

REPORT

Blind Air Strikes

Civilian victims of Saudi-led coalition'
air strikes in Yemen



A group of residents searching survivors under debris of a devastated house aftermath of an aerial attack by Saudi-led Arab coalition in al-Qasimi neighborhood at the old city of Sana'a-Yemen. June 12, 2015. Photo by

Mohammed Yaseen

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■ ■ Executive Summary

On the early hours of March 26, 2015, the Saudi Arabia -led Arab coalition launched aerial attacks on military installation in the capital city of Sana'a. The air strikes took place following the announcement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia marking the beginning of a Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition of nine Arab states' military campaign targeting forces of both former president Ali Abdullah Saleh and Houthi armed group - Ansar Allah - which took over power in Yemen by force on September 21, 2014.

This military intervention as cited above started only two days following a request by the Yemeni Interim President Abdraboo Mansoor Hadi. The request was forwarded to the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and was justified on grounds of restoration of the powers and legitimacy of the Interim President in the face of the rapid advancement of Houthi forces towards the city of Aden. This came on the heel of the timely fleeing of President Hadi and his subsequent settlement in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh.

Since March 26, 2015, the Saudi Arabia-led jet fighters launched thousands of air strikes targeting military installations and units loyal to former President Saleh and the Houthis though many of these aerial attacks struck and caused substantial damage to civil targets and resulted in unabated blood-shedding among civilians including women and children. Most of these casualties were concentrated in nine governorates details of which will be featured in due course within the framework of this Executive Summary.

Despite the statements issued by the Spokesman of the Arab Allied Forces -Brigadier General Ahmed Aseeri- that all precautionary measures were taken to avoid civilian casualties and to ensure the safety and security of all Yemenis, a sizable number of the coalition' aerial attacks did target civilian areas and resulted in killing and injury of civilian, damage of homes, civil institutions and infrastructures. These violations may tantamount to war crimes in accordance with the International Humanitarian Law.

This report focuses in particular on 44 incidents of aerial attacks conducted by the Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition which targeted civilians in nine Yemeni governorates including Sana'a, Ta'iz, Lahj, Ibb, Hodaidah, Sada'a, Hajja, Al- Baidha and Dhamar over the period from March to October 2015.

These aerial attacks were conducted at times when people were pursuing their normal lives either at homes or in public places in markets, or entertaining themselves in public parks. These aerial attacks targeted places totally distinct from military camps and far away from military installations.

Casualties resulting from the coalition' air strikes on Al-Makha sea city western Ta'iz governorate were the most obvious example of the pain inflicted on civilians. The casualties among civilians there stand as a living testimony of the horrors of war and of the grave errors associated with the Saudi Arabia-led military campaign against this impoverished nation.

A residential compound in Al-Makha city was subjected to air bombardment on the evening of July 24, 2015. These attacks were the most bloody resulting in the killing of 65 civilians of which 13 were children and 12 were women. In addition, 36 were seriously injured of which 14 were children and 13 were women when the attacks hit a housing compound accommodating employees of a power plant in Al-Makha. The housing compound is composed of 200 apartments.

People living in the villages of Sanaban, will never forget 7 October 2015. They told how a joyful wedding event turned all of a sudden into disaster. It is also equally difficult for residents of Waheja village in northwest Ta'iz to forget events of 28 September 2015 when a wedding party attended by female members of village turned into a wake.

On October 7, 2015 an aerial attack by the Saudi Arabian led coalition hit Sanaban –a rural village- in Mayfa'h east of Dhamar governorate. The unexpected horrific bombardment struck a wedding party there. 40 civilians were killed of which 15 were children and 14 were women. Number of injuries were estimated 42 of which 14 were women and 13 were children. The aerial attacks also resulted in the demolition of a three-story building where the wedding invitees from at least 3 neighboring villages were.

On September 28, 2015, a small village named Waheja on the North-West of Ta'iz governorate southern Yemen, was subjected to the same ordeal following an attack by the Saudi Arabia led coalition hitting a wedding celebration which was attended exclusively by women.

Another aerial attack by the Saudi Arabia led coalition on Waheja village took place on September, 28, 2015 once again hitting a wedding celebration and resulted in the death of 26 civilians of which 13 were children and 12 were women. Two camp sites where the wedding celebration took place were hit: one of the camps was ear-marked for men and the other site was exclusively marked for women in attendance of the wedding event.

Mwatana carried out field investigative research on the 44 incidents of air strikes and conducted interviews with 155 persons including victims, families of the victims, eye-witnesses and medical sources.

The field research and investigations conducted by Mwatana confirm that in the nine Yemeni governorates at least 615 civilians were killed among whom 120 were women and 220 were children. Moreover, at least 678 civilian were injured including 125 women and 167 children.

The report's conclusions show that most of these air strikes hit targets far away from military compounds and depots.

The Saudi Arabia -led aerial attacks did not only affect the lives of victims, their families and their homes. The damage extended to affect the whole communities. Large numbers of people became internally displaced as a result of the airstrikes. This was also associated with heightened fear among the most vulnerable groups in these communities (i.e. the poor and helpless) who simply could hardly afford to live due to lack of sufficient resources. The problem has further been exacerbated by the non-existence of public shelters for internally displaced people. Under such unbearable conditions, internally displaced people may have no alternatives other than resorting to valley and low areas and caves at night time for fear of being the victims of further aerial attacks. In addition, under constant fear, women have become accustomed to sleep in their Abayas in anticipation of an aerial attack and subsequent escape to the unknown.

