

Displacement and Eviction in Yemen



Rights Report Documents Displacement and Deportation in Yemen
during 1 January - 31 July 2017

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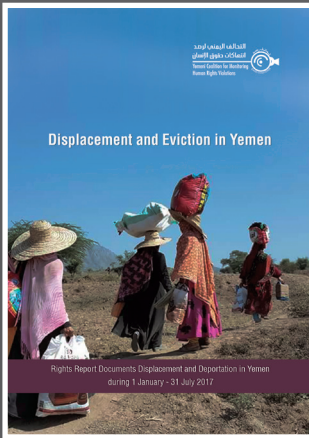
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التحالف اليمني لرصد
انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان

Yemehi Coalition for Monitoring
Human Rights Violations



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Cover Photo;
Displaced from Tebyshia
village, Taiz

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Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV), also known as "Rasd Coalition", is a coalition of a number of specialized Yemeni NGOs active in human rights issues including monitoring and documenting human rights violations in the country. YCMHRV was established in January 2015, License No. 1240 in response to valid need in the field of human rights, and considering the deteriorating human rights situation in Yemen, the matter that necessitated establishment of such Coalition. YCMHRV monitors and documents all human rights violations in Yemen and issues specialized reports on them. Also, organizes seminars and various events to disseminate and publicize these reports. YCMHRV submits these reports to relevant concerned entities. Noting that the first step in bringing justice to victims is to document their grievances for the moment of truth, committing ourselves in this respect with relevant human rights standards and laws.

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Index

Introduction	6
Executive Summary	7
Recommendations	10
Legal Definition	12
Part One: Displacement, Forced Displacement, and Eviction	14
Chapter One: Eviction and Forced Displacement	15
Chapter Two: Voluntary Displacement	25
Part Two: The Tragedy of the Displaced	31
Chapter One: Situation of IDPs During Displacement	31
Chapter Two: Violations Associated with Forced Displacement.....	32
Chapter Three: The Responsibility of Government Authorities and ... International Organizations	36
Acknowledgement and Appreciation	38

Introduction

Yemen has become a vast arena for armed conflict ever since the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, fell to the Houthi and Saleh militias in September 2014. The conflict continued between the Houthis and the forces of the former president on one side, and between the army forces of the legitimate government on the other. The areas of the conflict expanded to include a new territories in 2017, the most affected of which were the governorate of Taiz and its western coast, and parts of the governorates of Sana'a, Jawf, Baydha, Sa'dah, Hajjah, Mareb, Dhale, Lahj, and Shabwa.

The armed conflict in Yemen has been described as a non-international conflict between the two sides, the Houthi and Saleh militias and the government forces. This armed conflict has seen attacks against the people and civilian properties. These operations have varied from killing, kidnapping, torture, summary executions, displacement and forced deportation, indiscriminant attacks, and others. It can be seen that the protection that is given by international humanitarian laws and human rights laws for civilians, especially women and children, are still being violated on a large scale by the parties to the conflict in Yemen.

One of the worst violations that civilians have been subject to during this conflict in the different governorates of Yemen when their protection has been removed is the forced eviction and internal displacement that is being practiced by different parties to the conflict at different levels. The Houthi militias and Saleh's military forces are at the top of the list of violators of international human rights law by forcing large number of people out of the areas of the armed conflict. The civilian population in a number of the governorates that have seen a noticeable

increase in military operations are in dire need of security and protection, especially with the parties to the conflict deliberately attacking the freedoms and rights of these civilians to live and have stability.

The interventions of the government in responding to and providing protection for the IDPs and those forced out of their homes are limited. It should also be noted that the Houthi and Saleh militias have barred a number of relief and humanitarian organizations from going into the areas that they control to the areas where the IDPs are to help give them the food, shelter, and medical supplies that they need. This is the case in a number of Yemeni governorates, like Taiz, Hajjah, and Sana'a. A number of vehicles used to transport aid supplies and the employees of humanitarian organizations were stolen in governorates under the control of the legitimate government.

Executive Summary

During the period covered by the report, from January 1st until July 31st, 2017, the Yemeni Coalition recorded the forced displacement, movement, and eviction of 2,403 families from their homes. This totaled to 17,428 individuals, including 4,546 women (26% of the total) and 5,640 children (32% of the total). According to the information that was gathered by the Yemeni Coalition team, the Houthi and Saleh militias were responsible for their forced displacement and deportation, and they used a number of methods to terrorize them and committed a number of violations to forcibly displace them from their homes. These methods include killing, physical attacks, siege, breaking into homes, taking over residential buildings, and blowing up homes to force people to leave.

The military clashes between the Houthi and Saleh militias and the armed forces loyal to the government caused the displacement of 3,494

families in a number of places in Yemen, adding up to 28,476 individuals. These families were displaced as a result of the military operations near residential areas and homes, and deliberate indiscriminate attacks on civilians. There were also hundreds of displaced families that the Coalition was unable to document or get information from during the period of the report.

Taiz is the governorate that saw the most forced displacement, deportation, and voluntary displacement of residents with 1,646 families forcibly displaced, most of which was described as mass deportation, while 1,228 families were voluntarily displaced. After Taiz comes the governorate of Amran, with 405 families. Most of the families were displaced individually on numerous occasions. Then comes Dhamar with 143 families, Dhale with 74 families, Lahj with 68 families, Ibb with 30 families, Jawf with 22 families, and 15 families from the governorates of Sana'a, the Capital Secretariat, Raymah, Sa'dah, Hajjah, and Mahwit. The governorate of Jawf came second after Taiz with regards to voluntary displacement with 1,174 families, then Dhamar with 568 families, Dhale with 168 families, then Ibb, Hajjah, Lahj, and Hudaydah, in that order.

The Coalition documented the killing of 23 displaced civilians while displaced because of the indiscriminate shelling, the air strikes, and snipers. These deaths were caused by the Houthi and Saleh militias and by the air force of the Arab coalition. The governorate of Taiz had the most victims, then the governorate of Sana'a. There were also 31 recorded cases of injuries among displaced civilians. Other crimes were committed against the displaced and those deported from their homes, including blowing their homes up (4 homes in Ibb and Taiz), damaging

public and private property, and arbitrary violations and arrests. The planting of landmines by militants from the Houthi and Saleh militias was also one of the worst violations committed against displaced and deported civilians, and led to the death of 9 IDPs in Taiz and the injury of 14 others in Taiz and Sana'a.

