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YEMEN: DEADLY SIEGE ON TAIZ

Human Rights Report on the Houthi Siege of Taiz
and Its Impacts on Residents' Lives

JULY 2022



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taiz City has faced seven lean years since it has been under war and siege. Its residents still suffer from the difficulty of life, face death every day and seek help from all the countries of the world to save them from both war and siege. However, there is no response from anyone, including the United Nations envoy, Hans Grundberg, who visited Taiz on November 8, 2021, and left Taiz to start his efforts on putting an end to the siege imposed on the parties that besieged it.

Taiz residents are still searching for a solution for their problem amid the suspicious global silence and the unjustified disregard from the UN toward their suffering, which has exceeded all expectations, especially considering the dense fields of landmines laid without maps. In addition, they face extremely complicated and difficult economic conditions, resulting in hunger that kills them without mercy all the time.

There is no doubt that the armed conflicts between the government forces and Houthi militia in Taiz Governorate, in particular, and Yemen, in general, have devastating effects on the civilian population in a country that has long been classified as the least developed country in the Middle East and one of the poorest countries in the world.

Since the middle of 2015, Houthi militia have continued to besiege the civilian population in Taiz by closing the main crossings of the city, which form supply lines for the supply of humanitarian aid, goods and basic and

medical materials that are indispensable to the civilian population to survive. This behavior is considered as a kind of collective punishment against the residents of the areas under control of the internationally recognized legitimate government.

It has become clear that this seven-yearlong imposed Houthi militia siege on Taiz (the urban and rural areas) is a part of a systematic military plan followed by Houthi militia to restrict the freedom of population and a means to achieve military progress and victory without caring about the lives, security and safety of civilians who should be protected by the force of law. This is considered a “complete war crime” because it is collective punishment and starvation committed against the Taiz residents, as well as a means used by Houthi militia in its armed battle against the government forces.

This report deals with the activity of some conflicting parties that use starvation as a weapon in war, and it analyzes this behavior within the framework of the rules of International Humanitarian Law by shedding light on various incidents of violations committed against the residents of the besieged areas in Taiz, including the districts of Sala, Al-Qahirah, Al-Mudhaffar, Jabal Habashi, Maqbna, Al-Taizyah and Saber Al-Mawadem.

Laying mines is also a crime committed during the presence of the Houthi militia. They deliberately and randomly laid anti-personnel mines and homemade explosive devices in the areas surrounding Taiz and close to the lines of contact, with the aim of using them as a line of defense to hinder the advance of the government forces. Although

there has been a withdrawal of Houthi militants from some areas, these laid mines still threaten the lives of civilians, restrict their movement and prevent them from benefiting from agricultural areas.

Since 2015, the siege imposed by Houthi militia on Taiz City has deprived the residents of rural districts from receiving medical services in the specialized health centers located in the center of Taiz, including the Hemodialysis Center and Al-Amal Center for Oncology. The two centers were specialized in the treatment of renal failure and cancer at the level of Taiz Governorate.

Since mid-2015 and until the time of preparation of this report, Taiz residents have been deprived of benefiting from water extracted from the fields located in the areas of Al-Hayma and Hezran. They supplied the city with water before it was controlled by Houthis. All the efforts made by civil society organizations failed to make the Houthi leadership provide water to Taiz.

From the first moment of their military control on Taiz, Houthis began to close the main crossings of the city, which has a population of about two million people. They prevented its residents from entering or leaving through those crossings, which were considered the main, safe and close supply lines to the besieged city.

Due to this long siege, Taiz residents are forced to search for alternative, unpaved and more rugged roads through high mountain ranges. Large transport trucks cannot pass through them because they are only suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles. In addition, traveling through these roads is hard and

tiring because it takes no less than seven hours to reach the opposite side of Taiz, which is under the control of Houthi militia. They could reach it within less than 15 minutes through the main paved crossings — if they were opened.

In addition, travelers are exposed to various forms of violations at checkpoints belonging to Houthi militia, including arbitrary arrest and paying royalties. During the reporting period, the results of investigations concluded by this report, called *Deadly Siege on Taiz*, affirm that Houthi militia has committed widespread and systematic violations of international human rights law and its rules, regarding the protection of “right to freedom of movement”. These violations include unjustified practices and restrictions imposed on Taiz residents.

The systematic policy of siege by Houthi militia on Taiz residents has direct effects and negative impacts on the management of solid waste in the center of Taiz Governorate and the remaining areas under the control of government forces. This has resulted in environmental disasters that have negative effects on most of the besieged residents because the Houthi militia deliberately deprive Taiz residents from using the main garbage dump (designated for collecting and burning garbage), which is under the militia’s control, in the west of Taiz. They have also seized trucks and equipment used for transporting solid waste, which are the property of the Office of the General Administration of Hygiene, in the east of Taiz. Moreover, the complex geographical map of the control of conflicting parties in Taiz shows the residential areas near and in the middle of the contact lines that extend from the east

and north of Taiz to its west. The residents of these areas must either escape to an unknown fate or stay and face death. The roads are blocked, and they are deprived of a natural and normal life. In addition, their farms have become minefields, and death awaits them from all sides.

The Houthi militia has also deployed several of its professional snipers along the hills and heights surrounding neighborhoods and residential areas adjacent to the contact lines in the east, west, north and south of Taiz. The report monitored certain incidents, proving that the residents of those besieged areas in Taiz were subjected to several violations, including killing and injury resulting from mines, sniping, shelling, abduction, disappearance, torture, restriction of freedom of movement, prevention of the access of relief and humanitarian aid, migration and forced displacement.

During the past three years, forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government obstructed the access of humanitarian aid by deploying several checkpoints along the asphalt line, which was the only southern crossing for Taiz city under this forces control. The militants of these checkpoints and barriers imposed illegal royalties on small and medium trucks loaded with goods, basic materials and humanitarian aid coming from the southern governorates to Taiz. In recent years, it has been observed that the security and military authorities have removed and reduced many of these checkpoints.

GENERAL CONTEXT

November 23, 2011

President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi was elected as the president of Yemen in a non-competitive election.

September 21, 2014

Signed the Peace and Partnership Agreement by Houthi militia, the government and other active political and national forces under the auspices of the United Nations.

February 22, 2012

President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed the Gulf Initiative Agreement with his political opponents. According to this agreement,

he stepped down, and his powers were transferred to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.

The Houthi militia took control of Sana'a, the Yemeni capital, after invading it by force of arms and with the support of forces loyal to its former ally, Ali Saleh.

September 21, 2014

February 6, 2015

Houthi militia launched another coup against the legitimacy of the elected president, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, and the Government of National Accord through the constitutional declaration issued by Houthi militia through the so-called Supreme Revolutionary Committee.

The first group of Houthi militants and forces of its former ally, Ali Saleh, arrived at Taiz Airport from Sana'a, as part of a plan to invade the temporary capital, Aden, and the remaining southern governorates.

March 19, 2015

Houthi militia and forces loyal to Saleh took control of Taiz airport and large parts of the city of Taiz.

March 15, 2015

The outbreak of the first spark of war in Taiz, with clashes between Houthi militia and the vanguards of the so-called popular resistance, after Houthi militia tried to control a checkpoint belonging to the popular resistance in Wadi Al-Qadi, below Jabal Jarrah, occurred.

March 22, 2015

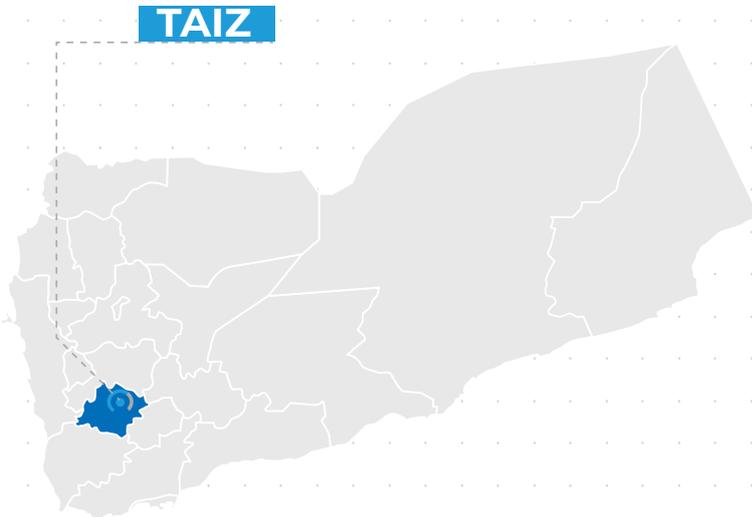
March 16, 2016

The Arab Coalition led by Saudi Arabia began a military intervention with the Yemeni Air Force.

March 26, 2015

The Popular Resistance fighters and President Hadi's forces made remarkable progress by controlling large parts of the west of Taiz and securing the southern crossing that connected the city with parts of Lahj Governorate in the south of Yemen.

REPORT ENVIRONMENT



LOCATION:

Taiz Governorate is in the southwestern part of the Republic of Yemen, between latitudes 14 and 12, north of the equator, and longitudes 45 and 43, east of Greenwich. It is about 256 kilometers away from Yemen's capital, Sana'a. Taiz is connected to parts of Ibb and Hodeidah governorates from the north, parts of Dhalea and Ibb governorates from the east, Lahj Governorate from the south, and it overlooks the Red Sea from the west.

10,008 KM

AREA:

The area of Taiz Governorate is about 10,008 square kilometers distributed in 23 districts, 329 subdistricts and 1,877 villages or localities, according to the administrative division of 2004.



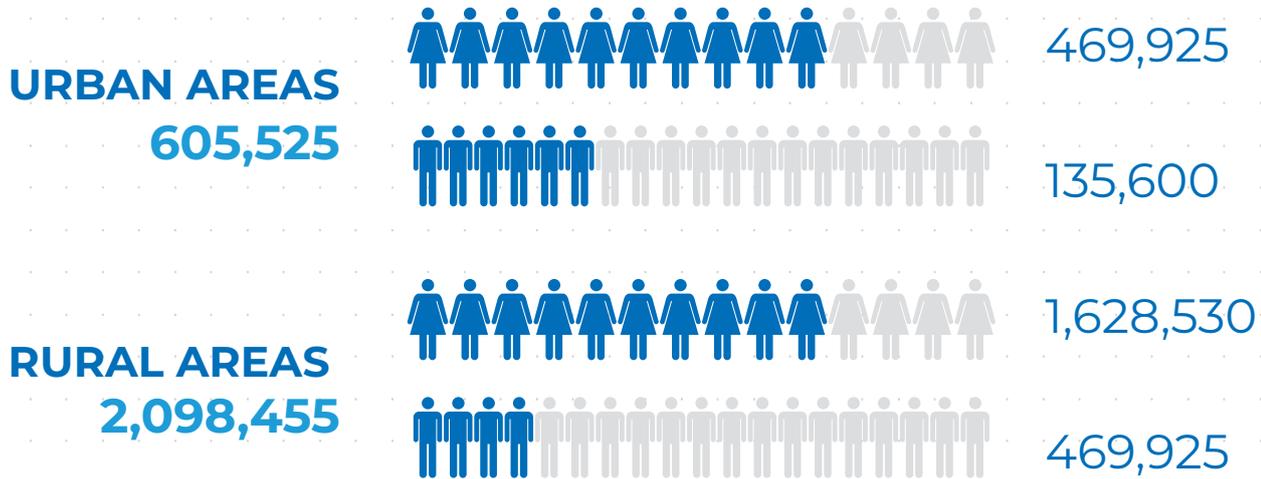
12.16%

2.703.980

POPULATION:

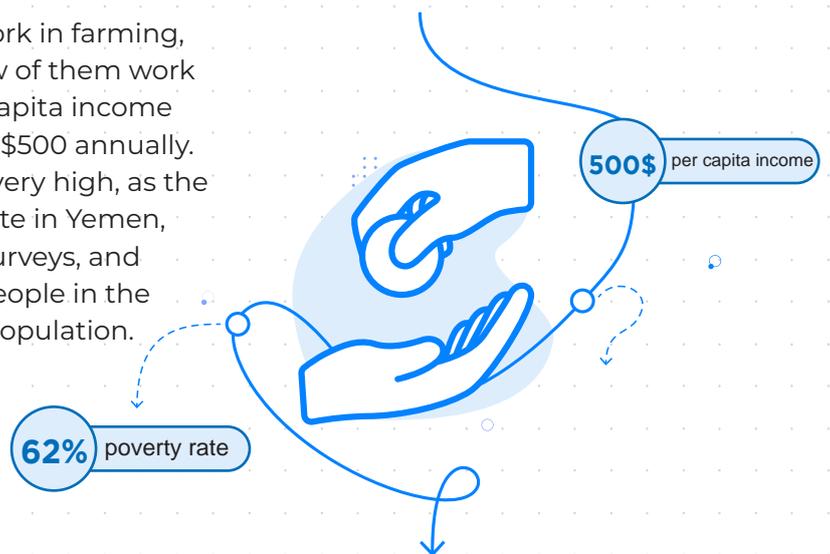
Taiz Governorate ranks first, in terms of population, according to the results of the population census of 2004. Its population constitutes 12.16% of the total population of the Republic of Yemen. According to 2009 estimates, the total population of Taiz Governorate is 2,703,980 people, and the population annual growth rate is 2.47%. The population density is 26 people/km². The percentage of males in the total population is 48%, and the percentage of females is 52%.

The Qualitative Distribution of the Population of Taiz



ECONOMIC SITUATION OF TAIZ GOVERNORATE

Most of Taiz Governorate's residents work in farming, grazing and daily wage work, and a few of them work in the private sector. The average per capita income is very low, because it is approximately \$500 annually. On the other hand, the poverty rate is very high, as the governorate has the highest poverty rate in Yemen, according to the results of 2003 field surveys, and it is 62%. The percentage of the poor people in the governorate exceeds 60% of the total population.



METHODOLOGY

This report is based on research, investigation and field surveys. It is followed by examinations and analysis of data and information conducted by Rights Radar Organization for Human Rights through a team of researchers and specialists who were rehabilitated and trained to carry out those operations. The team conducted interviews with 53 civilians, 29 women and 24 men.

In its statistical aspect and graphic analysis, the report is based on a database and accurate and comprehensive information that included the names of the victims affected by the siege imposed on Taiz and the accompanying crimes and violations against humanity, which were committed against civilians. It also has full details of each incident, including time and place.

In addition, the research team carried out nine discussion sessions with focus groups in which 85 civilians, including 37 women and 21 men participated. There were four discussion sessions allocated to women.

The field research team traveled to all the crossings of the city of Taiz. They met with a group of victims, travelers and stakeholders.

The team also met with 12 officials of the executive service offices of the local authority, in addition to conducting interviews with stakeholders, community leaders, activists and representatives of humanitarian organizations working in Taiz.

Early this year, the field research team carried out several field visits to some popular markets and wholesale stores in the center of Taiz city to investigate the prices of samples of basic foodstuffs and compare that to their prices before the siege imposed on the city.

This report is not a survey that aims to present results or conclusions from a statistical point of view, but rather it focuses on the patterns of harm faced by civilians through the actions of conflicting parties related to the siege and starvation of civilians.

The report deals with incidents of suffering of civilian population due to the siege imposed on them. It provides detailed opinions and statements to civilians about the violations and damages resulting from the siege in order to address the damage caused to civilians, avoid repetition of violence cycles and enhance social and civil peace.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The conflict between the armed forces of the internationally recognized legitimate government and the Houthi militia is categorized as a “non-international armed conflict” because it is a conflict between a country as one party and a non-state militia as the other party. The conditions and criteria for describing the ongoing conflict between the government and the Houthi militia as an “armed conflict” were met, particularly due to the continuity and degree of severity of the military actions, which continued for the seventh year throughout the reporting period.



THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS:

Non-international armed conflicts are regulated by the Law of Treaties, specifically Common Article 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and Additional Protocol II to which Yemen is a party, as well as the Customary International Humanitarian Law. The provisions of this Article shall enter into force for non-state militias, according to the extent to which the conditions related to the level of their organization and the extent of their control over the territory are met.

Despite the Houthi militia not being in a position to ratify the international humanitarian law treaties, the international humanitarian law, especially Common Article 3 and Additional Protocol II, considers all entities involved in armed conflicts as “conflicting parties” without distinction among countries, entities and non-state militias.

Article 14 of Additional Protocol II prohibits starvation of civilians and using it as a method of warfare in non-international armed conflicts. It states: “Starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited. It is, therefore, prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose,

objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas to produce foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works.”

Article 17 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates that “The Parties to the conflict shall endeavor to conclude local agreements for the removal from besieged or encircled areas, of wounded, sick, infirm, and aged persons, children and maternity cases, and for the passage of ministers of all religions, medical personnel and medical equipment on their way to such areas.”

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW:

The Customary International Humanitarian Law is particularly relevant to non-international armed conflicts, and all parties involved in the conflict are obligated to apply it, whether they are affiliated to the country or not.

According to International Humanitarian Law, all the conflicting parties in Yemen are obligated to allow all humanitarian aid to quickly reach all civilians affected by the war and not to obstruct, interfere with it, detain and confiscate it through arbitrarily established checkpoints. They must also ensure the freedom of movement of humanitarian aid workers, which can only be restricted temporarily for reasons of urgent military necessity that entail real risks for this aid and its workers. The same law also prohibits the use of starvation and economic blockade by preventing the arrival of relief convoys or food and water commodities as a method of combat.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW:

International Human Rights Law is relevant in the event of armed conflict, and it is applicable simultaneously with the application of International Humanitarian Law. Their simultaneous application has been widely accepted. In its advisory opinion in many cases, the International Court of Justice emphasized the simultaneous application of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

The relevant treaties, ratified by Yemen, as well as the Customary Law, obligated the parties to the existing conflict to respect, protect and implement human rights without any discrimination. It is worth noting here

that Yemen is a party to the basic universal human rights conventions, except the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

According to Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirm, “Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.”

