



Report of targeting civilians with a cluster bomb_ Alrauna area_ Al Jawf governorate

A human rights report documenting the crime of bombing a cluster bomb by the coalition aircraft in Alrauna area- Kharab Almarashi district_ Al Jawf governorate Jan 7, 2019.

Intisaf for woman and child rights

a human rights organization seeks to protect women and children by supporting and defending their issues, raising community awareness of them and rehabilitating them psychologically and morally.

- 1. Raise community awareness of the rights of women and children as guaranteed by Islamic law and contained in international conventions and charters.**
- 2. Support women and children's issues legally and socially in order to ensure a decent family life for them, as they are the basic cell of society.**
- 3. Monitor all violations and abuses against women and children in war and peace, whether by governmental individuals and bodies or non-governmental groups or hostile countries, and announce them to public opinion .**
- 4. Prepare and producing human rights reports on cases of women and children's violations.**
- 5. Protect women and children from ill-treatment in family and society, combating all forms of violence against them and protect them from abuse during the investigation .**
- 6. Provide the necessary psychological support to women and children who are exposed to violations in war and peace.**
- 7. Stop child begging and labor**
- 8. Improve women and enhance their participation in society.**

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Introduction

Yemen is suffering from a war of aggression by the coalition of aggression [1], where it deliberately violated the rights of civilians and committed the most heinous crimes against women and children without any consideration to humanitarian and moral values. During which thousands were killed or wounded, and deliberately the coalition targeted civilian neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, mosques and vital facilities. Since the beginning of the aggression on March 26, 2015, the aggressive coalition continued committing massacres against civilians of women and children, which is obviously indicated in the crime committed against the civilians in Alrauna area in Kharab Almarashi directorate- Al Jawf governorate. The coalition of aggression caused a number of victims were killed or injured, without distinguishing between a clear civilian target and legitimate military objectives. The airstrikes left tragedies that the people of Alrauna area, especially the families of the victims, have not forgotten for years.

[1]the aggressive coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Executive summary

The report documents the crime committed against civilians as a result of the explosion of a bomb left over from the aggressive coalition airstrikes in Alrauna area- Al Jawf governorate, which left behind a number of women and children victims. We talked during this report about the details of the crime and witness' statements. We also talked about the legal framework of the crime according to international laws and charters.

Methodology

This report is based on the organization's statistics regarding the details of the crime and the number of victims, as well as on interviews conducted with witnesses. International legal texts, treaties and conventions were referred to in order to clarify the legal framework of the crime committed against the civilians in Alrauna area.

A brief overview of Ghamr directorate

Kharab Almarashi district: it is one of the directorates of Al Jawf governorate, with a population of 63,532 according to the 2004 census.



Kharab Almarashi district

Details of the massacre of the aggressive coalition in Alrauna area

The coalition of aggression committed a heinous crime against the civilians of women and children on Monday Jan 7, 2019, at 1:00 PM, where an unexploded bomb left behind from previous airstrikes by the aggression coalition forces detonated as several women were carrying water from the reservoir to their sheep in Alrauna area. While herding, a young girl discovered a cluster bomb left over from previous airstrikes by the aggression coalition forces. The explosion killed one child and wounded several women and children. There are no armed manifestations, military checkpoints, weapons stores, cantonment or even one of the active battlefronts around the area, which confirms that this is a complete and obvious crime. The innocent civilians who are not related to the war were targeted in this crime. They were also not in a suspicious location, a military gathering near them, or a place to plan and provide any support to the military fronts.

The targeting toll of victims is as follows:

Killed: a child

Wounded: two women and two children

Domestic condemnation

Civil society organizations, including Entesaf for woman and child rights, condemned the crime committed against innocent civilians in Alrauna area in Kharab Almarashi directorate- Al Jawf. It also condemned the shameful international silence and violation of international and humanitarian laws and charters, the laws of war and other heavenly customs and canons and throwing them aside, which include rules and principles aimed to mainly provide protection to children and women.

The organization also blamed the coalition of aggression for all crimes and violations against innocent civilians, and called on the international community, UN organizations and human rights and humanitarian bodies to assume their legal and humanitarian responsibilities towards the violations and heinous massacres that occur against the safe civilians of the Yemeni people. It also called on all the free and honorable people of the world to take effective and positive actions to stop the aggression and protect civilians of women and children. In addition to, the organization called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to do their duty and assume their responsibilities regarding these crimes and work to stop them, lift the siege and form an independent international commission to investigate all crimes committed against the Yemeni people and discipline all those who prove their involvement in these crimes.

Witnesses' statements

The testimonies of some of those who were present at the scene of the airstrike were heard, and all of their testimonies held the so-called coalition responsible for this crime and that it was the planes of the aggressive coalition that carried out this crime.

