



SAM
Rights & Liberties

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Annual Briefing on the Human Rights and Humanitarian Situation in Yemen for 2024

The bleeding is still ongoing



SAM
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About Us

SAM for Rights and Liberties

SAM is an independent, non-profit Yemeni human rights organization. It began its work in January 2016 and was officially licensed in December 2017. The organization is dedicated to monitoring human rights in Yemen and the Middle East and works to bring attention to violations by reporting them to decision-making bodies and influential international human rights organizations.

Introduction

Since the beginning of 2024, restrictions imposed by the Houthi authorities on humanitarian and civil society organizations have escalated, undermining relief and development efforts. This has been manifested in a series of arbitrary arrests targeting UN employees and civil society organization staff in the capital Sana'a and areas under Houthi control.

Simultaneously, the Red Sea has witnessed an escalation in maritime attacks since late 2023, as the Houthis in Yemen began launching intensified operations targeting commercial vessels passing through the Bab al-Mandab Strait—one of the most strategically vital waterways in the world. This escalation has significantly disrupted maritime navigation through the Bab al-Mandab, forcing many shipping operators to take alternative routes, thereby increasing maritime transport costs and extending shipping durations between Asia and Europe.

On the human rights front, SAM for Rights and Liberties has documented a dangerous escalation in violations throughout 2024, including arbitrary arrests, unfair trials, killings, direct targeting of civilians, as well as restrictions on personal freedoms and freedom of expression, and economic and social violations.

This deteriorating situation comes amid ongoing economic decline, with the Houthis controlling a large portion of the Yemeni economy and exploiting available resources to finance their military activities. Reports indicate that revenue losses have reached 43% due to the imposed ban on oil exports.

In light of these dire circumstances, urgent and coordinated international intervention has become imperative to halt these violations and ensure respect for human rights. The continuation of these repressive policies will undermine any humanitarian or rights-based efforts and will further exacerbate the suffering of the Yemeni people, who are already enduring the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Additionally, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive political solution that puts an end to the conflict in Yemen and guarantees lasting peace and stability.

This briefing aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the human rights and humanitarian conditions in Yemen during 2024, shedding light on the most prominent violations and challenges faced by the Yemeni people. The report seeks to evaluate the impact of these developments on humanitarian relief efforts and the prospects for achieving peace and stability in the country.

Chapter One: SAM Organization's Activities in 2024

Between January and December 2024, SAM for Rights and Liberties carried out over 135 human rights activities, primarily aimed at documenting and monitoring human rights violations in Yemen and advocating for the victims' causes. These activities included the publication of various rights-related statements and reports, participation in international and regional events, as well as submitting complaints to United Nations mechanisms concerned with human rights.

First: Human Rights Reports and Statements

Between January and December 2024, the organization issued more than 95 human rights statements and 8 specialized reports. These represent essential tools for documenting human rights violations in Yemen, offering precise legal analyses and verified testimonies from victims. The reports highlight serious abuses such as arbitrary detention, torture, and enforced disappearance, contributing to enhanced international accountability. Furthermore, these statements serve as key references for policymakers and UN bodies to exert pressure for rights protection and to end impunity.

Key Reports Issued by the Organization:

1. **"Give Me Back My Son - Childhood as the Price for Power" - February 15, 2024**

This report documents the phenomenon of child recruitment in Yemen, exposing the tragic suffering endured by children involved in armed conflict, with a particular focus on the role of the Houthi group in escalating this practice. It highlights the political, social, and economic factors contributing to the spread of this issue, stressing the urgent need to protect children. The report also strengthens international advocacy efforts to end child recruitment and urges the Yemeni government and the international community to enforce stricter legislation and effective mechanisms to protect children from military exploitation.

2. **"2023 Briefing Report" - February 20, 2024**

This is a detailed review of the human rights situation in Yemen during 2023. It documents violations, reviews the political situation, and examines the conflict's impact on economic conditions, alongside showcasing the organization's efforts in defending rights. The report illustrates the persistence of violations despite the undeclared truce, outlines the effects of the conflict on fundamental rights, and is supported by documented statistics on killings, arrests, and torture. It contributes to bolstering international accountability and calls for stronger measures to protect civilians, placing violations under international scrutiny to help reduce crimes against humanity.

3. **"Struggle for Survival - The Reality of Services in Aden" - August 14, 2024**

This report analyzes the crisis of basic services in Aden, including water, electricity, housing, and healthcare, and highlights the impact of conflict on residents' daily lives. It reveals severe living condition deterioration and shows how citizens are being exploited by landlords and merchants, increasing their economic burden. The report draws attention from humanitarian and donor entities to address basic needs and serves as a pressure tool on authorities in Aden to improve service delivery to the population.

4. **"A Decade of Collapse - 10 Years Since the Houthi Coup" - September 21, 2024**

This report documents the deterioration in human rights, politics, and economics since the Houthi coup in 2014, highlighting gross violations committed by the group over the past decade. It outlines how the coup led to the destruction of the Yemeni state, the exploitation of conditions by the Houthis to serve political and economic interests, and the expansion of poverty and unemployment. The report reinforces international calls for holding the Houthis accountable and provides a legal foundation for prosecuting them for war crimes and human rights violations.

5. **"Years of Hell - Crimes of Enforced Disappearance and Torture" - October 3, 2024**

This report documents cases of enforced disappearance and torture in Yemen, relying on victims' testimonies regarding horrific abuses inside detention centers. It demonstrates how arbitrary arrests have become a political tool to suppress dissent, revealing the brutal methods used against detainees. The report supports efforts to prosecute those responsible before international courts and calls for increased oversight of Yemeni prisons.

6. **"Retroactive Revenge - Houthi Suppression of September Revolution Celebrations" - November 13, 2024**

This report documents a wave of arrests and torture carried out by the Houthi group against activists, journalists, and citizens who celebrated the September 26 Revolution. It reveals how the Houthis use political repression to silence dissent and details blatant violations of freedom of expression. The report lays the groundwork for holding the Houthis accountable for restricting basic freedoms and urges the international community to protect political and civil rights in Yemen.

7. **"Death Trade - Recruiting Yemenis to Fight in Ukraine" - December 5, 2024**

This report uncovers a network recruiting Yemenis to fight in Ukraine, luring them with false job promises before forcing them to fight under harsh conditions. It exposes the coercive exploitation of Yemeni youth in foreign conflicts and highlights the possible role of the Houthi group in facilitating recruitment operations. The report calls for international investigations into the involved networks and stresses the need to protect Yemeni youth from becoming victims of such exploitation in external wars.

8. **"The Worst of Torture - The Suffering of Detainees in Yemen" - December 10, 2024**

This special report documents over 40 human stories of detainees who endured torture in Yemeni prisons, using a narrative style to convey their suffering to the world. It emphasizes victims' personal experiences, making it particularly impactful in advocacy campaigns. It also encourages victims to share their testimonies and lays the foundation for an international campaign demanding the release of detainees and an end to torture.

Second: Human Rights Participation

Sam Organization for Rights and Liberties has participated in numerous international and regional events, viewing such involvement as a key step in spotlighting violations in Yemen and advancing advocacy efforts. These engagements help build relationships with international organizations, strengthening collaboration and sharing expertise on human rights issues. They also offer platforms to present the Yemeni issue on the global stage, garnering broader support for justice and accountability.

Notable Human Rights Participation and Seminars:

1. Universal Jurisdiction Training Course - Berlin, February 24, 2024

Sam participated in a training course on universal jurisdiction, organized by the Syrian Research Center in Berlin from February 24 to 28, 2024. The course aimed to train Arab legal professionals in prosecuting war criminals, covering crime classification, testimony documentation, evidence collection, digital protection, and networking with relevant European bodies.

2. “Yemen as a Human” Conference on International Human Rights Day - Istanbul, December 11, 2024

Sam took part in the “Yemen as a Human” conference in Istanbul and via Zoom on December 10, 2024, co-organized by several human rights organizations. The event focused on human rights violations in Yemen, the role of civil society in addressing them, prison conditions, and the importance of empowering institutions to end the humanitarian crisis.

3. Panel Discussion on Political Execution Sentences in Yemeni Law - June 14, 2024

Sam held a panel discussion on politically motivated death sentences in Yemeni law, coinciding with the launch of its legal study analyzing the compatibility of such sentences with international legal standards. The event highlighted the use of capital punishment as a political tool and its direct impact on the human rights situation in Yemen.

4. Seminar on the “Years of Hell” Report - October 2, 2024

Sam organized a seminar to discuss its “Years of Hell” report, documenting severe violations against detainees in Yemen. The seminar was part of the Justice Enhancement Project in Yemen in cooperation with the DT Institute and aimed to shed light on torture and inhumane treatment in prisons, calling for accountability and justice for victims.

Third: Engagement with UN Mechanisms

The UN human rights mechanisms—such as special rapporteurs, working groups, and independent investigative committees—serve as critical international tools for monitoring and documenting violations. Submissions to these mechanisms offer victims an avenue for justice and help generate international pressure on violators, contributing to accountability and deterring impunity.

1. Submission on the Denial of Fair Trials - January 30, 2024

Sam submitted a communication to UN teams revealing arbitrary arrests, systematic torture, and the denial of fair trial rights for detainees under Houthi control. The submission, based on a legal study, documented violations such as torture, denial of legal representation, and coerced confessions. Sam asserted that the judiciary is used as a tool of repression and urged international intervention to ensure justice and accountability.

2. Submission on Violations Against Detainees in Houthi Prisons - February 9, 2024

This communication highlighted severe violations in Houthi-run prisons, including home and workplace arrests, enforced disappearance, and physical torture. It also addressed political interference in judicial appointments, leading to unfair trials and widespread corruption. The submission aimed to document these violations before UN bodies and called for independent investigations to safeguard victims' rights.

3. Submission on Unfair Trials by the Houthi Group - March 14, 2024

This report documents violations by the Houthis related to the denial of fair trial rights, including forced confessions and lack of minimum legal guarantees. It emphasizes the need to reform the judiciary and ensure its independence in Yemen as a fundamental step toward human rights protection and ending abuses.

4. Submission on Denial of Fair Trials by the Southern Transitional Council - April 8, 2024

This communication addresses violations committed by the Southern Transitional Council, including arbitrary detention, torture, and lack of fair trials—indicating the widening scope and multiplicity of parties involved in the Yemeni conflict. It underscores the importance of monitoring all conflict actors to ensure comprehensive accountability and justice for victims.

5. Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Ensuring Fair Trials for Houthi Detainees - October 31, 2024

Sam, in coordination with the Justice Charter Coalition, submitted an official letter to the UN Special Rapporteur detailing the deprivation of legal rights for detainees held by the Houthis, particularly the rights to defense and fair trials. The letter calls on the international community to take more serious measures to curb these violations and ensure detainees' rights in accordance with international standards.

Training and Development

In 2024, SAM collaborated with its partners at “Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition” to enhance the capacity of its field team and equip them with essential skills for improving human rights and administrative work. The training programs focused on various areas such as monitoring and documentation, human rights interviewing techniques, open-source investigation methods, report and human rights storytelling writing, data protection technologies, and trauma-informed care in human rights monitoring and documentation. These sessions aimed to provide participants with the tools and skills necessary to document human rights violations effectively and safely, while also considering the psychological effects of trauma on victims and witnesses. A total of 8 training sessions were held both inside and outside Yemen during 2024.

SAM Activities Summary in 2024



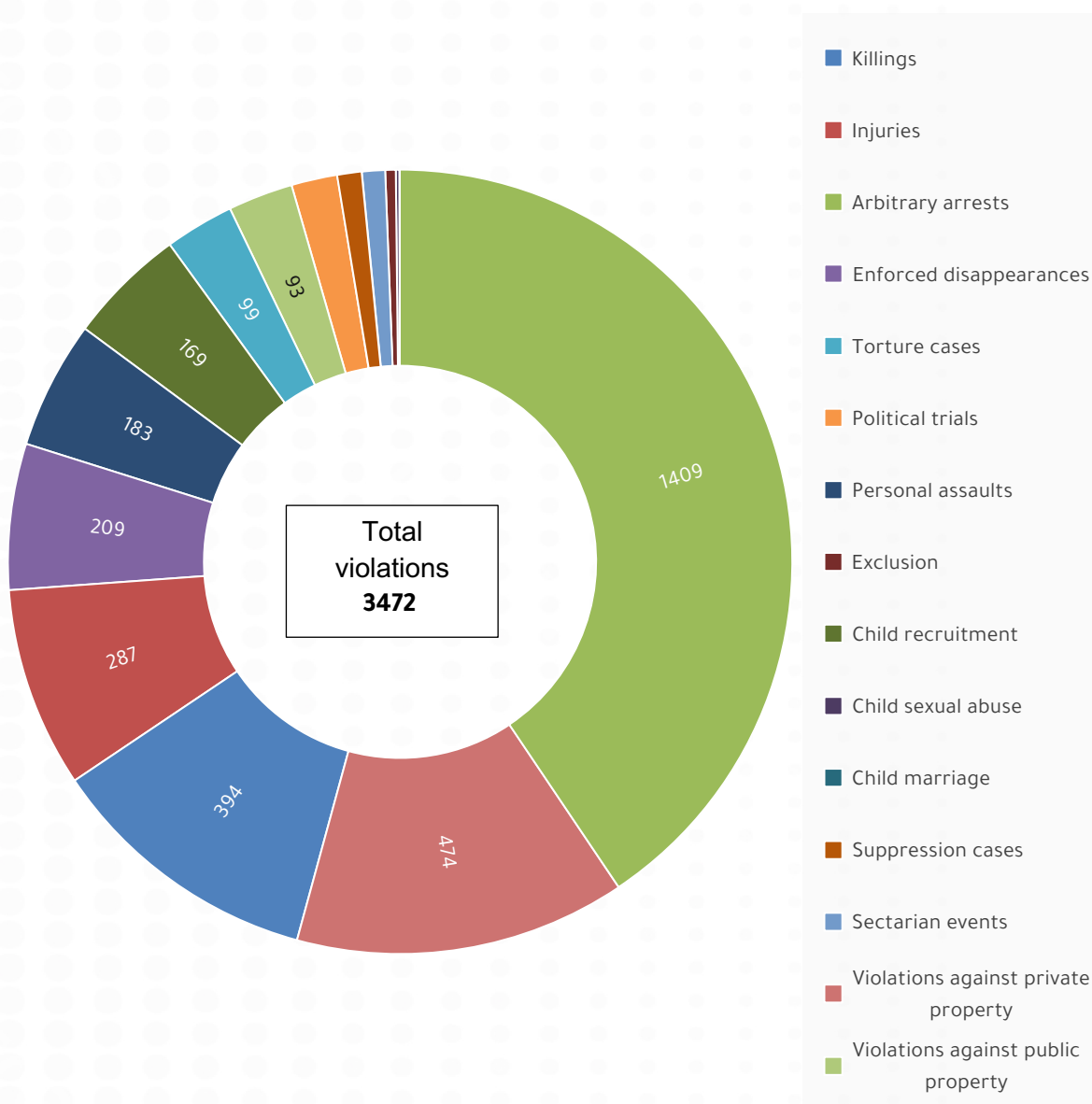
Chapter Two: Human Rights File

In 2024, Yemen witnessed a sharp escalation in human rights violations, according to SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties. These violations spanned multiple areas, including arbitrary arrests, unfair trials, killings, direct targeting of civilians, restrictions on personal and expressive freedoms, and socio-economic abuses. This report presents the most notable documented incidents, categorized by type, while focusing on the broader context and the humanitarian and legal impacts of these violations in Yemen.



Statistics of Human Rights Violations in Yemen (2024)

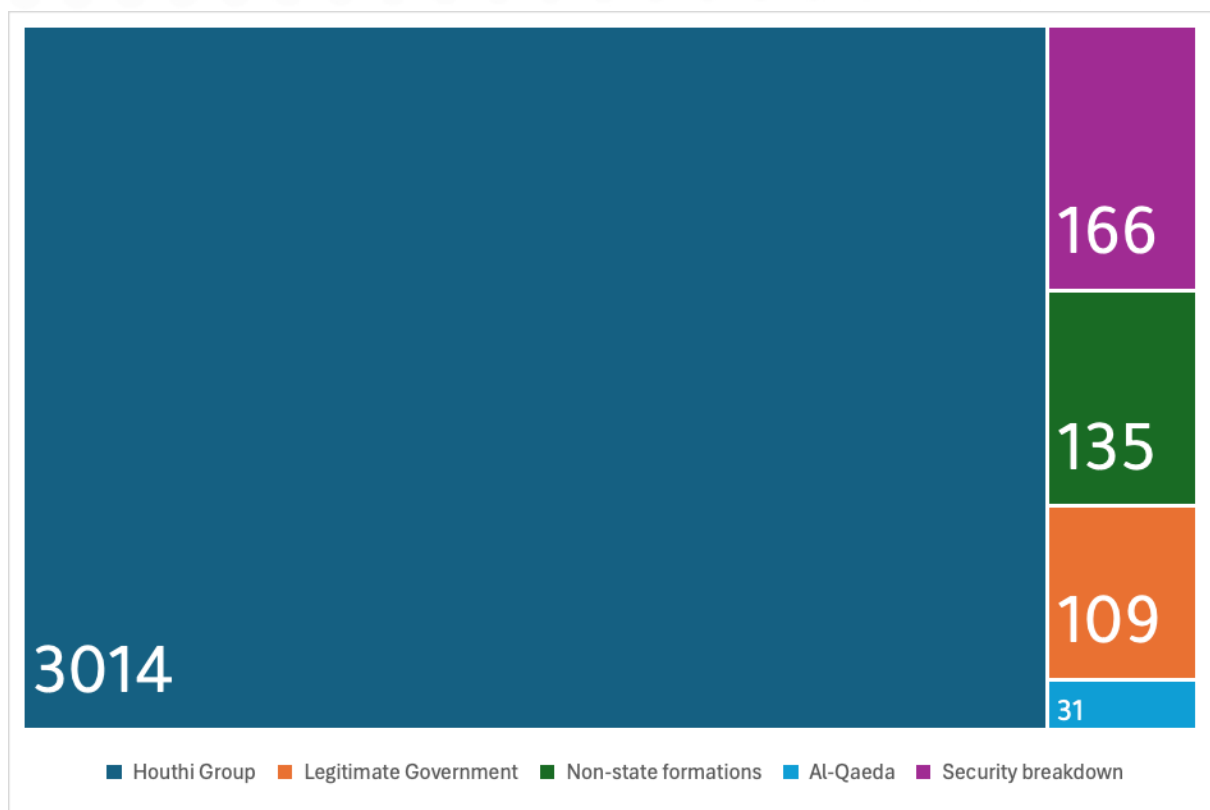
Infographic showing the total violations documented and monitored by SAM Organization during the year 2024.



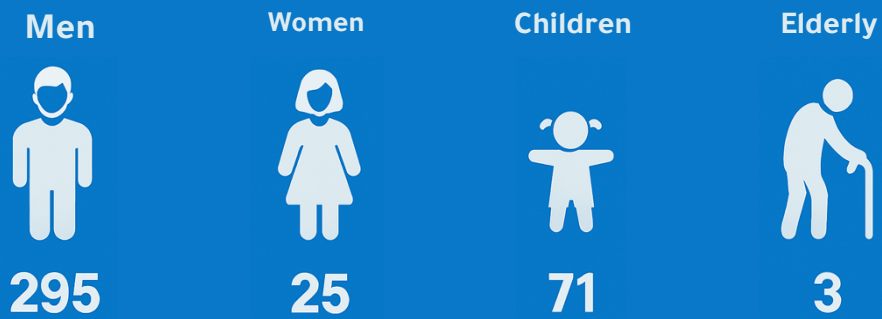
Geographical Distribution of Violations:



