



منظمة انتصاف  
لحقوق المرأة والطفل  
Entesaf Organization  
for Woman and Child Rights



# A lost childhood among the rubble of aggression

**A report**

**documenting the crime of targeting a school by the warplanes of the aggression coalition in Juma'a bin Fadel area - Saada governorate  
August 13, 2016**

**« US aggression and blockade»  
« On Yemen, “Terrorist crimes”»**

## **Entesaf Organization for Women's and Children's Rights**

**A human rights organization that seeks to protect women and children by advocating and defending their issues, raising community awareness about them, and rehabilitating them psychologically and morally.**

- **Raising societal awareness of the rights of women and children as guaranteed by Islamic Sharia and included in international conventions and conventions.**
- **Advocating the issues of women and children, legally and socially, in a way that guarantees them a decent family life, as they are the basic cell of society.**
- **Monitor all violations and attacks against women and children in war and peace, whether by individuals, governmental bodies, non-governmental groups or hostile countries, and announce them to the public opinion.**
- **Preparing and issuing human rights reports on cases of violations against women and children.**
- **Providing the necessary psychological support for women and children who are exposed to violations during peace and war.**
- **Protecting women and children from abuse in the family and society, combating all forms of violence directed against them, and protecting them from abuse during investigation.**
- **Reducing beggary and child labor.**
- **Empowering women and enhancing their participation in society.**

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# Introduction

The children of Yemen have been living in a tragic situation since March 26, 2015, when the raids of the aggression's coalition started on Yemen, after which thousands of them fell to death. One of these crimes is the Juma'a bin Fadel massacre, during which the aggression targeted Alqahira School in the Juma'a bin Fadil area, killing and wounding dozens of children. This targeting of childhood occurs by the coalition of aggression that forgets the historic commitment made by world leaders towards the children of the world through their adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and making it part of the international agreement, which became the most ratified in history and helped change the lives of children around the world. However, there are still children who do not enjoy a full childhood. The childhood of many children, including the children of Yemen, is being violated in front of the eyes of the world without doing anything about the massacres and the violations committed since the beginning of the aggression until this day.

This targeting is considered a violation of international humanitarian law and international treaties and covenants that criminalize targeting civilian gatherings, including public places, civilian facilities, schools and markets. It acquitted the culprit and blamed the victim through its annual reports that lack justice and abide by the provisions of international conventions, charters and covenants, which gives a green light to the aggression to commit more crimes against civilians without any deterrent.

## Executive Summary

The report "A Childhood Lost Among the Rubble of Aggression" documents the massacre committed by the Saudi-led coalition aircraft on August 13, 2016 against the children of Alqahira School in Juma'a in Fadel area located in the Haidan District - Saada Governorate. Dozens of them were killed, most of them were children. During this report, we will talk about the details of the crime and the testimonies of witnesses, and we talked about part of the tragedy that the students were exposed to, and we will also talk about the international condemnations issued by human rights and international organizations, and the legal framework for the crime in accordance with international laws and covenants.

## Methodology

This report is based on the organization's statistics regarding the details of the crime and the number of victims. It also relied on interviews conducted with witnesses and victims. International law texts, treaties and conventions were referred to in order to clarify the legal framework for the crime committed against innocent children who fell as a result of the brutal raids of the coalition's aggression.



# A brief summary on Juma'a bin Fadel

**Juma'a Bin Fadel area: A village in the Haidan District, 83 km from the center of Saada Governorate.**



## **Details of the coalition massacre on a school in Juma'a Bin Fadel area:**

The warplanes of the aggression coalition carried out a brutal attack at half past seven in the morning on Saturday, August 13, 2016, targeting the students of Alqahira School in Juma'a Bin Fadel area, in which about sixty students while they were studying. Their teacher was giving a lesson to them, and during that time, everyone heard the Saudi warplanes flying at low altitudes in the sky of the region, as usual, but then the warplanes targeted. The school was full of students who they were targeted directly and deliberately. There were children inside and next to the school, which led to the children being killed and wounded. Eight civilians, including 6 students, a teacher and an 85-year-old man working in the school, were killed, and 26 students were injured, 22 of them were seriously injured.

## The coalition's admission of the massacre

Convictions of the Secretary-General are no longer sufficient in the light of the escalation of crimes committed by the Saudi forces and their coalition and their repeated admission of committing crimes. Actual measures should be taken to investigate for such crimes and bring the perpetrators to trial. There has been a suspicious silence on the part of the international community about recognizing this crime and without taking any action in this regard.

Ahmed Asiri, the official spokesman for the coalition forces, denied it and considered the school that was targeted by as a camp in which Houthi fighters are trained, and that government schools are those affiliated with the legitimate government in the country and the legitimate Yemeni government confirmed that there were no schools in the area, and what was targeted was a training and recruitment center for fighters targeting the Saudi border.