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW:

Yemen is not a party to Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; however, the Customary International Law recognizes the principle of individual criminal responsibility for war crimes, which include serious violations of the four Geneva Conventions, as well as other serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.

In application of the rules of International Criminal Law, individual members of the armed forces are responsible for war crimes that they commit or participate in, and the military commanders and other superiors are criminally responsible for war crimes committed, according to their orders.

Under International Criminal Law, individual members and their superiors of non-state militias are equally responsible for war crimes that they commit, contribute to or are committed, according to their orders.

In addition, militants of non-state militias are subject to prosecution before the courts of their countries or the country in which they committed the war crimes, as well as before the courts of other countries that apply universal jurisdiction.

The use of starvation and siege as a weapon is considered a war crime under International Criminal Law considering international and non-international armed conflicts. The use of such a method is included within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court under the 2019 amendment of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

01 FIRST TOPIC: Starvation of Civilians

All facts and documented information obtained by Rights Radar's field research and investigation team indicate the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis in Taiz Governorate during the reporting period, due to the additional restrictions imposed by the conflicting parties on the safe crossings and corridors and completely closing most of them for hindering the humanitarian aid, including food and medical aid and awareness programs, as well as preventing it from reaching all areas affected by the ongoing conflict.





Houthi militia conducts thorough inspections of all cars and trucks coming from other governorates and some areas in Taiz under its control. It also confiscates all foodstuffs and necessities belonging to passengers and arrests any person who violates its instructions in this regard, whether they are passengers or drivers.

It has become certain and proven that Houthi militia uses starvation as a military weapon by adopting the same behavior of imposing unjustified restrictions on the movement of travelers to and from Taiz city, closing crossings and roads leading to the city, as well as obstructing humanitarian relief convoys, confiscating most of them and preventing the entry of basic and indispensable food and medical supplies to its residents.

In addition, the Houthi militia's systematic behavior and actions, including the siege imposed on Taiz residents, constitute a "war crime" because it is considered a collective punishment to starve the residents of the besieged city, and it is used as a means during its armed battle to confront the government forces.

The residents of the besieged Taiz city lack the most necessities of life, such as water, food, and even oxygen needed by patients. Most of them have been living in extremely difficult and complicated living conditions for the past seven years, due to the depletion of food stocks, including flour, wheat, rice and other commodities and basic needs, as well as the disappearance of domestic gas and other oil derivatives most of the time. In addition, there are obstacles that prevent the entry of most fruits and vegetables. This has resulted in selling them at very high prices that many citizens are unable to pay.

It was proven to Rights Radar team that Houthi militia has prevented the entry of any aid goods over the past seven years. Through the checkpoints and barriers that it established at the entrances to the city and the besieged areas, Houthi militia conducts thorough inspections of all cars and trucks coming from other governorates and some areas in Taiz under its control. It also confiscates all foodstuffs and necessities belonging to passengers and arrests any person who violates its instructions in this regard, whether they are passengers or drivers.

A. A. S., who was one of the witnesses interviewed by the Rights Radar team, said, "Houthi militia's checkpoints and barriers, which are deployed at the entrances to Taiz city and along Al-Aqrodh road, the only crossing leading to Al-Hawban



“I was detained for about 38 hours because of a gas cylinder that I took from my house in Bir Basha area and tried to enter it to our new house in Wadi Al-Mu’asal to which the whole family was displaced because of the war, but Houthi and Saleh militants detained me at Al-Dahhi crossing, looted the cylinder and prevented me from entering.”



“After my release, I returned to my mother without the gas cylinder because the checkpoint militants denied its existence and hid the person who took it from me on the first day. They told me that he went to one of the fighting fronts and would not return to the checkpoint again.”

area, still prevent the entry of even small quantities of food and medicine supplies, including flour, rice, ice, vegetables and natural gas. If they found anything of that [nature] in the possession of any passenger coming to Taiz city, it would be confiscated or unloaded.”

The witness stated that in mid-January of 2016, he was there when a militant of Houthi checkpoint at the Al-Dahhi crossing unloaded a gas cylinder belonging to one of the travelers from Saber Al-Mawadem and scattered half a bag of flour belonging to a female citizen living in Sena neighborhood while they were coming from Bir Pasha Market, west of Taiz, which was under control of Houthi militia.

On Saturday, February 20, 2016, M. A. T., aged 18, was abducted by Houthi militants while he was passing through the Al-Dahhi crossing. They put him in a solitary cell near the crossing on charges of smuggling a domestic gas cylinder into Taiz city. In a recorded interview conducted with him by the Rights Radar team, he said, “I was detained for about 38 hours because of a gas cylinder that I took from my house in Bir Basha area and tried to enter it to our new house in Wadi Al-Mu’asal to which the whole family was displaced because of the war, but Houthi and Saleh militants detained me at Al-Dahhi crossing, looted the cylinder and prevented me from entering.”

He continued, “I was detained with two elderly people who were accused of smuggling vegetables and foodstuffs to the center of Taiz, in addition to three other young men who had gas cylinders that they wanted to deliver to their families inside the city. During a day and a half of my detention, I was subjected to many insults and bad treatment. I was interrogated without any charge and deprived of food all day until they released me the next day.” He added: “After my release, I returned to my mother without the gas cylinder because the checkpoint militants denied its existence and hid the person who took it from me on the first day. They told me that he went to one of the fighting fronts and would not return to the checkpoint again.”

ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SIEGE:

For the past seven years, the siege of Taiz has resulted in several economic and living crises that have negatively impacted the life of the population. One of the most prominent crises was the economic challenges that had exacerbated the suffering of citizens who were unable to provide the most basic needs for their families because of the high prices of basic commodities.

Furthermore, the Houthi militia's closure of most of the roads and crossings leading to Taiz city led to the citizens resorting to searching for other remote and rugged roads, which imposed new burdens on them in the besieged areas of Taiz. This was due to the increase of transportation fees that exceeded all expectations and affected the prices of all goods and products coming to the city through those alternative roads that took longer than normal time and were risky.

For example, the transportation fees for one passenger from the center of Taiz city to Gawlat Al-Qasr area through the eastern and northern crossings of the city originally did not exceed 100 riyals within about 10 minutes. Now, a passenger is forced to pay 6,000 riyals for reaching the same place through the Al-Aqrodh road, which took longer than six hours because Houthi militia has closed the two main crossings to the city and imposed this only alternative road.

On December 14, 2019, Houthi militia issued a decision prohibiting the possession and use of the new edition of banknotes issued by the Legitimate Government. It set a period of 30 days, starting from December 19, for citizens to hand over these banknotes issued by the Central Bank in the temporary capital, Aden, to the nearest agents of electronic cash wallets.

This monetary and banking conflict created by the Houthi militia, as a form of collective punishment for the residents of the areas away from its control, has also resulted in

hard economic and living conditions that have badly affected those citizens' lives. It also increased the suffering of residents of these besieged areas, which depended mainly on goods and products coming from the Houthi-controlled areas. Most of the companies and industrial complexes, such as dairy factories and grain silos, imposed an increase in their product prices by up to 30% due to the Houthi ban.

In this context, commercial groups and companies in Taiz Governorate announced a new price list with an increase of 20%-30% compared to the actual price of their products, justifying this increase with the difference in the price of hard currency and the old and new cash edition of the local currency. Banks also imposed an increase of up to 26% on fees for money orders from government areas to Houthi-controlled areas, including the besieged areas in Taiz, under the pretext of providing liquidity with the old currency.

The results of field surveys, which were conducted by the Rights Radar team in the central markets of some of the besieged areas in the center of Taiz at the beginning of this year, indicate that the price of most of the basic food commodities has increased by 10 times more than before the Houthi siege. This is shown in the table below, which includes a comparison between the upper limit of prices for 20 types of basic needs in local currency during the period from 2015 to 2022.

Comparison of Prices of Basic Commodities and Basic Needs Before and After Siege

No.	Item	Prices in Yemeni Riyals		Difference	Percentage of Increase
		March 2015	March 2022		
1	Basmati Rice (50 kg)	19500	70000	50500	258%
2	Al-Sanabel Flour (50 kg)	7500	46000	38500	513%
3	Al-Saeed Sugar (50 kg)	14000	45800	31800	227%
4	Cooking oil (20 liters)	12350	41800	29450	238%
5	Al-Baraka Wheat (50 kg)	5950	38000	32050	538%
6	Al-Hana Beans (24 pieces)	4800	22133	17333	361%
7	Natural gas (20 liters)	1500	17000	15500	1,033%
8	Nido Milk (2500 gm)	6200	14500	8300	133%
9	Water tank (1500 liters)	1500	7000	5500	366%
10	Egg plate (30 pieces)	900	2700	1800	200%
11	Tomato basket	5000	30000	25000	500%
12	Potato basket	3500	14500	11000	314%
13	Carrots (10 kg)	1500	9000	7500	500%
14	Al-Hana Sour Milk (12 cups)	2400	8400	6000	250%
15	Cucumbers (10 kg)	1600	8000	6400	400%
16	Al-Hana Yogurt (12 cups)	1830	7200	5370	293%
17	Kiwis (1 kg)	800	3000	2200	275%
18	Imported apples (1 kg)	500	2500	2000	400%
19	Imported oranges (1 kg)	500	2000	1500	300%
20	Local mangos (1 kg)	500	2000	1500	300%

Undoubtedly, the rise in food prices, the depreciation of the local currency against hard currencies in besieged Taiz and the obstruction of humanitarian aid access to the population affected by war and siege eventually led to an increase in the number of cases of malnutrition among poor and low-income families who do not get enough food. Children under the age of five were the most vulnerable age group affected by this condition, followed by pregnant and lactating women.

The same reasons directly contributed to reducing the meals from three basic meals a day to two meals and sometimes just one meal for many families affected by the siege. These reasons even made good and varied food out of reach of most of these families, including pregnant and lactating mothers who ran out of milk and could not buy formula milk as an alternative food to feed their babies who were brought to acute-malnutrition treatment centers, though their families could not even pay their costs.

274,482

The total number of cases of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five in Taiz city and the rest of the besieged Houthi areas during 2021

Al-Mudhaffar
Governmental Hospital

4,482

Cases the hospital received in Malnutrition Department

The Swedish Hospital

270,000

cases of malnutrition for children only, and all of them belonged to the districts of Taiz city

FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

The total number of cases of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five in Taiz city and the rest of the besieged Houthi areas during 2021 was 274,482 persons. This number was distributed to two health facilities that provided medical care for cases of malnutrition, namely the Maternity and Childhood Center and the Al-Mudhaffar Governmental Hospital.

The Swedish Hospital for Maternity and Childhood was about to be closed at any moment and stop its services completely, especially after the “Doctors Without Borders” organization had stopped its limited support to the hospital in 2019. The Malnutrition Department of Al-Mudhaffar Governmental Hospital also operated with limited logistics and lacked support.

Dr. Fahd Mahmoud Hassan, director of Al-Mudhaffar Governmental Hospital, spoke to the Rights Radar team about an alarming rise in malnutrition cases among children coming from the besieged areas of Taiz. He added that the Malnutrition Department in the hospital received 4,482 cases during 2021 with an increase of 91%, compared to 2020, as well as 2,013 cases received by the hospital in the months of January and February 2022.

Dr. Nashwan al-Samei, director of the Malnutrition Department at Al-Mudhaffar Hospital, stated that the hospital received 285 cases of acute malnutrition during the period from January to November 2020 without recording any deaths, pointing out that most of these cases came from inside Taiz city, not the countryside.

Dr. Abdul-Mughni al-Qayyadhi, deputy director of the Swedish Hospital for Maternity and Childhood, also said that, during 2021, the hospital received more than 270,000 cases of malnutrition for children only, and all of them belonged to the districts of Taiz city affected by the Houthi siege imposed for the seventh year. He pointed out that nearly 100,000 cases



*The governorates of **Taiz and Hodeidah** recorded the highest rates of acute malnutrition in Yemen until the end of 2020. **Taiz reached 17% and Hodeidah 25%**, while the emergency rate set by World Health Organization reached 15%.*

of them were acute and had to remain in the hospital, while the remaining cases were followed up by specialists in the hospital.

According to Dr. al-Qayyadhi, the cases of acute malnutrition of children received by the Swedish Hospital for Maternity and Childhood reached about 40 cases a month. Most of these cases reached the hospital with serious complications due to this fatal condition.

Taiz was among the Yemeni governorates that were most affected by the high rates of food insecurity and the expected increase in acute malnutrition rates among young children and mothers by the end of 2021. There were also Aden, Dhalea, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Lahj and Sana'a, which represented more than half of the cases of acute malnutrition during the same year, according to the World Health Organization report⁽¹⁾.

The governorates of Taiz and Hodeidah recorded the highest rates of acute malnutrition in Yemen until the end of 2020. Taiz reached 17% and Hodeidah 25%, while the emergency rate set by World Health Organization reached 15%.

¹ <http://www.emro.who.int/press-releases/2021-arabic/acute-malnutrition-threatens-half-of-children-under-five-in-yemen-in-2021.html>



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS:

On Thursday, March 9, 2017, the first death resulting from malnutrition was recorded in Taiz Governorate. It was a young boy under the age of 15 in Mashra'a and Hadnan District, southwest of Taiz, which was one of the most affected areas by the siege imposed by the Houthi militia for the seventh year amid suspicious international silence and unjustified disregard of the United Nations.

The child, named Mohammed Abdullah Ghaleb al-Tahesh and aged 14, from Najd village, Mashra'a and Hadnan District, Jabal Saber, suffered from acute malnutrition because of starvation caused by the Houthi siege. The Houthis prevented the entry of any humanitarian and relief aid to the besieged population there.

The victim belonged to a rural family living on less than the international poverty line, and his father was unemployed. He could only provide one meal for his family every day. However, he made a great effort to save his son whose thin body could not endure that starvation. At the end, he died, and his bereaved parents could not save him.

On February 13, 2018, the second recorded death resulting from malnutrition was a seven-month-old girl who was from Al-Misrakh District, southwest of Taiz.

Dr. Abdul-Wadud al-Amri, deputy director of Al-Misrakh Hospital, announced the death of the seven-month-old girl, Riham Abdul-Fattah Abdullah, which was due to acute malnutrition.

According to Dr. al-Amri, the girl belonged to Al-Hayda village, Al-Aqrodh area, Al-Misrakh District, which was under the unjust siege imposed by Houthi militia. This caused severe destitution and extreme poverty to the victim's family, which prevented her from being treated.

Al-Amiri pointed out that there were declines in health-care projects by the government and absence of the role of donor organizations in supporting hospitals and specialized health centers and providing the facilities with nutritional supplements and nutrition for children. These were the most important reasons that led to the death of Riham and the other children in Taiz who died due to malnutrition.

EXERTED EFFORTS:

Relief efforts are almost completely absent in the besieged areas in Taiz Governorate, which are still away from interests of international and regional humanitarian organizations, including the most prominent organizations in the world, such as OCHA of the United Nations and King Salman Center, which focus their efforts on providing medical care to war-wounded, particularly the amputees. In addition, there was the Emirates Red Crescent whose interventions were limited to the restoration and painting of two government schools in the besieged Taiz city.



The food rations, which are approved monthly by the World Food Program through its partner organization, CARE, also cover only a small percentage of the total population of the besieged areas in Taiz Governorate. In addition, they are no longer distributed on certain dates, according to the project schedule, and they are now limited to half a basket every two months in most of the areas, while they have stopped permanently in other areas, according to one of the supervisors who preferred not to mention his name.

That is all due to the fact there is only one safe corridor for the arrival of this aid, which is the Taiz-Aden Road via the alternative road, Naqil Haija Al-Abed, which has been suffering from severe overcrowding as a result of traffic accidents, as well as the extortion committed by militants of checkpoints and barriers. They detain tens of tankers and trucks loaded with relief materials daily because they refuse to pay illegal royalties.

In addition, most of the beneficiaries of this project complain of the poor product quality, bad storage, expiration of products and lack of quantities for most of the components of food baskets that reach them, in addition to selectivity and absence of accurate and fair criteria to determine who deserves those rations.

There were thousands of families who starved inside their homes in most neighborhoods of Taiz. There were also other families who had to sell their monthly food rations approved by the World Food Program. This is sufficient evidence of the imbalance in criteria adopted to determine the beneficiaries of such aid, manipulation of it and selectivity, nepotism and financial extortion. As a result, the most deserving families did not receive their food baskets.

Since the beginning of 2022, the World Food Program has been forced to reduce these rations in Taiz Governorate. The organization justified this by the lack of support and funding that it received through donors regarding its humanitarian work in Yemen. Because of the reduction in aid, the families benefiting from the in-kind food aid project in the besieged areas of Taiz receive the minimum monthly food rations, which is half a basket every two months.

02

SECOND TOPIC:Obstruction of Aid
Access

Obstructing the access of humanitarian aid supplies constitutes a serious violation of Articles 55 and 56 of Customary International Humanitarian Law. It is also considered a clear violation of Article 14 of Additional Protocol II and Rule 53 of Customary International Humanitarian Law, especially if such obstruction of aid and food supplies is for the purpose of starving civilians and using it as a weapon to achieve victory or military advance.



However, since the middle of 2015, Houthi militia has closed the main crossings to Taiz despite the importance of those crossings to the civilian population as supply lines for the delivery of humanitarian aid, goods and basic and medical materials into the city. This humanitarian aid is indispensable for the survival of more than one million people.