Perpetrating Entities



Killings Categorized by Victim Type



Primary Means of Killing

Suicide due
to hardship

Sniping

Shelling

Gunfire

Landmines

Torture



10



2



10



151



39



18

Injury Cases by Group

Children



78

Women



24

Men



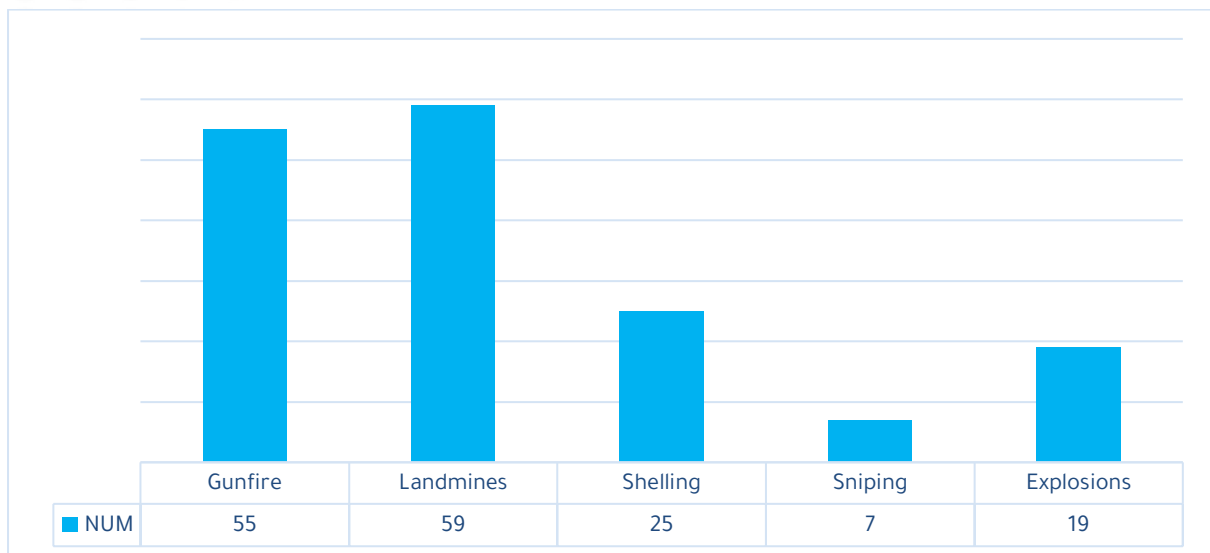
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Elderly

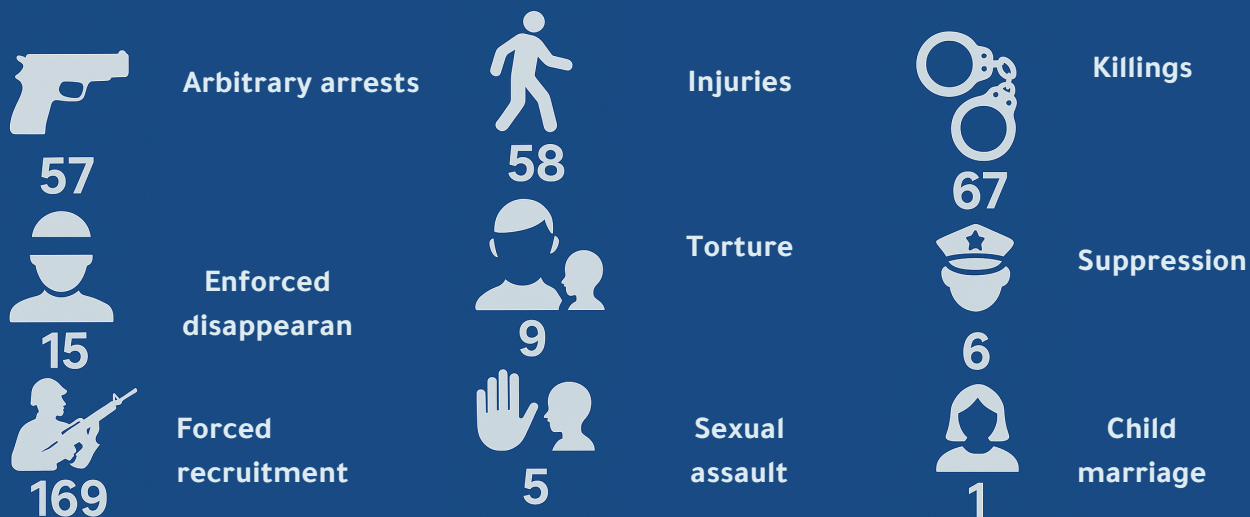


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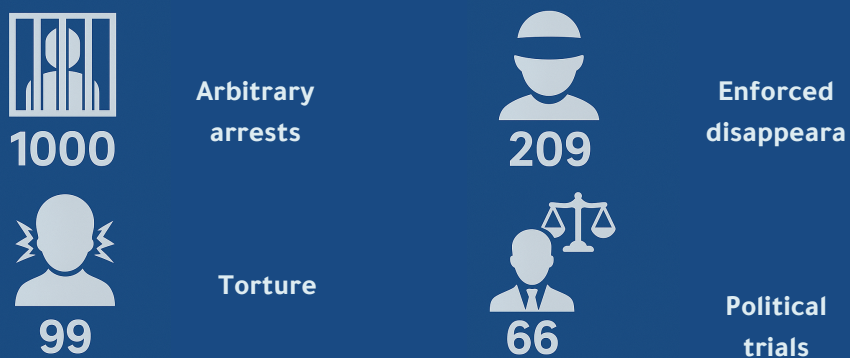
Primary Causes of Injury



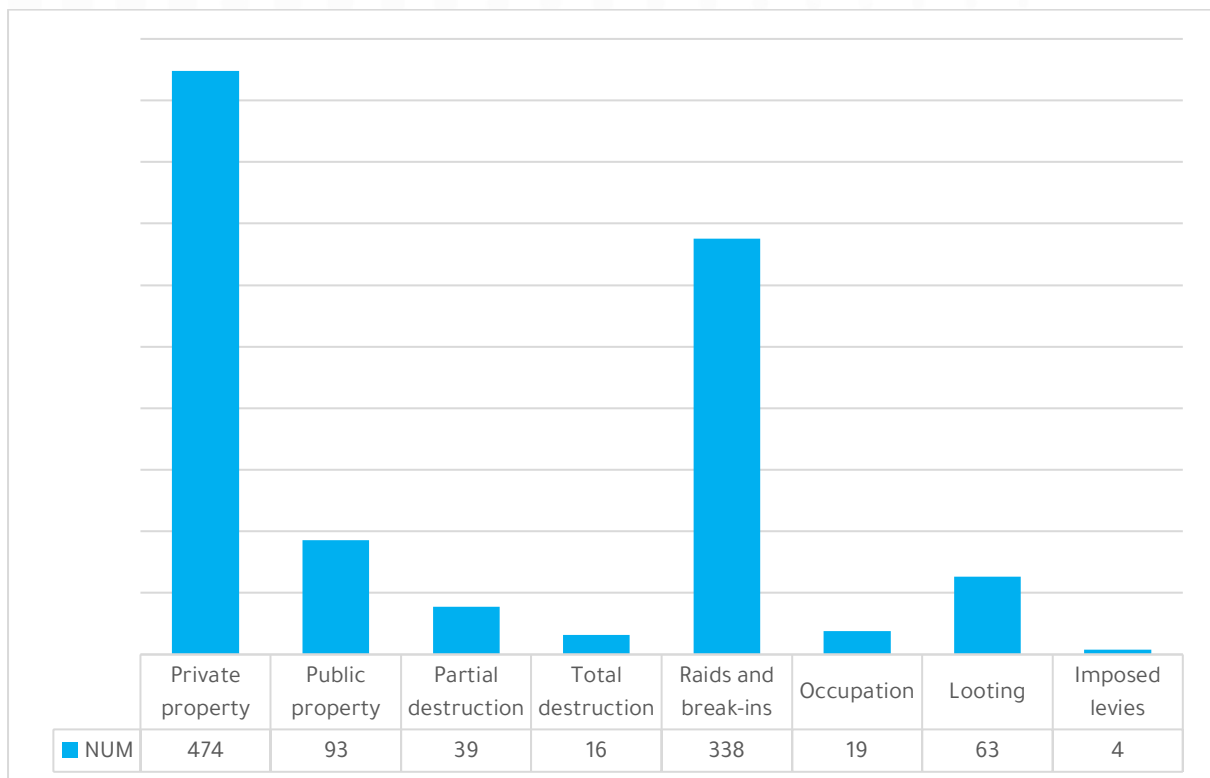
Violations Against Children 2024



Arbitrary Arrests, Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and Political Trials



Violations Against Public and Private Property



II. Descriptive Analysis of the Violations Matrix

1. Violations by Governorate:

- Most affected: Ibb, Capital Municipality, Al-Bayda, Taiz, and Al-Hodeidah saw the highest rates of killings and arbitrary arrests, indicating intense conflict zones.
- Less affected: Al-Mahrah, Socotra, and Hadhramaut recorded minimal violations, reflecting relative stability.
- Ibb and the Capital Municipality: Led in arbitrary arrest numbers, revealing a repressive environment.

2. Violations by Perpetrating Entity:

- The Houthi group bears the greatest responsibility for killings (258), arbitrary arrests (913), and torture (71).
- The legitimate government was responsible for some violations, mainly arbitrary arrests (43).
- Non-state formations and Al-Qaeda were implicated in select violations such as killings and detentions.
- Tribal militants and general insecurity also contributed to the chaos and lawlessness.

3. Violations Against Children:

- Killings and injuries: Children were victims in 57 killings and 58 injuries, highlighting the conflict's severe toll on minors.
- Forced recruitment: 169 documented cases indicate systematic exploitation of children.
- Sexual abuse and child marriage: 4 sexual assault cases and 1 child marriage case reflect ongoing gender-based violence.

4. Violations Against Women:

- Killings: 25 women were killed, showing they are also direct or collateral targets.

- Arbitrary arrests and disappearances: 31 arrests and 7 disappearances point to political and social repression of women.
- Torture: 1 confirmed case, though actual figures may be underreported due to documentation challenges.

5. Violations Against Property:

- Most affected properties: Residential buildings (350 cases), places of worship (23), and commercial establishments (42).
- Looting and raids: Targeted farms, homes, and public/private infrastructure.
- Vehicles and personal belongings were also frequently attacked, suggesting civilians' property was deliberately targeted.

Conclusion

- Violations were widespread across the country, with some regions bearing the brunt due to ongoing conflict.
- The Houthi group remains the principal perpetrator, but other actors, including the legitimate government, non-state forces, and lawlessness, also played a role.
- Children and women emerged as the most vulnerable groups, exposed to killings, arrests, and exploitation.
- Public and private properties were not spared, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

Detailed Numerical Analysis of Violations

1. Killings by Age Group and Perpetrator:

- Children: 71 killed, 56 of them by the Houthi group.
- Men: 295 killed, 185 by the Houthi group.
- Women: 25 killed, mostly by the Houthi group and due to general insecurity.
- Elderly: 3 cases reported.

2. Injuries by Age Group and Perpetrator:

- Children: 78 injuries, 70 attributed to the Houthi group.
- Men: 178 injuries, 134 caused by the Houthi group.
- Women: 24 injured, primarily by the Houthi group and in contexts of insecurity.
- Elderly: 7 reported cases.

