

## Sudden Airstrikes: Out of the Blue Attacks

A human rights report documenting the crime of bombing a farm by the coalition aircraft  
Baghta village- Al Jar area- Abs directorate- Hajjah governorate Oct 19, 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 civilians in a farm in Al Jar area -Abs directorate-Hajjah 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 Al Jar 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 (Sudden Airstrikes) documents the crime committed by the aggressive coalition aircrafts on Thursday 19, Oct 2017 in Al Jar area- Hajjah governorate, which left behind a number of civilian victims including children. 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 Al Jar area.

## A breif overview of Al Jar area

**Al Jar area: it is one of the sub-districts of Abs directorate- Hajjah governorate, with a population of 675 according to the 2004 census.**



Abs district

## Details of the massacre of the aggressive coalition on a farm in Al Jar area

**We were standing next to a farm, waiting for my father to take us home. I kept glancing right and left, hoping to see him. Every man who passed, I thought was him. Night had begun to settle in the sky, and the clouds started to drift away. I had no idea that behind those clouds and that night, planes were stalking us, waiting with us until my father arrived. And then, suddenly, just as my father reached us and a smile filled my face, they were all killed—my father and my siblings.**

**The coalition of aggression committed a heinous crime against the civilians on Thursday Oct 19, 2017, 6:00 AM, where the coalition of aggression aircrafts targeted with two airstrikes a number of civilians including citizen\ Jelal Hussein Hadi Jelhouf and his children in a farm in Baghta village- Al Jar area. 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: 4 civilians including 2 children**

**Wounded: a child**

## **Domestic condemnation**

Civil society organizations, including Entesaf for woman and child rights, condemned the crime committed against the civilians in Al Jar area in Abs directorate- Hajjah. 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.

\_Mohammed Jelan Hasan Hadi, the eldest son of the victim—17 years old—spoke, saying: “My siblings, Saad and Bushra, and I were sitting on a chair next to Sheikh Mansour’s farm after finishing work there, waiting for our father to return from the house with dinner. It was 7:30 PM. Just as my father arrived, the aircraft surprised us with the first airstrike,

which targeted my father and my two young siblings. Luckily, moments before the bombing, I had moved away from them toward the bulldozer, washing the dishes we would use for dinner. The blast was extremely powerful. I fell to the ground, unconscious. The aircraft returned with a second strike right next to us. The first strike killed my father and my two young siblings. We recovered my father's mutilated body, but we found nothing of my siblings except scattered remains, and of my sister, we only found a single hand. In the morning, the villagers gathered the remains in a sack and buried them. A worker who was a relative of the farm owner was also killed with us. I am suffering greatly from the horror of the incident, and we don't know why we were targeted by the airstrikes. We are civilian farmers, working for a daily wage, and we have no guilt whatsoever for the Saudi warplanes to kill us. The area is civilian, it contains no weapons depots and no military sites; it's just farmland near populated villages."

\_One of the victims' relatives, identified as (M. H. J.), 38, also spoke, saying: 'At 7:30 PM, after Isha prayer on Thursday, 19/10/2017, a warplane launched two strikes that targeted my uncle Jelan and his young children while they were next to Mansour Al-Hamdani's farm after working there. The two children were sitting on a chair with their brother Mohammed and a worker, waiting for my uncle to return with dinner. Upon the father's arrival, at that very moment when the children were preparing to have their dinner, the plane launched the first strike, reducing them to scattered remains. Only the eldest son, Mohammed, survived, having fallen unconscious. Fortunately, he had moved away from them toward their vehicle (bulldozer) to wash the dishes they were going to use for dinner. The sheer horror of the scene caused him to suffer a state of fear and panic, and he is now receiving treatment in the hospital. The aircraft returned to launch a second strike on the area and continued to hover until the morning. We were only able to collect the remains in the morning. My uncle's body was mutilated, and of the little girl, we only found her hand. We gathered the remains of the two children into a sack and buried them, and we buried the bodies of my uncle and the worker. Four dead, including two children, were targeted by the warplanes without any justification next to a farm in Al-Jar area. We do not know why the international community remains silent about the continued crimes of the Saudi aggression. The area is civilian, containing nothing but farms and laborers working for a daily wage.'

\_Another relative of the victims, identified as (H. M. A. J.), 19, spoke, saying: 'I was in Al-Jar, and after the plane launched the first strike, I rushed over to the farm. The targets of the attack were my uncle, Jelan Hadi, and his two children after he returned from the house with dinner. We found my uncle's body, but we couldn't find the children's remains that evening because the aircraft continued to hover until morning. Of the little girl, we only found her hand, and of the boy, we found nothing but scattered remains.'

We gathered the remains in a sack and buried them. The worker was a relative of the farm owner, Sheikh Mansour Al-Hamdani, and he was also killed right next to them. Four civilians were killed by the airstrikes without any justification. There is nothing in the area but farms and poor civilian laborers. We are completely innocent.’’

## Description of the violation according to international humanitarian law

The targeting of the civilians and their farms by the coalition of aggression's aircraft represents a definite and complete war crime. Whereas the targeted places are far from military camps, military zones, or battlefronts. In addition to, there were children 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

### Names of the killed victims in the massacre of targeting a farm in Al Jar area-Hajjah Oct 19, 2017

	Name	Gender	Age
1	Jelan Hasan Hadi Jelhouf	Male	45
2	Saad Jelan Hasan Hadi Jelhouf	Child	15
3	Bushra Jelan Hasan Hadi Jelhouf	Child	12
4	Ali Almahweeti	Male	40



## **Names of the wounded victims in the massacre of targeting a farm in Al Jar area- Hajjah Oct 19, 2017**

	<b>Names</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mohammed Jelan Hasan Hadi Jelhouf</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>17</b>

## 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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