He denied what Doctors Without Borders confirmed about the arrival of children targeted by the Saudi's planes, and said that Doctors Without Borders work is known and has nothing to do with politics, directing his question to Doctors Without Borders: If there are children in this camp, what do children do in military training centers? He said: Children should not stay to kill Saudi soldiers at the border.



Photos of the dead victims in the Juma'a Bin Fadel massacre

# Eyewitness testimonies:

The child Faraj spoke, saying: "When I was at school, we were attacked by the warplanes of the Saudi forces and their coalition."

One of the relatives of the child Faraj was with him, Ali Salah Fadel who told us that this child was targeted with several children in a summer school for memorizing the Qur'an and its sciences and providing reinforcement lessons for the primary classes while they were safe, and there was nothing in it indicating that it was a camp. With its missiles, the warplane cut a number of them into pieces, there are no more schools, they hit everything."

One of the children was in that bed with a bandage on his head, eyes, and various parts of his body. Those accompanying him reported that he was Mohammad Ghaleb Quraish, aged 4 years. He assured that the child's injury as a result of the raid in which the warplanes of the coalition forces targeted them was serious.

One of the child victims, named Abdulmajeed, who is 7 years old, was suffering from wounds on his body and arm, and he spoke denouncing what the aggression coalition had done, saying: "The aviation of the Saudi forces and their coalition targeted us, I study with my third-grade classmates and we do not carry any weapons. We used to study the Qur'an and books within the school curriculum."

The father of the child, Abdulmajeed, called Salah Hassan, said: "This is my son who went to school, so the Saudi aviation and its alliance came and hit him and his colleagues, so they were 8 killed and wounded. They were in the school studying in the third and fourth grades. The Qur'an and strengthening the lessons of the curriculum.

Another child victim was injured as a result of the coalition warplanes targeting their school while they were learning. His uncle, who was with him, Ali Salah Fadel, said: "This child and a number of children targeted them at school when they gathered for education, they hit schools and teachers, so what is left? For them, here they are before you dead bodies' parts of children, and there are (20) wounded people in the hospital, and in this room there are five, two of them are my sister's children. I appeal to the United Nations that injustice prevails and all countries cooperated against the poor Yemeni people."

Saleh Hassan Yahya, father of the child Fares, who had fractures in the head and hand, said that (15) wounded were injured along with his child, and there are many dead.

At the targeted school in the roundabout in Juma'a Bin Fadel in Haidan District, one of those who volunteered to teach the children spoke about what happened, saying: "The warplanes came while we were here and the plane was flying for the first and second time, and the third time it struck on the school. We had admitted the students before they came to the school to study, the plane struck them, so the children were cut up dead bodies, we only knew them with the bags that they carried and their names on the books. (7) were killed, including (5) children and (2) elderly, and the wounded are approximately (24) children and the rest are still under the rubble.

One of the teachers who was teaching the children, whose name is Hamid Ahmed Al Fadel, said: "We went right after dawn at six in the morning, we entered the students to the school and we began to teach them surahs from the Noble Qur'an, and at seven o'clock the flight began to fly and we did not hear anything and at half past seven we found nothing but children under the rubble, wrecked by the missile fired by the plane.

They saw our children pulled out from under the destruction, and if they were Houthis, they would not be able to achieve any goal, but because they are children they have achieved so. They do not want our children to be educated after they bombed every educational school in the area, but we will continue to teach our children even under the trees. The dead numbered (7), five of them were children and (2) were teachers. As for the injuries, 21 were wounded, and the school is far from the nearest ambulance center (12 km) and about (70-80 km) from Saada city, the number of the dead people might increase due to the serious injuries of the wounded.

I send a message to the United Nations to be a protector of children's and human rights, and it must stop these violations by the warplanes of Saudi Arabia and its alliance, and we bear it with everything that happens and will happen.

Dr. Ali Fadel, 28 years old, a UNICEF employee, said that 28 children from Jumaa Bin Fadel village who were in the Al-Tahfez School were injured in the air raid that targeted the school. They arrived at the Republican Hospital in Saada at 11.30 am on August 13, 2016. Their wounds are between serious and moderate. Some of them were discharged because their injuries were minor, and some were transferred to the intensive care unit, and some of them underwent surgical intervention and are still at the hospital's inpatient department.



Photo of the dead victims of children

A picture of a wounded child





## International condemnation of the massacre

Doctors Without Borders said that 10 children were killed and 28 injured in Saada Governorate, in the far north of Yemen.

The organization said in tweets on Twitter: "The victims are children in a school in the district of Haidan in Saada, 10 dead and 28 wounded." The organization confirmed that all of the victims ranged between the ages of 8 to 15 years.

