



## Father's Walls

A human rights report documenting the crime of bombing the house of citizen\ Mohammed Mahdi Khadrah by the coalition aircraft in Wanen area- Baqim directorate- Saada governorate March 29, 2017.

## **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 the house of civilian\ Mohammed Mahdi in Wanen area in Bakim directorate- Saada 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 Wanen 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 (Father's Walls) documents the crime committed on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 by the aggressive coalition aircrafts in Wanen area- Saada governorate, 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 Wanen area.

# A breif overview of Baqim directorate

**Baqim Directorate:** it is one of the directorates of Saada governorate, with a population of 22965 according to the 2004 census.



Baqim district

## Details of the massacre of the aggressive coalition on Wanen area

Fleeing death's shadow, women seek haven in their fathers' arms, clutching their children. They hide within the walls of childhood and youth memories, leaving homes and villages for a chance at peace with their kids. However, treacherous planes have no regard for their suffering, nor do they acknowledge these people's right to life. The very walls meant to protect now collapse, pulling them into the death they had run from.

The coalition of aggression committed a heinous crime against civilians of women and children on Wednesday March 29, 2017, 10:00 AM, where the coalition of aggression aircrafts targeted the house of citizen\ Mohammed Mahdi Khadra in Wanen area- Saada governorate. 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: 9 children and 2 women**  
**Wounded: 4 civilians including 2 children**  
**and a woman**





## Domestic condemnation

Civil society organizations, including Entesaf for woman and child rights, condemned the crime committed against the family of citizen\ Mohammed Mahdi Khadra in Wanen area in Baqim directorate- Saada. 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.

\_(H.A.Kh.), a relative of the victims, said: “At 10 PM, Saudi aggression warplanes carried out two airstrikes on Mohammed Mahdi Khadra’s home. The house was destroyed over the heads of the children and women inside, turning it into rubble mixed with the remains of those killed. They lay trapped under the rubble until the next day. Constant aerial surveillance prevented any rescue attempts until the following day, by which time they had all passed away. We recovered the bodies of 8 children and 2 women lifeless and mutilated. Mohammed Mahdi, his daughter, and his two grandsons were also pulled from the rubble and are now in critical condition at the hospital. Why were civilians targeted?!” Saudi warplanes carried out an act of human extermination, killing 14 members of one family. Among the victims was Nora, nine months pregnant, along with her five children: Turki, Abdelaziz, Sultan, Shurooq, and Thikra.

Najah Mohammed Mahdi, who had been displaced to her father's house, was also killed with her children, Ammar and Bayan. Saudi aircraft targeted them despite their displacement to their grandfather's house, which they had moved to fearing Saudi airstrikes on their own home. Young Khalil Hadshan was killed, while his mother and siblings, including Riyadh, were wounded. All of them were displaced and seeking shelter in Mohammed Mahdi's house. The airstrike had no reasonable justification; the area is completely civilian, and the house is in a village devoid of military installations or weapon storage. These children were innocent.

(M.J.M.), a witness, reported: "Mohammed Mahdi Khadra, along with his children and women, was in their home when a Saudi aggression warplane launched two airstrikes, collapsing the house on top of them. The rubble of the house mixed with the scattered and bodies of the children and women. Locals were unable to recover the victims' bodies or rescue the wounded due to persistent aircraft overflights. The bodies lay beneath the rubble until Wednesday morning. This was a heinous crime and an act of human extermination by Saudi aircraft, representing as a war crime. An entire family was wiped out, including two displaced women and their children. Ten were killed, and the family patriarch, his daughter, and his two grandsons were injured. Nora and her five children passed away, as did Najat and her two young children (a boy and a girl)."

(F.M.A.), a witness, stated: "The airstrikes deliberately targeted and killed children and women, with absolutely no justification. This is an agricultural area, not a military position or an arms storage, yet it was bombed by the aggression aircraft, resulting in the extermination of an entire family. The father was injured, his pregnant wife and her children were killed, one of his daughters and her children were killed, another daughter was injured, her son was killed, and two others were injured."

## Description of the violation according to international humanitarian law

The targeting of civilians' homes by the coalition of aggression's aircraft represents a definite and complete war crime. Whereas the targeted houses are 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."



## 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

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