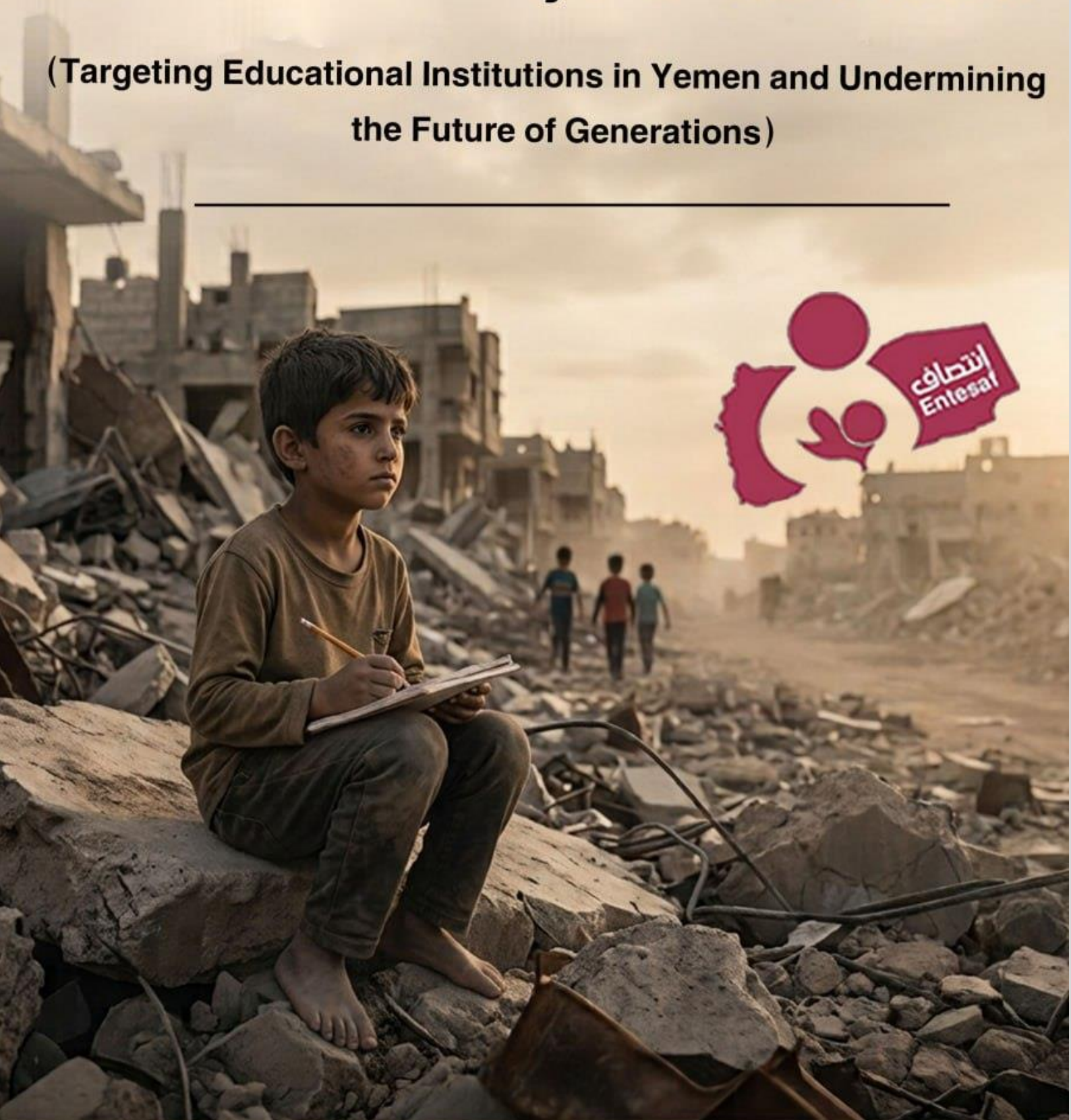


Generations Beyond the Rubble

(Targeting Educational Institutions in Yemen and Undermining
the Future of Generations)



A human rights report documenting the atrocities and violations
of the US-Saudi-Emirati aggression against education in Yemen, 2026

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

Education is the cornerstone of societal development and human rights protection—an inherent right enshrined in international declarations and covenants, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, years of conflict and coalition airstrikes in Yemen have shattered this reality, turning schools from safe havens for building the future into frontline targets.

This human rights report exposes a systematic pattern of severe violations against Yemen's educational infrastructure across various Yemeni governorates. By documenting hundreds of airstrikes and ground assaults, it details the widespread destruction—both total and partial—of schools and educational facilities across the country. These attacks cannot be dismissed as mere collateral damage. Their frequency and deliberate nature constitute flagrant violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL), amounting to war crimes under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, which strictly forbid attacks on civilian objects.

