuries<sup>(4)</sup> .

On April 2022<sup>(1)</sup>, the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen announced that the Yemeni parties had reached a humanitarian truce for two months, including the cessation of all air, land and sea military operations. The truce was extended several times, until Ansar Allah (the Houthis) refused to agree to its extension at the end of 2022, despite relentless international and regional efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement and launch a peace process<sup>(5)</sup>.

The consequences of the conflict are still being felt even if there haven't been as many confrontations between the parties since April 2022. In addition to firing several rockets and missiles that killed people and damaged their property<sup>(6)</sup>, Ansar Allah's (the Houthis<sup>(7)</sup>) drones have carried out multiple airstrikes on civilian areas in the districts of Harib and Raghawan. Additionally, more civilians are losing their lives as a result of mines and war remnants.

The suffering of residents and displaced individuals in Marib governorate has also been made worse by the parties to the conflict's blockade of the major general roads that connect the cities, forcing them to travel other routes to and from the governorate. Before the war, Marib Governorate

had four main roads connecting it to Sana'a and the governorates of northern and southern Yemen. These days, the only road connecting Marib to these governorates is only one road which connects it to Hadramout Governorate and another alternative road that connects it to Sana'a. Both of these roads are unpaved and full of hazards, including planted mines<sup>(8)</sup>.

(4) Tenth report of the National Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations 2022

(5) <https://news.un.org/ar/story/1097862/04/2022>

(6) <https://ydn.news/?p=23223>

(7) <https://alsahil.net/news29759.html>

(8) <https://www.musaala.org/ar/articles/reports/desert-of-death>



**Key  
Findings**

**Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law**

## Section One: Targeting Civilians

The field research team verified nine cases of targeting civilians. The responsibility of the Arab Coalition is two cases of aerial bombardment in the district of Harib. These two incidents occurred before the UN truce. These raids led to the death of seven, including four children. In these raids, seven others were injured, including a child. The responsibility of Ansar Allah (Houthis) group is in six cases of targeting civilians, including two cases of aerial bombardment by drones in the district of Harib and another in the district of Raghwan. In one case, the responsibility falls on the "Amalika Forces" affiliated with the legitimate government, which is extrajudicial killing that happened in Harib district.

Through the data collected by Musaala, these monitored incidents occurred in both Harib district with four incidents, and two cases in each of the districts of Marib and Raghwan, in addition to only one case in Marib Al-Wadi district.

### Patterns of Violations

#### 1 - Targeting civilians with an airstrike by the aircrafts of the Arab Coalition in Harib District

Summary of the incident: The killing of Nayef Ahmed Al-Haddad and his two children, Ahmed Al-Miqdad and Saif Al-Qahash, in addition to the severe injury of Hussein Ahmed Al-Qahash following an airstrike by the Arab Coalition aircraft on January 2022 ,18 in Harib District south of Marib.

" Khaled Ahmed Al-Haddad – the victim's brother – 32 years, confirms that his brother Nayef (a worker) went out on his car with his two children Miqdad (6 years) and Ahmed (5 years) in order to go to the owner of a Qat farm called Saif Al-Qahash to give them Qat and indicates that when they took Saif they went together towards the farm and when they arrived near the farm, they were bombed by the Arab Coalition's aircraft. The airstrike killed them all and left them in pieces. He adds that the shrapnel flew in every direction and Hussein Al-Qahash was hit by a shrapnel, which led to the amputation of his leg "

" The -22year-old witness, Ali Aida, states: "I heard the explosion sound at around 8:30 in the morning when I was at our house in the village of Mahajan, which is close to the targeted location. When I left the house, the air was full of dust. The red "Vitara" car that was the target of the airstrike was torn into pieces, and the victims' bodies were also in pieces. He continues, "I heard Hussein al-Qahash, screaming, 'Rescue me!' He was about 20 meters away from the automobile. He was taken to the hospital by another local resident. The remaining victims passed away instantly "

## Methodology

### 2 - Targeting Civilians with Drones in Raghawan

Summary of the incident: On December 2023 ,15, Houthi drones targeted Al-Hanaya village in Raghwan district, injuring two people.

" 26-year-old Abdul Haq Zab affirms that on Friday, December 15, while the locals were busy with their daily business, a drone belonging to Ansar Allah (the Houthis) hovered over the village of Al-Hanaya and fired several missiles, injuring two people: Abdullah Muhammad Al-Qahtani 35- years old, who had shrapnel scattered throughout his body, and -15year-old Hammoud Abdul Hadi Al-Qahtani, who was seriously injured and sent to the Marib Hospital in Marib. Hammoud spent almost a month in the intensive care unit."

### 3 - Extrajudicial Killing in Harib District

Summary of the incident: On March 2022 ,16, a soldier affiliated with the "Amalika Forces" which are stationed in the Harib district, killed the citizen: Yasser al-Homsi, and the soldier was not brought to the judicial authorities.

" M.S. the -38year-old witness claims that the victim, -30year-old Yasser al-Homsi, who sold qat in the Harib city market, was killed by a soldier from the "Amalika Forces"; the offender vanished and was not brought to justice. The victim and the offender got into an argument over some money, according to the witness, and as a result, the offender pointed his gun at the victim and killed him. The witness certifies that military chiefs from both the "Amalika Forces" and the "Mihwar Saba" forces visited the blood heir and "arbitrated" the blood heir. Blood heir demanded to turn in the offender to the judicial authorities, none of that happened<sup>(9)</sup>."

(9) Arbitration: (A tribal custom means that the guardians of the perpetrators admit their responsibility and their willingness to disembark at the discretion of the guardians of the victim).

## Section Two: Planting Mines and IEDs

The field research team verified 11 cases of mine explosions and planted IEDs in addition to mines and remnants of war that were washed away by floods into residential areas, which occurred during the reporting period. The explosion of these mines and IEDs killed six, including five children, and injured 14, including six children and two women. The responsibility for that falls on the Ansar Allah (Houthis). Four of these incidents happened in Marib city, while three other incidents in the Directorate of Harib and two cases in the Directorate of Raghwan, in addition to one case in each of the districts of Sarawah and Marib al-Wadi.

