



## Death Remains

A human rights report documenting the crime of bombing the house of citizen\ Ahmed Salim Balel by the coalition aircraft in Alha'ed area- Hais directorate- Hodeidah governorate April 16, 2018.

## **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 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 civilians in Alha'ed area in Hais directorate-Hodeidah. 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 Alha'ed 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 (Death Remains) documents the crime committed by the aggressive coalition aircrafts on April 16, 2018 in Alha'ed area- Hodeidah, which left behind a number of civilian 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 AlHa'ed area.

## A brief overview of Hais Directorate

**Hais Directorate:** it is one of the directorates of Hodeidah governorate, with a population of **45436** according to the 2004 census.



Hais district

## Details of the massacre of the aggressive coalition on Alha'ed area

They worked on a farm where their small home was located. All their dreams and memories revolved around this home. This house, in short, was their entire world. A father, a mother and their children used to work all day among crops and livestock and they would return their home at nightfall to rest their bodies and regain their energy for the next day. However, this time, they did not complete their days work, nor did they return home at sunset. The sun had set on their lives forever and their bodies had vanished into eternity.

The coalition of aggression committed a heinous crime against the civilians on Monday April 16, 2018, 10:30 AM, where the coalition of aggression aircrafts targeted the house of citizen\ Ahmed Salim Balel in a farm in Alha'ed area-Hodeidah. This targeting caused a number of fatalities, both, dead and wounded. The airstrike also left behind a massive damage. The residents rushed to rescue and pull the injured from the rubble. 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: 7 civilians including 4 women and 2 children**

**Wounded: a child**



## Domestic condemnation

Civil society organizations, including Entesaf for woman and child rights, condemned the crime committed against civilians in Alha'ed area in Hais directorate- Hodeidah. 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.

\_The farm owner, (A.D.A.S.), stated: 'On Monday, April 16, 2018, at approximately 10:30 AM, my farm was hit with an airstrike by the Saudi-led aggression coalition. The attack tragically killed one of my workers, his wife, and five of their daughters, and left another daughter wounded. The house was completely destroyed, and the farm suffered extensive damage, including the loss of twelve cattle. We don't understand why they were targeted; they were just simple civilians not involved in any military activity.'

\_One of the witnesses (M.M.A.SH.) said: 'On Monday, April 16th, at approximately 10:30 AM, we heard an explosion at a local farm. We didn't know what had caused the attack and couldn't leave our homes to investigate due to the heavy overflight of warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition that attack our country.'



An hour later, we went out and found that the explosion was a result of targeting the house of one of the workers on the farm of citizen Ali Dawood Ahmed Salim. The attack tragically killed him, his wife, and five of their daughters, and wounded their sixth daughter. We no longer feel secure, watching this continuous and systematic targeting of civilians without any justification, despite our area has no military activity."

Another witness (M.D.Q.M.) said: 'At approximately 10:30 AM, Ahmed Salem Balel's home in Alha'ed was struck. The airstrike tragically killed him, his wife, and five of their daughters, and wounded his sixth daughter. There's no possible justification for this attack; he was merely a farm worker who couldn't have imagined his place of work would become his grave.'"

## Description of the violation according to international humanitarian law

The targeting of civilian's homes and properties by the coalition of aggression's aircraft represents a definite and complete war crime. Whereas the targeted house is far from military camps, military zones, or battlefronts and located in a civilian area. In addition to, there were women and children lived in. 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 crime is considered one of the most heinous crimes against children as many of them were killed because of this attack.

Articles (47, 27) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article (46) of the regulation of the fourth Hague Convention and Article (48) 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 Alha'ed area in  
Hodeidah governorate April 16, 2018

|   | Name                          | Gender | Age |
|---|-------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1 | Ahmed Salim Balel             | Male   | 60  |
| 2 | Sunbulah Awadh Yahya Kamal    | Female | 50  |
| 3 | Wardah Ahmed Salim Balel      | Child  | 18  |
| 4 | Hanan Ahmed Salim Balel       | Child  | 17  |
| 5 | Kholod Ahmed Salim Balel      | Female | 20  |
| 6 | Rawan Yahya Ahmed Salim Balel | Child  | 12  |
| 7 | Mariam Abdo Ali Obaid Zuhair  | Child  | 10  |

Wounded victims' names in the crime of targeting Alha'ed area in  
Hodeidah governorate April 16, 2018

|   | Name                     | Gender | Age |
|---|--------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1 | Fatima Ahmed Salim Balel | Child  | 16  |

## 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>