The destructive impact of these attacks is not confined to bricks and mortar; rather, it extends to deprive millions of children of their right to proper education, driving thousands of them towards dropping out and falling into ignorance. This represents a ticking time bomb that threatens the present and undermines the entire future of Yemen. Furthermore, the airstrikes by the aggression coalition have resulted in the destruction and damage of 2,982 educational facilities.

From this standpoint, this report seeks to provide a live documentation, backed by testimonies and evidence, of the crimes and violations committed by the coalition forces since the beginning of their operations on March 26, 2015, until June 2026, thereby holding the international community and United Nations bodies accountable to their legal and moral responsibilities to stop these violations and crimes and hold the perpetrators accountable.

Report Methodology

The report adopted a multi-source documentation methodology as follows:

- Reports issued by the organization's monitoring team.
- Reports issued by official sources and international organizations.
- Data collected through field visits to crime scenes conducted by the organization's team.
- Continuous monitoring of official and reliable media outlets, platforms, and sources.

Report Objectives:

- Highlighting material damage and documenting the number of casualties resulting from these targeted attacks.
- Proving the coalition's violation of international laws and covenants, particularly International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the Geneva Conventions, which criminalize the targeting of civilian objects and educational institutions.
- Establishing criminal liability by preserving evidence and testimonies for future use within the framework of legal accountability, compensation claims, and reconstruction.
- Demonstrating how the destruction of schools contributes to rising illiteracy rates and deprives hundreds of thousands of students of continuing their education (whether due to the destruction of schools or their conversion into shelters for internally displaced persons [IDPs]).
- Assessing the psychological impact by highlighting the deep psychological and educational effects suffered by students due to fear and insecurity within their learning environment.
- Mobilizing international public opinion and conveying the voices of victims to international and human rights organizations (such as UNICEF and UNESCO).
- Advocating for the protection of education and pressing for the activation of international initiatives to neutralize educational institutions from conflicts.

The international legal framework for the protection of educational facilities

Targeting civilian objects, such as schools, constitutes a war crime parallel to targeting the civilian population. In case of doubt as to whether a civilian object is being used for military purposes, the law presumes it to be civilian, and it must not be targeted.

Under Article 8 of the Rome Statute, the following acts constitute war crimes:

1. Deliberately targeting civilian objects with attacks.
2. Launching attacks or bombardments on undefended towns, villages, residences, or structures that hold no military value.
3. Deliberately launching strikes with full awareness that they will cause widespread and long-term environmental damage.

Targeting civilian objects in general, and schools in particular, is far from a mere 'tactical error'; it is a grave violation. Military commanders must face prosecution before international courts if it is proven that such targeting was intentional or resulted from a blatant disregard for the principle of distinction.

_Legal Qualification of Civilian Objects (Schools as Protected Civilian Property)

Under customary international humanitarian law and global treaties, schools, universities, and institutes are inherently classified as civilian objects by virtue of their nature and purpose.

Article 52 of the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions imposes an absolute and strict prohibition on attacking civilian objects, defining them as any assets that do not constitute military objectives.

Furthermore, Paragraph 3 of the same article emphasizes that ‘in case of doubt as to whether an object which is normally dedicated to civilian purposes, such as a school or a place of worship, is being used to make an effective contribution to military action, it shall be presumed not to be so used.’ Consequently, mere suspicion gives the coalition no legitimacy to bomb these facilities, utterly dismantling the pretext of a ‘misidentified target.’

_Classification as a War Crime:

The deliberate and systematic targeting of educational facilities in Yemen crosses the line of a mere violation, legally rising to the level of a blatant war crime.

Article 8(2)(b)(ix) of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court explicitly establishes that intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science, or charitable purposes constitutes a standalone war crime, provided they are not military objectives at the time.

_Violation of the Principles of Distinction and Proportionality:

The bombing of schools—whether empty or filled with students—constitutes a fundamental breach of Articles 48 and 51 of Additional Protocol I. Even if the coalition claims a military target was near the school, the bombardment remains a war crime under the principle of proportionality; the destructive impact and civilian casualties, particularly among children, far outweigh any anticipated military advantage.

_Violation of Children’s Fundamental Rights and Special Protection:

International law grants children tight, dual-layer protection as follows:

- **Inherent Protection:** Article 77 of Additional Protocol I stipulates that ‘children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault.’ Targeting their schools is a direct assault on this fundamental safety.

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989): Under Articles 28 and 38, State Parties are bound to guarantee children's right to education and ensure their protection. Stripping hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children of their education through the destruction of their schools constitutes a blatant, ongoing collective violation of this international convention.