### Patterns of Violations

#### **1 - A girl was killed and three others were injured, including a woman, in a landmine explosion**

Summary of the incident: A mine exploded on the desert road between Marib and Al-Jawf in a car carrying civilians on December 2021 ,29, killing a girl and injuring three people, including a woman.

" Hadi al-Juhaili, the -44year-old father of the victim, reports that his daughter Hamda Hadi was accompanied by her mother and a number of their relatives. They were riding in a Pickup car "Hilux". When they were on their way from Sana'a to Marib through the desert road between Marib and al-Jawf, a landmine exploded, killing Hamda (4 years) immediately, in addition to injuring three people, including a woman. He adds that the mine was planted by Ansar Allah (the Houthis) as they were the ones in control of the area in which the mine exploded "

#### **2 - Two children were injured in an IED explosion in Harib district**

Summary of the incident: An IED exploded in the Harib district on August 2021 ,18, injuring two children.

" The uncle of the victims Abdul Fattah Al-Qubaisi 23- years old- confirms that Assaf 13- years old- and his brother Burhan Al-Qubaisi 14- years old- were herding sheep on the outskirts of the village (Wodoo), where Ansar Allah (Houthis) were stationed before their withdrawal due to the advance of the "Amalika Forces" affiliated with the legitimate government. He adds that Ansar Allah (Houthis) planted mines in the area before their withdrawal, he continues, "When Burhan and Asaf returned from the pasture on their way home, an IED exploded. At that time, I was at home and heard the sound of the explosion, so I rushed to the place and found the children lying on the ground, unconscious and blood bleeding from their heads and feet, so we took them to Al-Atair Hospital in Harib and they received treatment there. They still suffer from shrapnel scattered throughout their bodies."



## Third Section: Arbitrary Arrests, Enforced Disappearances and Torture

The field research team of Musaala organization verified 21 cases of arrest and enforced disappearance that occurred during the reporting period. The responsibility lies in 14 cases of arrest on the security and military formations of the legitimate government in Marib city including four women in addition to two children, and nine cases in which the arrest was accompanied by the disappearance of the victims and preventing them from contacting their families. In addition, 5 victims were tortured, and the victims were often hidden and tortured in the Political Security Prison in the city of Marib. The Ansar Allah group (the Houthis) is also accountable in four incidents of arrests, including two cases of disappearance whose current whereabouts are unknown, while the "Amalika Forces" connected to the legitimate government are accountable in three cases.

The monitoring data shows that 13 arrest incidents took place in Marib cit. Harib Directorate comes second with three cases, then Raghwan directorate with two cases, and finally the directorates of Al-Jubah, Majzar and Al-Wadi District with one case in each directorate.

### Patterns of Violations

#### 1 - Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance of a citizen from one of the security checkpoints in Marib city.

Summary of the Incident: Arrest of Citizen H.M. (29 years) at the Falaj checkpoint at the entrance of Marib city and then transferred to the Political Security Prison.

" The victim's sister, W.M, 30, stated that her brother visited her in Marib, where she resides with her husband. On his way back to Sana'a, where his family also lives, on November 2020 ,27, he was detained at the Falaj military checkpoint and subsequently moved to the Marib Security Department. He was moved to the Political Security Prison ten days following his arrest. The victim's sister indicates that her brother was accused of working in one of the institutions in Sana 'a. The institution is controlled by Ansar Allah (the Houthis), she confirms that her brother had been working in this official institution since 2010 and that her brother has no relationship with the parties to the conflict. Witness SH H, 32 years, indicates that the victim's family contacted the authorities which were responsible for transferring the victim to the judicial authorities. However, the instructions reached Political Security but with no response. According to the witness, members of the Political Security told the victim's family that his release would only occur if the Houthis freed another prisoner connected to the legal government. The eyewitness says, "Because the victim has no relationship with Ansar Allah (the Houthis), the Houthis did not pay any attention to him so he can be included in one of the exchange deals."

#### 2 - Arbitrary arrest of a citizen in Aljuba District

Summary of the incident: The arrest of Osama Shaia Hassam by Ansar Allah (Houthis) in Al-Juba district, south of Marib.

" Osama Shaia (19 years old) reports that he is a university student studying in the city of Marib, and his family lives in Al-Jubah Directorate, which is controlled by Ansar Allah (Houthis). When he went to visit his family through a bumpy road that took him about 10 hours, he adds that when he reached the Aal Hamam area, he was stopped by a checkpoint affiliated with Ansar Allah (Houthis) on Oct 2021 ,10, and they transferred him to the Al-Jubah Security Department to remain in the Security Department for 3 days. Then, they transferred him to a prison in Sana 'a. He confirms that the arrest was without any real charges, but they accused him of being a supporter of the legitimate government. He adds that tribal figures close to the Houthis intervened and mediated to released him after twenty days of detention "

## Third Section: Arbitrary Arrests, Enforced Disappearances and Torture

### 3 - Arbitrary Arrest of a Citizen in Aljuba District

Summary of The Incident: Amalika Forces in Harib District Arrested "A." February 2024 ,1.

" H.A 45 years, a relative of the victim states that the victim works in the city of Harib and that he and other people were arrested by Amalika Forces members who were controlling the city under the pretext of being Houthis. The witness further stated that the Amalika Forces moved the victim to one of their camps in Ataq before moving them to Aden Governorate where they remain to this day without being released."

### 4 - Enforced Disappearance of a Citizen in Madghal District

Summary of The Incident: Ansar Allah group (the Houthis) arrests citizen Mohammad Abdullah Al-Aqraa and hid him on August 2020 ,13

" Ahmed Naji Al-Aqraa, a -35year-old witness, states that the -70year-old victim, Mohammad Abdullah Al-Aqraa who resides in Al-Jurf village located in Medghal Directorate, drove out from his home towards the city of Marib when Ansar Allah (Houthis) took control of the region. On August 2020 ,13, he was stopped by Ansar Allah (Houthis) at a military checkpoint in Al-Rukhaym, and they have been hiding him ever since. He continues, "We notified numerous human rights organizations and the Red Cross, but we still don't know his fate."

