



Ghafera... Will not forgive

A report documenting the crime of bombing Al Ghalis houses at Ghafera area
Al Dhaher District - Saada Governorate 20th June 2018

Entesaf Organization for Woman and Children Rights

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

- **Raising societal awareness of women's and children's rights as guaranteed by Islamic Sharia and embodied in international conventions and covenants.**
- **Advocating the issues of women and children legally and socially, in a way that guarantees them a dignified family life, as they are the basic cell of society.**
- **Monitoring all violations and attacks against women and children in war and peace, whether they were done by individuals ,governmental, non-governmental groups or hostile countries announcing these violations and attacks to public opinion.**
- **Preparing and issuing human rights reports on cases of women and children violations.**
- **Providing psychological support for women and children who are exposed to violations in peace and war.**
- **Protecting women and children from all forms of violence directed against them from family or society, and protecting them from abuse during investigation.**
- **Reducing beggary and child labour.**
- **Enhancing women participation in society**

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Introduction

Yemen is suffering from a war caused by the Saudi coalition which is deliberately violated civilians and committed the most heinous crimes against women and children without respecting human values, during this aggression thousands were killed and wounded. Moreover, the Saudi coalition deliberately targeted neighborhoods, markets, schools, hospitals, mosques and vital facilities. Since 26 March 2015 Saudi Arabia coalition have continued to commit massacres against civilians(women and children) such as the crime that was committed at Al Ghalis houses at Ghafera area in Al Dhaher District in Saada Governorate which led to the deaths of several civilians and wounded others, those raids were launched without distinguishing between civilians and military targets, and it left memories will not be forgotten for years by Ghafera people and victims' families .

Executive summary

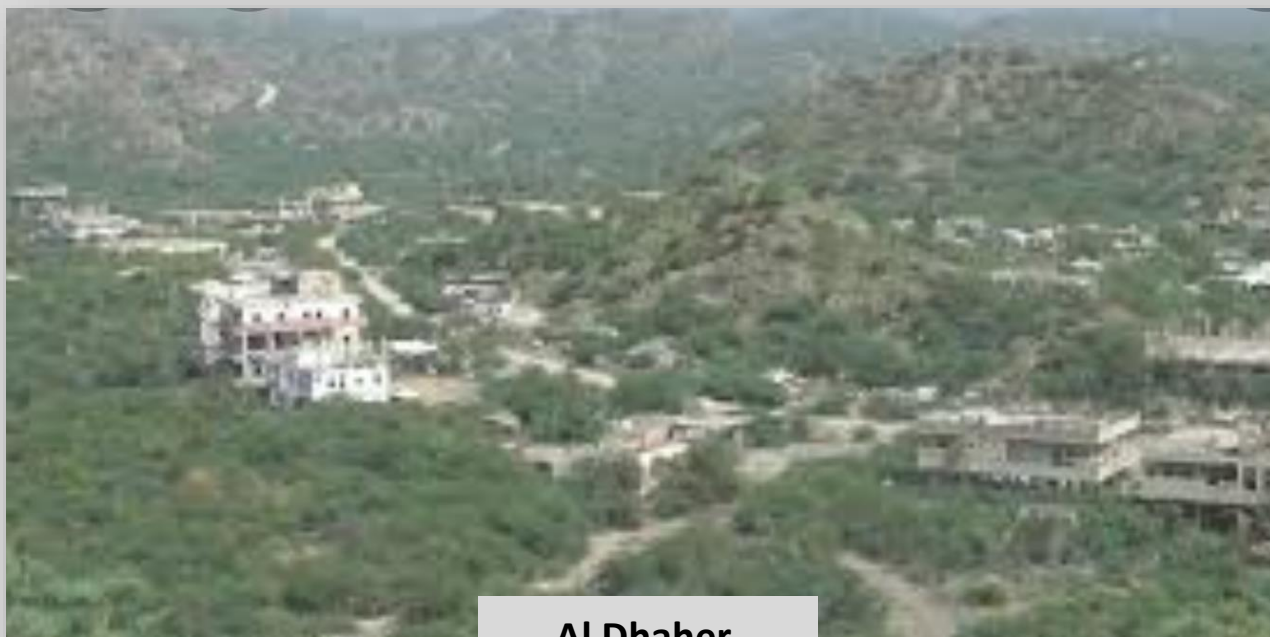
The report "Ghafera will not forgive " documents the crime committed by the Saudi coalition warplane on Wednesday 20th of June 2018 at Ghafera area in Saada governorate which killed civilians including women and children . In this report we talked about the details of the crime and the testimonies of witnesses, as well as the legal framework for the crime according to the international laws.