Breaching Modern International Declarations and Resolutions:

UN Security Council Resolution 1998 (2011): This resolution grants an explicit mandate to the United Nations to include parties that launch attacks on schools or hospitals in its annual "List of Shame" (the blacklist for violations against children's rights). Due to the war in Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition was indeed placed on this blacklist in 2016. However, it was later removed following intense diplomatic pressure.

The timeline of this listing unfolds as follows:

- 2016: Initial Listing: Then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon blacklisted the coalition for committing grave violations against children in Yemen.
- First Delisting: (June 2016) The coalition's name was temporarily withdrawn from the list following heavy political pressure and threats from the Saudi government to defund vital UN humanitarian programs.
- 2020: Relisting: UN Secretary-General António Guterres placed the coalition back on the annual blacklist.
- Second Delisting: (June 2020) The coalition was removed yet again from the children and armed conflict report. The UN justified the move by citing a significant drop in child casualties due to protective measures allegedly implemented by the coalition—a decision that sparked fierce condemnation from international rights groups like Human Rights Watch.

The systematic targeting of education and its consequences

For over 11 years, education has faced perilous turning points and grave challenges—foremost among them being the coalition's direct airstrikes on schools and the brutally deliberate killing of children. These actions aimed to paralyze the educational process and terrorize Yemeni families into keeping their children home out of fear of bombardment. Yet, despite it all, schools never closed, and students resolutely pursued their education in a legendary display of resilience unmatched anywhere in the world.

In flagrant defiance of all international laws safeguarding education, the coalition perpetrated heinous massacres against schools, students, and educators alike. Notable among these atrocities were the targeting of Al-Falah School in Nihm district of Sana'a governorate, and the horrific massacre of the school bus carrying children in Dahyan, Saada.

At a press conference held by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research on March 28, 2026, marking the 11th anniversary of the US-Saudi-Emirati aggression on Yemen, Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Hatem Al-Doais highlighted the catastrophic scale of destruction inflicted on the education sector by the coalition's targeting of the educational process. He further emphasized the profound human toll, noting the martyrdom of hundreds of students, teachers, and administrative staff, alongside the severe, long-lasting negative impacts endured by all members of the educational community.

He explained that the total number of completely destroyed facilities reached 522 educational facilities, varying between '435 for general education, 3 for literacy, 48 for technical education, and 36 for higher education.' Meanwhile, the total number of partially destroyed facilities reached 2,460, distributed among 2,246 facilities for general education, 59 for literacy, 101 facilities for technical education, and 54 facilities for higher education.

The total number of students affected by this destruction reached 5,197,407 students, distributed as 4,726,239 male and female students in general education, 31,168 enrollees in literacy centers, 165,000 male and female students in technical education, and 275,000 male and female students in higher education.

Dr. Al-Doais indicated that the total estimated cost of material losses for the general, technical, higher education, and literacy sectors reached two trillion, 53 billion, 571 million, 301 thousand riyals, while the total losses of affected employees amounted to two trillion, 238 billion, 420 million, and three thousand riyals.

International Statistics on the Impact of Conflict on Education in Yemen

According to the latest annual report released by UNICEF in January 2026, the number of out-of-school children in Yemen has escalated to a staggering 4.5 million. This marks a significant increase from 2025, when the figure stood at 4.2 million, reflecting the compounding and continuous toll of the conflict on the educational system. The report estimates that 4.5 million children are currently in dire, immediate need of emergency and exceptional educational support to remain in school amidst deteriorating conditions.

Furthermore, UNICEF’s cumulative report spanning from October 2024 through 2025 documents that 2,783 schools have been completely destroyed, partially damaged, or rendered entirely non-operational due to the conflict and airstrikes. The data also highlights that two-thirds of the teaching workforce in Yemen—exceeding 171,600 teachers—have not received regular salaries. This severe shortage threatens to disrupt the education of an additional 4 million children, as unpaid teachers are forced to abandon their classrooms in search of alternative livelihoods.

According to a report by the Education Cluster and UNICEF (2024–2025 updates), official UN data indicates that one in five schools in Yemen is currently unusable. This is a direct consequence of structural damage caused by bombardments, or because these facilities have been repurposed into temporary shelters for displaced families who lost their homes in air strikes.

Furthermore, the 2024 “MICS-EAGLE” joint report, published by UNICEF and Yemen’s Central Statistical Organization, reveals that learning poverty in Yemen has skyrocketed to 95%. This means that 95% of 10-year-old children are unable to read or understand a simple text, marking the lowest literacy and educational proficiency level in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Additionally, a May 2026 update on displacement and education by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlights that the protracted displacement crisis has left 1.5 million displaced children facing critical and severe disruptions to their education. Forced to continuously move and reside in camps, these children now face a significantly compounded risk of dropping out of school permanently.

