SAM
Rights & Liberties

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Rasd organization for freedom and Rights

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There Is No Longer a Safe Place

A report documenting the killing and displacement of civilians and the looting of their property during the military escalation in Taiz Governorate and its coast

Who are we?

SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties

SAM is an independent, non-profit Yemeni human rights organization that began its activities in January 2016 and obtained a license to operate in December 2017. The organization aims to document human rights violations in Yemen, work to stop violations through advocacy in partnership with local and international organizations, raise human rights awareness through societal rights development, and hold human rights violators accountable in Yemen in collaboration with international mechanisms and human rights organizations.

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"No Safe Place Left"

A human rights report issued by SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties—in partnership with Rasd Organization for Rights and Liberties and the Justice and Equity Organization for Development and Human Rights—documenting the killing and displacement of civilians, as well as the looting of their property, during the Houthi group's escalation of hostilities in Taiz Governorate and along its coast.

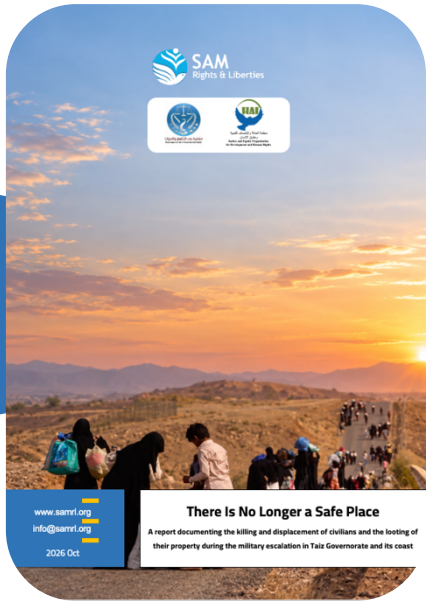


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Executive Summary

This report documents the human rights and humanitarian repercussions of the military escalation witnessed in Yemen during the period from 3 July to 22 September 2026, with a particular focus on the wave of fighting that erupted in early September in western Taiz Governorate, the western coast, and the areas connected to the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The report examines the impact of military operations and changes in territorial control on the civilian population, including killing and injury, displacement, attacks on civilian objects and medical and humanitarian facilities, looting of property, arrest and restrictions on movement, the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, and violations of the sanctity of the dead and graves. The report does not provide a narrative of the military operations for their own sake; rather, it addresses them insofar as they had direct effects on civilians' lives and rights or revealed patterns that warrant investigation and accountability.

In preparing the report, the organizations relied on a combination of field documentation and direct testimonies from victims, survivors, their families, and witnesses, alongside official and United Nations data, press reports, photographs, recordings, and open-source materials. Methodologically, the organizations distinguished between establishing that harm occurred and establishing the party responsible for it, and between information that could be directly verified and allegations that still require additional evidence. It applied the "reasonable grounds to believe" standard without treating it as a substitute for judicial investigation or for the criminal standard of proof required to determine individual responsibility.

The report's preliminary monitoring database contained 85 records, including 70 records in the main list and 15 additional records received from the organizations' monitors in Hodeidah, while emphasizing that these records do not represent 85 separate incidents because of overlap and duplication among some incidents, victims, and facilities. After reviewing the names and excluding obvious duplication, the core tally indicates that at least 16 civilians were killed and about 18 others were injured in cases whose subjects could be identified by distinct names, while additional victims were mentioned in the details of some incidents. The updated version also included additional direct accounts of missing and injured persons among displaced families; these were not mathematically incorporated into this tally pending completion of the final cross-checking, in order to avoid double counting.

The incidents compiled in the report indicate that civilians were exposed to danger inside homes and villages, along displacement routes and in gatherings of displaced people, and near schools, universities, hospitals, markets, judicial facilities, and places of worship. The additional accounts also included an incident at the Al-Omari Triangle on the road between Bab al-Mandab and Dhubab on the night of 9 September, in which sources from SAM and the organizations "Rasd" and "Justice and Equity" said shelling struck displaced people and was followed by a second strike during the rescue attempt and the explosion of a fuel tanker, with injuries and missing persons in more than one family. The identity of the responsible party, the type of projectiles, and the final casualty toll still require further technical and field verification.

The looting and seizure of property also stand out as an important pattern accompanying changes of control in areas of the western coast. The organizations received testimonies and reports of private homes being entered and their contents looted, and of furniture, documents, equipment, and assets being seized from judicial, medical, and humanitarian facilities. The testimony of Omar Doblah, together with the testimony of Salma Mohammed Abdullah Afisah and other accounts from Mocha, Hays,

and Al-Khawkhah, supports the need for an independent and systematic survey of looted property to identify its owners and its fate, without adopting broad estimates before verifying them case by case.

The report also documents a disturbing pattern concerning the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, based on direct accounts from children who described pathways that, in some cases, began with religious or cultural courses, ideological mobilization, financial incentives, or family pressure, and then progressed to weapons training and transfer to camps, military positions, and battlefronts. These testimonies reveal the variety of recruitment methods and show that they are not limited to direct physical coercion.

Displacement constituted one of the most prominent humanitarian consequences of the escalation. Displacement figures rose rapidly during September, and by 21 September the number of displaced people registered with the International Organization for Migration had reached 129,438 people representing 21,573 families, while data from the Executive Unit showed higher figures because of differences in the scope and methodology of monitoring and registration. More than 3,100 people also crossed from Yemen into Djibouti, while reception sites came under increasing pressure in relation to shelter, water, food, health care, education, and protection. Individual testimonies, including that of Salma, who left Mocha with her three children on a livestock truck, show how civilians move from the danger of fighting into other forms of deprivation and loss of privacy, property, and livelihoods.

The report concludes that the information collected by the organizations up to 22 September reveals recurring patterns of harm and potential violations, including the killing and injury of civilians, recruitment and use of children, arrest, detention and restrictions on movement, attacks on civilian objects and medical facilities, the entry into homes and public and humanitarian facilities and looting of property, and violations of the sanctity of the dead. With regard to a number of these incidents, there are reasonable grounds warranting independent and effective investigations, while final legal and criminal attribution remains dependent on the evidence specific to each incident.

The report recommends ending unlawful attacks on civilians and civilian objects; ending the recruitment and use of children; releasing persons arbitrarily detained and disclosing the fate of missing and forcibly disappeared persons; ending the entry into and looting of homes and facilities; and returning seized property, documents, and aid. It also calls for protecting displacement routes and abandoned property, expanding the humanitarian response, and enabling independent investigations to access sites, victims, and witnesses and to preserve medical, visual, and physical evidence in a manner that allows individual responsibility and chains of command to be determined when the necessary evidence is available.

Section One

Human Rights Report



1 Introduction

- This report documents the human rights and humanitarian repercussions of the military escalation witnessed in Yemen from July to September 2026, and the broad changes on the ground that accompanied it in Taiz Governorate, the western coast, and the areas connected to the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The escalation forced tens of thousands of civilians to leave their homes and exposed the population to increasing risks to life, physical integrity, housing, property, and freedom of movement.

- As the fighting expanded and control changed in parts of western Taiz and the western coast, reports emerged of civilians being killed and injured, children being recruited and used in hostilities, educational facilities and residential neighborhoods being shelled, journalists and civilians being arrested, property being looted and homes seized, and the sanctity of the dead and graves being violated. These allegations require an independent investigation and urgent measures to protect the population, preserve evidence, and ensure victims' access to remedies.

- The documentation process derives its importance from the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the risk that evidence may be lost as displacement continues, territorial control changes, and incident sites, records, and documents may be tampered with. The report responds to the duty to protect civilians, rather than commenting on the outcomes of military operations in themselves; it addresses developments on the ground only insofar as they affected people's lives and rights or revealed patterns of conduct that warrant investigation and accountability.

The report addresses the escalation whose phases began with the crisis involving the Iranian Mahan Air aircraft in July 2026, followed by the Ansar Allah group, the "Houthis," announcing the end of the de-escalation phase and imposing restrictions on vessels linked to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the slogan "siege for siegeThen the operations expanded to western Taiz, Mocha, Al-Khawkhah, Hays, and the areas surrounding Bab al-Mandab, leading to broad changes in control and mass displacement of the population.

- Displacement reached a level that created urgent humanitarian needs. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in coverage published on 15 September 2026, around 125,000 **people, representing** at least 18,000 families, had **been displaced** since the beginning of September. This figure is presented as a United Nations estimate of the scale of population movement, not as an independent tally prepared by the organizations, and it is not limited to people displaced from the city of Mocha. The same source reported that the United Nations Human Rights Office had verified 40 civilian **casualties, including** 8 people **killed and 32 injured,** between 1 **and 14 September, and that** women and children made up half of those killed and more than half of those injured.

Subsequent updates then showed that the movement was accelerating. On 21 September 2026, the International Organization for Migration registered around 129,438 displaced people, representing 21,573 families, in seven governorates, while more recent field data from the Executive Unit, reported by Al Jazeera, showed a higher figure of 158,109 people as of 19 September because of differences in registration scope and methodology. These figures are presented as updates issued by their respective sources and are not an independent tally prepared by the organizations.

The report focuses on examining incidents attributed to the Houthi group, given the concentration of reports and testimonies concerning the group's conduct during military operations and after control shifted to new areas. This focus does not relieve the Yemeni government, forces allied with it, or any other party of their obligations, nor does it mean that every harm that occurred during the period covered is automatically attributed to the group. Within the limits of the available information, the report also addresses attacks attributed to the Houthis inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia insofar as they relate to the escalation and the resulting civilian harm.

2 Objectives of the Report

- The report aims to demonstrate the impact of the escalation on civilians who bore its direct cost, document patterns of violations, and provide a professional basis for investigation, accountability, humanitarian response, and reparation. In particular, it seeks to answer the following questions:

1) What patterns of violations could be documented during the period covered?
2) To what extent did the parties to the conflict comply with their obligations to protect civilians when carrying out attacks and during withdrawals or transfers of control to new areas?
3) What was the impact of military operations on life and physical integrity, displacement, housing and property, education and health, freedom of the press, and child protection?
4) What methods were used to attract, recruit, train, and use children in hostilities?
5) What obstacles prevent voluntary, safe, and dignified return, the recovery of property, and access to reparation?
6) What urgent measures are required to halt violations, disclose the fate of detainees and missing persons, protect children, and secure access for humanitarian assistance?

3 Temporal and Geographic Scope

- The report covers, in temporal terms, the connected series of escalation that began with the Mahan Air aircraft crisis on 3 July 2026 and continued until 22 September 2026, with a particular focus on the operations that began in early September in western Taiz and the western coast, and the subsequent changes of control over Mocha, Al-Khawkhah, Hays, and sites connected to the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

- The geographic scope includes Taiz Governorate, including Taiz city, Mocha, Al-Wazi'iyah, Mawza, Maqbanah, Jabal Habashy, Al-Ma'afer, Al-Shamayatayn, and adjoining areas; the districts of Hays and Al-Khawkhah in Hodeidah Governorate; the Dhubab axis, Ras al-Arah, and Bab al-Mandab in Lahj; Marib, Amran, and Sana'a insofar as incidents were directly connected to the escalation; and areas receiving displaced people in Taiz, Lahj, Aden, Abyan, Hadramout, Al-Mahrah, and Shabwah, in addition to movement across to Djibouti. It also includes, insofar as incidents were linked to the context of the escalation, areas in southern Saudi Arabia that were subjected to attacks attributed to the Houthi group.

- The report does not claim to cover all violations that occurred within or outside this scope, and the cases included do not constitute a complete enumeration of all victims. Rather, it presents the incidents about which the organizations were able to collect information during the specified period, with the sources of information, verification procedures, and limits of documentation explained in the methodology section.

4 Applicable Legal Framework

- At a minimum, the confrontations between the Yemeni government and forces allied with it on the one hand, and the Houthi group on the other, are classified as a non-international armed conflict. Accordingly, Common **Article 3** of the four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II of 1977 apply, alongside the rules of customary international humanitarian law binding on all parties to the conflict.

- These rules require the parties to distinguish between civilians and combatants, and between civilian objects and military objectives; prohibit attacks directed against civilians or civilian objects; and also prohibit indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks. They require all feasible precautions to be taken in planning and carrying out attacks in order to avoid or minimize civilian harm. See: Rules 1, 7, 11, 14, and 15 of the International Committee of the Red Cross study on customary international humanitarian law.

- The applicable rules prohibit forced displacement except where required by the security of civilians or imperative military reasons, and prohibit pillage, outrages upon dignity, torture, and cruel treatment. They also require detainees to be treated humanely; the wounded and sick to be collected, protected, and cared for; and medical personnel, facilities, and means of transport to be respected. Children enjoy special protection, and their recruitment or use in hostilities is prohibited within the limits established by Additional Protocol II and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- International human rights law continues to apply alongside international humanitarian law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide a framework for interpreting the rights of displaced persons and the responsibilities of authorities toward them. These obligations remain in force regardless of the political or military justifications for operations or violations committed by the other party.

5 Methodology

- This report is based on field documentation conducted by SAM for Rights and Liberties in partnership with Rasd for Rights and Liberties and Justice and Equity for Development and Human Rights concerning more than 20 cases during the period covered by the report. The organizations' monitors collected information directly from victims, survivors, victims' families, and witnesses whenever security conditions permitted, with the aim of providing an accurate and balanced account of the incidents and their impact on civilians.

- The organizations' monitors worked in areas that witnessed confrontations and changes in military control, despite security risks and difficulties of access and communication. The documentation process included conducting direct interviews, determining the time and place of each incident, verifying the identities and status of those affected, the nature of the harm, and the party to which the act was attributed. Where possible, photographs, documents, medical information, and relevant visual material were also collected.

- The organizations contacted the relevant military and field actors to obtain their information and give them an opportunity to present their account and respond to the allegations attributed to them. Responses received by SAM and its partners were included, or their substance was noted, whenever they could be verified. A failure to respond does not, in itself, constitute evidence that an allegation is true or that responsibility has been established.

- Direct documentation was supplemented by reviewing official statements, press sources, posts by journalists and local entities, reports by the United Nations and human rights and humanitarian organizations, and available photographs and recordings. These materials were used to cross-check testimonies and establish the sequence of events, while avoiding treating repetition of the same report by multiple outlets as independent confirmation when the original source was the same.

- The organizations distinguished between what a witness personally observed and what the witness relayed from others, and between establishing that harm occurred and establishing the party responsible for it. When a material element could not be verified, or accounts conflicted, the report explained the limits of the available information and used expressions such as “allegations were reported” or “the organizations were unable to verify independently,” instead of presenting conclusive findings.

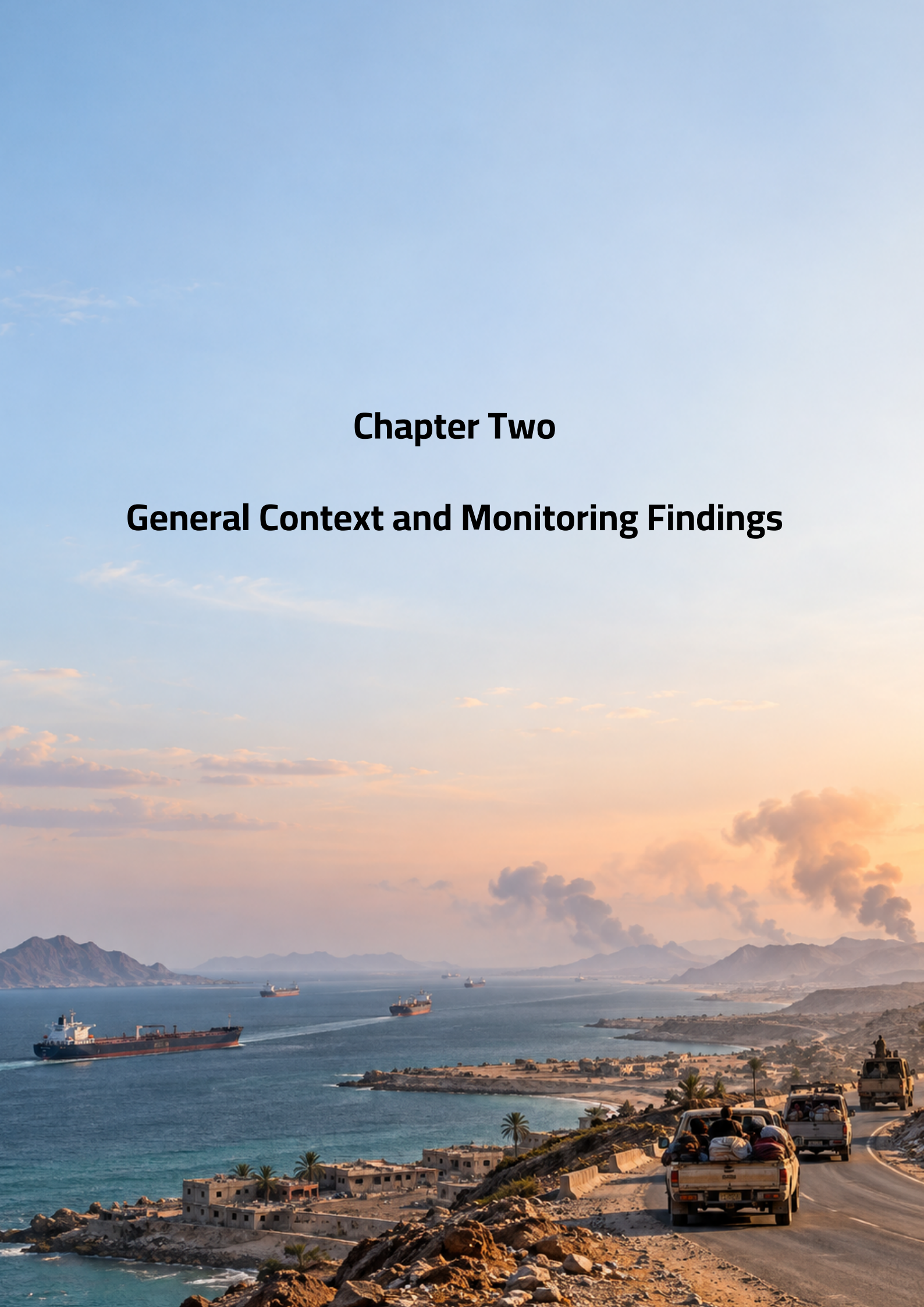
- Interviews took into account the safety of victims, witnesses, and sources; the confidentiality of their information; informed consent; and the best interests of children. The identities of some sources were withheld when disclosure could expose them or others to danger.

- The report applied the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard in formulating its findings: that is, the existence of reliable and consistent information sufficient to make it reasonable to conclude that the incident occurred as described. This threshold does not equal the criminal standard of proof and is not, on its own, sufficient to attribute individual criminal responsibility, which requires an independent judicial investigation into the identity of perpetrators and commanders, intent, knowledge, and the circumstances surrounding each incident.

- The cases documented by the organizations remain a sample of the violations that could be accessed and verified and do not constitute a comprehensive enumeration of all incidents during the period covered. Security risks, changes in control, and difficulties in accessing some locations affected the scope of documentation; accordingly, the report’s conclusions are limited to the evidence that could be collected and examined.

Chapter Two

General Context and Monitoring Findings



First: General Context and Sequence of Escalation

- Between July and September 2026, Yemen witnessed a gradual escalation encompassing the airspace, cross-border attacks, maritime navigation, and ground fronts. The escalation culminated in broad changes in the map of control over the western coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, accompanied by civilian casualties, widespread displacement, and reports of violations during military operations and after control changed hands.

- This round followed a period of relative calm after the United Nations-brokered truce that began on 2 April 2022 and whose formal extension ended on 2 October 2022. Although no political settlement was reached, the level of fighting remained lower than in previous years of the war, within a framework of undeclared de-escalation. See: Human Rights Watch, World Report 2023.

- On 3 July 2026, an aircraft belonging to the Iranian company Mahan Air landed at Sana'a Airport and then departed for Tehran carrying a Houthi delegation. The Yemeni government regarded the flight as a violation of the country's sovereignty, while the Houthis presented it as a step to break what they described as the blockade and threatened to target Saudi airports and interests if the flights were prevented.

- On 4 July, intense clashes broke out on the Hays front, south of Hodeidah, following a Houthi attack on government-force positions. This showed that the air-travel crisis coincided with the beginning of a ground escalation on fronts connected to the western coast.

- On 13 July, government forces announced that they had targeted the runway at Sana'a Airport to prevent an Iranian aircraft from landing, while the Houthis accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out the strikes, and the aircraft diverted to Hodeidah Airport. On the same day, the Houthis announced that they had targeted Abha Airport, while the coalition announced the interception of missiles launched toward southern Saudi Arabia. These developments were accompanied by the group's announcement that the de-escalation phase had ended.

