

99 Human Rights Organizations from 14 Arab Countries Condemn Saudi Attack on Funeral Ceremony in Sana'a, Yemen, and Demand the Immediate Lifting of the Saudi Embargo and the Medical Evacuation of the Wounded for Treatment Abroad

August 13, 2016

We the undersigned coalition of human rights organizations, strongly condemn and denounce the recent horrific massacre of hundreds of mourning civilians in Sana'a committed on Saturday, August 10th by the air forces of the Saudi-led alliance in Yemen. We offer our condolences to the families of the victims and wish the wounded injured a speedy recovery.

This massacre can be described as nothing short of a war crime and a crime against humanity. Yet it is merely one episode in a series of nearly 300 instances of large-scale attacks on civilians by the Saudi alliance in Yemen since March of 2015. Aside from claiming the lives of thousands of innocent Yemeni civilians, these attacks have wrought disastrous material destruction on communities across the country. They have destroyed houses, schools, neighborhoods, health clinics, hospitals, water facilities, markets, weddings halls, farms, bridges, tombs, historical sites, and government buildings. In some cases, entire neighborhoods and cities have been laid to ruin. This loss of life and destruction has been well documented by the reports of a myriad of Yemeni and international human rights organizations.

Saturday's massacre, as well as past atrocities in Yemen, did not occur in a vacuum. Saudi aggression is enabled by both the reprehensible silence and the complicity in financial and political interests from influential figures in international organizations and sovereign governments. Their double standards regarding human rights, which are incompatible with both their legal and moral duties, are essential to enabling the leaders of the Saudi-led aggression in Yemen to pursue their interests with impunity. We also express our ever-present concern for the overlap in the interests of the international arms dealing community and those who want to ensure the continuation of a conflict that has resulted in numerous war crimes.

مركز عمان لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

AmmanCenter for Human Rights Studies

The effects of these war crimes have been exacerbated by conscientious efforts on the part of the Saudi-coalition to prevent the transfer of the wounded, their ban on civil aviation, and an embargo preventing the delivery of medical and humanitarian supplies.

The signatories of this appeal call upon the United Nations and in particular the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address the systematic violations by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the Yemeni people. We implore them to immediately form an International Independent Investigation Commission to investigate this infamous massacre, and all other instances of attacks on civilians by all parties in the conflict.

In the meantime, we urgently call on the International Committee of the Red Cross and Arab and international organizations to provide medicine and medical supplies to the victims of the Yemeni conflict. As the Saudi embargo has rendered local healthcare non-existent in the affected areas, we also call on the Red Cross to evacuate the wounded abroad for treatment.

In conclusion, the undersigned emphasize that these crimes and massacres, which are in flagrant defiance of international and humanitarian law, underline the need to significantly increase our efforts to address the Yemen crisis. It is imperative that international community work tirelessly to lift the siege, reduce civilian bloodshed, achieve peace, and guarantee the rights of people to a free and dignified life.

Signed,

1. Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)
2. The Arab Commission for Human Rights / Paris
3. Maghreb Coordination Association of Human Rights (includes 22 organizations in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania)
4. Iraqi Coalition of Human Rights Organizations (including 54 human rights organization)
5. Aman Network for the rehabilitation and the defense of human rights (including 11 human rights organizations in a number of Arab countries) / Lebanon
6. Bahrain Forum for Human Rights
7. Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture / Lebanon
8. Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy Issues
9. International Coalition for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms / Paris
10. Lawyers for Justice / Yemen
11. Legal Center for the Rights and Development / Yemen
12. Civil Alliance of peace and the protection of the rights and freedoms / Yemen