### -5 Arrest and Enforced Disappearance of a Woman in Marib City

Summary of The Incident: Special Security Forces arrested and hid the victim (WJ) in Marib City.

" The 37-year-old victim attests that on August 2021 ,8, Special forces raided a house in Marib where she was staying after being forced to flee Ansar Allah (the Houthis)-controlled areas and living with her relatives. The security then seized the victim and imprisoned her for a full year in the Political Security Prison. She continues, a group from the Public Prosecutor's Office traveled from Aden to examine the jails, freed the inmates who were found not guilty, and then released her. The victim attests to the harsh conditions she endured while incarcerated. She claims that even though she was innocent of any charges, she resisted filing a complaint with the authorities out of concern for the stigma that imprisoned women face. "

## Section Four: Child Recruitment

The field research team verified four cases of child recruitment. The responsibility for the recruitment of three cases falls on the Ansar Allah group (Houthis), two of which are from the Directorate of Bidbidah, which is controlled by Ansar Allah group (Houthis), and a third case is in the Directorate of Mahliya, in addition to another case in which the responsibility lies with the legitimate government. One of the children was recruited into one of the military brigades of the legitimate government in the city of Marib.

### Patterns of Violations

#### 1 - Recruitment of a Child by Ansar Allah (Houthis)

Summary of The Incident: Ansar Allah group (Houthis) recruits child Mohammad Daif Allah Al-Tayyara

" Mohammed Al-Tayyara is a -15year-old child that Ansar Allah (the Houthis) recruited on August 2019 ,11. According to S. (38), who is a member of the victim's tribe. Mohammed was then pushed into the front lines of combat until he was killed fighting with Ansar Allah (the Houthis) in 2020. The victim was telling his father that he was living in error and Houthis are on the right path, but the witness pointed out that the victim's father was encouraging his son to go back home and come to his senses. The witness confirms that many children go for recruitment after being brainwashed with the wrong religious and sectarian mobilization and they become victims of this war. "

#### 2 - Recruitment of a Child by The Government Forces.

Summary of The Incident: The forces affiliated with the legitimate government recruited the child. K. T.

" According to B.M., the victim's 40-year mother, her -12year-old son was enlisted by his father, who recruited him despite his young age, when he went to the camp to join one of the military brigades of the legitimate government. The victim's mother continues, saying that the victim is her eldest son and that his father had to enlist him in the military in order to receive a salary to help the family with their dire financial circumstances. The mother says her kid is still being recruited, which led to the child's quitting school and developing psychological issues. "

## Section Five: Destruction of Property

The field research team verified 11 cases of assault and destruction of public and private property, whether by ground bombardment, aerial bombardment or bombing, eight cases of total destruction, and three cases of partial destruction.

Analysis of monitoring data shows that Ansar Allah (the Houthis) is responsible for the total destruction of six public and private properties, including the bombing of a school and a house in the Directorate of Madghal and a house in the Directorate of Rahba and a third in the Directorate of Sarawah, in addition to the total destruction by a missile strike on a medical center in the Directorate of Harib and a house in the Directorate of Jubah. The responsibility of the Arab Coalition is also for the total destruction of a house in the Directorate of Harib. The full responsibility for the total destruction of a house in the Directorate of Marib al-Wadi lies with the legitimate government forces.

The monitoring data also reveal three cases of partial destruction of private homes and property, including two cases in Marib city, which are the responsibility of the legitimate government forces, and another case in the district of Harib, which is the responsibility of the Ansar Allah group (the Houthis). The mortar shelling of the village of Mala 'a led to partial damage to three houses belonging to citizens in the district of Harib.

### Patterns of Violations

#### 1 - Detonation and total destruction of a citizen's house in Sarawah District

Summary of the incident: On February 2023 ,11, gunmen affiliated with Ansar Allah (the Houthis) blew up the house of the citizen Ahmed Nasser Al-Dawla, which led to total damage to the house and partial damage to the house of Abdulaziz Ahmed in the area of Az-Zour in Sarawah District west of Marib.

" The son of the house's owner, Abdulaziz Ahmed Al-Dawla, 30, says that on February 2023 ,11, gunmen from the Houthis Ansar Allah group detonated his father's residence in the Sarawah Directorate's Al-Zour area. He also stated that because Abdulaziz and his brothers support the legitimate government, the Houthis blew up the house, and because his house is next to his father's, it was partially damaged "

#### -2 Total Destruction of a Citizen's house in Harib District

Summary of The Incident: Arab Coalition aircraft targeted the house of Ali Abd Rabbo Al-Sari in Harib on December 2021 ,17, with an airstrike that caused the total destruction of the house.

" The 57-year-old house owner, Ali Abd Rabbo Al-Sari, states: "My house is east of the city of Harib, exactly near the international road linking Harib and Shabwah. My house was built from my work for ten years, but we did not live in it because some finishes still needed." But my children and I used to sit in it from morning to night for fear that the Houthis would enter the house and be targeted by the aircraft of the Arab Coalition. On December 17, we were hosted by our relatives in the city and we left the house at 11 in the afternoon, so the aircraft of the Arab Coalition launched a raid and targeted the house at 12 in the afternoon of that day. The witness, Abdullah Attia (45 years old), reports that he was in the workshop near the house of Ali Al-Sari and that the house did not have any of the Ansar Allah fighters (the Houthis) when it was targeted by the Arab Coalition fighters in a raid that led to the total destruction of the house".

#### 3 - Use and Bombing of a Public school in Madghal District

Summary of The Incident: Breaking into and occupying a school and then blowing it up by Ansar Allah (Houthi) fighters.