- On 20 July, the Houthi group announced the imposition of a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia under the slogan "siege for siege." The following day, Reuters disclosed messages the group had sent to shipping companies warning them against dealing with Saudi ports and threatening to target non-compliant vessels. The agency reported that two tankers carrying Saudi oil changed course following the warnings.

- On 9 August, Mocha Port was subjected to a missile and drone attack attributed to the Houthi group. SAM reported that employees and workers were inside the port at the time of the attack, while the scale of the losses and the nature of the damaged sites remained under verification.

- On 3 and 4 September, operations expanded in western Taiz and along the western coast, and their effects reached villages, camps, and civilian facilities in Maqbanah, Jabal Habashy, Al-Wazi'iyah, and areas connected to Mocha. SAM documented casualties and the displacement of families, some of whom had previously been displaced. On 3 September, the commander of the Taiz Axis instructed his forces to protect civilians and their property and to comply with international humanitarian law.

- During 5 and 6 September, reports were received of shelling on the Hayjat al-Abd road and civilians being injured by sniper fire west of Taiz. At dawn on 6 September, three ballistic missiles were launched toward Taiz city and fell near civilian facilities, including the vicinity of the Faculty of Medicine at Taiz University, where buildings under construction belonging to the faculty were damaged.

- On 8 September, the Houthi group announced that it had carried out missile and drone attacks on areas in southern Saudi Arabia. SAM cited the Saudi authorities as reporting that 73 civilians, including women and children, were injured and that facilities in Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan, and Najran were damaged. This casualty figure is presented as attributed to the Saudi authorities.

- On 10 September, corroborating reports indicated that the Houthis had taken control of the city of Mocha after advancing in Hays and Al-Khawkhah and reaching islands in the southern Red Sea, amid the retreat of government forces and forces allied with them. The transfer of control coincided with large numbers of residents fleeing and military operations drawing closer to Bab al-Mandab.

- On 11 September, Reuters cited Yemeni government sources as saying that Houthi forces had reached Mayyun Island and the Dhubab area, while the Associated Press reported that the group had taken control of the island. This marked the extension of the military advance to positions directly on the Bab al-Mandab Strait, without necessarily meaning full control over international maritime traffic.

- Between 11 and 15 September, The organizations received testimonies about residents fleeing and losing homes and property, alongside reports of journalists being arrested, homes being entered, private property being looted, and difficulties obtaining shelter and medical care. The organizations distinguished between testimonies collected directly by their monitors and allegations that still required further verification.

- By 14 September, the number of people displaced in Yemen since the beginning of the month had reached around 125,000, according to an estimate by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. This figure is not limited to people displaced from Mocha, but reflects the scale of displacement monitored by the United Nations amid restrictions on aid movement, the inability to use some roads, and shortages of funding and supplies.

On 4 September, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the escalation in Maqbanah and Jabal Habashy had forced around 1,790 families to flee, an early indication of the displacement wave that expanded rapidly over the following days.

On 13 September, the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights announced a preliminary toll that it said had reached 150 civilian deaths, more than 200 people injured, and around 85,000 displaced people since the start of the escalation. The organizations present these figures as a preliminary government tally that differs in scope and methodology from United Nations figures and does not combine them with those figures.

On 15 September, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warned of expanding displacement inside Yemen and increasing crossings to Djibouti, while UNICEF announced that more than 137,000 school-age children were facing major disruptions to education as a result of the escalation. On the same day, Human Rights Watch published an assessment of Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and considered that at least three cases were likely to amount to war crimes. This is a legal assessment attributed to the organization and not an independent conclusion by the organizations.

Between 16 and 18 September, the recorded incidents included the killing of three children in the village of Al-Turayrah in Al-Wazi'iyah District; the fall of a missile in Bani Suraym in Amran Governorate, which was reported to have killed African migrants; the fall of a missile in the village of Al-Jurayb east of Mocha; and testimonies and reports of homes and medical and humanitarian facilities being looted in Mocha and Al-Khawkhah, in addition to arrests in Sana'a on the basis of kinship with a person involved in the fighting.

On 17 September, Anadolu Agency reported a sharp decline in vessel traffic through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, saying that total traffic over a 24-hour period had fallen by around 88 percent, from an average of approximately 33 vessels to about four, and that the passage of oil and chemical tankers had declined by around 91 percent. It noted the strait's importance to global trade and energy, indicating that the effects of the fighting had extended to civilian navigation and supply chains.

On 18 September, the United Nations in Geneva said that the Human Rights Office had documented 110 people killed and injured since the escalation, including 28 people killed, while indicating that the actual toll was likely higher. It also reported that 73 United Nations staff members remained arbitrarily detained by the de facto Houthi authorities, and the United Nations Population Fund estimated that around 2,000 pregnant women were among the newly displaced.

On 20 September, a World Health Organization report recorded 680 new deaths and injuries during the period from 13 to 18 September, including 164 deaths and 516 injuries, and stated that nine health facilities or assets in Taiz, Lahj, and Hodeidah had been damaged, closed, rendered out of service, or attacked.

On 21 and 22 September, a popular market in front of the Bab al-Mandab Commercial Complex in the Al-Hajf area of Lahj Governorate was shelled, while the latest number of displaced people registered by the International Organization for Migration rose to 129,438. UNHCR warned of additional waves of internal displacement and refugee movements and announced the activation of a Level 1 emergency for Yemen, Djibouti, and Somalia.

Second: Monitoring Findings and Reports

- During the period covered by the report, The organizations monitored an increase in reports concerning violations and harm suffered by civilians as military operations expanded and control changed in areas of Taiz and Hodeidah governorates and the western coast. The preliminary monitoring database comprised 85 records, divided **between** 70 records in **the main** list and 15 additional records **received** from the organizations' monitors in Hodeidah. These records do not represent 85 separate incidents; a single incident may at times involve several victims or more than one civilian object, and some people and facilities appeared in both lists.

- According to the preliminary classification, the 70 records in the main list comprised **13 records of killings, 17 of injuries, 28 of attacks on public property, 10 of attacks on private property, and two of abduction or detention. The additional** list, comprising 15 records, included five records of people **killed, five of civilian injuries, three of damage to public or private property, one of coercion to join the front lines, and one of an assault on the sanctity of a grave. Some of these** records overlap with the main list, and the figures from the two lists therefore cannot be added together mathematically as a final tally.

- After reviewing the names and excluding obvious duplication, the monitoring tally indicates that at least **16 civilians were killed and** around 18 others **injured. This** tally includes victims who were assigned individual records with distinct names, while details of some incidents referred to additional people killed and injured, including a husband, a mother, and children, without separate individual records being created for them. Accordingly, the figures represent a minimum of the cases that reached the organizations and are not a final enumeration of all victims.

- The monitoring showed a particular impact on children. At least 11 **children could be identified** among those killed and injured on the basis of documented ages or an explicit description of the victim as a child. The documented ages ranged **from 4 to 15** years and included children aged 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, and 15. Among the cases were two displaced children aged four and six who were killed inside a gathering of displaced people in Raghwan, a 14-year-old girl who was killed, and a 15-year-old boy who was killed while his family was attempting to flee, in addition to children injured by shelling, shrapnel, and gunfire. The number of children may be higher because the ages of some victims were not recorded.

- By type of act, the main list contained seven records **of deaths caused by shelling, three of deaths caused by gunfire, one of a death caused by sniper fire, and two cases of execution or** physical liquidation. **It also contained 10 records of injuries caused by shelling, four of injuries caused by** sniper fire, and three of injuries caused by gunshots. This breakdown shows that shelling with mortars, projectiles, and missiles was the principal cause of death and injury in the monitored cases, alongside sniper fire, direct gunfire, and drones.

- A significant share of the reports was **concentrated between 3 and 12** September 2026. In the main list, 21 cases **were recorded on 5 September, 11 on 10 September, 10 on 12 September, and six on 11 September, in addition to cases that occurred** on other days or whose dates were not precisely determined. This temporal concentration reflects the coincidence of increased reporting with intensified fighting, military advances, and changes of control in several areas, but it does not necessarily mean that every record represents a separate incident.

- Geographically, the main list included 40 records in Taiz Governorate **and 30 in Hodeidah Governorate. Hays topped the locations** appearing in the data with 23 records, followed by Mocha, **whose name** appeared in two spellings, with a total of 19 records, then Maqbanah **with eight** records, Al-Khawkhah **with** six, Mawza with **three, and** Al-Wazi'iyah **with** two, in addition to cases in Taiz city, Sabir al-Mawadim, and other areas. These figures do not necessarily reflect the actual scale of violations in each district, as they may be affected by the concentration of monitors and the ability to reach victims and sources.

- With regard to property and objects, the main list included 28 records related **to public property and 10 records related to private property. The** objects monitored included schools and an education office, four judicial facilities, three rural hospitals, Mocha Airport and Port, the local authority headquarters, premises or assets belonging to humanitarian organizations, as well as homes, shops, commercial workshops, and vehicles. The detailed classifications also included 13 records **of raids and entry, five of looting and occupation, four of entry and looting, and three of looting, in addition to records involving the seizure of property, documents, and humanitarian** aid. This breakdown remains based on the number of records because a single facility may have been recorded twice when it was both entered and looted.

- The reports also included the arrest of a journalist and a judge; the detention of family members of wanted persons to exert pressure on them; the confiscation of vehicles and humanitarian assistance; and information about persons from marginalized groups being forced to join the front lines. The organizations also recorded a report of a grave being exhumed in Al-Khawkhah and remains being violated, as well as information about restrictions on services at three health facilities after they were designated to receive wounded persons affiliated with the Houthi group.

Other incidents reported in credible United Nations, official, and media updates up to 22 September 2026 are added to the direct monitoring database. These incidents appear in the report as supplementary material for context and verification and are not mathematically added to the organizations' internal records unless they had already been entered in the field documentation database, in order to avoid duplication.

This report also includes direct accounts obtained by the organizations concerning displaced families whose members were injured or went missing in the Al-Omari Triangle area and around Bab al-Mandab, along with a new testimony concerning a family displaced from Mocha whose home was looted. These cases were not mathematically incorporated into the core tally above pending completion of cross-checking against previous records, in order to avoid duplication and ensure the accuracy of the final figures.

- The monitoring was based on reports received by the organizations' monitors from victims, survivors, relatives, witnesses, and local residents, and on contacts made by the organizations with civilian and military actors present in the field, despite security risks and difficulties of access. Where possible, the information was reinforced with official and local statements, press reports, photographs and video recordings, and published information about victims and damaged sites. The organizations did not treat repeated publication of the same report as independent confirmation when the different materials relied on the same primary source.

- The records vary in completeness. Some include the victim's name and age, the location of the incident, the type of injury, and the source, while others lack the age, precise date, or an independent source for attribution. The review also showed repetition of some names and facilities, variations in the spelling of victims' names, confusion between the governorate of origin and the place where the violation occurred, and the entry of some institutions into fields intended for individuals. The figures are therefore presented as a preliminary **monitoring tally subject to review and updating, with** a distinction maintained between the number of records, incidents, victims, and affected objects.

Chapter Three

Patterns of Documented Violations



1 Attacks on Civilian Objects

- During the period covered by the report, the organizations documented a series of attacks and acts of control affecting civilian objects, including an educational facility, judicial facilities, a mosque, residential buildings, vehicles, and economic facilities. These acts occurred in two interconnected contexts: missile, projectile, and drone attacks on populated areas inside Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia; and entry into civilian facilities and seizure of their contents following changes in military control in parts of the western coast. The documentation is based on information collected by the organizations' monitors, official statements, press reports, and public testimonies that were cross-checked, without treating repeated publication of information as independent confirmation when the published materials traced back to a single original source.

Documented Incidents

Faculty of Medicine at Taiz University

- At exactly 3:00 a.m. on 6 September 2026, official and local sources reported that three ballistic missiles had been launched toward Taiz city and had fallen near civilian facilities, including the vicinity of the Faculty of Medicine at Taiz University. The organizations later received information that buildings under construction belonging to the faculty had been damaged. The available information provides a reasonable basis to believe that buildings belonging to a civilian educational facility were damaged by one of the projectiles. A source at the university told the organizations: "The strike was at 3 a.m., with a number of missiles that caused extensive damage to two buildings, the Faculty of Medicine building and the Faculty of Pharmacy building. The sounds of the explosions terrified residents in the densely populated area surrounding the faculty,

and the explosions damaged window glass in homes adjacent to the faculty. There is extensive damage to the faculty buildings that were targeted, in addition to damage to much of the material supplied to the construction company at the faculty."

According to the Yemeni News Agency (Saba), the missiles fell near the Social Welfare building, the vicinity of the Faculty of Medicine, and the Central Prison west of Taiz city, with no injuries recorded according to preliminary information. Anadolu Agency also confirmed the launch of three missiles. SAM and its partners present these locations as impact points or surrounding areas reported by the sources, while determining the intended target of each missile still requires independent technical verification.

Shelling of the Judicial Complex in Jabal Jarrah

- On 8 September 2026, journalist Mohammed Taher reported that the judicial complex in the Jabal Jarrah area in central Taiz city had been shelled, and later published an update reporting that the site had been subjected to a second shelling on the same day. His account is consistent with what Al-Ayyam newspaper published, citing local sources, about the shelling of the complex and surrounding residential areas, coinciding with shelling of populated neighborhoods in the Air Defense area northwest of the city. The available information supports that shelling occurred, but is insufficient to conclusively identify the firing party or establish the presence of a military objective inside or near the complex.

Targeting Civilian Homes in Marib

- On 9 September 2026, local media circulated video recordings and information about a missile, whose launch was attributed to the Houthi group, falling on a house occupied by the Al-Sufi family in Marib Governorate. The organizations reviewed a written report stating that the shelling targeted homes of persons affiliated with the Military Works Branch at the branch camp in the Al-Hammah area and caused damage to the homes and the families' property. The report included the names of 10 victims, including three people killed and seven women and children injured. Among the injured was the child Al-Zubair Fahd Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, who was later reported to have had his leg amputated as a result of his injury.

Projectile Falls in Al-Tuwal, Jazan Region

- On 12 September 2026, the Saudi Civil Defense announced that a projectile had fallen in Al-Tuwal Governorate in the Jazan region and said it had been launched by the Houthi group. According to the statement, the incident injured two people and damaged a mosque and a number of buildings and vehicles. The organizations present the toll as attributed to the official Saudi source because they were unable independently to inspect the site and the projectile remnants.

Attacks on Southern Saudi Arabia

- On 8 September 2026, SAM for Rights and Liberties said that the Houthi group had announced missile and drone attacks on areas in southern Saudi Arabia. According to information announced by the Saudi authorities, the attacks injured 73 civilians, including women and children, and affected sites in Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan, and Najran. Reuters also cited the Saudi Ministry of Energy as saying that a number of energy installations and facilities were attacked, causing fires and the temporary suspension of some operations.

Additional Incidents Affecting Civilian Objects and Medical Facilities

On 5 September, the Yemeni Ministry of Education reported that a missile had fallen on the Education Office building in Hays District, Hodeidah Governorate, with no clear casualty toll in the first hours.

On 6 September, Al-Masdar Online reported that a missile launched toward Taiz fell in the Al-Majma' area in rural Ibb, damaging the home of Hafidh Allah Qaed al-Shanini and five neighboring houses without causing injuries, according to the source.

Also on 6 September, local sources published reports of shelling of the villages of Bani Bakari and Al-Sharajah, while journalist Mohammed Taher reported shelling of the areas of Kalabah, Usayfirah, and Jabal Jarrah in Taiz, and other reports were received of the Al-Shaqab area being shelled with mortars. These incidents are presented as local reports requiring verification of impact points and sources of fire.

On the evening of 7 September, Al-Jumhuriya Channel reported that a ballistic missile had fallen in the vicinity of 2 December Hospital in Mocha city, without a final toll of human or material damage being clear.

On 13 September, journalist Mohammed Taher reported shelling of the Al-Qasr entrance and residential neighborhoods east of Taiz city, as well as missile shelling of the villages of Duba' al-Dakhil in Al-Shamayatayn District. On 15 September, the same source reported that a shell had fallen on the judicial complex in Jabal Jarrah.

On 15 September, Human Rights Watch published a review of attacks on commercial vessels since 20 July and named four vessels that it said had been confirmed as attacked by more than one source: "Insilia," "Daisy," "Tihama," and "Amzan." With regard to the vessel "Tihama" on 11 August, it reported that four crew members and two Yemeni Coast Guard personnel were killed during the rescue operation and at least 10 people were injured. Accounts differed regarding the nature of the cargo, and the organizations were unable to verify it. The organizations present this as documentation and an assessment issued by Human Rights Watch.

On 17 September, Al-Masdar Online reported that a missile had fallen in the village of Al-Jurayb east of Mocha after being launched toward an area south of Bab al-Mandab, with no confirmed human or material losses in the preliminary information.

On 18 September, the Hodeidah Governorate Media Office reported the demolition by explosion of the home of Brigadier General Suleiman Mansar, commander of the First Zaranig Brigade, on the coast south of Hodeidah, and spoke of reports that the group had begun blowing up other homes. The organizations were unable independently to verify the incident or its scope.

On 20 September, Al-Jumhuriya Channel reported that residential villages in the Rasin area of Al-Shamayatayn District had been shelled following military clashes in the area, with no announced casualty toll.

A World Health Organization report issued on 20 September stated that nine health facilities or assets in Taiz, Lahj, and Hodeidah had been damaged, closed, rendered out of service, or attacked, and that the targeting of ambulances on the Kahbub front on 18 September resulted in the killing of an ambulance driver and a member of the emergency medical response.

On 21 September, surveillance-camera recordings showed a projectile falling in a popular market in front of the Bab al-Mandab Commercial Complex in the Al-Hajf area of Lahj. The Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights said that the market was struck by two ballistic missiles around one hour apart, injuring civilians and damaging shops and vehicles. Eekad published an open-source analysis concluding that the missile visible in the recording was traveling from the northwest. The organizations treat this as a visual indicator that does not determine the launch point or responsibility without an independent technical examination.

2 Killing and Injury of Civilians

Pattern of Violation

- The organizations documented incidents in which civilians were killed and injured as a result of artillery and missile shelling, sniper fire, direct gunfire, and drone attacks. The incidents involved civilians inside their homes, families while fleeing or traveling, displaced people in residential gatherings, and children, women, and older persons. The documentation is based on testimonies collected by the organizations' monitors, local and official statements, and press publications, with a distinction between incidents directly verified by the organizations and those still based on a single source or requiring additional evidence.

Documented Incidents

Killing of a Pregnant Woman and Her Fetus in Al-Shaqab

- On 12 September 2026, the Taiz Human Rights Center announced the death of Maliyah Abduljalil Mahyoub Ali, aged 32, and her eight-month-old fetus after a mortar shell fell on homes in Naqil al-Haddah in the Al-Shaqab area, southeast of Taiz. The center said that its team went to the site and documented that shrapnel entered the victim's body through the back and exited through the abdomen. Witnesses contacted by the organizations also said there was no apparent military objective in the residential area and attributed the firing of the shell to the Houthi group.

Shooting at Abdulghani Razah's Family While Traveling

- On 11 September 2026, journalist Wadi' Atta reported that gunmen opened fire on a taxi minibus carrying the family of engineer Abdulghani Razah toward Al-Khawkhah, killing Khaled Abdulghani Razah, aged 15, his sister Marina, and their grandfather Hassan Abdu Saleh, and injuring the children's mother and their siblings Manal and Khalil. The source attributed the gunfire to armed men affiliated with the Houthi group and also said that they attempted to prevent those present from aiding the victims before people known to the family intervened and transferred the injured to hospitals in Al-Jarrahi and Zabid. The organizations were unable independently to verify the identity of the shooters, the location of the incident, or whether clashes were taking place there.

Teacher and His Son Targeted by a Drone

- On 11 September 2026, journalist Wadi' Atta reported that teacher Mohammed Omar Aqad and his son Younis were attacked by a drone while traveling by motorcycle between Hays and Al-Khawkhah to visit acquaintances, and he attributed the attack to the Houthi group. The post did not include details on the nature of their injuries or the final outcome, and no independent information was available on the strike location, the type of drone, or how the target was selected. The organizations therefore treat the incident as a serious allegation requiring further verification, and the current information does not permit a definitive determination of the status of those targeted, the lawfulness of the target, or the final legal characterization of the attack.

Projectile Falls Near a School in Duba'

- On 13 September 2026, journalist Fares Al-Humairi reported that a rocket projectile fell near a primary school inside a residential village in the Duba' area of Al-Shamayatayn District, causing fear and panic among residents. This account is consistent with what journalist Mohammed Taher published regarding rocket shelling of the villages of Duba' al-Dakhil, without information being reported about injuries or direct damage inside the school.

Shelling of a Gathering of Displaced People in Raghwan

- On 7 September 2026, the Executive Unit for the Management of IDP Camps in Marib announced that two children had been killed and 15 people injured, including eight children, after projectiles fell on a gathering of displaced people in Raghwan District, north of Marib, and attributed the attack to the Houthi group. The Yemeni News Agency (Saba), citing the same unit, confirmed the toll and damage; therefore, its reporting does not constitute independent confirmation. According to the unit, 16 shelters were damaged in a gathering housing 23 families, in addition to three vehicles.