■ ■ Recommendations:

The report concludes with a set of recommendations directed to all warring parties, particularly the Saudi Arabia led coalition

■ The Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition in particular are called upon to:

- Immediately halt all military operations targeting innocent civilians, infrastructures and civil institutions. All military actions which may cause damage to the civilian populations must be avoided by all means and measures;
- Open an impartial and transparent inquiry to investigate all the incidents featured in this report or any other incidents by the Saudi Arabia-led air strikes which has resulted in the death and injury of civilians, and holding those responsible accountable.
- Provide reparation to all civilian victims of the indiscriminant shelling. Compensations should cover all casualties whether human or of material nature;
- Assess all military operations by Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition to ensure compliance of these operations with the provisions of the International Humanitarian Law;
- Stop using indiscriminate attacks or weapons of mass destruction when targeting military installations adjacent to civil populations;
- Release publicly all information regarding military targets which may have led to damage among civilians, as well as disclosing the parties to such military actions
- Take the necessary measures to reduce casualties among civilians. To this effect, any declaration deeming entire cities as military targets should be abolished and scrapped;
- Refrain from launching aerial attacks on military targets adjacent to heavily populated areas, roads and highways particularly during working hours when such venues are likely to be highly congested;
- Stop attacking the homes of Houthi or Saleh military commanders which may contain civilian dwellers.

■ To the United Kingdom, United States of America as well as all other countries supporting the military campaign of the Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition. The report urges all these countries to:

- Mount the necessary pressure to hold an impartial investigation over alleged violations by Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition, particularly those violations where logistic and intelligence support were provided by the United Kingdom and the US and resulted in civilian casualties;
- Stop selling arms which could be used by the Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition to inflict damage on civilian populations since such actions may tantamount to war crimes.

■ To the Houthi armed group and forces of former President Saleh are called upon to:

- Refrain from using areas populated with civilians as depots for militants or military equipment;
- Stop deploying and installing anti-aircraft weapons in civilian areas and neighborhoods;
- Halt categorically the launch of ballistic missiles from sites adjacent to heavily populated civilian areas and housing compounds;
- Prevent military commanders from settling in heavily populated civilian areas particularly during war times;
- Remove all obstacles germane to delay the delivering of humanitarian assistance to all war-affected areas under their control and mandate.
- Houthi and Saleh's forces should take the necessary measures to facilitate the delivery and equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance and to refrain from any interference in this process.

■ **The report calls on United Nations Human Rights Council to:**

- Form an internationally independent inquiry commission to all flagrant violations of the provisions of the International Humanitarian Law by Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition.
- Mount increasing pressure on the Saudi-led Arab coalition and the supportive countries so they may comply with the provisions and instruments of the International Humanitarian Law & instruments together with the set of recommendations embedded in this report.

■ **Yemeni Government is called upon to:**

- Denounce categorically violations of International Humanitarian law by the Saudi Arabia -led Arab coalition. In addition, Yemeni Government is called upon to take the necessary measures to bring the recommendations embedded to this report to bear on reality particularly with regard to the delivery of needed assistance to affected victims;
- Urge the Saudi Arabia -led Arab coalition to allow for public access to information regarding military targets affected by their aerial attacks and resulting in civilian casualties;
- Support the call for the institution of an internationally independent commission to investigate all alleged war crimes targeting innocent civilians;
- Allow all international humanitarian organizations wishing to work in areas under its control to engage in the delivery of Humanitarian assistance with no delay, hindrance and/or intervention.

■ ■ Research Methodology

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights issued this report based on field research on air strikes carried out by the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia in 9 Yemeni governorates (Sana'a, Ta'iz, Lahj, Ibb, Hodaidah, Sada'a, Hajja, Al-Baidha and Dhamar) since the Saudi military operations began in Yemen on the dawn of 26 March 2015.

Investigation of all the incidents contained in this report went through two main phases:

First: visits by field researchers to places subjected to air strikes and conducting interviews with witnesses who were either survivors, wounded, families and relatives of the victims, and the paramedics and doctors as well as taking photographs of the sites that were hit by the air strikes, and the remains of weapons, if available, and any evidence that may help to understand the incident.

Second: central examination in the capital Sana'a of all materials sent from researchers in the field to verify the information, complemented by intensive phone calls, analysis and use of experts in the various fields related to the facts of the incidents.

Mwatana faced several difficulties during its field research for this report. In addition to the difficult security situation in general, the Houthi armed group obstructed the work of Mwatana researchers and hindered the investigation of many incidents of the air attacks by the coalition forces in some governorates that the group controls. An example of this is what happened with Mwatana researcher in Hajja governorate, where the tight security grip of the Houthis and the restrictions imposed by them made it difficult to conduct investigations there.

■ ■ Legal Framework of Air Strikes incidents

International humanitarian law and international human rights law apply to the existing armed conflict in Yemen. In such conflicts, parties to the conflict are considered bound by the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the applicable customary international humanitarian law rules. Many acts that violate these rules constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

International humanitarian law includes rules and principles which aim primarily at protecting those who do not take part in hostilities, i.e. civilians. Also it defines the standards of human behavior and restricts the means and methods of military operations. The fundamental objective of this law is to limit, to the largest extent possible, the human suffering during armed conflicts.

