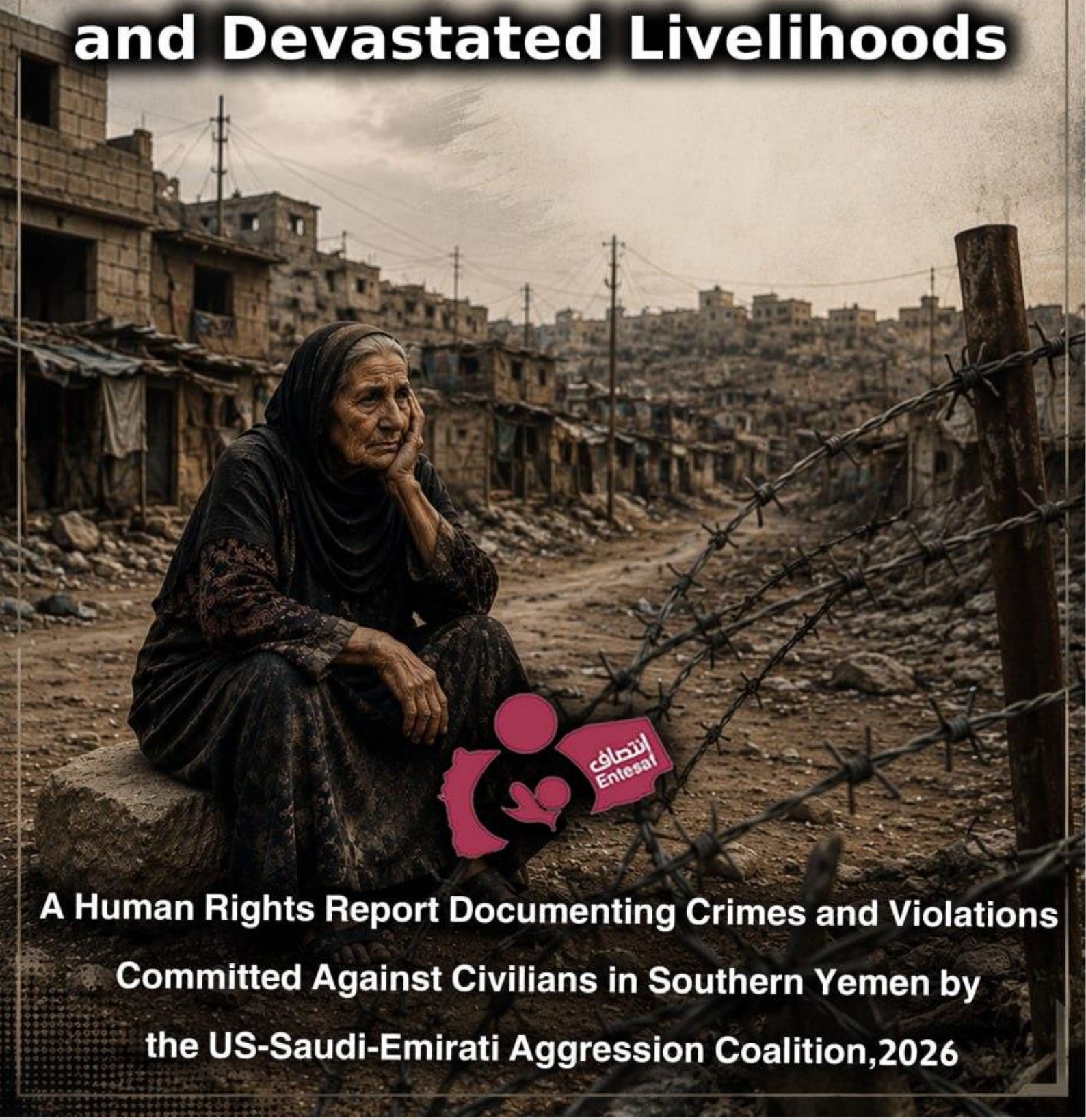


Southern Yemen

Violated Sovereignty and Devastated Livelihoods



**A Human Rights Report Documenting Crimes and Violations
Committed Against Civilians in Southern Yemen by
the US-Saudi-Emirati Aggression Coalition, 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

Occupied Southern Yemen is traversing the darkest phase in its contemporary history, as political, economic, and social crises converge to paint a tragic reality. Today, the discourse no longer revolves around a mere decline in development indicators, but rather a comprehensive structural collapse that directly strikes at the core of a dignified life for Yemeni citizens. This accelerated deterioration is by no means coincidental; it is the direct fruition of policies enforced by foreign powers—represented by the Saudi-Emirati coalition—in operational and political collusion with the so-called ‘mercenary government’.

The occupied southern governorates are witnessing a blatant undermining of national sovereignty. These powers have shifted from the alleged framework of ‘supporting legitimacy’ to a de facto authority exercising actual occupational behavior. This is vividly manifested in their direct control over ports, airports, and vital facilities, alongside the disruption of judicial and oversight institutions. Such military presence and the stripping of political decision-making constitute a gross violation of the principles of international law and the UN Charter, which stresses respect for state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. In contrast, the so-called ‘legitimacy government’ loyal to this coalition plays a functional role in facilitating these violations, serving as a legal cover at the expense of the supreme interests of the Yemeni people.

Economically, citizens in the occupied South endure a war of attrition on their living conditions—one no less severe than the military confrontations. The reckless handling of the monetary file, unbacked currency printing, and the siphoning of sovereign oil and gas revenues into offshore accounts have triggered an unprecedented historical collapse of the local currency. This devaluation has catastrophically eroded public purchasing power, sparking an acute inflationary spiral across essential commodities and medicines. Compounded by a near-total breakdown of public services—chiefly electricity and water—daily life has devolved into a bitter struggle for basic survival.

On the social and humanitarian side, this situation has created a dangerous environment full of multiple crises. The ruling groups feed local and regional divisions to keep their power, which has led to unstable security, rising crime, and political assassinations, along with heavy restrictions on public freedoms and human rights defenders. At the same time, the lack of food and income security has pushed thousands of families to the edge of hunger, and raised poverty and unemployment to record levels, threatening to destroy the social fabric and tradition of helping each other.

This report uses facts and figures to highlight the actual conditions in the occupied south, breaking down the complex political, economic, and social crisis. It aims to hold the international community and human rights organizations accountable for their legal and humanitarian responsibilities regarding the systematic violations of the most basic and legitimate rights of the people in the south.

Methodology

The report relied on a documentation methodology based on multiple sources, as follows:

1. Reports issued by the organization's monitoring team.
2. Reports issued by official sources as well as local and international organizations.
3. Continuous monitoring of official and reliable media outlets, platforms, and sources.

Report objectives

1. Highlighting the humanitarian and living conditions, and documenting the severe collapse in standard of living for citizens in the southern governorates. This includes bringing attention to the breakdown of basic services (such as electricity, water, and healthcare) and the impact of local currency devaluation on the purchasing power of everyday citizens.
2. Exposing the consequences of foreign control and intervention (Saudi-Emirati) on national sovereignty, and showing how this control has disrupted vital economic facilities and deprived citizens of their natural resource revenues.
3. Clarifying the role of internal conflict between foreign-backed factions in undermining social peace and spreading security chaos, illustrating how everyday Yemenis pay the price for this proxy war with their safety, freedom, and daily lives.
4. Documenting human rights grievances in the south and tracking accompanying violations, including arbitrary arrests, suppression of freedom of expression, and crackdowns on peaceful social protests.
5. Demanding an end to all forms of foreign occupation or guardianship, and calling for the transfer of vital facilities to purely national Yemeni management serving the public interest.
6. Conveying the voice of Yemeni citizens in the south to international forums and humanitarian organizations to press regional and local actors to stop mismanaging Yemen's resources and rescue the collapsing economy.