Al-Omari Triangle – Missing and Injured Persons Among Civilian Families During Displacement

The organizations obtained a field account concerning an incident that occurred at around 1:00 a.m. on 9 September 2026 in the Al-Omari Triangle area, located on the road between Bab al-Mandab and Dhubab, during the movement of civilians fleeing the fighting. According to the account, the site was struck by a missile described as ballistic while displaced families were present in the area, followed by a second strike during attempts to aid the victims and rescue those trapped. A tanker loaded with fuel then exploded, causing a fire that affected a number of cars and vehicles at the location.

Among the injured persons whose details the organizations obtained was Suhad Ali Hammadi Omar Jamal, aged 25, who was struck by shrapnel that entered her right side and lodged in her spine. The information also included the family of Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 40, whose fate remains unknown, along with his two sons Ayman Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 16, and Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 14, both of whom are missing. Rina Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 9, sustained damage to her eardrum, and Afrah Aqleen Suwaid Hibat Allah suffered a perforated eardrum. The name Bayan Abdullah Mohammed Nasser Al-Amiri also appeared among the injured; she was struck by shrapnel in the hand. The information indicates that the family is connected to Al-Mina District in Hodeidah Governorate.

In another family, the fate of Nader Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged 15, became unknown, while five of his siblings were injured: Rasha Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged 17, by shrapnel to the head and face; Shaima Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged 12, by shrapnel to the head; Zahra Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged 7, by shrapnel to the hand; Mazen Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged 6, by shrapnel to the head; and Abdu Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged two, by shrapnel to the head.

The organizations also obtained information about a child named Raddad Mohammed Rizq Allah Faraj, stating that his father was killed in the incident while the fate of his mother, Saud Saeed Saif Abdullah Ismail, remains unknown, and that the child was the only survivor from his immediate family and was left without a provider. The available information did not include the child's age or his father's name, details that require further documentation. The organizations do not count the persons listed as missing among the dead unless reliable information establishes their death or they are found.

The organizations also obtained an additional account from a source who said that he passed the incident site after the shelling and saw charred bodies there. The source said that the strike occurred on the night of the displacement on the road opposite Al-Omari Camp and attributed the missile to the Houthi group. He added that inability to reach the site and the continued presence of missing persons prevented an accurate count of the dead and injured, and said that some bodies remained at the incident site after the displaced people withdrew. The organizations do not yet have a final list of the names of those killed or the number of bodies seen by the source; the account therefore strengthens the indication that serious human losses occurred at the site, but on its own is insufficient to determine the final toll or technically establish the source of the projectile.

Bab al-Mandab Complex – Account of Another Incident and Casualties Among Civilian Families

The same source reported another incident on the road connected to Bab al-Mandab, at the Bab al-Mandab Complex, after the Al-Omari Triangle incident by a period he was unable to specify precisely. According to the account, shelling struck a truck said to have been loaded with ammunition, and the resulting explosion caused deaths and missing persons among several families who were in the area or passing through it. The source said that collection of data on victims and missing persons was still ongoing and that some families continued to search for relatives who had gone missing at different locations along the road. The organizations treat this information as a preliminary account requiring further field documentation, including determining the date and time of the incident, the location of the truck and the nature of its cargo, the identities of the victims, and the source and chronological sequence of the shelling.

Children and a Woman Injured by Sniper Fire West of Taiz

- On 7 September 2026, Saba Agency, citing local sources, reported that four civilians were injured by sniper fire attributed to the Houthi group in the Al-Kadhah and Al-Rahbah areas west of Taiz. The injured included the child Mahfouz Mahfouz Salem Abdulrazzaq, aged 7, who was shot in the back; his brother Nunan, aged 13, who was shot in the palm; Safa Mahfouz Salem Abdulrazzaq, aged 30, who was shot in the neck; and the child Turki Hazza Ahmed Hizam, aged 8, who sustained shrapnel to the jaw.

Additional Incidents of Killing, Injury, and Risks to Civilians

On 7 September, media reports stated that a ballistic missile targeted civilian vehicles in the Al-Ghayl area north of Al-Wazi'iyah District in Taiz Governorate while they were transporting and evacuating displaced people from areas of fighting, injuring a number of citizens. The launch of the missile was attributed to the Houthi group. No final tally with the names of the injured or independent technical details about the projectile's trajectory and launch point were available, and the incident is therefore presented as still subject to completion and verification.

On 6 September, journalist Fares Al-Humairi reported that members linked to the Houthi group entered the home of soldier Taha Ahmed Mohammed Abdullah in a village in Maqbanah District where control had changed and killed him in front of his wife and children, noting that the man had a disability resulting from a previous landmine injury. The organizations continue to verify his legal status at the time of the incident and whether he was hors de combat or had come under the control of the force carrying out the act before he was killed; accordingly, it does not include him in the civilian toll until these elements are clarified. Source

On 5 September, Anadolu Agency reported that four civilians were killed and nine others injured after a ballistic missile fell on a civilian gathering on the Hayjat al-Abd road south of Taiz, and attributed the attack to the Houthi group.

On 7 September, the Taiz Human Rights Center reported that two women, Fathiya Hatem Saeed Al-Kamali and Inas Saeed Naji Ahmed, were injured by mortar shells in Al-Rawda neighborhood in Taiz city. On the same day, journalist Mohammed Taher also reported shelling of the Al-Kurayfat area and a number of eastern neighborhoods, without a verified casualty toll.

On 8 September, Ishraq Al-Maqtari reported the killing of Madin Amin Saeed Naji and Ghamdan Mohammed Amrah, approximately 16 and 17 years old, after they were shot while herding sheep in the Ahamah area of Al-Musaymir District in Lahj; some details regarding the names, ages, and type of weapon remained in need of verification.

On 13 September, journalist Fares Al-Humairi reported hearing three explosions in Marib and said that one of the missiles fell in the vicinity of Al-Suwayda IDP Camp, without any later verified casualty figure being available specifically for this incident.

On 14 September, the Executive Unit for the Management of IDP Camps in Marib announced that a ballistic missile had fallen in an area containing IDP camps and civilian housing in Raghwan and confirmed that no human losses were recorded.

On 16 September, journalist Fares Al-Humairi reported the killing of African migrants after a ballistic missile fell on a qat farm in the Bani Qays area of Bani Suraym District in Amran Governorate, and said the fall followed a failed launch operation attributed to the Houthi group. No precise number of victims was published.

The organizations also received direct information concerning five displaced families in Al-Shaab 2 Camp, including injuries among children: a 17-year-old girl with shrapnel wounds to the head and face, a 7-year-old girl with a hand injury, another girl with a hand injury and severe ear pain, and a 2-year-old child with a facial injury. The precise circumstances that caused the injuries still require further documentation before responsibility can be attributed.

According to the World Health Organization report, the Health Emergency Operations Center recorded 680 new deaths and injuries between 13 and 18 September, including 164 deaths and 516 injuries, bringing the total recorded since 6 August to 3,672 cases. The organizations present these figures as attributed to the operational record and not as an independent tally that it verified case by case.

The Taiz Human Rights Center had announced on 11 September a preliminary toll that it said its field team had documented over a 72-hour period: 139 people killed and around 180 injured, along with the displacement of approximately 2,300 families comprising 19,440 people from the western coast districts. The statement explained that the tally combined multiple categories and incidents, including civilians, prisoners, and members of displaced families, and did not attach a detailed list of all cases. The organizations therefore treat it as a preliminary tally attributed to the center and does not mathematically merge it with their own records or United Nations figures.

In a breakdown of the period from 13 to 18 September, the health report recorded 284 deaths and injuries in Lahj, 277 in Marib, and 103 in Taiz, with daily variations in the severity of incidents. The report noted a high proportion of deaths relative to injuries during this period, possibly linked to delays in access to surgical and emergency care and limited referral capacity, as well as the nature of the injuries and difficulties in communications and access.

3 Looting and Seizure of Property

The testimonies and reports collected or reviewed by the organizations reveal a pattern of entry into and seizure of private and public property following changes in control in areas of the western coast. The incidents vary in evidentiary strength: some are based on direct accounts from property owners, while others rely on local or official sources and require an independent inventory and case-by-case documentation.

Mocha – Omar Doblah's Testimony on the Looting of Homes

The organizations obtained a direct account from Omar Doblah, head of the Islah Party in Mocha, who said that his home had been looted after the military developments in the city. He described the house as consisting of five rooms, three bathrooms, and a kitchen, and said that it contained furniture he estimated to be worth around twenty million rials, important documents, and family photographs that he described as the most valuable things he kept. He also said that a hut adjacent to the house was burned.

"The looted homes, by God, are in the hundreds, in the hundreds; it is not just one, two, or three... Most of the looted homes belong to people from outside the area, from Sana'a, Dhamar, and Amran... I am a civilian, not military; likewise brother Najeeb Al-Shadhli... These are our homes and they were looted; likewise the home of brother Othman Al-Shami, and the home of Sheikh Hassan Abdulwahab Amer; very, very many, and I cannot count them."

Doblah added that the home of Najeeb Abdullah Al-Shadhli had also been looted, and among the homes he said were affected he mentioned the home of Othman Al-Shami and the home of Sheikh Hassan Abdulwahab Amer. The organizations treat his statement that the number of looted homes reached "hundreds" as an estimate by the person providing the testimony that requires verification through an inventory of names, addresses, and damage, and does not adopt the figure as a final tally before completing the documentation.

Mocha – Salma Afisah's Account of the Looting of Her Home After Displacement

The organizations obtained a direct account from Salma Mohammed Abdullah Afisah, aged 30, a widow and mother of three children, who said that her home in Mocha city was looted after she left the city with her children on the morning of 10 September 2026. Salma said that she was born and had lived in Mocha throughout her life and had only left it to travel to Taiz city for medical treatment.

According to her account, she left her home in haste, expecting the displacement to be temporary and that she would soon be able to return, and therefore left inside it her property and personal belongings that had belonged to her deceased husband and held special sentimental value for her. She later said that the house had been looted and that she had lost "everything she owned in life." The account did not provide a detailed inventory of the looted property or its value, and the organizations have not yet been able to inspect the house after the incident. The organizations therefore document the incident as a direct account from the homeowner that requires further physical verification of the extent of the looting and the fate of the property.

Other Incidents Related to Looting and Seizure

On 10 September, journalist Fares Al-Humairi reported looting at Mocha Port and Mocha Airport involving electronic devices, equipment, documents, and various assets. A United Nations report also confirmed the seizure of eight United Nations vehicles from the UN humanitarian center in Mocha, without explicitly identifying the responsible party.

On 12 September, the Hodeidah Governorate Media Office reported that judicial premises in Al-Khawkhah and Hays had been entered and that devices, furniture, documents, case files, deposited trusts, and other property had been seized. No independent inventory of the contents was available to the report.

On 14 September, the Hodeidah Governorate Media Office reported entry into and seizure of land, farms, commercial shops, motorcycles, furniture, and possessions from homes whose owners had left in Hays. The organizations were unable to verify all of the cases or the scale of the property seized.

On 18 September, Iman Al-Nashiri published a testimony in which she said that her home in Mocha had been entered and its contents looted after she was displaced again, adding that other homes whose owners had left had been subjected to similar acts. The organizations treat her account as a direct testimony concerning her own home, while the broader scope of the allegation requires independent documentation.

On the same day, the Hodeidah Governorate Media Office reported entry into, looting of, or tampering with medical and relief facilities and programs in Al-Khawkhah and areas of the western coast, including clinics, warehouses containing food and shelter materials, and a water project, and attributed the acts to the Houthi group. The organizations were unable to conduct an independent inventory of the damage or contents.

On 20 September, Al-Jumhuriya Channel, citing residents of Haraz village in Jabal Habashy, reported that members affiliated with the Houthi group entered the health unit and confiscated medicines, equipment, and medical supplies inside it. The organizations had no independent information on the quantities, their fate, or the extent to which the unit continued to provide services.

4 Arrest and Restrictions on Civilians and Humanitarian Work

The period of escalation included reports of civilians, journalists, and judicial workers being detained, restrictions on movement and residence, and practices affecting humanitarian work. The incidents below are presented according to their sources, with a distinction between what was directly verified and what still requires further documentation.

On 6 September, journalist Fares Al-Humairi reported that the Mocha–Al-Kadhah road was opened for several hours while checkpoints were set up and citizens were detained, and spoke of an ambulance being held while transporting the bodies of two soldiers from Mocha to Taiz. The number of detainees, the duration of the ambulance's detention, and the surrounding circumstances remained under verification.

In another field update the same day, Fares Al-Humairi reported that members affiliated with the group had set up sudden checkpoints on roads in Jabal Habashy District and detained citizens found carrying military identification cards. He also spoke of raids and searches of the homes of military personnel and opponents in rural western Taiz, the detention of some of them, and the confiscation of personal belongings. Source. The organizations do not treat this information as a complete list of cases; each incident requires identification of the detainee, the basis for detention, the property confiscated, and its fate.

Al-Humairi also reported that citizens were searched and held for a period at a checkpoint near Al-Kadhah and that, according to his account, their release was made conditional on chanting the group's slogan known as "the Scream." Source. The organizations were unable independently to verify the number of people, the duration of their detention, or the identity of those operating the checkpoint.

On 11 September, the Taiz Human Rights Center included in its preliminary tally allegations of homes being entered and their contents looted, and of preachers affiliated with the group being imposed on mosques in areas where control had changed. The statement does not provide an inventory of the mosques, the names of the preachers, or detailed incidents allowing case-by-case verification; this aspect therefore remains an allegation requiring independent documentation.

On 12 September, the Hodeidah Governorate Media Office reported that prosecution member Judge Abdulrazzaq Mohsen Saleh Halboub was detained in Hays. The organizations had no independent information on the duration of his detention or his subsequent status.

On 13 September, Al-Masdar Online reported that the Security Administration of Al-Hadd District in Lahj Governorate had given workers and tenant residents originating from the northern governorates 48 hours to regularize their status and leave the district, citing security conditions and the state of war.

Also on 13 September, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate said that it had received a report that journalist Sadeq Shalli, director of the media center of the National Resistance, had been arrested from his home in Mocha, and that the fighting had forced dozens of journalists to flee toward Aden. According to the syndicate's statement, the circumstances and location of his detention were unknown.

On 15 September, Al-Masdar Online reported that Ali Farouq Al-Khawlani had died from injuries sustained in an ambush targeting the convoy of his father, Brigadier General Farouq Al-Khawlani, and that the father had been captured during the fighting in Mocha. The source did not provide sufficient information to determine Ali's status or legally assess the circumstances of the targeting,

On 17 September, Al-Mushahid website reported that the Houthi group arrested in Sana'a the citizen Saleh Al-Hajjaji, aged 60, and his eldest son, because his other son, Osama, had participated in fighting on the western coast. It also reported the detention of the neighborhood aqil when he went to inquire about them. The organizations treat the incident as information attributed to the source and requiring additional verification.

On 18 September, the United Nations in Geneva said that 73 United Nations staff members remained arbitrarily detained by the de facto Houthi authorities, in addition to five former staff members and dozens of employees of non-governmental organizations, civil society, and diplomatic missions, and that entry into United Nations premises and seizure of their assets had obstructed the delivery of assistance in areas under the group's control.

5 Violation of the Sanctity of the Dead and Graves

- The organizations received information that graves belonging to members of the National Resistance Forces and the Tihama Resistance who had been killed were exhumed, with some remains removed, desecrated, shot at, and moved from their burial places, following the Houthi group's takeover of Al-Khawkhah city. This section is based on two public accounts concerning the grave of Brigadier General Yahya Al-Wahish, who was killed when his convoy was targeted with an explosive device along with a number of his companions in June 2026, and a separate account recorded by the organizations concerning other graves. Multiple publications do not constitute independent confirmation if they rely on a single primary source, and the scale of the violation cannot be established before the graves and their occupants are identified and examined in the field.

Documented Incidents

Exhumation of Brigadier General Yahya Al-Wahish's Grave

- On 11 September 2026, press sources reported that members affiliated with the Houthi group exhumed the grave of Brigadier General Yahya Al-Wahish in Al-Khawkhah and fired at his remains. Other sources gave a similar account and added that the members trampled on the bones, moved the remains, and dumped them in an area east of the city. Al-Wahish was a military commander in the National Resistance Forces and had been killed before the incident, in June 2026, in an explosive-device blast. The two accounts overlap in the core allegation concerning the exhumation of the grave and the assault on the remains, but it was not clear whether they relied on two independent sources. The organizations were also unable to inspect the grave or remains or interview family members and direct witnesses; therefore, the details concerning shooting, trampling on the bones, and moving the remains still require field verification.

Allegations of the Exhumation of Other Graves

- The organizations recorded an account stating that members affiliated with the Houthi group continued, after exhuming Al-Wahish's grave, to exhume other graves belonging to members of the Tihama Resistance who had been killed in Al-Khawkhah. The account indicated that the act extended to a number of graves over the following days, without providing the names of those buried, their number, or their precise locations. No geolocated photographs or burial records were available to permit independent cross-checking. The organizations therefore treat the account as a serious indicator of a possible broader pattern, not as a fully established incident.

6 Recruitment and Use of Children in Hostilities

- The organizations documented two cases of children whom the Houthi group recruited from their educational and social environments, then transferred to training camps, subjected to military training and religious and political indoctrination, and subsequently sent to sites connected to hostilities. The two accounts indicate a pathway beginning with cultural courses or direct contact with the child, the use of rhetoric about "defending the homeland" and confronting "aggression and mercenaries," the addition of financial incentives in some cases, and then transfer, training, and deployment to fronts. One of the children reported that around 30 children from his village had been recruited in this context. This figure cannot be generalized to other areas, but it is a serious indicator that recruitment within the village was not an isolated case.

The direct accounts are consistent with parallel reports of mobilization and recruitment activity in Ibb Governorate during the escalation. Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper published a report on mobilization campaigns in Al-Udayn, Far' Al-Udayn, Hazm Al-Udayn, and Mudhaykhirah, which it said involved young men and children and pressure on families to send their sons to the front lines. The organizations present this information as attributed to its source and does not add it to the number of cases directly documented by the organizations without completing individual verification.

Documented Incidents

Raydah – From a Summer Center to the Kahbub Front: The Case of Saylan Shayef Al-Matrati

The organizations monitored a video recording published by government forces of a young man who identified himself as Saylan Yahya Shayef and said he was 18 years old and from the Al-Matrad area of Amran Governorate. In the recording, Saylan said that he had spent around a month at a summer center before he and others were told that they would go to Mocha on a trip to "change the atmosphere" and visit the sea.

According to his recorded account, the participants reached the coast and swam in the sea, then were transferred to a camp, where he said they were given weapons and ammunition from a store inside it, before he was transferred directly from Mocha to the Kahbub front. He added that he was placed on one of the hills for a day before later being captured by the Giants Brigades.

Saylan said in the recording:

"They taught us at a summer center for a month, then they said we would go down to change the atmosphere in Mocha; they said the sea... They took us into the sea and we swam, then they came back and gave us weapons from the store in the camp and issued us ammunition, then we went directly from Mocha to here, to the Kahbub front."

Speaking about his capture, he added that the Giants Brigades gave him food and drink before transferring him from the area, and he concluded his account by saying: "My advice to the young men is to stay put and not go with the Houthis."

The video account provides an important indicator of the use of summer activities and centers and promises of recreational trips to attract young people and gradually transfer them from a civilian environment to a military one. According to the recording, Saylan did not say that he had been told from the outset that he would be transferred to a combat front; rather, he described a sequence that began with a summer center and a trip to the sea, followed by the provision of weapons and ammunition and direct transfer to the Kahbub front.

After reviewing the recording, The organizations traced Saylan's case, personal information, and route to the front, and also gathered field information about persons alleged to have played a role in mobilization and recruitment operations in Raydah District and neighboring areas of Amran Governorate. According to information obtained by the organizations, Saylan is from the village of Al-Matrad in Raydah District, and the name Hilal Yahya Hamoud Murshid, known as "Abu Zaid," appeared as one of the persons alleged to have played a role in the mobilization that took place in the area.

The organizations do not currently have sufficient independent evidence to attribute individual responsibility to Hilal Murshid specifically for Saylan's transfer or to establish the nature of his role at every stage of recruitment, arming, and transfer. The report therefore includes his name as a person mentioned in information collected by the organizations as being responsible for or involved in mobilization, while determining his actual responsibility still requires further verification and cross-checking with other testimonies and evidence.

In the course of tracing mobilization and recruitment activities in Raydah District and parts of Bani Suraym, the organizations obtained information containing the names of other persons alleged to have played roles in mobilizing children and students and sending them to the front lines.