One of the basic rules of international humanitarian law that parties to a conflict shall adhere to at all times is the principle of distinction between combatants and non-combatants, especially civilians, and accordingly shall direct attacks against the militants “only”. Also parties to the armed conflict should distinguish between civilian objects and military objectives.⁽¹⁾

Customary international humanitarian law requires parties to the conflict to distinguish between “civilian objects” and “military targets” and the law provides protection to civilian objects from any attack unless it becomes a military target (Article 52 of Protocol I).

Article 50 of Protocol I, defines civilians for the purposes of distinction, as any person who is not a member of the armed forces unless they directly participate in hostilities and the civilians are considered all persons who are non-combatants and therefore are protected from attacks.

Civilian objects are buildings and places and other property and physical assets which are not military objectives. In so far as objects are concerned, military objectives are limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an

(1) International Committee of the Red Cross, «a study on customary international humanitarian law», rule number 1. See also: Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), Article 48

effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military of advantage. Attacks against civilians or civilian objects constitute a war crime⁽²⁾.

International humanitarian law also prohibits acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population (Article 51 of Protocol I).

As for indiscriminate attacks, it is attacking military and civilian targets or civilian objects without distinction, either because the attack is not directed at a specific military objective, or because the attack employs methods or means of combat which cannot be directed at a specific military objective, or because its effects cannot be limited as required by International humanitarian law, which prohibits indiscriminate attacks that may be expected to cause any accidental damage to civilians. (Article 51 (4) and (5) of Protocol I.)

Protection of the civilian population and civilian objects require all parties to the conflict to take all feasible precautions in an attack, and to always be careful not to injure or harm civilian population and objects. The parties to the conflict should choose means and methods of warfare, so as to avoid civilian casualties and reduce them to the minimum and to verify that the targets are military objectives.⁽³⁾

The leadership of the Arab coalition countries led by Saudi Arabia should refrain from committing war crimes, and this leadership and the forces involved are criminally responsibility for any violations they commit.

The Saudi led coalition forces should take all feasible precautions to reduce the damage that can be caused to civilians and civilian objects to a minimum, and to refrain from attacks that would harm civilians disproportionately, or attacks that do not discriminate between combatants and civilians.

The parties to the conflict should choose the appropriate means and methods for the attack if the military objectives are located within residential areas. And its prohibited to use methods and means of combat that are difficult to direct at a specific military objective and that could lead to indiscriminate attacks (such as unguided bombs that are dropped on targets located in densely populated civilian areas). The choice of methods of attack also falls within the violations of international humanitarian law (such as attacking targets at a time when the presence or movements of the civilian population is more likely). The attacks carried out by the coalition forces, with the knowledge that they will cause heavy losses among civilians and civilian objects, are considered as a flagrant violation of the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks rules, and therefore may constitute war crimes.

(2) Rule 156, International Committee of the Red Cross, «a study on customary international humanitarian law»

(3) Protocol II, Article 13, the International Committee of the Red Cross, «a study on customary international humanitarian law», Rule 15 and 17.

The bombardment of civilian areas without the presence of anti-aircraft guns or military objectives is considered a direct attack and falls within war crimes categories. The warring parties have a responsibility to take necessary precautions to protect civilians and civilian objects under their control from the adverse effects of the attacks.

The precautions in an attack include, especially if the fighting was taking place in areas where there are large numbers of civilians, commitment of all parties to the conflict to avoid, as much as possible, locating military objectives within residential or populated areas⁽⁴⁾

Article 50 of Protocol I states that the presence within the civilian population of individuals who do not come within the definition of civilians does not deprive the population of its civilian character. Hence, the probability of the presence of fighters among civilian areas does not absolve the other party of the conflict in any way from its obligations in respect to civilians, including the principle of distinction, and the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks or disproportionate attacks, and to take the precautionary measures in the attacks.

If there was doubt about whether civilian objects are being used to make effective contribution to military action, it must be assumed that it is not used for military purposes and therefore should not be considered as military targets. (Article 52 (3) Protocol I). This means that doubt alone in the nature of use is not enough to consider civilian objects as military objectives and consequently the doubt should work in favor of protection and not to justify an attack.

(4) Article 58, Protocol I, Rule 23, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

■ ■ **Air strikes in Sana'a Governorate and the Capital Secretariat**

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated 15 air strike by The Arab Coalition led by Saudi Arabia in Sana'a Governorate and the Capital Secretariat. These air strikes caused the deaths of 161 civilians, including 38 women and 73 children, and wounded 315 civilians, including 54 women and 68 children.

The coalition war planes bombed densely populated residential areas which are far from military camps and militants positions.

■ **Abdullah Al-Wazir School - Bani Hushish District**

September 22, 2015

On 22 September, 2015, the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces bombed Abdullah Al-Wazir School in Bani Hushish District with four bombs. This District is located 30 Kilometers north-east of the capital Sana'a. Three of the bombs exploded inside the school and one exploded just outside the school resulting in the death of three civilians, including two children, and wounding a woman and a child. The bombs caused considerable damage to the school.

The first bomb fell outside the school yard while the second fell inside the school yard but did not explode, while the third and fourth bombs fell and exploded inside the school yard.

Zaid Othman, whom Mwatana interviewed, is 18 years old and studies at the school, said that the coalition forces launched four air strikes on Abdullah Al-Wazir School at 8:30 a.m., but the school was empty of students because of the summer holidays.