The suffering of the displaced and evicted civilians only increased with the stopping and hindering of humanitarian aid provided by local and international organizations. Supplies provided to IDPs were looted by the Houthi and Saleh militias, and a number of vehicles used by officers from numerous organizations were looted by groups in the resistance in governorates that are under the control of the legitimate government.

Recommendations

To the Houthi and Saleh Militias:

- Immediately stopping the targeting of civilians and adhering to the principles of protection of residents and civilians in international humanitarian law. This includes stopping the forcible displacement and deportation of civilians, and stopping the use of threats, terror, or other methods to force the population to leave.
- Allowing the forcibly displaced residents to return to their homes and opening the roads for them to do so.
- Stopping the planting of landmines in villages and residential areas, and handing over maps of the landmines that were planted in the areas whose population were deported or displaced, as well as stopping the indiscriminate attacks or threats of these attacks in order to forcibly displace the residents.
- Allowing the teams of local and international humanitarian organizations to go through to the refugee camps and shelters, and not hindering them.

To the Legitimate Government:

- Carrying out its humanitarian responsibilities and duties by receiving and sheltering refugees and IDPs, as well as providing them with everything needed for them and their families to lead dignified lives. This includes giving women and children special care and making them a priority, as well as supporting their health and mental care.

- Quickly and directly coordinating with all international and humanitarian organizations to give displaced and deported civilians the things they need in the camps and areas they were displaced to.
- Directing the armed forces to adhere to international humanitarian law during military operations, and working as hard as possible to protect civilians and not put them, their homes, or their areas in any risk.

To the National Committee to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations:

- Investigating crimes of forcible and voluntary displacement.
- To the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organizations, and the International Community:
- Creating quick response plans to protect and help IDPs and those forced out of their homes and working to get food and shelter to the areas affected by the armed conflict, as well as those affected by the deportation or displacement of their populations.
- Coordinating with the Yemeni government to get humanitarian aid, and working with local organizations to provide the necessary aid to rehabilitate, train, and help provide stability for IDPs.

Legal Definition

The Second Additional Protocol of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, relating to the protection of the victims of non-international armed conflicts, which was ratified by the Republic of Yemen, states, in Article 17, that: “The displacement of the civilian population shall not be ordered for reasons related to the conflict unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand. Should such displacements have to be carried out, all possible measures shall be taken in order that the civilian population may be received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition.” Violating this prohibition is considered a war crime in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The General Assembly of the United Nations also confirmed, in the Basic Principles for the Protection of Civilian Populations in Armed Conflict (1970), that civilians should not be the object of forcible transfers. In the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (1974), the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed that the “forcible eviction... committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.” The Human Rights Council and the Security Council have condemned the forced displacement during international or non-international conflicts. The rules of customary international humanitarian law state the responsibility of the parties to the conflict to prevent displacement caused by their military actions.

Yemen, among other countries, is a signatory of the Geneva Conventions, including the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the two additional proto-

cols of the convention. The convention has criminalized the collective or individual forced transfer of protected groups. The First Additional Protocol of the Geneva Conventions states that the parties to the conflict must discriminate between civilians and combatants, and between civilian objects and military targets, and that the parties to the conflict must direct their operations against military targets only. This is in order to respect and protect the civilian populations and civilian objects. The rules of customary international humanitarian law have criminalized this, and rule 129 states that: “Parties to a non-international armed conflict may not order the displacement of the civilian population, in whole or in part, for reasons related to the conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand.” This is not true for the displacement or forced transfer documented by the Yemeni Coalition team in a number of Yemeni governorates.

It should be noted that what is applicable to governments is also applicable to military and paramilitary groups, entities, and individuals, so the Houthi and Saleh militias have violated international humanitarian law and forcibly displaced civilians. Security agencies of the Yemeni government have also displaced and forcibly evicted a number of civilians originally from northern governorates from areas like Aden, Lahj, and Shabwa. These are violations of the rules of international humanitarian law. A number of civilians have been displaced from numerous governorates because of the armed conflict between the Houthi and Saleh militias and the government forces. These parties are responsible for not providing complete protection to these civilians because their military operations were responsible for causing them to be displaced from their areas.

Part One: Displacement, Forced Displacement, and Eviction

This report, which covers the period from the beginning of January and until the 31st of July 2017, presents some of the violations that civilian populations have been subject to during armed conflict. Forced eviction or displacement is considered one of the worst violations practiced by a number of parties in Yemen. Forced eviction or displacement affects the stability of the civilian populations, and it has a direct effect on the lives of children and women, as well as their rights to education, healthcare, and nurturing. A number of areas in Yemeni governorates have witnessed forced eviction and displacement, and some areas have also witnessed waves of IDPs because of the military operations of the parties to the conflict and being deprived of their right to protection. The period that was covered in the report had the most dangerous cases of collective forcible eviction since the capital, Sana'a, fell to the Houthi and Saleh militias on the 21st of September 2014. The governorate of Taiz had the biggest share of these violations, while the governorates of Dhamar, Dhale, Lahj, and Ibb had a large share of these violations.

The governorates of Amran was on the top of the list with the highest number of people individually evicted as individuals or families at numerous times, and it was followed by the Jawf governorate.

Chapter One: Eviction and Forced Displacement

The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations investigated the displacement and eviction of 2,403 families in a number of governorates in Yemen, including Taiz, Amran, Dhamar, Dhale, Lahj, Ibb, Jawf, and Sana'a. This amounted to 17,428 individuals. The Coalition investigated the responsibility of the Houthi and Saleh militias in the eviction and displacement of these civilians. The most prominent eviction and forcible displacement operations during the period covered by the report were the eviction of the population of the village of Tabeshah Jabal Hibshi in Taiz, the population of the village of Afeerah in Jabal Hibshi as well, and the eviction of the population of the area of Sharm and the Thalooh Market in the center of the district of Utmah in the governorate of Dhamar.

