



Legal Center for Rights and Development

# The Forgotten War Crimes *in Yemen*

**3 Years**  
of Killing &  
Destroying

2018





Legal Center for Rights and Development

# The Forgotten War "Man-Made strophe"

(A Statistical Rights Report Documenting  
Some of The Catastrophic Numbers of  
Human Losses and Material Damage to  
Yemen as a Result of The Military Operation  
(Al-Hazm Storm) has Launched by The Saudi-  
Led Coalition Forces since March 26, 2015  
and as March 20, 2018)

## The Context

- **Targeting Civilians by Direct or Indirect Killing**
- **Humanitarian situation and needs**
- **Starving and Destroying The Economy**
- **Targeting The Health Sector**
- **Targeting Infrastructure and Basic Services**
- **Destroying The Commercial Facilities And Institutions**
- **Targeting Markets and Institutions**
- **Destroying Facilities and Service Institution**
- **Targeting The Education Sector**
- **Targeting Archaeological, Religious and Cultural Monuments.**
- **Targeting The Agriculture and Irrigation Sector.**
- **The Saudi War Impacts On The Environment**
- **Targeting Humanitarian Organizations**
- **Targeting The Fish Sector**
- **Captives Killing and Torturing**
- **Using Of Cluster Bombs and Banned Weapons**

Legal Center for Rights and Development is a civil society organization located in the capital Sana'a. It concerns with community development in all fields, promoting and protecting human rights, supporting the ruling of law, monitoring and documenting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and providing legal assistance to victims of violations of wars and conflicts. The Center is involved in many activities , including daily documenting of grave incidents, issuing daily, monthly, detailed and annual reports, as well as the Center's activities in training, relief programs for displaced people and the implementation of programs and projects for development.

## Our Message:

Legal Center for Rights and Development believes that the prosperity and happiness of humankind will be achieved only through the consolidation and sovereignty of human rights and freedoms and the achievement of sustainable development in all fields. This will only be achieved through great and sustained humanitarian efforts.

## The Center Objectives

Legal Center for Rights and Development aims to:

1. Contribute in the protection of public and individual freedoms of people and to develop means and methods of protecting and supporting rights and freedoms.
2. Disseminate and raise awareness of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
3. Working under the term of ruling of law
4. To contribute to the promotion enhancing activities of the sectors of the State, its independence, impartiality and the soundness of its activities in accordance with the law and regulations.
5. Working on developing the Yemen legislation to ensure human rights and freedoms.
6. Working on ensuring the active grantee of rights and freedoms and protecting them from being violated.
7. Working on combating discrimination in all its forms.
8. Working on enhancing the values of tolerance and peace, spreading the concepts of negotiation and resolving conflicts, to deal with their effects peacefully, and reducing the culture of violence, chaos and nervousness.



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# Summary

The war on Yemen has been continuing since the beginning of the military operation (decisive storm), the grave violations against the Yemeni people reached a catastrophic end. The Saudi war on Yemen is considered a real tragedy which is being faced by the absence of the universal human conscience and the shameful silence of all voices for human rights that are supported by countries and organizations. Among these organizations which turned a blind eye towards what is happening in Yemen, the UN system and its agencies and human rights defenders.

The war, which has been raging for more than a Three years until the time of printing this report, targeted all forms of life. The coalition has imposed a complete siege on all Yemen sea, air and land ports since the first day of war. This imposed siege increased the suffering of the poor people in a country known as the poorest country in the world. Yemen suffers from crises, internal conflicts, political divisions, a bad economic about collapsing and a tragic humanitarian situation. The most prominent features during three years is the continuous violations to human rights and international humanitarian law, thousands of civilians have been killed and injured, and civilian properties and objects destroyed. The siege on Yemen's land, sea and air ports has destroyed all forms of life leaving millions of Yemeni people suffering all difficulties of life needs.

All these difficulties and needs came as negative impacts of the war launched by the military coalition forces and ten countries led by Saudi Arabia that announced the beginning of the military operation on Yemen at midnight of March 26, 2015.

Saudi Arabia mobilized forces from the countries participating in the coalition: (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, the United States and by providing logistical, banned weapons and intelligence support according to its announcement

- The military operation was launched under the title of supporting the legitimacy of the outgoing president Hadi against those who called them the group of «Ansar Allah» (Houthis) and the forces loyal to them and Ali

Abdullah Saleh, and it was known as (decisive storm).