Zaid explains: "The first bomb fell outside the school wall, about approximately 10 meters. Then minutes later, not exceeding five, three consecutive bombs hit the school and the residence in which Mr. Hisham (a teacher) lives. Mr. Hisham along with two of his sons died, and his wife and his young son survived, but they are in a very critical condition. The scene was terrifying, and when I looked to my teacher, I felt fear and grief. When we

entered to try to rescue the family of Mr. Hisham, we could not rescue or rush anyone to the hospital until after the fourth raid because they did not make it possible for us to do so. We took the risk after the fourth bomb and entered the school. We were confident that the planes will resume the bombing once again, but thank God they did not.”⁽⁵⁾

Zaid continues: “I don’t know why they destroyed our school where students study from first grade through high school. We have built an extension to the school painstakingly after we finally secured and received support from the parents of the students. There are no militants or any sign of armed activities inside the school. It is the largest school in the area and now it is destroyed and we can no longer study again.”

Another witness, Mujeb Al-Rahman Al-Nunu, 35 years old, a teacher at the school, recounts the circumstances of the incident saying that the children of his colleague Hisham were playing with their bikes in the school yard while their father, who was not far away from the school, was on his way to the market when the first bomb fell next to the school so he returned quickly to his family.

Al-Nunu continues his story by saying: “The mother and her small child were inside one of the classrooms where they (the family members) had been living, and two sons were playing in the school yard. The second bomb fell after nearly five minutes of the first bomb, then the rest of the bombs fell killing him and his two children. The mother and her young son survived because they were inside and they are now in the hospital.”⁽⁶⁾

The School Headmaster Mr. Othman Yahya (40 years old) told Mwatana, that Hisham and his family had been living in the school for ten years, which was built with funding from the State of Kuwait in 1972 and graduated thousands of students, which will double the negative impact of the destruction, especially as it was working 2 shifts system; morning for male students and afternoon for female students.⁽⁷⁾

Located near the school, there is a big market, and during the air strikes there was panic among shoppers and vendors and they all rushed to look for places to hide, thinking that the strikes will hit the market.

(5) An interview with Zaid Othman, Bani Hushish District, 28 September 2015.

(6) An interview with Mujib Al-Rahman Al-Nunu, Bani Hushish District, 28 September 2015

(7) An interview with Othman Yahya, Bani Hushish District, 28 September 2015

■ Al-Felaihi neighborhood - Old Sana'a District

September 17, 2015

13 civilians, including a woman and nine children were killed by a Saudi-led Arab coalition airstrike on 17 September 2015 that targeted a house in Al-Felaihi neighborhood in the middle of Old Sana'a, which is a historic city with a distinctive Architectural character. Its construction dates back to about 700 years and it is located in the middle of the capital Sana'a.

According to Afrah Yahya, 36 years old, who is the sister of one of the victims, the bombing occurred about 11:00 p.m. at night while she and some members of her family were still awake and felt furniture scattering around them by the impact of the explosion.

Mwatana interviewed Afrah in Old Sana'a, and she said: "I have never seen in my life such darkness as that night, it was like we were inside a grave. When we tried to rescue ourselves, I fell on the floor more than once, I was walking but I don't know where to; I would go out into the street and go back to search for my children and the children of my brother and my elderly father. I don't know for how long did this situation go on for but it was so scary to an unimaginable point. My father was wounded in his feet and was unable to get out, so I faced difficulty getting my family out of the house. The people were scared, some people came to help us, but the rest fled fearing that another bomb may strike."⁽⁸⁾

Afrah continues: "All members of Al-Aini family who lived in the house next to us died. Ten of them died, except one person with a disability was not harmed. They killed the Family of Al- Aini who's a poor person and was supporting his family by selling vegetables. He did not know anything about politics and has nothing to do with the Houthis. Two of my brothers died in the bombing, one of them has two children, and did not even have a government job or any source of income to support his family. Now who will take care and support his two children."

"We are a big family and we live in this small house. Now our house is destroyed and we are homeless and scattered living with relatives and neighbors. All our neighbors have been displaced and they moved away because of fear of bombing again. But we do

(8) An interview with Afrah Yahya, Old Sana'a, 22 September 2015

not have anywhere else to go to, so we will return back to our house, although it is almost destroyed. The biggest fear remains that what remained from our neighbor Al-Aini house collapses on top of the roof of our house, then all of us will die.”

■ **Al-Khamseen St (Fifty-Street)- Al-Sabeen District**

September 5, 2015

A Saudi-led Arab coalition airstrike that targeted a building in Al-Khamseen street south of the capital Sana'a on 5 September 2015 killed seven civilians, including a woman and a child.

The building consists of two stories; the first is occupied by aluminum repair workshop and the second story is the house of the building's owner. The victims killed by the airstrike were workers in the aluminum workshop, and some family members of the owner of the building. Another person was also wounded in the strike.

Mukhtar Al-Somomi (28 years old), a cousin of two people who were killed by the strike. They were working with him in the aluminum workshop, he could not believe what he heard from a caller who phoned him and told him that the workshop was hit.

Mukhtar says: “I arrived to the scene nearly one hour after the incident, the situation was scary and painful. Why did they bomb us? We're not militants or terrorists, we are just workers, working to support our families. No one came to the rescue of the people and save them from under the rubble, neither the state nor anyone else. People were passing in their cars and fleeing despite the screams of the survivors, they were afraid another bomb may fall at the same place.”⁽⁹⁾

He added: “When I arrived at the scene, I saw my cousins and some neighbors digging using shovels while they hear the sound of the moans of the wounded. Anyone who might have been alive was going to die under the rubble; die from bleeding, or from suffocation because of the absence of a quick rescue process and the difficulty of removing the victims from under the rubble.”