Among the names mentioned was Haitham Faisal Al-Sharif, from Bani Suraym, who was reported to participate in mobilizing children from the village and tribe of Bani Malik to go to the front lines. The name Abdu Muqbil Al-Mallahi, a teacher at Al-Shaheed Nashwan Al-Himyari School in Raydah District, was also mentioned, with accounts attributing to him a role in encouraging or mobilizing students to join the front lines.

The information also mentioned a person known as "Abu Abdullah" in Raydah, who was alleged to have played a role in mobilizing children and transporting them toward the front lines. The account included an allegation that some recruits reached the front after being supplied with a limited quantity of ammunition that, in some cases, did not exceed around 30 rounds.

- **Yasser, 13 years old:** Yasser Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Saeed, aged 13, was in the sixth grade of basic education before joining a group of boys from his area and going to the front. According to his account, his recruitment was linked to a local supervisor known as "Abu Badr," and the recruitment process was accompanied by promises of money and assistance to families, while he said that he received around 30,000 rials per month. He reported the presence of other children, some aged between 12 and 16, before he was transferred to a front in Salh District, Taiz Governorate, and assigned tasks connected to checkpoints and observation. After leaving the front, he said that he was beaten, threatened, humiliated, and filmed. His account provides reasonable grounds to believe that he was recruited and used in military tasks while under 18, including being present in a combat area and performing duties connected to the front.

- **Sohaib, 16 years old:** Sohaib said that his involvement in recruitment began when he was around 13 and that his father, whom he described as affiliated with the Houthi group, took him from his mother to a recruitment camp under pressure. According to his account, he underwent approximately 55 days of training in a camp led by a person known as "Abu Jibril," while training was conducted by a person known as "Al-Karrar." He estimated that around 100 children were present. The training included weapons use, shooting, and military drills, alongside lectures and religious and political indoctrination concerning the war. After training, he was transferred with others to the Salh front and said they were initially told they would work in rear positions before being moved to front-line positions. After leaving the front and being detained, he reported being beaten and ill-treated and suffering shortages of food and care. His account provides strong indicators that he was recruited, trained, and used at a location directly connected to hostilities while a child, alongside family pressure that played a role in drawing him into the recruitment process.

Mohammed: From the Cultural Course to the Front

- Mohammed, who said he was no older than 16, was studying and living with his family before a person known as "Abu Qasim" began recruiting him through lessons and courses presented to children under religious and cultural titles. Those recruiting him used rhetoric about "defending the homeland" and confronting "aggression," alongside an amount estimated at around 20,000 rials, without it being clear whether this was a salary for the child or assistance for his family. Mohammed was transferred to a camp where he found other children and received training in weapons use, movement, and deployment, as well as religious and political lectures presenting fighting as a religious and national duty. After the training ended, he was transferred with a group to a front believed to be in Sirwah, Marib Governorate, and assigned to a military site for guarding or fighting, before the site came under attack and he left the front or was

captured. The account refers to an injury to his leg or foot, but details of the injury, treatment, and detention require further documentation. His account provides reasonable grounds to believe that he was recruited, trained, and used at a site connected to hostilities, while determining the final legal characterization requires precise documentation of his age.

Nasser: From the Classroom to a Camp in Dhamar

- Nasser Salem Abdullah Mohammed Saif, according to the name recorded on the interview form, was still of school age when adults contacted him and persuaded him to join the group. He said that he went "of his own will" and that his family did not receive money in return. He was transferred to an unspecified camp in Dhamar Governorate, where he spent around 25 days in a course that included training in using, disassembling, and reassembling weapons, combat drills, religious and political lectures, and chanting the group's slogans. He reported that other children were present at the camp and that around 30 children from his village had been recruited or enlisted. After training, he was transferred with a group in a military vehicle along a route that included a reference to Al-Bayda Governorate, then assigned to a military position for guarding or fighting before the position came under attack and he was captured. He said he was not injured, but the name of the front, the party that captured him, the duration of his detention, and the way he was treated require further documentation. The sequence of recruitment, transfer, training, and use provides reasonable grounds to believe that Nasser was recruited and used in hostilities, subject to confirmation of his identity and age.

Significance of the Number and Scale of the Phenomenon

- The reference to the recruitment of around 30 children from a single village carries significance beyond the number itself. If an investigation confirms the account, the concentration of this number within a limited geographic and social setting would suggest organized recruitment activity targeting the village, rather

than merely separate individual decisions by children. It would also indicate the possible involvement of a network of recruiters, cultural supervisors, means of transport, camps, and field commanders capable of receiving, training, and deploying children. Nevertheless, a single testimony does not allow an estimate of the total number of recruited children or establish the implementation of a centralized policy across all areas under the group's control.

Economic Conditions and Mobilization

- Recruitment cannot be separated from the economic and social conditions surrounding children. The loss of income for many families, declining educational and employment opportunities, and rising living costs have increased the susceptibility of some children to financial promises, food, or social status. A limited amount, such as 20,000 rials, may constitute a meaningful incentive for a child from a family without regular income, even if it is insufficient to improve the family's position over the long term. Responding to such incentives does not mean that recruitment was voluntary in the full sense; rather, it may reveal exploitation by the group of economic vulnerability and families' needs.

- Economic incentives overlap with religious and political mobilization that presents war to children as a moral or religious duty and gives armed participation a meaning connected to courage, identity, and belonging. This process begins in cultural and summer courses or through people known within the community, then moves toward relatively isolating the child from family and school and placing the child in a group environment in which a uniform narrative and military training are provided. The combination of economic need, social pressure, repeated indoctrination, and the authority of adult supervisors reduces a child's ability to refuse recruitment, even in the absence of abduction or direct threats.

Impact on Education and Protection

- Recruitment moved the two children from school and family life to a camp and front line within a short period. The violation is not limited to using a child in fighting; it begins with disrupting the child's educational path and exploiting age-related and economic vulnerability, and extends to exposing the child to death, injury, capture, and psychological trauma. The recruitment of a large number of children from one village, if established, may also have a collective impact on regular school attendance, family structures, and the future of the local community, particularly if schools lose a group of their students within a short period.

7 Killing and Injury of Children

- SAM for Rights and Liberties and partner organizations documented three incidents in which four children between the ages of 8 and 14 were injured as a result of shelling and gunfire in areas of Taiz Governorate. According to testimonies collected by the organizations' monitors, the children were in front of a home, inside a family vehicle while leaving a dangerous area, or herding sheep. The available information contains nothing indicating that they were participating in hostilities at the time they were injured. The incidents also reveal additional consequences, including delays in reaching treatment, temporary separation from family, and the need for blood transfusions and surgical intervention.

Documented Incidents

Turki, 8 Years Old: Arrived at the Hospital Alone

- On 5 September 2026, Turki Hazza Ahmed Hizam, aged 8, was standing near the door of his family's home in the Akkad area of Al-Kadhah, Al-Ma'afer District, when shrapnel struck his face. According to his mother, Nadwah Hazza Ahmed Hizam, the shrapnel entered through his right cheek and exited near the beginning of his neck on the left side, while other fragments remained inside his cheek. The child fell with no one beside him, before a resident of the village responded to his mother's cries for help and called members of the forces present in the area, who transferred him to Al-Nashmah Hospital and then to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz. Doctors decided to leave some shrapnel in his cheek out of concern that removing it could cause additional harm. Turki remained in the hospital without his family until the next day. The family attributed the injury to shelling carried out by Houthi forces while they were attempting to advance toward the area, emphasizing that the child was in front of his home and not at a military site.

They Were Taking the Children Out First

- On the morning of 5 September 2026, the family of Mahfouz Salem Abdu attempted to evacuate their children from the Darkhaf area in Jabal Habashy District after military control changed and fears intensified. According to the testimony of Mushir Taha Salem Abdu, the family arranged to move the children and some food supplies first, then return to transport the remaining family members. A short distance after two vehicles carrying the family set off, one was fired upon from what the account said was the direction of Darkhaf, which the Houthi group had recently taken over. The bullets struck the rear seat where the children were sitting. Lunan Mahfouz Salem Abdu, aged 14, sustained a serious

injury to his left hand that ruptured an artery, as well as shrapnel in his leg; his brother Taha, aged 8, was shot in the back and struck by shrapnel near the spine; their sister Safa, aged 30, was injured in the neck and ear; and their relative Mohammed Issa Mohammed Ali was also struck by shrapnel in both hands. The injured were transferred to Al-Nashmah Hospital, where the two children required blood transfusions, and then to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz city after a journey lasting around five hours.

Mohammed, 14 Years Old: From Herding Sheep to the Operating Room

- At 4:15 p.m. on 25 August 2026, Mohammed Walid Saeed Qasim, aged 14, was herding his family's sheep in the valley near the village of Al-Ashaab in Jabal Habashy District with his relatives Moayad and Murad when a bullet struck his left leg. His brother, Bashar Walid Saeed Qasim, said there were no clashes in the area and that the bullet came from the direction of Tabbat Al-Quba', where he said gunmen affiliated with the Houthi group were positioned. The two children tried to stop the bleeding and tied Mohammed's leg, then helped him walk toward the village for around 15 minutes. Because there was no road accessible by cars, his brother transported him by motorcycle along a rough mountain road until they reached Al-Thawra Hospital at around 5:30 p.m., where he required a blood transfusion and surgery.

Killing of Three Children in Al-Turayrah Village – Al-Wazi'iyah

- On 18 September 2026, the Yemeni News Agency (Saba), citing local sources, reported that three children were killed by shelling that targeted the village of Al-Turayrah in Uzlat Al-Dharifah, Al-Wazi'iyah District, west of Taiz Governorate, and attributed the attack to the Houthi group. The victims were Nour al-Din Yaqub Abdu Al-Dharafi, aged 4; Asawer Fahd Mohammed Ghanem Al-Dharafi, aged 14; and Tala Mohammed Ahmed Al-Dharafi, aged two. According to the sources, the children were inside the village at the time of the shelling.

Children from the Al-Sufi Family Killed and Injured in Marib

- On 9 September 2026, a missile fell on homes occupied by families from the Al-Sufi family near the Military Works Branch camp in the Al-Hammah area of Marib Governorate. The organizations reviewed a report containing the names of 10 victims, including three children who were killed: Riya Fahd Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, Saud Fadl Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, and Shadi Fadl Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi; and four children who were injured: Al-Zubair Fahd Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, Shihab Fadl Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, Wael Fadl Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, and Aisha Fahd Abdu Ahmed Al-Sufi, in addition to three injured women. Information followed by the organizations indicated that Al-Zubair's injury resulted in the amputation of his leg. The report attributed the attack to the Houthi group, while the organizations contacted Suleiman to obtain additional details about the incident and the victims. The document and available information provide reasonable grounds to believe that a missile struck occupied homes and caused deaths and injuries among women and children; however, determining the source of the missile, the intended target, and the military status of the homes at the time of the attack requires examination of the projectile remnants, impact site, and trajectory. The affiliation of some residents of the homes with the Military Works Branch does not, by itself, turn the homes or the other family members into military objectives.

Children Among the Missing and Injured in the Al-Omari Triangle Incident

Victim data obtained by the organizations concerning the Al-Omari Triangle incident reveal a severe impact on children. Among those whose fate remains unknown are at least three children according to the current information: Ayman Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 16; Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 14; and Nader Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged 15.

A number of children were also injured, including Rina Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 9, who sustained damage to her eardrum, in addition to five siblings from the family of Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, aged between two and 17, four of whom sustained shrapnel injuries to the head or face while one girl was struck by shrapnel in the hand. This is in addition to the child Raddad Mohammed Rizq Allah Faraj, whose father was reportedly killed while his mother's fate remains unknown, leaving him, according to the account, the only survivor of his immediate family and without a provider. These cases highlight a compounded impact that is not limited to physical injury but extends to the loss of family protection, sources of support, and stability.

8 Displacement and Humanitarian Repercussions

- Information collected by the organizations, alongside data from international organizations, reveals a broad wave of displacement accompanying the military escalation and changes of control in Taiz and the western coast. Families were forced to leave their homes at night or under fire, and some took long routes on foot because of shortages of transport and fuel. The danger did not end upon leaving the fighting areas: many families arrived without shelter, bedding, food, or cooking utensils and relied on schools, host communities, and overcrowded housing to accommodate them.

In the early days of the escalation, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that entire displacement sites, including Al-Hijab, Al-Rajhi, and Hajjat Jabh, were evacuated as the fighting approached, causing a wave of secondary displacement, and that continued shelling restricted some families' ability to move to safer places and left families stranded near front lines. Communications disruptions also caused difficulties in collecting information and coordinating the response, coinciding with depletion of shelter, non-food item, and food stocks.

On 6 September, journalist Mohammed Taher published a humanitarian appeal from Maqbanah in which he said displaced families had spread across Taiz city, Al-Bireen, Al-Nashmah, Jabal Habashy, and other areas, and that some host homes were accommodating as many as six displaced families in a single house. The organizations treat these details as a field account, while the OCHA update supports the broader picture of expanding displacement and pressure on host communities.

By 10 September, Fares Al-Humairi reported the displacement of 823 families within 24 hours, including 3,481 women and children, and an increase in the total number of displaced families in the update he reported to 5,799 families, or more than 40,000 people. On 11 September, the United Nations said that at least 46,000 people had been displaced during the previous week, that large numbers had left Mocha at night, and that displaced people had arrived in Lahj and Aden while others moved toward Ibb, with reports of villages being emptied in Maqbanah, Jabal Habashy, and Al-Ma'afer. The International Organization for Migration also announced the temporary suspension of its operational movements because of the deteriorating security situation and warned of the depletion of emergency stocks. These figures are read as earlier temporal snapshots preceding the later updates set out below.

Scale and Distribution of Displacement

- Data from the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix showed that 114,498 people, representing around 19,083 families, were displaced between 1 and 17 September 2026, bringing the cumulative number linked to the escalation wave since **June to 118,086 people, representing 19,681** families. This represented an increase from the 15 September figure of 104,796 displaced people, reflecting the continued high pace of displacement. The organization attributed 99 percent of the recorded cases to conflict and noted that a number of families had been displaced more than once.

- Taiz Governorate received the largest number of displaced people, **with 67,746 persons, or 57 percent** of the total, followed by Lahj with 30,798, Hodeidah with 8,244, Aden with 6,840, Abyan with 3,324, Hadramout with 660, and Marib with 474. In terms of areas of origin, 94,254 displaced people came from Taiz, 15,582 from Hodeidah, and 8,064 from Lahj. In parallel with internal displacement, the International Organization for Migration **recorded the arrival of 2,911 people in Djibouti between 11 and** 18 September via dangerous sea journeys.

The latest International Organization for Migration data show that by 21 September the number had risen to 129,438 displaced people, representing 21,573 families, an increase of 11,352 people in three days. The figures reached 73,494 in Taiz, 33,828 in Lahj, 8,946 in Aden, 8,244 in Hodeidah, 3,324 in Abyan, 1,008 in Hadramout, and 594 in Marib. By the evening of 20 September, the organization had recorded 3,106 people crossing from Yemen to Djibouti.

At the district level, the organization said that Jabal Habashy in Taiz hosted more than 23,000 displaced people, while Al-Mudarabah wa Ras Al-Arah in Lahj hosted around 21,500 people, Al-Ma'afer in Taiz more than 16,500, and Al-Shamayatayn more than 12,300. These figures reflect a heavy concentration of displaced people in specific areas already under pressure in relation to water, shelter, health, and basic services.

In parallel, on 19 September the Executive Unit for the Management of IDP Camps announced that it had documented 146,943 displaced people as of 18 September. Al Jazeera then reported more recent field data from the unit that raised the figure to 158,109 people as of 19 September across eight governorates. These figures cannot be added to those of the International Organization for Migration because of differences in the scope and methodology of monitoring and registration.

Gaps in the Humanitarian Response

- Najeeb Al-Saadi said that one of the greatest challenges facing the response is weak institutional structure and overlapping powers among local and central authorities, ministries, and the Executive Unit for the Management of IDP Camps. He added that the absence of a unified government policy, a central reference point for figures, and coordination of interventions leads to fragmented efforts, complicates access to assistance, and weakens the accountability of humanitarian actors for their commitments. This account is consistent with family testimonies showing uneven response and widespread reliance on schools, relatives, and host communities.

- The displacement wave came at a time when funding for Yemen's humanitarian response had declined and several international actors lacked sufficient emergency stocks or plans to absorb the rapid increase in the number of displaced people. This widened gaps in shelter, food, water, sanitation, and medical care, with a more severe impact on women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. Host communities also bore a large share of the burden despite their limited housing and resources.

Updates on Education, Health, and the Cross-Border Response

On 14 September, UNICEF reported that more than 137,000 school-age children were facing major disruption to education as a result of the escalation, while work was under way to establish child-friendly spaces, temporary classrooms, and protection services.

On 18 September, the United Nations in Geneva said that more than 22 million people in Yemen required humanitarian assistance, and that the United Nations Population Fund estimated that there were around 2,000 pregnant women among the newly displaced, more than 200 of whom might give birth during September. The World Health Organization also said that only 60 percent of 5,415 health units assessed were fully functioning and that the integrated trauma-care package was available in only 6 percent of the facilities assessed.

The World Health Organization report said that the health response plan had moved to Level 2, with a funding gap of around US$7 million, equivalent to 78 percent of the estimated requirements, and that a number of essential supplies had run out at the Aden warehouse.

The same report noted that the Hayjat al-Abd road, the main paved road between Taiz and Aden, had been shelled more than once during the previous two weeks, and that the main road to Maqbanah had become impassable, with humanitarian movements relying on a single alternative route through Jabal Habashy. It also reported that Mocha Port had sustained major damage and was not operational at the time of the report, and that partner movements from Aden to the western coast had stopped while access and staff safety were being assessed.

On 21 September, UNHCR in Yemen published footage from the newly established Al-Firdaws Camp near Aden, and its representative said that new arrivals needed water, food, and medical care, and that women, children, and the most vulnerable groups made up a large proportion of them. Al Jazeera also documented the arrival at the camp of families from Mocha, Hays, and Al-Khawkhah, some carrying only the clothes they were wearing.

In the video recording, the UNHCR representative said that, according to his field estimate, women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities constituted more than 70 percent of those he saw at the site, and that more displaced people were expected to arrive. This figure is presented as a field estimate at the site visited, not as a comprehensive statistical survey of all arrivals.

UNHCR reported that more than 65,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers live inside Yemen, most of them from Somalia and Ethiopia, and that insecurity, damaged roads, communications disruptions, and movement restrictions on the western coast were impeding humanitarian access. It also noted damage to Mocha Port and the rerouting of some shipping routes around the Cape of Good Hope.

In Djibouti, Al Jazeera reported on 21 September overcrowding and shortages of tents, water, food, and clothing, and pressure on the medical clinic in Obock. On 22 September, UNHCR warned of possible additional waves of internal displacement and refugee movements, said that more than 130,000 people had fled their homes since the beginning of September, and announced the activation of a Level 1 emergency for Yemen, Djibouti, and Somalia.

On 18 September, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had explained that Markazi Refugee Village near Obock was designed to accommodate around 5,000 people and already housed more than 2,700 Yemeni refugees and 1,500 Eritrean refugees, while the government, UNHCR, and partners were preparing to receive at least 10,000 new arrivals. It also noted that around 270 people were living with host

families and that overcrowding was placing pressure on water, sanitation, health, and education.

In an update on 22 September, UNHCR said that more than 90,000 newly displaced people had arrived in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Al-Dhalea, and Marib, and that more than 70 percent of displaced families were living in emergency or substandard shelters. It noted that Yemen already had more than 5.2 million internally displaced people before the current escalation wave, thereby compounding pressure on humanitarian infrastructure and services.

Regarding the response, UNHCR said that it had provided emergency cash assistance to 200 families, with an urgent plan to reach 1,000 families; secured cash support for shelter for 500 families in Aden and Lahj; and was preparing to distribute 1,000 housing-repair kits and assess protection needs for 2,000 families. It also announced the dispatch of 3,000 packages of essential relief items from its global stock in Dubai and plans for the voluntary return of around 150 Somali refugees from Aden to Mogadishu. At the same time, UNHCR's operation in Yemen was only 18 percent funded and required around US$25 million in additional funding to respond to the immediate needs of approximately 231,000 people. In Djibouti, funding stood at 15 percent, and the urgent appeal amounted to US$13.5 million, amid preparations for more than 10,000 arrivals and the arrival of hundreds of others in Somaliland and Puntland.

In Marib, Al Jazeera documented continued pressure on displacement camps north of the governorate, including Al-Suwayda, amid shortages of electricity, water, medical, and educational services, and families facing high temperatures and repeated sandstorms. Another report presented the case of a family that had moved among more than one area since 2015 before again leaving Al-Khawkhah for Marib, reflecting the impact of repeated displacement on children, education, and livelihoods.