The objective of the military action – According to a press briefing on March 28 for the spokesman of the military campaign - is to destroy the air bases, operation centers, warplanes, command, communication and control centers, and ballistic missiles

In a statement for the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Adel Al-Jubair, said that the military operation was aimed to destroy weapons that could threaten Saudi Arabia, whether it was either air weapons, ballistic missiles or heavy weapons. Unfortunately, so far, the war main targets are killings civilians and destroying the civilian properties and objects.

The continuous war has used various types of modern weapons, sophisticated missiles, smart bombs, the latest models of warplanes, naval battleships and land weapons, most of whose targets were civilians and civilian objects.

The aggression accompanied with a ground incursion and military occupation for many areas inside Yemen territories by the coalition forces involving the troops from different countries and international security companies such as (Black water).

Since the beginning of the military operation, a complete siege has been imposed on all Yemen territories, the Yemen airspace has been controlled and air defenses and military communications systems have been destroyed in the first hour of the operation.

Saudi Arabia declared that the Yemen airspace was a restricted area and warned approaching the Yemen ports. Which prevented the entry of all life requirements, which affected negatively on millions of Yemeni people who suffer mainly from extreme poverty and located in the bottom of the world's poorest countries list. The imposed siege resulted in the lack of life essentials, such as food, medicine and basic services like, electricity, water, and business.

The war, which targeted everything protected by humanitarian law, led to the destruction of the infrastructure of the public services sector.

Thousands of people were killed and wounded, and many air, land and sea ports, sewage networks, road, electricity and, communication networks, water wells,

public buildings, residential buildings, associations, private properties, economic establishments (shops, companies, factories and warehouses) and agricultural lands were destroyed.

Even the health institutions, hospitals, education institutions, media and sports facilities, mosques, cemeteries and a number of Yemen cities have been turned into piles of destruction in addition to great material losses.

The war also caused mass exodus and displacement of millions as a result of the continuous targeting of populated areas and basic services in the densely populated cities.

The many and terrible crimes of Saudi military alliance in Yemen, that were described by Mr. Ban Ki-moon as a «Man Made Catastrophe» are considered a disgrace to the international community, and a sure testimony of the death of the conscience of the human world.

The purpose of this report is to expose some of the serious violations committed by the Saudi military coalition forces under the title of Operation Storm (Al-Hazm, or decisive storm) to adapt them and classify them under the provisions and principles of international law as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It also aims to show a simple part of the magnitude of the humanitarian catastrophe that has afflicted Yemen through displaying some of the statistics and information documented by legal center as a contribution to protect human rights and apply the legal evidences in order to prosecute the perpetrators.

Legal Center confirms that the statistics and information contained in this report are not final but they represent a part of the disaster. And due to the continuation of the war and the magnitude of the human and material disaster, it is difficult to collect all information and data of the war impacts so far.

## Note

«In this report, we have relied on the collection of information through research and field investigations and access to the reports of specialized international organizations and bodies related to international laws relating to conflict

# Targeting Civilians by Direct or Indirect Killing

## The Victims of Direct Air Attacking

**36,828**

**Civilian Casualties**

	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	
	<b>3,057</b>	<b>2,869</b>	
	<b>2,086</b>	<b>2,284</b>	
	<b>9,148</b>	<b>17,384</b>	
	<b>14,291</b>	<b>22,537</b>	

**413,297**

Destroyed and Damaged houses by airstrikes

**2,228**

People have died of Cholera and Diphtheria, which spread in most of Yemen provinces due to the ongoing war and siege by the Saudi coalition on Yemen.

## The Victims of the war and imposed sieag

**160,000**

**Civilians**

Died as a result of the lack of health care, food and medicine due to the imposed siege on Yemen.

**6 Children**

Every hour die due to the suffering of various diseases.

**3,000**

patients of kidney failure, cancer and diabetes has died as a result of lack of medicines, medical solutions and health care.