From among these displaced and evicted families, the number of children was 5,640, or 32% of the total, while there were 4,546 women, making up 26% of the total. The governorate of Taiz was the top Yemeni governorate that saw collective forced displacement of civilians, with 1,646 families made up of 12,971 individuals. After Taiz, with regards to forced displacement, comes the governorate of Amran with 405 families, Dhamar with 142 families, Dhale with 74 families, Lahj with 68 families, Ibb with 30 families, Jawf with 22 families, and 15 families from Sana'a, the Capital Secretariat, Raymah, Sa'dah, Hajjah, and Mahwit. Table 1 clarifies the forced displacement and eviction according to the victim groups and the areas they were displaced or evict-

ed from. The Yemeni Coalition team met with a number of the women and children that were displaced, and the team investigated the effects of the displacement on their lives and mental states, especially when they have been IDPs for a long time because the Houthi and Saleh militias remain in control of their villages and residences.

Incidents

Collective displacement and eviction

The displacement of the population of the village of Afeerah – Taiz

The people of the village of Afeerah, in the area of Sharjah in the Jabal Hibshi District, were forcibly displaced by militants from the Houthi and Saleh militias after the village was stormed from the 8th until the 11th of April 2017 (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday). Houthi and Saleh militiamen planted mines around the main road, and they forced the people of the village (954 families) to leave their homes, farms, and livestock. The displaced people settled in a number of areas. Some of them settled in the city of Taiz, others in Nashmah, Bireen in Mawasit, Turbah in Shamayatayn, Kalaebah in Ma'afar, and the district of Misrakh. Some of them settled in the area of Aqaqat Al Dhabab.

The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations team met with 15 victims who were displaced, and the team listened to their testimonies and recorded them in forms. The team also listened to the testimony of dozens of people that they met in the areas of the displaced, and the team visited a number of IDP areas in Aqaqah, Misrakh, and Nashmah.

Awadh Muhammad Ali (53 years old), a farmer from the village of Afeerah, said that: “the Houthis came to the village and told us to leave.

They planted mines on the roads that killed and injured people from the village. The Houthis were led by Tarboush. We sold our livestock at the cheapest possible prices, and we went through hell.”

“We do not know why they targeted our village,” Awadh adds. “The Houthis came from the direction of Barh. We were happy in our homes, and they came and forced us out. We went through a lot when moving from the village to the city, and we are in Aqaqah now, renting a home for 17,000 riyals a month.”

“We are suffering now because everything is for money. In our village, we farmed our land and planted our own food. We were happy, and we were safe. There was no resistance in our village, or any other armed group.”

Displaced people from the village of Tabeshah – Jabal Hibshi – Taiz

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday the 17th, 18th, and 19th of February 2017, the residents of the village of Tabeshah, a village adjacent to the city of Taiz, were forced out by Houthi and Saleh militiamen. 311 families were forced out, and a number of media organizations published pictures of the people leaving their village with some of their belongings. There were also pictures of the people in the refugee camps in the city of Taiz and some rural districts. The Yemeni Coalition team visited a number of refugee camps and met with 17 victims and recorded their testimony. The team also listened to many of the residents, including women and children. The whole population of the village, made up of 329 families, was displaced. The Yemeni Coalition team got the information of all of the families, including the number of members. The displaced people settled in a number of schools and homes, including the Yarmouk School in the Dahi Valley in Taiz, the homes of relatives in Hasb, Bir Basha, Aqaqah, Ba'rarah, Mafraq Shar'ab, 30 Street, Ma-

fraq Mawiyah, Dhabab, Ramada, Rubaee, and Dumainah. From our interviews with the victims, most of the people of the village relied on agriculture, and they have farms and water pumps. They depend on the crops from these farms to live.

Ali Muhammad Mahyoob Al Qahtani (67 years old), who is now an IDP in the area of Bir Basha in Taiz, says that he left, along with his family, the village of Tabeshah after they were left with no other choice because of the constant shelling and blocked road to the village. They were not allowed to bring in any food by Houthi and Saleh militiamen, who stormed the village. “I left with my family, which is made up of ten members, in the direction of Milad, in addition to my married daughter in Emirates and her two children.”

“We walked for two kilometers, all on foot, and while we were walking, Muhammad, one of my children, fell and broke one of his hands. We carried Muhammad and continued walking until we got to the paved road and rode with a car until we got here, to Bir Basha. We stayed with someone that we knew for a couple of days until we rented an apartment.” The victim says that they are living a difficult life because they do not have a source of income, and no organizations have provided them with humanitarian aid.

During the visit of the monitoring team to the home of the victim, the team noticed that the family was not happy with their situation, and the team noticed the difficulty they were in because they were displaced from the homes that they grew up in. Their lives were easier in the village, where they relied on their farms. The team noticed that they were not happy with their lives in the area that they were displaced to

because they are unable to pay rent for their home. We also noticed that the home does not have any furniture, other than a simple carpet that covers the floor of the apartment that they live in.

Displaced people from the areas of Juban – Dhale

In January 2017, armed Houthi and Saleh militiamen stormed the areas and villages of Rab'atain, Dhabyaniah, the city of Jubah, Hajaj, Lawdiah, and Na'wah in the district of Juban. They took control of these villages and forcibly displaced and evicted some of the residents of these villages who opposed the Houthi and Saleh militias. They also tampered with the contents of some of the homes, and took over some of the houses. The Coalition investigated the displacement of 74 families, made up of 402 individuals, to the villages of Jubarah, Hamira, Sadrain, Katma, Haleeb, Sh'ab, Batar, and Shaqran in Murais, in addition to the center of the Qatabah district.

Individual Eviction Incidents

Murder, Abortion, and Eviction

Khalil Muhammad Mahyoob Al Qahtani, the husband of victim Fan Saeed Muhammad Abdullah, who lived in the village of Tabeshah in Jabal Hibshi, says that, while the Houthi and Saleh militiamen were storming the village of Tabeshah in Taiz in February 2017, the Houthis started searching the homes in the early morning of February 17th. This terrorized the women and the children, especially since the searches started in the very early morning, before sunrise.