Risks of Displacement on the Bab al-Mandab–Dhubab Road

The Al-Omari Triangle account shows that displacement itself did not provide protection to families fleeing areas of fighting. According to information obtained by the organizations, a number of victims and missing persons were moving in the context of displacement when shelling occurred on the night of 9 September in the area between Bab al-Mandab and Dhubab. The testimony indicates that the danger continued after the first strike, with a second strike occurring during attempts to rescue the injured, followed by a large fire after a fuel tanker exploded, complicating rescue operations and increasing danger to the wounded, rescuers, and others at the site.

Family data reveal humanitarian consequences extending beyond direct injuries. One family was simultaneously searching for a father and two missing children; five siblings in another family were injured while their brother remained missing; and information indicates that another child survived after his father was killed and his mother went missing. The source also reported that other families were still searching for relatives who had disappeared in separate incidents along the road and around the Bab al-Mandab Complex, making determination of the true number of victims and missing persons dependent on completing the enumeration and gaining access to the incident sites.

Salma Afisah – Leaving Mocha on a Livestock Truck

According to the account of Salma Mohammed Abdullah Afisah, aged 30, she left Mocha with her three children at around 7:00 a.m. on 10 September 2026 after they woke to the sounds of gunfire and she saw neighborhood residents leaving toward Dhubab. She said that she had not prepared herself for displacement and did not take additional clothes or possessions because she believed that she would return to her home within a short period.

Because no suitable means of transport was available, Salma and her children climbed onto a truck carrying cows and continued the journey among the animals toward Dhubab. She said that the road was arduous and dangerous and that she was insulted and humiliated during the journey. After reaching the place of displacement, she and her children began living in a tent that she said lacked the most basic requirements of life and privacy. She continued to wear the same clothes in which she had left because she had no change of clothing, while the family, according to her account, lived on one meal a day.

- **Yousef: He Left in the Clothes He Was Wearing** and Left the House Behind. Yousef Mohammed Ibrahim Ali Akaret, aged 24, left with his three-person family after gunfire and danger to civilian areas, according to his account, came to threaten their lives. The family was forced to walk parts of the journey because of the shortage of transport and left without sufficient clothing or household utensils. Upon arrival, they found no tent, bedding, or necessities that would allow them to begin a temporary life with a minimum of stability. Yousef said: "We fled and did not take with us clothing or household items to cover our needs," an account showing that displacement was not a move from one dwelling to another but a sudden loss of the basic components of daily life.

- **Omran: He Left His Motorcycle on the Road and Continued** with His Family. Omran Taha Ibrahim Akaret, aged 31, fled Mocha with his nine-person family amid gunfire and a broad movement of displacement. He tried to use his motorcycle but was forced to abandon it on the road after the fuel ran out and continue the journey in search of safety. The motorcycle was not merely a means of transport but a resource on which the family relied for work and access to markets and services. The family arrived without furniture, cooking utensils, a gas cylinder, or shelter to protect them from the sun, moving from the direct danger of hostilities into the vulnerability of displacement and complete dependence on assistance.

- **Ali Ibrahim: "We Sleep on the Ground with the Sky as Our** Cover." Ali Ibrahim Ali Yassin, aged 35, left Mocha with his seven-person family because of the fighting and fear for civilians. After an arduous journey, the family found no private place to shelter, no tent, bedding, or household utensils. Ali summarized his family's situation by saying: "We sleep on the ground with the sky as our cover." His account illustrates the impact of the absence of shelter on privacy, security, and health, particularly for children and women in a large family living in the open.

- **Ali Zobar: Five Families in One House.** Ali Ali Saghir Yahya Zobar, aged 28, was displaced with his six-person family after describing the situation in Mocha as catastrophic, with continuing gunfire and loss of life and homes. His family arrived at a house accommodating five families at the same time, without having bedding, furniture, a tent, or their own household utensils. This case highlights the role host communities played in absorbing the first wave of displacement, but it also reveals the pressure placed on homes, services, and family privacy when a single-family home becomes a collective shelter.

- **Saleh: A Road Filled with People Who Could Find No Transport.** Saleh Ali Sabtan Dom, aged 45, left Mocha with his seven-person family out of fear for women and children from gunfire. On the road, he saw civilians walking in search of transport, while his family alternated between walking and using vehicles when possible. Upon arrival, the family found no tent, bedding, blankets, gas cylinder, water tank, or suitable means of protection from the sun. His account shows that the disruption of transport was not merely a logistical obstacle but a factor that increased the exposure of people fleeing to danger and prolonged the time they spent on the roads.

- **Dalila: She Left with Eight People and Carried Nothing.** Dalila Hamoud Murshid Ali, aged 48, left Mocha with her eight-person family under the pressure of fear and gunfire, without being able to carry household utensils, a gas cylinder, most clothes, or bedding. She said that she saw victims and civilians on the road waiting for transport and that her family struggled to find a safe route. After arriving, the family found no tent, blankets, household utensils, or adequate protection from the heat of the sun and was forced to start almost from nothing.

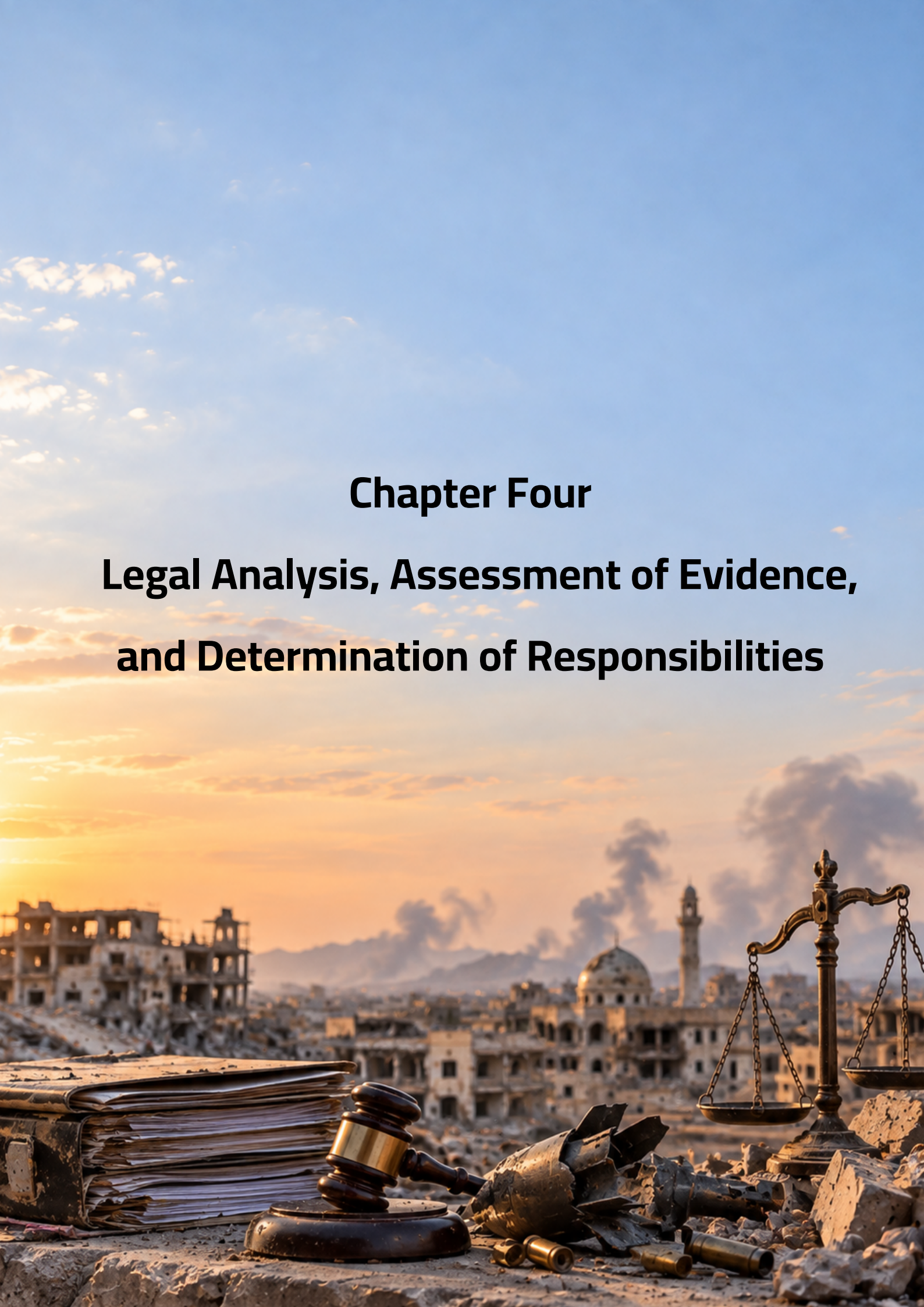
- **Omar: Hours on the Road, Then a House That Was Not** His. Omar Ahmed Mohammed Ali Maqbool, aged 30, left Mocha with his five-person family out of fear for children, women, and older persons. The family remained stranded on the road for long hours because of the shortage of transport before another family hosted them in its home. Although they obtained a temporary roof, they had no tent, bedding, blankets, gas cylinder, or water tanks. Their situation demonstrates the vulnerability of hosted families who are not living in the open but lack independent housing and depend on the limited capacity of the host family.

- **Khaled Ibrahim: He Escaped the War Only to Find Himself** Without a Tent. Khaled Ibrahim Ali Yassin Abu Al-Hayya, aged 35, was displaced with his six-person family after the fighting made continued life in Mocha increasingly dangerous. The family faced a shortage of transport while large numbers of civilians were leaving and then arrived at a place where no tent, blankets, bedding, or furniture was available. His account shows that surviving the immediate danger does not end a family's suffering but moves it into a new phase related to shelter, health, food, and the ability to restore a stable life.

- **Zakiya: "I Want to Return to My Home Before I Die."** Zakiya Ali Salem Thabet, aged 53, left her home in Mocha at 1:00 a.m. on 10 September 2026 with her husband and children, without the family taking any of its possessions. She says she saw near Bab al-Mandab a missile fall among fleeing civilians and casualties among women, children, and men, an incident requiring independent verification of its location, toll, and the source of the projectile. The family continued on foot without food or money until Lahj, then was transported to Al-Turbah, where they took refuge in a school and slept on the floor without coverings, before Zakiya was transferred to hospital because of illness, cold, and exhaustion. She later received information that her home had been entered and livestock, furniture, and her son's shop looted, which the organizations were unable independently to verify. She said: "I want nothing from this life except to return to my home and my country and to live with dignity and honor before I die."

Chapter Four

Legal Analysis, Assessment of Evidence, and Determination of Responsibilities



1 Assessment of Evidence and Limits of Attribution

The strength of the evidence contained in the report varies between direct testimonies collected by the organizations from victims, survivors, and their families; field reports; official and United Nations statements; press sources; and open-source visual materials. Repetition of the same report by more than one outlet is not treated as independent confirmation when it traces back to the same primary source. The organizations also distinguished between establishing that harm occurred and establishing the party responsible for it; between determining the direction of a projectile and proving its point of launch; and between control over an area and attribution of a specific act to a particular force.

In incidents involving missiles, shells, and drones, a definitive technical determination requires examination of munition remnants, impact sites, shrapnel directions, trajectories, and possible launch points, in addition to identifying the intended target, nearby military presence, and precautions taken. In incidents of looting and seizure, verification requires lists of homes, facilities, and contents; testimonies from owners; before-and-after images; and information about the party that moved or benefited from the property. Broad estimates, such as references to “hundreds” of looted homes, are treated as indicators warranting an inventory and are not adopted on their own as a final tally.

2 Protection of Civilians and Objects and Rules Governing Attacks

International humanitarian law requires parties to the conflict to distinguish between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives, prohibits attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects and indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, and requires all feasible precautions to verify targets and avoid or minimize civilian harm. Homes, markets, schools, universities, courts, places of worship, camps, medical facilities, and economic installations remain civilian objects unless they specifically meet the conditions of a military objective. Economic importance or the presence of a person with a military status within a family is not sufficient automatically to turn an entire home or facility into a military objective.

A harmful outcome alone is not sufficient to establish intentional targeting of civilians or the commission of a war crime. The intended target, the type and accuracy of the weapon, the information available to the attacker, the expected harm, and the precautions taken must be examined. Nevertheless, repeated strikes affecting homes, villages, markets, IDP camps, and educational and medical facilities raise serious concerns warranting an independent investigation into compliance with distinction, proportionality, and precautions.

3 Looting, Seizure, and Destruction of Property

International humanitarian law prohibits pillage in armed conflict and also prohibits the destruction or seizure of private property without legal justification or imperative military necessity. The displacement of residents or their departure from their homes does not make property abandoned or available for taking. If furniture, vehicles, documents, money, or humanitarian assistance were taken with the intent to deprive their owners of them or unlawfully benefit from them, this may constitute prohibited pillage and may, when the required elements are present, amount to a war crime. The property and records of public, judicial, and humanitarian institutions must also be preserved and returned and not used for personal or retaliatory purposes.

4 Detention and Restrictions on the Population and Humanitarian Work

Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions requires persons in the power of a party to the conflict to be treated humanely. Journalists, humanitarian workers, judges, and civilians remain protected unless and for such time as they directly participate in hostilities. A person may not be detained merely because of kinship with a fighter, nor may family members be used for pressure or retaliation. Restrictions on movement or residence must have a legal basis and genuine necessity and be applied individually and without discrimination. Medical facilities, personnel, and transport enjoy special protection, and relief operations must not be unlawfully obstructed.

5 Protection of the Dead and Graves

International humanitarian law requires searching for the dead, protecting their bodies, preserving their graves, and treating remains with dignity. This protection does not cease because of the deceased person's previous military status. If graves were exhumed, remains shot at, moved, or desecrated with the intent to retaliate or humiliate, this would constitute a serious violation of dignity and may, depending on the facts and the nexus to the conflict, amount to a war crime.

6 Protection of Children and Prohibition of Their Recruitment and Use

Additional Protocol II prohibits recruiting children under the age of 15 or allowing them to take part in hostilities, while the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides broader protection with respect to non-state armed groups for persons under 18. Use is not limited to direct fighting; it may include guarding, observation, work at positions and fortifications and checkpoints, and transporting supplies when the task supports military operations. A child's apparent consent also does not negate recruitment, given age, parental authority, indoctrination, and economic and social pressure.

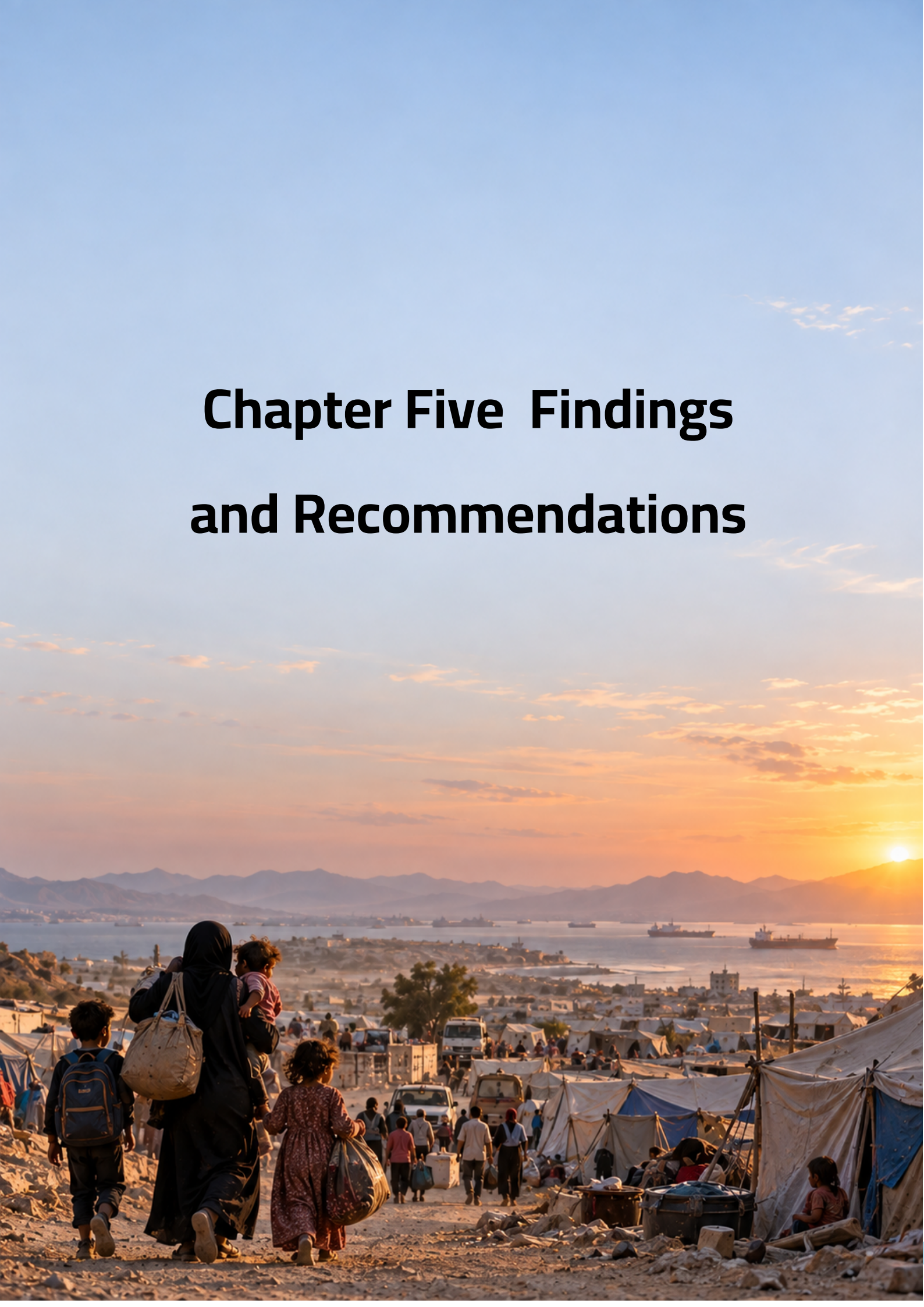
7 Displacement, Forced Displacement, and Protection of Displaced Persons

Not every displacement resulting from fighting constitutes forced displacement in the legal sense. Ordering the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict is prohibited unless required by the security of civilians or imperative military reasons. A distinction must be made between fleeing out of fear of military operations and evacuation, expulsion, threats, or discriminatory measures that drive residents to leave. In all cases, displaced persons must be protected during movement, and shelter, food, water, health care, and protection must be ensured, while their property and their right to voluntary, safe, and dignified return and to restitution of property or appropriate reparation must be safeguarded.

8 Individual and Command Responsibility

Individual criminal responsibility rests on anyone who planned, ordered, carried out, or aided a violation where the required elements of responsibility are present, and may extend to commanders where their effective control and their knowledge, or their duty to have known, of crimes by subordinates are established and they failed to take necessary measures to prevent, stop, or punish them. The Rome Statute is used as guidance in defining war crimes and the elements of responsibility, without this meaning that the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court arises automatically. The incidents contained in the report require independent investigations that preserve evidence and identify perpetrators, those who gave orders, and the chain of command for each incident separately.

Chapter Five Findings and Recommendations



1 Findings and Conclusions

- The information collected by the organizations and the supporting materials it reviewed up to 22 September reveal recurring patterns including civilians being killed and injured by shelling, sniper fire, and gunfire; recruitment and use of children; arrest, detention, and restrictions on movement; attacks on civilian objects and medical facilities; entry into homes and public and humanitarian facilities and looting of property; as well as exhumation of graves and violations of the sanctity of the dead. With regard to a number of these incidents, reasonable grounds exist for independent investigations, while final legal and criminal attribution remains contingent on the evidence specific to each incident.

- Children, women, displaced people, older persons, and persons with disabilities were among the groups most affected. The incidents extended from Taiz, Hodeidah, and the western coast to Marib, Lahj, and Amran, while the humanitarian repercussions reached Aden and Djibouti. Civilians were exposed to danger inside their homes and villages, along escape routes, in displacement camps, markets, and temporary shelters, alongside deterioration in access to treatment, education, and assistance.

- Changes of control in areas of the western coast were accompanied by repeated reports of homes and judicial, medical, and humanitarian facilities being raided, and of furniture, documents, equipment, aid, and vehicles being seized. Omar Doblah's account, together with other testimonies and reports from Mocha, Hays, and Al-Khawkhah, supports the need for an independent and systematic survey of looted property to identify its owners and fate, without adopting broad estimates before verifying them case by case.

- The accelerating displacement wave revealed shortcomings in the government and humanitarian response, at a time when the International Organization for Migration raised the number of registered displaced people to 129,438 by 21 September, while data from the Executive Unit showed a higher figure because of differences in registration scope. The number crossing to Djibouti also exceeded 3,100, amid increasing pressure on reception sites, health services, water, and education.