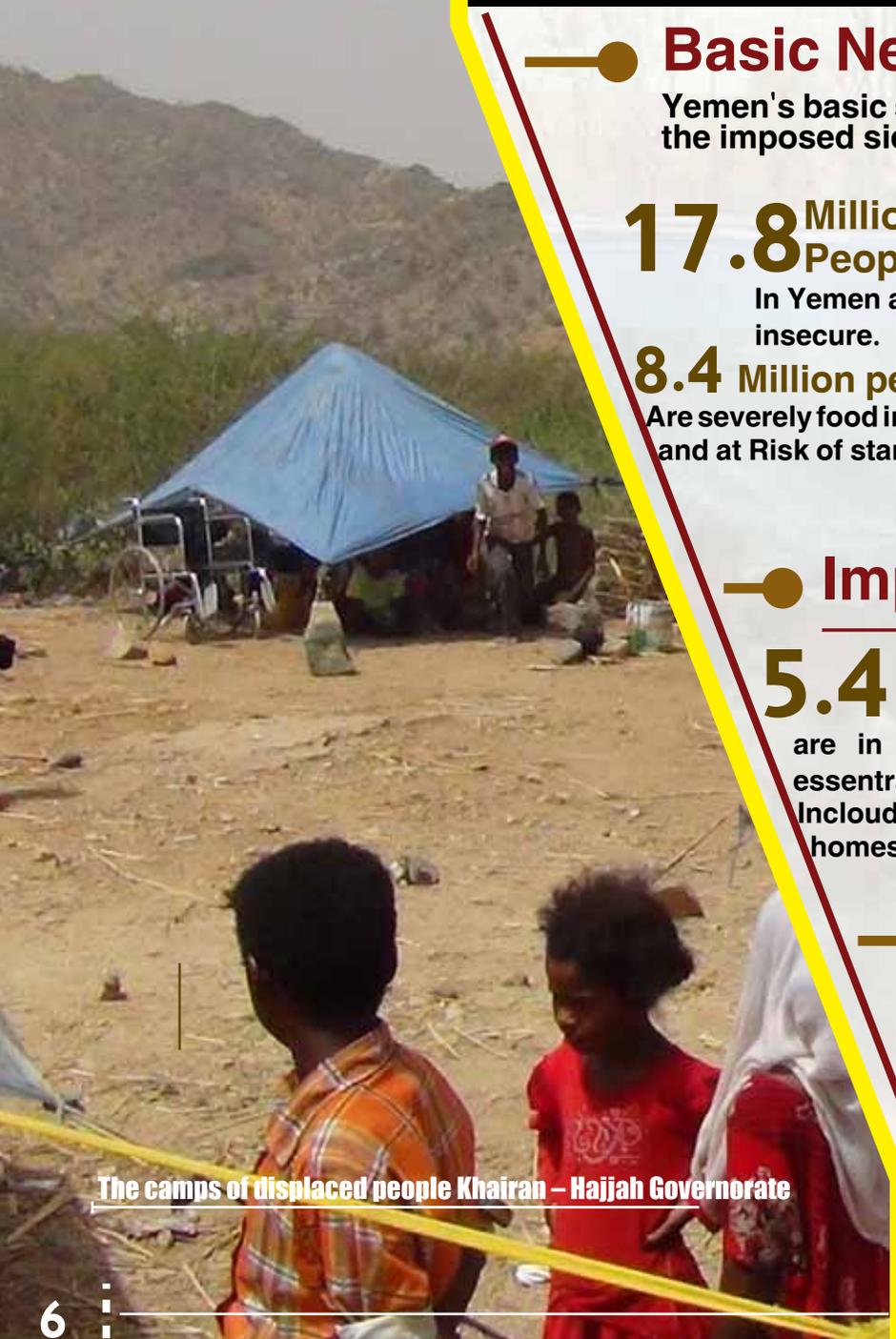


Ali Al-Nakai embracing his mother after pulling her out of the rubble dead body. The airstrike targeted the house leaving it on the ground. - Arhab District - Sana'a Governorate  
Date of bombing: February 15, 2017

“ The civilian population shall not be the object of attack. Acts of violence or threats aimed primarily at spreading terror amongst the civilian population are prohibited.