3. Arbitrary Arrests by Age Group:

- Men: 896 cases, 825 by the Houthi group.
- Children: 69 cases, 55 by the Houthi group.
- Women: 20 cases, reflecting the targeting of female activists.
- Elderly: 15 cases, nearly all by the Houthi group.

Findings:

- The Houthi group is most responsible for killings, injuries, and arbitrary arrests—showing a pattern of systematic violations.
- Men and children were the most targeted groups, both in killings and arrests.
- Women and the elderly were not spared, indicating targeting of the most vulnerable populations.

Detailed Analysis of Violation Types and Tools Used

1. Types of Violations:

- Arbitrary arrest was the most frequent violation (1,318 cases), reflecting a repressive climate for civilians.
- Killings ranked second (394), showing widespread use of lethal force.
- Enforced disappearances (209) are a serious concern, with victims' fates often unknown.
- Forced child recruitment (169) exposes the exploitation of minors in armed conflict.
- Property violations (474 private, 93 public) demonstrate systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure.

2. Tools and Methods of Violations:

- Gunfire (151 cases): Most commonly used method in killings and injuries.
- Landmines (39): Continued threat, especially in conflict-affected areas.
- Shelling and sniping: Recorded in smaller numbers, suggesting preference for close-range violence.
- Torture, executions, and assassinations were used against detainees and dissidents, reflecting brutal tactics.
- Enforced disappearances (209): A potent tool of repression used to silence opposition.

Final Summary:

- Violations were extensive and varied, affecting civilians through arrests, killings, and torture.
- The tools used indicate a high level of violence, with a preference for firearms and physical force.

- Civilian properties were also systematically targeted, compounding the humanitarian and economic suffering.

Third: A Review of Patterns of Violations

1. Violations of the Right to Life and Physical Integrity

The UN Security Council Panel of Experts on Yemen in his report (S/2024/731) documented widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. These include indiscriminate attacks on civilians, which resulted in the deaths of 128 people and injuries to many others. The report also notes that 26 civilians were killed and 83 injured in the governorates of Hudaydah and Taiz¹.

In one of the most brutal crimes of the year, the Houthi group shelled a crowded local market in Taiz with artillery, killing and injuring 14 civilians, including women and children. Human rights reports indicate an intensification of Houthi attacks on residential neighborhoods and civilian areas in Taiz, as part of a strategy to instill fear among the population and assert control through systematic terror².

SAM Organization documented incidents of sniper attacks targeting civilians in Taiz. In one instance, a Houthi sniper fatally shot a civilian while he was walking down a street. These incidents are not isolated but part of a deliberate policy by the group to impose a psychological and military siege on the city, disrupting the normal movement of residents and compounding their daily suffering³.

Additionally, on the morning of December 23, 2024, the Houthi group targeted the home of citizen Bakr Qaed Mahyoub in the village of Bawmiyah, Maqbanah District, Taiz Governorate, with a mortar shell, killing two children and injuring two others. The attack killed Dheeb Bakr Qaed (6 years old) and Shaimaa Bakr Qaed (5 years old), who died while being rushed to hospital due to severe injuries caused by shrapnel. Their sister, Meryal Bakr Qaed (9 years old), and their cousin Abdulwahid Ali Qaed Mahyoub (7 years old) were also injured while playing near the house. This incident

¹ <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2024/731>

² <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5423>

³ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5236>

constitutes a war crime and a clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court⁴.

2. Unlawful Executions

In a stark example of the Houthi group's brutality in detention centers, a young man was executed during interrogation. Human rights reports confirm he was subjected to brutal torture before being killed, with no legal procedures or fair trial observed. This violation is part of a recurring pattern of inhumane treatment against detainees⁵.

A Houthi-run court in Sana'a also sentenced a police chief and six security personnel to death in a trial deemed devoid of fairness and transparency. Human rights organizations regard this as evidence of the group's infiltration into the judiciary, using it as a tool to settle political scores⁶.

On June 1, 2024, Houthi authorities issued death sentences for 45 Yemenis on fabricated charges, including espionage for foreign countries, providing coordinates, and involvement in assassination cells. SAM for Rights and Liberties confirmed that the accused were subjected to severe torture, enforced disappearance for nine months, and denied fair trial rights, reflecting the use of the judiciary as an instrument of political repression.

Among those sentenced was engineer Adnan Ali Hussein Al-Harazi, director of Prodigy Systems, which was shut down by the Houthis in January 2023, with its assets seized after the group looted humanitarian data related to displaced and war-affected populations.

According to SAM, the Houthi judiciary lacks independence and relies on confessions extracted under torture. The organization called for the annulment of the death sentences, the immediate release of detainees, and an international investigation, stressing that such practices amount to war crimes warranting international accountability⁷.

⁴ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5440>

⁵ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5171>

⁶ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5359>

⁷ <https://dg.samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5283>

3. Torture Leading to Death

In May 2024, the decomposed bodies of Kamil Ali Mohammed bin Talib Al-Kathiri and his son Abdullah were discovered at Seiyun Central Hospital in Hadhramaut, 21 months after they had been detained by the Wadi and Desert Security Administration. The bodies showed signs of extreme decay and facial disfigurement, complicating identification. The pair had been arrested from their home in Seiyun on July 20, 2022, by a security force led by Abdullah bin Habeish, and forcibly disappeared with no contact allowed with their family⁸.

On March 2, 2024, Ali Shujaei (43 years old) was abducted from his farm in Al-Waara village, south of Al-Khokha, by an armed group under the command of Fouad Janhem and transferred to Prison 400 in Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari Camp, affiliated with Tariq Saleh's forces. On March 5, his family was informed of his death and was asked to collect the body in exchange for signing a waiver, with a payment offer of 10,000 Saudi riyals to close the case. The family refused and demanded an official investigation⁹.

On January 15, 2024, Jamil Naaman Arjal (18 years old) died at Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz from injuries sustained during seven months of torture at a secret Houthi prison in Al-Hawban. He had been arrested while collecting plastic bottles and falsely accused of planting explosives. Upon refusing forced conscription by the Houthis, he was subjected to electric shocks, beatings with metal wires, and cigarette burns. These tortures led to a flesh-eating bacterial infection, sepsis, and ultimately his death¹⁰.

4. Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Trials

In September 2024, Yemen witnessed a wave of arbitrary arrests targeting over 500 individuals for participating in or calling for celebrations of the 62nd anniversary of the September 26 Revolution. Those arrested included people of all ages, including children, students, journalists, and activists, many of whom were tortured and abused in detention—clear violations of both national and international law.

⁸ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5232>

⁹ <https://samrl.org/l?a5217>

¹⁰ <https://samrl.org/l?a5180>

Among the detainees was journalist Mohammed Dabwan Al-Miyahi, abducted by the Houthis from his home in Sana'a for criticizing the group's practices. Houthi forces stormed his house five days after he published an article condemning the sectarian nature of the leader's speech in Al-Sabeen Square. Similarly, media activist Sahar Abdelilah Al-Khoulani was abducted from her home in Sana'a on September 11, 2024, for speaking out against corruption and calling for salary payments.

There were also organized crackdowns targeting opposition figures. Several journalists and activists—such as Abdel Fattah Ghallab, Mohammed Al-Ahdal, and Adel Hazaa—were abducted for expressing dissent on Facebook¹¹.

In a similar context, lawyer Abdulrahman Al-Kumaim was arrested simply for demanding the payment of teachers' salaries, highlighting the level of repression against rights-based and labor demands in Houthi-controlled areas¹².

Following the arrest of journalist Ahmed Maher, his case was marred by multiple legal violations. In May 2024, the Specialized Criminal Court in Aden sentenced him to four years in prison on charges of spreading false information and forgery. His trial was plagued by delays, and Maher was subjected to physical and psychological torture, leading to forced confessions. He was denied his constitutional and legal rights, including a fair trial.

Violations extended to the arrest of his lawyer, Sami Yassin Qaed Marsh, and the confiscation of case files. Maher was also prevented from attending some trial sessions and denied the right to defend himself¹³.

In December 2024, the Aden Court of Appeals acquitted Ahmed Maher of all charges and ordered his release. SAM welcomed the ruling as a positive step toward justice and press freedom but noted that his continued detention after acquittal constitutes a violation of his rights¹⁴.

¹¹ <https://samrl.org/l?a5407>

¹² <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5179>

¹³ <https://samrl.com/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5281>

¹⁴ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5445>

5. Violations Against Women and Children

In one of the most controversial cases, a Houthi-run court sentenced a woman to 13 years in prison in a trial that lacked any standards of fairness. Details of the case or presented evidence were not disclosed, raising concerns about the use of the judiciary to suppress and punish women¹⁵.

In Hadhramaut, authorities arrested Yemeni model Kholoud Bashraheel and her husband without providing any official explanation. The arrest was widely condemned by rights activists and is believed to stem from social issues that do not warrant security intervention¹⁶.

The UN Panel of Experts (S/2024/731) noted an increase in the recruitment and use of children by the Houthis, who exploit extreme poverty to recruit boys under the age of 15.

These children undergo ideological and military training and are often deployed to front lines. Violations of children's rights also include sexual abuse, exploitation, forced marriages of underage girls, and facilitation of prostitution. Children also face barriers to accessing humanitarian aid, which is often diverted or blocked¹⁷.

¹⁵ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5345>

¹⁶ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5298>

¹⁷ <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2024/731>



6. Property Seizures and Corporate Looting

Armed Houthi forces raided facilities of Modern Pharmaceutical Company and the International Pharmaceutical Company in Sana'a, arresting six managers and staff members. They also stormed company branches in Amran and Dhamar, acting on orders from the new judicial custodian, Saleh Debish. Among the detainees were Dr. Faheem Al-Khalidi, Mukhtar Al-Makhlafi, Abdullah Sharaf, Fatima Aishan (abducted from her home), engineer Abdelkhaleq Al-Ghawli, Dr. Safwan Al-Aghbari, engineer Abdulmajid Qashnoun, and Mohammed Al-Maamari¹⁸.

The Houthis also confiscated the property of activist Khaled Al-Ansi as part of a campaign targeting their opponents, using the judiciary to seize the assets of dissidents through unlawful rulings¹⁹.

These actions represent serious violations of fundamental human rights, including the right to property. They pose disastrous risks to Yemen's economy, disrupt public resources, threaten economic and healthcare security, and increase citizens' suffering.