- Subsequent investigations require further effort to identify the individual perpetrators of killings, looting, and raids; determine the fate of seized property, documents, and aid; and establish projectile launch points and trajectories. It is also necessary to examine chains of command and military orders, preserve medical, visual, and physical evidence, and enable independent investigators to access sites, victims, and witnesses.

The new accounts concerning the Al-Omari Triangle and Mocha add another dimension to the findings by combining the risks of shelling during displacement, the loss of multiple members of the same family, multiple injuries among children, loss of a provider, and the extension of harm to the looting of homes and property after flight. These incidents require continued efforts to search for the missing and verify their fate, document victims and property case by case, and provide urgent support to families that lost their provider or arrived at displacement sites without their basic necessities.

2 Recommendations

To the Houthi Group

- Immediately cease attacks that target civilians and civilian objects or are carried out indiscriminately or disproportionately; end the recruitment and use of children; release persons arbitrarily detained and disclose the fate of those forcibly disappeared. The entry into and looting of homes and public facilities must also stop, seized property, documents, and assistance must be returned, journalists and medical and humanitarian personnel must be protected, and displaced people must be enabled to return safely and without retaliation.

To the Yemeni Government and Forces Under Its Authority

- Take all feasible precautions to protect civilians during operations, ensure that forces comply with international humanitarian law, and establish a unified mechanism to register displaced people and coordinate the response to them. Displacement routes and reception areas should also be secured; abandoned homes and property protected; any violations committed by government forces or forces allied with them investigated; and those responsible held accountable regardless of rank or affiliation.

To Saudi Arabia and Other Parties Involved in the Operations

- Comply with the rules of distinction, proportionality, and precautions; carefully verify targets before carrying out any attack; and take the necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian facilities inside Yemen and across borders. Necessary information should be shared for the investigation of incidents, targeting and communications data should be preserved, and any military or security support should be linked to respect for international humanitarian law and investigation of credible allegations.

To the United Nations and Human Rights Mechanisms

- Support the establishment of an independent and effective investigation into violations committed during the escalation, ensure access to sites, victims, and witnesses, and monitor the situation of civilians after changes of control. Documented incidents should also be included in the reports of United Nations mechanisms; monitoring of child recruitment and attacks on schools and hospitals should be strengthened; and pressure should be applied to disclose the fate of detainees and missing persons, protect displaced people, and create conditions for their safe return.

To Humanitarian Organizations and Donors

- Increase urgent funding for shelter, food, water, health, sanitation, and education, and provide emergency stocks that can be rapidly deployed. Priority should be given to children, women, older persons, and persons with disabilities; host communities should be supported; and interventions should be coordinated with a clearly designated national body, while preserving the independence of humanitarian action and ensuring that assistance reaches those entitled to it without discrimination or interference by parties to the conflict.

Protection of Victims, Preservation of Evidence, and Accountability

- Protect victims, witnesses, and monitors from retaliation; ensure confidentiality and informed consent; and preserve medical records, photographs, videos, projectile remnants, location data, and military orders. Independent and prompt investigations should be conducted into cases of killing, injury, looting, detention, and child recruitment; those responsible should be prosecuted; property should be returned or compensated for; treatment, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support should be provided; and institutional reforms and oversight measures should be adopted to ensure non-recurrence of violations.

Stories Annex

Section Two

Human Stories and Victim Testimonies



Stories of Displacement

The following stories present the experience of displacement as directly recounted by those concerned to the organizations' monitors, while preserving the basic sequence of events and reducing verbal repetition across the testimonies. They are not used on their own to establish military incidents that the narrators did not witness directly.

Salma: She Left Her Home with Her Children Among the Cows and Now Owns Only the Clothes She Is Wearing

Salma Mohammed Abdullah Afisah, aged 30, had known Mocha as her city and home throughout her life. She is a widow and mother of three children and says that she only used to leave the city when she had to travel to Taiz for medical treatment. But on the morning of 10 September 2026, at around seven o'clock, she and her children awoke to the sound of gunfire.

"I woke up with my children to the sound of gunfire."

According to her account, she went outside to see what was happening and found neighbors leaving, while homes in the neighborhood had already emptied after their owners fled during the night. She hurried back to the house, took her children and her covering, and left toward Dhubab. She did not take furniture, bags, or extra clothes because she thought she would not be away for long.

"I left fully expecting to return soon. I left everything I owned in the house, even the things that reminded me of my husband, may God have mercy on him."

Salma could not find suitable transport for herself and her children. Eventually she came across a truck intended for transporting cattle and asked the driver to take them with him. The family climbed aboard and continued the journey among the cows. She says the trip was difficult and dangerous and that she was insulted and humiliated during it, in a harsh transition from a stable life in her home to a displacement journey for which she had not been prepared.

Her suffering did not end on arrival. Salma said that she and her children were now living in a tent lacking the most basic requirements of life and privacy, and that she had continued to wear the same clothes since leaving because she had no alternative. She also said the family lived on one meal a day and needed water, washing facilities, clothes, food, and a place that provided a minimum of privacy and dignity.

"Today I am sitting in a tent that lacks the most basic elements of dignity and life... We live on only one meal a day."

Then, according to her account, she received news that her home in Mocha had been looted. Her loss was no longer limited to temporary separation from her home but extended to the property, belongings, and memories she had left behind, including items connected to her deceased husband. In her testimony, she expressed anger and bewilderment at how quickly the military situation in the city had changed. These are personal feelings and impressions and are not relied upon by the report as an independent characterization of the military events.

"I am exhausted, my son, by God I am exhausted... Praise be to God in all circumstances."

Salma's testimony ends with that statement, but her displacement has not ended. She remains with her three children outside the home in which she lived her entire life and says that she has lost her property and possesses at her place of displacement only a few of the basic necessities that would allow her and her children to begin a temporary life with a minimum of dignity.

Hussein Al-Amiri: He Left His Pharmacy Behind and Departed with His Wife

Hussein Abdullah Ahmed Al-Amiri, aged 39, worked in Al-Khawkhah District, where he opened a pharmacy as a source of income through which he could support his family and provide a decent life for himself and his wife. Hussein says that he left his home and some of his relatives and moved with his wife to Al-Khawkhah District around two years earlier. To him, Al-Khawkhah was a remote area, but he went there in search of a

work opportunity. He sold his wife's gold so he could open his own business, left many things behind, and placed his hopes in the project succeeding and growing over time. Hussein left Taiz city for Al-Khawkhah and began preparing the pharmacy and working in it. Days and months passed, and the business gradually improved. For two years, he says, he struggled and worked so that the project would succeed, stabilize, and expand.

His dream did not end with the pharmacy. He was thinking of expanding the project in the future, opening a health center, and bringing in doctors to serve local residents. He describes the people of Al-Khawkhah as simple, kind, hardworking people who have suffered greatly, many of whom live in extremely difficult conditions, alongside illness, poverty, and lack of education. He says they are people who dream of escaping the cycle of conflict and living in their country before they die, that they do not deserve the marginalization and exclusion they face, and that psychological and social exhaustion is plainly visible on their faces. Hussein continued to carry this hope and ambition until what he calls the "black day" arrived, the day he says will never be erased from his memory and on which his dreams, ambitions, reality, future, and present were shattered. At exactly four o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, 9 September 2026, he received a call from one of his colleagues. His colleague asked: "Hussein, how are you?" He replied: "Praise be to God."

His colleague told him that if he was still in Al-Khawkhah he should leave immediately, because Hays District, according to what the colleague had heard, had been handed over to the Houthis. Hussein did not believe it at first. He says he was convinced that this would not happen because, in his view at the time, the National Resistance had substantial strength and would not allow the Houthis to enter. He laughed at his friend's words and told him to calm down and that "nothing is happening," then ended the call. He returned to the pharmacy and to the dream for which he had been living. He sat cleaning and arranging it, and now says he wishes he had never dreamed that dream or become so attached to that ambition. As he was preparing to leave the pharmacy to go to the mosque for the sunset prayer, the shock came. He says he saw

large numbers of pickups and military vehicles, unlike anything he had seen before, and saw personnel and vehicles belonging to the National Resistance leaving Al-Khawkhah.

At that moment, he says, he felt as though his legs could no longer carry him. He immediately remembered his friend's call and warning not to stay. He began looking at the people around him: women screaming and people gathering their family members in preparation to flee. He kept asking himself: What is happening? We did not hear the sound of clashes, so how did all of this happen? And why? He says all of these questions were turning in his head. The call to sunset prayer rose amid a state of terror among residents, and darkness began to fall over the city while Hussein remained unable to move from where he stood because of the shock. He watched people move and flee while he remained standing. Then a small child bumped into him. Hussein describes the child as barefoot, showing signs of fear, exhaustion, and hunger, with torn clothes. He says the child told him in a voice full of fear: "Uncle, the Houthis have entered; they're coming to kill you. Come on, run away." Hussein says he has never been able to forget that child's voice.

It was the child's words that broke the paralysis inside him. He rushed to his home, gathered a few light things, took his wife, and left. They were barely able to collect anything because, he says, time was not on their side. They left wearing almost only the clothes they had on. It was around 7:30 p.m. Hussein took his car but discovered there was not enough fuel in it. He began looking for a petrol station but found that many shops and stations had closed and fear had taken hold of everyone. He remembers hearing people, amid the panic gripping the area, saying that the Houthis "recognize neither what is lawful nor refrain from what is forbidden." When he reached the road, Hussein says the scene looked to him like the "horrors of Judgment Day." The road was extremely congested, and he saw families walking toward Mocha out of sheer fear. At the same time, he saw the pickups and armored vehicles that he had believed were there to protect the population and the land leaving the area.

The scene made him intensely angry. In his testimony, he says that the forces on which he had relied for protection "fled before us and did not fight for us or for the land from whose bounty they had eaten and drunk." He describes the road in those moments as resembling "the Day of Gathering." After searching, he found a petrol station, filled his car, and continued. He says his tears did not stop while he was driving and that it was the first time in his life that, in his words, he understood "what it means for a man to be crushed." He left behind almost his entire life: his source of income, his pharmacy, his dreams and ambitions, and the project he had spent two years building. While he was thinking about what he was going through, the severe congestion brought traffic to a halt. He looked through his car window and saw an elderly man crying, exhausted by the road and no longer able to walk. He says the man fell or fainted in the middle of the road. He remembers a member of a National Resistance pickup shouting at people to move the elderly man so that the vehicles could continue.

Hussein says that at that moment he felt deeply crushed. He wanted to get out of his car to help the man, but he could not. Fear and confusion had taken hold of him, while at the same time people around him were saying that the Houthis had entered Al-Khawkhah. Hussein says what he heard was that they had entered "without a war" and "with complete ease." In his testimony, Hussein expresses intense anger at the National Resistance leadership and at Tariq Saleh personally, holding them responsible for what he regards as a withdrawal and handover of the area. In a moment of anger, he described the National Resistance as the "National Contractor" and said that, from his perspective at that moment, its mission seemed to be "handing over homelands." His testimony also included his prayer against Tariq Saleh, saying: "May God not forgive him." Hussein continued until he reached Mocha at around 2:00 a.m. But when he arrived, he found that the situation there, in his description, was no different from Al-Khawkhah and was in fact worse. The streets were full of people, and everyone was looking for a way to escape.

According to his account, they had no option except the Dhubab–Ras Al-Arah road. Hussein describes the people on that road as if they were in a "gathering ground on Judgment Day." He reached Mocha hungry and could find nowhere for himself and his wife to have dinner. Shortly after their arrival, word spread among people that the Houthis had reached the entrance to Mocha. At that point, Hussein says, the streets of Mocha began emptying rapidly, and everyone started moving toward the Dhubab road. Children, women, sick people, and entire families were fleeing. In his testimony, Hussein again expresses anger toward the forces present there and says he felt that "there was no one defending them," and that the National Resistance leadership and personnel, based on what he saw and believed at that moment, had left before the civilians. Hussein set off toward Dhubab and Ras Al-Arah, as he says, starving. In the pre-dawn hours, he saw scenes he says he had never witnessed before. There was no sound, in his words, louder than the crying of children and the whispering of women.

Whenever he looked at someone's face on the road, he says he saw anguish mixed with shock and disbelief. It was among the hardest days he had ever lived. He says he had never imagined, not even in passing, that he would experience such a day. While recounting these moments, Hussein wept bitterly. He stopped speaking, raised his eyes to the sky, and remained silent for a while. Then he resumed his testimony. He said: "By God, I never did and never will imagine that I would live through a day like this." Hussein continued on the road while suffering from hunger and thirst and says he felt a humiliation and crushing sense of defeat that he could not hide from his face. At that moment his wife told him: "May God replace this for us with something better." He says he tried to hold himself together so that he would not burst into tears. The couple reached Ras Al-Arah, where, according to his account, another stage of the journey began. The car was searched amid severe congestion that he says he cannot describe. From there they entered Lahj Governorate. Hussein reached the Ras Omran area at around noon, without food or sleep, as he describes it.

After that he headed toward Al-Turbah and continued until he reached Taiz city. The journey lasted more than 24 hours. Hussein says he had never in his life seen humiliation, suffering, and displacement like what he witnessed on that journey, and that some scenes brought back to his mind images of the suffering of the people of Gaza. When he reached Taiz, he was physically and psychologically exhausted to a great degree. He says that after arriving he slept and, for roughly the next two days, wanted nothing but sleep and rest because of the anguish and exhaustion he had experienced. Only a day earlier he had been standing inside his pharmacy in Al-Khawkhah, cleaning and arranging it and thinking about its future and a health center he dreamed of establishing to serve people. Then, within hours, he found himself on a long road with his wife, leaving behind the pharmacy for which he had sold her gold, his livelihood, and two years of work and ambition. Hussein concludes his testimony by praying against those he holds responsible for what happened, saying: "May God not forgive whoever was the cause."

Khaled Razeeq: When Walking Becomes the Road to Survival

Khaled Razeeq Ali Mohammed Razeeq, aged 30, lived in Mocha with his six-person family before the war forced them to leave the area in search of safety. Khaled says they had to leave because of the war and what he describes as gunfire and indiscriminate shooting at civilians, alongside the declining possibility of continuing life in the area amid the fighting. For him, leaving was not a search for a better place to live but an attempt to preserve life. Khaled describes the situation when they left as "tragic." He says gunfire was reaching civilians during the recent events in Mocha while families were leaving the area out of fear that the fighting would continue. During the journey out, according to his testimony, Khaled saw scenes he described as tragic: civilians fleeing their areas, gunfire in the area, and families trying to move away from the war and reach a safer place. But leaving Mocha was not easy.

There was no transport available to take Khaled and his family away, forcing them to walk. He says: "Of course we faced difficulties. We walked because there was no

transport available, so we had to leave in order to preserve our lives." For Khaled, the family had no other option. Staying meant continued exposure to the danger of war and gunfire, while leaving meant embarking on a journey for which even transport was unavailable. The family continued on foot in search of a safer place. But moving away from the war zone did not mean the end of suffering. When Khaled and his family arrived, no private house awaited them and there was no prepared place to shelter the family. Khaled says they had no furniture, household utensils, or gas cylinder, and nothing to protect them from the heat of the sun. Thus, the family moved from direct fear of war into the life of displacement, without the most basic things that had been part of their daily life.

Khaled, who was responsible for a family of six, found himself after leaving Mocha required to provide shelter, food, and basic needs in a place where he owned almost nothing. There was no house to shelter them, no household utensils, no means of cooking, and not enough to protect them from the sun. The family had left, Khaled says, to preserve their lives. But reaching a place away from gunfire did not mean regaining the life they had left behind. They survived the immediate danger but entered another stage of suffering: displacement and life without suitable shelter or the most basic necessities. When Khaled was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Abdulqawi: A Child Fell from His Mother's Arms on the Road of Flight

Abdulqawi Mohammed Ibrahim Ali Akaret, aged 40, lived in Mocha with his five-person family before the war forced them to leave the area out of fear of death and gunfire. Abdulqawi says that when he left he was unable to take his household utensils or prepare his belongings because fear of the war outweighed thoughts about what he would leave behind. He left with his family in search of safety. He remembers that the situation during departure was extremely bad, with large numbers of civilians fleeing the area while gunfire accompanied the journey out. But the scene that remained in his memory more than any other was that of a woman fleeing while carrying her child. Abdulqawi says he saw the woman amid the flight and chaos before the child fell from her arms onto the road. According to his account, the child's head struck the ground and the child died. For him, the scene was one of the harshest things he witnessed during displacement.

A woman trying to escape the war, carrying her child as she moved along the road, then the little one falling from her arms and dying. Abdulqawi and his family continued their journey. But movement was not easy. He says they had to walk parts of the road, then move from one vehicle to another whenever they found transport that could help them continue. He describes their arrival as having been achieved "with great difficulty." The journey was not organized, and there was no dedicated means of transport taking the family directly from the place of danger to somewhere safer. They had to move with whatever was available and continue from one vehicle to another and from one stretch to the next. When Abdulqawi and his family arrived, they found no prepared place to stay. He says there was no suitable place to shelter them, no tent to protect them from the heat of the sun, no bedding, no household utensils, and no bathroom or basic facilities to help the family manage daily life. He describes their situation by saying: "We sat crowded on top of other people under the sun."

The family left its home out of fear of war but found itself after arrival in a place lacking the most basic necessities of life. They had no bedding to sleep on, no tent to provide privacy and protection, no household utensils, and no suitable place to bathe. Thus, Abdulqawi and his family's suffering did not end when they moved away from the gunfire. They shifted from the immediate fear of war to the hardship of displacement and living without suitable shelter or basic necessities. But the image of the woman whose child fell from her arms while fleeing remained what haunted him most from that journey. Like many families, she was trying to survive. Her child was with her on the road of flight. When Abdulqawi was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Yousef: He Left in the Clothes He Was Wearing and Left the House Behind

Yousef Mohammed Ibrahim Ali Akaret, aged 24, lived in Mocha with his three-person family before the war forced them to leave the area out of fear of gunfire and the danger threatening civilians. Yousef says they left "out of fear of war, injustice, and live gunfire against civilians." The situation, in his description, was "very frightening." People were fleeing, families were leaving, and everyone was trying to get away from the war and reach a safer place. But leaving Mocha was not easy. Yousef says he saw people stranded on the road because transport was unavailable, while others were forced to continue on foot. His family was among those who faced this difficulty. They had no private means of transport that could easily take them out and had to move along the road and search for any means that would allow them to continue the displacement journey. Yousef says: "We faced difficulties because we had no transport, so we had to move along the road."

The family did not have enough time to gather its belongings. Yousef and his family left in haste and were unable to take bedding, household utensils, or enough clothes. At that moment, the goal was to get away from danger. They left the house with everything in it and continued in search of safety. But reaching a place away from the war did not mean that they found a suitable place to live. Yousef says there was no tent to shelter his family, no bedding, and no basic necessities through which they could begin a stable life at the place of displacement. He describes what happened by saying: "We fled and did not take with us enough clothing or household utensils to cover our needs." That was how the family left its home, without prior preparation and without being able to carry the things they had used in daily life. They did not have enough clothes, household utensils, or bedding, and after leaving they found no tent that could provide shelter.

Yousef was 24 years old and responsible for a family of three, but after displacement he found himself facing needs beginning with the simplest things: a place to shelter his family, bedding on which they could sleep, clothes, and utensils to help them manage daily life. The family left out of fear of war and gunfire. When it moved away from danger, it found itself facing another hardship: living without suitable shelter and without the things left behind. Yousef did not carry much with him. According to his testimony, he and his family left with what they could and left the rest of their life in the home they were forced to abandon. When Yousef was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Khaled Ibrahim: He Escaped the War Only to Find Himself Without a Tent

Khaled Ibrahim Ali Yassin Abu Al-Hayya, aged 35, lived in Mocha with his six-person family before the war forced them to leave the area. Khaled says they left because of the war and the lack of a source of life in the areas of fighting. He describes the situation on departure as "very frightening," while people were fleeing the area because of the war. During the journey out, Khaled says he saw incidents connected to displacement, alongside live gunfire and indiscriminate shooting. Families were moving in fear, trying to get away from the fighting area and reach somewhere safer. But leaving itself was difficult. Khaled says transport was among the hardest challenges facing the family because there were not enough means of transportation. He and his family had to look for any means that would allow them to continue, and he describes the difficulty of moving as severe and miserable. The problem was not only leaving the war zone, but how a family of six could reach another place in the absence of transport.