Article 51, paragraph 2 Protocol I - Geneva 1977

”



## Basic Needs:

Yemen's basic services have collapsed due to continued aggression, direct targeting and the imposed siege on Yemen

**17.8 Million People**  
In Yemen are food insecure.

**8.4 Million people**  
Are severely food insecure and at Risk of starvation.



**16.4 Million People**  
In Yemen require assistance to ensure adequate access to healthcare.

**9.3 Million people**  
Are in a acute need.

**3 Million children, pregnant and nursing mothers** Need treatment for malnutrition .

## Impacts of Displacement

**5.4 Million People**  
are in need for emergency shelter or essential household items including them those who lost their homes by the Saudi warplanes targeting.

**3 Million People**  
Were displaced from their areas during 3 years of war. They lack the minimum essentials and services of surviving.

## Humanitarian Survival Needs

**29 Million**  
Yemeni people need basic food needs for surviving such as (food secure, health, water, health nutrition, shelter, protection and education).

Yemen is about great famine in this modern history due to the imposed siege and the continuing war on Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition.

The camps of displaced people Khairan – Hajjah Governorate



# Starving and Destroying The Economy

The Forgotten War Crimes in Yemen

## 1.2 Million Employees

In the government sector are with no salaries. Their monthly salaries have been stopped paying since July 2016 due to the continuing siege and the transferring of the Central Bank from Capital Sana'a to Aden



## 90%

Represents the demands of the basic needs of the Yemeni people, that come from outside Yemen.



## 1.5 Million Employees

Have been stopped in the private sector due to the bombing of factories and companies that resulted in its closing.



## 722 Food Stores

Were destroyed by the airstrikes.

## 12 Granaries

Were destroyed by the airstrikes.



## 596 Food trucks

Were destroyed by the airstrikes.



In addition to the siege, coalition forces deliberately targeted air, sea, and land ports, power stations, roads, bridges and vital and economic installations, which exacerbates the human suffering

WFP food truck

were targeted on 21 first of February 2018

“ 1.It is prohibited to starve civilians as a method of warfare. and to It is prohibited to attack, destroy, transfer or dispose the objects and materials which are indispensable for the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas that produce crops and livestock, drink water facilities and water networks

Article 54 of the Protocol I and Article 14 of the Protocol II- Geneva, 1977

”

# Targeting The Health Sector



German Hospital - Haradh - Hajjah  
Bombing on 8 September 2015 and later dates

● **1,900**

health facilities have stopped working due to the lack of fuel and staff and the lack of basic supplies for its work as a result of the imposition of siege and restrictions on importing by the coalition forces.



● **3,000**

Foreign doctors and specialists have left Yemen since the beginning of the war for fear which has led to the negative impact on the medical and health sector and its performance.

**250,000**

Sick and injured people are threatened with death due to hospital closure and lack of health care and medicines as a result of the imposed siege.

**600**

Health facilities,  
have closed.



● **309**

Hospitals and health facilities were deliberate targets for the Saudi-led coalition warplanes.



In no case shall civilian hospitals organized to provide care for the wounded, sick, infirm and women with disabilities be attacked and respected by the parties to the conflict at all times.



Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention

**2,425** Roads and bridges  
Were targeted by the airstrikes.



**15** International and National Airports  
were targeted. It has been stopped its works because of the blockade imposed since the war began.

**410** Networks telecommunication  
Were a direct targets for the Saudi Arabian coalition warplanes' missiles that damaged them.



**14** Land Sea Ports  
Were targeted by direct attacks, which caused damages. Moreover, most of ports have stopped working due to the imposed siege on Yemen since the war beginning.



**179** Electricity Generators and Stations  
Were the targets of air attacks for the coalition warplanes. Electricity in Yemen is out of service 100%. contributed in that, the lack of oil derivatives as a result of the imposed siege on Yemen .

A side of the destruction on AlHodieda sea port  
Targeted on 2 February 2015

“ Civil objects shall not be the object of attack or of deterrence.  
Article 52, annex II to Geneva conventions

”

# Targeting The Industrial and Commercial Sectors



**307** Factories

Have been destroyed by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**837** were killed and Injured



**6,912** Business Establishments

Have been destroyed by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**1,338** were killed and Injured



**137** Investment and Commercial Companies

Have been destroyed by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**102** were killed and Injured



**609** Commercial Markets

Have been destroyed by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**3,423** were killed and Injured



Amran Cement Factory - Marha - Amran Governorate  
Bombed many times, most recently on March 4, 2017

“ Military objectives are limited only to those who make an effective contribution to military action, whether by nature, location, purpose or use, and whose complete or partial destruction, seizure or disruption in the circumstances prevailing at that time has a military advantage .