In addition, the Houthi militia continues to restrict the movement of travelers through those closed crossings and even other alternative roads. For the past seven years, most of the main entrances to the city have turned into deserted areas full of landmines. The Houthi militia's behavior is considered a type of collective punishment for the city's residents with the aim of starving them. This can be classified as a full-fledged war crime.

During the reporting period, forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government performed what could be considered a form of obstructing access of goods and basic commodities. Several checkpoints were set up along the asphalt road, which was the only southern crossing for Taiz city that was under its control.

The reason for the high number of these unjustified checkpoints was the multiplicity of the security and military authorities that they followed. The Rights Radar team confirmed that many of those in charge of these checkpoints and barriers imposed illegal royalties on small and medium transport trucks in exchange for goods, basic materials and humanitarian aid materials for entering Taiz. In recent years, it has been noted that the security and military authorities removed some of them for reducing the number of these checkpoints and barriers.

FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

„ **770,000**

770,000 food baskets that some organizations tried to deliver to the city via medium transport vehicles, in addition to 29,300 oxygen cylinders

„ **1,079**

1,079 trucks, including 803 trucks containing foodstuffs, eight trucks containing shelter materials provided as humanitarian and relief aid for the residents of Taiz

„ **52**

total of 52 incidents proving Houthi militia's involvement in obstructing and preventing the access of relief and humanitarian aid to the war-affected areas in Taiz Governorate

Rights Radar team monitored a total of 52 incidents proving Houthi militia's involvement in obstructing and preventing the access of relief and humanitarian aid to the war-affected areas in Taiz Governorate. The militia also confiscated some of them, prevented the entry of missions, delegations and crews working in the same field. In terms of the geographical scope of these incidents, there were 18 incidents that occurred at the western entrances to the city, 17 incidents at the eastern entrances, four incidents at the northern entrances and one incident at the southern entrance. There were 12 incidents distributed in the governorates of Ibb, Lahj and Hodeidah.

These incidents targeted 1,079 trucks, including 803 trucks containing foodstuffs, eight trucks containing shelter materials provided as humanitarian and relief aid for the residents of Taiz, in addition to 268 other trucks carrying medicines and medical supplies for the treatment of chronic diseases, including cancer, kidney failure and diabetes, as well as rampant epidemics such as cholera, dengue fever, COVID-19 and the malnutrition of children.

The figures and statistics documented by the Rights Radar team indicate that Houthi militia confiscated 996 trucks with all their relief materials targeted for the besieged Taiz residents and used them for the benefit of its war effort. They included 727 trucks loaded with foodstuffs, 261 trucks loaded with medical aid and eight trucks carrying shelter materials for IDPs camps scattered on the outskirts of the city. They also detained 78 trucks, including two trucks loaded with medical supplies to be released over the course of one to four months.

According to the statistics, Houthi militia, through its checkpoints, barriers and customs outlets established at the entrances to Taiz and its neighboring governorates, confiscated 770,000 food baskets that some organizations tried to deliver to the city via medium transport vehicles, in addition to 29,300 oxygen cylinders during the period of September 15, 2015, to April 9, 2021.

During September and October 2018, Houthi militia detained five ships and prevented them from unloading their cargoes at the Houthi-controlled ports of Hodeidah and Al-Salif. The ships contained food items provided as humanitarian aid for those affected by the ongoing war in several Yemeni governorates, including Taiz, in addition to oil products for the operation of some hospitals and health facilities in those governorates. It also prevented three ships from unloading their cargoes and confiscated the cargoes of two other ships.

The Rights Radar team verified that Houthi militia had attacked two relief ships belonging to United Arab Emirates. They were carrying medical aid for civilian victims of war in Taiz Governorate and some districts of Hodeidah

Governorate. On October 3, 2016, the first ship, which was called Swift, was subjected to a missile attack by Houthi militants while it was passing off the coast of Mocha, northwest of Taiz Governorate. As a result, it was partially damaged, and its entire cargo was destroyed.

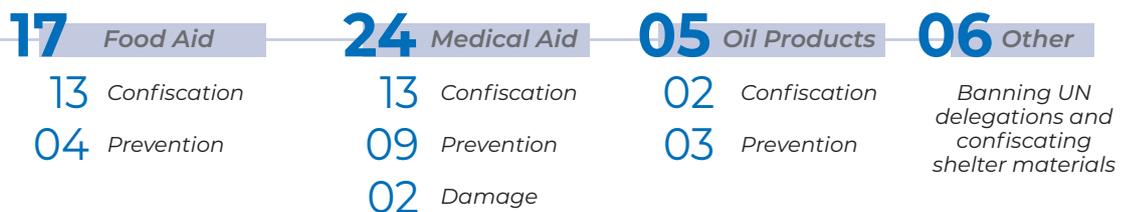
On the other hand, the second Emirati ship, which was loaded with medical supplies, was subjected to a similar missile attack carried out by Houthi militia on June 5, 2017, while it was leaving Mocha Port immediately after the completion of unloading its cargo, which contained medicines and medical equipment to help fight the cholera epidemic in the governorates of Taiz and Hodeidah. The missile attack partially damaged the ship and injured one of its crew members.

Geographical and Qualitative Distribution of Total Incidents of Aid Obstruction

Crossing	Food Aid			Medical Aid				Oil Products			UN Delegations	Shelter Materials	Grand Total
	Confiscation	Prevention	Total	Confiscation	Prevention	Damage	Total	Confiscation	Prevention	Total	Prevention	Confiscation	
Western	5	4	9	1	3	2	6			0	2	1	18
Eastern	2		2	8	5		13			0	2	0	17
Outside	2		2	3	1		4	2	3	5	0	1	12
Northern	3		3	1			1			0	0	0	4
Southern	1		1				0			0	0	0	1
Total	13	4	17	13	9	2	24	2	3	5	4	2	52

Total Incidents of Aid Obstruction

52





EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS:

Maher al-Absi, aged 36, was a member of the monitoring team of the National Committee to Investigate Allegations of Human Rights Violations. At 08 a.m. on Monday, September 15, 2015, he took a bus to Al-Hawban area with the activist Riham Badr, who died later from Houthi snipers' bullets, to receive a set of medicines and solutions for the Industrial Kidney Department, which were donated by a benefactor. They were estimated at 1,500,000 riyals. After receiving the medicines, they moved toward Al-Sitteen Street to return to the center of Taiz. On the way, they were intercepted by militants of a Houthi checkpoint, who prevented them from entering.

Maher said, "Along Al-Sitteen Street, we encountered several checkpoints and barriers belonging to Houthi militia and Saleh's forces at that time. At each checkpoint we passed by, its militants asked us about the beneficiary of these medicines. We said that they belonged to the Kidney Department. So, we were allowed to cross until we reached a checkpoint belonging to the same side at the old airport at the end of the road leading to Taiz city where one of the checkpoint's militants stopped us and prevented us from passing."

He continued, "They told us that they had instructions to prevent any medicines from reaching the city. Then, I got out of the bus and tried to negotiate with them and explain that these medicines were very important for civilians suffering from chronic and dangerous diseases, and any delay might kill some of them. I told them that these medicines would not be used for the war-wounded persons from resistance elements. They were for patients with kidney failure."

Maher continued to convince them and reminded them of the international laws and norms that criminalize their acts, telling them that there were no artificial kidney centers in Taiz except in Al-Thawra Hospital and Al-Jumhuri Hospital, and they had nothing to do with the combatants, but his attempts were unsuccessful. After that, one of the supervisors of the Houthi checkpoint came and allowed them to pass on the condition that they would return the next day to the checkpoint with an official paper proving that the medicines belonged to the Artificial Kidney Department at Al-Thawra Hospital.



Maher said, “We only traveled dozens of meters until we reached another Houthi checkpoint led by a Houthi supervisor, nicknamed Abu al-Karar. We were stopped and completely prevented from crossing. When I got out of the bus to talk with them, the checkpoint commander insulted me and called me the ISIS. I asked him about the reason for stopping us and explained to him that the medicines belonged to the Artificial Kidney Department. He said that there were no longer people in Taiz and that we used these medicines for treating the ISIS members, referring to the popular resistance fighters.”

Al-Absi added: “I told him that people from the countryside and all parts of Taiz came to this center, but he insisted on his refusal. He opened the door of the bus and began to search my bag that contained my supplies. He found a notebook in which I wrote down some of the violations as part of my daily task as a field monitor with Mwatana for Human Rights and a volunteer with other international organizations. Then, he turned suddenly and said, ‘You monitor the missiles. You are a military expert.’ I told him that I was a field monitor who documented all violations impartially and conveyed what the victim or witnesses said.”

The Houthi supervisor completed searching all the contents of Maher’s bag, including things belonging to his wife. Then, he took his phone and started searching it. He opened WhatsApp, scrolled messages and kept reading it carefully for about an hour. After that, he asked Riham Badr to leave the checkpoint and continue her journey alone toward the city, but she refused to go without her colleague. The checkpoint commander insulted and provoked her. Then, he got on the bus and took them to Al-Manar School in Al-Zanqal area, which was about 500 meters away from the checkpoint, to meet the so-called Abu Muhannad who was not there.

Maher added: “Abu al-Karar tried to detain me inside the school, which they turned into a prison for the abducted people. I refused to enter until the commander, who would investigate me, came. He insisted on entering me by force. My colleague, Riham, insisted on entering with me, but he refused and said that women were not allowed to enter. Then, he took us by bus to Al-Hayat School near the checkpoint where they detained us and took the bus to the yard. There, we met one of the Houthi militants. After a long negotiation, he agreed to let us go to get a permit from what he called ‘Mujahideen leadership’ in exchange for keeping the bus and the medicines with the driver until we return.”



The two activists, Maher and Riham, left the checkpoint at 3 p.m. after the Houthi checkpoint supervisor, Abu al-Karar, withdrew Maher's business and personal cards and even forced him to give him the PIN code of his mobile phone. When Maher and Riham arrived at Al-Thawra Hospital, some doctors contacted some Houthi leaders and asked them to release the medicines, the bus and its driver. Those leaders refused to respond to their request until Maher had been handed over to them, but he refused.

On Thursday, December 10, 2015, the Minister of Local Administration in the Legitimate Government, Abdul Raqeeb Fateh, who was the chairman of the Higher Relief Committee, spoke about the Houthi militia's seizure of 31 trucks loaded with foodstuffs, provided as humanitarian aid from the World Food Program for Taiz residents while they were passing through a checkpoint in Al-Dimna area, Khadir District, north of Taiz Governorate, and allocated to them for the benefit of its war effort.

During a press conference held in the temporary capital, Aden, in this regard, the chairman of the Higher Relief Committee also revealed that there were 100 trucks loaded with foodstuffs sent by the World Food Program and the International Organization for Migration to those who were affected by the war and siege in Taiz, and they were still being held at one of the Houthi checkpoints in Al-Hawban and Al-Dahhi crossing, east and west of Taiz.



Fateh pointed out that the elements of these Houthi checkpoints refused to release the trucks loaded with humanitarian aid or even return or deliver them to the supporting authorities so that they could distribute them to the beneficiaries.

On Tuesday, December 22, 2015, the medical emergency coordinator of Doctors Without Borders, Celine Langlois, said, “Houthi militia was preventing the organization from delivering medical supplies to the besieged areas in Taiz city in southern Yemen.”

Through a witness statement published on the website of Doctors Without Borders, Celine Langlois stated that the Houthis stopped the organization's trucks carrying medical supplies at several checkpoints, and they prevented them from reaching the besieged areas in Taiz where hospitals receive large numbers of war-wounded.

Celine added: “Despite continuing negotiations with Houthis, Doctors Without Borders is still blocked from delivering stocks of medical supplies to two hospitals in a besieged town in Taiz, in southern Yemen. Doctors Without Borders’ trucks have been stopped several times at Houthi checkpoints and denied access to the area. The hospitals in this besieged area have large numbers of patients with warwounds.”⁽¹⁾

The Rights Radar team also documented two incidents in which Houthi militia, through some of its checkpoints, prevented the arrival of humanitarian delegations and relief crews to the besieged areas in the center of Taiz. This is considered an explicit violation of international laws, agreements, treaties and covenants that obligate all the conflicting parties in internal and external wars to allow organizations’ delegations and relief and ambulance crews to reach the affected people. They also criminalize any practices that obstruct their way or impede their humanitarian work.

The first incident occurred on Saturday, October 22, 2016, when a Houthi checkpoint at the eastern crossing of Taiz prevented a delegation of UNICEF, which is interested in childhood, from reaching the center of the besieged Taiz city to provide relief materials and inspect the health situation with the outbreak of the cholera epidemic. The Houthi militia’s checkpoint officials justified their actions by not being ordered to allow the UNICEF delegation to enter Taiz city, ignoring

¹ <https://www.msf.org/yemen-%E2%80%9Cwe-can%E2%80%99t-just-stop-our-lives-because-war%E2%80%9D>



the validity of the humanitarian truce announced at that time under the auspices of the UN agreement, which entered into force. One of the most important terms of its agreement was to open humanitarian corridors and allow humanitarian aid to enter the besieged areas.

The second incident was on the morning of Sunday, December 23, 2018, when Houthi militia refused to allow a UN delegation to enter Taiz city through the eastern crossing to review the humanitarian situation and meet with officials of the local authority of the legitimate government to discuss the food and health deterioration experienced by the Taiz residents under siege imposed on them.

According to documented information obtained by the Rights Radar team, a UN delegation from World Food Program, headed by the deputy country director of the Program, Mr. Ali Rida, arrived at 10 a.m. on Sunday in Al-Hawban area, intending to visit the besieged Taiz city on a humanitarian mission to review the health and living conditions of the civilian population there.

According to the information, Mr. Ali Rida refused to enter Taiz city through the alternative line as desired by the Houthi leaders. He asked those leaders to open the official entrance that passed from Gawlat Al-Qasr, east of Taiz to allow him and his accompanying delegation to enter Taiz city through that crossing. However, the Houthi leaders refused to respond to his request and obstructed the visit of the entire delegation.

03 THIRD TOPIC:

Laying Mines and Explosive Materials

Houthi militants imposed their control over the areas surrounding Taiz city and closed the city's crossings, except for the southern crossing that connects the city with parts of the Lahj Governorate in southern Yemen. Laying mines was a phenomenon accompanying the presence of Houthi militants. Along the areas surrounding Taiz city, Houthi militants deliberately and indiscriminately laid anti-personnel mines and improvised explosive devices with the aim of using them as a line of defense that could hinder the advance of the fighting forces opposed to them. However, these laid mines threatened the lives of civilians, obstructed their movement and prevented them from benefiting from the mine-contaminated agricultural areas. This had contributed to increasing poverty rates and food insecurity index in Taiz.



FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

According to statistics and figures documented by Rights Radar, 262 civilians were killed and 473 others were injured as a result of mines, explosive devices and unexploded ordnance that the Houthi militia laid at the main crossings of Taiz city and in the areas of the trapped outskirts, lines of contact and along the length of the main and secondary road network of the seven districts covered by the report (Al-Qahirah, Sala, Al-Mudhaffar, Al-Taizyah, Sabr Al-Mawadim, Jabal Habashi and Maqbana).

The percentage of the most vulnerable groups reached 35% of the total victims of Houthi militia's mines within Taiz besieged and trapped areas during the reporting period, including 59 killings and 92 injuries of children, 31 killings and 34 injuries of women, 21 killings and 23 injuries of elderly men, in addition to 151 killings and 324 injuries of adult men, aged from 18 to 59.

Geographical, Qualitative and Categorical Distribution of Mine Victims in Besieged Areas

District	Killing Cases					Injury Cases					Grand Total
	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	
Salh	40	2	5		47	89	3	16	2	110	157
Sabir Al-Mawadim	34	3	12	6	55	71	9	15	5	100	155
Jabal Habashi	27	7	14	6	54	50	9	25	8	92	146
Al-Taziah	29	7	24	4	64	45	4	12	2	63	127
Al-Mudhaffar	10		2		12	40	4	7	1	52	64
Moqbna	9	12	2	5	28	14	5	10	3	32	60
Al-Qahirah	2				2	15		7	2	24	26
Total	151	31	59	21	262	324	34	92	23	473	735



Mine victims in besieged areas



262

Cases of Killings in besieged areas



473

Cases of injuries in besieged areas



Sala District had the highest number of cases affected by the network of mines and explosive devices laid by Houthi militia in besieged Taiz with a total number of 47 killings, including five children, two women and 40 men, in addition to 110 injuries, including 16 children, three women, two old men and 89 men.

Saber Al-Mawadim District ranked second with 55 killings, including 12 children, three women, six elderly and 34 adult men, in addition to 100 injuries, including 15 children, nine women, five elderly and 71 adult men. It was followed by Jabal Habashi District with 54 killings, including 14 children, seven women, six elderly and 27 adult men, in addition to 92 injuries, including 25 children, nine women, eight elderly and 50 adult men.

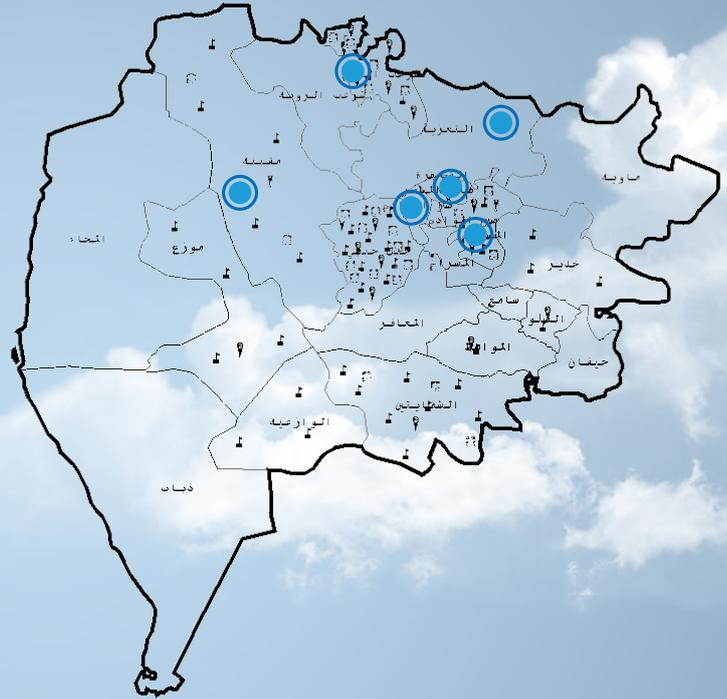
Al-Taizyah District ranked fourth with 64 killings, including 24 children, seven women, four elderly and 29 adult men, as well as 63 injuries, including 12 children, four women and two elderly and 45 adult men. It was followed by Al-Mudhaffar District with 12 killings, including two children and 10 adult men, in addition to 52 injuries, including seven children, four women, a 60-year-old man and 40 adult men.