7. Forced Recruitment

SAM reported on networks involved in forcibly recruiting Yemeni youth to fight in the Russia-Ukraine war, exploiting economic hardship. These networks are run by influential figures affiliated with the Houthi group with international intermediaries. Young men are lured by false promises of lucrative jobs with salaries up to \$2,000 per month, only to find themselves on the frontlines in Russia.

Dozens of Yemenis have reportedly fallen victim to these operations, sent to conflict zones without proper training and exposed to death and injury. Some survivors spoke of being held in closed camps and barred from returning. Families of some recruits were informed of their deaths in combat²⁰.

¹⁸ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5291>

¹⁹ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5132>

²⁰ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5420>

8. Home Demolitions and Sieges

On March 19, 2024, the Houthis blew up a home in Rada'a city, Al-Bayda Governorate, killing at least 12 people, nine from a single family. The explosion came a day after two Houthi fighters were reportedly killed in an ambush allegedly carried out by the homeowner, Ibrahim Al-Zaili. The explosion destroyed eight nearby homes, killing nine and injuring another nine members of the same family. Reports indicate that over 20 homes were destroyed in recent months, displacing hundreds of families and stripping them of their property. The Houthis use this tactic to punish families suspected of opposing the group, deepening civilian suffering and fueling displacement²¹.

In August 2024, the Houthis imposed a suffocating siege on Hammat Sarar in Al-Bayda, severely worsening humanitarian conditions. Field reports show that over 5,000 people suffered from acute shortages of food and medicine due to entry and exit restrictions. The siege coincided with arbitrary arrests of civilians without legal justification, alongside home raids and looting, exacerbating local hardship²².

9. Repressive Legislation

The Houthis passed a new law raising serious concerns over escalating repression. The law imposes additional restrictions on civil liberties, including freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. It allows the group to label any state, entity, or person as “enemies of Islam” under vague accusations such as insulting religious symbols or opposing the Yemeni republic—without clear legal standards.

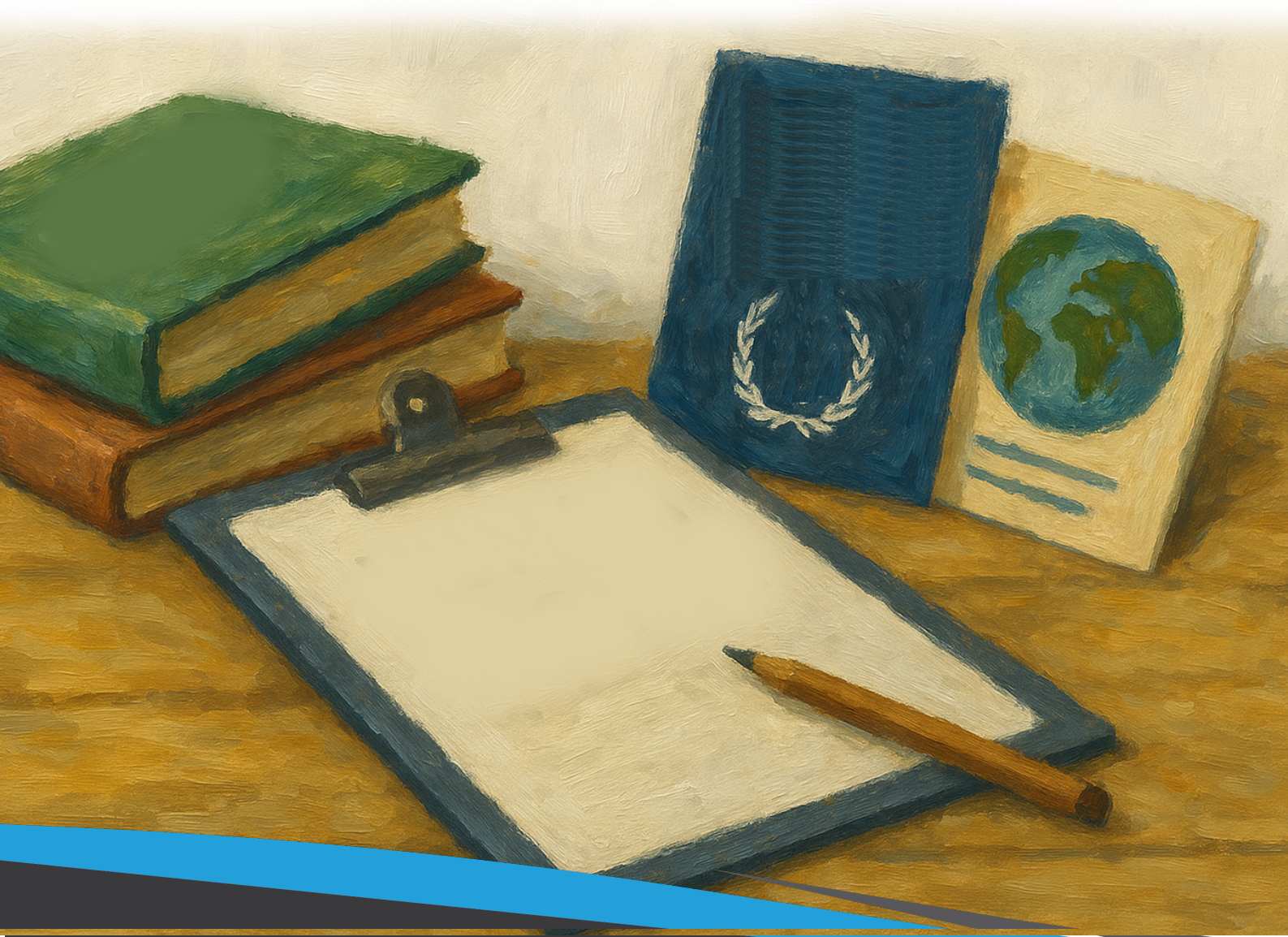
The law grants the group broad powers to interpret and enforce it at will, weaponizing it to suppress dissent, stifle freedom of expression and assembly, and justify asset seizures and arbitrary arrests. According to legal experts, the law grants sweeping authority to prosecute and imprison opponents without fair trial, further tightening the group's grip on civil society and intensifying repression²³.

²¹ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5205>

²² <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5337>

²³ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5181>

Chapter Three: The Humanitarian File



1. The Humanitarian Crisis

In 2024, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen persisted, with children and women remaining the most affected by the ongoing conflict. According to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on March 26, 2024, nine years into the conflict, nearly 10 million children remain in urgent need of humanitarian assistance²⁴.

Food Security and Malnutrition:

In August 2024, a report from the UN's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) group indicated a worsening of malnutrition in areas under the control of the Yemeni government²⁵. The rate of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five increased by 34% compared to the previous year, reaching approximately 600,000 children, including 120,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition²⁶. For the first time, "extremely critical" levels of acute malnutrition were recorded in coastal areas along the Red Sea, including the southern lowlands of Al-Hudaydah and parts of Taiz, between November 2023 and June 2024²⁷.

Health and Disease Outbreaks:

The deterioration of water, sanitation, and hygiene services has led to the spread of infectious diseases. On December 7, 2024, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, in collaboration with UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, launched a cholera vaccination campaign targeting 3.8 million people across six governorates²⁸. The obstruction of humanitarian operations by the Houthis and their restriction of information within their territories exacerbated the cholera outbreak, which spread nationwide and resulted in 258 deaths out of 95,000 suspected cases²⁹.

Education and Child Protection:

The ongoing conflict has severely impacted the education sector. The destruction and closure of schools have disrupted children's access to education. According to UNICEF,

²⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/topics/yemen>

²⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/malnutrition-worsening-yemens-government-controlled-areas-un-says-2024-08-18/>

²⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/yemen-crisis>

²⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/malnutrition-worsening-yemens-government-controlled-areas-un-says-2024-08-18/>

²⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/yemen-crisis>

²⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/16/yemen-increased-threats-civil-society-humanitarian-aid>

over 4.5 million school-aged children are out of school. Those who do attend are faced with overcrowded classrooms and overburdened, under-resourced teachers³⁰.

Humanitarian Response:

Due to a severe funding shortfall, only 27% of the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan was funded, impeding relief efforts. Humanitarian organizations warned that continued lack of funding could lead to the closure of over 1,000 health centers and deprive 500,000 women and 600,000 children of essential healthcare services³¹.

2. Restrictions on Humanitarian Work

A report by the Panel of Experts on Yemen stated that the humanitarian situation remains alarming, with continued need for assistance. However, access to humanitarian aid is being obstructed, delivery and distribution hampered, and the work of humanitarian organizations undermined.

The report highlighted the Houthis' practices aimed at limiting aid access, restricting access to those in need, and undermining and obstructing relief efforts. The Houthis have rendered humanitarian organizations unable to operate at full capacity due to interference in their operations.

Obstruction tactics include bureaucratic restrictions, financial extortion, politicization of aid by directing it to specific regions or population groups, and harassment and intimidation of humanitarian workers. Restrictions on imports further exacerbate the humanitarian situation and increase the cost of living³².

3. Detention of UN and Civil Society Organization Staff

Houthi authorities in Yemen continued to impose harsh restrictions on humanitarian and civil work throughout 2024, carrying out a series of arbitrary arrests targeting UN staff and civil society organization workers in the capital, Sana'a, and other Houthi-controlled areas. These arrests mark a serious escalation in a pattern of systematic violations aimed at suppressing freedoms and silencing independent voices.

Details of the Arrest Campaign:

In June 2024, Houthi authorities arbitrarily detained 12 staff members from the UN and civil society organizations in Sana'a, including workers in the fields of relief and development.

³⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/mena/yemen-crisis>

³¹ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15972.doc.htm>

³² <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2024/731>

Human rights sources confirmed that the detainees were taken to undisclosed locations and denied contact with their families or legal representatives³³.

These arrests were accompanied by an ongoing media campaign led by the Houthis, accusing humanitarian organizations and their employees of “conspiring” against national interests through their projects. Following the first wave of arrests, the Houthi Security and Intelligence Service announced on June 10, 2024, the “discovery” of a so-called “spy network.” Two days later, the Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV broadcasted a video showing a different group of detainees arrested between 2021 and 2023, who had been held incommunicado, “confessing” to espionage³⁴.

In August 2024, the United Nations revealed that 13 of its staff remained detained by the Houthis, confirming that the arrests occurred without any judicial warrants or legal procedures. Reports indicated that some detainees were subjected to mistreatment amid Houthi secrecy about their legal status³⁵.

On August 3, 2024, Houthi forces stormed the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sana’a, seizing documents and property by force. High Commissioner Volker Türk strongly condemned the incident, calling it a flagrant violation of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and asserting that such actions impede the UN’s ability to fulfill its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights in Yemen³⁶.