Psychological Impacts

The targeting of schools by hostile forces leaves catastrophic psychological consequences on both students and the community. The destruction of this “safe haven” fosters a persistent sense of fear, a loss of trust in safety, post-traumatic stress, academic decline, and depression, ultimately driving children to lose hope in their future. Below are the most prominent psychological impacts resulting from the targeting and destruction of schools:

- **Loss of the Sense of Safety:** The school, which is supposed to be a nurturing environment for learning and growth, is transformed into a source of fear and constant threat. This generates chronic anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- **Emergence of Behavioral Disorders:** Witnessing destruction, hearing explosions, and seeing casualties within or around school walls cause deep trauma. This manifests in nightmares, involuntary urination (enuresis), withdrawal, stuttering, social isolation, or aggressive behavior.
- **Impact on Cognitive and Cerebral Development:** Chronic psychological stress and continuous panic hinder the brain's ability to focus and retain information, leading to a sharp decline in learning capabilities and difficulties in skill acquisition.
- **The Trauma of Educational Deprivation and Despair:** Targeting educational institutions sends an indirect message to students that they are stripped of their right to build a future. This breeds frustration, a loss of passion for life, and creates a generation suffering from profound psychological insecurity.
- **Fostering Feelings of Resentment and Revenge:** Children who experience direct bombardment and scenes of violence may develop aggressive tendencies or intense feelings of anger toward the perpetrator and a silent world.
- **School Dropouts and Social Pressure:** The destruction of schools deprives thousands of students of education, forcing them into displacement and exposing them to psychological and social pressures that significantly increase the likelihood of dropping out permanently.

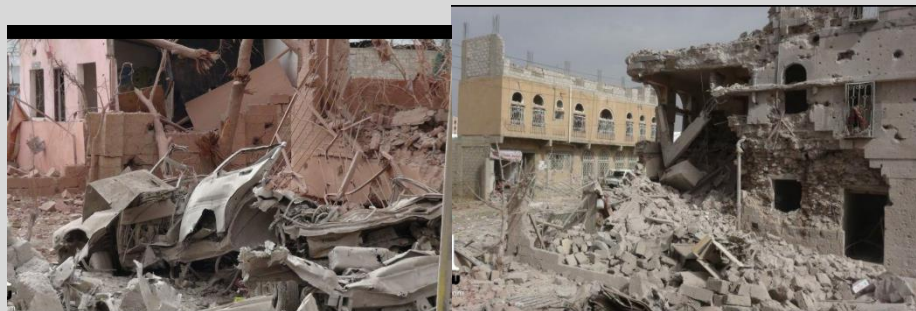
Key crimes committed against education in Yemen

The coalition aircraft did not spare schools or students from their bombardment. Several schools were directly targeted, resulting in casualties among both students and civilians. Among the most prominent incidents are the following:

- On April 7, 2015: Coalition airstrikes hit Al-Rasheed School in Al-Saddah district of Ibb Governorate, killing 3 children and injuring 10 others.
- On April 23, 2015: An airstrike targeted Al-Suhool School in Al-Makhadir district of Ibb Governorate, leaving two men dead and injuring 7 students.
- On July 3, 2015: Coalition warplanes launched an airstrike on an aid distribution point at the 7th of July School in Wadi Jarad area in Hodeidah Governorate, killing 5 civilians (including two children) and wounding 9 others.



- On July 3, 2015: Coalition airstrikes targeted Ghamdan School in the Western Jiraf area of the Capital Secretariat (Sana'a), killing 4 civilians—including two children and a woman—and injuring 17 others, among whom were 7 women.



- In Amran Governorate, on August 18, 2015: The coalition aviation launched five airstrikes targeting the Teachers' Syndicate building next to the College of Education. The strikes hit while several teachers and education ministry staff were inside, working on preparations for the upcoming primary and secondary school exams scheduled for the 29th of the same month. This attack resulted in the tragic death of 21 educators and 4 children, and left 21 others injured—most of whom were teachers, including two women.
- On August 28, 2015: Coalition airstrikes struck the 26th of September School in Hubaysh district of Ibb Governorate, killing two children and two women, and injuring 5 other civilians.



- On January 14, 2016: Coalition aircraft bombed a school in Bazarah neighborhood of Al-Ta'iziyah district in Taiz Governorate, killing four children and injuring another child and a woman.



- On January 19, 2016: A coalition airstrike targeted Al-Saleh School for Orphans in Ba'adin Al-Harir area, located in Al-Ta'iziyah district of Taiz Governorate. The attack resulted in the tragic death of 11 civilians—including 5 children and a woman—and left 10 others injured, among whom were 4 children.