Maqbana District ranked sixth with 28 killings, including two children, 12 women, five elderly and nine adult men, in addition to 32 injuries, including 10 children, five women, three elderly and 14 adult men, followed by Al-Qahirah District with two killings and 24 injuries, including seven children, two elderly men and 15 adult men.



Sala District had the highest number of cases affected by the network of mines and explosive devices laid by Houthi militia in besieged Taiz with a total number of 47 killings, including five children, two women and 40 men, in addition to 110 injuries, including 16 children, three women, two old men and 89 men.

Geographical, Qualitative and Categorical Distribution of Mine Victims in Besieged Areas



MINE-CONTAMINATED AREAS:

Rights Radar met with the director of the Executive Center for Mine Action, Taiz Branch, Colonel Aref al-Qahtani, and conducted an interview with him about the laying of mines and the mine-contaminated areas in Taiz city. He said, "Taiz Governorate is considered the most contaminated with anti-personnel and anti-machine mines. The most laid anti-personnel mines are from PPM-2 type, which is considered one of the dangerous plastic mines that is difficult to be detected by mine detection mechanism."

According to the director of the center, the areas and districts contaminated with mines in Taiz Governorate reached 17 out of a total of 23 districts, namely Mocha, Sala, Dhubab, Al-Wazi'iyah, Saber Al-Mawadim, Al-Misrakh, Maqbna, Mawza'a, Al-Mudhaffar, Hayfan, Al-Silw, Jabal Habashi, Al-Ma'afer, Al-Shamayatayn, Al-Qahirah, Shar'ab Al-Runa and Sharab Al-Salam.

Regarding the nature of the areas where mines were laid, the director of the center says: "These mines were laid in populated areas, including roads and schools, such as Ibrahim Aqil School in Habeel Salman area of Saber Al-Mawadim District, which was laden with mines and explosive devices."

He added, "The mines were also laid at Taiz University in front of the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Arts. A specialized team cleared the university's corridors from mines. So far, there are mines next to Ibrahim Aqil

School, which were not cleared. Mines were laid for the population, children and women everywhere in Taiz Governorate, and not only on the battlefronts."

Regarding the methods of laying mines, the director of the center says, "The mines are laid in several ways by pressure. They are laid and buried at a certain distance. Anti-personnel mines and anti-mechanism mines were buried, and networks containing individual mines and anti-tank mines were laid. They target passers-by and vehicles."

He added, "There are laid mines that are detonated by using electric detonators and others by using a remote electronic detonator or by explosive devices, as well. There are types of landmines that are detonated when enough tension was exerted on the wire. They are laid in farming areas where there are dense trees. Two mines are connected to each other with wooded and colored strings and laid. If a person passes by and moves one of the strings connecting the two mines, they will explode instantly. This is what is called "booby trap". This type of mine is called (POMZ-POMZ2), and it is anti-personnel fragmentation iron mine."

Regarding the party that laid these mines, the director of the center says, "All the evidence, information, indications and statements of the victims and their families, as well as witnesses to the incidents from the mine-contaminated areas, confirm that Houthi militia is responsible for laying mines, most of which are anti-personnel mines and improvised explosive devices."



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS:

On May 6, 2019, an explosive device laid by Houthi militants exploded on the side of the road in Al-Madhabi area, Hamir Subdistrict, Moqbna District, in a Land Cruiser car carrying passengers. As a result of the explosion, the driver and three passengers were killed. The other passengers were seriously injured, and they were taken to some hospitals in the city in a critical condition.

A witness called A. M. C., aged 39, told Rights Radar: “My cousin, A. A. N., aged 18, was returning from Taiz city heading to his village in Maqbana District with a group of passengers in a Land Cruiser car. When they arrived in Al-Madhabi area of Hamir Subdistrict in the same district, an explosive device laid by Houthi militants exploded. This area was a crossing for the Houthi militia’s control areas.”

He added, “The explosive device was laid on the right side of the road, killing four passengers in the car. My relative and another passenger died immediately. The third passenger died five days after he was taken to a hospital in Taiz. As for the driver, he remained in complete coma and clinical death for a while. After that, he was transferred to Egypt for treatment, but his condition did not improve due to his severe injuries. He remained there for a while until he died in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.”

At 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2017, two women, Aisha Bajash, aged 60, and her neighbor, Fatima Ali, aged 35, were killed in Al-Qalaa Haraz Village, Jabal Habashi, west of Taiz city, with the explosion of a network of booby-trapped mines laid by Houthi militia in one of the two victims’ houses after she and her family were displaced from it. The explosion resulted in the total destruction of the house and the deaths of the two women.

M. S. Q., aged 69, said, to the Rights Radar team, “After Houthi militia took control of Al-Qalaa Haraz Village, it forcibly displaced me from my house, along with a large number of the village’s residents. Then, my wife and I went out to a neighbor’s house, and we stayed for many days.”

He stated, “At 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2017, my wife, Aisha, and our neighbor, Fatima, went to our house for taking some items and tools that we



needed. When they opened the door, the house exploded and was completely destroyed. My wife, Aisha, and her neighbor, Fatima, died immediately. The explosion was due to a network of mines laid in the house. We collected the remains of the two victims and buried them in the village.”

He added, “My sons, their wives and children and me were forcibly displaced. My family were all separated, and I have become an old and helpless man with no home or wife. I suffer from poverty, destitution and need. I live in my neighbors’ houses because I cannot rent a house.”



04

FOURTH TOPIC: Violation of Right to Access to Health Care Services

Large and important hospitals and medical centers were concentrated in the center of Taiz city. They were the only refuge for the governorate's residents. According to demographic indicators, the vast majority of Taiz's residents live in rural areas. However, since 2015, the Houthi militia has imposed its siege on Taiz city (the governorate's center) and has prevented entry and exit from and to it through the main crossings. This has deprived residents in rural districts from receiving medical services in specialized health facilities located in the center of the besieged city.



The Dialysis Center was one of those facilities that has been closed. It was in Al-Thawra Hospital, in the center of Taiz. It was the only center in Taiz Governorate that was specialized in providing treatment services for patients with kidney failure. There was also Al-Amal Center, for the treatment of cancer patients, which was in the center of Taiz. It was also the only specialized center to provide treatment services to cancer patients, as well as the Heart Center at Al-Jumhuri Hospital in the city center of Taiz.

It was easy to access these specialized medical centers for those coming from Taiz districts and the countryside before the Houthi militia imposed its siege on the city and prevented those patients from accessing the only two centers specialized in treating cancer and kidney failure at the governorate level and benefiting from their medical services, especially after the closure of main roads and crossings leading to the city center. The Houthi militia did not close other alternative dirt roads that were hard and exhausting for healthy travelers. Therefore, they were very difficult for any sick travelers.

FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

“ 2,970

Taiz city, has deprived 2,970 patients, including women, children and elderly people, from the services of the Al-Amal Center for Oncology,

According to the latest official statistics, the Houthi siege, imposed on Taiz city, has deprived 2,970 patients, including women, children and elderly people, from the services of the Al-Amal Center for Oncology, which provided them with successful treatment sessions. There were 1,735 patients from the districts of Al-Taizyah, Shar’ab Al-Rawna, Shar’ab Al-Salam and Maweyah in the northeast of the city, 510 patients from the districts of Khadir, Haifan, Samea in the south and 725 patients from the coastal districts Mocha, Al-Wazi’iyah, Mawza’a, Bab Al-Mandab in the west, in addition to Maqbana district, northwest of Taiz.

During the past seven years, the same statistics also indicated that the Houthi siege on Taiz city has deprived 150 people with kidney failure from benefiting from the services of the Dialysis Center of Al-Thawra Hospital, north of Taiz city. These deprived people are distributed in the districts of Al-Hawban and Shar’ab, in addition to people from areas belonging to three neighboring governorates, namely Ibb, Hodeidah and Lahj.

50

50 deaths of patients due to lack of oxygen while receiving treatment, undergoing surgeries or giving birth in eight health facilities in the districts of Sala, Al-Qahirah and Al-Mudhaffar

The director-general of Al-Amal Center for Oncology in Taiz, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Saeed, stated that the siege imposed on Taiz city, as well as the destruction, has affected the center because Houthi shelling had caused the deaths of 664 cancer patients in 2015, alone.

The Rights Radar team recorded 50 deaths of patients due to lack of oxygen while receiving treatment, undergoing surgeries or giving birth in eight health facilities in the districts of Sala, Al-Qahirah and Al-Mudhaffar. Those facilities included three government hospitals (Al-Thawra Hospital, Al-Jumhuri Hospital and Military Hospital) and three private hospitals (Al-Rawdha, Al-Taawun and Al-Hikma), in addition to the isolation center for COVID-19 cases.

According to the statistics documented by the Rights Radar team, 12 children died minutes or hours after their birth due to health complications due to a lack of oxygen, including nine children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Al-Jumhuri Hospital. The remaining number of premature infants who died from a lack of oxygen was in Al-Taawun, Al-Rawdha and Al-Hikma hospitals.

In addition, six other children, aged between four months and 17 years, died for the same reason (lack of oxygen), including four children in the Emergency Department and the Intensive Care Department of Al-Rawdha Private Hospital and two children in the Operations Department and Intensive Care Department of Al-Thawra Governmental Hospital.

A lack of oxygen also caused the deaths of seven women, including two elderly women, in three health facilities. There were three deaths in the COVID-19 isolation center and two deaths in each of Al-Jumhuri Hospital and Al-Thawra Governmental Hospital. In addition, 32 men, including six elderly men, died from lack of oxygen, also, in several Taiz hospitals due to the Houthi militia's siege on the city, as well as preventing the entry of any relief aid or medical supplies to the city's hospitals.

The deaths were distributed among five governmental and private hospitals, including the COVID-19 isolation center, as well as Al-Rawdha Private Hospital with a total number of 10

12

12 children died minutes or hours after their birth due to health complications due to a lack of oxygen, including nine children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Al-Jumhuri Hospital.



Doctors Without Borders had warned of the deterioration of the health-care system in Taiz Governorate, stressing that more than half of the health facilities in the governorate were completely or partially closed



hospitals in Taiz announced the cessation of support provided by several donor organizations, especially in the field of motherhood and childhood

deaths each, then Al-Jumhuri Governmental Hospital with five cases, Al-Thawra Hospital with four cases, and then the Military Hospital with three cases.

In a previous report, Doctors Without Borders had warned of the deterioration of the health-care system in Taiz Governorate, stressing that more than half of the health facilities in the governorate were completely or partially closed. In addition, the private health-care system was not affordable to many people who were already struggling to buy food. This doubled the heavy burdens on providing health care to citizens and their children considering the daily suffering from siege.

The Doctors Without Borders report pointed out that the health-care system in Taiz was not exempt from the consequences of the war. More than half of the public health facilities in Yemen had partially or completely stopped operating. Some health facilities had almost stopped their services completely due to the lack of medicines, staff and funding. On the other hand, the population could not afford the private health system, especially as they struggled to buy food.

It should be noted that many projects to support the health sector in Taiz Governorate stopped in several hospitals and health facilities in the governorate. Some hospitals in Taiz announced the cessation of support provided by several donor organizations, especially in the field of motherhood and childhood, as well as in supporting dialysis patients and providing emergency medical care in some other centers and hospitals.



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS:

N. M. A., aged 45, was a woman from Shar'ab District. She suffered from kidney failure for seven years and received dialysis at the Dialysis Center of the Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz. She needed regular dialysis sessions, so she moved from her home in Shar'ab, east of Taiz, to the Dialysis Center in the center of Taiz city. She faced a difficult journey every time she needed the dialysis session.

N. M. A. told Rights Radar, "I have eight children, and I have suffered from kidney failure for seven years. I have been treated in the Dialysis Center in Al-Thawra Hospital in the center of Taiz. Houthi militia cut the lines and crossings that connected us to Taiz city from Ghorab and Gawlat Al-Qasr areas. Before that, we were traveling from my village, Shar'ab, to the center of Taiz city within only one hour."

She added, "Currently, after the closure of the crossings, we travel through Jabal Habashi Road, Al-Aqrodh Road or Samea Road. All of them are remote and rugged roads passing through narrow mountains. We travel for eight hours, and I need two dialysis sessions monthly. During my travel for treatment from my village to the Dialysis Center in the center of Taiz city, I suffer a lot and get tired all the way."

She stated, "In 2019, while traveling to Taiz city for treatment, the car broke down on Jabal Habashi Road from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and I had a coma due to exhaustion and fatigue. After they fixed the car, I arrived at the Dialysis Center at Al-Thawra Hospital while I was in a coma and stayed until the next day. Traveling from the village to Taiz has become difficult and tiring, and it was easy when the city's crossings were opened."

Another witness called A. H. M., aged 43, also spoke to the Rights Radar team, saying, "My wife, Hayat, aged 35, has been suffering from kidney failure since 2013, and she has been receiving treatment at the Dialysis Center at Al-Thawra Hospital in the city center of Taiz. We live in Al-Odayn District, Ibb Governorate, and we were traveling from Al-Odayn to the Dialysis Center in Taiz city within two hours."



He stated, “Now, after the Houthis closed the eastern crossing of Taiz, Gawlat Al-Qasr Line that we were passing through, we passed through rugged and remote roads from Al-Aqrodh Road. When these roads were closed, we passed through the Samea Road, all of which were rugged and narrow mountain roads. We were subject to traffic accidents and flood disasters. We need nine hours to reach the city center of Taiz after it was only two hours.”

He added, “The siege and closure of Taiz crossings have turned our lives into hell. It is very difficult for us to reach the Dialysis Center at Al-Thawra Hospital in the center of Taiz.”

S. A. S., aged 65, was a female citizen from Shamir area, Maqbana District. She told the Rights Radar team, “I have been suffering from kidney failure since 2009, and I was traveling to receive dialysis at Al-Thawra Hospital in the center of Taiz within an hour and a half. I was passing through Hajda-Al-Rubaie road, then I returned to my village on the same day.”

She continued, “After Houthis cut the line before Shar’ab Junction, west of Taiz in 2016, the situation changed completely. I was traveling through Jabal Habashi Road, which was a rugged and dangerous road that passed through high mountains. I was very tired when I reached the Dialysis Center.”

She added, “It was a very long distance that that took eight hours. I had to stay in the city and pay the costs of accommodation to receive treatment. Now, I have been far from my village and my family since the asphalt line that passes through the Al-Rubaie area, west of Taiz city, was cut.”

05

FIFTH TOPIC:Violation of Right to
Access to Water

International Humanitarian Law stresses that the conflicting parties must protect the civilian population and not to deprive them of access to water because it is a vital resource for the victims of armed conflicts and the civilian population, and it is indispensable for their survival. The conflicting parties must take all possible precautions to avoid, in their war operations, any action that would sabotage or damage water sources, supply, treatment and distribution systems used by civilians. In addition, the conflicting parties must not prevent civilians from accessing water, but rather they must pave the way for them to fix the water supply systems that were damaged from war.



WATER WELLS PRODUCTION

CAPACITY (M3)

1,726,272

Al-Hawjalah and Al-Amrah wells field: 1,726,272 – controlled by Houthi militia.

1,539,648

Hedhran wells field below Wadi Al-Dhabab: 1,539,648 – controlled by Houthi militia.

2,892,672

Al-Hayma, Habeer and Shar'ab Al-Rawna wells field: 2,892,672 – controlled by Houthi militia.

1,784,592

Wells field in the city center: 1,784,592 – controlled by Houthi militia.

For meeting their water needs, the residents of Taiz city rely entirely on limited sources, including artesian well water extracted from water fields located in Al-Hayma area, Al-Taizyah District, east of Taiz, which has been feeding the city for decades. During 2009, the Yemeni government proceeded to dig and explore new artesian wells extracted from the water fields in Hedhran area, west of Taiz, to supply the city along with Al-Hayma's wells. This was done to deal with the worsening water crisis that threatened the lives of 2 million people who were the total population of Taiz at that time.

Suddenly, Taiz residents found themselves without water, and they were deprived of basic water sources, such as artesian wells, extracted from the water fields, that fed the city after the Houthi militia seized it in the middle of 2015. It prevented accessing to water from those wells to the center of Taiz, forcing most residents to use groundwater wells, which had excessive salinity and muddy water.

Since the outbreak of war in Taiz in early 2015 and up to the writing of this report, Houthi militia has prevented Taiz residents from accessing water supplies extracted from artesian wells in the areas of Al-Hayma and Hedhran, which fed the city before the Houthis took control of it. All efforts to persuade Houthi militia to allow Taiz's city center to have access to the water have failed.

The National Water and Sanitation Authority in Taiz covered the water supply from 86 wells from various water fields, including 39 wells located within the city limits, 23 wells from water fields in the areas of Al-Hayma, Habeer and Shar'ab Al-Rawna of Al-Taizyah District, nine wells from the water field in Hedhran area of Al-Taizyah district and 15 wells from the water field in Al-Hawjalah area of Al-Taizyah district and Al-Amrah area of Maweyah District. All those areas were under the control of Houthi militia.