" On October 2020 ,15, Ansar Allah (Houthis) fighters took control of their village in Madghal district. According to Mr. Abdullah Naji Mismar, the -40year-old principal of Al-Hosour Primary School. After taking control of their town, the fighters assaulted and stationed in Al-Hosour Primary School. The witness continues saying, "I saw Ansar Allah (Houthis) fighters planting dozens of mines in the school to detonate it on October 2020 ,22 while I was in the village of Al-Samra, which is close to Almismar village "

## Legal Analysis

The report dealt with various patterns and multiple violations committed by the parties to the conflict that affected the basic rights and freedoms of civilians and internally displaced persons, including the direct targeting of civilians, mines and unexploded ordnance, the recruitment of children, arbitrary detention, torture, arbitrary disappearance, and arbitrary killing. The specific legal standards governing these violations have been listed for the purpose of establishing a clear understanding of the human rights standards that are relevant to the subject matter of each violation, and international human rights law, conventions falling under international humanitarian law, as well as national legislation have been identified as key sources of analysis methodology in this report.

### International Human Rights Law

International human rights law includes a list of legal standards that define different types of rights that the state should fulfill and apply on the ground, which include the right to life, health, education, equality and non-discrimination, freedom of movement and travel, and others. International human rights law applies in times of peace and in times of armed conflict either. Yemen is required to respect, defend<sup>(10)</sup>, and uphold the human rights of every individual residing on its territory.

Yemen has ratified seven of the nine major human rights treaties. In addition to taking corrective action to stop future violations by identifying the institutional and legal issues and gaps that contributed to the violations, this also entails preventing violations, effectively responding to violations by providing independent and judicial mechanisms to investigate violations and refer perpetrators to justice, effectively redeeming victims, rehabilitating them when necessary, and compensating them.

### International Humanitarian Law

Armed conflicts are primarily governed by international humanitarian law, also known as the law of war. International humanitarian law is a set of rules – either stipulated in treaties or recognized through custom – that limit the permissible conduct of parties to a conflict. Serious violations of the law are considered war crimes. The primary objectives of international humanitarian law are to minimize human suffering, and to provide protection to civilian populations and ex-combatants who are no longer directly participating in hostilities, such as prisoners of war.

International humanitarian law requires parties to a conflict to distinguish between protected civilians and combatants who are legitimate targets of attack. Civilians may not be deliberately targeted; although they may not be killed or injured, if this occurs as part of a proportionate attack on a military target. All parties to a conflict must take measures to limit harm to civilians and civilian objects (such as residential buildings, schools and hospitals), and must not carry out attacks that cannot distinguish between civilians and combatants, or cause disproportionate harm to civilians.

In both international and non-international conflicts, international humanitarian law prohibits resorting only to the means and methods necessary to achieve the legitimate military purpose of the conflict in accordance with the principle of military necessity. Therefore, the degree and quality of force that can be used by the parties to the conflict is limited to what is required to overcome the enemy as soon as possible and with the least loss of life and resources. The principle of humanity prohibits parties to a conflict from causing any suffering or destruction that is not necessary to achieve the legitimate purpose of the conflict.

(10) Yemen has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Protocols, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Legal Analysis

Parties to the conflict must also distinguish at all times between civilians and civilian objects on the one hand, and combatants and military objectives on the other. In other words, a party to the conflict may only direct its attacks against combatants and military objectives. Direct attacks against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited. Indiscriminate attacks that are not directed at a specific military objective are also prohibited. Any target that is not a military target is considered a civilian target and cannot be the object of attack, unless it is used effectively for military purposes, then it may become a military target.

In addition, one of the principles that parties to the conflict must adhere to is proportionality, as potential incidental civilian casualties and property should not be excessive compared to the concrete and direct military advantage expected from the attack. Parties to a conflict must take constant care to avoid civilians and civilian objects during military operations, this could include verifying that a target is in fact a military objective or issuing an effective warning to the civilians prior to an attack<sup>(11)</sup>.

The armed conflict currently taking place in Yemen is described as a non-international armed conflict. Therefore, national laws and legislation, as well as the provisions of international humanitarian law, specifically the provisions of Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions, are the legal framework that must be applied and adhered to by the parties to the conflict, in addition to the provisions of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. All parties are also obliged to respect the rules of customary international humanitarian law applicable to non-international armed conflicts, and the rules it contains relating to the principles of distinction and proportionality, humanity, the protection of civilians, persons hors de combat, humanitarian treatment, the regulation of methods of fighting, and the status of protected persons and objects. Treaties and customary international law are the main sources of the rules and regulations of international humanitarian law. Treaties are agreements between States, and States that ratify a treaty are bound by its provisions.

The crime of planting individual mines is one of the violations criminalized in international humanitarian law. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and since Yemen has ratified the Convention<sup>(12)</sup>, the parties to the conflict in Yemen are bound by the terms of this Convention. With regard to anti-vehicle landmines, customary international law does not prohibit their use per se,<sup>(13)</sup> but places restrictions on their use. Accordingly, parties to a conflict must pay particular attention to minimizing the indiscriminate effects of these mines.

Through an analysis of the information gathered by the Musaala Organization team regarding the planting of mines, IEDs, and remnants of war, as well as an examination of reports from national and international human rights bodies and organizations, it is evident that the Ansar Allah (Houthis) bear responsibility for these violations, as they are the only group engaging in this kind of violation among other parties involved in the armed conflict in Yemen,<sup>(14)</sup> in violation of the "Mine Ban Convention."

In its report submitted to the Security Council in November 2023, the Group of Experts revealed that 417 civilians were injured, including 140 deaths in the governorates of Hodeidah, Al-Jawf, Marib and Taiz during the period from December 2022 to August 2023. The Group of Experts explained that it received reports of various locations where mines and improvised explosive devices were hidden in rural villages to target the returning population after the Houthis left those areas. The Houthis typically plant anti-personnel mines in and around schools, mosques, and homes<sup>(15)</sup>.

(11) Previous Reference.

(12) The Republic of Yemen ratified the Convention in 1998.

(13) See National Committee of the Red Cross Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 81.

(14) Tenth report of the National Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations 2022

(15) The final report of the Group of Experts on Yemen established by Security Council resolution

2012/2140 for the period from September 2022 to August 2023

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N89/269/23/PDF/N2326989.pdf?OpenElement>.