He added that Houthi armed men then blew up some of the homes in the village, including the home of Jalal Al Hamoodi and Muhammad Ahmad Al Hamoodi. The sounds of the explosion were very loud in the

village, a village that has been far from conflicts. This struck fear in the residents of the village. His mother and wife were afraid because of the explosions and because of the actions of the Houthis.

During the next morning, Houthi militiamen killed Mr. Muhammad Saeed Qassim while he was on the road going to the village grocery store. He was shot by a Houthi sniper. One of the people from the village tried to take Mr. Qassim to get help, but the armed men refused to allow it, and they were in control of the roads that led to the city. The victim bled out until he died, and his body remained on the street from the morning until the evening. The Houthis did not allow anyone to take his body. At night, they allowed some of the women to take the body as long as they raised a white flag, and this is what those women did. Khalil adds that his wife saw the body of the victim, and she was struck with fear while watching a dog try to eat the body. Because of this fear, she had a miscarriage in the 7th month of her pregnancy. They could not take her to the hospital because the Houthis controlled the roads leading out of the city. During the next morning, she was taken to her father's home with her miscarried daughter. Her father's home is in Humaira, near Tabeshah. They tried taking her into the city, but the Houthis refused to allow them through. "Then, I had to leave with my mother and sister, without my wife, and we went to Taiz with a group of people from the village who were forced to leave their homes. After about a week, my father-in-law contacted me and told me that my daughter had died."

When the monitoring team met with Khalil, the husband of the victim, Fan, he was in a very bad shape, and he was greatly affected by what had happened to his wife and the separation of the members of his fam-

ily. His wife is far from him at her father's house, and he is unable to provide a home for his mother and sister. The team met him at a school, and he is looking for humanitarian aid for his family.

Displacement because of political affiliation – Jawf

The victim, Abdoh Saleh Salem Abdan (48 years old), who currently lives in Hazm, the capital of the governorate of Jawf, used to live in the district of Khabb wa ash Sha'af. He says that armed Houthi and Saleh militiamen kept threatening him and bothering him at his home, and they did not want him to leave his house. "On Monday the 17th of April 2017, Houthi and Saleh militiamen came to my house and asked me to write and sign a pledge not to leave my home except to go to work, or I would have to vacate my house. I had to leave the house with my family, and we went to Hazm."

Ali Ahmad Muhammad Marsh (37 years old), is the manager of a department in the Ministry of Education office in the district of Arhab in Sana'a. He met with the monitoring team and said that Houthi militiamen forced him out of his area in Arhab. He was displaced, along with his family, to Sana'a, because of his political affiliation against the Houthis. When he settled in the capital, the Houthis kept chasing him and bothering him in his work, and he had to leave the capital for Mareb on Wednesday, April 5th, 2017.

Samples of Displacement Cases

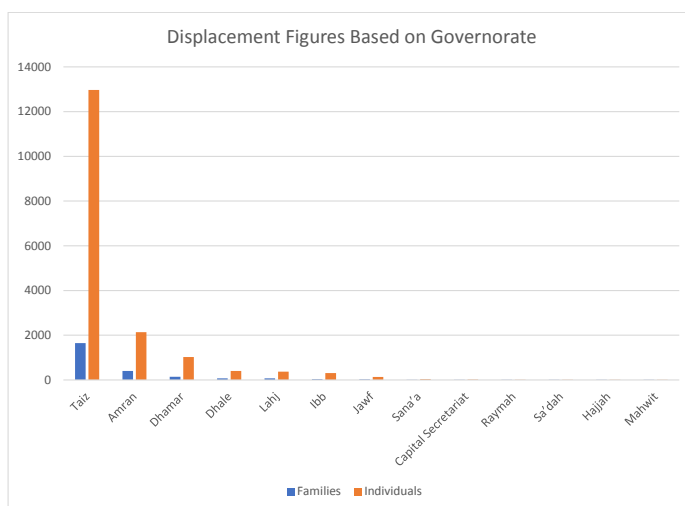
Humanitarian situation has deteriorated in Bihan, Shabwa, following indiscriminate shelling and blockade by Houthi-Saleh militia, where the militia perpetrated violations and crimes while invading Baihan districts and village, that impacted civilians; women and children in

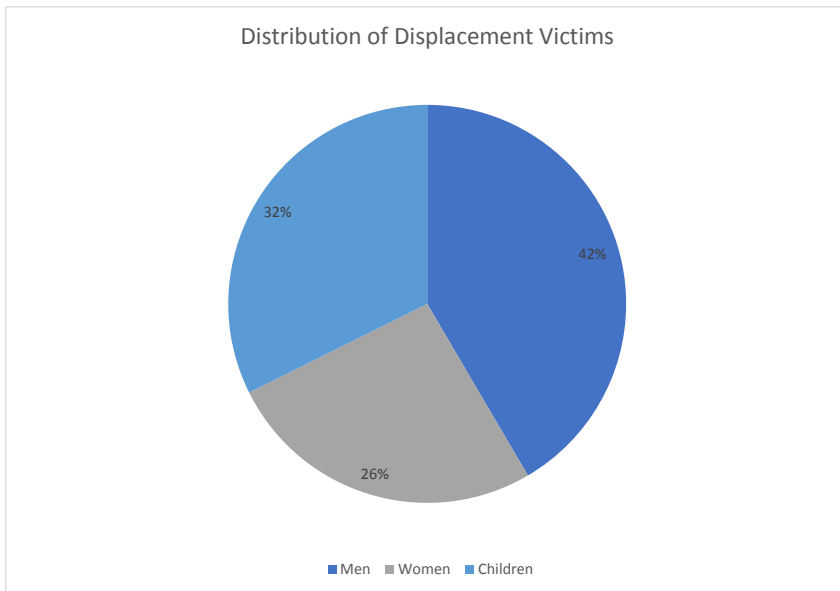
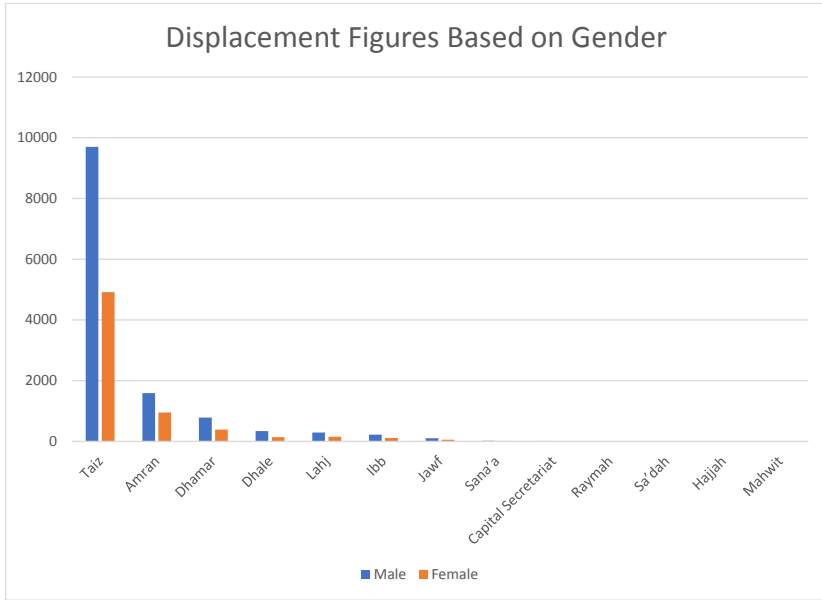
particular, resulted in displacement of civilians from tens of villages in Asilan district towards the desert, Ataq, or Mareb, also tens of families displaced to Al-Olaia and thousands of displaced are living in difficult humanitarian conditions due to the shelling and blockade.