(9) An interview with Mukhtar Al-Somomi, Al-Khamseen St, 10 September 2015

Mohammed Al-Somomi (25 years old), a cousin of 2 workers who were killed by the strike, was the first person to arrive at the incident site about half an hour after the strike. Yet, no one had come to rescue the wounded or recover the bodies of the victims until that time.

Mohammed said “Idris Al-Somomi was buried under the rubble and we could not get him out until after 6:00 a.m. Also Zakaria Al-Somomi, was still alive when we rushed him to the hospital but unfortunately he died an hour after his arrival to the hospital due to injuries to the back of his head caused by flying rocks resulting from the explosion.”⁽¹⁰⁾

He commented on the incident saying “we did not expect at all that our workplace will be bombed for several reasons: We are not near any military installation, and the closest one to us is Al-Nahdain mountain, which is located west of the targeted area, and is over one kilometer away. And also none of the important political figures lives next to us to say that it might have been a mistake. There are only a few houses beside us. I did not believe what happened, until I saw the disaster with my own eyes.”

Mohammed links this incident with another bombing incident, the common connection between them is another civilian victim. He says, “Hours before the bombing of our workplace, an area in Haddah was bombed, I called my relative Ali Abbas, who lives in Al-Khamseen St (fifty street) to come to the house of his uncle, which was bombed by the coalition in Hadda to guard the furniture but he refused and said that he would come in the morning. He did not know that he would be a victim of another bomb while he was asleep.”

He continued: in the morning of the day of the incident my relative Ali Abbas’s mom called her sister to express her condolences on the death of her son in the Hadda Area bombing incident, and the next day, her sister called her to express her condolences on the death of her son, Ali Abbas in the bombing incident in Al-Khamseen St (fifty street). These two mothers and families have lost their breadwinners. What a catastrophe that several people from the same family die in a matter of hours and for no reason.

(10) An interview with Mohamed Al-Somomi, Al-Khamseen St, 10 September 2015

■ Al-Nahda Neighborhood – Al-Thawra District

September 5, 2015

Four bombs launched by Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets on 5 September 2015 turned a house in Al-Nahdah neighborhood north of the capital Sana'a into rubble and killed nine civilians, including three women and two children, and wounded another civilian living nearby.

Al-Nahdah Neighborhood remained vulnerable to heavy bombardment for days according to witnesses before the turn came to Mujahid al-Fadhli's house, which is about 20-30 meters away from the wall of Al-Eman University where armed Houthis (Ansar Allah) have been stationed inside since they seized it in September 2014.

Nayef Atef is 19 years old and a cousin of five people who were killed in that strike. He received a strong shock that morning when he arrived at his uncle's house to visit him and saw members of his family under the rubble except for two who were thrown by the pressure of the blast outside the house.

Nayef said he heard the sound of explosions while he was on his way to his uncle's house and so was scared and worried that his uncle's family might be harmed. But, Nayef continues: "upon my arrival in Al-Nahdah neighborhood, I saw the disaster that I was praying to God that it does not happen. I found out that the whole area had been destroyed. I saw all members of my uncle's family thrown outside their house. Under the rubble there were women, children and the elderly, except for one or two people who were thrown out of the house by the pressure from the blast. Four bombs were surely enough to turn some of them to pieces."⁽¹¹⁾

He went on: "I tried with some of the neighborhood people to aid and rescue the victims, but it was too late. I think if we had reached them a little earlier it might have been possible to save some of them, those who have been struggling with death and no one can approach them for fear of the planes bombing again. The planes were hovering over the area continuously. But I accompanied by members of the neighborhood guards took a risk and we recovered the bodies of the victims from under the rubble. Perhaps the most difficult scene that affected me that day was seeing Rowayda, a 2-year-old little girl,

(11) An interview with Nayef Atif, Al-Nahdah Neighborhood, 6 September 2015

with her head cut in half by a metal fragment. It was a very painful scene for everyone that saw it.”

Fayez Al-Thraywah, 22 years old, is working on a motorcycle and he gave “Mwatana” additional testimony, saying that four bombs hit the house of Mujahid al-Fadhli who is an immigrant in Sudan, killing his family consisting of his wife, four of his children, his two daughters-in-law, and a granddaughter.

Fayez explains the extent of violence and brutality inflicted on the residents of that area, citing the fate of his friend Yusuf al-Qurashi who is 25 years old, where the rescuers could not recognize him and only identified him by a watch that he was wearing. He says “The watch is all that remained of our friend and is the only reason we could distinguish his hand and with it his identity. Another victim, Abdul Majed al-Fadhli, 28 years old, lost his legs. A child with a large metal that entered his head, and another man that we could not get out from under the rubble only after great effort and a lot of time. It was really a very terrifying sight.”⁽¹²⁾

According to Fayez most of the residents of the neighborhood have fled their homes after the incident.

■ The eastern workers city - Sawaan area Shaob District

July 12, 2015

23 civilians, all of them are women and children, died under the rubble of eight destroyed houses in The eastern workers city in Sawaan area stand witness to the enormity of the price paid by civilians in this war.

12 July 2015 was one of the bloody days for civilians, after Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets launched raids on The eastern workers city in Sawaan area which is part of Shaob District located east of the capital Sana’a. Killing 23 civilians all of them from the marginalized groups, including 14 children and seven women from one family and wounding 28 others, including 17 children and seven women.