According to an official in the National Water and Sanitation Authority in Taiz, who asked not to be named, said to Rights Radar: “The residents of Taiz city suffered from water cuts in areas under control of government forces after Houthi militia took control of the water wells of the Water Authority.”

He added, “The National Water and Sanitation Authority owned artesian wells water fields in the east and west of Taiz city. All of these water fields were under the control of Houthi militia. The Water Authority has not obtained the production of these fields since 2015 because Houthi militia prevented the delivery of water supplies from those fields to Taiz, which currently depend

in addition to many displaced people in the areas of the legitimate government, have become dependent on emergency wells, although they are not sufficient to meet the required need. Therefore, the majority of the city’s residents are forced to buy water that is brought from outside the city by water tanks. This is considered a burden on citizens during these wars and crises.

He pointed out that the price of one water tank increased to 20,000 riyals, and the price varied from one area to another, stressing that the lack of water led to a lack of interest in hygiene, which caused the spread of diarrheal diseases, cholera and various fevers throughout the years of the siege.



on only five emergency wells located in the center of the city. These wells are used by the city’s residents in the city.”

According to the National Water and Sanitation Authority official, all the beneficiaries now,

This was also accompanied by a significant decrease in the level of wells’ water due to the lack of rain, which worsened the water crisis and the continuation of queues for water tanks and the increase in their prices.

F. H. T., aged 45, a water truck driver in Taiz, said to Rights Radar, “I have been working as a water truck driver for decades. Before the war in Taiz, we were suffering from lack of water at specific times when rainwater was scarce. Currently, since the beginning of the war in 2015, we have been suffering from water scarcity throughout the year due to the siege imposed by Houthi militia on Taiz city. It prevented entering water from the wells of National Water and Sanitation Authority that were used by the city since the beginning of war.”

He added, “Before the war, we used to collect water from several wells from Al-Robaiee and Ramadah area, west of Taiz city. But, since 2016, the asphalt line west of Taiz —Hodeidah Road — has been closed. When the rainy season ends, all the water truck drivers head to Wadi Al-Dhabab, south of Taiz, and form queues in front of the water wells in the valley to collect water. Sometimes the driver stays in front of the water well for a whole day to fill the water tank. This causes a lot of problems with our customers who buy water from us.”

M. A. M., a 41-year-old resident of Bir Pasha Neighborhood, west of Taiz, said to Rights Radar, “I am a resident of Bir Pasha neighborhood in Taiz city. For the past seven years, we have been suffering from water scarcity because the National Water and Sanitation Authority stopped pumping water and delivering it to the houses. Its water project has been trapped since 2015 due to the siege imposed on Taiz by Houthi militia, which closed the city’s crossings and prevented the arrival of water from wells located west and east of the city to supply the water project. We depend only on tanks that provide us with water from Wadi Al-Dhabab, but they do not meet the city’s need for water, especially at the end of the rainy season because the price of water tanks rises, and the price of a water tank reaches more than 20,000 riyals. We have to wait for more than a week to get a water tank. This crisis and the water cuts result from the siege imposed on Taiz city and closure of the city’s crossings that prevent water from reaching the city from the water fields and wells of the water corporation, located in Al-Hayma and Wadi Al-Dhabab areas outside the city. We cannot live without water.”

06 SIXTH TOPIC:

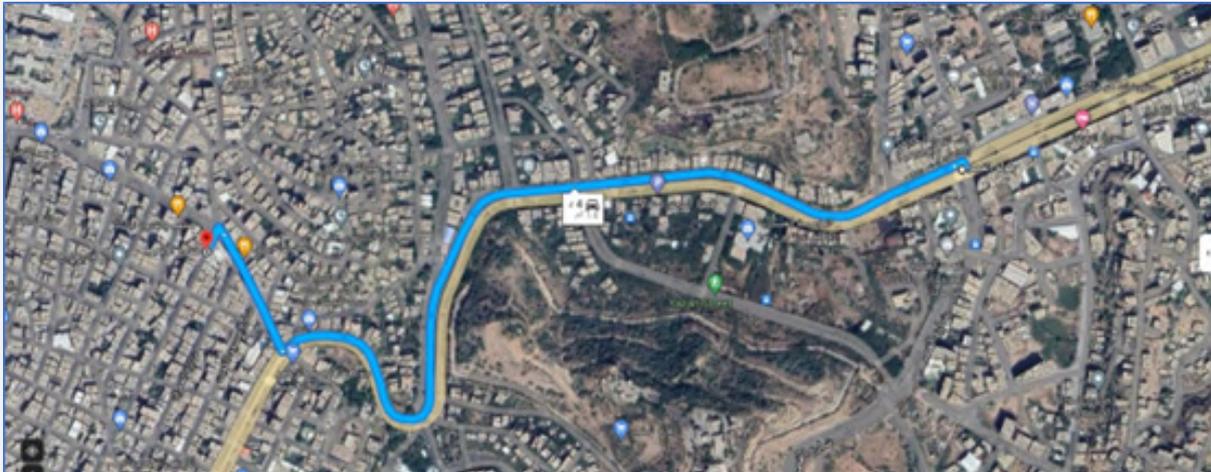
Violation of Right to Freedom of Movement

Freedom of movement within Taiz Governorate and the remaining Yemeni governorates, in general, is one of the most important rights guaranteed by the constitution and law to every citizen, and it is protected by the force of international laws, agreements, treaties and charters ratified by successive Yemeni governments. It shall not be restricted except for the requirements of the security and safety of citizens. Rather, it represents a basic condition for the development of persons, as well as the country in which they live. It is linked to many other rights, including life, bodily integrity, personal and public freedoms, cultural, political and economic rights, property, etc.



The reality seems completely different from what it should be. The Houthi militia has imposed a tight siege on the residents of Taiz since mid-2015. It closed all the main crossings and established hundreds

dirt roads that the residents are forced to cross despite its difficulty and danger to their lives and safety. These roads pass through four neighboring districts, most of which are located on the lines of contact



of checkpoints and barriers along the alternative roads and lines connecting the districts of Taiz Governorate and the neighboring governorates. It also intended to confiscate and restrict the right to freedom of movement of residents of the besieged areas, increase their burdens and sufferings and violate their humanity and dignity, right to life and bodily integrity.

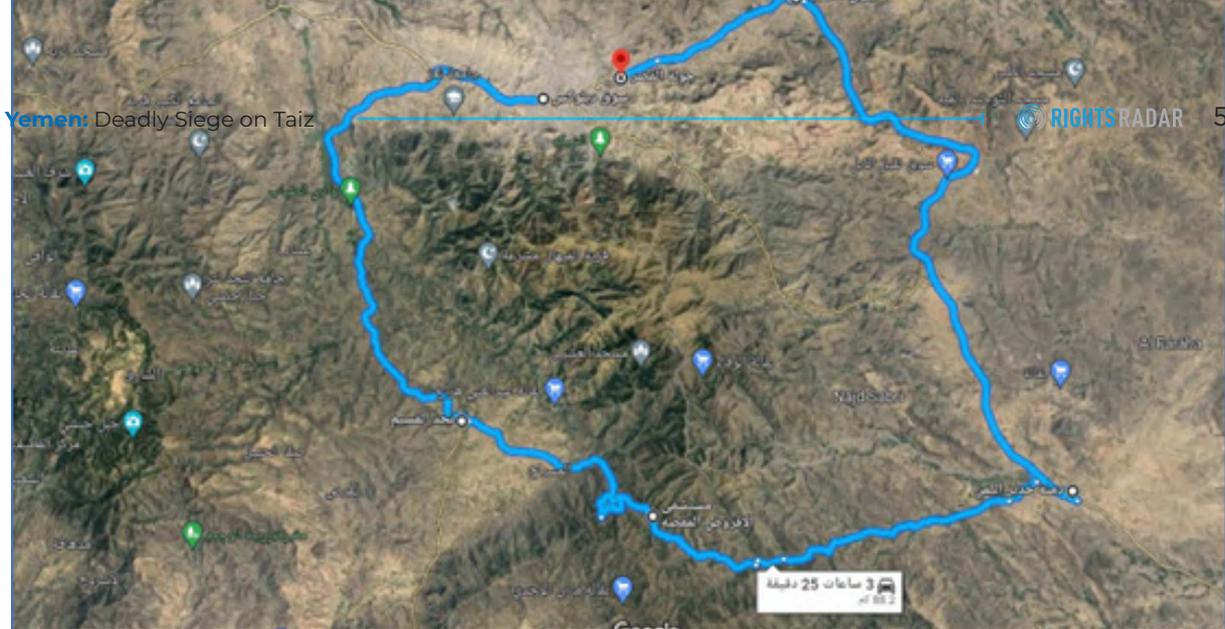
Because of the siege imposed by Houthi militia for more than seven consecutive years, the center of Taiz Governorate and some of its neighboring districts, which are under the control of the internationally recognized legitimate government, have become completely isolated from other parts under the control of the Houthi militia in the north, east and west of the governorate.

Previously, the journey from the center of Taiz to the Al-Hawban area in the east took about 10 minutes before the siege. Now, it takes more than 6 hours through alternative

and confrontation, namely Jabal Habashi, Same'a, Saber Al-Mawadim, Al-Taizyah and Dimnat Khadir.

The residents of Taiz city found themselves forced to travel miles through the high mountains to reach the eastern part of their besieged city, which was a few meters away from it. Then, they returned from the same road full of checkpoints and barriers belonging to the two conflicting parties and a network of mines and explosive devices that were laid without maps. This significantly restricted the movement of population.

Throughout the years of the siege, the Houthi militia continues to impose its military control over the main crossings of Taiz, preventing its residents from entering or leaving through those crossings, which are the main and safe supply lines and the lifeline that connects them with the other neighboring districts and governorates. This forces the city's residents to take those alternative roads that



pass through high mountain ranges and do not allow large transport trucks to pass. Only four-wheel drive vehicles can navigate these roads.

Traveling through these alternative roads increases the suffering of travelers who cross them within a period of no less than seven hours to reach the other, opposite part of Taiz, which is under the control of Houthi militia. This distance is supposed to take no more than 15 minutes through the main paved roads. Above all, travelers are subjected to various forms of violations at the Houthi checkpoints, including arbitrary arrest and collection of royalties

During the reporting period, the results of the investigations concluded by this report indicate that the Houthi militia committed widespread and systematic violations of international human rights law and its rules related to the protection of the “right to freedom of movement” through imposed and unjustified practices and restrictions on Taiz residents.

The “right to freedom of movement” is also related to the violations committed by the other conflicting parties. The military and security

forces of the UAE-backed Transitional Council participated in violating that right through its checkpoints and barriers spread on the other side of the only line connecting Taiz and the southern governorates. These forces also committed several systematic violations against travelers through that line. They are considered violations of international human rights law related to the protection of the “right to freedom of movement”.

Those illegal security and military forces opposed to the legitimate government, represented by the Ministries of Defense and Interior, were supported and funded by the United Arab Emirates. They also committed a series of systematic violations and crimes against travelers on Hajat Al-Abd Road passing through Tor Al-Baha in Lahj Governorate. These violations included killing travelers and drivers of vehicles, injuring others, assaulting, looting, blackmailing and abducting them as a matter of revenge. All this represents a serious violation of international laws, conventions and instruments related to the protection of human rights.

714

714 serious violations against travelers and vehicle drivers while crossing through checkpoints and barriers set up by the conflicting parties at the entrances to Taiz

77

cases of violation of the right to life

137

cases of violation of physical integrity

cases of restriction of freedom, including 349 cases of abduction and detention, 101 cases of disappearance and 50 cases of torture that resulted in deaths

FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

The Rights Radar team documented 714 serious violations against travelers and vehicle drivers while crossing through checkpoints and barriers set up by the conflicting parties at the entrances to Taiz and the remaining trapped areas or along the alternative roads and lines that connected them to the other governorate's districts under the control of Houthi militia, as well as the temporary capital, Aden, passing through Lahj Governorate.

These violations included 77 cases of violation of the right to life and 137 other cases of violation of physical integrity committed by militants of those checkpoints and barriers against travelers and drivers of vehicles, either through direct live bullets or physical harm. This was in addition to 500 cases of restriction of freedom, including 349 cases of abduction and detention, 101 cases of disappearance and 50 cases of torture that resulted in deaths.

500

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The Houthi militia had the highest number of violations of this right with 49 cases of the killing of civilian travelers, including nine children, six women and seven elderly people by live bullets, in addition to 103 cases of injury, including 26 children, nine women and six elderly people. Two travelers were beaten to death, and six others were injured due to physical attacks committed by the Houthi militants responsible for these checkpoints and barriers.

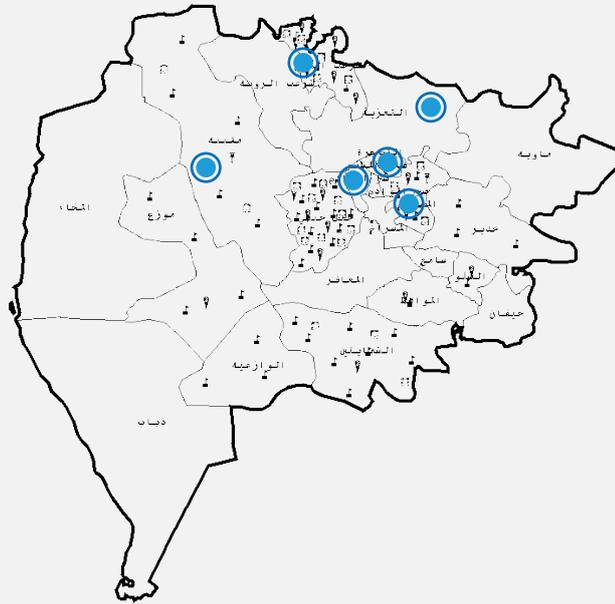
The illegal security and military formations of UAE-backed Transitional Council had the second highest number of violations of the rights of travelers and drivers. It was proven to the Rights Radar team that these formations were involved in killing of 18 civilians from Taiz, including two women and two elderly men. They also caused the injury of 25 others, including four children, one woman and two elderly men while they were traveling to the temporary capital, Aden, via Haijat Al-Abd Road passing through the checkpoints and barriers established by these formations along Tor Al-Baha line and the entrances to Aden.

The team also stated that 10 people were killed, including two children and an elderly man, and three others were injured, including a child and a woman, with bullets of security and military elements of the legitimate government, while passing through checkpoints and barriers established along the alternative roads and lines to the main crossings that Houthi militia closed to prevent travelling to and from Taiz.

Geographical Distribution of Killings and Injuries with Bullets and Attacks at Checkpoints and Barriers

District	Killing Cases					Injury Cases					Grand Total
	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	
Al-Mudhaffar	17	2	6	5	30	53	6	26	6	91	121
Lahj Road	8		1	2	11	11	1	3	2	17	28
Sabr Al-Mawadim	3	3	1		7	12	1			13	20
Al-Taziah	8	2	2	2	14	3		1		4	18
Moqbna	5	1	1		7	2	2			4	11
Aden Entrances	3				3	6		1		7	10
Jabal Habashi	3			1	4		1			1	5
Salh	1				1					0	1
Total	48	8	11	10	77	87	11	31	8	137	214

Geographical Distribution of Killings and Injuries with Bullets and Attacks at Checkpoints and Barriers



214

Dead and wounded by bullets and attacks at checkpoints and barriers



77

Cases of Killings in besieged areas

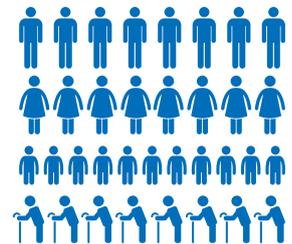


137

Cases of injuries in besieged areas

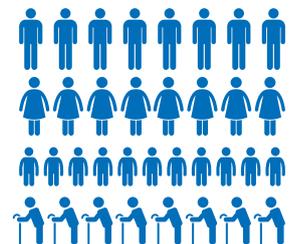
Killing Cases

48 men
08 women
11 Children
10 elderly



Injury Cases

87 men
11 women
31 Children
08 elderly



ABDUCTION, ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE AND TORTURE:

The checkpoints and barriers set up by Houthi militia at the entrances to Taiz and the other trapped areas are also an integral part of its plan for besieging the residents of Taiz and hundreds of travelers who are taken to the Houthi prisons, either for financial gain and blackmail deals or as exchange deals to free the largest number of Houthi prisoners from the other parties' prisons.

Houthi militia practiced acts of abduction and detention against travelers to and from Taiz and the remaining trapped areas. They imposed additional restrictions on the movement of citizens and further obstacles to any attempts to search for better livelihoods.

The same situation applies to similar checkpoints and barriers belonging to security and military formations that control besieged Taiz. They close the only lifeline that connects it to the south of Yemen after it has become almost isolated from the north, west and east of the country.



The same situation applies to similar checkpoints and barriers belonging to security and military formations that control besieged Taiz. They close the only lifeline that connects it to the south of Yemen after it has become almost isolated from the north, west and east of the country.

In this context, Rights Radar documented 500 cases of abduction and detention of travelers while leaving or coming to Taiz as they passed through checkpoints and barriers suffocating the city and the surrounding besieged areas. The victims included 15 children, five women and 35 elderly people. They were distributed among seven trapped districts in Taiz Governorate, as well as checkpoints and barriers set up along Tor Al-Baha Road in Lahj Governorate and at the entrances to Aden.