(Article 52, paragraph 2, of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions)



# Destroying The Vital Facilities and Service Institutions

**264** Tourist Facilities



Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**35** Media facilities



Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**76** Oil Buildings



Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**345** Oil Stations



Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**1,761** Government Entities



Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**112** Sport Facilities



Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

**262** Fuel Tankers



Have been attacked by the Saudi coalition warplanes.

Government Complex Hamdan district - Sanaa City

Targeted on 4 January 2017

“ Attacks on towns, villages, dwellings and unprotected buildings, by whatever means used, shall be prohibited  
Article (25) of Hague Regulations

”



## 216 Archeological Sites

Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.



## 20 Museums

Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.



## 903 Mosques

Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.



## 50 Cemeteries

Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.



## 49 Libraries

Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.



## 35 Culture Centers

Have been destroyed and damaged by the bombing of the Saudi coalition warplanes.

A part of the destruction on old Sana'a City (the historical city)  
Bombed on 18 September 2015 and in other dates

“ The following acts are prohibited, without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Objects of 14 May 1954:  
1. Committing any hostile acts against historical monuments, works of art or places of worship that constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples

Article 53, paragraph 1 - Additional Protocol I

”

# Targeting The Agriculture and Irrigation Sector



A farm of a citizen in Al-Jar, Abbs - Hajjah Government  
That was targeted on eighteenth of May 2017

## 688 Wells and water pumps

Were direct targets for the Saudi Arabian coalition warplanes' missiles that damaged them.



## 183 Agriculture Facilities

Agriculture associations, research centers, regional stations, agricultural extension centers and agricultural seed production companies were destroyed and damaged by direct airstrikes.



## 2,654 Agricultural Fields

Farms, land and agricultural fields producing seeds, fruits and vegetables were destroyed.



## 81 Agriculture Markets

Central and rural agricultural markets and export, storage and cooling centers were destroyed and damaged by direct airstrikes.



## 269 Poultry & livestock Farms

Were targeted by the Saudi aggression



## 3,519 Plant Nurseries

Are about protected homes and productive nurseries for seeds, fruits and vegetables destroyed by the bombing of warplanes.



“ 1. It is prohibited to starve civilians as a method of warfare, and to it is prohibited attack, destroy, transfer or dispose of objects and materials indispensable for the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas that produce, crops, livestock, and drink water facilities

Article 54 of the Protocol I and Article 14 of the Protocol II- Geneva, 1977

”

## 45 Fish Sectors



The buildings, stores centers were direct targets for the Saudi Arabian coalition missiles that caused its damage.

## 161 Fishing Boats



were direct targets for the missiles of the Saudi Arabian coalition forces, that caused its damage

## 669 Fishers



Of the fishermen were killed and injured on their boats by the Saudi alliance warplanes Targeting.

## 7 Fish Markets



Were targeted by the Saudi alliance warplanes, which led to the destruction of the entire fish stocks

## 300 Fishing Sites



Taht Fishers were Prevented from fishing in these sites , any fisherman try approach there will be killed as a result of the control of the military forces of the aggression for these sites

## 60 Fishers



Were captured on the Red Sea coast by the Saudi Arabian forces while they were fishing.



A scene of the burial of 35 bodies were on board a boat They were targeted by the Saudi warplanes on 17 March 2017

“ Offshore installations that are protected under the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, shall not be attacked or dropped from the sea, , 12 August 1949.

”

# Killing and Torturing the Captives



## The execution of Captives

**62 Cases of execution** documented by legal Center against the Captives in different conflict areas such as (Aden, Taiz, Abyan) by armed groups supported by Saudi Arabia and its alliance. **Methods of execution:**



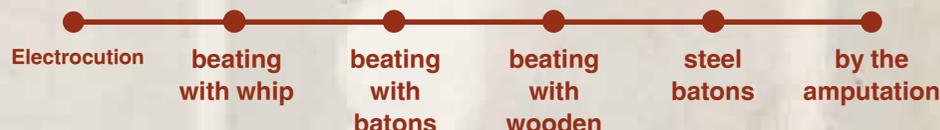
## Torture of the Captives

**400 Captives** who were physically tortured and amputated by the Saudi coalition forces and the groups supported by them in the detentions of Saudi Arabia, Aden, Marib, Lahj, Taiz, Abyan and Al-Baida.