- On January 20, 2016: Coalition warplanes committed a horrific massacre targeting students at an orphanage school in Al-Harir neighborhood of Taiz Governorate. This brutal attack claimed the lives of 12 young students and their teacher, ruthlessly targeting orphaned children who were under the age of ten.
- On August 13, 2016: Coalition aircraft bombed a school in Al-Dawar village, located in Haydan district of Saada Governorate, tragically killing 10 children.
- In Juma'at Bin Fadel area of Haydan district, Saada Governorate: At 7:30 AM on Saturday, August 13, 2016, coalition airstrikes directly targeted Al-Qahira School. The attack resulted in the death of 8 civilians, including 6 students, a teacher, and an 85-year-old elderly man who worked at the school. Additionally, 26 students were injured, 22 of whom sustained critical injuries.



- On December 8, 2016: Two children were killed and six others were injured inside a classroom at Al-Tuhayf Primary School in the capital, Sana'a. The casualties occurred when the children inadvertently handled an unexploded object left behind by the coalition's bombardment.



- On January 6, 2017: Coalition aircraft bombed Al-Hussein School in Al-Haymah Al-Dakhiliyah district of Sana'a Governorate, killing 5 children.
- On February 21, 2017: A coalition airstrike targeted Al-Najd Al-Akhdar School in Al-Najd Al-Akhdar area of Nihm district, Sana'a Governorate, resulting in the death of one child and the injury of another.
- On January 6, 2017: Coalition warplanes launched two airstrikes targeting Al-Hussein School and an ambulance/paramedic vehicle in Bani Youssef area of Al-Haymah Al-Dakhiliyah district, Sana'a Governorate. The attack claimed the lives of 9 civilians, including 5 children, and left 4 others injured.



- On April 9, 2018: Coalition warplanes launched two airstrikes targeting a workshop adjacent to Al-Tawheed School in Saada City. The attack resulted in numerous casualties, including several students, leaving 2 civilians dead and 13 others injured, among whom were 10 children.



- On July 2, 2018: The coalition committed a horrific crime against civilians, launching five consecutive airstrikes in Zabid district. The bombardment began with a strike on the Faqid Abdullah Attiah School, followed by two strikes targeting the College of Education building, a fourth strike on Al-Khair Mosque, and a final strike on a popular local restaurant owned by a citizen named Riad Al-Shameiri. These devastating strikes resulted in the death of 3 civilians and left 10 others injured, including two children and three women.



- On August 9, 2018: Coalition aircraft targeted a bus carrying children in Dahyan district of Saada Governorate. The attack resulted in 135 casualties; among them, 45 children lost their lives in a horrific manner, including around 8 children whose bodies were torn into unrecognizable pieces scattered across the market, later gathered from shop roofs and corners. The strike also left 79 people injured, 58 of whom were children.



- On January 10, 2017: The coalition targeted Al-Falah Primary School in Nihm district of Sana'a Governorate, just as students were arriving to take their mid-term exams. The airstrike resulted in the tragic death of 6 civilians—including the school's vice principal, Mr. Ali Ahmed Mudhaffar, and 5 students—and left 5 other students injured.



The coalition forces expanded their targets to include several other educational sites and facilities. In the Capital Secretariat, airstrikes hit Ibn Sina School in Al-Wahdah District, the Vocational Institute in Al-Thawrah District, Al-Juraiza School in Shu'aub, and Al-Noor Center for the Blind in Al-Safi'yah, leaving dozens of civilians dead or injured, including women and children.

Air raids also struck Dar Al-Shareef School in Khwalan, the Vocational Institute in Al-Raqqah (Hamdan), as well as Abdullah Al-Wazir, Hadran, and Rajam schools in Bani Hushaysh. Additionally, the strikes hit the Technical Institute in Bani Matar, Al-Hussein School in Bani Yusuf (Al-Haymah Al-Dakhiliyah), and a school and vocational institute in Al-Haymah Al-Kharijiyah. Al-Imam Al-Hussein School in Al-Haymah Al-Dakhiliyah was targeted for a second time, alongside Al-Falah and Al-Najd Al-Akhdar schools in Nihm, and Al-Mighmar School in Manakhah.

Other governorates were not spared either; educational institutions were repeatedly targeted during school hours, resulting in heavy casualties, the vast majority of whom were children.”

Field testimonies and personal accounts

“I Will Never Forgive Salman as Long as I Live”

Younis is one of the children who was aboard the Dahyan student bus—a living witness to the sheer brutality of the massacre. The airstrip launched by the coalition warplanes left him with a permanent disability. Today, he recounts the details of that tragedy, with profound grief and pain etched across his face, which was disfigured by shrapnel from the missile that targeted him and his classmates. “I am Younis Al-Qatabri, one of the students from Dahyan bus,” he says. “I was studying at a summer center, and we were on the bus heading out for our very first recreational trip. My friend Mohamed and I had packed everything we needed for the outing. We set off filled with joy, as it was the first time we had ever ridden a bus.”