Legal characterization of the occupation of southern governorates by Saudi Arabia and the UAE

Legality of the Call for Military Intervention:

The sequence of events in Yemen reveals that the aggression was declared from Washington, D.C., during a press conference held by then-Saudi Ambassador Adel al-Jubeir on March 26, 2015. Al-Jubeir stated that the military action had been planned six months prior, contradicting claims that it came in response to a request by the expired president Hadi on March 24, 2015. Meanwhile, Hadi himself denied any advance knowledge of the military operation, stating he only heard about it on the radio while fleeing to Oman on March 27, 2015, as he revealed in an interview ⁽¹⁾ with Abu Dhabi TV in January 2016.

Subsequently, the coalition attempted on several occasions to justify its intervention in Yemen, claiming at times that it aimed to counter what they termed “Iranian expansion ⁽²⁾” at other times to destroy ballistic weapons threatening Gulf security, and on other occasions to restore the alleged “legitimacy.” All of these are baseless claims through which the coalition countries seek to justify their illegal intervention in Yemen and rationalize the crimes and violations committed against its land and people.

Regarding Hadi’s request to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab League for military intervention, it is known that Hadi was imposed—under the Gulf Initiative and its executive mechanism—as a consensus president for a fixed two-year term. Because the political parties at the National Dialogue Conference had not completed their agenda, some parties sought to extend his presidency for a third year, ending on February 21, 2015. However, before that date, specifically on January 22, 2015, Khaled Bahah, then head of the national consensus government, submitted his government’s resignation to Hadi, who accepted it before resigning himself. Hadi then fled to Aden on February 21 ⁽³⁾ of the same year, announcing from there that he had withdrawn his resignation, before leaving for Saudi Arabia via Oman. Therefore, Hadi’s request for military intervention is illegal because it came from an individual with no legal authority. Furthermore, the request violated Article 128 of the Yemeni Constitution, which considers any president’s request for foreign intervention an act of high treason.

(1) Video link to the interview:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lMu3CsuC58ur8zr3ZtvyvG4WX80PPcCb/view?usp=sharing>

(2) Statement by the Saudi Minister of Defense stating that he will not allow the presence of a new Hezbollah in Yemen.

(3) February 21 is the expiration date of Hadi’s mandate. Even assuming the extension was consensual, this mandate ended on February 22.

Regardless of whether he resigned or not, the military action against Yemen began on March 26, 2015—one month and five days after his mandate and the transitional period had officially ended. Similarly, the request allegedly submitted to the Arab League and the GCC on March 24, 2015 (according to Hadi's own interview on March 27, 2015) is equally invalid, as it was made after his term had expired. This confirms that the request was illegal, and any intervention resulting from it is likewise illegal.

Even assuming this request was submitted during Hadi's tenure, it does not serve as a legal justification for an aggression that had been pre-planned months before its actual announcement. This clearly confirms the premeditated intent of the US-Saudi-Emirati coalition to launch an aggression against Yemen. Furthermore, an aggression of this scale—which has been waged by the coalition against Yemen for nearly twelve years—could not possibly have been prepared in the extremely short timeframe between the submission of the request to the Arab League and the GCC on March 24, 2015, and the actual military intervention on March 26, 2015.

Hadi concealed the 2012 ruling issued by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, which affirmed in its merits the unconstitutionality of the Gulf Initiative and its Executive Mechanism, designating it as 'an unconstitutional act and a political agreement binding only on its signatories.' This ruling proves that the legitimacy of Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi was non-existent to begin with.

Regarding the justification of self-defense used to invoke foreign intervention in Yemen based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, neither Hadi nor anyone else holds the legal authority—pursuant to the Constitution and the National Dialogue Outcomes—to invite foreign forces to resolve internal disputes ⁽⁴⁾.

From the foregoing, it is evident that Hadi lacks legitimacy, making his request for foreign military intervention in Yemen by coalition states entirely illegal. Furthermore, the recognition of his legitimacy by foreign states and the United Nations holds no legal weight, as such recognition is purely political. The legitimacy of any president or government is determined only by the state's own constitution and enforceable laws. A review of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and its applicable laws confirms that Hadi and his government operate outside the realm of legitimacy, as his legitimacy lapsed upon his resignation—an act intended to plunge Yemen into a political vacuum.

Although Hadi possessed no legitimacy derived from the people or the Constitution—his authority having been imposed solely by the Gulf Initiative and its Timed Executive Mechanism,

(4) Article No. 24 of the National Dialogue Outcomes on the issues of Saada, which stipulates that any infringement on national sovereignty is criminalized, and that invoking foreign forces to resolve internal disputes is prohibited.

which was binding only on its signatories, through a symbolic single-candidate election akin to a referendum rather than a competitive election—the leadership of the September 21 Revolution, represented by the leader of the Revolution, Sayyid Abdul-Malik Badreddin al-Houthi, who was mandated by the people in million-man marches in 2014 to continue the revolution, safeguard its gains, and defend the supreme interests of the people, dealt with Hadi as a de facto president. The leadership offered him every facility and refrained from interfering in his powers, even when he tendered his resignation—coinciding with the resignation of the Prime Minister under foreign directives on January 22, 2015—a move aimed at creating a political and administrative vacuum that would trigger the collapse of state institutions and ignite a political conflict among all forces and parties.

The Security Council's Stance on the Aggression and Military Intervention in Yemen, based on the claim of exceeding the scope and limits of its mandate under the UN charter

One of the most vital manifestations of state sovereignty is a nation's authority and jurisdiction to manage its internal affairs free from external interference or guardianship, ensuring its national freedom and political independence. A state's domestic jurisdiction is a guaranteed right and a fundamental principle that must not be infringed upon, except within the narrow and limited scope of coercive measures undertaken by the Security Council to maintain international peace and security, as stipulated in Article 2, Paragraph 7 of the Charter: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII."

The reserved domain of state sovereignty serves as a protective shield for its jurisdictional boundaries, which no other state may transgress. All states are obligated to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other states in any manner contrary to the will of the sovereign state. Such interference constitutes a flagrant violation of this fundamental principle, enshrined in the Charter, UN resolutions, and other international instruments and customs—most notably the Charter of the League of Arab States—as affirmed by UN General Assembly Resolution 2131 on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States.

The people of a state hold the inherent right and constitute the primary source of sovereignty, serving as the most vital element of statehood.

They alone possess the right to self-determination—shaping their state, political system, and future in line with their yearning for freedom and national independence, as driven by their political will and national interest. Furthermore, under the UN Charter and relevant resolutions, states are obligated to refrain from using armed force to deprive peoples of their right to self-determination, freedom, and independence, and must respect their non-interference in internal affairs.