A 48-year-old witness (M.Y.A) stated:" while my wife and daughters, Awamer Mohsen and Fitna Mohsen, were at the local water reservoir from which we and the residents get water, the young Nojoud Ahmed Musleh Mutwan arrived with her family's sheep to water them. Young Nojoud was carrying a black metal object that she was hitting the ground with. Suddenly it detonated, injuring her, my wife, my daughters, and another woman who was nearby, according to my wounded wife. Hearing their screams for help, I ran to the location, along with several other residents. The scene we waited us was horrific. Nojoud body was tragically mutilated. My wife and daughters covered in blood. We found the remnant of the bomb that exploded, and we realized that it was a cluster munition dropped by warplanes in our area approximately one year prior.

I don't remember the exact date it was dropped. I carried my injured wife and daughters, and some of our neighbors helped me to rescue and treat the injured. I was concerned for my wife and daughters; their injuries were critical and with no medical facilities nearby, I had to find a way to get them to the Republic Hospital in Saada city.

A 25-year-old witness (Y.A.A) reported:" my young niece Nojoud Ahmed Saleh Mutwan, was herding their sheep when she came across an unidentified object, resembling a piece of metal. Sadly, due to a lack of education about these dangers, and the fact that it was a cluster bomb, she picked it up, intending to play with it. As she was watering the sheep at the reservoir, the cluster bomb detonated, harming several woman and girls nearby. The explosion tragically killed 12-year-old Nojoud Ahmed and left 4 other women and girls with varying injuries. Upon hearing the blast, I rushed to the scene, recovering Nojoud's body. And brought her home. A year ago, the Saudi coalition's warplanes launched an airstrike dropping cluster bombs, some of them exploded at the time, while the others still among the sand, pasture, and farms, threatening the lives of our children and families. The residents of the area are rural people who know nothing about these bombs, their types, sizes, or dangers. We appeal to human rights and international organizations, as well as General Directorate for Demining, to form a field team to go to the area and remove the danger that threatens us from the spread of the cluster munition, and to conduct awareness campaigns for the people to the area about them.

Description of the violation according to international humanitarian law

targeting civilians by the coalition of aggression's aircraft with cluster munitions in populated areas represents a definite and complete war crime. Whereas the targeted places are far from military camps, military zones, or battlefronts and are mainly populated by women and children. This represents a clear and explicit violation of international humanitarian and war laws, which stipulate that war parties must at all times distinguish between military and civilian targets and refrain from launching attacks that are expected to cause harm to civilians.

This law also contains all civilians with protection without any discrimination, especially women and children, as they represent the most vulnerable groups during armed conflicts. The principle of Distinction in IHL states that any direct attack on civilians or any civilian object is not only a violation of IHL, but also a serious violation and constitutes war crimes, and IHL prohibits any weapon that is unable to distinguish between civilians / civilian objects and combatants /

Articles (74, 72) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article (64) of the regulation of the fourth Hague Convention and Article (84) of Additional Protocol 1 also affirm that "the parties of the conflict shall endeavor to distinguish between the civilian population and combatants, and between civilian and military objects."

Victims' names

killed victims' names in the crime of targeting Alrauna area in Al Jawf governorate Jan 7, 2019

| | Name | Gender | Age |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1 | Nojoud Ahmed Musleh Mutwan Alfurjah | child | 12 |

wounded victims' names in the crime of targeting Alrauna area in Al Jawf governorate Jan 7, 2019

| | Name | Gender | Age |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1 | Rabe'a Saleh Ali Mutwan Alfurjah | female | 45 |
| 2 | Awamer Mohsen Yahya Ali Alfurjah | child | 7 |
| 3 | Fitna Mohsen Yahya Alfurjah | child | 15 |
| 4 | Raziqah Saleh Ali Alfurajah | female | 35 |

Recommendation

- 1- Work to stop the unjust aggression on Yemen on land and human.**
- 2- We demand international organization, headed by the united nations, to pressurize the countries of the coalition of aggression to stop crimes committed against civilians, especially women and children.**
- 3- We demand the United Nations to cancel its decision to remove the aggression coalition from the list of killing and maiming children, as they continue committing terrible massacres against women and children since the beginning of aggression till this day.**
- 4- We call on all human rights, legal and media organizations and bodies to monitor and document all violations and crimes committed against civilians, especially women and children, and expose them to international public opinion in preparation for bringing the perpetrators to justice.**
- 5- We demand to format an independent fact-finding committee to investigate this crime and all the crimes and violations that have occurred since the beginning of the aggression on March 26, 2015 and submit the leadership of the coalition of aggression and the perpetrators of crimes and massacres to courts.**



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

Organization address: Saba' corner

Phone numbers: 778000596-778000597

Organization links:

Email: info@entesaf.org

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

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCTqhgKY7eriQWo4M2sMD4rA>

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/entesaf2?s=80>

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

Website: <https://entesaf.org>