## Legal Analysis

The concept of the inadmissibility of arbitrary detention is part of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Although there are differences between these two branches of international law, rule (99) of the rules of customary international law explicitly indicates that arbitrary deprivation of liberty is prohibited, and not an absolute right exercised by States in international and non-international armed conflicts in isolation from their laws, international humanitarian law, or international human rights law under the pretext of war, armed conflict, or maintaining security. There is a recognition that where arbitrary and illegal deprivation of liberty occurs, the likelihood of torture and ill-treatment of detainees will increase, and deprivation of liberty is very likely to occur during times of emergency. Therefore, the implementation of this principle requires the protection of the right of every person to liberty and security of person .

Under international humanitarian law, everyone has the right to liberty and security. **“Arbitrary detention”** is prohibited, and no one may be deprived of his or her liberty except for reasons and in accordance with procedures established by law . International human rights law and international humanitarian law also prohibit enforced **disappearances**, in particular as a violation of the prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of liberty and the absolute prohibition of **torture** and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under international human rights law and international humanitarian law and may result in individual criminal responsibility for war crimes .

International human rights law recognizes the duty to protect all persons from interference with their right to liberty except in specific and limited circumstances. At the same time, international human rights law also recognizes that detainees need special protection due to their vulnerability, they are at risk because they are fully under the authority of the state, and as prisoners, they are at greater risk of ill-treatment .

**Torture** is also prohibited by several international and regional instruments that apply in times of peace or armed conflict. These conventions provide slightly different definitions of torture. They are adapted to specific objectives: holding states accountable for the conduct of their agencies and personnel, or criminal repression or control of humanitarian relief and humanitarian aid.

By analyzing the facts of arrest and disappearance monitored by field researchers, Musaala Organization agrees with organizations interested in monitoring the human rights situation in Yemen that all parties to the conflict have committed arbitrary arrests and disappearances, which are often accompanied by torture of victims and preventing them from communicating with their families.

**Recruitment of children** into armed forces or armed groups and their use in hostilities, whether voluntary or compulsory, is prohibited under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The minimum age required by international law to recruit minors is often set at 18. International law recognizes children as individuals under the age of eighteen; furthermore, specific provisions for other ages are found in international law. For instance, the recruitment of children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces is explicitly prohibited.

As for non-international armed conflicts, the third paragraph of Article 4 of Additional Protocol II has emphasized the inadmissibility of recruiting children under the age of fifteen into armed forces or armed groups. The prohibition includes both compulsory and voluntary recruitment, as well as direct and indirect participation in hostilities ( Additional Protocol II, 1979) The ICC defines the recruitment of children under the age of 15 into armed forces that actively use them in hostilities as a war crime subject to prosecution under the Rome Statute.

International humanitarian law establishes provisions for the general protection of civilian property and objects. **Attacks on property**, acts of retaliation, or other acts of violence against such property are prohibited in internal and international conflicts.

(16) Article 9/A of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(17) Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 9F/1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

## Legal Analysis

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As defined in the second paragraph of Article 52 of Additional Protocol I of 1977, civilian objects mean all objects that are not military objectives, and that military objectives are objects that contribute "effectively to military actions according to their nature, location, purpose or use, the total or partial destruction, capture or disruption of which results in a definite military advantage." This includes homes, schools, universities, hospitals, places of worship, bridges, farms, engineering facilities, factories, drinking water resources, irrigation facilities, electric power plants, and, in general, everything that aims to serve civil purposes. Attacks on these facilities pose a serious threat to the civilian population, and these objects are mentioned, for example, but not limited to, so as not to narrow the scope of protection for these facilities and objects.

The text of Article 52 also prohibits all forms of expected aggression against these objects, whether this is represented by attacking, destroying, transporting, or disrupting these objects. International humanitarian law provides general protection and special protection for civilian objects, which is evident in both the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1977, and the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Objects in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Musaala Human Rights Organization was able to collect evidence and testimonies about the number of civilian victims who were killed or injured as a result of these violations, with the identification of the party accused of responsibility. Musaala Human Rights Organization agrees with the Group of Experts that all parties to the conflict have failed to take all feasible precautions to minimize civilian casualties and the effects of hostilities, and to adhere to the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution and precaution in attacks. Parties to the conflict, in particular Ansar Allah (the Houthis), continue to carry out indiscriminate attacks that are prohibited under international humanitarian law.

(19) Human rights organizations interested in monitoring the human rights and humanitarian situation in Yemen agree that all parties to the conflict have committed acts that constitute violations of their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

### Constitution and National Legislations

Article 6 of the Yemeni Constitution stipulates that the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the League of Arab States and the generally recognized rules of international law shall be implemented. Yemen(20) ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on February 1986 ,9, and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on February 1987 ,29.

Yemen is also among the first seven Arab countries to ratify the Arab Charter on Human Rights(21) , and the fact that Yemen has ratified these conventions and other international human rights treaties is an obligation that must be reflected in its constitution, which regulates the course of its life, as it stipulates many of the rights known in these conventions and covenants.

(18) Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions

(19) Fourth Report of the UN Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen , September 2021, "A Forgotten Nation: A Call for Humanity to End Yemen's Suffering"

(20) Constitution of the Republic of Yemen as amended on 20 February 2001, Thawabet Book Series (Sana'a: Thawabet Magazine, 2002) Part Two "Basic Rights and Duties of Citizens" (Book Sixteen in Arabic and English), Articles 61-41, p. 7-5.

(21) Republic of Yemen Human Rights Report to the Human Rights Council, May 2009, National Information Center: <https://yemen-nic.info/news/detail.php?ID=21718>

## Legal Analysis

The Yemeni Constitution stipulates the right of the individual to liberty and security of person and defines the standards of detention and treatment of detainees in articles (57 ,48). This is detailed in the Code of Criminal Procedure in articles (227 ,226 ,225 ,204 ,193 , 184 ,15 ,13 , 12 ,11 ,2/9 ,6,7)(22) . It is noteworthy that the Criminal and Penal Code guarantees numerous forms of protection for citizens' rights; it clearly and explicitly prohibits attacks against persons and punishes public employees who exploit their position in order to violate people's rights and freedoms.