The source of the National Authority's legitimacy is the people and their national resolve, not international recognition or UN Security Council resolutions. Indeed, international recognition is merely a political stance driven by state interests, whereas states are expected to respect the self-determination of nations. In turn, it is the duty of nations to safeguard and uphold this right—especially amidst relentless international attempts to undermine it under various guises, whether labeled as international recognition, global endorsement, or Security Council resolutions. No power in the world has the right to suppress a people's right to choose their representatives and express their will, nor do they have the authority to impose a leadership or spokesperson upon any nation.

The UN Security Council's affirmation of Hadi's legitimacy in the preamble of Resolution 2216—demanding it remain untouched—along with Paragraph 1 of its operative section, which forbids any actions infringing upon this so-called 'legitimate authority,' constitutes a clear overreach of the Council's mandate. It is a direct interference in Yemen's internal affairs and a violation of the Yemeni people's right to self-determination and to choose their own leadership free from external dictates. This foreign intervention sought to forcibly impose Hadi at a time when he had lost all domestic political, military, security, and popular support. He had compromised national sovereignty and interests, causing his legal standing, authority, and actual control to collapse, before fleeing the country and calling upon foreign aggressors to strike the Yemeni people instead of protecting them. In response, these hostile foreign forces rushed to manufacture a false legitimacy, reinforcing it through international recognition and Security Council endorsement. They usurped Yemen's external sovereignty and formed an international coalition to launch a brutal campaign under the pretext of answering a request from this fabricated authority. Their true aim was not to respect the free will of the Yemeni people or support any legitimate government, but to protect their own strategic interests, expand their influence, and maintain control over the country.

It must be emphasized here that legitimacy is strictly an internal national matter, originating solely from the people, their free will, and their national determination—not from the Security Council or international resolutions, as the people are the ultimate source and possessor of authority.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the Security Council has combined two contradictory positions in this context: on one hand, it theoretically affirms its commitment to standing with the Yemeni people, meeting their legitimate demands for change, and strongly upholding Yemen's sovereignty, unity, political independence, and territorial integrity. On the other hand, it actively supports foreign intervention in one form or another, despite its own repeated calls on foreign powers to refrain from undermining Yemen's sovereignty, political independence, unity, and territorial integrity.

Unfair Bias Toward the Perpetrator at the Expense of the Victim and the Values of Justice:

This bias is evident in the language of UN Security Council Resolution 2216—a text that is intrinsically biased and stands in contradiction to the principles of justice, the rules of international law, and the mandatory duties and responsibilities of the Security Council. A clear example is paragraph (1) of Resolution 2216: while the Council called upon “all other parties” in a broad, generic manner without naming them, it specifically targeted those it referred to as “the Houthis” with explicit detail and bias, effectively favoring the other parties in the very same clause. This partiality is further underscored by Russia's abstention from the Security Council vote.

Complicity in the Violations and Practices of the Aggressor States:

This reflects complicity with the aggressor at the expense of the victim. Although the Security Council's stance and conduct do not grant legitimacy to the aggression—in fact, quite the opposite—they have fallen entirely short of the scale of the blatant aggression launched by the Coalition forces against Yemen, failing to meet even the bare minimum of expected official behavior. Furthermore, while the Council imposed sanctions on specific individuals, it turned a blind eye to the aggressors, despite their meeting the criteria for sanctioned entities. The aggressor states actively obstructed Yemen's peaceful political transition—as confirmed by the former UN Envoy to Yemen, Mr. Jamal Benomar, in his final briefing—and undermined Yemen's stability, security, peace, and national unity. They blocked the delivery of relief supplies and humanitarian aid, launched an unprovoked aggression, killed innocent civilians, destroyed public and private infrastructure, deepened human suffering, exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, and targeted the national economy. Yet, the Security Council failed to list any of the aggressor forces under its sanction's regime—the absolute minimum duty expected of it regarding the situation in Yemen. To date, the Council remains incapable, continually turning a blind eye to the aggression and blockade imposed by the Coalition in flagrant violation of the Council's own resolution limits, as documented by UN reports and international organizations.

This inaction does not legitimize the aggression; rather, it highlights the Council's powerlessness and failure to uphold its responsibilities, particularly under the shadow of veto powers held by permanent members involved in the coalition who actively shield the aggressor from any potential Council action.

Legal Texts (International Law):

There is no explicit text in the Charter of the United Nations governing the legality of military intervention based on an invitation or request from a president or government. Instead, such intervention relies on the principles of state sovereignty and consent, alongside international practice, legal scholarship, and judicial jurisprudence.

Legal Basis:

This type of intervention is grounded in the principle that a sovereign state may request military assistance from another state. If the invitation is extended by a legitimate government representing the state, the presence of foreign forces does not, in principle, constitute a violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, as the element of consent or approval negates the characterization of the action as a use of force against that state. Accordingly, under international legal scholarship and international practice, the lawfulness of an intervention by invitation is subject to the following conditions:

- The invitation must emanate from a legitimate, internationally recognized government that exercises effective control on the ground in the name of the state.
- The invitation must be explicit and unambiguous, and cannot be implied or assumed.
- The invitation must be expressed freely, without coercion or pressure from the intervening state.
- The intervention must strictly remain within the scope, purpose, and duration specified in the invitation.
- The intervention must not violate peremptory norms of international law, such as the prohibition of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or the infringement upon the right of peoples to self-determination.

Position of the United Nations Charter:

Although the Charter does not explicitly provide for intervention by invitation, relevant provisions include:

- Article 2(1): The sovereign equality of states.

- Article 2(4): The prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.
- Article 51: Recognition of the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs.

A significant body of legal scholarship holds that the consent of a sovereign state excludes the presence of foreign forces from the scope of the prohibition under Article 2(4), provided all conditions of lawfulness are met.

Position of the International Court of Justice (ICJ):

In the Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua case (1986), the International Court of Justice affirmed that providing military assistance to a state upon the request of its government is legally distinct from unlawful intervention, and that the absence of a state's consent renders the use of force or intervention a violation of international law.

Limitations on Intervention by Invitation: even with an invitation, intervention is not lawful if:

- It is used to prop up a government that has lost its legitimacy or no longer represents the state.
- Its objective is to intervene in a civil war in a manner that undermines the people's right to self-determination.
- The foreign forces exceed the scope of the invitation or remain after it has been revoked.
- The intervening forces commit gross violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law.

Exceeding the Scope of “Intervention by Invitation”

The coalition claims that its military intervention in Yemen was legally grounded in a request for assistance made by deposed President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi in 2015. However, international law scholars argue that this legal justification lapses or is violated in the following scenarios:

- Exceeding the Scope of the Mandate: When an intervention shifts from its stated objective of “supporting legitimate authority and restoring state institutions” to establishing direct control over ports and airports, or setting up permanent military bases (such as the developments in Socotra Island, Balhaf port, or Al-Mahra province) without the explicit, written, and ongoing consent of the sovereign government or parliament.

- **Undermining Host State Sovereignty:** Preventing government officials from returning or performing their constitutional duties, as well as creating, training, and backing parallel military and security forces outside the chain of command of Yemen's Ministry of Defense or Interior. Such actions transform the intervention from "assistance" into a regime of coercion and dominance.

Consequently, whenever a military intervention exceeds the bounds of the host state's consent, the legal basis justifying the presence of foreign forces lapses regarding those unauthorized actions. Any actions beyond the scope of consent fall under the general principles of international law—namely, the prohibition on the use of force and the violation of state sovereignty.

