



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
7 March 2017

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Thirty-fourth session

27 February-24 March 2017

Agenda item 4

### Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

## Written statement\* submitted by the Agence pour les droits de l'homme, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[01 March 2017]

---

\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.17-03638(E)



\* 1 7 0 3 6 3 8 \*

Please recycle



## **Saudi Arabia has committed War Crime in Yemen\***

Human Rights Agency (hereinafter referred to as HRA) once again calls for the suspension of the membership of Saudi Arabia in the UN Human Rights Council and stresses that Saudi Arabia and its allies have been committing "war crimes" in Yemen.

According to the requests submitted by human rights activists in Yemen to the HRA and widespread crime levels in the country, we call for independent and serious investigation about bombing economic and civilian zones in Yemen by coalition led by Saudi Arabia and have no doubt that some of these bombings are "war crimes".

Saudi air strikes on different economic and civilian areas including factories, commercial warehouses, farms, and even power plants are quite clear and during these crimes, hundreds of civilians lost their lives and many other Yemeni citizens were wounded. The following are some of the most important examples of the destruction of the war in Yemen:

According to the medical and military sources in Yemen, during the Arab coalition attacks in January 2017, there was an attack in the district of "Nehem" in the North East of Sana'a, Yemen's capital, for which 15 at least injured and the manager and two employees of the school were also among the dead.

In October 2016, the Saudi air strike on a funeral in Sana'a killed about 140 so that even the White House said it will reconsider in arms aid to the coalition.

Also last summer, in the Saudi air raid on a school in Yemeni province of Sa'da, 10 children were killed and 28 others were wounded.

The question which still engages the minds of human rights defenders is that "despite the widespread crimes and irrecoverable compensation for coalition attacks against Yemen, why not any serious investigation be done in this regard?" Why the international community remains silent and no serious reaction happens in this case? Whereas that international organizations have repeatedly condemned the Saudi air strikes and have also called for increased pressure and sanctions against this country.

It can be referred to Amnesty International and human Rights Watch that earlier were calling for the suspension of the membership of Saudi Arabia in the Human Rights Council; The two organizations also called for the Saudi Arabia's arms embargo and urged the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and other countries to suspend their arms sales to Riyadh until investigating the Saudi Arabia's attacks in Yemen.

Also according to reports published by BBC news network and quoted by Great Britain Ministry of Defense based on selling cluster bombs by Great Britain to Saudi Arabia in the late 1980s, activists belonging to the Press Council asked Great Britain to suspend selling arms to Saudi Arabia.

According to reports and released news, war in Yemen have approximately killed 11000 and 400 Yemenis. Also according to reports received from a Yemeni organization, Middle East Foundation for Development and Human Rights, Arabic Coalition attacks against Yemen have caused 3883 crimes. Meanwhile, the terrorists have committed 600 crimes in the cities of Taiz and Aden.

UN humanitarian coordinator in Yemen also reportedly announced that 17 million Yemenis are not able to provide their own food and seven million others are on the brink of starvation.

Today, the international community has no doubt in devastating destruction of Yemen by the Arab Coalition and Saudi Arabia; Saudi Arabia has repeatedly bombed the schools, hospitals, residential areas and refugees camps in Yemen and has used banned weapons in some cases.

It is unfortunate that despite the long passage of time since the beginning of the war in Yemen, we continue to not see a credible and impartial investigations in Yemen. Until stopping the illegal air strikes, or at least the agreement to implement an independent international investigations, HRA calls for the suspension of the membership of Saudi Arabia in the UN Human Rights Council.

We ask the United Nations to put the investigation of the war case of Yemen on the agenda without bias, aiming to respecting the principles of human rights and the defense of a large crowd of innocents and civilians and to follow the Mechanisms to stop the Coalition attacks and also the establishment of peace and security in Yemen.

---

\*Middle East Foundation for Development and Human Rights, Voices Organization free-free media, Supporters of Rights and Freedoms Organization, Transparency of the Foundation for Human Rights, Development Studies International Development Group, Organization Damon Hamdani, Foundation for Studies and Research, Lawyers Without Borders, Phoenix organization development, Imaniat Foundation for Women and Children, National Media Center Economic, Organization Shams justice of Rights and Freedoms, Yemen of Rights and Freedoms, Be for Culture and Creativity, Foundation youthful spirit of human and social development, Yemeni Center for Civil Rights See youth organization, There Foundation for Development and Human Rights, NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.