Documented statistics indicate that 349 travelers, including 11 children, five women and 21 elderly people, were detained for periods of time ranging from an hour to a month inside prisons. They were released later through mediation or on bail. There were 101 travelers who were forcibly disappeared for periods of time reached up to six months, including two children and 12

elderly people, in addition to 50 abductees who were subjected to various methods of physical and psychological torture, including two children and two elderly men.

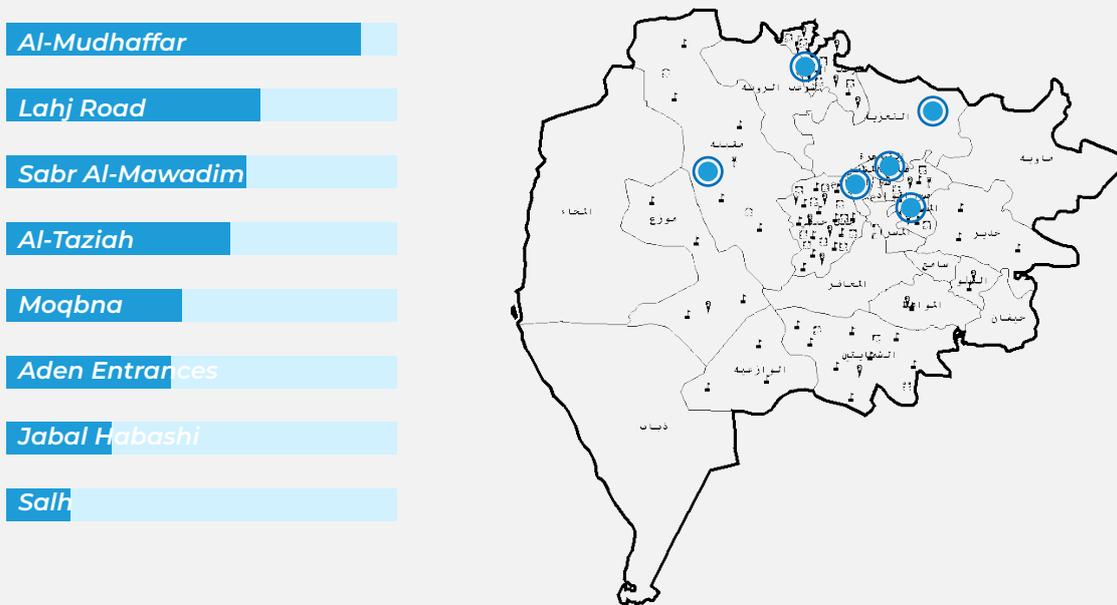
The Houthi militia conducted the most abductions of travelers to and from Taiz, with 411 cases of abduction committed against travelers belonging to the siege areas in Taiz, including 12 children, two women and 28 elderly people. They were intercepted while passing through the Houthi checkpoints and barriers along alternative roads and lines of main entrances and crossings that were closed due to the siege imposed by the militia on the civilian population for seven consecutive years.

Houthi militia forcibly disappeared 85 abductees and did not reveal their place to their families. It remained unknown from as long as six months to one year, including two children and 11 elderly people. Other 37 abductees, including one child and an old man, were subjected to the most severe and cruel methods of psychological and physical torture inside the Houthi prisons.

The security and military formations of the Transitional Council came in second place because they abducted 77 travelers, including two children and four elderly people from Taiz Governorate while they were passing through checkpoints and barriers affiliated with those formations set up along Tor Al-Baha Road in Lahj Governorate to the entrances to the temporary capital, Aden.

These formations forcibly disappeared 13 abductees inside their secret prisons, including an elderly man. Also, they practiced psychological and physical torture against 14 others, including a child and an elderly man.

Geographical Distribution of Abductees, Disappeared Persons and Torture Victims at Checkpoints



The legitimate government also bears legal responsibility for abducting 12 civilians, including three women and an old man, who were abducted from their homes in the trapped areas on various charges, including dealing with Houthi militia and forming sleeper cells serving it. It also abducted other travelers coming to the besieged areas, including a child and two elderly men. They were abducted from security checkpoints and barriers belonging to the legitimate government at the entrances to Taiz on the same charges.

Geographical Distribution of Abductees, Disappeared Persons and Torture Victims at Checkpoints

District	Abduction					Disappearance				Torture			Grand Total	
	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women		Children
Al-Taziah	134	1	7	7	149	24	1	2	27	16			16	192
Moqbna	52			2	54	24		3	27	9		1	10	91
Sabr Al-Mawadim	37		1	2	40	12			12	3			3	55
Al-Mudhaffar	18	1	2	6	27	7	1	4	12	3	1		4	43
Lahj Road	18		1		19	9			9	10		1	11	39
Jabal Habashi	20				20	5		1	6	4			4	30
Aden Entrances	21			2	23	1		1	2				0	25
Salh	12			2	14	4		1	5	1	1		2	21
Al-Qahirah		3			3	1			1				0	4
Total	312	5	11	21	349	87	2	12	101	46	2	2	50	500

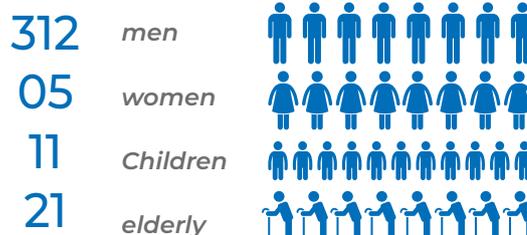
500

Kidnapped checkpoints, checkpoints, missing persons, and torture victims



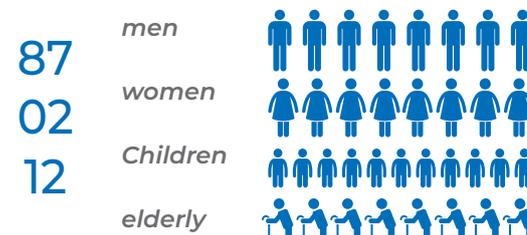
349
Kidnappings in besieged areas

Abduction



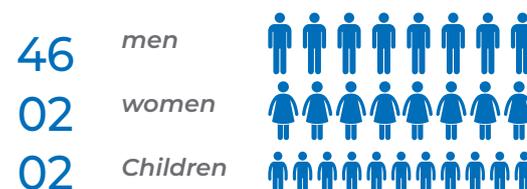
101
Cases of concealment in besieged areas

Disappearance



50
Cases of torture in besieged areas

Torture





TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS:

Dozens of civilians died, and hundreds were injured and permanently disabled from the increased traffic accidents on alternative roads imposed by Houthi militia as mandatory directions for the residents of the besieged areas in Taiz Governorate during the past years of war and siege. During the period from January 2017 to June 2022, 87 traffic accidents were recorded on Haijat Al-Abd - Tawr Al-Baha Road and Al-Aqrodh - Al-Hawban Road. This led to the deaths of 90 people and 388 people with permanent injuries and disabilities.

A statistic issued by the General Department of Traffic Police in Al-Maqaterah District, Lahj Governorate, stated that the number of vehicle traffic accidents on the Naqeel-Haijat Al-Abd Road reached 22 accidents during the same period. They resulted in the deaths of 42 civilians and the injury of 151 others, including passengers and vehicle drivers, in addition to material losses estimated at 165 million Yemeni riyals.

In an official statistic obtained by Rights Radar, the Traffic Police Department in Taiz Governorate revealed that 42 traffic accidents were recorded during the period from 2017 to the end of 2021 along the legitimate government-controlled part of Haijat Al-Abd Road. They resulted in the deaths of 74 civilians and the injury of 303 others, all of

whom were travelers and drivers of vehicles, including women and children.

The official statistics of Taiz Traffic Police also stated that 49 traffic accidents were recorded during the same period along Al-Aqrodh – Al-Hawban Road, specifically the part under the control of the legitimate government. These accidents resulted in the deaths of 12 civilian travelers and the injury of 48 others, including women and children.

The General Department of Traffic Police in Taiz Governorate estimates the total material losses resulting from those traffic accidents that took place on Al-Turbah–Haijat Al-Abd Road at 294 million Yemeni riyals, in addition to 150 million Yemeni riyals representing the total material losses caused by traffic accidents on the Al-Aqrodh – Al-Hawban Road during the five-year siege from 2017 to 2021.

In an exclusive interview with the Rights Radar team, Colonel Abdullah Mohammed Rajeh, director of Traffic Police in Taiz Governorate, talked about a great rise in the number of traffic accidents on alternative roads and traffic lines imposed by the Houthi siege on Taiz residents compared to the period before the siege. He mentioned Haijat Al-Abd Road and Al-Aqrodh Road as realistic examples of this.

According to Colonel Abdullah Mohammed Rajeh, the reason for this increase in the number of traffic accidents and their victims, including travelers and vehicle drivers, is due to the difficulty of alternative roads, their narrow spaces, severe congestion and lack of alternatives. All of this is due to the siege imposed by Houthi militia on Taiz and its closure of the main crossings and all the usual lines and roads that connect the city to the remaining districts or even other neighboring governorates in the north, south, east and west.

Total Traffic Accidents on Alternative Roads and The Resulting Human and Material Losses

Road	Time Period	Total Accidents	Total Victims	Deaths	Injuries	Losses	Source
Hajja Al-Abd	2017-2021	22	193	42	151	165 million	Al-Maqaterah Traffic Police
Hajja Al-Abd	2017-2021	42	377	74	303	294 million	Taiz Traffic Police
Al-Aqrod	2017-2021	49	60	12	48	150 million	Taiz Traffic Police
Hajja Al-Abd	First half of 2022	17	53	7	16	1.5 billion	Rights Radar Team
Al-Aqrod		15	38	7	31		Rights Radar Team
Total		145	721	142	549	2.109 billion	Two billion one hundred and nine million



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS:

S. S. M., aged 45, said to Rights Radar, “About seven years ago, the Houthi militants blocked the roads and prevented us from passing and moving from the main crossings and the asphalt roads leading to Taiz city, including the western and northern crossings that connect the city with the rural villages located in the districts of Shar’ab Al-Rawna and Shar’ab Al-Salam, including my village. We used to travel from the city to our village in Shar’ab within 15 to 30 minutes.”

He added, “Today, we take seven hours to reach the city through a series of hard and narrow mountain roads in Jabal Habashi District through which only the four-wheel drive vehicles can pass. When travelers are patients, they suffer a lot, their condition worsens and some of them die on the road. There are a lot of accidents on those narrow and bumpy roads that are destroyed by heavy rains.”

The witness confirmed what he was saying by mentioning the two overturning accidents of two cars in one week. The first car was carrying travelers from Shar’ab, and it overturned on Jabal Habashi Road while they were heading from Hajda to Shar’ab. As a result, many travelers were killed and injured. The second car overturned on Al-Ayyar Road and resulted in several people getting killed and injured.

He added, “Despite this suffering imposed by Houthi militia on travelers to and from Taiz, most of those travelers were subjected to extortion and arbitrariness of Houthi checkpoints. I remember when I was leaving Taiz, and a teacher was travelling with me, and he had his salary and his colleagues’ salaries. When we arrived at a Houthi checkpoint, they detained the teacher and confiscated his salary and his colleagues’ salaries.”

He concluded by saying, “The car driver tried to intervene to save that teacher, but they totally refused. I heard the checkpoint commander saying that they would confiscate the money and take the teacher to Al-Saleh Prison. Then, we left the checkpoint heading to the village and that teacher remained there.”



On October 13, 2021, Rights Radar met with the witness M. M. Y., aged 43, who worked as a driver that transported travelers from the center of Taiz to outside the city. The interview was on Haijat Al-Abd Road, the end of the southern crossing to Taiz, which was under the control of the legitimate government. This road connected Taiz city with parts of Lahj Governorate in the south of Yemen.

He told Rights Radar some details about their suffering, saying, “We are now on Haijat Al-Abd Road, which is very rugged, and we suffer from it. It is the only crossing to Taiz city due to Houthi militia’s siege on the city. This is the only outlet that passes through Haijat Al-Abd Road towards the southern governorates. It is constantly exposed to heavy rains that cause rockslides and increase traffic accidents and overturning cars and medium trucks that block the road for long periods.”

He continued, “As a driver, I have stopped there many times because of accidents and heavy rains, and the road is narrow, and all tankers, trucks and cars pass through it to supply the city with its needs. It is the only asphalt road that reaches the city after Houthi militia closed all the city’s main crossings.”

He added, “We also suffer from the long distance and time. Before the siege of the city, when we wanted to travel from Taiz to Aden, we used to pass through Al-Hawban Road, then Al-Anad Road. This distance used to take about two hours only. Now, across Haijat Al-Abd Road, we take six to seven hours.”

The driver described the suffering of travelers wishing to move and travel from Taiz to Sana’a, saying, “If we wanted to travel from Taiz to Sana’a and before Houthi militia closed the main crossing to Taiz, we were passing through the main eastern crossing of the city that connected it to Al-Hawban. We were traveling from the center of Taiz to Al-Hawban, which is currently under the Houthi control, within 15 minutes.”

He added, “Now, after closing the crossings, this distance takes seven to eight hours because we pass through a mountain range through Al-Aqrodh area, which is a rugged, unpaved and narrow mountain road. Through this hard road, we transport patients heading to the capital, Sana’a, for treatment. This increases their suffering and tiredness.”



F. A. M. was a 41-year-old citizen from Shar'ab District, and he worked as a teacher in Taiz. He moved with his small family to Taiz, while his extended family lived in Shar'ab Village. People from rural areas are characterized with maintaining their family and social ties.

F. A. M. said to Rights Radar, "I lived in Taiz city, and I contacted with my family residing in Shar'ab. Since 2015, that contact has been cut off due to Houthi militia's closure of the crossing leading to the city. Traveling from Taiz to my village in Shar'ab took no more than an hour and a half."

He continued, "Currently, in light of the siege and closure of the western crossing to Taiz, it takes seven to eight hours to travel and move from Taiz to the village or vice versa. Travel has become a suffering that needs preparation for three to four days before."

He added, "We travel in four-wheel drive vehicles through Jabal Habashi Road, which is a dirt and rugged road. It passes through a high mountain chain with dangerous slopes. The journey is tiring and exhausting physically, psychologically and financially. In addition, the condition of sick people worsens."

07 SEVENTH TOPIC:

Effects of Siege on Solid Waste Management

The systematic siege policy followed by Houthi militia on Taiz residents since mid-2015 has had direct effects and negative impacts on the management of solid waste in the city and areas under the control of government forces. This resulted in environmental disasters for residents because the Houthis deliberately deprived them from benefiting from the garbage dump (a place designated for collecting and burning solid waste), located in the west of the city, which was under their control. They also seized trucks and equipment for transporting solid waste owned by the General Department of Hygiene office in the east of Taiz.



H. M., a former official in General Department of Hygiene in Taiz, said to Rights Radar, “Houthi militants prevented them from delivering the solid waste of Taiz city to the garbage dump located in Shar’ab Junction, west of Taiz, which was controlled by Houthis since the beginning of 2015. When they tried to deliver the waste to that place, the trucks transporting the waste were targeted by the Houthi militia with a 23-caliber anti-aircraft gun.”

He added, “As a result of this, solid waste accumulated in the middle of the streets and residential neighborhoods of Taiz, causing an environmental disaster that resulted in the spread of diseases and fevers among the population. Therefore, we had to find another alternative place to transport the solid waste. It was located on Al-Dhabab road, the southern crossing of Taiz. This alternative place was relatively far from the population, but it was not far from the agricultural areas and homes of farmers, but we were forced to use it because of the siege imposed on us by Houthi militia.”

Regarding the environmental pollution disaster in Taiz, H. S., a former official in the Environment Office in Taiz, told Rights Radar that, in the first months of 2015, Houthi militia took control of the headquarters of the General Department of Hygiene in the east of Taiz. Since then, the militia continued to deprive the residents of Taiz from benefiting from a fleet of tankers, trucks and equipment for transporting solid waste. They were located inside the headquarters of the General Directorate of Hygiene, located in Gawlat Al-Qasr, east of Taiz.

He said, “Before the Houthis seized this equipment and imposed their siege on Taiz, they used to cover all residential neighborhoods and transport solid waste daily to the place designated for its collection in the west of the city.”

He added, “All this led to an environmental disaster in Taiz city as a result of garbage accumulation and the spread of mosquitoes that transmit diseases and fevers. Even the alternative waste dump, which was located on Al-Dhabab line south of Taiz, was unsuitable for this purpose because it was a mountainous hill with no dirt, so waste could not be buried or burned. This caused a catastrophic situation in the environment and badly affected the citizens’ health as a result of the indiscriminate burning of various materials, as well as the difficulty of destroying some materials that needed to be buried in the dirt.”

He said that the space available in the alternative garbage dump was not enough to destroy and burn waste at once, in addition to the rise of thick smoke when burning these wastes, which affected and contributed significantly to environmental pollution and its reflection on the health of the residents of neighboring areas. He hoped to find a solution to the problem of solid waste management, not to punish Taiz residents with this matter and deal with this problem from a humanitarian aspect.