In September 2024, the OHCHR expressed deep concern over the continued illegal detention of UN and civil society organization staff, asserting that these practices are a grave violation of international law and pose a serious threat to humanitarian work in the country³⁷.

In October 2024, international pressure increased after the UN announced the suspension of some humanitarian activities in Houthi-controlled areas due to the continued detention of its personnel. The UN stated that the absence of legal guarantees for humanitarian workers increases the risk to their safety³⁸.

³³ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5286>

³⁴ <https://www.globalr2p.org/publications/yemen-houthis-should-end-their-crackdown-on-civic-space-and-immediately-release-arbitrarily-detained-un-and-civil-society-staff/>

³⁵ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153221>

³⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2024/08/16/houthis-raid-un-human-rights-office-yemen>

³⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2024/09/detained-un-staff-yemen>

³⁸ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1155651>

In July 2024, Amnesty International called for the immediate release of all detainees, describing the arrests as “part of a broader crackdown targeting civil space in Yemen”³⁹.

The Houthis have used accusations of espionage as a pretext to arrest and abuse civilians, including employees of international organizations and civil society institutions. According to Houthi media in July 2024, the group claimed that academic scholarship and cultural exchange programs such as Fulbright, Humphrey Fellowship, academic research, and the International Visitor Leadership Program were being used to recruit young people for foreign interests. The group also alleged that the reception of artistic and cultural delegations was part of a plot to undermine society under the guise of “soft warfare”⁴⁰.

In a dangerous escalation, Houthi Political Council President Mahdi al-Mashat issued a 30-day ultimatum in July 2024 for anyone who had cooperated with what the group called the “American-Israeli network” to surrender themselves. He warned that failure to comply would result in the “harshest penalties,” paving the way for more arrests and unjust trials of civilians.

Impact of the Arrests on Humanitarian Work in Yemen:

These arrests come at a time when Yemen is facing the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, with over 80% of the population relying on international aid to survive. The latest crackdown has partially paralyzed operations of the UN and NGOs, threatening to worsen the suffering of millions of Yemenis⁴¹.

The U.S. Embassy in Yemen confirmed that the ongoing Houthi detentions of UN and diplomatic staff are jeopardizing the delivery of humanitarian aid, describing these violations as a major threat to peace and stability efforts in the country⁴².

International Reactions:

Numerous international organizations condemned the arrests. Amnesty International described them as “a flagrant violation of international law and a direct assault on

³⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/yemen-huthi-authorities-must-immediately-release-arbitrarily-detained-staff-from-un-and-civil-society-organizations/>

⁴⁰ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5306>

⁴¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/06/07/yemen-houthis-detain-un-staff-and-civil-society-representatives>

⁴² <https://ye.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-on-recent-houthi-detentions-of-united-nations-international-and-national-non-government-organizations-and-diplomatic-staff-in-yemen/>

humanitarian work.” It stated that the practices are aimed at “subjugating civil society and preventing any form of oversight of Houthi violations”⁴³.

Similarly, the UN Mission in Yemen called on the Houthis to “immediately and unconditionally release all detainees,” warning that continued arrests would undermine peace efforts and deepen the humanitarian crisis⁴⁴.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) stated that the arrests endanger the future of civil and humanitarian work in Yemen and called for urgent international action to secure the release of all detainees⁴⁵.

On August 14, 2024, the European Union condemned the raid on the OHCHR office, expressing deep concern about the growing violations against international organizations in Yemen and fully supporting the High Commissioner’s call for the Houthis to respect the UN’s privileges and immunities and to return confiscated offices and equipment⁴⁶.

The United States also strongly condemned the Houthi seizure of the OHCHR office in Sana’a, calling it a breach of international norms and a reflection of the group’s disregard for basic international practices. The U.S. warned that such actions would further hinder the delivery of aid to Yemeni civilians already suffering under prolonged crisis conditions⁴⁷.

The Houthi crackdown on UN and civil society staff represents a grave violation of all international laws and threatens to worsen Yemen’s humanitarian situation while posing serious risks to the future of human rights in the country. In this context, SAM Organization has called for urgent and coordinated international action to stop these abuses and ensure the protection of humanitarian and civil workers in Yemen. SAM urged the UN, the EU, the international community, and the UN Special Envoy to Yemen to exert real pressure on the Houthis for the immediate release of all detainees. The organization also warned that continued repressive policies would undermine any humanitarian or human rights efforts and would further deepen the suffering of the Yemeni people, who are enduring the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe.

⁴³ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/yemen-huthi-authorities-must-immediately-release-arbitrarily-detained-staff-from-un-and-civil-society-organizations/>

⁴⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1155651>

⁴⁵ <https://www.ndi.org/publications/ndi-condemns-detention-staff-members-yemen-and-demands-their-immediate-release>

⁴⁶ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/yemen-statement-spokesperson-storming-ohchr-office-houthis_en

⁴⁷ <http://v.aa.com.tr/3304272>

Assessment of International Funding for Yemen During the War⁴⁸

Since 2015, Yemen has experienced a severe humanitarian crisis due to the ongoing conflict, which has worsened economic and social conditions, increased poverty rates, and caused shortages of food and medicine. International funding remains one of the main tools to address this crisis; however, it faces major challenges, chiefly corruption, mismanagement, and a lack of transparency, reducing its effectiveness in alleviating the suffering of the Yemeni people.

Funding Volume:

International funding has flowed into Yemen from donors via international organizations and UN agencies such as the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. From 2015 to 2024, total funding amounted to \$32 billion. In 2024 alone, international and UN organizations received \$2.33 billion. Additionally, there are hundreds of millions of dollars in funding through the European Union that are not reflected on official humanitarian funding tracking platforms for Yemen.

Nevertheless, according to UN reports, the volume of funding is not commensurate with the scale of the humanitarian crisis. Despite the large amounts, millions of Yemenis still desperately need food, medical aid, and shelter. This indicates a substantial gap between actual needs and the support provided, as well as the extent of corruption and poor financial management within these organizations.

Regrettably, these funds have not been properly or positively utilized to support displaced and war-affected Yemenis. Most of the funding has gone toward the operating budgets of these organizations. Other portions have been manipulated through currency exchange rate disparities between Sana'a and Aden. Large sums have also been channeled to support Houthi militias, including salaries for Houthi leaders, food supplies for their frontlines, and even funding for demining programs handed to the very groups laying the mines.

Corruption and Mismanagement:

Reports indicate that a significant portion of these funds does not reach the actual beneficiaries due to several reasons, including:

1. **Mismanagement:** Cases of fund misallocation for non-humanitarian purposes or inefficient management have been documented. In some instances, funds have even prolonged the war by supporting one party at the expense of another—for

⁴⁸ A special paper for SAM, prepared by climate change and environmental assessment consultant and anti-corruption activist, Dr. Abdul Qader Al-Kharraz.

example, mine-clearing funds were mostly allocated to the group responsible for planting the mines (the Houthi militia).

2. **Lack of Transparency:** The system lacks effective mechanisms to monitor aid distribution, increasing the potential for corruption and weakening donor confidence. International organizations rarely publish detailed and audited reports for all their projects. General reports are often used to cover up corruption, and the humanitarian response plans are usually based on outdated or manipulated data.

3. **Nepotism and Bribery:** Some local institutions and government officials exploit aid to achieve personal gains, weakening aid access to those in need. Certain funds are directed to specific institutions without any bidding or public notice, and are allocated to fictitious projects that do not reflect the reality of people's lives, contributing to the further fragmentation of Yemeni society.

Corruption and mismanagement worsen the humanitarian suffering in Yemen. Many families do not receive necessary aid, increasing poverty, disease, inequality, and threatening the stability of Yemeni society.

Proposed Solutions:

To improve the effectiveness of international funding and ensure aid reaches those in need, several measures can be taken, including:

1. Enhancing transparency, activating independent oversight, involving local communities, improving aid distribution efficiency, and transitioning to development-focused funding.

2. Relocating the main offices of international and UN organizations from Sana'a to Aden.

3. Routing all international funding through the Central Bank of Yemen in Aden and reactivating its oversight systems.

4. Activating the legitimate government's oversight over organizational operations and engaging in emergency relief planning.

5. Re-evaluating large operational budgets, halting currency manipulation in aid funding, and reinstating the government's role in managing these funds.

6. Auditing and holding accountable all past financial mismanagement or data manipulation, and conducting independent reviews.

7. Addressing flaws within the legitimate government, including corruption and lack of serious oversight, and curbing Houthi control over aid—critical steps to correct the situation and empower national competencies.

International funding remains a vital tool to confront the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. However, it urgently requires comprehensive reforms to address corruption and mismanagement. This calls for joint efforts by the international community, the Yemeni government, and civil society to ensure aid reaches its intended beneficiaries and achieves humanitarian objectives. Without improved governance, enhanced transparency, and a shift toward development-based funding, the suffering of the Yemeni people will continue—threatening the country's future and stability.



Chapter Four:

Military Escalation and Security Threats

1. Threats to Navigation in the Red Sea

The Red Sea witnessed a significant escalation in maritime attacks since late 2023, as the Houthis in Yemen launched intensified operations targeting commercial vessels passing through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, one of the world's most strategic waterways. This escalation occurred in the context of the ongoing war in Gaza, with the Houthis declaring their support for the Palestinians by attacking vessels linked to Israel and its allies. As the attacks intensified, the United States and the United Kingdom formed international maritime coalitions aimed at securing the waterways and preventing further deterioration of the global economic crisis caused by disrupted maritime trade⁴⁹.

Furthermore, a report by the Panel of Experts indicated that the Houthis were illegally extorting shipping agencies in the Red Sea by imposing unlawful assessments that hinder their operations and increase shipping costs. These practices raise the cost of shipping, negatively impacting the prices of goods and services in Yemen and worsening the suffering of the population. This extortion also contributes to financing the Houthis' illicit activities and undermines peace and stability efforts in Yemen⁵⁰.

Attack Strategy

The Houthis employed an advanced military strategy in executing their attacks, using explosive-laden drones intensively to strike both commercial and military vessels⁵¹. They also launched anti-ship ballistic missiles developed with Iranian technology, according to Western intelligence sources. Additionally, the group carried out maritime piracy operations using suicide boats to target ships, further increasing the danger in the region.

The Houthis focused their attacks on vessels flying Western flags or those that had visited Israeli ports in recent months. Some of these attacks were deadly, resulting in the deaths of several sailors and prompting the United States, the United Kingdom, and France to escalate their military responses⁵².