Muhammad Abdullah Saeed Al Shar'abi (35 years old) sold ice cream for a living in the governorate of Shabwa. He came from Taiz to work in this governorate. Muhammad says that he has three carts that sell ice cream. He had worked in the capital of Shabwa for around a month before being forced out. On Tuesday, March 14th, 2017, a person named Abd Rabboh Shaqran came to him with other members of the southern resistance and members of the Southern Hirak. He told him that they had orders to deport him from Shabwa, and they forced him to write a pledge to leave Ataq, Shabwa, and not come back. He left Shabwa to the area of Abr in Mareb, the governorate bordering Shabwa.

Table 1: Showing the Distribution of Incidents of Displacement According to Victim Group and Geographic Location

Governorate	Number of Families	Males			Females			Total Individuals
		Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	
Taiz	1646	5372	2685	9703	3276	1638	4914	12971
Amran	405	848	338	1591	678	270	948	2134
Dhamar	143	430	213	786	273	113	386	1029
Dhale	74	195	70	339	94	43	137	402
Lahj	68	161	61	290	93	57	150	372
Ibb	30	142	52	224	72	39	111	305
Jawf	22	56	24	102	35	18	53	133
Sana'a	6	15	3	24	10	2	12	30
Capital Secretariat	2	6	3	11	2	2	4	13
Raymah	3	5	2	10	4	1	5	12
Sa'dah	1	5	2	8	3	1	4	11
Hajjah	2	5	1	8	4	1	5	11
Mahwit	1	2	1	4	2		2	5
Total	2403	7242	3455	13100	4546	2185	6731	17428





Chapter Two: Voluntary Displacement

The armed conflict that is taking place in the Republic of Yemen, along with the indiscriminate military operations, has a direct effect on civilians, and has led to the displacement of hundreds of civilians. The armed conflict leads to the forced or voluntary displacement of civilians, and the protection of civilians during the conflict has diminished. The displacement has had a large effect on women and children. In addition to the feeling that they are lost, and the deteriorating education, healthcare, and nurturing that they get, there is also abuse that women and children face during their displacement or when they reach their shelters. There is also the social responsibility that women bear in supporting their families.

Voluntary displacement is a result of fear and feeling unsafe, and it is a large problem that has faced the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations because these feelings are only increasing with the increased use of residential gatherings and villages as arenas for military operations, in addition to the violence that happens before, during, and after displacement. This has hindered the work of the monitors when researching and investigating the party that caused this displacement. During the field visits and the interviews with the victims, the IDPs said that the parties to the armed conflict were responsible for their displacement from their homes.

The Yemeni Coalition's team recorded cases of displacement from the governorates of Taiz, Jawf, Dhamar, Dhale, Ibb, Hajjah, Lahj, and Hudaydah. The displacement of 3,494 families was investigated, made up of 28,476 individuals. Children made up 8,532 of those individuals, or 30%, while women made up 10,805 of them (38%). The governorate of Taiz had the most of these IDPs, with 1,228 families, while Jawf came

next with 1,174 families, then Dhamar with 568 families, Dhale with 168 families, Ibb with 128 families, Hajjah with 91 families, Lahj with 78 families, and Hudaydah with 59 families. There were also reports of displacement in the areas around Nihm in Sana'a, Sirwah in Mareb, and Dhubab in Bab El Mandab in Taiz. The Yemeni Coalition did not get accurate information about these cases of displacement because of the ongoing fighting in these areas. The Yemeni Coalition regrets the continuing armed conflict in these areas and the effect of this conflict on the work of humanitarian and human rights organizations and their ability to have a presence, research, and document.

The following table, Table 2, shows amount of displacement distributed into type and location.

Collective Displacement

Dhubab District, Bab El Mandeb – Taiz

Since January 2017, the district of Dhubab in Bab El Mandeb has seen a violent armed conflict between the armed forces of the legitimate government and the Houthi and Saleh militias. This conflict was because of the movement of government forces towards the area to take control of the Bab El Mandab Strait, which has a strategic importance to international shipping, and was under the control of the Houthi and Saleh militias, along with the rest of the district of Dhubab, which overlooks the strait. The Yemeni Coalition recorded collective displacement of the residents of the villages of this district because of this conflict, which led to the displacement of hundreds of families in the villages of Gharirah, Suwaida, Majliah, Jadeed, Ghabeer, Kadhah, Wahijah, and a number of other areas. The monitoring team met with a number of residents in some of the districts of the governorate of Lahj, the districts of Ma'afar and Waziyah in Taiz. The team was unable to determine an

accurate number of the displaced families because they were distributed in a number of different areas in the governorates of Taiz, Lahj, Hudaydah, and Aden.