Methodology

This report is based on the organization's statistics regarding to the details of the crime and the number of victims. It also relied on interviews that were conducted by some media outlet and witnesses. In addition , the report is based on the international law texts, treaties and conventions in order to clarify the legal framework of the crime that was committed against women and children on Ghafera area.

A brief overview of at Ghafera area

Ghafera area is one of Al Dhaher District area in Saada Governorate, its population is 7,397, according to 2004 statistics.



Al Dhaher
District

Details of the Saudi coalition massacre on Ghafera area

On Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 12 p.m, the Saudi coalition aggression committed a heinous crime against civilians, women and children. The Saudi coalition warplanes targeted with three air raids Al Ghalis houses , the first raid hit the house of Hussein Yahya Ghalis, the second raid hit the house of Hussein Ghalis, and the third raid hit the house of Hassen Mohammed Ghalis in Ghafera area, which led to the death and the injury of a number of victims. The raid also caused a great deal of destruction, and the people of the area rushed to rescue and retrieve the victims from under the rubble .There was not any armed manifestations ,or military points ,or weapons depots, or camps, or any nearby flaming fronts . This confirms that this crime is a deliberate crime which civilians not related to the war were targeted, and they were not in a suspicious place or near a military gathering or a place provide support to the military fronts. The outcome of the targeting was:

Killed: 3 children and two women

Wounded: 7 civilians, including 3 children and two women



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Condemnations

Civil society organizations, including Entesaf Organization for Women and Children Rights, condemned the crime committed against citizen at Ghafera area in Saada Governorate. They denounced the shameful international silence and the violation of the international humanitarian laws and the laws of war and other heavenly norms and laws. Which include rules and principles aimed to provide protection for children and women. Entesaf Organization held the Saudi coalition the responsibility for all crimes and violations against innocent civilians . It also called on the international community, UN organizations, and human rights to assume their legal and humanitarian responsibilities towards violations and heinous massacres that occur against Yemeni people, and called on all honorable people in the world to take an effective and positive actions to stop the Saudi coalition aggression and protect civilians especially, women and children . In addition, Entesaf organization called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to do their duty and assume their responsibilities towards these crimes and to stop them. It also demanded to stop the siege, and to form an independent international committee to investigate in all crimes that were committed against Yemeni people and punishes all those who were involved in these crimes.

Eyewitness testimonies

The first witness, Muhammad Jaber Ali Ghalis (one of the victims' relatives ,also he was wounded) said: "On Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 12 p.m while I was in my house at Al Ghalis village in Ghafrah area of Al Dhaher district, we were surprised by the Saudi coalition warplanes launching an air raid on the village, where the missile fell next to my cousin Hussein Yahya Ghalis house, after few minutes the second raid was launched, which was very explosive, it was launched on my cousin Hussein house. My house was damaged ,and I was also injured due to the flying shrapnel. When I went out of my house , I found that my cousin Hussein Ghalis house, which is near my house was flattened. The citizens gathered to help the residents of the house in which three children and a woman were killed, and 6 others were injured , including two women and two girls, one of those girls was an infant. There is no justification for the Saudi coalition warplanes to target our homes. There are no armed clashes in our area, and there are no camps or any armed manifestations."