Even so, Khaled and his family managed to move away from the danger zone. But arrival was not the end of their suffering. When they arrived, they found no prepared place to shelter them. Khaled says they had no tent and nothing to protect them from the heat of the sun. There were no blankets, bedding, or basic necessities to help the family manage daily life. Khaled and his family left Mocha in search of safety, but after displacement they found themselves without suitable shelter and without the most basic things a person needs to live. No tent to protect them from the sun. No blankets or bedding on which they could sleep. No prepared place in which the family could begin temporary life. Thus, the family moved from the immediate fear of war into another hardship imposed by displacement. Khaled was responsible for six people, but after leaving he found himself facing needs beginning with the most basic things. When asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Ali Ibrahim: Sleeping on the Ground with the Sky as Their Cover

Ali Ibrahim Ali Yassin, aged 35, lived in Mocha with his seven-person family before the war forced them to leave the area. Ali says they left because of the war, killing, and harm to civilians, and that fear of continued fighting forced them to leave Mocha in search of safety. He describes the situation when they left as "frightening and tragic," while people were fleeing the area under the weight of war. He says he saw victims of the fighting and civilians leaving their areas after life there became more difficult. The journey out was not easy. Ali and his family faced difficulties while fleeing and being displaced as they tried to move away from the danger zone and reach somewhere safer. But arrival did not mean that the family found a suitable place to stay. Ali says they had no place to shelter. They had no household utensils, bedding, tents, or anything to help the family manage life after displacement. Ali summarizes his family's situation in one phrase:

"We sleep on the ground with the sky as our cover." The family left its home because of the war and then found itself, after displacement, without shelter. Seven people without a private home to shelter them, a tent to protect them, bedding on which to sleep, or household utensils with which to manage their daily needs. The ground became their place to sleep and the sky the only cover available. Ali and his family's suffering was not connected only to the moment of leaving Mocha. Moving away from the war shifted them into another hardship: living without suitable shelter and without the most basic requirements of life. Ali and his family left in search of safety, but after reaching the place of displacement they found themselves without a tent, bedding, or household utensils. His description of the family's condition remained the most concise expression of what their life had become after leaving: "We sleep on the ground with the sky as our cover." When Ali was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Ali Zobar: Five Families in One House

Ali Ali Saghir Yahya Yahya Zobar, aged 28, lived in Mocha with his six-person family before the war forced them to leave the area. Ali says they were forced to leave because of a situation he describes as "catastrophic and tragic" and the harm the war caused to lives and homes. He says gunfire was continuing and civilians were in danger, which drove him and his family to leave Mocha. The situation, in his description, was "extremely catastrophic." Ali says he saw large numbers of people and families leaving the area and speaks of "thousands of people and families leaving" and the homelessness and suffering accompanying the displacement journey. Leaving Mocha was not easy. He says most people and families faced major difficulties while leaving, amid fear, suffering, and insufficient transport. For many, displacement was an arduous journey while families were trying simply to move away from danger and reach somewhere safer.

Ali and his family left their home and were unable to take their furniture, household utensils, or belongings with them. He says they fled the area without being able to carry enough clothing or the things they needed in daily life. After the displacement journey, Ali and his family found a place to stay. But the house in which they took refuge is not occupied by his family alone. Ali says: "We are currently staying with people; five families are inside one house." Five families came to live in one house after displacement. At the same time, his family has no furniture of its own, no household utensils, bedding, or tents. Ali says they left their homes without being able to take enough clothing or household items with them. Thus, the family's suffering did not end simply because they reached a place that sheltered them. Today they live with four other families in one house, without the furniture, utensils, and bedding that had been part of their life before displacement.

Ali left Mocha with his six-person family because of the war and fear that the gunfire would continue. When they reached the place of displacement, they found themselves sharing one house with four other families after leaving behind their home, belongings, and most of their necessities. When Ali was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Saleh: The Road Filled with People Who Could Find No Transport

Saleh Ali Sabtan Dom, aged 45, lived in Mocha with his seven-person family before the war forced them to leave the area. Saleh says they left because of the war and live gunfire affecting civilians, homes, and residents. What he feared most was for lives, particularly with women and children in the family. He says: "We feared for lives, women, and children, so we had to leave." He describes the situation at departure as "very frightening" because of the war and gunfire in the area. People were moving in an attempt to get away from danger. Saleh says he witnessed tragedies, the killing of innocent people, and displacement, alongside the closure of some roads or difficulty passing through them. One of the clearest scenes for him was people walking along the road with no means of transport to take them to safer places. His family was no exception. Saleh and his family members faced major difficulties in moving.

He says they could not move easily and had to walk parts of the road, then use cars whenever an available means of transport was found. The journey was neither easy nor stable. They had to alternate between walking and vehicles according to what was available, simply trying to reach a place that would take them away from the war. When Saleh and his family arrived, they found no suitable place to shelter them. He says they had no prepared shelter, household utensils, gas cylinder, or anything to protect them from the heat of the sun. They also had no blankets, bedding, or tents, and they had no water tank. The family left its home because of the war and then found itself, after displacement, in need of the simplest things that had been part of daily life: a place to shelter them. Bedding to sleep on. Blankets. A tent to protect them from the sun. A gas cylinder for cooking. And a water tank.

All of these were things a person normally owns or uses in daily life, but after displacement they became needs that Saleh's family no longer had. The road they traveled remained present in his memory: people walking on foot, families searching for transport, and people trying to reach a safer place but finding nothing to carry them. When Saleh was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Dalila: She Left with Eight People and Took Nothing with Her

Dalila Hamoud Murshid Ali, aged 48, lived in Mocha with her eight-person family before the war forced them to leave the area. Dalila says they left because of the war and fear of live fire and indiscriminate shooting at civilians. She describes the situation when they left as "frightening and tragic." People were fleeing the area, gunfire continued, and families were trying to leave their homes and reach somewhere safer. Dalila says she saw victims on the road because of the war, as well as distressed people unable to find transport to safer places. Leaving was not easy. The family faced difficulties moving and could not easily find a safe, available route. Dalila says they had to leave without being able to take almost any of the household necessities. They did not take household utensils. They did not take a gas cylinder. They left without many of the things they had used in daily life.

At that moment, the goal was to get out of the danger area. After arriving, Dalila and her family found no suitable place to shelter them. She says they had no household utensils, gas cylinder, or anything to protect them from the heat of the sun. They also had no blankets, bedding, or tents. The eight-person family left its home because of fear of war and gunfire and then, after displacement, found itself without the most basic needs that had been part of life before departure. No suitable place to shelter them. No bedding to sleep on. No blankets. No tent to protect them from the sun. No household utensils. No gas cylinder. Dalila had left her home quickly and was unable to carry the things her family needed. After arrival, those things were not available either. Thus, her family's suffering did not end when they moved away from the war zone.

They moved from fear of gunfire into a life of displacement lacking shelter and basic necessities.

Dalila, who left with a family of eight, carried with her only what she was able to leave with at that moment. The rest of the family's belongings remained in the home she was forced to leave. When Dalila was asked for consent to publish her case, she agreed.

Omar: Hours on the Road, Then a House That Was Not His

Omar Ahmed Mohammed Ali Maqbool, aged 30, lived in Mocha with his five-person family before the war forced them to leave the area. Omar says they left out of fear of death and live gunfire against civilians, homes, and residents, and out of fear for children, women, and older persons. He describes the situation when they left as "very frightening" because of the war and events the area was witnessing. People were leaving their homes, and fear gripped families trying to move away from danger. Omar says he saw broad displacement and indiscriminate gunfire at civilians, homes, and residents. Leaving was not easy. Omar and his family had difficulty moving because transport was not sufficiently available. He says they remained "stranded on the road for long hours." The family was trying to continue its journey and move away from the area, but had no available means of transport that could take them directly to somewhere safer. They spent hours on the road.

Omar was responsible for a family of five and had to keep searching for a means that would allow them to reach somewhere that could shelter them. Eventually, they reached a place where someone hosted them. Omar says: "We are staying with people who hosted us." But having a roof over their heads did not mean that the family had regained the life it left in Mocha. They had no tent, bedding, blankets, gas cylinder, or water tanks. They did not have the basic things a family needs to manage life independently. Omar and his family found someone willing to open their home to them, but they remained dependent on others' hospitality after losing their own place and basic necessities. They left Mocha out of fear for children, women, and older persons, and after long hours on the road the displacement journey ended inside a house they

did not own. They found a place that temporarily sheltered them, but not their own tent, bedding, blankets, cooking gas, or water tanks.

Thus, the family moved from the immediate fear of war and gunfire to a life in which it depended on others' hospitality and whatever necessities might become available. Omar had left Mocha to preserve his family's lives. After hours of suffering on the road, he reached somewhere safer, but he did not reach a house he could call his own. When Omar was asked for consent to publish his case, he agreed.

Maryam: More Than a Decade Between Displacement, Injury, and Loss

Maryam Zaid Hassan Ali, aged 45, lived with her husband and six children in the village of Al-Arish in Maqbanah District before a displacement journey began that, she says, consumed more than a decade of her life, during which she moved among villages, camps, schools, and mountain roads.

Maryam begins speaking with difficulty:

> "By God, my son, I do not know where to begin or where to end... Years of my life spent between hardship and displacement."

She says her first displacement was in 2015, when the Houthi group entered Maqbanah District and clashes erupted. She left with her family toward Mawza District after residents of several villages left their homes under the pressure of fighting and fear.

About a year later, Maryam tried to return to her home to retrieve some of the family's belongings. She says that during this attempt she was shot by a sniper whom she attributes to the Houthi group and suffered a gunshot wound that required her transfer to Taiz city, where she remained in hospital for around three weeks.

She left the hospital, but she had no home to which she could return.

She says:

> "I left the hospital and had nowhere to go. I was prevented from returning to my home, and the situation was very difficult."

The family decided to remain in Mawza District. Because they could not afford rent, they took refuge in Bani Futayni IDP Camp, where they received a tent from one of the organizations.

Maryam treated the tent as temporary accommodation and waited for the day when she could return to her home. But the temporary arrangement stretched into years.

She says she lived for around eight years in the camp, in conditions that, in her description, lacked privacy and the minimum elements of a dignified life.

> "I lived without a private bathroom for myself and my family. If I wanted to rest or change my clothes, I feared someone might pass by... What kind of life is this? I cannot sleep safely or move freely."

Dozens of families lived in the same camp, which Maryam says was located near military positions belonging to the National Resistance.

Despite the harshness of life there, she had one hope: one day to return to her home in Maqbanah.

But in late August 2026, areas containing the camps were shelled. Maryam attributes the shelling to the Houthi group and says it also killed 12 sheep owned by the family.

The family was forced to flee again, this time to Al-Suwayda Camp in Mawza District.

Maryam and her husband started over: another tent, a new place, and another attempt to build a temporary life.

But it lasted only a few days.

With changes in military control in the area in early September, the family was forced to flee for the third time within a short period. They left Mawza via Al-Wazi'iyah and took refuge in a school there, where they stayed for three days.

She says the family received only one meal a day during that period.

The hardest thing for Maryam this time was not hunger or the road.

It was the disappearance of two of her sons.

Since 9 September 2026, Maryam says she has not known where they are or whether they are alive.

> "I do not know where two of my sons are... Are they alive or dead? I cannot sleep because I am afraid for them. Did the Houthis kill them? Or where did they go?"

After three days in Al-Wazi'iyah, the family continued the displacement journey on foot.

They took mountain routes through Al-Alaqimah, Rasin, Al-Kuwayrah, and Al-Budayjah toward Al-Turbah. According to Maryam, the journey took around two full days of walking.

She asks:

> "What did we do for all of this to happen to us? Why are we paying the price?"

When she reached Al-Turbah, she took refuge in a school.

The family had no bedding, covers, or any of the basic necessities they had left behind during successive waves of displacement.

But all of those needs seemed less important to Maryam than the question of her sons.

> "My heart is on fire for my sons. I do not know where they are, and I do not know what they are eating or drinking. Since Wednesday, 9 September, I have known nothing about them. My night is not night and my day is not day... I want to hear their voices. Oh God, do not make me suffer their loss."

At this point, Maryam was unable to continue speaking.

She began crying intensely, then left the place and refused to complete the interview.

For her, displacement was no longer merely repeated movement from one place to another. Since 2015, she had lost her home, been injured while trying to return to it, lived for years in a camp lacking privacy, then lost her livestock in shelling and was displaced again from one camp to another, before the journey ended in a school in Al-Turbah while she remained unaware of the fate of two of her sons.

Ahmed: He Woke at Two in the Morning to Find the City Where He Worked Had Changed

Ahmed Abdulfattah Mohammed Ahmed, aged 33, had worked for an international organization in Mocha District, Taiz Governorate, for around four years.

The nature of his work allowed him to travel regularly among the western coast districts in Taiz and Hodeidah governorates and work with local communities and IDP camps.

Ahmed says that his years of work were not free from harassment at some military checkpoints belonging to the National Resistance.

He particularly mentions the Anbarah checkpoint on the Al-Khawkhah road, in front of Anbarah Camp, where he says some soldiers had for years told organization staff that Al-Khawkhah "would soon be taken by the Houthis."

Ahmed did not take these statements seriously.

According to his account, the situation changed during the second half of August 2026, when shelling intensified and new waves of displacement began, and the organization gave staff one week's leave because of the security situation.

As new camps for displaced people were established and humanitarian needs increased, Ahmed and his colleagues were asked to return to Mocha and resume work.

He returned to the city but began noticing changes whose causes he did not understand.

He says the locations of some military checkpoints changed and the movement of humanitarian workers began to be restricted, even in areas he believed were relatively far from the front lines.

At the same time, he began receiving information from camp representatives in Mawza, Al-Wazi'iyah, and Hays about withdrawals and the handover of military positions.

He found it difficult to believe.

> "I trusted that the strength possessed by the National Resistance would not withdraw so easily."

As large areas of Mawza and Al-Wazi'iyah fell and the roads linking Mocha to Taiz city were cut, the displacement camps themselves began to move, and displaced people were transferred toward Mocha.

Humanitarian work turned into a race against time.

Ahmed says he was working from six in the morning until six in the evening.

On 9 September, after a long and exhausting day of work, he returned and went to sleep at around eight in the evening.

He believed the situation in Mocha was still under control.

At around two in the morning, he woke to the sounds of neighbors and shouting in the neighborhood.

People were leaving their homes.

Then one of his colleagues came and told him:

> "Come on, let's go; the Houthis have entered."

At first, Ahmed thought he was still dreaming.

But when he went outside, he saw, in his description, a state of fear and confusion gripping those who remained in the city.

He did not even have time to change out of his sleepwear.

He left as he was.

He says:

> "I left bewildered and stunned. Where are the forces? Where are the armored vehicles and tanks they had talked about?"

He moved with his colleagues in the direction of Dhubab.

On the road, Ahmed says he saw women and children walking on foot and families trying to leave by any means possible.

He also said he saw military vehicles and personnel leaving the area, a scene that left him feeling anger and disappointment.

His comments about the forces present in the area reflect his personal impression during displacement and his interpretation of what he saw; the report does not rely on them by themselves to establish the reasons for the withdrawal or the military decisions taken at the time.

He says:

> "I was watching people suffer and asking myself: What did the residents do for all of this to happen to them?"

But the scene that, according to his account, remained the harshest occurred when he reached the Dhubab area.

There, Ahmed says, he saw a missile fall amid a gathering of displaced civilians and attributed the missile to the Houthi group.

He says he saw bodies burning and becoming charred at the site of the explosion.

> "I found the bodies burning and charred. It was an extremely difficult scene, like the horrors of Judgment Day. It was the first time in my life I had seen anything like it."

This account is consistent with other information obtained by the organizations concerning casualties and missing persons along the displacement route in the Bab al-Mandab–Dhubab area, while determining the type of projectile, its launch source, and the final casualty toll still requires further technical and field verification.

Ahmed continued his journey toward Taiz city.

He says the communications outage in Mocha prevented him from checking on his colleagues and workers at other organizations during that period.

He reached his home in Taiz after a journey he describes as simultaneously "arduous, sad, exhausting, and crushing."

When he arrived, he slept for around 17 hours continuously.

> "I slept from anguish, sadness, and exhaustion, hoping that everything I had lived through in the first days of September was only a horrible nightmare."

The next day, he began trying to contact his colleagues.

He discovered that each of them had a different story.

Some, according to his account, had been unable to leave Mocha and were forced to hide with local families; some fled on foot; while others left in vehicles, some of which were damaged during shelling.

On the evening of the following day, he received a call from a guard working for one of the organizations who rented the apartment next to the residence where Ahmed and his colleagues stayed in Mocha.

According to his testimony, the guard told him that armed men affiliated with the Houthi group had entered the residence and looted its contents.

Ahmed says the guard told him that laptops, equipment, and personal clothing had been taken, and also told him that a car belonging to one of his colleagues had been stolen.

Ahmed was not present at the residence at the time of the incident; this part of his testimony therefore appears as information relayed to him by the guard and requires independent verification of the looted property and the identity of those who took it.

Around nine days after control changed in Mocha, Ahmed received another call.

The caller's number did not appear on the screen; it showed the words "Private Number."

He says the person who spoke to him identified himself as affiliated with what is called the Houthi group's "Judicial Security."

According to Ahmed, the caller asked him to report to the security body and return to what he described as the "embrace of the state" and respond to the "President's call," and told him that failure to appear could lead to judicial rulings being issued against him.

Ahmed recounts that he replied angrily:

> "You robbed us, cut off our livelihood, and displaced us..."

For Ahmed, the story of displacement did not end when he reached Taiz.

Within a few days, he went from being a humanitarian worker who worked daily with displaced people on the western coast to becoming displaced himself; he left his residence in sleepwear, saw civilians fleeing and charred bodies on the road, then received reports that his residence and his colleagues' property had been looted, before receiving a call demanding that he return to the city from which he had fled out of fear for his life.

For four years, he had worked to respond to the needs of people whom the war had forced to flee.

In September 2026, he became one of them.

Chapter Two

Stories of Killing and Injury



These stories present the individual impact of injuries on civilians and children, the path to obtaining treatment, and the fear, delays in evacuation, and temporary separation from family that accompanied them.

Mohammed: From Herding Sheep to the Operating Room

Mohammed Walid Saeed Qasim, aged 14, was in a valley near the village of Al-Ashaab in Jabal Habashy District, Taiz Governorate, herding sheep with two of his relatives, Moayad and Murad. It was around 4:15 p.m. on 25 August 2026. According to his brother Bashar Walid Saeed Qasim, there were no clashes taking place in the area at that time. Mohammed and his companions were in the valley when a bullet struck his left leg. The bullet entered from one side and exited from the other. His brother says the gunfire came from the direction of Tabbat Al-Quba', an area where he said members affiliated with the Houthi group were positioned. Mohammed fell injured. There was no ambulance that could reach him. The road leading to the village was also rough and difficult for vehicles to access. The two children who were with him tried to help as best they could. They tied his injured leg in an attempt to stop the bleeding, then helped him leave the valley toward the village. The walk took around 15 minutes.

Mohammed reached the village with a gunshot wound to his leg. There, his brother Bashar attempted to take him to hospital. But reaching Taiz city was not easy. Because of the rough road and the inability of cars to reach the village, Bashar placed his injured brother on a motorcycle and set off toward Al-Thawra Hospital. The journey took around an hour. Mohammed reached Al-Thawra Hospital at around 5:30 p.m. According to his brother, he received first aid there. He was also given blood and then taken in for surgery to treat his injury. Mohammed had gone out that afternoon to herd sheep with his relatives. Around an hour and a quarter after he was injured, he was on a bed at Al-Thawra Hospital receiving treatment. The emergency journey was not easy. First he had to leave the valley with the help of his two companions, then reach the village on foot, and after that travel by motorcycle over a rough road to Taiz city.

According to his brother's testimony, there were no clashes at the time Mohammed was injured, and he was in the valley herding sheep when he was shot.

They Were Taking the Children Out First, Then the Bullets Hit the Back Seat

On the morning of 5 September 2026, the family of Mahfouz Salem Abdu left the Darkhaf area of Jabal Habashy District in Taiz Governorate after the area, according to the account of a family relative, Mushir Taha Salem Abdu, came under the control of the Houthi group. The family had decided to take the children and some food supplies out first, with the men returning later to evacuate the remaining women and family members. They left in two vehicles. With them were Basim, the eldest brother, and their relative Mushir Taha Salem Abdu, while the children and some family members sat beside the food supplies they had been able to carry. Among those in the vehicle were Lunan Mahfouz Salem Abdu, aged 14; his brother Taha, aged eight; their sister Safa Mahfouz Salem Abdu, aged 30; and their relative Mohammed Issa Mohammed Ali. According to Mushir's testimony, the two vehicles had not gone far when one was fired upon after traveling a short distance.

He says the gunfire came from the direction of the Darkhaf area, which he said the Houthi group had recently taken over. The bullets struck the rear of the vehicle, where the children and food supplies were located. Lunan was directly hit in his left hand. According to the account, the injury ruptured an artery, and he was also struck by shrapnel in his left leg. His brother Taha, aged eight, was shot in the back, in addition to sustaining shrapnel near his spine. Their sister Safa was shot in the neck and ear area. Mohammed Issa Mohammed Ali was also struck by shrapnel in both his right and left hands. The family had left that morning to move the children away from danger. But after the gunfire, the vehicle carrying them away from the area became a means of transporting the wounded. The injured were taken to Al-Nashmah Hospital, where they received first aid. According to the family's account, Lunan and Taha required blood transfusions.