Mohammed Saad Al-Jamal (30 years old) told Mwatana that The Houthis were not in

(12) An interview with Fayez Al-Thraywah, Al-Nahdah Neighborhood, 6 September 2015

the neighborhood but only “poor people who barely have food for the day.” They were the ones who became victims of the attack and he told us that “most of the residents of the neighborhood are street cleaners.”⁽¹³⁾

The airstrike killed Jamal’s sister-in-law along with three of her children. The bombs split the mother’s body into halves. Whereas for her children who were also killed, the neighbors still have not found the bodies when Mwatana met with Mohammed Al-Jamal on 24 July 2015.

Al-Jamal commented on the incident: “The children of my wife’s sister are still under the rubble. We are still until now in severe shock, all of those who died and were injured in the bombing belong to one big family. My children refused to return to their home here in Sana’a because they were very close to their dead cousins and my wife is still keeping the Eid clothes of her nephews and nieces.”

Majid Al- Jamal, Deputy Head of the Executive Office of the National Union for the Marginalized said in the context of denying the claims that the Houthis were stationed in the neighborhood : The headquarters of the military engineering department, where The Houthi group militants (Ansar Allah) are stationed is located three kilometers away to the east of the workers city, and Noqom Mountain, where there are weapons warehouses and posts for Ali Saleh and Houthi forces, is 10 Kilometers away from the site of the attack.⁽¹⁴⁾

■ Al Qasimi neighborhood - Old Sana’a District

June 13, 2015

A plane belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition dropped a bomb on a house in Al Qasimi neighborhood in old Sana’a District in the center of the capital Sana’a on June 13, 2015. Although the bomb did not explode, but its huge weight and the strength and impact of the hit did not give the residents the chance to say that they were fortunate it did not explode, as it caused havoc in four houses, killing five civilians including a woman and a child, as well as causing damage to the historic city.

Mohamed Al-Mansour (56 years old) bore the brunt of the attack losing five members

(13) An interview with Mohammed Saad Al-Jamal, The Eastern workers city, 24 July 2015

(14) An interview with Majid Al-Jamal, The Eastern workers city, 24 July 2015

of his family: two of his brothers, his nephew, his sister-in-law and a cousin.

Al-Mansour described to Mwatana the shock of a man awakened by a telephone call after two a.m. telling him that his relatives are crying out for help from under the rubble.

Al-Mansour ran to his brother's house and found it destroyed and under the ruins were five members of his family "we dug out my cousin from under the rubble about 5:00 a.m., and then we dug out my brother's wife about 10:00 a.m., and then dug out one of my brothers an hour later. We dug out my other brother after noon prayer, approximately 12:30 p.m. My young nephew remained under the rubble until we found him and dug him out around sunset."⁽¹⁵⁾

He continued "There are no Houthis nor armed men in our neighborhood. And my family doesn't belong to any political party or any armed movements. Everyone knows that we are peaceful and everyone knows the value of old Sana'a with its ancient history especially Al Qasimi neighborhood, which is the oldest neighborhood in Old Sana'a. This neighborhood in particular was Mecca of tourists before any other area in old Sana'a. Saudi Arabia does not want to leave us any history, or else why would their planes bomb ancient and historical sites such as Old Sana'a, Zabid, Marib, and Cairo Castle in Ta'iz. They shouldn't think that by destroying these places they will destroy our ancient history."

Mohammed pointed out that the nearest military site to the house is the Ministry of Defense compound, which is about 300-400 meters away from the house and he told Mwatana when we interviewed him on 20 June 2015 that parts of the bomb was located in the Corps of Engineers.

■ Bait Meyad – Al-Sabeen District

June 13, 2015

Nothing would have interrupted the quiet night in this neighborhood located to the south of the capital except being attacked by this unprecedented type of attack.

At approximately 12:30 a.m. on 13 June 2015 a fighter warplane belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces dropped three bombs on two houses in Bait Meyad neighborhood killing 10 civilians, including five women and three children, and wounding 15 civilians, including six children and four women.

(15) An interview with Mohamed Al-Mansour, Mujahed St. 20 June 2015.

When Mwatana met Judge Mohammed Ali Al-Amiri, 55 years old, who lost five members of his family: two of his daughters, two of his sons and his nephew, he recounted the incident that night: “We heard the sound of the first bomb falling near us, so we all gathered together in the living room of our house, I, my sons, my daughters and my nephew. We wanted to get out of the house but my wife refused, she was afraid that we might be harmed if we did. Indeed, the second bomb fell, and its sound was stronger than the first, the house shook and the house windows broke and glass shattered. Then the third bomb hit our house and demolished the front façade. The bomb was dropped four meters from our house and it sent flying, fire, metal shrapnel and stones to where my sons and daughters were standing. The rest of us were standing behind them as if they protected us with their bodies from the bomb. Time stopped at that moment. I did not know what to do. I started to scream for help, but no one came until only after 20 minutes. During that period, I kept calling my daughters names, but I did not hear a response. I tried to look for them, but they were motionless.”⁽¹⁶⁾

■ Errat Hamdan – Hamdan District

June 2, 2015

On 2 June 2015, eight civilians, five children and three women, were killed and two women injured in an airstrike by the Saudi-led Arab coalition on Errat Hamdan in Hamdan District west of the capital Sana’a.