The second witness, Yahya Jaber Ali Ghalis (one of the victims' relatives)Said: "On Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 12 p.m the Saudi coalition warplanes launched three air raids on our village (Al Ghalis) in Ghafera area of Al-Dhaher district ,that killed 4 of my cousin's family most of them were children and women. Also others were wounded, including two women and two children, in addition my brother Muhammad Jaber was injured, who was inside his house that was next the targeted house. The Saudi coalition warplanes kept flying over the area, preventing us from approaching the targeted house to help the victims, but the sounds of women and children screaming and asking for help made us rush to rescue them, risking our lives to save them. We rescued those who were still alive and transferred them to a safe place to receive first aid."

The third witness, Abdo Ali Hassen Ghalis (a resident of the targeted village) said: On Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 12 p.m the Saudi coalition warplanes launched several air raids on our village that is located in Ghafera area of Al-Dhaher district, one of those air raids targeted the house of the resident Hussein Yahya Ghalis which led to kill four from his family members all of them children, and wounding 6 others most of them children and women. We pulled them out from under the rubble of their house, which was flattened. Till now we do not know why the Saudi coalition targeted our village!! There is no armed clashes or camps, but we are simple citizens who hardly find their basic needs.”

Description of the violation according to International Humanitarian Law

The Saudi coalition targeted civilians houses which is consider a deliberate crime because the houses and the targeted civilians are far from the military areas and the battle fronts .Furthermore, most of those who were in the houses were women and children . So, this represent a clear and explicit violation of the laws of war and the International Humanitarian Law, which states that warring parties must distinguish between military and civilian objectives ,and refrain from attacks that are expected to cause harm to civilians . This law protect all civilians without any discrimination, especially women and children for they represent the most vulnerable groups during armed conflicts. This crime is also considered one of the grave crimes against children because many children had been affected as a result of this targeting . Moreover , According to the Articles (47,27) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article (46) of the Regulations of the Fourth Hague Convention and the Additional Protocol (48) affirm that the conflict parties should all the time distinguish between civilian population and combatants ,also between civilian and military objects. ”



Victims' names

Some victims' names killed in the crime of targeting Ghafera area – Saada governorate on 20th of June 2018

N	Name	Kind	Age
1	Mustafa Sultan Yahya Ghalis	child	2
2	Rawabi Hussein Yahya Ghalis	child	1
3	Asia Hussain Yahya Ghalis	child	5
4	Fajmh Jaber Yahya Ghalis	Female	22

Some victims' names wounded in the crime of targeting Ghafera area – Saada governorate on 20th of June 2018

N	Name	Kind	Age
1	Harbah Saleh Hussein Al-Malti	Female	45
2	Mana'a Suleiman Yahya Ghalis	Female	25
3	Aseera Hussein Yahya Ghalis	child	12
4	Yahya Jaber Yahya Ghalis	Male	28
5	Muhammad Jaber Ali Ghalis	Male	35
6	Thoraya Hussein Yahya Ghalis	Infant	2 months

Recommendations

- ❖ **The unjust aggression on Yemen should be stopped .**
- ❖ **We demand the international organizations and the United Nations to put pressure on the Saudi coalition to stop the crimes that are committed against civilians, especially women and children .**
- ❖ **We demand the United Nations to cancel its decision to delete the Saudi coalition from the list of killing and maiming children, as they continue to commit horrific massacres against women and children since the beginning of the aggression till these days.**
- ❖ **We demand all human rights, legal and media organizations to monitor and document all violations and crimes committed against civilians, especially women and children, and reveal these crimes to the public opinion to bring the perpetrators to justice.**
- ❖ **We demand to comprise an independent committee in this crime and all crimes and violations that have been occurred since 26 March 2015 the beginning of the aggression ,and bring the leadership of the Saudi coalition aggression and the perpetrators of these crimes and massacres to the trial.**



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

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

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