First: The Position of International Law

Military intervention by invitation is based on the principle of consent, which is one of the grounds for precluding wrongfulness in international law. However, this consent is restricted in terms of:

- Scope of military operations.
- The purpose for which the invitation was extended.
- Time duration.
- Geographical area.
- Continuity of the host state's consent.

If the intervening state exceeds any of these limits, its actions are no longer based on legal consent, resulting in:

- Violation of the principle of state sovereignty.
- Breach of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter if the excess involves an unlawful use of force.
- Invocation of the international responsibility of the intervening state under the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, particularly the articles relating to the termination of the effect of consent if the state exceeds its limits.

Second: The Position of the International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice affirmed in the case of *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua* (1986) that the existence of consent from the concerned state prevents the intervention from being considered unlawful only within the limits of that consent, whereas acts exceeding it do not benefit from this legal basis.

Furthermore, the Court affirmed in the case of *Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)* (2005) that the continued military presence after the expiration of consent or the exceeding of its limits constitutes a violation of the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Third: The Position of the Security Council

The Security Council has not issued a general resolution establishing a specific legal rule titled "Exceeding Military Intervention by Invitation." However, its practice affirms several established principles:

- Emphasizing respect for the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of states.
- Demanding the withdrawal of foreign forces when their presence is no longer based on a legal foundation.
- Condemning any use of force that exceeds the granted authorization or consent.

The Security Council has reiterated these principles in numerous resolutions concerning international and regional conflicts, affirming that any foreign military presence must comply with the UN Charter and the consent of the state concerned, or with an authorization issued by the Council under Chapter VII.

Fourth: Legal Consequences of Exceeding the Scope of the Invitation

If it is established that the intervening state has exceeded the bounds of the invitation, the following consequences may arise:

- Loss of the legal basis justifying the presence of foreign forces regarding the unauthorized acts.
- Establishment of the intervening state's responsibility for violating the host state's sovereignty.
- The state's obligation to cease the violation, withdraw its forces, or restrict its operations to the scope of the invitation.
- The obligation to make reparations if the excess results in material or human damages, in accordance with the rules of international responsibility.
- If the unauthorized acts are accompanied by violations of international humanitarian law, individual criminal responsibility for international crimes may also arise.

The humanitarian and living reality in the occupied south

The occupied southern Yemeni governorates are experiencing an unprecedented breakdown in security, economic stability, and living conditions. This crisis is the direct result of strategic policies of starvation and subjugation enforced by the occupation against the local population. Below are key financial and economic indicators from the southern governorates that illustrate the sheer scale of this living disaster.

1. Exchange Rate Collapse:

The Yemeni Rial in areas under the control of coalition-backed factions has suffered an unprecedented historical collapse, with the US Dollar surging past the 2,000 YER threshold—and continuing to climb—in stark contrast to other regions experiencing relative stability. This sharp devaluation has directly paralyzed local purchasing power.

2. Inflation and Basic Commodities:

- Inflation Rate: Food inflation has surged past the 300% mark compared to previous years.
- Prices of Essential Goods:
 - Wheat Flour (50 kg bag): Has soared past 45,000 to 50,000 YER.
 - Petrol (20-liter canister): Frequently reaches up to 28,000 YER—despite the South sitting atop rich oil fields.
 - Average Civil Servant Salary: Ranges between 60,000 and 80,000 YER (roughly just \$30 to \$40 USD), which is not even enough to cover a basic food basket for a single week.

Furthermore, residents in Aden reported a record spike in ice block prices over the past few days. Prices doubled overnight, jumping from 500 YER to nearly 1,000 YER per block across several areas of the city. This sharp price surge is driven by unprecedented daily demand from both local households and commercial businesses.

3. The blockaded and disrupted economic and vital facilities:

Economic Facility	Location	Disruption & Control	Economic Impact
Balhaf LNG Facility	Shabwah	Converted by UAE forces into a military base and headquarters, preventing the resumption of gas exports.	Slashed billions in annual state revenues that could have stabilized the national currency.
Aden International Airport	Aden	Placed under military control; direct international flights were banned and parts of the facility turned into barracks.	Restricted civilian and medical travel while driving up travel and cargo expenses.
Ports of Aden & Nishtun	Aden / Al-Mahrah	Subjected to strict shipping restrictions, altered trade routes, and extortionate levies by armed groups.	Crippled commercial shipping and inflated import costs due to surging insurance and freight rates.
Oil Fields (Masila, Jannah, etc.)	Hadramout /Shabwah	Exports fully halted or returns siphoned into offshore accounts rather than bolstering local reserves.	Cut off the nation's primary foreign currency source, leading to widespread public sector salary freezes.
Riyan Airport	Hadramout	Repurposed for years as a UAE military facility and detention sites before partial reopening under tight constraints.	Isolated eastern governorates and disrupted commercial and tourism movement.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are intentionally undermining Yemen's economic capacity—an act of deliberate sabotage that amounts to collective punishment against the Yemeni people, in blatant violation of international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Reports by the UN Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen—submitted to the Security Council in September 2019, September 2020, and December 2021—have documented Emirati forces converting Balhaf LNG facility and Hadramout's Riyan International Airport into military barracks and detention centers. The reports highlighted that such actions deprive the Yemeni economy of billions of dollars while directly undermining state sovereignty.

Furthermore, an August 2019 report by the so-called Ministry of Transport in the mercenary government officially accused the UAE of asserting full control over Aden and Riyan airports, as well as the ports of Aden and Balhaf, while preventing the government from operating them and utilizing their sovereign revenues.

Regarding secret prisons, arbitrary arrests, and human rights violations, an investigative report by the Associated Press in June 2017—supplemented by consistent updates and rights reports through 2021—revealed a network of at least 18 clandestine prisons managed by the UAE and its affiliated militias in southern Yemen, including Beir Ahmed facility in Aden and Riyan Airport. The investigation documented firsthand accounts from detainees subjected to systematic and brutal torture.

Similarly, a July 2018 Amnesty International report documented dozens of cases of enforced disappearance and torture inside secret detention centers across Aden, Hadramout, and Lahj. These facilities were operated by UAE-backed forces, including the Security Belt and Hadrami Elite forces.

World Bank reports (notably those from 2022, 2023, and 2024) highlighted the severe exchange rate disparity between northern and southern Yemen. In the southern governorates, the US dollar surpassed the 2,000 Yemeni Rial threshold—a depreciation driven primarily by the halt in oil and gas exports, depleted foreign exchange reserves, and food inflation surging past 300%.

Periodic humanitarian monitoring reports (from 2023 to late 2025) by the FAO and WFP confirmed that severe food shortages in the southern governorates reached catastrophic levels. The reports tracked monthly price hikes for flour, oil, and fuel, showing that over 80% of families can no longer afford basic meals because salaries are irregular and have lost their value.

4: Education and Health Situation in the Occupied South:

Education Sector Statistics (Academic Year 2025–2026):

Education in the occupied southern governorates faces major challenges linked to the economic collapse, rising school fees, and the non-payment or extreme drop in salaries, making schooling an unbearable burden for families.

In its latest statistics from April 2026, UNICEF announced that nearly 3.2 million Yemeni children are out of school.

According to UNICEF's specialized field reports from mid-2025, hundreds of schools are partially or completely out of service, forcing organizations to rehabilitate schools to provide alternative learning spaces in tents.