More than **12 Captives** died due torturing

### Methods:



More than **10** Captives died due to their injuries as a result of preventing them from treatment

## Captives' Detention

These camps do not have the lowest basic components of life (health and food)



“ International humanitarian law obligates parties to the conflict to respect prisoners and ensure their fundamental rights (life - dignity - good treatment) ”

Execution, done by the armed groups supported by Saudi Arabia and its alliance in the province of Abyan, on a group of captives using the bombing

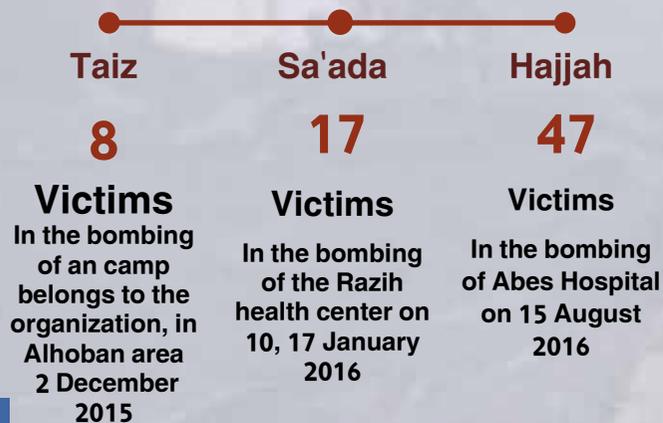
5 December 2015

## International organizations

**19** A global health organization that was targeted and damaged by the Saudi warplanes targeting.

**109** Number of victims who were killed in the targeting of international health organizations

**5** The headquarters of these organizations are affiliated with MSF



## Cadres and Ambulance Teams

**7,312** Airstrikes targeted directly paramedics and medical personnel.

**22** Ambulances were targeted directly and all of its crews were killed.

**95** Is the killed victims toll of ambulance crews and medical personnel during rescuing operations.

**120** Is the number of wounded victims from the ambulance crews and medical personnel during the rescuing operations of the victims.

Abbs Hospital that belongs to MSF org  
Was targeted on fifteenth of Aug 2016

“ Deliberate attacks against personnel, installations, materials, units or vehicles used on a humanitarian or peacekeeping mission, is a war crime pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations

Article 18 of the Hague Convention, 1917

”

# The Saudi Alliance War's Impacts on The Environment



## Using radioactive Materials

**White phosphorus:** Used by the aggression of the Saudi alliance heavily on the province of Sana'a and Taiz and border areas in Sa'ada . Gases resulting from white phosphorus affects negatively on all the elements of the environment (water, air, soil, and organisms), and also burns the human body and leaves only bones.

**Molotov cocktails:** used by the aggression of the Saudi alliance on different areas such as Taiz, Saada, Amran, Lahj, Marib and Al-Jawf

## Waste of Weapons

The weapons used by the Saudi Arabian coalition have caused severe damage to the air due to gases and smog resulting from the use of internationally banned weapons as well as to the soil from the remnants of cluster bombs and rockets on citizens' farms, the attacks also caused massive rubbles of the destroyed homes and facilities.



## Epidemics Outbreaking

### Cholera

**1.1 Million Cases** of people who were infected with Cholera. **2.200 cases** of whom died.

### Diphtheria

**346 Cases** of people who were infected with Diphtheria. **28 cases** of whom died.

## Embryos Mallformation

**80 Children**

Born congenital malformations, especially in areas targeted by different weapons which caused the deformities as doctors believe.



Smoke clouds covered the sky of the capital Sana'a due to the bombing on Attan area  
20 April 2015

“ 1. Taking into account the protection of the natural environment from extreme, widespread and long-term damage. Such protection includes the prohibition of the use of methods or means of warfare intended or expected to cause such damage to the natural environment and thereby harm the health or survival of the population. 2. Deterrent attacks against the natural environment are prohibited  
Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 55 - Additional Protocol I ”

# Cluster Bombs and Banned Weapons



**187**

The number of the people who were killed by cluster bombs .