The Republic of Yemen has ratified Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, which states that children under the age of 15 may not be recruited into armed forces or groups or allowed to participate in hostilities. In addition, all relevant national military legislation stipulated that the acceptance of compulsory or voluntary recruitment for those who have reached the age of 18 as a minimum age for recruitment, including Law No. (67) of 1991 on service in the armed forces and security, Law No. (23) of 1990 on the general reservists, Law No. (22) of 1990 on compulsory national defense service, which makes it compatible with the protocol and the binding declaration, but there is a lack of legal provisions regarding the punishment of acts related to the recruitment of children and their involvement in armed conflicts(23).

Article (321) of the Yemeni Penal Code stipulates: the penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine shall be inflicted on whoever demolishes, vandalizes, or destroys a movable or non-movable, or plant that does not belong to him, or renders it unfit for use, or damages or impairs it in any way. The penalty shall be imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years if the crime is committed by force or under threat or if it was committed by a number of people, or it occurred at times of unrest, strife, or disaster, or if it resulted in the disruption of a public facility or the work of a public utility, or if it resulted people's lives, security, or health being exposed to danger. If the crime results in the death of a person, the penalty shall be the death penalty. This does not prejudice the right of the heir to blood money or compensation, depending on the circumstances(24).

### Limitation of Liability of the Parties:

#### **First: Violations of State Apparatuses:**

The armed forces are an organ of the State, as are other entities of the organs and powers of the State, such as the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary of the State. The rule that a State must be responsible for all acts of armed forces is a long-standing rule of customary international law, contained in Article 3 of the 1907 Hague Convention Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, and reiterated in Article 91 of Additional Protocol I, it is the basis of the general rules on State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts, according to which a State is responsible for the acts of its institutions(25) .

#### **Second, the responsibility of non-state actors ( Ansar Allah group (Houthis):**

It is imperative that armed opposition groups adhere to international humanitarian law, as they may be held accountable for the actions of individuals within their ranks, though the exact nature of this accountability remains unclear. There are numerous UN resolutions that state that "armed non-state actors exercising government-like functions or exercising effective control over territory and population must respect and protect the human rights of individuals and groups." These include: paragraph 29 of the Human Rights Council report on the situation of human rights in Yemen(26) which concludes that the Houthis are in fact the de facto authorities in northwestern Yemen and can therefore be considered to be bound by international human rights standards

This is stated by the ICRC that "when non-state actors in armed conflict control territory for a prolonged period of time, IHL continues to apply and provide protection to civilians"(27).

(22) [https://yemen-nic.info/db/laws\\_ye/detail.php?ID=11425](https://yemen-nic.info/db/laws_ye/detail.php?ID=11425) National Information Centre

(23) The first report of the Republic of Yemen on the level of implementation of the provisions of the " Protocol on the Prohibition of the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict" annexed to the International Convention on the Rights of

(24) Republican Decree No. (12) of 1994 on Crimes and Penalties: [https://agoyemen.net/lib\\_details.php?id=5](https://agoyemen.net/lib_details.php?id=5)

(25) Violations of the rules of international humanitarian law/Dr. Muhammad Izz al-Din Mustafa Hamdan /2020 Brief in International Humanitarian Law/Dr. Bilal Ali Al-Nisour and Radwan Mahmoud Al-Majali International Humanitarian Law/Nizar Al-Anbaki/2010 General Theory of International Humanitarian Law/Ahmed Abu Al-Wafa/2019

(26) <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/a-hrc-45-crp7-.php>

(27) [https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document/file\\_list/challenges-report\\_ihl-and-non-state-armed-groups.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document/file_list/challenges-report_ihl-and-non-state-armed-groups.pdf)

## Legal Analysis

- ◆ By analyzing everything that has been monitored by a Musaaala Human Rights organization, in addition to similar reports issued by various national and international human rights bodies and organizations, all parties to the conflict in Yemen have failed to fulfill their obligations under national law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- ◆ The failure of the Saudi-led Arab Coalition to fulfill its obligations to take all possible measures to protect civilians from the effects of hostilities, and to abide by the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attacks, especially before the UN truce in April 2022.
- ◆ The parties to the conflict, in particular the Ansar Allah group (Houthis), continue to use weapons systems with indirect fire with widespread impact, such as rockets and mortars, especially in populated areas. Given the inaccuracy of these weapons, their use in such environments increases the likelihood of significant civilian casualties and damage to property.
- ◆ It is clear from what has been monitored by the organization in all facts related to the planting of mines, in addition to the analysis of the reports issued by a number of international and national human rights organizations, which agree that those responsible for these violations are Ansar Allah (the Houthis), which are unique in practicing this type of violation from other parties involved in the armed conflict in Yemen which is violating the "Mine Ban Convention", which may amount to war crimes.
- ◆ Based on what the organization has monitored, all parties to the conflict have not failed to comply with national and international law regarding the recruitment and use of children under the age of 18 to participate in hostilities, as all parties to the conflict have recruited and involved children in armed conflict, where the deteriorating economic and living conditions remain the most prominent motive to exploit the need of families for a source of income, in violation of the rules of international humanitarian law and the rules of international human rights law, and may constitute a war crime.
- ◆ With regard to arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and enforced disappearance, all parties to the conflict, in particular the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Ansar Allah group (the Houthis) have failed to fulfill their obligations under national law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and have violated a range of victims' human rights, which include the right to security and liberty, physical safety and the right not to be tortured, the right to freedom of movement, and the right to a fair trial.
- ◆ All parties to the conflict in Yemen have failed to respect human rights and protect their property and have deliberately damaged public and private property, in violation of the rules of international humanitarian law.
- ◆ The parties to the conflict failed to prevent violations, failed to respond to them, and did not conduct any serious and independent investigations, in addition to not bringing any of those responsible for these violations to trial, which encourages impunity and thus the recurrence and expansion of violations in the future.