The average teacher's salary in mercenary-controlled areas in the occupied south ranges between 60,000 and 80,000 Yemeni Rials (less than \$30 to \$40 at current exchange rates). This has driven thousands of teachers to abandon teaching or take up day labor just to make ends meet.

At the start of the current academic year, stationery and school bag prices surged by over 150% compared to last year due to the collapse of the Rial. Families were forced to buy only the bare minimum of school supplies, while dropout rates increased, particularly among girls.

The so-called Ministry of Education under the mercenary government in Aden has failed to set unified fees for private schools. This turned enrollment costs into an exploitative business beyond the reach of average and poor families.

The total collapse of the local currency's purchasing power, combined with educators' monthly salaries eroding to under \$40, acts as a deliberate death sentence for an entire generation's future in the occupied southern governorates. It is driving millions of children away from classrooms and straight into the labor market or child recruitment.

5: Health Sector Statistics

The health sector is facing an almost complete collapse of its infrastructure, with over 45% to 50% of health facilities partially or fully out of service due to a lack of operational funds and acute shortages of medicines and medical supplies.

- The drop-in international support, alongside the disruption of key revenue-generating facilities, led to an unprecedented spread of epidemics. World Health Organization (WHO) cumulative data for 2025 recorded 93,496 confirmed and suspected cholera cases in Yemen and 248 related deaths, making Yemen the second most affected country globally.

The crisis continued into early 2026, with transmission rates remaining high after recording over 3,177 new cases in the first quarter, ranking Yemen among the countries with the highest cholera burden worldwide.

This outbreak is directly tied to the collapse of clean drinking water projects, failing sanitation services, and piling garbage in major cities like Aden, Hadramout, and Lahj.

The occupied southern governorates (especially Aden, Lahj, and the Hadramout coast) saw a sharp and alarming spike in dengue fever cases. During the first half of 2026, Yemen recorded over 5,786 confirmed dengue cases and 30 deaths.

Aden was the epicenter of the outbreak, accounting for 1,243 cases and 12 deaths on its own—roughly 67% of the total deaths—alongside thousands of suspected cases and dozens of reported fatalities. Epidemiological surveillance teams also raised the alarm after detecting new strains of the virus (Types 3 and 4) in Aden and Lahj, which increases the likelihood of severe cases and higher-than-usual death rates.

Maternal and Child Deaths, and Malnutrition:

UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and other UN reports indicate that Yemeni child dies every hour from birth-related complications, severe acute malnutrition, or preventable diseases.

The UNFPA was forced to cut its life-saving programs by 40% due to a severe funding shortfall. The agency received only \$9 million out of a \$71.9 million appeal for the 2026 crisis—a deficit exceeding 87%. This sharp reduction threatens over 2 million women and girls by cutting off access to maternal care and safe C-sections, resulting in an average of 3 women dying daily during childbirth from preventable causes.

While foreign forces control the ports and halt the export of the country's national resources—which could otherwise fund hospitals—medieval epidemics like cholera and dengue fever return to strike citizens in Aden, Hadramout, and Lahj. Meanwhile, public hospitals face complete paralysis, lacking even the most basic IV fluids, medications, and operating budgets.





6: Psychological and Social Impact

The psychological and social impact on civilians in the southern governorates is the most tragic aspect of the crisis. Continuous living pressure, economic collapse, and living at the mercy of armed factions have caused deep cracks in the psychological well-being of citizens and the overall social cohesion in the south."

Psychological Impacts: Shocking Numbers and Statistics

The militarization of southern cities and the disruption of economic resources did not only destroy the economy and basic services, but also destroyed people from within. Citizens live under constant existential anxiety and continuous psychological trauma, which has weakened the traditional social fabric and turned values of mutual support into a harsh daily struggle for survival.

World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, in collaboration with local development organizations (such as the Family Counseling and Development Foundation in Yemen), show that nearly 80% of the population (about 8 out of every 10 people) suffer from some form of mental health disorder. These include severe anxiety, depression, and trauma-related behavioral disorders caused by deteriorating living conditions and a total lack of safety.

Reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) state that over 7 million people in Yemen are in dire need of mental health and psychosocial support to cope with the impact of war and economic collapse. The reports note that women and children in displacement sites and conflict hotspots in the south (such as Aden, Lahj, and Dhale) are the most vulnerable and severely affected.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also recorded an alarming shortage of mental health infrastructure. Across all of Yemen, there are fewer than 50 qualified psychiatrists—roughly one doctor for every 600,000 citizens—while most hospitals in the southern governorates lack specialized clinics to treat war-related trauma.

7. Social Breakdown and Domestic Violence Statistics:

Escalating Domestic Violence: According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), domestic violence cases in southern and eastern governorates have surged by over 36%. This sharp rise is directly linked to the mounting financial pressures on primary breadwinners, triggered by currency devaluation and unpaid salaries.

Spike in Marital Dissolution: Family courts in Aden and Al Mukalla have reported a steep increase in divorce, Khul' (female-initiated divorce), and domestic dispute filings due to severe financial distress. Local rights organizations estimate that economic hardship is the driving factor behind more than 65% of recent marital breakups across southern governorates.

Surging Child Labor: As families struggle for basic survival amid the economic collapse, ILO and UNICEF data reveal an alarming rise in child labor across these provinces. Roughly 1 in 4 school-aged children is forced into hazardous or strenuous jobs—such as street vending, auto repair work, and plastic collection—to support their households, leaving deep psychological and social scars on their future.

8. Humanitarian and Security Conditions in the South

Security Vacuum and Targeted Killings: Hundreds of assassinations have been documented targeting mosque preachers, security officers, judges, and political activists across Aden and neighboring governorates. This wave of violence is driven by factional score-settling among competing groups (including the Southern Transitional Council, former Hadi/Islah forces, and Saudi-backed factions).

Secret Prisons and Arbitrary Detention: Reports by international organizations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have exposed a network of secret prisons and illegal detention facilities (including Al Jala'a camp, Bir Ahmed, and Al Rayyan Airport). Operated directly by UAE-backed military formations, these sites are notorious for systematic torture.

Extortion and Military Checkpoints: Hundreds of factional checkpoints line key inter-provincial transit routes (such as the Aden–Lahj and Aden–Abyan highways). These checkpoints impose illegal levies and transit fees on commercial goods and fuel trucks, directly driving up consumer prices and compounding everyday hardship for citizens.

Firsthand Accounts of Daily Suffering

A Retired Citizen's Testimony:

“We are dying a slow death in the summer heat. We only get two hours of electricity for every six to eight hours of blackouts. The elderly and the sick are literally suffocating, while the Coalition and the government just stand by and watch us as if we aren't even human.”

A Public School Teacher's Account:

“My salary used to be worth \$400 years ago; today, with the riyal's collapse, it isn't even worth \$40. I stand helpless before my children, unable to buy a bag of flour or a carton of milk. We are starving, all while watching our country's resources being looted and paralyzed.”

A Local Activist and Relative of a Detainee:

“Armed factions control every aspect of life here. Simply expressing an opinion or demanding basic services can get you thrown into lawless, secret prisons. There is no state—just warring militias carving up spheres of influence, empowered by foreign backing.”