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13. Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms
14. The Arab Coalition Against for Death Penalty
15. Jordanian Network for Civil Society Organizations
16. Jerusalem Center for Human rights and Legal Aid/Palestine
17. General Federation of Yemeni Women
18. Rowad Freedom for training on integrity and human rights / Jordan
19. Jordanian Alliance for Democratic Elections
20. Arab Women Organization(AWO) / Jordan
21. Arab Women Media Center / Jordan
22. National Union of Disabled / Yemen
23. Law House Foundation / Yemen
24. The Arabic Network for Human Rights Trainers
25. Democratic House Foundation / Yemen
26. Amman forum Society for Human Rights
27. Damascus Center for Theoretical Studies and Civil rights / Sweden
28. Jordanian Network for Human Rights Trainers / Jordan
29. Protection of Cultural Heritage Foundation / Yemen
30. Jordanian Coalition Against the Death Penalty
31. Human Rights and Democracy Media Center 'SHAMS' / Palestine
32. Federal Arab Democracy / Palestine
33. 27 April Organization to Raise Awareness of Democracy / Yemen
34. Muslim Peacemaker Teams / Iraq
35. Adalah organization For Human Rights / Yemen
36. Yemeni Coalition Against the Death Penalty
37. Women's Network for Peace and Security / Yemen
38. National Organization for the Combat of Human Trafficking / Yemen
39. Yemeni Assembly of the United Nations
40. General Federation of Trade Unions of Yemen Workers
41. Bar Association Yemenis
42. Yemeni Civil Coalition to Monitor Crimes of Aggression
43. Alliance of the People's Justice / Yemen
44. Yemeni Coalition for Education for All
45. National Alliance for civil society organizations / Yemen
46. Forum Media Yemeni Women Association
47. Union of Yemeni journalists
48. Sam Organization for Rights and Development / Yemen
49. General Federation of Yemeni children
50. Sba'a Youth Organization for Rights and Freedoms / Yemen
51. Dar Al Muna for Rights and Freedoms / Yemen
52. Ahed Organization for Development and Human Rights / Yemen
53. Lawyers Without Borders / Yemen
54. Moudah Developmental Institution / Yemen
55. Supreme Council of Civil Society Organizations / Yemen
56. Masar Foundation for Development and Human Rights / Yemen
57. Shams Al Adaleh Organization for Rights and Freedoms / Yemen
58. Yemeni Council for Rights and Freedoms
59. Tayebat Foundation for the Development of Women
60. Sharhab Peace and Social Association

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61. The Will of the Child Organization / Yemen
62. Peace Uprising Organization / Yemen
63. Yemeni Organization Legal and Political Awareness
64. Sustainable Development Foundation / Yemen
65. Visions Center for Electoral Studies / Yemen
66. Middle East Foundation for Development and Human Rights / Yemen
67. Yemen Forum for Democracy and Human Rights
68. WahjAlhayat Foundation for Development and Rights / Yemen
69. Arab Association for Human Rights / Yemen
70. The World Council of Rights / Yemen
71. Tamkeen Foundation for Development / Yemen
72. Civil Rights Center / Yemen
73. [Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights](#) / Yemen
74. Association of Social Conscience Rights / Yemen
75. Media Creators Commonwealth Society / Yemen
76. Protection Organization for Health Development / Yemen
77. People Society for Development / Yemen
78. Future Society Women's Social in Haja / Yemen
79. National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response / Yemen
80. Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of Rights
81. Syrian Center for Research and Studies and Asylum Migration Issues
82. Syrian League for the Defence of Workers' rights
83. The Syrian Center for Economic and Social Rights
84. National Network of Women / Mauritania
85. Al Adalah Organization for Human Rights and Democracy in Syria
86. Coordinating Body Consciousness and the Issue for National Unity and the Fight Against Slavery / Mauritania
87. Syrian Jurists Association for Transitional Justice and the Rule of Law
88. International Centre for the Support of a Fair Trial and Human Rights (Geneva)
89. Tunisian Institute for Democracy and Development
90. Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights – Australia
91. German Bahraini Organization for Human Rights and Democracy
92. Regional Forum on Human Rights / Lebanon
93. The Arab Organization for Penal Reform (Egypt)
94. The Tunisian League for dependence Human Rights
95. National Center for Tolerance and Anti-Violence in Syria
96. Sudanese Human Rights Monitor
97. Black Continent Organization for Human Rights / Libya
98. Human Organization / Yemen
99. International Centre to Support Rights and Freedoms / Egypt-Geneva