## Recommendation

- ◆ Musaala Human Rights recommends that all parties to the conflict support and fully cooperate with efforts to ensure accountability for crimes committed against civilians, and contribute to them to ensure reparation for civilian victims and their families.
- ◆ We recommend that all parties to the conflict protect civilians, cease all acts of violence against them, not use indirect weapons systems with widespread impact, such as rockets and mortars, especially in populated areas and IDP camps that increase the likelihood of significant civilian casualties, damage to public and private property, and fully implement the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and take all other necessary measures to realize the rights of IDPs in Yemen.
- ◆ We remind all parties to the conflict in Yemen of their legal and moral obligations, condemn all violations as crimes under international and national law, adhere to the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution in attacks, cease launching indiscriminate attacks prohibited under international humanitarian law and take all feasible measures to protect civilians from the effects of hostilities.
- ◆ We recommend that all parties to the conflict put an end to and limit all acts and practices of arbitrary arrest, respect minimum legal standards relating to deprivation of liberty, including the right to access justice, allow their relatives and lawyers to visit them, ensure the right of every victim to know the truth about the conditions of detention, investigate these violations, and bring those responsible for these crimes to justice.
- ◆ We recommend that all parties to the conflict cease all practices of enforced disappearance and disclose the fate of the forcibly disappeared, and cease other forms of ill-treatment and the prohibition of torture. We also call on the internationally recognized Yemeni government to ratify all conventions and covenants related to the protection of human rights, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. We also recommend that the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances open an investigation into the cases of enforced disappearance presented in this report.
- ◆ The organization recommends that parties to the conflict, especially Ansar Allah (Houthis), stop the use of anti-personnel mines, destroy stockpiled landmines, do their utmost to identify areas where landmines are known or suspected to be implanted, and to put marks to ensure that civilians are excluded until these mines are removed and destroyed.
- ◆ We recommend that all parties to the conflict stop and prevent the recruitment of children, take adequate measures to ensure that the recruitment of children under the age of 18 is prohibited, work to demobilize children from their forces, rehabilitate them physically, psychologically and socially, protect them from being used and exploited in military operations affecting their morals, development and education, and ensure that those responsible for the recruitment of children are punished.
- ◆ We recommend that all parties to the conflict conduct prompt and thorough investigations of those accused of human rights violations, and compensate and redress victims, especially victims of serious violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law.
- ◆ We recommend that the international community intensify diplomatic efforts to reach a comprehensive ceasefire in preparation for a lasting peace in Yemen based on respect for human rights, the active participation of youth, women and minorities, and the achievement of justice and reparation for victims.

## Overview of the Geography of the Conflict in Marib Governorate

For the ninth year in a row, the conflict between the parties to the conflict in different parts of Yemen continues. One of the most severe fronts of the ongoing fighting is the fronts and battles in Marib Governorate between the forces of Ansar Allah (the Houthis) on the one hand and the internationally recognized Yemeni government forces on the other. Despite the decline in these confrontations since April 2022, when the United Nations announced a temporary truce between the parties to the conflict, the repercussions of the conflict continue, especially on the lives of civilians and their property.

To provide the reader with a thorough understanding about the war in Marib and its geography and repercussions, it is important to note that the war began in Marib in mid-2014- when Ansar Allah (the Houthis) took control of military positions in the directorate of Majzar north of Marib, which sparked confrontations between some tribesmen on one hand and the Houthis on the other, which resulted in casualties on both sides in addition to civilian casualties and massive displacement of the people of the directorate of Majzar, which is the first displacement in the governorate.

At the same time, the tribes of Marib Governorate had established tribal "Matareh"(tribal gatherings in which citizens gather) in which<sup>(28)</sup> they declared their support for the military units in the governorate to confront Ansar Allah (the Houthis), who had taken control of the capital of the country. Despite the resignation of former President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi to the House of Representatives, following the control of the Ansar Allah (the Houthis) over the capital of the country, and the subsequent constitutional declaration announced by the group in February 2015, the local authority, military forces, and tribal, political and social components in Marib announced their rejection of the measures taken by the group, and announced their boycott of the regime that became in control of Sana'a, considering that President Hadi is under house arrest<sup>(29)</sup>.

**At the beginning of 2015, clashes erupted in Sirawah, west of Marib,** between forces affiliated with Ansar Allah (the Houthis), allied with forces affiliated with former President Saleh, who wanted to advance towards the city of Marib on the one hand, and tribal members supporting the forces of President Hadi on the other. The tribes rejected the directives of the Houthis and their allies to control Marib. At the same time, other confrontations took place between the same forces in the southwest of the governorate, specifically in Qanyah area which is adjacent to Al-Bayda Governorate. Tension also began to be evident in the southern side of Marib between the same parties, after Ansar Allah (the Houthis) and their allies took control of the city of Harib.

The intervention of the Arab coalition did not stop the Houthis and their allies from taking control of many areas west of Marib, and then reaching the areas of Al-Faw, Al-Sadd, Al-Manyin and Al-Khaseef, which are neighborhoods of the city of Marib. The confrontations between the two parties to the conflict continued until October 2015, after the legitimate government forces supported by the Arab coalition forces managed to remove the fighters of Ansar Allah (the Houthis) and expand their control over all areas west of the city of Marib to the areas and mountains overlooking the center of Sirawah district.

The confrontations centered on the outskirts of the center of the Directorate of Sirawah, which was from the end of 2015 until the beginning of 2021, as Ansar Allah (Houthis) regained control over all areas and villages of Sarawah, including Al-Zour, Al-Hayal, Al-Sawabeen and Dhanna, which resulted in difficult challenges, especially for the displaced, who were in the line of fire in nine camps west of Marib. According to the Executive Unit for Displaced Persons in Marib, the escalation of Ansar Allah (Houthis) on the camps of the displaced people in Al-Zour, Al-Sawabeen and Dhanna, which led to the displacement of more than 2,000 families in February 2021 who were in 9 camps in Sirawah. Human Rights Watch said that Houthi forces have indiscriminately fired artillery shells and rockets

at densely populated areas in the Yemeni governorate of Marib since February 2021, causing mass displacement and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The organization called on "the Houthi armed group to stop unlawful attacks, and allow unhindered humanitarian access to civilians trapped by the hostilities<sup>(30)</sup>.