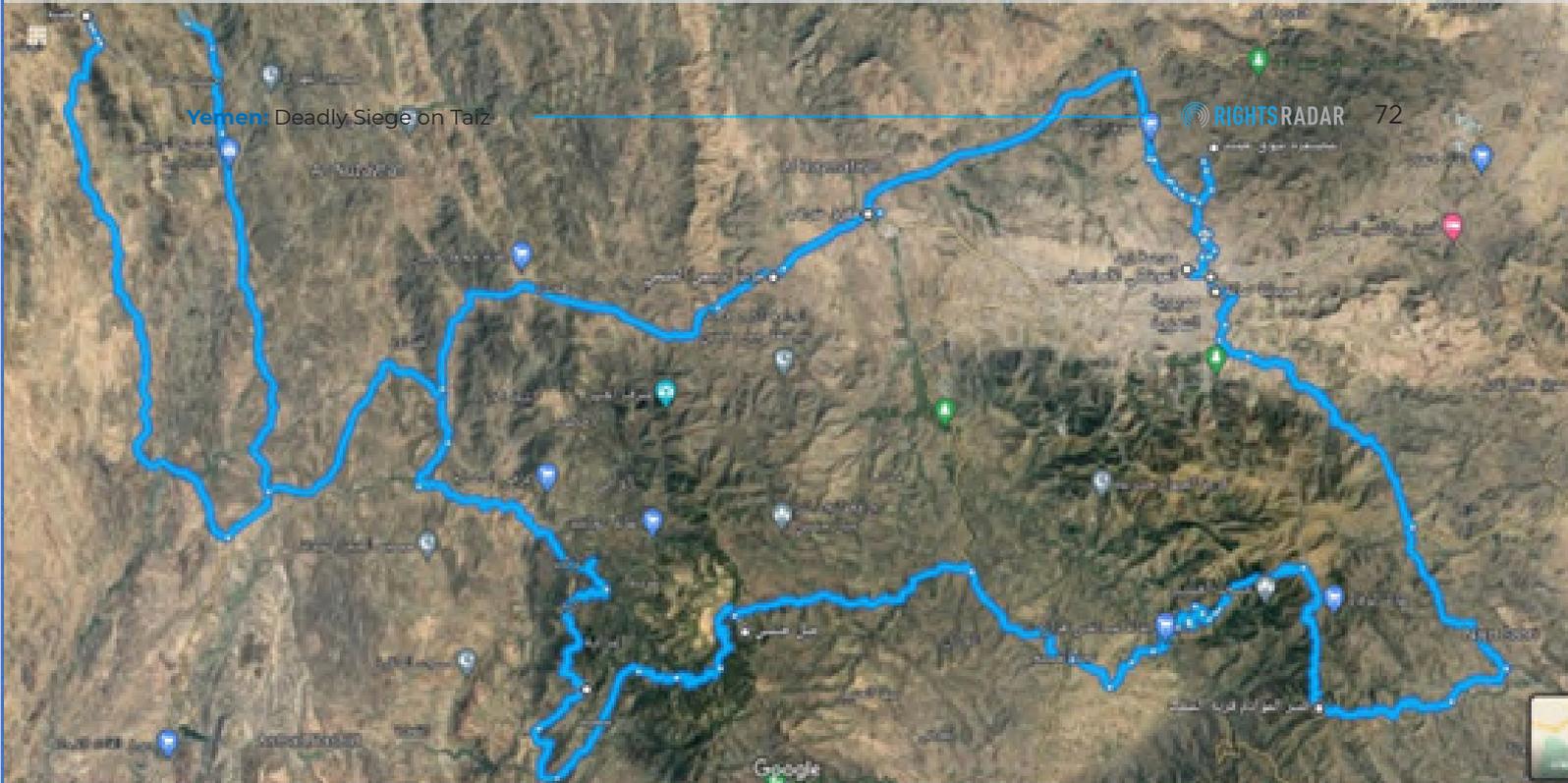
08

EIGHTH TOPIC:

Trapped Areas Among Conflicting Parties

Along the geographical map of the control of the conflicting parties in Taiz city and its countryside and in a semi-closed circle, Houthi militia imposes its control over the areas surrounding Taiz, which is administratively affiliated to Al-Taizyah District, starting from Al-Hawban area, east of Taiz, and throughout the areas in the north and west of the city. The legitimate government armed forces controlled the city center and the rural districts located in the south of Taiz, while the joint forces imposed their control over the western coastal areas up to Bab Al-Mandab.





This complex geographical map of the control of conflicting parties created trapped residential areas near and in the middle of the lines of contact that extended from the east and north of Taiz city to its west. The residents of these areas found themselves trapped between escaping into unknown places or staying near death. All roads were closed, and they were prevented from the simplest means of livelihood. Their farms became places of mines, explosive devices and the other war remnants. Death surrounded them from all directions.

Houthi militants deliberately laid anti-personnel mines and explosive devices indiscriminately in the trapped areas to take shelter behind them. Residents of the trapped areas were also exposed to repeated sniping by Houthi snipers, in addition to the death projectiles that fall almost daily on residential neighborhoods near the militia's concentration sites that surrounded the center of Taiz city and the trapped areas from all directions.

FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

According to the figures and statistics documented by Rights Radar, a total of 5,640 civilians were killed and injured in the trapped areas from sniping and artillery shelling during the reporting period, including 2,409 people aged from 18 to 59 years old, in addition to 1,873 children, 819 women and 539 elderly men. The percentage of vulnerable groups, including children, women and elderly people, represented 57% of the total number of civilian victims.

SHELLING VICTIMS:

There were different kinds of artillery shells and missile projectiles used by Houthi militia, including Ballistic, Katyusha, Mortar, Howitzer, BMB, P10, tank, RBG and ZSU-23. They were the deadly weapons that killed civilians living inside the trapped areas in Taiz. They killed 851 civilians, including 246 children and 110 women, 95 elderly people and 400 adult men, in addition to the injury of 3,236 others, including 1,266 children, 508 women, 317 elderly people and 1,145 adult men(1).

These crimes and violations were distributed among seven trapped districts. Sala District, east of Taiz, had the highest number of victims with a total of 254 killings, including 62 children, 23 women, 37 elderly

people and 132 adult men. It was followed by Al-Mudhaffar District with 179 killings, including 55 children, 18 women, 17 elderly people and 89 adult men, in addition to 728 injuries, including 326 children, 121 women, 78 elderly people and 203 adult men.

The northern districts of Al-Qahirah District ranked third with 117 deaths from Houthi missile and artillery shelling, including 36 children, 15 women, 10 elderly people and 56 adult men, as well as 539 injuries, including 208 children, 60 women, 50 elderly and 221 adult men. It was followed by Saber Al-Mawadem District, southwest of Taiz, with 109 deaths, including 32 children, 28 women, eight elderly and 41 adult men, in addition to 463 injuries, including 146 children, 118 women, 38 elderly people and 161 adult men.

1 *The victims were 18 to 59 years old in age.*

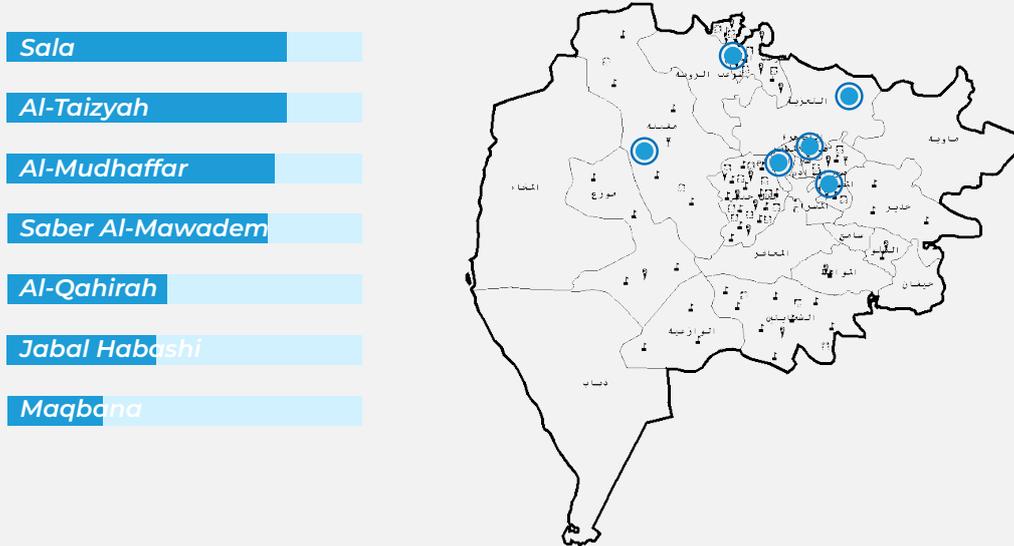
Al-Taizyah District, which extends from the east to the west of Taiz, ranked fifth with a total number of 91 deaths from Houthi missile and artillery shelling, including 29 children, 10 women, seven elderly people and 45 adult men, in addition to 304 injuries, including 107 children, 56 women, 29 elderly people and 112 adult men. It was followed by Jabal Habashi District with 51 killings, including 18 children, six women and four elderly people, in addition to 114 injuries, including 48 children, 20 women, 13 elderly people and 33 adult men.

*Geographical, Qualitative and Categorical
Distribution of Shelling Victims*

District	Killing Cases					Injury Cases					Grand Total
	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	
Sala	132	23	62	37	254	400	107	397	91	995	1249
Al-Taizyah	89	18	55	17	179	203	121	326	78	728	907
Al-Mudhaffar	56	15	36	10	117	221	60	208	50	539	656
Saber Al-Mawadem	41	28	32	8	109	161	118	146	38	463	572
Al-Qahirah	45	10	29	7	91	112	56	107	29	304	395
Jabal Habashi	23	6	18	4	51	33	20	48	13	114	165
Maqbana	14	10	14	12	50	15	26	34	18	93	143
Total	400	110	246	95	851	1145	508	1266	317	3236	4087

Maqbna District ranked seventh with 50 deaths, including 14 children, 10 women, 12 elderly people and 14 adult men, in addition to 93 injuries, including 34 children, 26 women, 18 elderly people and 15 adult men.

Figure of Geographical, Qualitative and Categorical Distribution of Shelling Victims



4,087

Victims of Shelling in besieged areas



851

Cases of Killings in besieged areas



3,236

Cases of injuries in besieged areas

Killing Cases

400 men



110 women



246 Children



95 elderly



Injury Cases

1,145 men



508 women



1,266 Children



317 elderly



SNIPING VICTIMS:

Snipers were considered the third most deadly weapon used by Houthis against innocent civilians living on the outskirts of the trapped and besieged areas in Taiz Governorate, following projectiles and mines. During the reporting period, they killed 669 civilians, including 125 children, 69 women, 64 elderly people and 411 adult men, in addition to injuring 884 others, including 236 children, 132 women, 63 elderly men and 453 adult men.

Houthi snipers targeted the civilian population while they were leaving their homes to get their needs and achieve their daily activities, such as bringing water, firewood, livestock fodder, farming requirements or buying their families' needs at groceries and

stores, as well as many displaced people while they were returning to their homes. The vulnerable groups (women, children and elderly people) constituted 44% of the total victims of this type of internationally prohibited violation.

The sniping victims were distributed among seven trapped districts in Taiz; Sala District had the highest number of victims with 219 deaths by Houthi snipers, including 33 children, 18 women, 23 elderly people and 145 adult men, in addition to 277 injuries, including 60 children, 31 women, 17 elderly people and 169 adult men. It was followed by Al-Taizyah District with 137 deaths, including 29 children, 16 women, 15 elderly people and 77 adult men, in addition to 151 injuries, including 46 children, 21 women, 13 elderly people and 71 adult men.



Geographical, Qualitative and Categorical Distribution of Sniping Victims

District	Killing Cases					Injury Cases					Grand Total
	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	
Sala	145	18	33	23	219	169	31	60	17	277	496
Al-Taizyah	77	16	29	15	137	71	21	46	13	151	288
Al-Mudhaffar	90	6	19	7	122	102	16	33	9	160	282
Saber Al-Mawadem	42	12	17	4	75	59	35	44	15	153	228
Al-Qahirah	30	6	17	6	59	34	8	24	6	72	131
Jabal Habashi	18	3	6	8	35	14	15	16	2	47	82
Maqbana	9	8	4	1	22	4	6	13	1	24	46
Total	411	69	125	64	669	453	132	236	63	884	1553

1,553

Victims of sniping in besieged areas



669

Cases of Killings in besieged areas



884

Cases of injuries in besieged areas

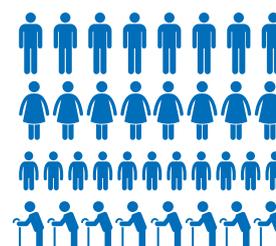
Killing Cases

411 men

69 women

125 Children

64 elderly



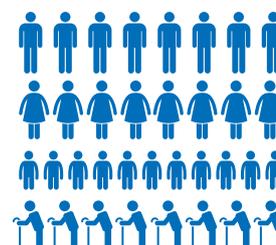
Injury Cases

453 men

132 women

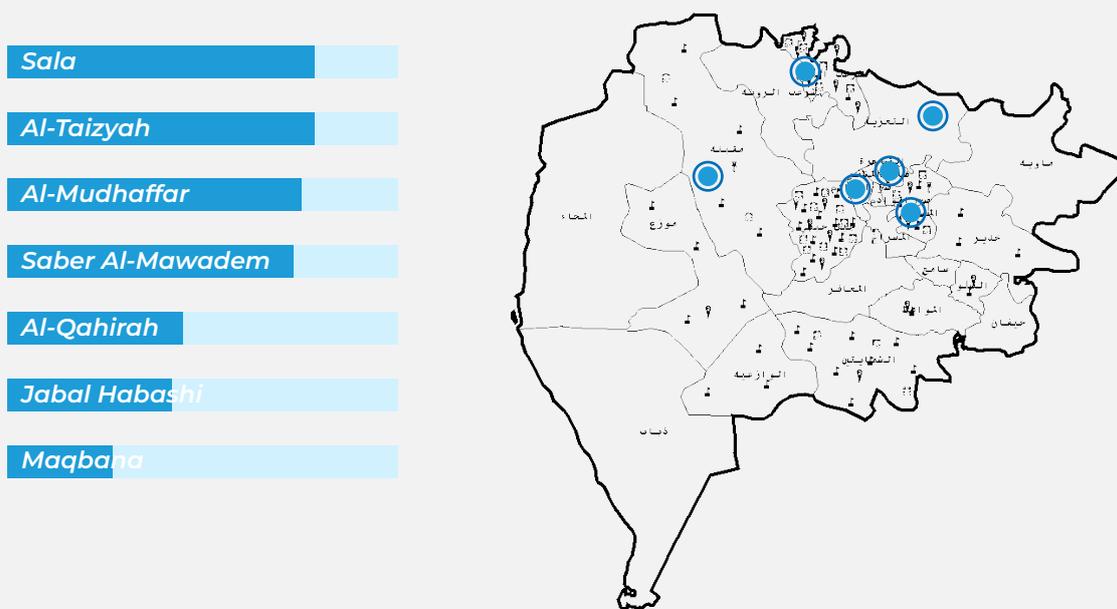
236 Children

63 elderly



Al-Mudhaffar District ranked third with 122 deaths, including 19 children, six women, seven elderly people and 90 adult men, as well as 160 injuries, including 33 children, 16 women, nine elderly people and 102 adult men. It was followed by Saber Al-Mawadem District with 75 deaths, including 17 children, 12 women, four elderly people and 42 adult men, in addition to 153 injuries, including 44 children, 35 women, 15 elderly people and 59 adult men. The northern neighborhoods of Al-Qahirah District ranked fifth with 59 deaths by Houthi snipers, including 17 children, six women, six elderly people and 30 adult men, in addition to 72 injuries, including 24 children, eight women, six elderly people and 34 adult men.

Geographical, Qualitative and Categorical Distribution of Sniping Victims



The remaining figures and statistics were distributed between the districts of Jabal Habashi and Maqbana, with 35 deaths, including six children, three women, eight elderly people and 18 adult men, in addition to 47 injuries, including 16 children, 15 women, two elderly men and 14 adult men for Jabal Habashi District. There were 22 people who were killed, including four children, eight women, one elderly man and nine adult men, in addition to 24 people who were injured, including 13 children, six women, one elderly man and four adult men in Maqbana District.



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS:

The report sheds light on the various incidents of violations against the residents of trapped areas in Taiz city and its countryside, which were distributed on the areas affiliated to the districts of Sala, Al-Qahirah, Al-Mudhaffar, Jabal Habashi, Maqbana, Al-Taizyah and Saber Al-Mawadem.

On Thursday, August 4, 2016, at about 6:15 p.m., in Al-Zahra Neighborhood, one of the eastern neighborhoods of Taiz, a 39-year-old citizen was shot in his left foot. He was taken to hospital to be treated. The bullet was fired from the direction of the Central Security Camp in which Houthi militia's snipers were stationed.

His wife, S. Y. S., aged 28, said to Rights Radar: "On that day, my husband, Wahbi S. H., was returning from his workplace in the city center to our house in Al-Zahraa neighborhood. My husband used to transport goods in a small truck for customers and shoppers, and this work was his only source of living. When he arrived near the house, he was shot by a Houthi sniper stationed in the Central Security Camp located in the east of Al-Zahraa neighborhood. The bullet hit him in his left foot from the front and exited from behind the thigh muscle. Then, he was taken to Al-Thawra Hospital to receive treatment. It was a very bad day, and I remember that moment when my husband screamed due to the painful injury, and I saw blood coming out profusely from his left foot. I was terrified, and even the place where he was injured became terrifying for me."

At 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017, in Al-Anin Village, Jabal Habashi, west of Taiz, snipers belonging to Houthi militia, and stationed in Jabal Al-Anin, killed a 55-year-old citizen, while he was with others in the village graveyard to bury the body of a woman. The sniper also injured his 28-year-old daughter while she was trying to help her father.

The injured woman, N. A. A. M., said to Rights Radar, "At 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017, my father was in the graveyard of Al-Anin Village accompanying some villagers to bury a dead woman. When he was standing in the graveyard, he was shot by a sniper belonging to Houthi militia stationed in Tabbat Al-Jubeiriya on top of Jabal Al-Anin. The bullet hit my father in the chest and penetrated his heart.



She continued, “The villagers were afraid of being targeted, and, when my father fell on the ground, they left him alone. I watched people running away from the graveyard and shouting that my father had been sniped by Houthis. Then, I decided to go to take my father and rescue him. When I arrived at the place where my father was shot in the middle of the graveyard, I tried to approach for pulling and rescuing him, but the sniper shot me in my leg.”

