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DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

COI QUERY RESPONSE

YEMEN - CHILDREN

A report published by the *United States Department of State* in April 2024 reviewing events of 2023 includes commentary on: "...child soldier recruitment and use..."¹

A report issued by *Al Jazeera* in January 2024 points out that: "The Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah (supporters of God), are an armed group that control most parts of Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa, and some of the western and northern areas close to Saudi Arabia."²

This document also states that: "Fighting between Houthis and the military coalition, however, largely subsided last year."³

A report published in February 2024 by *Amnesty International* comments on: "...cases of child recruitment..."⁴

In February 2024 *Human Rights Watch* states that: "...child recruitment by the Houthis has increased noticeably in the last few months..."⁵

¹ United States Department of State (22 April 2024) 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Yemen, p.11

² Al Jazeera (12 January 2024) Who are the Houthis? A simple guide to the Yemeni group, p.1

³ *ibid*, p.2

⁴ Amnesty International (12 February 2024) Yemen: Joint Recommendations for the Universal Periodic Review of Yemen, p.3

⁵ Human Rights Watch (13 February 2024) Yemen: Houthis Recruit More Child Soldiers Since October 7, p.1

A report published in February 2024 by *Human Rights Watch* comments on “...cases of child recruitment...”⁶

In March 2024 the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* states that: “Despite a significant decrease in hostilities, populations in Yemen remain at imminent risk of war crimes and crimes against humanity.”⁷

This report also comments on: “Inadequate protection for and ongoing threats toward minorities, women, children, human rights defenders and IDPs.”⁸

BBC News in March 2024 states that: “The Houthis control Sanaa and the north-west of Yemen, including the Red Sea coastline. Most of Yemen’s population lives in these areas, and the Houthis run a de facto government which collects taxes and prints money.”⁹

A report issued by *Human Rights Watch* in March 2024 states that: “Houthis have repeatedly arrested people who have been critical of their policies...”¹⁰

This document also states that: “The Houthi armed group took over Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, in September 2014...”¹¹

A document issued by the *Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies* in April 2024 states that: “In Houthi-controlled territories, the 2022 truce was used as an opportunity to mobilize recruits, including children, often by force.”¹²

In April 2024 the *Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies* comments on: “...Houthi-held territories in Sa’ada, Sana’a, Al-Bayda, Dhamar, Taiz, and Hajjah.”¹³

This document also states that: “Fighting between Houthi, pro-government, and STC-affiliated forces has continued at a steady pace...”¹⁴

A report published in May 2024 by *Al Jazeera* states that: “Yemen has been gripped by conflict since late 2014 when the country’s Houthi rebels seized large swaths of the country, including the capital, Sanaa. It escalated in March 2015 when Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates assembled a United States-backed military coalition in an attempt to restore the internationally recognised government of President AbdRabbu Mansour Hadi. A UN-brokered truce in 2022 has seen reduced hostilities...”¹⁵

⁶ Human Rights Watch (15 February 2024) Joint Recommendations for the Universal Periodic Review of Yemen, p.3

⁷ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (1 March 2024) Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Monitor: March 2024, Issue 68 [Yemen excerpt], p.1

⁸ *ibid*, p.3

⁹ BBC News (15 March 2024) Who are the Houthis and why are they attacking Red Sea ships?, p.3

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch (27 March 2024) Yemen: Houthis Sentence Men to Death, Flogging

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies (9 April 2024) Childhood Lost: No Respite in the Recruitment of Yemen’s Child Soldiers, p.1

¹³ Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies (9 April 2024) Military and Security, p.2

¹⁴ *ibid*, p.5

¹⁵ Al Jazeera (6 May 2024) ‘Yemen at a crossroads’: Nearly 200 aid groups issue urgent funding appeal

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