(28) The Battle of Marib (2025) – Wikipedia: <https://rb.gy/64hdzf>

(29) Matreh Marib.. The nucleus of popular resistance and the rock on which the dreams of the Houthi militias were shattered Marib Press website: [https://marebpress.net/news\\_details.php?sid=187222](https://marebpress.net/news_details.php?sid=187222)

(30) Yemen: Houthis attack IDP camps – Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/378282/23/03/2021>



## Overview of the Geography of the Conflict in Marib Governorate

As for the northern side of the city of Marib, Ansar Allah (the Houthis) regained control of the Directorate of Majzar in addition to the Directorate of Madghal in September 2020, which led to the displacement of more than 2,000 families who were in the "Al-Deeq" and "Al-Khaneq" camps and other camps, in addition to the displacement of the people of these areas to the directorates of the city, Al-Wadi and Raghwan. Confrontations between the parties to the conflict led to the death of many civilians and the damage of public and private property. The Yemeni government announced that Ansar Allah (the Houthis) targeted Al-Jafrah Hospital and another field hospital on August 7, 2020 (31).

The United Nations announced the suspension of two hospitals in Marib governorate (east of Sana'a) as a result of being targeted by rocket fire, which means that thousands of Yemeni patients are deprived of receiving services. The UN announcement came in a statement issued by the Office of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, where it indicated that Al-Jufra Hospital and the Saudi Field Hospital in the Directorate of Majzar in Marib were hit on February 7. The UN statement stated that the two hospitals, which are 75 kilometers northwest of Marib city, provide health services to about 15,000 people, most of whom are displaced. As stated in the statement, the two medical facilities sustained "severe damage, including sedation, intensive care, physiotherapy, and pharmacy departments in Al-Jufra Hospital, which is the main hospital in the region," and the mobile clinic Saudi Field Hospital sustained structural damage and one of its staff members was injured (32).

With regard to the southwestern directorates, the confrontations receded in Qanya until the beginning of 2021, as the Houthi Ansar Allah group was able to control Mahliya district after clashes during which many victims were killed, public and private property were destroyed, in addition to the displacement of hundreds of families. The circle of confrontations later expanded until it ended up with the control of the Ansar Allah group (the Houthis) over the directorates of Al-Abdiyah, Rahba, Jabal Murad and Jubba during the year 2021. The Executive Unit of the Displaced indicated in a statement in December 2021 that the military escalation by the Ansar Allah group (the Houthis) during the four months had led to the largest wave of displacement in Marib, as nearly 100,000 citizens were displaced from the conflict areas to the Marib city and Al-Wadi directorates, and the opening of 39 new camps for these displaced people (33).

**South of Marib**, Ansar Allah (the Houthis) took control of the Harib district south of Marib in 2015. In April 2016, the legitimate government forces were able to regain control of this district. After the Houthis took control of a number of Shabwah districts in September 2021, Houthis were able to regain control of the Harib district. In January 2022, the Amalika Forces of the legitimate government, in addition to the forces of the National Army, were able to regain control of the same district.

The fluctuating policy in the control of the parties to the conflict over the areas of Marib Governorate led to repeated displacement, so that many families were displaced three times and some four times to multiple areas. These areas, which were fluctuating areas under the control of the parties to the conflict, thus became a fertile place for planting mines and remnants of war and thus causing more civilian casualties. In addition, the general roads that used to connect the directorates, whether the Marib-Sirwah road, which connects Marib and Sana'a or the Marib-Juba line, which connects Marib and the governorates of central Yemen, were blocked, in addition to the Marib-Sana'a road, which connects Marib, Sana'a and the northern governorates.

(31) Houthis bomb two medical facilities in Marib – Almasdaronline: <https://almasdaronline.com/articles/177309>

(32) Attack on two hospitals in Marib halts health services for thousands of displaced people  
- UN website <https://news.un.org/ar/story/1048941/02/2020>

(33) Executive Unit: Houthi militias displaced more than 93 thousand civilians from Marib directorates within two months  
[https://marib-gov.com/news\\_details.php?sid=3603](https://marib-gov.com/news_details.php?sid=3603)

## Overview of the Geography of the Conflict in Marib Governorate

The interruption of these main public roads has led to civilians enduring a lot of suffering to travel through alternative and unpaved roads, as the traveler has to travel hundreds of kilometers in rough and unpaved roads instead of traveling tens of kilometers. During an inspection visit to the road connecting with Sana 'a in February 2024, Sheikh Sultan Al-Arada, the Governor of Marib and a member of the Presidency Council, declared that the legitimate government was prepared to open the roads from the areas under its control and that the road between Marib and Sana 'a had been opened through Fardat Nehm Unilaterally. He called on the “other party” to take a similar step to facilitate the movement of citizens. To date<sup>(34)</sup>, all of these roads remain closed by the parties to the conflict.

The Executive Unit for Displaced Persons of the legitimate government announced in June 2023 that the number of displaced persons from the Yemeni governorates to Marib governorate since the eruption of the war has reached (2,574,598) people, of whom (55,991) people live in the 197 displacement camps, and the rest of the displaced live in neighborhoods, villages and other residential communities<sup>(35)</sup>.

Marib Governorate consists of 14 directorates. As of the date of writing the report, Ansar Allah (Houthis) group controls the directorates of: Majzar, Madghal, Harib Al-Qaramish, Bidbidaa, Sirawah, Jubah, Rahba, Mahliya, Jabal Murad and Abdiyah. The legitimate government also controls the directorates of: Marib City, Raghwan, Harib, and Al-Wadi Directorate, in which the oil fields are located. It is also important to note that the directorates controlled by the legitimate government are the most populated and the widest geographically. They also have the displaced population mass, whether from other Yemeni governorates or from the same governorate. In addition, the Harib Directorate is where the Amalika and Mihwar Saba forces are stationed.

(34) (Member of the Leadership Council Al-Arada announces the opening of (Marib - Fardat Nehm Road) Yemen News Agency Saba - <https://rb.gy/ekenbv>

(35) More than 232 thousand displaced families in Marib live outside the displacement camps- Yemen Daily website: <https://ydn.news/?p=6743>





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