She added, “My father was taking his last breath and blood was flowing from his chest, and I was lying next to him, and my leg was bleeding. I was shouting, but no one dared to approach us for fear of being targeted by Houthi snipers. It was the worst day in my life.”

On January 12, 2017, at 7:30 a.m., a woman and the driver of the car in which she was traveling, were shot by Houthi militants stationed at the top of Jabal Al-Anin located in Jabal Habashi while the car was passing on a mountain road in Al-Anin Village, one of the villages located within the trapped areas near the line of contact.

The driver of the car, A. H. A., aged 55, told the Rights Radar team the details of the incident, “As usual, I got up in the morning and drove my car from my village to Hajda Market, and then I returned on the same day. I transported passengers from the village and neighboring villages who wanted to buy some needs and necessities for their families. On that day at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, when I was driving my car on a mountain slope in Al-Anin Village, we were shot with a hail of bullets targeting the car from the direction of Ras Al-Anin, which was under control of Houthi militia.

He continued, “At that time, I heard the voice of the passengers, I tried hard to stop the car, and I was afraid that the car would overturn or get off the road and roll down the mountain. In those difficult moments while I was trying to stop the car and the bullets did not stop, a woman next to me was injured. Then, I was shot, and my body was covered in blood. As a result, I fainted and lost control of the car.”

According to the driver’s witness, the car continued to roll down until it hit a rock that stopped it, and they escaped certain death. He pointed out that many residents of the neighboring village immediately came to the place from the opposite direction. Then, they carried them on their shoulders for about three



hours until they reached Jourieh Village. After that, they took a car to Taiz, but they were unable to enter it because the Houthis refused to allow them.

He added, “Houthis were not satisfied with hitting us and preventing us from being rescued, but they blew up my car, which was my only source of living.”

N. A. A., a 55-year-old citizen who lives in one of the trapped villages west of Taiz and north of Jabal Habashi District, also told Rights Radar about their suffering, saying, “Although my village and the neighboring villages are trapped at the top of the mountain range between Jabal Habashi and Maqbana, the war reached our villages, which also became trapped among the conflicting parties.”

He added, “Before the war, we used to pass through the dirt road that connected us to the asphalt line between Taiz and Al-Hodeidah. We used to bring all our needs from Hajda Market. At the beginning of 2017, Houthi militia closed this dirt road that connects us to the asphalt line and Hajda Market. Now, we walk long distances to carry all the food and other items we need, in addition to helping our patients.”

He said, “We are forced to pass through high mountains and rugged roads until we reach the dirt line located in the village of Jureya Bani Issa. We take a period of not less than three hours to travel these distances on foot. Then, we take three more hours to move by car to Taiz city. Some patients even died because of the rugged road and long distance.”

The witness referred to the story of a person named Abdullah al-Sallal. He said that he died on his way back to the village due to severe tiredness from walking for such long distances. He said that Houthi militia was responsible for his death because it closed the only crossing leading to the village, forcing people to walk to reach their homes.

He added, “Abdullah al-Sallal continued walking until he reached the middle of the road. He was exhausted and tired, so he called his children, asking them to come to help him. Then, we went and carried him on our shoulders and headed toward Hajda Market. We were intercepted by a Houthi checkpoint that prevented us from passing. So, we had to return from another road toward Jourieh Village, and we reached it after three hours on foot.”



He added, “We carried al-Sallal to Taiz in a car belonging to a resident of Jourieh Village through one of the rugged side roads, but he passed away in the middle of the road. I cannot forget that day, especially as I was watching the man dying, and we were unable to do anything to rescue him.”

At 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017, in Wahar Village, Jabal Habashi District, a 15-year-old girl, Ohoud Mohammed, was killed with a bullet by Houthi sniper stationed in Jabal Hisn Al-Kafir. Her mother, M. M. H., aged 42, told Rights Radar, “On that day, my daughter Ohoud was in the house when she was hit by a bullet from the direction where the Houthi militia snipers were stationed in Jabal Hisn Al-Kafir, opposite our village. The bullet hit her in the head. We tried to rescue her by car, however, Houthi militants continued to shoot the car.”

That morning, Houthi militants closed the only road connecting Wahar Village to the asphalt road in Al-Ramada area, Jabal Habashi District. They laid mines on it and deployed snipers in the hills overlooking the road and the only crossing to Wahar Village and the neighboring villages, forcing Ohoud’s father to take an alternative road to reach Taiz to save the girl’s life.

According to the girl’s father, Al-Kasas – Al-Ajaf Road had some repairs and rehabilitation done so it could be an alternative road, but it was their only way to reach the besieged Taiz and save the life of his daughter. When they reached the repaired part in Al-Kasas area, the car stopped, and they had to carry the child and continue the journey on foot until they reached the other side of the same line in Al-Ajaf Village.

The grieving father concluded by saying, “We took another car and tried very hard to reach the nearest hospital in Taiz, but my daughter died on the road before we reached the city. That day was the worst for me. I watched my daughter dying, and her head was bleeding. We were racing to death and trying to get her to the hospital to save her, but death was faster than us, and she died in the middle of the road.”

At 4 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2016, an 11-year-old child, Bilal Mohammed Farhan al-Shar’abi, from Al-Zahra neighborhood, east of Taiz, was shot by Houthi snipers stationed in the Republican Palace building opposite Al-Zahra neighborhood.

The child’s mother told Rights Radar: “My son, Bilal, was in front of our house



in Al-Zahra Neighborhood picking some fruits from a tree. He was shot by a Houthi sniper stationed on the outskirts of the Republican Palace building in the southeastern side of Al-Zahra neighborhood. The bullet hit his right forearm and broke the bone.”

She added, “We heard the sniper’s shot and the screaming of my son. Then, we all left the house, and I screamed when I saw my son lying under the tree with his forearm bleeding. Then, some of the neighbors, who heard my voice, came out, and we carried my son to Al-Rawda Hospital where doctors performed the necessary operation, but the injury was severe and caused the forearm bone to be broken into several parts, and he was permanently disabled.”

At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2016, a 16-year-old child, Saif Wahbi, from Al-Zahra neighborhood, east of Taiz, was shot by Houthi snipers stationed in the Central Security Camp, east of the city.

Saif’s mother, aged 48, told Rights Radar, “We lived in Al-Zahra despite the dangers of living in this neighborhood, but we could not move to another place because of lack of money. We were not able to pay the costs of renting another apartment.”

The child’s mother continued, “When my son, Saif, was injured, he was on his way to Al-Shammasi area to bring us some grocery items to prepare dinner because there was no grocery store in our neighborhood. While my son was returning from the grocery store, a Houthi sniper, who was stationed in a place for guarding the Central Security Camp opposite the neighborhood, shot him in the foot.”

She added, “We heard the sound of the shot and the screaming of my son, so I went out of the house, as well as some of the neighboring residents. I saw my son lying on the ground with his left foot bleeding. We took him to Al-Thawra Hospital where he had an operation and received some treatments, but he still suffers from the injury, which caused him a disability.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO ALL CONFLICTING PARTIES:

- Ensuring the strict application of the principles and rules of International Humanitarian Law in all military operations.
- Ensuring adherence, discipline and respect of all legal rules of international human rights law and their application, along with the rules of International Humanitarian Law regarding the implementation of military and security operations.
- Respecting all the agreements aiming at ceasing fire or reducing the degree of tension to pave the way for the peace process.

TO THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED YEMENI

GOVERNMENT:

- Protecting and ensuring the access of humanitarian aid and all supplies, needs and commercial goods to Taiz and removing all obstacles that prevent its entry or increase the cost of its access to the city, including stopping all forms of illegal levies and maintaining roads for large trucks.
- Facilitating and protecting the movement of travelers to and from Taiz city, stopping all forms of unjustified search and preventing arbitrary measures and territorial discrimination of the residents of Taiz by military formations in the southern governorates.
- Intensifying efforts to remove the mines laid in areas where formerly controlled by Houthi militia.

TO THE HOUTHI MILITIA:

- Putting an end to the siege imposed on the residents of Taiz, allowing the access of humanitarian aid, supplies, needs and commercial goods through the city's main crossings and removing all forms of obstacles, including prevention of illegal levies.
- Opening the main eastern, western and northern main asphalt roads and crossings for Taiz, which have been closed by Houthi militia, and allowing the movement of travelers and goods to and from Taiz through those crossings and main roads.
- Stopping the laying of mines, removing the various mines and explosive devices laid by Houthi militia in the areas under its control and providing the maps of mines in areas currently controlled by the internationally recognized Yemeni government.
- Facilitating the access of humanitarian aid and commercial goods to Taiz and removing all forms of obstacles that prevent their access, including unjustified searches and complicated routine procedures.

TO THE UNITED NATIONS:

- Using its international powers and influence to put pressure on all conflicting parties to stop the war and begin negotiation that leads to a comprehensive peace agreement.
- Practicing sufficient pressure to force Houthi militia to terminate its siege on Taiz, stop laying mines and allow the entry of population and access of humanitarian aid and commercial goods to and from Taiz through its main crossings.
- Intensifying efforts aimed at persuading all partners and donors to increase the volume of humanitarian aid provided to Yemen, especially Taiz, to face the humanitarian catastrophe.
- Supporting programs and projects aiming at removing the indiscriminately laid mines to contribute to the disposal of all forms of mines and explosive devices resulting from the war in Yemen.



برامجنا

الرصد

تعمل منظمة رايتس رادار على مراقبة وضع حقوق الإنسان ورصد الانتهاكات التي ترتكب ضدها في العالم العربي، من خلال المراقبين والراصدین المحليين المؤهلين الذين يعملون وفقاً للمعايير الدولية واستخدام التقنيات المتطورة في هذا المجال، وكذلك من خلال التعاون مع المنظمات المحلية لحقوق الإنسان التي تعمل في نفس المجال ولديها نفس الاهتمامات الحقوقية.

التوثيق

تقوم منظمة رايتس رادار بتوثيق الانتهاكات ضد حقوق الإنسان التي ترتكب من قبل مختلف الأطراف، الفردية أو الجماعية، الأهلية أو الحكومية، في جميع الدول العربية، من خلال الشبكة الواسعة من الراصدین والمجموعة المتنوعة في الأساليب، من أجل الحصول على أدلة مادية وبراهين موثقة لانتهاكات حقوق الإنسان، لاستخدامها عند اللزوم لملاحقة الجناة قضائياً للعمل على عدم الإفلات من العقاب.

المناصرة

كجزء من مهمتها، توفر منظمة رايتس رادار المناصرة والدعم القانوني وربما فرص الدعم المادي والمعنوي لضحايا انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان في العالم العربي، وذلك حسب الإمكانيات المتاحة، من خلال التعاون مع الشركاء من المنظمات الإقليمية والدولية ذات البرامج والأهداف التكميلية المشتركة في مجال حقوق الإنسان.

التشبيك

تعمل منظمة رايتس رادار على تحقيق أهدافها وغاياتها من خلال التشبيك وعلاقات التعاون مع شبكة واسعة من منظمات حقوق الإنسان المحلية والإقليمية والدولية، لتبادل الخبرات والعمل معاً من أجل إنجاح برامجها والقيام بأعمال مشتركة للدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان من خلال الحملات الجماعية المشتركة وعلى نطاق واسع.

بناء القدرات

في إطار جهودها للدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان، تسعى منظمة رايتس رادار إلى تدريب وبناء قدرات ورفع كفاءات نشطاء حقوق الإنسان العرب المتعاونين معها في تغطية الرصد والتوثيق للانتهاكات، بالإضافة إلى النشطاء العاملين في المنظمات الأخرى التي تشترك معها في نفس الهدف المتمثل في الدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان. ويعتبر بناء القدرات جزءاً رئيسياً من برامج منظمة رايتس رادار ومهمة رئيسية لتحسين أداء العاملين في مجال حقوق الإنسان.

مجالاتنا:

تؤمن منظمة رايتس رادار بأن الحق في حرية التعبير وحرية الإعلام والعدالة وحقوق النساء والأطفال والمعوقين واللاجئين من الحقوق الأساسية وتشكل المجالات الرئيسية في عملها وأنشطتها.

حرية التعبير

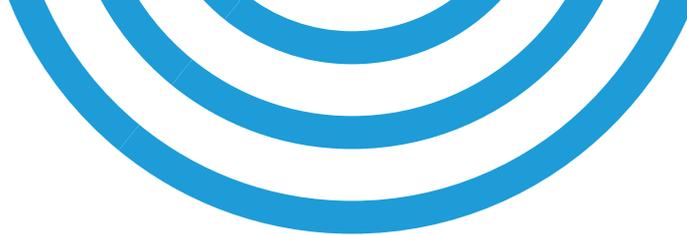
تسعى منظمة رايتس رادار إلى الدفاع عن حرية الرأي والتعبير وتعمل على تعزيز حرية الإعلام والحريات العامة، وتطوير قدرتها على لعب دور حيوي في تعزيز الديمقراطية وحماية المصالح العامة. وتطلق منظمة رايتس رادار في هذا من إيمانها بأن جوهر الديمقراطية لن يتحقق بالكامل ما لم يتم ضمان حرية الرأي والتعبير كحق أساسي. كما تؤمن المنظمة بأن الحق في حرية الإعلام والعدالة وحقوق المرأة والأطفال والمعوقين واللاجئين من الحقوق الأساسية وتشكل المجالات الرئيسية في عمل وأنشطة المنظمة.

حقوق المرأة

تعمل منظمة رايتس رادار على تعزيز حقوق المرأة وتمكينها في كل مواقع الحياة، لدعم دورها الحيوي عبر مشاركتها الفاعلة في بناء المجتمع. وتعتقد منظمة رايتس رادار أن المجتمع لا يمكن أن يصل إلى كامل إمكاناته ما لم تتمتع المرأة بكامل حقوقها الموازية لنفس الحقوق والفرص التي يتمتع بها الرجل، بما في ذلك المساواة في الفرص بالتعليم والرعاية الصحية وفرص العمل. وتؤمن منظمة رايتس رادار بأن الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير وحرية الإعلام والعدالة وحقوق المرأة والأطفال والمعوقين واللاجئين من الحقوق الأساسية وتشكل المجالات الرئيسية في عمل وأنشطة المنظمة.

حقوق الطفل

تناضل منظمة رايتس رادار في تعزيز الحقوق الأساسية للأطفال ومساعدتهم على التمتع بكامل حقوقهم، وفي مقدمة ذلك التعليم والرعاية الصحية والحماية. وتتطلع كذلك إلى تعزيز حقوق الأطفال بحيث يصبحوا فاعلين لصناعة المستقبل المشرق، وهذا الحلم لن يتحقق ما لم يتم دمج حقوق الأطفال في برامج التنمية الاجتماعية والسياسات العامة. وتؤمن منظمة رايتس رادار بأن الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير وحرية الإعلام والعدالة وحقوق المرأة والأطفال والمعوقين واللاجئين من الحقوق الأساسية وتشكل المجالات الرئيسية في عمل وأنشطة المنظمة.



حقوق المعاق

تعمل منظمة رايتس رادار على تعزيز حقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة وتمكينهم على أرض الواقع وتدعم اندماجهم ومشاركتهم في المجتمع. وترى المنظمة أن المساواة في الفرص، يجب أن يشمل الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة من أجل ان يتمتعوا بكافة الحقوق والفرص الأساسية المتاحة لبقية أفراد المجتمع، بما في ذلك الفرص المتساوية في التعليم والوظائف والرعاية الصحية. وتؤمن منظمة رايتس رادار بأن الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير وحرية الإعلام والعدالة وحقوق المرأة والأطفال والمعوقين واللاجئين من الحقوق الأساسية وتشكل المجالات الرئيسية في عمل وأنشطة المنظمة.

حقوق اللاجئين

تجتهد منظمة رايتس رادار على تعزيز حقوق اللاجئين ودعم كل ما من شأنه تقديم العون المادي والمعنوي لهم ليحصلوا على حقوق متكاملة بسلاسة في المجتمع الذي يستضيفهم ومنحهم الحقوق الانسانية دون تمييز. وتؤمن منظمة رايتس رادار بأنه يجب أن يحصل اللاجئين على الحقوق الإنسانية الأساسية، مثل التعليم والرعاية الصحية وفرص العمل. وتطلق رايتس رادار في عملها هذا من إيمانها بأن الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير وحرية الإعلام والعدالة وحقوق المرأة والأطفال والمعوقين واللاجئين من الحقوق الأساسية وتشكل المجالات الرئيسية في عمل وأنشطة المنظمة.

الحق في العدالة

تسعى منظمة رايتس رادار إلى تعزيز قيم العدالة في أوساط المجتمع، لتوفير إجراءات تقاضي عادلة للضحايا وللسجناء. وتعتقد أن الحياة لن تستقيم ولن تكون محمية ما لم تحكمها العدالة ويكون القانون والنظام حاكمين لسلوك جميع الناس في المجتمع من القمة إلى القاعدة، بحيث يصبح الحق في العدالة حقاً أساسياً للجميع، لكي يشكل سياجاً حامياً لكافة الحقوق الأساسية الأخرى مثل الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير وحرية الإعلام وحقوق المرأة والطفل والمعوقين واللاجئين والتي تعتبرها رايتس رادار من الحقوق الأساسية ومن المجالات الرئيسية التي تركز عليها المنظمة في أنشطتها وبرامجها.

اليمن: تعز.. الحصار المميت

تقرير حقوقي حول حصار الحوثيين لمدينة تعز

وانعكاساته على حياة السكان

حزيران/يونيو 2022





E-Mail: contact@RightsRadar.org , www.RightsRadar.org
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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