Médecins Sans Frontières also published on its website through the organization's media official (Malik Shaher), where she said: "We have received 10 killed children and 28 wounded, all under 15, all victims of air strikes on a Koranic school in Haidan, northern Yemen," noting that the raid was carried out on Saturday.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said: "An air strike on Saturday killed at least seven children and wounded 21 others in a religious school in the northern Yemeni governorate of Saada. The children who were killed ranged between 6 to 14 years old, and they were attending their lessons. At a school in Jum`a Bin Fadel village in Haidan district, northern Saada governorate, UNICEF said that child survivors are receiving treatment at a hospital in Sa`ada city.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, condemned the bombing of the educational center in Jumaa Bin Fadel, which killed children and injured many, reiterating that civilians, including children, continue to bear the burden of the escalation of fighting and military operations on Yemen, and calls for an urgent investigation. In one of the latest war crimes committed by the Saudi regime against dozens of children in Saada Governorate



Picture of a child walking on the ruins of the targeted school

## A vigil for Yemeni children condemning the Juma'a Bin Fadel massacre:

On the morning of Sunday, August 13, 2017, a number of civil society organizations organized a vigil entitled "Save the Children of Yemen" in front of the United Nations building in Sana'a, coinciding with the first anniversary of the massacre of children by the Saudi-led coalition against children at Alqahira School in Juma'a Bin Fadel District in the Haidan District of Saada Governorate.

The rally, which was under the slogan (the coalition of aggression kills the children of Yemen) condemned the crimes committed by the Saudi-American aggression against defenseless civilians, women and children in Yemen, and the international silence as a result of the aerial bombardment and the loss of their parents and families to civilians and children over the course of two and a half years.

Civil society organizations held the full responsibility for the continuation of these crimes to the United Nations system and mechanisms, which bears the responsibility to protect civilians in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international conventions and agreements related to the protection of children, as well as in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The statement called on the United Nations and organizations of the international community to include the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its allies in the lists of child violators and killers, to open an investigation into violations of aggression against childhood in Yemen, and to put pressure on countries to stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia.



## **Description of the violation according to international humanitarian law**

The targeting of Alqahira School, located in Juma'a Bin Fadel area of Haidan District, amounts to a full-fledged war crime, as the school is a civilian object far from the camps, military areas or the battle fronts, and it is located in a civilian area, and the school's attendees are students and children who study science and the Noble Qur'an. This represents a clear and explicit violation of the laws of war and international humanitarian law, which stipulates that warring parties must distinguish at all times between military and civilian targets and refrain from launching attacks that are expected to harm civilians, and this law includes all civilians with protection without any discrimination and specifically mentioning women and children, as they represent the most vulnerable groups during armed conflicts. The principle of distinction in international humanitarian law states that any direct attack on civilians or anything civilian is not only considered a violation of international humanitarian law, but is also considered a grave violation and constitutes war crimes. International humanitarian law also prohibits any weapon that is unable to distinguish between civilians/civilian objects and combatants/military objects.

While the general international humanitarian law criminalizes targeting of civilians, civilian objects, installations and residential gatherings, directly or indirectly, the countries of the Saudi aggression coalition target wedding and funeral halls, residences, schools, roads, markets and other civilian objects, and knowing that it is forbidden to target such places and that targeting them is a serious violation of international law General, international humanitarian law and related Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Basic Principles of the United Nations Charter on International Peace and Security, which all emphasize the protection of human rights and the prohibition of targeting civilians and civilian objects and their obligation to neutralize them in situations of armed conflict and in accordance with the relevant articles and the protocols added to the four Geneva Conventions of the year (1949), which stipulated that the civilian population should enjoy full protection against the dangers resulting from military operations and required the observance of a number of rules during conflicts. In addition to the applicable basic rules, which stated the following:

**First:** The civilian population shall not be the object of attack, nor shall it be subject to threats and intimidation.

**Second:** Civilians enjoy protection unless they take a direct part in the hostilities.

**Third:** Indiscriminate attacks are prohibited and every attack is considered indiscriminate unless directed at a military objective, as well as any attack whose effects cannot be limited to the targeted military objective and whose effects go beyond damage to civilian objects and injury to civilians without discrimination. There are many paragraphs and details that all require taking precautions and measures to avoid losses in civilians.



Also, the violations included in public and humanitarian international law, the Geneva Conventions and the protocols annexed thereto, which included prohibiting the practice of siege with the aim of starving civilians by depriving them of indispensable materials or obstructing their access to them, as well as striking buildings, means of transport and individuals.