“We arrived in Dahyan, and the driver got out to buy water and juice for the students from a grocery store. Suddenly, right as the airstrike hit, I found myself thrown onto the road. I stood up, able to see out of only one eye, and begged a bystander to help me. Someone picked me up and rushed me to the hospital.”

Younis adds: “We are not military experts, as the coalition spokesperson claimed. We were 75 students studying the Quran, receiving divine guidance, and seeking knowledge. Yet, Ibn Saud targeted and destroyed us.”

Reflecting on the details of that moment, Younis continues: “My classmate Osama and I were documenting the trip. We were so excited and never imagined it would turn into a death ride. Suddenly, the pilot—may God never forgive him—struck us right in the middle of Dahyan market. We were so hopeful to finish our trip, but the pilot robbed us of that joy. What is my fault that Salman targets me?!”

Life is no longer the same for Younis; he has been left unable to walk. Describing his reality, he says: “My life is nothing but hardship now. I am confined to a wheelchair, unable to go to school or to the mosque. I depend entirely on others to care for me. I stay home all the time. Whenever I watch my friends playing outside or heading to school, I wish so deeply that I could join them, but I can’t. I am disabled, and Salman is the one who caused my disability.”

With unbearable pain, Younis adds: “Salman destroyed my future. For what crime did he bomb the bus?! I can no longer stand on my own two feet, and I will never forgive Salman as long as I live.”

Recalling the moment, he learned about the martyrdom of his classmates, he says: “When I found out that my friends had been killed—including my dear friend Mohamed—I wished that I had died alongside them, just to be spared from this endless torment and agony.”

Younis concludes his heartbreaking account: “When I see my friends playing my favorite game, football, I long to stand up and run with them. But I can’t, because I am now disabled. I will never forgive Salman as long as I live. I appeal to humanitarian organizations to stop the war on Yemen and to look at the injustice suffered by the children of Yemen.”



Younis, left disabled following the brutal airstrike on the bus

Amani and Hamas: Grief and Separation

The Entesaf Organization met with Amani Mohammed Ayedh Hammoud Al-Jaifi, a sixth-grade student and one of the victims of the coalition airstrikes on Al-Ra’I School. With deep heartache, Amani first recalled how the raids stole the life of her dear friend, Hamas, tearing them apart forever. Amani herself was wounded by shrapnel and sustained injuries across her body, falling into a coma for several days. Yet, most of her words centered on the agonizing pain of losing her friend Hamas.

Amani’s account of that day—forever etched into her memory as a stark testament to the brutality inflicted upon Yemen’s children—was only part of the tragedy. Her mother, Faeqa Hussein Muthanna Al-Ansi, went on to describe the sheer shock, disbelief, and terror they felt for innocent lives. She recounted her frantic search for her daughter Amani across various hospitals until she finally tracked her. Even then, she could barely recognize her; Amani’s face had turned black and was severely swollen. She was hooked to oxygen, unconscious, and battling internal bleeding as doctors fought to save her life—while her mother endured a pain worse than death at every agonizing second, fearing for her beloved child.

The strike left Amani with internal bleeding in her brain, which slipped her into a coma for several days. Today, she suffers from severe psychological trauma alongside her physical injuries. To make matters more difficult, her parents are divorced, and she lives with her mother. Their only source of income is her mother’s work on a sewing machine, which supports Amani and her two sisters, one of whom is twelve years old. Following the attack, Amani remains in dire need of psychological therapy to cope with the devastating trauma of the coalition airstrikes.

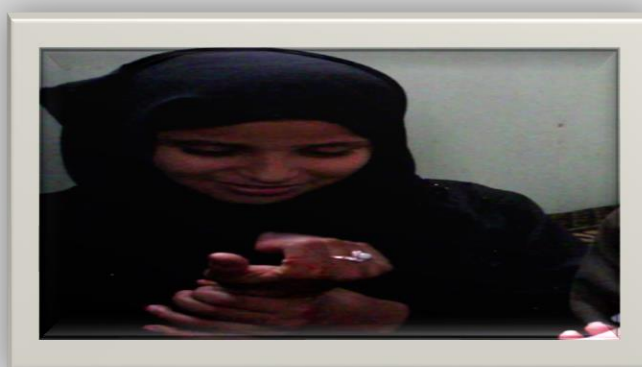


Amani holding a chain with the letter of her friend Hamas H

Milhah: A Child Shattered by the Aggression

The Entesaf Organization conducted an interview with thirteen-year-old student Milhah Hassan Jarallah Sha'lan, who was injured in the coalition airstrikes on the Al-Ra'I School. Like the rest of her classmates, Milhah was gripped by sheer terror and severe shock. She sustained internal head injuries that plunged her into a coma lasting several days.