After first aid was provided, a decision was made to transfer the injured to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz city to continue treatment. They reached the hospital at around 2:00 p.m. The family had begun its journey at approximately 9:00 a.m., trying to take out the children and some food supplies before returning later for the rest of the family. But the plan did not unfold as they intended. Shortly after leaving, four family members and companions were injured: two children, a woman, and one of their relatives. Lunan and Taha had been seated in the back of the vehicle because the family wanted to take them out of the danger area first. According to the family's testimony, that same seat was the one struck by the bullets.

Turki: He Arrived at the Hospital Alone

Turki Hazza Ahmed Hizam, aged eight, was standing near the door of his family's home in the Akkad area of Al-Kadhah, Al-Ma'afer District, Taiz Governorate, on 5 September 2026. He was preparing to enter the house when shrapnel struck him in the face. According to his mother, Nadwah Hazza Ahmed Hizam, the shrapnel entered through his right cheek and exited near the beginning of his neck on the left side. Other fragments also remained inside his right cheek. Turki fell to the ground after being injured. His mother says that at that moment he was alone and no one was beside him. She cried out for help. A village resident heard her and called members of the forces present in the area, who transferred Turki to Al-Nashmah Hospital. The child's journey to hospital began without his family accompanying him. At Al-Nashmah Hospital, he received first aid. As other injured people arrived, Turki was transferred with them to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz city to continue treatment.

Thus, at eight years old, the child moved from one hospital to another among a group of wounded people, without any member of his family beside him. Upon reaching Al-Thawra Hospital, he received further first aid and treatment. His mother says the doctors did not remove the remaining shrapnel from his cheek because, according to what the family was told, removing it could affect him. Turki initially remained alone at Al-Thawra Hospital. His family did not reach him until the following day. He had left the

area in front of his home injured, was taken first to Al-Nashmah Hospital and then to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz city, while his family remained away from him until the next day. According to his family's account, the shrapnel came from shells fired by Houthi forces while they were attempting to enter the area. According to his mother, Turki was near the door of the house when he was injured. He was not at a military site. He was not on a battlefront. He was simply preparing to enter the house.

That day ended with the child at Al-Thawra Hospital, away from his family, while some shrapnel remained inside his cheek. His family reached him the following day.

Mohammed Muqbil: He Was Injured While Sleeping and Waited a Full Day to Reach Hospital

Mohammed Muqbil Obeid Ali, aged 80, was asleep inside his home in Maqbanah District, Taiz Governorate, at dawn on 3 September 2026. At around five in the morning, a bullet struck the front of his head. His son, Saeed Mohammed Muqbil Obeid, says the family rushed to try to save him. His son carried him on a motorcycle and set off for the health unit in the area. They reached the health unit at around 5:30 a.m. According to his son's account, Mohammed was still alive and conscious at that time. Health workers provided first aid, but his condition then began to deteriorate. His sons realized that their father needed to be transferred to a hospital in Taiz city. But reaching the city was not easy. Saeed says intense clashes were taking place in the area and the family tried to find a car to transport Mohammed, but no one was willing to take him amid the fighting. Mohammed remained in the area, while his family continued trying to find a way to get him to Taiz.

The family was not able to begin the journey until the next morning. They left at around 7:30 a.m. But even after they were able to move, the road to Taiz was not direct. His son says the main road through the Al-Bireen area had been cut by Houthi forces, forcing them to use another route passing through a number of villages and areas. They passed through Kazm, then Al-Manoum, then Jabal Habashy, and from there continued toward Taiz city. The journey took hours. Mohammed reached Al-Rawda Hospital in

Taiz city at around 1:00 p.m. By then he had fallen into a coma. The 80-year-old man had been injured at dawn the previous day while inside his home, then waited long hours before his family could transfer him to Taiz city. After a long journey on an alternative route, he reached hospital unconscious. According to the family's account, doctors treated him and monitored his condition, but his health did not stabilize. On 5 September 2026, Mohammed died from his injury.

Mohammed's journey to hospital began on a motorcycle to the nearby health unit. It then stopped for long hours because of the intensity of the clashes and the lack of a car able to transport him. The following day another journey began through villages and alternative roads after the main road became unavailable. He reached hospital in a coma. Two days after he was injured, he died.

Tariq: The Demining Engineer Who Had to Crawl to Save Himself

Tariq Abdulazim Yahya Saeed, aged 50, worked as an engineer in mine and improvised explosive device clearance. On the morning of 22 August 2026, he went to the Najd Al-Murqab area in Al-Shaqab, Sabir Al-Mawadim District, Taiz Governorate, to inspect remaining mines and explosive devices in the area and attempt to remove them. This followed the incident involving Qaboul Saeed Aqlan at the same location, below Tabbat Al-Salihin. Tariq reached the area and began inspecting the explosives there. According to Jamal Jamil Abdullah Ahmed, a resident of the village, Tariq was attempting to remove an explosive device when two devices exploded near him at the same place where Qaboul's incident had occurred. Shrapnel scattered and struck Tariq. He was injured in the head, jaws, and face. According to the account, the injury caused facial fractures, and shrapnel also struck his brain. But Tariq's injury was not the end of the danger he faced at the site. He was wounded, while village residents were unable to reach him immediately to provide assistance.

The witness says members affiliated with the Houthi group were firing sniper shots near the location, making it difficult to approach Tariq and help him. Tariq remained injured at the site. Because he could not wait for others to reach him, he began dragging

himself away from the explosion site. He moved while injured in his head, face, and jaws, trying to reach an area where village residents could approach him. He continued pulling himself until he reached a safer location. There, residents were able to reach him and provide assistance. Tariq was then transferred to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz city. He reached the hospital at around 9:30 a.m. He had gone to Najd Al-Murqab that morning to remove remaining mines and explosive devices in the area. But while attempting to remove one device, two devices exploded, causing shrapnel injuries to his head, face, jaws, and brain. According to the testimony of a village resident, others were unable to reach him immediately because of sniper fire near the location.

For this reason, Tariq, while injured, had to drag himself until he reached an area accessible to village residents. He had gone to the area to remove the danger posed by mines and explosive devices. After being injured, he had to crawl by himself so that others could save him.

Qaboul: She Returned to Check Her Home and the Door Exploded on Her

Qaboul Saeed Mohammed Aqlan, aged 65, had returned on the morning of 10 August 2026 to her home in the Najd Al-Murqab area of Al-Shaqab, Sabir Al-Mawadim District, Taiz Governorate. The house is located below Tabbat Al-Salihin, an area where her son Ali Abdullah Qasim Ali said members affiliated with the Houthi group were positioned. Qaboul went out that morning to check her home. She reached the house, and when she opened the door an explosion occurred. According to her son, an explosive device had been attached by a wire to the door in a manner causing it to detonate when the door was opened. The device exploded on Qaboul. She was struck in the chest and neck and also sustained shrapnel wounds to her hand. According to her son's testimony, the injuries caused her death at the scene. After hearing the explosion, her son and a member of the resistance went to the house. When they reached her, they found her lying on the ground, already dead. But removing her from the area was not easy. A vehicle could not reach the location directly.

Her son and those with him had to carry her on foot for around 20 minutes until they reached a place from which she could be transported toward Taiz city. She was then transferred to Al-Thawra Hospital. They reached the hospital at around 11:00 a.m. But according to her son, Qaboul had died at the moment of the explosion. She had gone out that morning for one purpose: to check her home. She was not handling an explosive device and, according to her son's account, did not know that the house door was connected to one. She opened the door, and the device exploded. According to the family's testimony, the device was connected by a wire to the house door so that opening it would detonate it. Qaboul was injured in the chest, neck, and hand and died at the scene. Her son and those with him then carried her on foot for around 20 minutes before transferring her to Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz city. She was 65 years old. She had returned only to check her home.

Suhad: She Left in Search of Safety and the Shrapnel Ended Up in Her Spine

Suhad Ali Hammadi Omar Jamal, aged 25, was among the civilians present in the Al-Omari Triangle area during the displacement movement on the night of 9 September 2026. According to the account obtained by the organizations, the area was shelled at around 1:00 a.m., and Suhad was struck by shrapnel that entered her right side and lodged in her spine.

The account says the danger did not end with the first strike. While people were trying to reach and rescue the injured, a second strike occurred, followed by the explosion of a tanker loaded with fuel and a fire affecting a number of vehicles. The details of the type and source of the projectiles and the full toll of the incident still require further technical and field verification.

A Family Searching for a Father and Two Children

After the Al-Omari Triangle incident, the fate of Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 40, and his two sons Ayman, aged 16, and Abdullah, aged 14, became unknown. At the same time, Rina Ahmed Abdullah Hassan Naji Harim, aged 9, sustained damage to her eardrum, and Afrah Aqleen Suwaid Hibat Allah suffered a perforated eardrum. The name Bayan Abdullah Mohammed Nasser Al-Amiri also appeared among the injured; she was struck by shrapnel in the hand.

The family found itself facing two tasks at once: treating the injured and searching for three of its members. The organizations do not count missing persons among the dead unless reliable information establishes their death or they are found, and they continue to complete the family's data and determine the fate of its members.

Five Siblings Injured and the Sixth Missing

In the family of Mohammed Abdu Abdullah Musa, the incident affected six children at once. Nader, aged 15, went missing, while his five siblings were injured: Rasha, aged 17, by shrapnel to the head and face; Shaima, aged 12, by shrapnel to the head; Zahra, aged 7, by shrapnel to the hand; Mazen, aged 6, by shrapnel to the head; and Abdu, aged two, by shrapnel to the head.

The family was left with five injured children while at the same time searching for a sixth child whose fate remains unknown, reflecting the impact a single incident can have on a family's structure and its capacity for care and protection.

Raddad: The Survivor Who Lost His Family

Among the cases received by the organizations was that of the child Raddad Mohammed Rizq Allah Faraj. The information indicates that his father was killed while the fate of his mother, Saud Saeed Saif Abdullah Ismail, remains unknown. According to the account, Raddad was the only survivor from his immediate family and was left without a provider.

Complete data on the child's age, his father's name, or the circumstances in which he was found after the incident are not yet available, and these elements require further documentation. Nevertheless, his case reveals an impact extending beyond survival from immediate danger to the loss of family protection and a source of care and support.

Chapter Three Stories of Child Recruitment

The following accounts present pathways through which children were recruited and transferred to training and military sites, and illustrate the roles of incentives, indoctrination, and family and social pressure as recounted by the children themselves.



Yasser: Thirteen Years Old Between Recruitment and the Front

Yasser Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Saeed was 13 when he entered the path of recruitment and fighting. He was still in the sixth grade of basic education and lived in a large family of nine siblings, five girls and four boys. His father worked as a driver of an old private car, but according to Yasser's account it had stopped working during the recent period. Yasser says none of his siblings was involved in recruitment. But his life began to change when he left with a group of boys from his area toward the front. According to his account, he went with people he knew from the area, and the rhetoric he heard linked going to the front with religion and fighting "for God." Yasser says the person whose name was associated with his recruitment was a supervisor known as "Abu Badr," whom he said came from the same area. Yasser did not say in his testimony that he had been directly threatened and forced to go. He said he went of his own will, but at the same time spoke of promises of money, provisions, and assistance for families.

Yasser was then transferred to a military site that he said was in Dhamar Governorate, believed to have been within Anis District, although he did not know the camp's name precisely. He says that at one stage he was supposed to be transferred with others to Sana'a or Dhamar for training. But this did not happen. According to his account, he did not enter a full military course because of the lack of time and the rapid pace of events. While in that environment, Yasser saw other children close to his age. He spoke of children aged 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. Yasser was not the only child there. He was surrounded by other minors who, according to his account, had been brought into the same military environment. Yasser says he was receiving an amount of around 30,000 rials per month. He also spoke of qat use and indoctrination and mobilizing rhetoric connected to the war, although some details of this aspect remained unclear in the account. He was then transferred to a front in the Salh area of Taiz Governorate.

There, his presence on the front became actual. His account indicates that he was assigned tasks connected to checkpoints and observation. He also carried a weapon while on the front. He was 13 years old. As events developed, Yasser left the front. According to his account, he left with an acquaintance or friend and headed toward the city. He later reached a checkpoint in the Al-Aqrud area, where his presence within the group's ranks ended. But leaving the front did not mark the end of what he experienced. When asked about his treatment afterward, he said he was beaten, threatened, humiliated, and filmed. Thus, Yasser moved from the experience of recruitment and being on the front to another experience of fear and pressure. When asked what he wanted now, he did not speak about war or weapons. He said he wanted to return to his home and family. "I miss going home and being back with my family," according to his account. Yasser had entered this path when he was 13.

He moved from school into a military environment, found children of similar ages around him, received promises of money and assistance, then was transferred to the Salh front and assigned tasks connected to checkpoints, observation, and carrying a weapon. After leaving, he said he was beaten, threatened, humiliated, and filmed. In the end, his request was simple: to return home.

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Sohaib: A Father Took Him to Be Recruited While He Was a Child

Sohaib was 16 when his account was documented, but he said his involvement in recruitment had begun years earlier. According to his account, he was around 13 when he entered this path. Sohaib had not received regular education. He said he had studied to around the second grade of primary school, learned some reading and writing, and memorized portions of the Quran, but did not continue his education. Sohaib says it was his father who took him from his mother and brought him for recruitment. According to his account, his father was affiliated with the Houthi group and took him to a camp within the area of Salh District. When asked whether he had gone voluntarily or had been pressured, he said his father pressured him to go. Sohaib was then transferred to the camp and says the training he underwent lasted around 55 days. He said the camp commander was a person known as "Abu Jibril," while the person responsible for training was known as "Al-Karrar." Sohaib was not the only child at the camp.

According to his account, there were a large number of children, whom he estimated at around 100. Some were his age, while others were slightly older. He says they received physical and military training and learned to use weapons, shoot, and handle rifles. In addition, Sohaib spoke of ideological lessons and guidance provided to them inside the camp. According to his account, the rhetoric addressed the "American and Saudi enemy," in addition to jihad and war. After the training period ended, Sohaib at some point returned to his area. He was then transferred with others to military positions. He says around 20 people from his area were in the group that moved, including young people. Sohaib was then transferred to a front in Salh District. He says they were initially told that they would work at checkpoints or rear positions. But according to his account, they were later moved toward front-line positions. There, Sohaib carried a weapon and was present inside a military position near the front lines.

Later, he tried to leave the position. His account indicates that he left the military area and took routes toward the district before falling into the hands of the other party after a series of movements, some details of which remained unclear in the form. Sohaib said he was not injured during those events. But he spoke of being subjected to harsh treatment during a period of his detention. According to his account, he was severely beaten and said it reached a point where he felt his life was under threat. He also spoke about detention conditions. He said food was insufficient and care and medicine were limited or not adequately available. After that, Sohaib remained able to communicate with his father. But when asked whom he wanted to return to, he said he wanted to return to his mother and expressed reservations about returning to his father. According to his account, the reason was related to what had happened previously, when his father took him for recruitment. When asked whether he was thinking of returning to fight with the Houthis, he answered: "No."

According to his testimony, Sohaib's story began at an early age. His education stopped at around the second grade of primary school, then his father took him for recruitment and he moved to a camp where he spent around 55 days among a large number of children. He received training in weapons use and shooting, alongside lessons and guidance connected to the war. He was then transferred to military positions and reached front-line positions on the Salh front. After leaving, he said he was beaten and held in difficult detention conditions. When asked what he wanted after all of this, he chose to return to his mother. As for returning to fight, his answer was clear: "No."

Mohammed: From the Summer Course to the Battlefront

Mohammed, who said he was no older than 16, lived with his family and studied before his recruitment path began. According to the interview conducted by monitors from SAM and the partner organizations, Mohammed's connection to the front did not begin inside a military camp but through lessons and courses presented to children under religious and cultural titles. He says a person known as "Abu Qasim" contacted and recruited him. The account also contains the name of another person who may have been "Abu Abdullah," but the nature of his role in the recruitment process was not sufficiently clear and requires verification. According to Mohammed's account, the rhetoric presented to him and other children spoke of "defending the homeland" and confronting "aggression." Recruitment was also linked to a financial incentive. The form refers to an amount estimated at around 20,000 rials, without it being conclusively clear whether the money was paid to Mohammed as a salary or provided as assistance to his family. Mohammed was then transferred to a training camp. There he found other children close to his age.

While at the camp, he received training in weapons use, movement, and deployment. He also received religious, ideological, and political lectures connected to the war, and the rhetoric presented to the recruits portrayed participation in fighting as a religious and national duty. After the training ended, Mohammed was transferred with a group of recruits to one of the fronts. His account indicates that the front was likely in the Sirwah area of Marib Governorate, although the name of the front requires confirmation before this information can be adopted definitively. Before reaching the positions, they received instructions regarding the tasks they would perform. Mohammed and those with him were then distributed among military positions and trenches, and he carried out tasks connected to guarding or fighting. At that time, Mohammed was still a child no older than 16, according to his account. Before that, he had lived with his family and studied. Within a short period, he moved from lessons and courses to weapons training and then to a military position on one of the fronts.

Mohammed's presence on the front ended after the position where he was located came under attack. The interview indicates that he left the front or was captured following the clashes. The account also refers to an injury that may have been to his leg or foot. The available information indicates that he subsequently received treatment, but the nature of the injury, the place of treatment, and its duration were not sufficiently clear in the form and require further documentation. Mohammed's account shows that his recruitment path passed through several stages. It began with religious and cultural lessons and courses. A person known as "Abu Qasim" then contacted him. He received rhetoric speaking of "defending the homeland" and "aggression," alongside a financial amount estimated at around 20,000 rials. He then moved to a camp and received training in weapons, movement, and deployment, alongside religious and political lectures connected to the war. He was then transferred to a front believed to be in Sirwah and placed at a military position for guarding or fighting.

His presence there ended after the position came under attack, with his account referring to his injury and departure from the front or capture. According to what the organizations' monitors documented, the party that recruited Mohammed, trained him, and transferred him to the front was the Houthi group. What appears in his account is not limited to direct coercion but includes the use of lessons, indoctrination, religious and national rhetoric, and financial incentives to recruit a child and gradually introduce him into a military environment before transferring him to a battlefront.

Nasser: From the Classroom to a Camp in Dhamar

Nasser Salem Abdullah Mohammed Saif, according to the name recorded in the interview form, which requires final review, was still of school age when he joined the ranks of the Houthi group. His account indicates that he was studying before his recruitment. Nasser says people contacted him and persuaded him to go. When asked whether he had been threatened or directly coerced, he said that he had not and that he went voluntarily. According to what could be read from the form, he also reported that his family did not receive money or assistance in return for his departure. Nasser was then transferred to Dhamar Governorate. There he was placed in a camp whose name and precise location he said he did not know. He spent around 25 days in the camp. During that time, he received military training alongside religious and cultural lectures and lessons. He says he trained in the use, disassembly, and reassembly of weapons, in addition to other combat drills. He also indicated that trainers required them to chant the group's slogans. Nasser was not the only child in the camp.

According to his account, other children were training with him, but their number and ages were not precisely clear in the form. His account also included some details about living conditions inside the camp. He said that the food provided included beans, potatoes, and some simple meals. To the extent that could be read from the account, there was no clear confirmation that children were given pills or narcotic substances during training or before transfer to the front. After the course ended, Nasser was transferred with a group of children and fighters from Dhamar to another area. They were then transferred to one of the battlefronts. The form contains a reference to Al-Bayda Governorate as part of the route of his transfer, but the final point of departure and the name of the front he reached require verification. Nasser says the group was transported in a military vehicle. During mobilization, they were told they were going to defend the homeland and confront those whom the mobilizers described as "Daesh and mercenaries."

When they reached the front, Nasser and those with him were distributed among military positions. According to his account, he was assigned to guarding or participating in fighting. Before that, he had been a student living a civilian life. Within a short period, he moved to a camp in Dhamar Governorate, received weapons training, and was then transferred to a military position on one of the fronts. His experience ended when the position where he was located came under attack. According to the phrase that could be read from the account, Nasser said: "They attacked us and took us prisoner." He was captured with others. He said he was not injured during the attack or during his capture and therefore did not receive medical treatment for an injury. The party that captured him, the duration of his captivity, the nature of the treatment he received, and the manner of his departure or release were not clear in the form and require a follow-up interview. Nasser's account shows a path that began with people contacting and persuading him to go, followed by his transfer to a camp in Dhamar Governorate, where he spent around 25 days in training.

There he received training in the use, disassembly, and reassembly of weapons, alongside religious and cultural lectures and chanting the group's slogans. He was then transferred with others to one of the fronts and assigned to a military position for guarding or fighting. His presence on the front ended after the position came under attack and he was captured.

SAM
Rights & Liberties

There Is No Longer a Safe Place

A report documenting the killing and displacement of civilians and the looting of their property during the military escalation in Taiz Governorate and its coast

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