**372**

The injured people by the cluster bombs

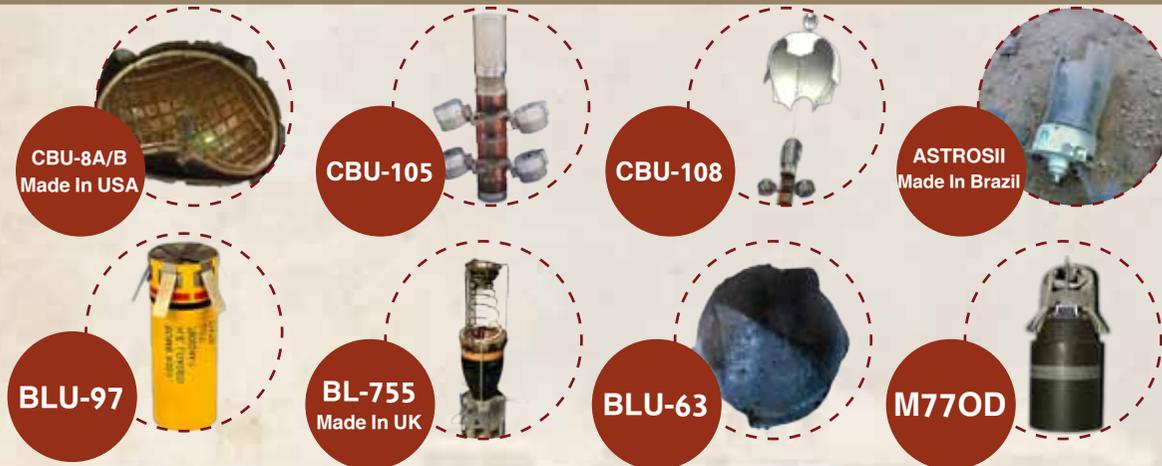
**793 Cluster Bomb Airstrikes**

that targeted different governorates, including Sa'ada, Sana'a Capital , Sana'a, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Shabwa, Al-Jouf, Taiz, Marib, Aden, Al-Baidah, Amran and Lahj, were documented by Legal Center for Rights and Development.

## The Thermobaric and Neutronic weapons

The Saudi coalition used in its airstrikes on Yemen some Thermobaric and Neutronic weapons that targeted many populated areas such as Attan and Noqum in the capital Sana'a.

## Some types of cluster bombs used in the air attacks on Yemen



Bombing the area of Noqum with internationally banned Neutronic bombs

11 May 2015

“ Humanitarian law prohibits the use of weapons that cause significant civilian casualties, and the use of weapons on bombing civilians and populated areas ”

# Recommendations

## •To the International Criminal Court.

-Consider this report as a communication to the International Criminal Court of committing Saudi Arabia and its alliance war crimes against Yemenis.

- We call on the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to open file of investigation into these crimes.

-We call on moving the international criminal case against officials of the coalition countries involved to those offenses.

## • To the international community:

- Intensify efforts and the efforts of conflict parties to find a peaceful and sustainable solution in Yemen through an inclusive political process.

- Work to lift the economic siege which imposed on the Yemeni people and work to help the Yemeni people and the reconstruction of what caused the war of destruction.

## To the active countries:

- Its obligations as contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions to take all possible steps to ensure compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law.

- Work to end the suffering of the Yemeni people and to make efforts with conflict parties to reach a peaceful solutions to ensure the stop of military operation.

## To the agencies and humanitarian organizations:

- We call on all agencies and humanitarian organizations to do their duty to the human quest to lift the unjust siege imposed on the Yemeni people and to provide medical and food aid and emergency aid, and work to raise the human suffering that result to the blockade of coalition forces.

## To the human rights council:

- We regret of the Council's failure to adopt a resolution to form an international commission of investigation into the abuses and crimes against the Yemeni people.

- We call on the council to convene an emergency session to discuss the situation in Yemen and issue a decision for the formation of committee to investigate in the massacres that committed by the military alliance led by Saudi forces.

- Looking forward to the turn of the High Council in promoting human rights and protection away from the politics and

bickering about self-interest among the member states that are always at the expense of human rights in weak countries.

The legal center renews its call on the United Nations and all-international organizations, and calls on all free nations in the world to do their humanitarian duty and rights to stop and condemn the war, and lifting the siege that imposed on Yemen by Saudi Arabia and its alliance before disaster and tragedy humanitarian in Yemen.