Documents Expose the Corruption of the So-Called “Legitimate Government”

While operating out of luxury hotels in Riyadh, members of the so-called “legitimate government” continue to siphon resources and defraud the Yemeni public. Living in extreme opulence abroad with their families, they remain utterly detached from the catastrophic reality faced by citizens in occupied areas. Millions are struggling just to put food on the table, crushed by soaring prices, irregular wage payouts that barely cover basic needs, and acute shortages of fuel, electricity, and water. Meanwhile, this proxy government continues to write itself check after check for astronomical amounts under flimsy pretexts, laying bare its relentless plundering of the vulnerable Yemeni people.

Among the exposed documents is an authorization to spend 1 million Saudi Riyals solely on purchasing honey for Rashad al-Alimi, the head of the so-called legitimate government, alongside another \$150,000 allocated as a travel allowance for a single event.



Another document exposed a payout of \$12 million distributed among those living in Saudi hotels, while the people of Aden are left to die from the scorching heat, hunger, and disease.



Yet another document exposed a massive corruption deal involving the proxy government, revealing a payout request of \$2.5 million merely for cleaning the grounds of Aden Airport.



The uprising of popular wrath against the occupation

Since the beginning of this June, the occupied southern Yemeni governorates have been witnessing a wave of raging anger and a rising popular uprising against the Saudi-Emirati forces of occupation and their local proxy militias. These developments come amid an unprecedented security, economic, and living collapse—a direct result of the strategic starvation and subjugation policies practiced by the occupation against the people of the southern governorates.

Since early June 2026, the cities of Aden, Al-Mukalla, and Seiyun have transformed into arenas of daily enraged protests—dubbed by activists as the ‘Revolution of the Empty Stomachs.’ Angry popular demonstrations regularly take to the streets in Aden, Al-Mukalla, Tarim, and Tawahi under demanding slogans such as the ‘Revolution of the Hungry,’ only to be met with suppression and live ammunition by the so-called controlling security forces.

Starting from June 7, 2026, the ‘Mattress Revolution’ (Thawrat al-Furshan) erupted as a popular protest movement spearheaded by the residents of Aden to express outrage over the severe deterioration of living conditions and prolonged power outages exceeding 17 hours daily during the harsh summer months. The city witnessed renewed waves of these protests—most notably and extensively—when citizens took to the streets, occupying major thoroughfares such as Arwa Street in Crater and Al-Mualla district. In a symbolic act of protest and an attempt to escape the suffocating heat indoors, protesters slept directly on sidewalks and roadways using their beds and mattresses.

By June 8, 2026, the movement expanded into civil disobedience, marked by the blockade of roads and the burning of tires. This was followed by an official statement issued on June 14, 2026, by the Protest Organizing Committee, granting authorities and the government a 10-day ultimatum to deliver fundamental solutions to the utility and electricity crisis and the payment of salaries. Regarded as an innovative form of peaceful demonstration demanding basic human services and an adequate standard of living under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this movement was nevertheless met at various stages with security crackdowns and attempts at dispersal.

On June 20, 2026, massive demonstrations erupted across Aden and Hadhramaut, where citizens expressed their absolute rejection of impoverishment policies and foreign guardianship, while denouncing the systematic looting of oil and gas wealth in Shabwa and Hadhramaut that deprives the local population of the most basic necessities of life.

The occupation-backed militias and mercenary factions did not hesitate to use excessive force to suppress the popular fury and shield the interests of foreign powers. Rights reports documented the direct use of live ammunition by armed factions to disperse protesters in Crater and Al-Mualla districts, leaving at least two civilians dead and five wounded, alongside several others suffering from teargas suffocation.

Furthermore, the occupation's proxies launched a sweeping campaign of nighttime raids and arrests targeting over 14 activists and citizens who led the service-related protests—an attempt to reinforce the wall of fear that has begun to crumble before the determination of the street.



Human rights violations and secret prisons: field testimonies

The absence of the state and the multiplication of loyalties to armed factions backed by the Saudi-Emirati coalition have transformed the southern cities into open arenas for kidnappings and severe violations. This has extended beyond political abductions and enforced disappearances—which have targeted hundreds of activists, according to documentation by the Abductees' Mothers Association—to the systematic use of violence, sexual abuse, and rape as tools of torture and humiliation inside secret prisons and illegal detention centers such as Bir Ahmed and Riyan Airport. These practices, documented in investigative reports by international news agencies and organizations like Associated Press and Human Rights Watch, constitute a flagrant violation of the Convention Against Torture and international human rights law.

The issue of violations targeting women and children in the occupied southern governorates—controlled by rival factions—remains one of the most painful and grave matters. Kidnappings, assaults, and extortion have victimized the most vulnerable groups in society, taking advantage of the absence of law and a state of systematic breakdown of security.

- **Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearance:** Detention facilities are operated beyond judicial and prosecutorial oversight—such as what is known as “Waddah Hall” and prisons situated at the former Al-Rayyan Airport—where activists, journalists, and opponents of foreign military presence are held.
- **Systematic Torture:** Detainees suffer severe physical and psychological torture, including electric shocks, violent beatings, medical neglect, and denial of family visits. Furthermore, international investigations have documented the use—and threat—of rape and sexual assault as systematic tools of torture against detainees and abductees in these illegal southern prisons, aimed at extracting confessions or humiliating victims.

Local and international human rights organizations have also documented hundreds of cases of abduction and arbitrary detention targeting activists, journalists, and opponents of the policies of the Coalition and its affiliated factions in Aden, Lahj, Hadramout, and Shabwa. Periodic reports by the Abductees’ Mothers Association—most notably its annual report issued in January 2025, alongside updated statements and press conferences through early 2026—indicate over 1,200 cases of arbitrary detention and abduction, and hundreds of cases of enforced disappearance in prisons run by UAE-backed armed factions (such as the Security Belt Forces, the Elite Forces, and the Support and Reinforcement Brigades) since the outbreak of the conflict and the militarization of the South.

Amid the absence of genuine state institutions and the transformation of judicial and security offices into headquarters for occupation militias, horrifying indicators of organized crime were recorded over a three-week period in June as follows:

- Homicides and Criminal Assassinations:

Nearly 11 criminal and mysterious homicides were recorded across various southern governorates within 20 days. The most horrific occurred mid-month, when a young woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside a hotel room in the heart of Aden, amidst security failure and complicity that logged the incident reports against unknown perpetrators.

- Abductions and Arbitrary Detentions:

Secret prisons run by the occupation and its proxies have turned into living graveyards, with local organizations documenting the abduction and enforced disappearance of 9 civilians and journalists without formal legal charges, solely for expressing views opposing the occupation and the deteriorating living conditions.

The Story of (Alaa) — Disappearance at a Checkpoint

In late 2016, a young man named Alaa was driving through the streets of Aden with a friend when they were stopped at a security checkpoint operated by UAE-backed forces. The forces fired upon the vehicle and led both young men away blindfolded, without an arrest warrant or notification to their families. Two months later, his friend was released and informed the family that Alaa was being held at “Waddah Hall.” To this day, Alaa’s mother lives in hope of learning her son's fate, without any official acknowledgment from the authorities regarding his whereabouts.