Upon waking, Milhah left everyone in utter disbelief; she had regressed into a toddler-like state, understanding and remembering nothing. This is compounded by her unstable psychological condition and the bouts of terror and panic that seize her from time to time. Milhah now suffers from severe psychological trauma, manifested as a behavioral disorder, and is in desperate need of a mental health specialist to treat the devastating aftermath of the coalition airstrikes.



Student Milhah

Condemnations and reports by international organizations on the targeting of education

The crimes committed by the coalition aggression in Yemen—particularly those targeting education and school children—have drawn widespread global and local condemnation. Furthermore, numerous international reports have been issued, documenting the coalition’s violations against education in Yemen.

Starting with the heinous crime committed by the coalition against the children of Dahyan, both the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) condemned the massacre. The strike, carried out by the Saudi-led coalition, targeted students—mostly children—onboard a civilian bus in the heart of Dahyan city in Saada Governorate. Lise Grande, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, called for an immediate investigation into the crime in a statement to Al Jazeera. Meanwhile, the ICRC mission stated it had received horrifying news regarding civilian casualties in Saada, noting that the vast majority of the victims were children under the age of 15. The ICRC emphasized that every possible measure must be taken to ensure that what happened in Saada is never repeated.

The strike executed by the Western-backed coalition ignited outrage among human rights advocacy groups. Henrietta Fore, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), stated in a press release that the horrific attack on the bus marks a grim low point in Yemen’s brutal war.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for an independent investigation into the airstrike that hit the children’s bus as it passed through a market in the town of Dahyan, Saada Governorate. Furthermore, the UN Security Council called for an impartial and transparent inquiry after a senior UN official briefed the Council on the circumstances of the strike during a closed-door session.

In Paris, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the strike, declaring its support for the United Nations’ call for all parties to convene for talks in Geneva on September 6, 2018.

UNICEF condemned the targeting of the students aboard the bus in Dahyan area of Saada Governorate, asking: “Does the world really need more innocent children’s lives to be lost to stop the war on Yemen?!” The organization demanded an immediate end to this brutal cruelty against children.

Oxfam also condemned the targeting of the bus carrying children in Dahyan area, describing the attack as “unacceptable” and declaring that “enough is enough.”

Meanwhile, US State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert urged the Saudi government to investigate the strike on the bus, which resulted in the deaths of 50 civilians and injured 77 others, the vast majority of whom were children.

Russia expressed its deep concern over the continuous civilian casualties in Yemen, calling on the Saudi-led coalition to conduct an investigation into these tragic incidents. The Russian Foreign Ministry emphasized the need for a thorough and comprehensive investigation into this tragic event, stressing that those responsible for the deaths and injuries of unarmed civilians must be held accountable. It further renewed its call for strict compliance with the principles of international law. Meanwhile, the United Nations Human Rights Office has repeatedly criticized the coalition for violating international law and committing war crimes.

As for the coalition's crime against the students of Juma'at Bin Fadel School, it was also met with widespread international condemnation. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) stated that 10 children were killed and 28 others were injured in Saada Governorate, in the far north of Yemen. In a series of posts on Twitter (X), the organization stated: "The child casualties at a school in Haydan district of Saada stand at 10 dead and 28 wounded." The organization confirmed that all the victims were between 8 and 15 years old.

Furthermore, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) quoted its communications officer, Malak Shaher, on its official website as saying: "We received 10 dead children and 28 injured, all under the age of 15, and all of them are victims of airstrikes on a Quranic school in Haydan, northern Yemen." She noted that the strike took place on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated: "An airstrike on Saturday killed at least seven children and injured 21 others at a religious school in Saada Governorate, northern Yemen. The deceased children, aged between 6 and 14, were attending classes at a school in the village of Juma'at Bin Fadel in Haydan district of northern Saada Governorate." UNICEF added that the surviving children are receiving treatment at a hospital in Saada city.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the bombing of the educational center in Juma'at Bin Fadel, which resulted in the deaths of children and left many others injured. He reiterated that civilians, including children, continue to bear the brunt of the escalating fighting and military operations in Yemen, calling for an urgent investigation into one of the latest war crimes committed by the Saudi regime against dozens of children in Saada Governorate. Meanwhile, Amnesty International has issued several human rights reports and briefings, most notably a report titled "Our Children Are Bombed: Schools Under Attack in Yemen."

The organization investigated coalition airstrikes that directly targeted schools in the governorates of Sana'a and Hajjah. The report emphasized that these airstrikes did not only destroy infrastructure but also sowed a state of intense panic among parents, driving them to keep their children out of school for fear of sudden bombings—which has severely disrupted the education of thousands of children in those areas.