⁴⁹ <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/houthis-red-sea>

⁵⁰ <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2024/731>

⁵¹ <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/houthi-ship-attacks-pose-longer-term-challenge-regional-security-and-trade-plans>

⁵² <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/houthi-ship-attacks-pose-longer-term-challenge-regional-security-and-trade-plans>

Statistics and Number of Attacks

In 2024, security reports documented over 300 Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait. These included direct strikes on oil tankers and major cargo ships, resulting in substantial material losses. At least two ships were sunk, and dozens of others were damaged. These operations resulted in the deaths of at least four sailors and injuries to many crew members.

In one of the most prominent incidents, the “Galaxy Leader” ship was hijacked by Houthi forces, and its crew of 22 remains unaccounted for. The Houthis also targeted cargo ships owned by American and European companies, prompting many major shipping firms to reroute their vessels away from the region⁵³.

Impact on Navigation and Trade Flow

The Houthi attacks caused significant disruption to maritime navigation through Bab al-Mandab, forcing many ship operators to take alternative routes such as sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, which increased transportation costs and extended shipping times between Asia and Europe. Economic reports indicated that insurance premiums for ships crossing the Red Sea rose by at least 30% due to escalating security risks.

This disruption led to a global increase in oil and essential goods prices, as a significant portion of international trade passes through Bab al-Mandab. Logistic and commercial companies incurred massive losses, further slowing the global economy at a time when markets were attempting to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine⁵⁴.

Additional reports confirm that the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea disrupted the flow of goods valued at \$1 trillion annually. According to a report by the “European Centre for Counterterrorism and Intelligence Studies” in November 2024, approximately \$1 trillion worth of goods pass through the Bab al-Mandab Strait each year. The escalation of Houthi attacks in this area has led to a significant decline in traffic, creating bottlenecks in global trade⁵⁵.

⁵³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/03/06/houthi-attack-kills-two-mariners/>

⁵⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/freight-through-suez-canal-down-45-since-houthi-attacks-unctad-2024-01-26/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.europarabct.com/?p=98639>

On December 19 and 27, 2024, Israeli aircraft conducted airstrikes targeting civilian facilities in Yemen. On December 19, the strikes hit power stations in Haziz and Dhahban, the port of Hodeidah, and the Ras Isa oil facility, killing nine workers and injuring three others at Ras Isa⁵⁶. On December 27, the strikes targeted Sana'a airport, Al-Kathib port, and Ras Isa port in Hodeidah, killing four people, injuring 16, and leaving three missing at Sana'a airport. These attacks on vital civilian infrastructure worsened Yemen's already dire humanitarian conditions, with over 17 million people facing food insecurity⁵⁷.

In a briefing to the UN Security Council, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher stated: "The attacks to and from Yemen have endangered critical maritime port infrastructure; disrupted the flow of essential food, fuel, and imports relied upon by millions of Yemenis; and threatened an unprecedented oil spill"⁵⁸.

International Measures to Confront the Threats

In response to the escalating attacks, several international maritime coalitions were formed to ensure ship protection and secure trade routes. Notable among these are:

- Operation Prosperity Guardian, led by the United States, aimed at protecting commercial vessels by increasing naval patrols in the Red Sea.
- European Maritime Security Coalition (EUMTF), including France, Germany, Spain, and other European countries, to bolster defenses against Houthi attacks.
- Operation Red Sea Sentinel, a coalition involving Gulf states and the United States, designed to reduce threats facing ships in the region⁵⁹.

⁵⁶ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5436>

⁵⁷ <https://samrl.org/l.php?l=e/10/A/c/1/69/71/5448>

⁵⁸ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15929.doc.htm>

⁵⁹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/navy-counters-houthi-red-sea-attacks-in-its-first-major-battle-at-sea-of-21st-century-60-minutes-transcript/>

International Reactions

In 2024, a series of international resolutions condemned Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea, calling for their immediate cessation. Key responses include:

1. UN Security Council Resolution 2722 (January 10, 2024): This resolution called on the Houthis to immediately cease all attacks on commercial vessels and release the “Galaxy Leader” and its crew. It was supported by 11 countries, with Algeria, China, Mozambique, and Russia abstaining. Two days later, the U.S. and U.K., supported by other nations, launched a series of air and missile strikes against Houthi positions⁶⁰.

2. UN Security Council Statement (March 18, 2024): This statement expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security situation in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait. It called on the Houthis to stop all attacks on commercial and maritime vessels immediately and to comply with international law and relevant council resolutions⁶¹.

3. UN Security Council Resolution (June 27, 2024): This resolution reiterated the demand for the Houthis to halt all attacks on ships in the Red Sea, emphasizing the waterway’s importance to global trade⁶².

4. French Senate Resolution (November 15, 2024): The French Senate adopted a resolution condemning Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and expressing concern over escalating regional tensions resulting from these assaults⁶³.

5. Joint Statement by Ten Countries (January 14, 2024): The governments of Germany, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States issued a joint statement condemning the Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and calling for an immediate cessation. The statement also referenced joint strikes targeting Houthi capabilities threatening international navigation⁶⁴.

6. UN Security Council Resolution 2739 (June 27, 2024): This resolution reaffirmed the demand that the Houthis immediately cease all attacks on commercial ships

⁶⁰ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15561.doc.htm>

⁶¹ https://arabic.cnn.com/middle-east/article/2024/03/18/sc-press-statement-situation-red-sea-baab-al-mandab?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁶² <https://aja.ws/9ji6c2>

⁶³ <https://www.yemenonline.info/politics/8371>

⁶⁴ https://almania.diplo.de/ardz-ar/04-aktuelles/2640286-2640286?utm_source=chatgpt.com

in the Red Sea and release the “Galaxy Leader” and its detained crew. It was supported by 12 countries, while three, including Algeria, abstained⁶⁵.

The year 2024 marked a serious turning point in maritime security history in the Red Sea. Houthi attacks became a real threat to international trade and global energy security. Despite the formation of international naval coalitions to counter the threats, the crisis persists as the Houthis continue to challenge these forces and threaten maritime navigation. In the absence of a lasting political solution to the conflict in Yemen, the region is expected to remain a hotspot of tension and ongoing conflict in the near future.

3. Reclassifying the Houthis as a Terrorist Organization

On January 17, 2024, the Biden administration announced the reclassification of the Houthi group in Yemen as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) organization. This decision came after a series of attacks launched by the Houthis on commercial and military vessels in the Red Sea since November 2023, threatening international maritime security and regional stability⁶⁶. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan explained that the designation aims to “disrupt the Houthis’ terrorist financing, restrict their access to financial markets, and hold them accountable for their actions”⁶⁷.

The justification for this designation is based on the intensifying Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea, with the group carrying out more than 100 assaults since November 2023, including the sinking of two vessels and the seizure of another, resulting in the deaths of at least four sailors. These attacks disrupted global shipping, forcing companies to reroute through longer and costlier paths around southern Africa. Moreover, vital areas such as the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden were targeted, further complicating the region’s security situation⁶⁸.

⁶⁵ https://www.ungeneva.org/fr/news-media/news/2024/06/94828/mjls-alamn-ytmd-qrara-ytalb-bwqf-alhwthyyn-ljmy-alhjmataly-alsfn?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁶⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-relists-houthis-terrorists-response-red-sea-attacks-2024-01-17/>

⁶⁷ <https://ye.usembassy.gov/statement-from-national-security-advisor-jake-sullivan-on-the-terrorist-designation-of-the-houthis/>

⁶⁸ <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/ar/policy-analysis/rghm-thd-alhwthyyn-btqlys-alhjmatala-yzal-albhr-alahmr-mdtrbana>

Potential Implications of the Decision:

The U.S. decision to reclassify the Houthis as a terrorist organization raises questions about its feasibility, effectiveness, and potential repercussions on Yemen and the region. The move aims to hinder the group's financing, restrict its access to financial markets, and pressure it to halt attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

While the Houthis may face difficulties in securing resources and weapons, they are known for their ability to circumvent sanctions. The designation could further isolate the group internationally and strain its external relations. However, there are concerns it may also impact humanitarian operations and hinder aid delivery in Yemen, obstructing the peace process, empowering extremist narratives, and diminishing opportunities for negotiation and dialogue⁶⁹.

In his briefing to the UN Security Council, Hans Grundberg, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, expressed concern about recent developments, including the potential U.S. designation of Ansar Allah as a Specially Designated Terrorist Group. Despite the complexities, he affirmed that his work would continue regardless, emphasizing the importance of maintaining open political communication channels and keeping all actors actively engaged in his efforts. He also noted that the mediation landscape has become significantly more complex, with rising regional tensions—especially those linked to the war in Gaza and military escalation in the Red Sea—slowing down the pace of peace efforts in Yemen. Grundberg stressed that mediation efforts in Yemen cannot be effectively isolated, as regional dynamics influence the country and vice versa⁷⁰.

⁶⁹ <https://abaadstudies.org/policy-analysis/topic/60096>

⁷⁰ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4041824/files/S_PV.9548-AR.pdf?ln=ar

4. Continued Flow of Weapons

The 2024 report by the Panel of Experts revealed that the Houthis acquired advanced weapons thanks to external support. It disclosed the interception of over 800 shipments of weapons and related materials en route to Yemen⁷¹.

On December 16, 2024, the United States sought to rally international backing to enhance the UN's authority in intercepting shipments bound for Houthi-controlled ports in Yemen via the Red Sea. These efforts aim to curb the arms supplies reaching the Iran-backed group. U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen, Tim Lenderking, emphasized the need to strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM) to enable it to conduct more effective interception operations⁷².

Additionally, Reuters reported in September 2024 that Iran was mediating secret talks between Russia and the Houthis to transfer "Yakhont" anti-ship missiles to the Yemeni group. These missiles, also known as P-800 Oniks, would significantly enhance the Houthis' precision in targeting commercial vessels in the Red Sea, thereby increasing the threat to American and European warships in the region⁷³.

⁷¹ <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2024/731>

⁷² https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/16/red-sea-shipments-yemen-houthis-us-un-powers?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁷³ https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-brokering-talks-send-advanced-russian-missiles-yemens-houthis-sources-say-2024-09-24/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Chapter Five: The Economic File



In 2024, Yemen's economy faced mounting challenges due to the ongoing conflict and escalating regional tensions. The country's GDP is expected to contract by 1% this year, following a 2% decline in 2023, resulting in further deterioration in real per capita GDP⁷⁴.