Mocha District – Taiz

After the legitimate government forces, with support from direct forces from the Arab coalition, took control, these forces went, during the months of February and March of this year, towards the district of Mocha in western Taiz. This district is on the coast of the Red Sea, and it has Mocha Port. It was under the control of the Houthis and Saleh militias before this date. There was an armed conflict to take control of the area and the port, and hundreds of families were documented as having been displaced because of it. The Yemeni Coalition investigated the displacement of 635 families, made up of 5,425 individuals (including 2,111 children and 1,686 women). They were displaced from the areas of Jum'ah, Manaseeb, Shibarah, Ma'amirah, Shadhilah, Hadhiah, Jahzar, Hali, Mighaini, Suwaid, Shadhili, Abu Ismael, and other parts of the district. The Yemeni Coalition team listened to a number of IDPs who escaped from the armed conflict. The parties to the conflict in the district did not provide enough protection from attacks for the population of the district, and all of the parties to the conflict deliberately used the villages and residential areas as an arena for their fighting.

Nihm District – Sana'a

Around 40,000 people live in the Nihm district, and, due to the armed conflict in that area, a conflict that has been taking place since 2016, many of them have been displaced since the beginning of the conflict. The conflict reached its peak in 2017, and the rate of displacement increased as well. The parties to the armed conflict in the area of Nihm

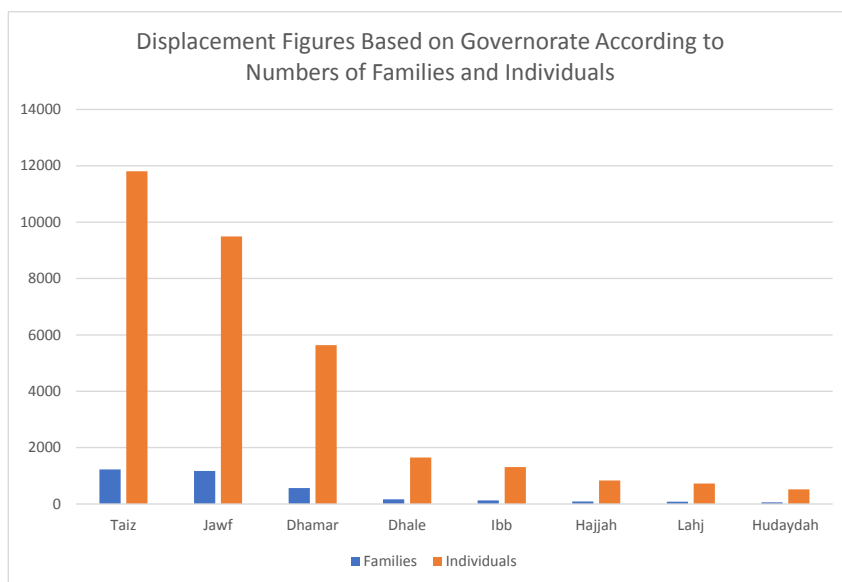
did not provide adequate protection to the resident population, and they have moved the fighting to some of the villages in the district.

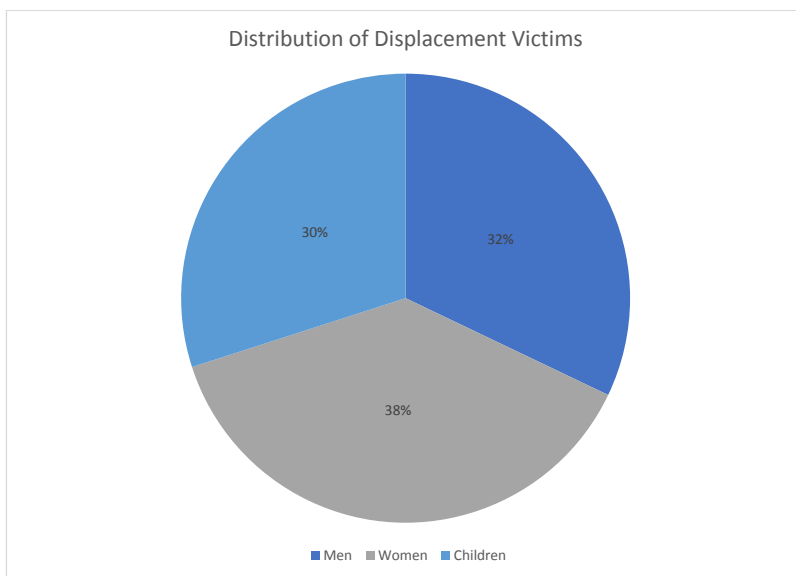
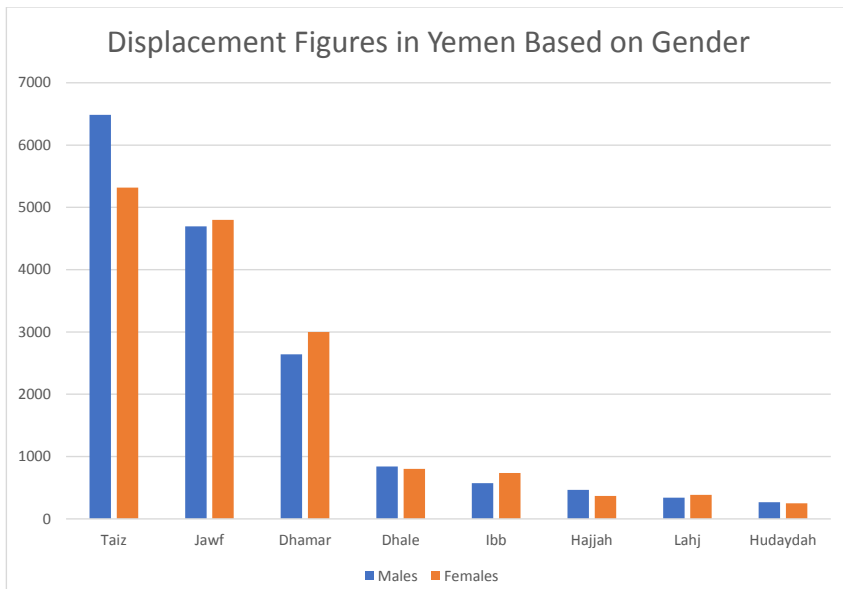
The area of the fighting and suffering increased to include new villages in the district with collective displacement taking place in 2017, and the conflict also affected the health and education facilities in a number of villages and residential areas.