Ali Ahmad Al-Qibli, a 45 years old math teacher, said that he lost his five years old son and a daughter who just graduated high school.

Al-Qibli added: “my daughter Nora finished her high school education with distinction. She received her certificate the day before the incident. On the day of the incident, Nora met with her friends Lubna and Ashwaq in our house. My wife was then in the neighbor’s house and my younger son Shihab was playing in the street. When the sound of the planes was heard flying over the area, my wife called our son and told him to go to his sister in the house because she knows that he gets scared from the sound of the war planes. She didn’t know that the street was safer than our house.”⁽¹⁷⁾

(16) An interview with Mohammed Ali Al-Amiri, Bait Meyad Area, 26 June 2015

(17) An interview with Ali Ahmad Al-Qibli, Errat Hamdan village, 26 June 2015

AL-Qibli continues his story: “at nearly 5:30 p.m., the coalition forces dropped a bomb at our house. The neighbors called me and told me what had happened. I came quickly and saw the space which my house occupied completely empty except for rubble and body parts. My house was wiped from the face of the earth and no longer exists. We sometimes would see the planes from our window as they were hitting Al-Dailami air base. We would see the smoke and the flame lights, and I would tell my kids not to be scared because we are safe here. I was wrong. My wife suffers from panic and fear attacks now after she lost her children.”

According to Al-Qibli, he doesn’t belong to any political party and the closest military site to his house is Al-Dailami air base, which is about 5-6 kilometers away.

Another father who lost four children in the attack told Mwatana that two bombs targeted his house at 5:30 p.m. killing four of his children and wounding his wife and his sister.

In an interview with the mother of the 18 years old victim Ashwaq Al-Zafini who was killed in the attack, she said that she felt her house shake and when she went out to check what is happening, she saw smoke coming out of Al-Otmi and Al-Qibli houses and people were gathered there and rescuing the wounded.

“I asked people about the whereabouts of my daughter and they told me that she was in Al-Qibli house. We searched for her and found her dead.” (18)

■ Bab Shaa’b Neighborhood - Sawaan area – Shaob District

May 1, 2015

17 civilians, including eight women and five children, were killed and 39 others were wounded, including 14 women and nine children, in an airstrike on Abdullah Al-Kibsi house by Saudi-led Arab coalition planes at 1:30 am in Bab Shaa’b neighborhood in Sawaan in one of the areas in Shaob district east of the capital Sana’a on 1 May 2015.

Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kibsi, 24 years old, the son of the owner of the house told Mwatana that his father, his 3 sisters and his grandmother all died in the attack that

(18) An interview with the mother of the victim Ashwaq Al-Zafini, Errat Hamdan village, 26 June 2015.

destroyed their house.

He recounted how he got back from the market only to find his family-house had been turned into ruins: “one hour before the bomb was dropped I went out with my friend. While we were in the market, my friend received a call from his father telling him that our house had been hit with a bomb. My friend hid the news from me and just said that we must immediately return to the neighborhood because a problem had just happened there. When we arrived, I could not find my house which I lived in and only left an hour ago. Everything disappeared. I was in a complete shock. I could not believe what had just happened. What brought me back to reality was seeing my 18 years old younger brother who suffers from a mental disability in the middle of the floor of what used to be his room. He was laughing and was covered with dust and gun powder. What’s strange is that he was not harmed at all.”⁽¹⁹⁾

Al-Kibsi added: “I heard the rumors that my father was a leader in the Houthi group. My father was only a simple man who doesn’t belong to any political party. He was a member in Yemeni Army and his salary was low. We and the residents of this neighborhood, who most of them collect empty water bottle to resell, are simple people and I can’t think of a reason for them to bomb us.”

Six civilians from Al-Shiryah family were killed in this attack as well. Intisar Al-Shiryah, 25 years old, was inside one of the houses that collapsed due to the attack. After she was dug from the rubble, she awoke from her coma to find out that four of her sisters, her son, and her daughter were among the dead. Six members of her family including two women were injured as well.

Intisar told Mwatana what had happened: “We were asleep in our homes. When the electricity came back on around 12:30 a.m. I woke up and awoke my sister Dalal in order to do the laundry because we rarely have electricity. When I heard the first bomb fall in a street near our neighborhood, I was screaming and saying, O God. I was praying to God to protect us because we have not harmed anyone in our lives. My sister, Dalal, was comforting me and telling me not to be scared because God is with us. However, she was the one who died when the second bomb fell on our houses.”⁽²⁰⁾

“Before the bomb fell, my husband went up to the roof of the house to check where the first explosion was. I went out to the yard because I was scared. My younger sister Hanan accompanied me to dry the cloths. While my husband was coming down the stairs, I heard the sound of the bomb hitting the house. I screamed O God. That’s all I could remember before I fainted.”

(19) A telephone interview with Mohamed Abdullah al-Kibsi, 29 August 2015

(20) A telephone interview with Intisar al-Shiryah, 29 August 2015

“After I woke up and was able to comprehend, my uncle told me that I was screaming from under the rubble calling for help. Though, I wasn’t aware of what I was doing or saying then. He told me that we stayed under the rubble for 2 hours because the neighbors were afraid that a third bomb might hit so rescue was delayed. I was told that my son Mohamed died in the military hospital, while my sister Ashwaq died in the ambulance, and the rest died under the rubble.”

Hefth Allah Al-Jedari, The Head of the Neighborhood (‘Aqel)⁽²¹⁾, said that the strike fully demolished 14 houses and caused partial damage to 45 houses because the houses here are build next to each other like slums.