These circumstances worsened poverty levels and food insecurity. Approximately 17.4 million people—nearly half of the population—are facing food insecurity. Furthermore, 2.7 million children suffer from acute malnutrition, including 600,000 with severe acute malnutrition⁷⁵.

The growing regional tensions, including attacks on ships in the Red Sea, have further complicated the peace process and intensified economic pressures. These tensions disrupted crude oil exports, adding strain on the local currency and consumer prices⁷⁶.

The blockade on oil exports led to a 42% drop in revenues for the internationally recognized government in the first half of 2024, limiting its ability to provide essential services. As a result, the Yemeni rial in Aden depreciated from YER 1,619 per USD in January to YER 1,917 in August⁷⁷.

In March 2024, the Norwegian Refugee Council reported that Yemen's worsening economy had pushed millions deeper into poverty, exacerbating their humanitarian suffering. This decline is compounded by the ongoing conflict since 2015, which has devastated the economy and infrastructure, placing Yemen among the world's worst humanitarian crises⁷⁸.

⁷⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/yemen>

⁷⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/yemen/overview>

⁷⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/yemen/overview>

⁷⁷ <https://ygcs.center/en/indicators/article118.html>

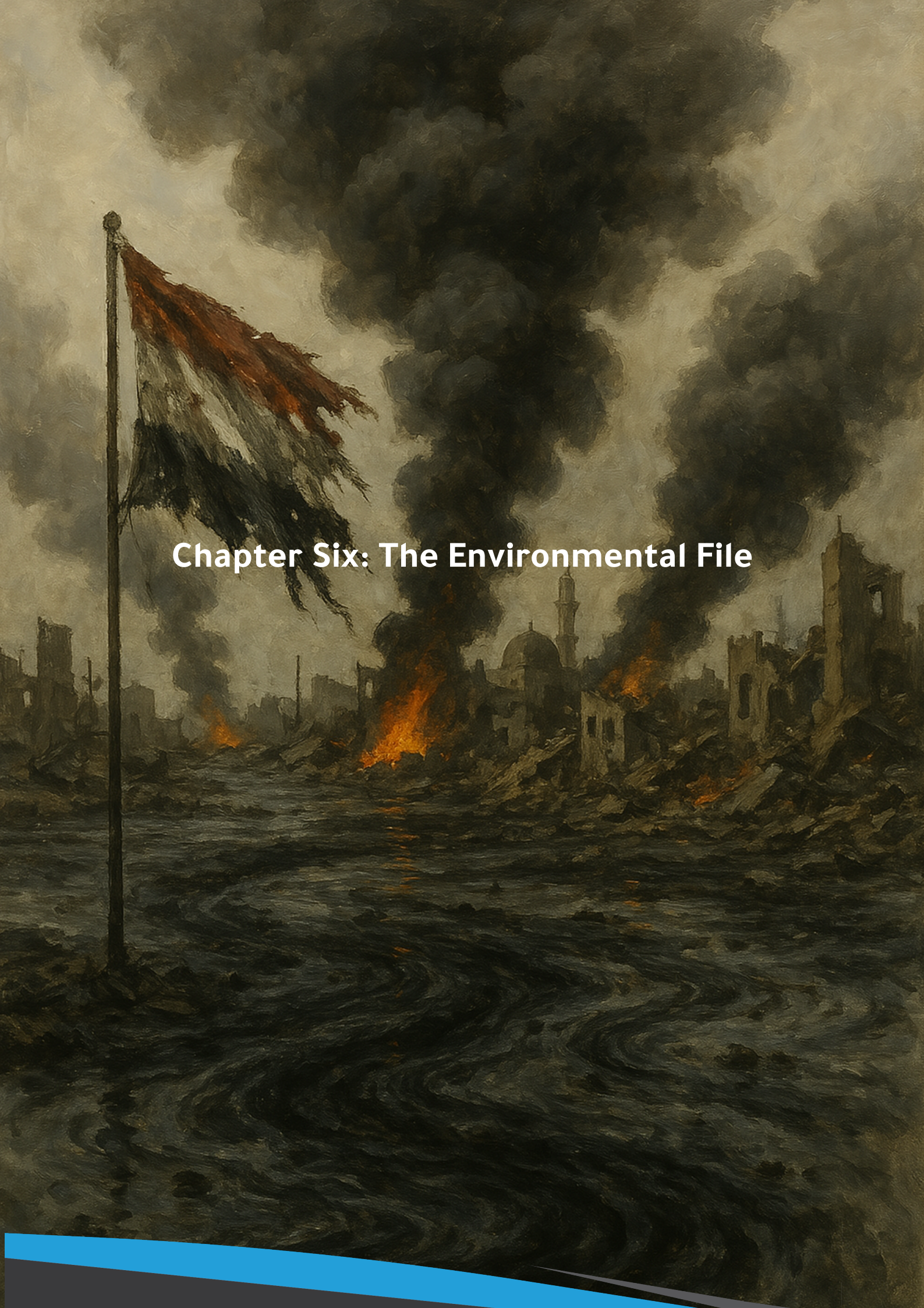
⁷⁸ <https://www.nrc.no/news/2024/march/nine-years-on-economic-downturn-plunges-millions-into-poverty-in-yemen>

Furthermore, the rial's devaluation caused fuel prices to surge, making food even more inaccessible. The widespread outbreak of diseases such as cholera and measles, coupled with limited access to clean water and inadequate sanitation services, has worsened the population's nutritional and health conditions⁷⁹.

UN Security Council Panel of Experts report S/2024/731 revealed that the Houthis control a significant portion of Yemen's economy and exploit resources to fund their military operations. The report notes a 43% revenue loss due to the oil export blockade. It also highlights various illegal activities by the Houthis that destabilize Yemen and exacerbate the suffering of its people, including unlawful tax collection—estimated at YER 1.34 trillion—and currency counterfeiting to fund operations, further deteriorating the economic situation. The report uncovered attempts to smuggle counterfeit bonds worth YER 35 million⁸⁰.

⁷⁹ <https://www.emro.who.int/ar/2024-arabic/yemen-daily-battles-against-poverty-and-hunger.html>

⁸⁰ <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2024/731>

A dramatic oil painting depicting a city in ruins. In the foreground, a dark, turbulent river flows. On the left, a flagpole stands with a tattered flag featuring red, white, and black horizontal stripes. The background shows a city with domes and minarets, partially destroyed and engulfed in flames. Thick, dark smoke billows from the burning structures into a cloudy sky. The overall mood is one of devastation and tragedy.

Chapter Six: The Environmental File

In 2024, Yemen faced severe environmental and climate-related challenges that significantly impacted its people and ecosystem. These included extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, which worsened the country's humanitarian and economic crises.

A December 2024 report by the United Nations Development Programme stated that drought affected 90% of Yemen's land, while 10% to 20% of the territory suffered from soil erosion, particularly in agricultural areas. This degradation is reducing crop productivity and intensifying food insecurity⁸¹.

Since April 2024, Yemen has witnessed devastating floods, which escalated in July and August, affecting 34,260 households across the country, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA, August 11, 2024). In Hadramaut, 1,335 displaced families experienced partial or total damage in IDP camps, losing shelter and essential supplies⁸².

In Al-Hudaydah, floods caused 30 deaths and five missing persons, destroying entire villages and displacing residents (WHO, August 8, 2024). Nationally, floods and heavy rains resulted in 98 deaths and over 600 injuries⁸³.

Homes, farms, and roads were destroyed in several regions, with power and water outages worsening relief operations (ReliefWeb, September 5, 2024). Severe damage was also reported in sewage networks and health facilities, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks⁸⁴.

Amid the floods, cholera cases surged to over 163,000 suspected infections, further burdening the overstretched healthcare system. In the north alone, 132,049 suspected cases and 493 deaths were reported, while in the south, there were 31,138 cases and 26 deaths⁸⁵.

⁸¹ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2025-02/58719-land_degradation_in_yemen-ar_web.pdf

⁸² <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/yemen-flooding-crisis-deepens-cholera-spreads-irc-launches-emergency-response>

⁸³ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15972.doc.htm>

⁸⁴ <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/yemen-flooding-crisis-deepens-cholera-spreads-irc-launches-emergency-response>

⁸⁵ <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/yemen-flooding-crisis-deepens-cholera-spreads-irc-launches-emergency-response>

Additionally, the sinking of a cargo ship loaded with large quantities of fertilizer posed a direct threat to Yemen's marine environment. Environmental warnings point to a potential disaster that could affect fish stocks and ecological balance. According to environmental reports, the leakage of chemicals from the sunken vessel could pollute coastal waters, impacting over 15,000 fishermen whose livelihoods depend on the sea. The pollution may persist for years, depleting fish resources and increasing disease rates linked to environmental contamination⁸⁶.

Recommendations and Demands

- The international community must exert real pressure on the Houthis to immediately release all detainees and ensure respect for the rights of humanitarian and civil workers in Yemen. Continued repressive policies will undermine humanitarian or human rights efforts and worsen the suffering of the Yemeni people.
- There is a need for international intervention to hold perpetrators of crimes against civilians accountable. Without serious action, such violations will continue to deepen Yemen's humanitarian crisis.
- All stakeholders in Yemen, with support from the international community, must take tangible measures to halt violations, protect civilians, and achieve a comprehensive political solution that ends the conflict and ensures lasting peace and stability.
- It is essential to support the mediation efforts led by the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, emphasizing the need to preserve political communication channels and keep all parties actively engaged in the process.
- Humanitarian aid must be allowed to reach all regions without restrictions or interference, and its distribution should be monitored to prevent warring parties from exploiting it for political or economic gains.
- Countries and international organizations should provide the necessary funding for Yemen's humanitarian response plan to ensure the continued operation of health centers and the provision of basic healthcare for women and children.

⁸⁶ <https://samrl.org/l.html?l=a/10/A/c/1/69/71/5189>

- The international community must pressure all parties to cease child recruitment, demobilize child soldiers, and implement rehabilitation programs for conflict-affected children.
- Efforts to support Yemen's government and civil society in promoting political and civil liberties, including freedom of expression and press freedom, must be strengthened, along with protections for journalists and activists.
- All Yemeni parties must be held to international humanitarian law standards, ensuring civilian protection and avoiding attacks on residential areas, schools, and hospitals.
- Civil society organizations should be supported in documenting human rights violations, providing victim support, and ensuring access to justice and compensation.
- The international community must work with Yemen's government and civil society to enhance women's participation in political, economic, and social life, and to ensure protection from all forms of discrimination and violence.



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The bleeding is still ongoing