The Testimony of (Abdulrahman) — The Depths of Solitary Confinement

Former detainee Abdulrahman recounts horrifying details of his detention in a narrow, dark underground cell, where he was stripped of his clothes and subjected to electric shocks to force him into signing “coerced confessions” for crimes he did not commit. Abdulrahman says: “They would beat us until we lost consciousness, and during the summer, we were denied clean drinking water until we were on the verge of death. They released me months later, claiming it was merely a case of mistaken identity, but I emerged with a broken body and psychological trauma that will never heal.”

The Tragedy of a Family in Aden — Dying of Grief

Amnesty International documented the story of the sister of a 44-year-old forcibly disappeared man who was arrested from his home in Aden. She said: “We have no idea whether he is alive or dead. My father died of grief and heartache within months of his arrest; he passed away without laying eyes on his son one last time. All we want is a fair trial, or simply to know the location of his body if he is dead.”

Crimes of Homicide, Abduction, Rape, Extortion, and Enforced Disappearance Against Women and Children:

The most vulnerable and deeply pained group in the occupied southern governorates is women and children, who have been relentlessly targeted by the machinery of abuse.

Amid the security chaos fostered by armed factions affiliated with the occupation, the sanctity of women is no longer protected; reports by the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor for 2024 documented abductions, raids on the homes of women and female activists, detentions, and physical and financial extortion.

Childhood has not been spared from this devastation either. Cities such as Aden and Lahj have witnessed horrifying abductions and sexual assaults against children at the hands of individuals in military uniforms, who exploit political and security coverage to enjoy impunity (according to documentation by Human Rights Watch). This is compounded by the exploitation of family poverty to forcibly recruit hundreds of children and send them to deadly frontlines, in blatant violation of all international conventions and United Nations child protection laws issued in 2024 and 2025.

The crimes of homicide, abduction, rape, extortion, and enforced disappearance demonstrate that the southern governorates have turned into a high-risk environment for women and children. The absence of an independent judiciary, along with the control exerted by militia leaders affiliated with the Saudi-Emirati coalition over the security apparatus, has turned the bodies and freedoms of vulnerable groups into a tool for political intimidation and illicit financial gain, amid complete and ongoing impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes.

Based on human rights reports issued by international and local organizations (such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the Abductees' Mothers Association), among other sources, we outline the most prominent documented cases—with dates and names—of violations involving homicide, assault, abduction, and extortion targeting women and children in the southern governorates:

1. The Case of the Rape and Extortion of Al-Mualla Child (Aden)

Date: May – June 2024 (with legal proceedings renewing in 2025).

Victim: A 14-year-old minor.

Accused Party: A military commander identified as (M. S. A. Al-Jahafi), serving as a medical officer in one of the military brigades affiliated with the Security Belt Forces in Aden.

Details: The suspect lured the child to an apartment in Al-Mualla neighborhood and sexually assaulted him under threat, filming the act on his phone to extort him into silence and force repeated assaults. The case became a matter of public opinion after videos were leaked. In early June 2024, the Public Prosecution in Aden issued an arrest warrant and a travel ban against the suspect.

Subsequent investigations revealed the existence of a broader network and additional child victims who were extorted using the same method, amid factional protection provided to the suspect.

Accused Party: A military commander identified as (M. S. A. Al-Jahafi), serving as a medical officer in one of the military brigades affiliated with the Security Belt Forces in Aden.

Details: The suspect lured the child to an apartment in Al-Mualla neighborhood and sexually assaulted him under threat, filming the act on his phone to extort him into silence and force repeated assaults. The case became a matter of public opinion after videos were leaked. In early June 2024, the Public Prosecution in Aden issued an arrest warrant and a travel ban against the suspect.

2.The Killing of Child Haneen Al-Bakri on the Eve of Eid (Aden)

Date: June 27, 2023 (On the eve of Eid al-Adha).

Victim: 4-year-old child “Haneen Al-Bakri,” and the injury of her sister “Rawya.”

Accused Party: A security leader named “Hussein Harhara,” affiliated with one of the armed formations.

Details: At Al-Katheer Roundabout in Al-Mansoura district, a verbal altercation broke out following a minor traffic incident (a car scratch) between the child’s father and the security leader. The latter opened fire with his automatic weapon (Kalashnikov) directly at the father’s vehicle while his daughters were inside, leading to Haneen’s immediate death and the injury of her sister. The case sparked widespread outrage and demonstrations in Aden, with public pressure ultimately leading to his trial and subsequent execution in mid-2024.

3.The Killing of Maha Bassem During a Home Raid (Tawahi — Aden)

Date: December 25, 2021.

Victim: A young woman named “Maha Bassem Yahya” (in her twenties).

Accused Party: A security force affiliated with the Security Belt Forces (indiscriminate raids).

Details: A military unit raided a home in the “Hajif” neighborhood in Al-Tawahi district without a judicial warrant, under the pretext of searching for a wanted individual. During the raid, amid panic among the women and children, soldiers opened fire indiscriminately inside the house.

Maha suffered a fatal gunshot wound to the head, dying instantly in front of her family. The perpetrators were not brought to a fair trial due to the military protection granted to them.

4. Rape and Mass Sexual Assault of Children and Migrants at Al-Buraiqeh Detention Center

Date: March – April 2018 (Documented by Human Rights Watch in an official report).

Victims: Dozens of children and underage youths (both Yemeni nationals and African migrants).

Accused Party: Guards and supervisors affiliated with the Security Belt Forces at Al-Buraiqeh detention center (Aden), which was operated with direct Emirati backing and guidance.

Details: Human Rights Watch documented firsthand testimony from detainees who reported that guards selected young boys and children at night, taking them at gunpoint to be subjected to mass sexual assault. The guards threatened the victims with death or deportation if they spoke out, accompanied by financial extortion of the families of Yemeni children in exchange for their release.

5. Rape of an Orphaned Young Woman by 12 Individuals, Including a Security Belt Commander

In June 2026, the Public Prosecution of the Legitimate government in occupied Aden Governorate stated that it had been reviewing a case since September 2025 involving a 19-year-old woman. She was subjected to sexual assault and extortion by 12 individuals, including members of the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council's Security Belt forces—most notably Mazen Qasim Muhammad Hazebl, according to prosecutorial documents—who lured, raped, and blackmailed her.

According to the case file, the young woman was facing difficult personal circumstances following the death of her parents. She approached the Security Belt seeking help to resolve some of her problems, believing they would grant her justice, unaware that she was turning to human predators.

The documents reveal that the suspects exploited her situation. Mazen Hazebl lured her to a chalet at “Aster” resort on Abyan coast in Khor Maksar district, where they forced her to consume food and drinks laced with substances that caused her to lose consciousness before raping her. Exploiting their influence and official security status, the perpetrators continued to blackmail and force her into sexual abuse over an extended period.

As her suffering intensified, the victim approached the competent authorities to demand justice and hold those responsible accountable. She underwent a medical examination, and the resulting report confirmed that she had been subjected to multiple forms of sexual assault, which caused her health to deteriorate drastically and required emergency medical care.

While some of the suspects—including Security Belt members—were arrested, reports indicate that key defendants were released. Among them was the security commander for Al-Mansoura sector, Mazen Qasim Muhammad Hazebe, who continues to serve in the Security Belt forces (recently renamed the National Security).

This crime comes in the wake of a series of similar sexual assault cases against women and children exposed in recent times. Human rights organizations have held local authorities and Coalition forces fully responsible for all violations taking place in the city of Aden.