Here, it should be noted that the legal paragraphs and articles presented are nothing but simple examples to infer the violations and violations of the coalition forces of all international and humanitarian covenants and treaties, and to prove that the coalition countries did not adhere to any standards and did not give any consideration to taking the precautionary measures to be taken in the event of targeting or launching raids. The destruction of civilian homes and notables, or its imposition of a comprehensive siege on the Yemeni people, and the resulting violation of the basic human rights of civilians of all segments and categories, including children.

This crime is also considered one of the worst crimes against children, as many children were killed as a result of targeting, and it is considered a crime against humanity, as the aggression launched several raids on a number of markets and schools for several times, in an intentional and systematic manner.



One of the wounded victims children



## Names of the dead victims in the Juma'a Bin Fadel massacre

S.	Name	Sex	Age
1	Hadi Dhaifallah Hassn Almasni	Male	85
2	Hassn Mohamed Munasr Alqahira	Male	35
3	Dhaifallah Ali Hadi Daifallah Almasni	Child	5
4	Mahmoud Ghaleb Quraish Mufreh Saleh	Child	9
5	Hussien Ahmed Edah Saleh Quraish	Child	8
6	Hamza Abdallah Mahd Albadawi	Child	7
7	Rasheed Hamed Mohamed Dhaifallah	Child	10
8	Ali Gathwan Alfadhli	Child	8

S.	Name	Sex	Age
1	Wazeer Qasem Mohamed Munasr	Child	12
2	Nasrallah Munasr Mohamed Munasr	Child	7
3	Ali Mohamed Edah Zaid	Child	9
4	Mahdi Mosleh Mahdi Hassn	Child	10
5	Tarad Ali Hadi Dhaifallah Hassn	Child	10
6	Mahmoud Ahmed Ali Gathwan	Child	8
7	Zaki Saleh Dhaifallah Gathwan	Child	7
8	Abdulrazaq Saleh Dhaifallah Gathwan	Child	8

### Names of the dead victims in the Juma'a Bin Fadel massacre

S.	Name	Sex	Age
9	Salman Samer Shadad Araj	Child	20
10	Hameed Ahmed Sageer La'mas	Child	21
11	Hael Khald Hassn Mute'b	Child	10
12	Hamad Ghaleb Quraish Mufarh Saleh	Child	12
13	Fares Faisal Sallah	Child	10
14	Jehad Mohamed Qasm Albadawi	Child	9
15	Sallah Faisal Sallah	Child	13
16	Tawfiq Hussien Qalawan	Child	9
17	Ka'bi Ali Qalawan	Child	9
18	Nasrallah Faisal Sallah	Child	7
19	Jebreel Qasm Mohamed Munasr	Child	7

## Pictures of the wounded due to the massacre



# Recommendations

- **Work to stop the war on Yemen and lift the siege by land, sea and air.**
- **Demanding international organizations, especially the United Nations and the Security Council, to intensify their efforts in documenting the crimes committed by the coalition of aggression in which civilians are present, especially crimes against children, and imposing legal protection for this category in accordance with the dictates of the principles of international humanitarian law in particular.**
- **We demand the formation of an independent fact-finding committee consisting of people known for their competence and impartiality to investigate the massacres of aggression against children, and to bring to trial the leadership of the aggression coalition and the perpetrators of crimes and massacres.**
- **That the international community fulfill its legal responsibilities and put pressure on the coalition countries, to ensure the protection of schools and residential neighborhoods from the repercussions of their hostile operations.**
- **The organization urges all families of victims of Dahyan students to file lawsuits before the national courts in the capital, Sana'a, to guarantee their legal right before the national judiciary.**
- **That the Security Council fulfill its responsibility towards child protection and establish special mechanisms to hold violators of children's rights accountable in Yemen.**
- **That the Human Rights Council be responsible for following up the situation of children's rights in Yemen in detail, especially with regard to the educational, health and nutritional aspect as a result of the siege and aggression against our country.**
- **We call on the international community and international organizations working in the humanitarian and human rights field to assume their moral and legal responsibilities towards the systematic targeting of Yemen in general and children in particular in all aspects of their lives, and to stand by the children of Yemen and support them in obtaining their right to life.**
- **We call on all states that supply arms to coalition countries, including the US and UK, to suspend all transfers of arms that are used to commit violations of international law, including war crimes, to the countries carrying out the attacks.**





## منظمة انتصاف لحقوق المرأة والطفل Entesaf Organization for Woman and Child Rights

Organization's address: Before Saba roundabout - Yemen - Sana'a  
Phone numbers: 778000596-778000597

Organization links:

Email: [entesaforg2@gmail.com](mailto:entesaforg2@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EntesafOrg/>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCTqhgyKY7eriQWo4M2sMD4rA>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/entesaf2?s=08>

Telegram: <https://t.me/Entesaforg>

Website: <https://entesaf.org/380/>