The Yemeni Coalition team was able to interview some of the IDPs and determine some of the areas and villages that were a part of displacement in 2017, and they included the area of Baran, the area of Shalf, Bait Abu Hatem, Bait Rubaid, Bait Haydan, the village of Abu Alhan, Zamil, the Dhabooah Valley, the area of Maswarah, the village of Qitbain, the Milh Valley, the village of Martah, the villages of Sharia, Shajan, Mahjar, Nuaimat, Majawhah, Bani Faraj, and Madfoon. The Yemeni Coalition team was unable to document all of the displaced people in the district because the armed conflict hindered the work of the monitors and they were unable to be present in the district. In addition to that, the people have been displaced to different governorates, and there are battles between the legitimate government's forces, supported by the Arab Coalition air force, and the Houthi and Saleh militias in the district.

Table 2: Showing the Distribution of Incidents of Displacement According to Victim Group and Geographic Location

Governorate	Number of Families	Males			Females			Total Individuals
		Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	
Taiz	1228	3499	1759	6486	3466	1851	5317	11803
Jawf	1174	2632	890	4696	3320	1479	4799	9495
Dhamar	568	1639	433	2640	2305	695	3000	5640
Dhale	168	484	190	842	550	254	804	1646
Ibb	128	307	137	572	475	260	735	1307
Hajjah	91	264	112	467	263	106	369	836
Lahj	78	185	79	342	256	128	384	726
Hudaydah	59	129	80	268	170	79	249	517
Total	3494	9139	3680	16313	10805	4852	15657	31970





Part Two: The Tragedy of the Displaced

Chapter One: Situation of IDPs During Displacement

The teams of the Yemeni Coalition visited a number of camps and areas sheltering IDPs, and they have listened to dozens of IDPs and seen the catastrophe that they are living in. Among these problems, it was clear that they did not have a number of their needs in the camps that were visited by the team, including the lack of healthcare services, especially for the care of mothers and children. The IDPs did not have a lot of chances to get their needs in food and water, they were missing out on their educations, and they did not have much in the way of preventing diseases and illnesses the were widespread, like cholera. In addition to this situation that the IDPs were going through, they did not have ways to keep warm, furniture, or the supplies that they need.

The Yemeni Coalition also documented roads being blocked and relief supplies not being allowed in. Some of these supplies were being taken by the Houthi and Saleh militias in Taiz, Dhale, and Hajjah. The Houthi

and Saleh militias, along with some resistance groups and entities that operate in the areas under the control of the legitimate government, are responsible for confiscating vehicles used by humanitarian organizations in their work to help the IDPs. The IDPs complained about the lack of equality in the distribution of humanitarian supplies by international and local organizations.

The parties to the armed conflict in Yemen are responsible for the consequences of the displacement of hundreds of families due to the fighting, and these parties not adhering to the protection of civilians. Among these methods of protection is staying away from residential areas. The parties to the conflict are also responsible for the military attacks on residential areas.

Chapter Two: Violations Associated with Forced Displacement

A number of charges of crimes and practices committed before, during, and after forced displacement were recorded, as well as during displacement and while returning from it and in the areas the people were displaced to. These crimes include physical attacks that resulted in death or injury, the bombing of the homes of displaced civilians, and the planting landmines in the areas that civilians would pass through, as well as in their farms and on roads in the areas where there had been forcible displacement. There are also the crimes of looting the homes of the displaced, the destruction of their farms, and the taking a number of the livestock and animals of the people.

The Yemeni Coalition team, during the period covered by the report, investigated the murders of 23 IDPs and the injury of 31 others. They were killed by Houthi shelling, snipers, and Arab Coalition air strikes. The team also investigated the blowing up of four homes in Taiz and

Ibb, two homes in each governorate, and 23 casualties from the landmines that were planted by Houthi and Saleh militiamen. The team also listened to the testimony about the looting of private property, the destruction of farms by Houthi and Saleh militiamen in the areas of Tabe-shah and Afeerah in Taiz, Utmah in Dhamar, Juban in Dhale, and Nihm in Sana'a.

Incidents

At 5:15 PM on Sunday the 21st of May 2017, a mortar shell fell on a bus that was transporting the family of Iman Hazza Al Sufyani, and other travelers. Iman was going back to the city of Taiz from the area she had been displaced to in Al Hawban, in eastern Taiz governorate. She had been displaced because of the armed conflict in the city of Taiz. While the bus was going through security checkpoints manned by the national army and the popular resistance in Humaira in Salah east of the city of Taiz, the mortar shell hit them.

According to the figures and statistics that were confirmed by the team, two people were killed during this incident, and three others were injured. The casualties included 35-year-old Iman Al Sufyani. She was killed, along with her son, Muhannad, who was 11 years old. Her daughter, Shuhd, was injured, and she was 10 years old.

One of her relatives said that she was coming from the area that she was displaced to in Hawban to visit her father, who is Muhammad Hazza Al Sufyani, a famous Arabic language teacher. He had not been able to visit her because of the siege enforced on the city and because he was paralyzed.

He added: "Her husband died in Hawban, and her family was unable to visit her to attend the funeral because her father was ill and the city was

under siege. Iman waited until she could visit her family in the area of Salah, and she did not know that the shell that would bring her death was waiting for her and would kill her on the road, along with her son, before she could get to her father's house. She would leave her daughter fighting injuries and pain for the rest of her life.”

According to eyewitnesses, the shell that fell on the bus that was transporting Iman and her two children came from the Sofitel Hill, where the militias of the Houthis and the former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, are positioned.