6. The Killing of Young “Afnan” in Clashes Between Factions (Sheikh Othman)

Date: November 13, 2022

Victim: Afnan Abdo Shukri (9 years old)

Accused Party: Gunmen belonging to warring security factions

Details: Violent clashes involving light and medium weaponry broke out in Omar Al-Mukhtar neighborhood of Sheikh Othman District between two security factions, triggered by a power struggle and disputes over market fee collection. While returning from a nearby grocery store, young Afnan was struck in the chest by a stray bullet and succumbed to her injuries before reaching the hospital. As is typical in cases of security breakdown, the case was ultimately filed against unknown perpetrators.

7. The Killing of Two Syrian Doctors in Aden

On Thursday, June 18, 2026, Syrian physician Dr. Samer Hassan and his wife, Dr. Samahir Al-Mousa, were shot dead by a gunman in Al-Mansoura district of occupied Aden Governorate. The crime followed an incitement campaign launched against them by mercenary activists based in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi hotels, driven by no other motive than their alleged sympathy for former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Before fleeing to his home and taking his own life with the murder weapon, the gunman also killed two security officers—one belonging to the guards of Aden's governor, Abdul Rahman Sheikh, and the other to Al-Dareen police—and wounded three soldiers alongside an officer.

Sources revealed details confirming a key operational role-played Al Islah Party (the Muslim Brotherhood branch in Yemen) in the assassination of the two doctors. This revelation comes after Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's arm in Syria, embarrassed Al Islah Party by issuing a statement affirming joint coordination and alignment in their orientations and objectives.



8. Extortion and Hostage-Taking of Mothers and Wives (Documented by the Abductees' Mothers Association)

Date: Ranging between 2019 and 2023

Victims: Dozens of women (mothers and wives of detainees and forcibly disappeared individuals in Bir Ahmed and Qa'at Waddah prisons)

Accused Party: Supervisors of secret prisons operated by Coalition-backed factions

Details: Through repeated protest rallies in Aden, the Abductees' Mothers Association documented security personnel financially extorting the mothers of detainees. Demands reached millions of riyals simply for information on whether their sons were alive or dead, or to permit a single one-minute phone call. In other instances (such as an incident documented in Lahj in 2021), an elderly woman—the mother of a politically wanted individual—was detained as a hostage inside a security center to pressure her son into surrendering.

9. Abduction and Enforced Disappearance of Human Rights Activist Marwa al-Sabri

Date: May 2022

Location: Jahayf Roundabout – Tawahi (Aden)

Executing Party: A security force affiliated with the Security Belt

Details: Human rights activist Marwa Al-Sabri was intercepted and forcibly taken to an undisclosed location following her public criticism of living conditions and security violations in Aden. She was held in incommunicado detention, with her family denied any knowledge of her whereabouts for several weeks while facing psychological extortion to prevent them from escalating the case in the media. She was later released under growing community and human rights pressure.

10. Abduction and Hostage-Taking of Citizen Nawal al-Khadr

Date: October 2020

Location: Dar Sad District (Aden)

Executing Party: Gunmen affiliated with a commander of UAE-backed military brigades

Details: Armed forces raided the home of Nawal Al-Khadr and forcibly abducted her to pressure her husband and brother into surrendering over a land and real estate dispute involving properties seized by military commanders. She was held hostage under extortion for several days in inhumane conditions without any legal charges.

11. Child Abduction for Financial Extortion or Forced Recruitment

- Abduction and Murder of Young Omar Al-Muqbali:

Date: March 2022

Location: Sheikh Othman District (Aden)

Executing Party: An armed gang linked to individuals within a security faction

Details: Ten-year-old Omar was abducted while returning home from school. His family received ransom demands of \$50,000 for his release. Despite the family's efforts to raise the funds and mediate through security leaders, the abductors murdered the child and dumped his body in a semi-deserted area out of fear of exposure—an incident that sparked widespread public outrage against the prevailing security breakdown.

12. Abduction of Migrant and Unaccompanied Children (Lahj and Aden):

Date: Recurring incidents documented between 2021 and 2024

Location: The coastal highway and refugee camps in Lahj and Aden

Executing Party: Trafficking networks backed by military commanders along the coast

Details: Migration monitoring organizations recorded the abduction of dozens of African migrant and displaced Yemeni children. They were detained in private compounds and farms, with perpetrators demanding ransoms from families in their home countries or forcing the children into forced labor and recruitment for armed factions on the front lines.

13. Abduction of Women and Girls Under the Pretext of “Soft Cells” and Malicious Charges

Abduction of Young Women in Lahj and the Extortion of Their Families:

Date: August 2021

Location: Tuban District (Lahj Governorate)

Executing Party: Lahj Security Directorate (Security Belt faction)

Details: An armed force raided a home and abducted two sisters on fabricated charges of “spying for hostile entities”—a ready-made pretext used to justify the abduction of women.

They were taken to the 5th Brigade camp prison, where their family faced severe financial and psychological extortion. The family was forced to pay a substantial sum and sign over real estate properties in exchange for dropping the political charges and securing the sisters' release, which occurred after the ransom was paid.

Conclusion:

The deteriorating humanitarian and human rights conditions in Yemen's southern provinces are no longer mere statistics; they are a painful daily reality for millions of citizens exhausted by occupation, human rights violations, and the collapse of basic services.

Persisting in ignoring this suffering—and evading legal and moral obligations to protect civilians—will only deepen the humanitarian crisis and widen the gap of impunity. Accordingly, this report stresses that achieving a just and sustainable peace in Yemen fundamentally depends on respecting national sovereignty and ending all forms of illegal military and security presence. It also requires delivering justice to victims through transitional justice mechanisms, immediate accountability for violators, and easing living conditions by lifting the blockade on ports and airports, neutralizing the economy, and paying civil service salaries to all eligible recipients without discrimination or exclusion.

In conclusion, this report issues an urgent appeal to the international community, the United Nations, and relevant international and human rights bodies to take concrete action and exert real pressure on all involved parties. They must fulfill their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and human rights law, work earnestly to end this tragedy, and contribute to enabling the Yemeni people to restore their security, stability, and right to live with dignity.

Recommendation

1. Demanding an immediate and complete end to all forms of foreign military presence and intervention, the withdrawal of forces, and oversight to restore full national sovereignty over Yemen's land and territorial waters.
2. Neutralizing the economic and public service sectors from political conflicts, activating oversight and judicial bodies to curb corruption, closing all illegal detention centers, and promptly referring detainees to the judiciary.
3. Intensifying urgent humanitarian aid, as well as restructuring and unifying monetary policy under central management to stabilize the local currency and halt inflation.
4. Pressuring all parties to respect human rights, freedom of opinion, and expression, strictly adhere to human rights standards in law enforcement, and end the crackdown on activists, journalists, and civil society.
5. Disclosing the fate of all abductees and forcibly disappeared individuals, and ensuring their safe return to their families.
6. Bringing all perpetrators of violations and crimes against civilians before swift international and local justice, ensuring no party escapes legal accountability.
7. Lifting all restrictions imposed on land, sea, and air ports, facilitating the movement of trade and civilians, resuming oil exports, and utilizing revenues for the benefit of the Yemeni people.
8. Paying backdated salaries to civil servants, and obligating the warring parties to compensate affected individuals and fund the reconstruction of public and private infrastructure.



منظمة انتصاف

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