



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



المهاجرين التي تم العثور عليها في مسرح مجزرة السجن الاحتياطي

## A Human-Induced Catastrophe

A human rights report documenting the crime of targeting the remand prison by the coalition aircraft in Saada Jan 21, 2022.

## **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 for 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 prisoners in the remand prison in Saada. The coalition of aggression caused hundreds of killed and injured victims, without distinguishing between a clear civilian target and legitimate military objectives. The airstrikes left tragedies that the people of Saada governorate, especially the families of the victims, will never forget for years.

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

## Executive summary

The report (A Human-Induced Catastrophe) documents the crime committed by the aggressive coalition aircrafts in Saada. We talked during this report about the details of the crime and witnesses' 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 Saada governorate.

# A brief overview of Saada governorate

Saada governorate: is one of the governorates in the republic of Yemen, with a population of 676714 according to the 2004 census.



Saada Governorate

## Details of the massacre of the aggressive coalition on the remand prison

A massive building housing hundreds of souls, each carrying a heart full of stories—of families, children, homes, neighbors, dreams, and fears. It was a life like any other, yet in this very place, time stands still, events freeze, and stories fade into the background. Separated from their loved ones, each lives in isolation—without family, without a home, without children, and without the freedom to come and go. They were in prison, serving time for their past mistakes. They were asleep, dreaming of the day they would walk out of those gates, returning home to embrace both freedom and their loved ones. Their only thought was to never repeat the mistakes that might lead them back here. Some were counting the days until their release, others the years, and some were counting the very hours to leave the prison behind.

Suddenly, and without warning—and even if there had been one, there was no escaping death. These prisoners were defenseless, trapped in a place from which no one can flee quickly. A fierce airstrike erupted, shattering their dreams, tearing their bodies apart, and incinerating every hope of life. Then, a second strike followed, completing what the first had begun—leaving hundreds of prisoners dead or wounded.

Past midnight, at 2:40 AM on Friday, January 21, 2022, the coalition of aggression committed a horrific crime against civilians. Two airstrikes targeted the Remand Prison in Saada Governorate, resulting in hundreds of casualties, both dead and wounded. The strikes caused massive destruction, prompting local residents to rush to the scene to rescue survivors and pull victims from beneath 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: 91 civilians**  
**Wounded: 200 civilians**







## **Domestic condemnation**

**UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the airstrikes, while the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reminded that prisons are protected under International Humanitarian Law. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch described the attack as a violation of the laws of war, calling for transparent investigations.**

**Civil society organizations, including Entesaf for woman and child rights, condemned the crime committed against the prisoners in the remand prison in Saada governorate. It also denounced the shameful international silence and violation of international and humanitarian laws and charters, the laws of war and other heavenly customs and canons that are being cast 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.

“One of the survivors, a doctor at the remand prison, stated: “At 2:40 AM, I was in the operations room accompanied by a person named Abu Al-Ezz, who was the officer in charge of the operations rooms. We were surprised by the bombardment hitting us while we were in Ward No. 1; we survived by the grace of God. When we went to check on the prisoners, we found them in critical condition. Ten minutes later, another strike occurred, bombing Wards No. 6 and 7. Each ward held approximately 150 people. Now, we stand here witnessing bodies everywhere.”

“One of the rescuers also stated: ‘We evacuated approximately 20 people from the basement (Ward No. 8). The prisoners were torn into pieces and remains; they were bombed by the aggression coalition aircraft in Wards No. 7 and 8. The targeted building contains ten wards within the prison, and all of them were targeted.’”

“One of the police officers also stated: ‘This remand prison was established by organizations, and its coordinates were submitted to the aggression [coalition] so that it would not be targeted, as per their claims. They had housed Africans together with Yemeni prisoners held on local charges. Just one week before the targeting, the same organization had provided blankets and clothing to the prisoners.’”

“The Governor of Saada Governorate stated: ‘At midnight, specifically at 2:40 AM, this remand prison was targeted. We condemn the United Nations and its silence; it remained silent and did not denounce the targeting of a water station in Saada Governorate, which emboldened the aggression to target the remand prison. We hold all organizations present in Saada Governorate fully responsible, as they operate under the American cover that gives them the green light to target the Yemeni people. Furthermore, the severe blockade today has caused difficulty in extracting bodies from under the rubble due to the lack of fuel derivatives resulting from the ongoing siege on Yemen. We hold the United Nations fully responsible, along with America and the aggression coalition, for committing this heinous crime.’”

## Description of the violation according to international humanitarian law

The targeting of prisons and the treatment of prisoners are governed by a strict set of rules under International Humanitarian Law (IHL)—also known as the Law of Armed Conflict—and International Human Rights Law. Consequently, they enjoy special protection. The most prominent of these rules are as follows:

**1. Protection of Prisons as Civilian Objects:**

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention and Customary International Law, prisons (whether civilian or military) are considered facilities that must be protected according to several principles:

- **The Principle of Distinction:** Parties to a conflict must always distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects. A prison, in itself, is not a military objective unless it is being used for military purposes (such as weapons storage or as a command center).
- **The Principle of Proportionality:** Even if a military target exists near a prison, it is prohibited to launch any attack expected to cause loss of prisoner lives that would be excessive and disproportionate to the anticipated military advantage.
- **Human Shields:** It is strictly prohibited to place prisoners in strategic locations to protect them from bombardment (using them as human shields).

**2. Criminalization of Targeting under International Law:**

The deliberate targeting of prisoners or prisons is classified as a War Crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). This applies if prisoners are liquidated after surrendering or while in detention, or if attacks are launched that are not directed at a specific military objective and strike prisons indiscriminately.

# 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.**



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