Human Rights Watch, on the other hand, focused its reports on classifying these attacks under international humanitarian law as potential war crimes. The reports highlighted the worsening educational crisis, as the physical destruction caused by the bombings compounded with the necessity of converting the remaining schools into shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Amnesty International leveled accusations against the coalition conducting airstrikes in Yemen, stating that these strikes directly targeted schools. The organization called upon Western nations, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States, to halt weapon sales to Riyadh, which are being used to commit these crimes.

Amnesty International accused the coalition of launching airstrikes on schools in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, robbing thousands of children of their education. The human rights organization noted that the coalition countries are using US- and UK-made weapons in these raids, demanding that all Western nations suspend all arms deliveries to them, as these weapons are being utilized to commit “war crimes.”

In its report titled “Our Children Are Bombed,” Amnesty stated that it had investigated five airstrikes targeting schools between August and October 2015, which resulted in the deaths of five civilians and injured 14 others, including four children.

The organization added that some of these schools were targeted multiple times, suggesting that the operations were deliberate. It further noted that it found no evidence to suggest that any of these schools were being used for military purposes. Amnesty International emphasized that even if these schools were empty of students at the time of the attacks, the destruction inflicted upon them would have long-term consequences for the children.

Human Rights Watch has repeatedly called on Washington to reverse its decision to approve arms deals with Riyadh. In one of the finalized deals, Washington announced that it had approved Saudi Arabia's request to purchase approximately 19,000 bombs and guided missiles for its air force, in a deal valued at \$1.29 billion.

The Saudi request includes 12,000 bombs weighing between 200 and 900 kilograms, 1,500 “bunker buster” bombs capable of penetrating fortified or underground targets, and 6,300 “Paveway II” and “Paveway III” guided missiles. It also includes equipment that enables satellite-guided missile targeting. It is worth noting that this deal is not the only one, as the United States and the United Kingdom continue to provide support and the weapons used to strike educational and civilian facilities in Yemen.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, the coalition’s targeting of educational facilities in the Republic of Yemen, within the documented geographical and temporal context, transcends accidental military errors. Instead, it constitutes a systematic criminal behavior that falls under individual and joint international criminal responsibility. Such crimes are subject to no statute of limitations and demand the prosecution of the military and political leaders who planned, ordered, or failed to prevent these attacks before the international criminal judiciary.

The aggression continues to wager on dismantling all foundations of life in Yemen—including the economy and education—after losing the military confrontation. Its persistent targeting of schools is but one of the challenges faced by the Yemeni people. The targeting of educational facilities and schools in Yemen by the coalition nations was not merely collateral damage of military operations; rather, it reflected a repetitive and systematic pattern that rises to the level of “war crimes” under international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Turning halls of learning into rubble and depriving millions of Yemeni children of their fundamental right to a safe education represents a deliberate assassination of an entire nation’s future. Based on what has been documented in this report, the ongoing international silence regarding these violations grants the perpetrators unlawful impunity. Therefore, it is imperative to establish an independent, international investigative mechanism of a criminal nature to investigate crimes targeting education in Yemen, ensure the prosecution of those responsible, and compel the aggressing parties to provide full reparations for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the educational infrastructure.

Recommendation

1. Immediate and unconditional cessation of all airstrikes and military operations by the coalition that target or jeopardize the safety of educational and civilian facilities, alongside lifting the land, sea, and air blockade on Yemen.
2. Commitment by the coalition to provide full financial reparations for the reconstruction of damaged schools, as well as redress and compensation for the victims and their families.
3. We urge the UN Security Council and the United Nations to establish an independent and impartial international commission of inquiry to investigate all crimes committed against the educational sector in Yemen, and to refer proven cases to international criminal courts.
4. Activation of accountability mechanisms and the inclusion of military and political leaders responsible for issuing bombing orders on international sanction lists for committing war crimes.
5. Pressuring arms-exporting countries to the coalition nations to halt the sale and export of weapons and ammunition (particularly smart and guided munitions) proven to have been used in destroying civilian objects and schools in Yemen.
6. We call upon human rights and international humanitarian organizations (UNICEF and UNESCO) to intensify urgent support for the Yemeni educational sector by providing safe educational alternatives (temporary schools, mobile classrooms) and supporting educational staff to ensure the continuity of the learning process.
7. Establishment of a permanent and updated international observatory to monitor and document violations against education in Yemen, ensuring that the rights of victims are not lost to any statute of limitations.
8. We emphasize the necessity of completely decoupling the humanitarian file from the political and military processes, and urgently resuming the regular payment of salaries to male and female teachers and educational sector employees in all governorates without exception. Securing these salaries is a fundamental step to ensure school stability, sustain the educational process, and protect future generations from ignorance and displacement.
9. Provision of intensive psychosocial support programs for children who have suffered from the trauma of bombings within their school environments.



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