Qunood Ali Ibrahim Sinan is 30 years old, and she is a widow. She is one of the people that were displaced from the village of Afeerah in Jabal Hibshi in the governorate of Taiz. She supports her three children after their father was killed by a landmine explosion while being displaced from the village. She told the monitoring team that “the Houthis came to the village and asked us to leave our home and leave the village. They told us that we had to leave the village or we would get beat. We got ready to leave, and my husband took us to the area of Aqaqah.” “On the second day, my husband went back to take some of the displaced families from the village on his bus. When he was taking one of the families, a landmine in the area of Dharkhaf blew up with the bus, and killed my husband and injured two others.”

She adds: “My husband left me with three children, Bushra, Omar, and Mufeed. I now live in Aqaqah in Taiz, and we all live in one room. I do not get any aid. My husband was the breadwinner for the family before he died. Now my children and I are a burden on my ageing father, who is in his nineties. I feel pain from being so far from my village and my home.”

Sudais Haroun Saeed Muhammad, Amar Fadhl Muhammad, Saeed

Haroun Muhammad, and Nirjis Saeed Muhammad Shanoon were killed, and Ruqayah Shararah Fadhl, Zaid Saeed Muhammad Shanoon, Maryam Al Awadhi Muhammad, Matro Zaid Muhammad Shararah, and Hind Haroun Saeed were injured during a single incident. They are all from the same family. They were killed by an Arab Coalition air strike that hit their home in the area of Wahijah on the 27th of January 2017. This happened when they were coming home from being displaced in the Mawza district. They had been displaced because of the armed conflict that was in the area of Bab El Mandeb and Wahijah between the Houthi and Saleh militias and the resistance forces and army of the legitimate government.

Khulood and Dhikrah Ali Saeed Khudhairi are two sisters who were displaced from Mocha because of the armed conflict on the 25th of January 2017. They were on a transport bus, and, while they were passing near the Mocha Water Project with their family, a landmine blew up the vehicle that they were in, and one of Khulood's legs had to be amputated. Dhikrah was injured by shrapnel all over her body. Houthi and Saleh militiamen and planted the anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines to stop the advance of the resistance and legitimate government forces to Mocha.

During the beginning of February 2017, late at night, the family of Abdullah Nasser Saeed Akeel were asleep in their tent in the Makhnaq Camp in the Hareeb Valley in Mareb. The Houthi militias targeted the camp with a Katyusha rocket or mortar shell that hit their tent and killed Abdullah Akeel and his father, Nasser Akeel (65 years old), immediately.

His daughter Bashayer Abdullah Nasser Saeed Akeel (6 years old),

was injured, as was his mother, Raiyah Muhammad Naji Al Harmali (45 years old), and his son, Saqr Abdullah Nasser Akeel (9 years old). Among the injured were some of his relatives, Mabkhout Nasser Saeed Akeel and Fatimah Saleh Saleh Akeel.

The family had been displaced from the district of Nihm because of the armed conflict taking place in the district, and they settled in the Makhnaq Camp in the Hareeb Valley in Mareb. They were among a large group of people that had been displaced to this camp.

Displacement and blowing up of homes – Ibb

Saif Ali Abdullah Murshid, who lives in the governorate of Ibb, says that Houthi militiamen and Saleh's forces, at 8 AM of Thursday the 26th of January 2017, came on a number of military vehicles into the village of Dahimat Al Aslom in Hazm Al Udain. They were heavily armed, and, as soon as they reached the outskirts of the village, they spread out over the entrances of the village, and only gunners remained on the military vehicles. They started shooting indiscriminately into the homes of the civilians, including the home of the victim, Ibrahim Abdullah Ali Al Salmi. He adds: "The Ibrahim's family had to leave their home, leaving all of their furniture behind. After the shooting stopped, and the family wanted to go back to their home, the Houthi militiamen refused to allow them. The Ibrahim's family had to leave the village. Houthi and Saleh armed men blew up the home after refusing to allow the family to return."

Chapter Three: The Responsibility of Government Authorities and International Organizations

With the increasing cases of displacement and internal displacement, and forced displacement and evictions, the international community has been increasingly concerned with organizing these procedures and

creating principles, rules, and guidelines for the parties to the conflict to adhere to, as well as organizations to work on them. These are to be used when there is any armed conflict, disasters, or anything else that threatens populations. The United Nations has put in place a number of rules that governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations must review. These rules address the guarantees and rights for forcibly displaced persons or refugees, as well as the necessity of their protection during their displacement, during their return, or during their settlement and reintegration. These rules were approved by the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations in 1998.

These rules required governments to, and made them responsible for, providing protection and humanitarian aid to refugees and IDPs. It also made them responsible for what was included in international humanitarian law to stop or avoid any situations that could lead to the displacement of populations. What applies to states also applies to groups, individuals, or entities in the framework of the state.

International and local organizations, when providing aid, must observe the adherence to the requirements of protection under the human rights law and humanitarian law of the IDPs and refugees. They must adhere to international standards of behavior that apply.

There is not enough information on the humanitarian response and intervention that is being carried out by international and local organizations to help refugees and the forcibly displaced in the areas that are included in the report. The work of these organizations is known to not be transparent, and they do not provide local organizations and the media with the activities and interventions, supported by documentation and statistics.

The Yemeni Coalition investigated the stopping or confiscation of humanitarian aid and the work vehicles of these organizations and their employees, and the Coalition found that these organizations did not specify which entity was responsible for this. The Coalition heard statements that organizations were distributing humanitarian aid unequally, and that they were not taking serious steps to get aid to the most affected areas, or studying alternative methods to achieve the goals of humanitarian work in getting to the people that deserve it.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations would like to express its thanks and appreciation for everyone that wrote this rights report and everyone that participated in organizing and analyzing the data. It gives its gratitude to all of the team members working in the field, who are at risk, and who have overcome all hardship.

The Coalition would also like to thank the surviving victims and the families of the victims, as well as the eyewitnesses, and everyone who gave a statement or answered the questions of the monitors. The Coalition thanks everyone who participated in the production of this report and contributed to making this work successful.