According to Al-Jedari, two children, Remas and Mohammed, were killed in the strike. They were displaced from their house and came here to live in their grandfather’s house escaping from the constant bombing near their house in Noqom as it is located at the foot of Noqom Mount where there are weapon depots and a military camp and has been bombed several times.

Al-Jedari continues detailing the harm caused by the strikes on civilians by saying “Al-Kibsi family had to rent a house nearby after their house was totally destroyed. Some of the families whose houses were damaged are moving between their homes in the neighborhood and houses of relatives. A woman was paralyzed after being hit by a metal shrapnel in the spine. She now is living in a Mahrs (a very small room used as a guarding post of the nearby vineyards) after she ran away from Al-Thawra Hospital where she was staying because it is near the sites being bombed in Noqom.”⁽²²⁾

He added, “as an ‘Aqel of the neighborhood, I didn’t know what will I do for people other than to cry and pray. The residents of this neighborhood have been greatly affected and suffered a lot. They have helped each other a lot to overcome this ordeal. During Eid, the neighborhood was empty of joy. People were afraid, and the children can no longer play in the alleys. Oh how much we miss them. People in the neighborhood are ordinary people and got a long very well with each other. How can we forget who was killed or wounded from amongst us. The walls and roofs of our homes are connected together. We would walk from one roof to the other without having to even jump. Now all this has become empty.”

(21) The ‘Aqel is someone appointed by the government to be responsible of certain affairs in a neighborhood.

(22) An Interview with Hefth Allah Al-Jedari, Bab Shaa’b Neighborhood, 10 August 2015

■ Bani Hewat - Airport Road - Bani Al-Harith District

March 26, 2015

Bani Hewat area in Bani Al-Harith District which is administratively part of the capital Sana'a is the first area to witness the killing of civilians by the airstrikes of Saudi-led Arab coalition airstrikes.

From among the first air strikes by the coalition fighter jets in the early dawn of 26 March 2015, a residential neighborhood in Bani Hewat was hit by one of these strikes which killed 21 civilians, including 14 children and three women and wounded eight civilians, including seven children.

Hashim Al-Jermoze, a relative to 6 civilians who were killed in the attack, said that the air strike took place between 2:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m. and as a result of the attack he lost his brother and his wife, and his sister-in-law's mother and sister and two of his nephews and another three of his nephews were also injured.

Al-Jermoze told Mwatana that members of his brother's family remained under the rubble for two hours. He added: "The dead and injured were rushed to Al-Thawra, Kuwait, and Saudi-German hospitals in the city. Six people from my family died and 3 of my nephews were wounded and now they are living with me."⁽²³⁾

A child who was among the injured in the attack describes the moment when the bomb exploded saying "I heard the explosion and I thought that the rain was falling and that lightning had destroyed our house. Then the rocks of our house fell over my head. The next thing I knew I was inside the hospital."⁽²⁴⁾

Yasser Al-Habashi, 35 years old, a survivor and father of three children who died in the attack and a fourth who was wounded, recounts how he went into a 13-day coma due to injury from the attack:

"I went back to my house between the hours of 12:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. I arrived home and slept. I did not know what happened to me and I was not conscious of anything until after 13 days of the incident when I started asking about my kids, wife, and neighbors. No one told me what happened to my children until about 25 days after the attack. I lost three

(23) A telephone interview with Hashim Al-Jermoze, 1 September 2015.

(24) A telephone interview with Zain Al-abedeen Al-Jermozi, 1 September 2015.

of them, Ammar 17, Alaa 14, and Aisha 11 years old. My wife, my son and I were severely injured to the point I lost memory for a while and I was in a coma and I did not know what was going on around me or what happened to my family. In addition to my son's severe injury, he frequently has moments of memory loss and extreme fear and bouts of nervous tension."⁽²⁵⁾

Al-Habashi adds: "One of my sons survived because he insisted on sleeping over at one of our relatives in another place. It was the mercy and kindness of God on him and us. We sold everything we owned after the incident. I used to have a grocery store in the neighborhood, and because of the explosion, there is nothing left in it. There is nothing left of my house that I lived in, and on top of all this three of my children were killed."

In this attack the 14-year-old Osama Suleiman and his younger sister survived, but the rest of their family members were killed. They were seven, the father, the mother, four of his sisters, and a younger brother.

Osama told Mwatana that he was not aware of anything after the first bomb exploded, only after he woke up he realized that he was thrown outside the house by the force of the blast.

Osama continues: "When I woke up from the shock, there was a man wearing yellow clothes, belonging to the civil defense I believe. I asked him what had happened, and he answered that nothing happened. I was first transferred to Al-Rawdah hospital without knowing anything about what had happened to my family and that my parents, brothers, and sisters died. I was told about their death by my cousin. He said to me, did you know that your mother and father and your sisters Thikra, Asmaa, Samia, and Somaya and your brother Mohammed are all dead. I kept crying continuously until I felt my insides exploding from my grief for my family. I never imagined that my parents and sisters would die. I met my younger sister in Al-Thawra hospital after being transferred from Al-Rawdah hospital. She was hospitalized there. Now my sister Ibtisam and I live with our big sister Paris."⁽²⁶⁾

(25) A telephone interview with Yasser Al-Habashi, 1 September 2015.

(26) A telephone interview with Osama Suleiman, 1 September 2015.

■ Other air strikes in Sana'a

Mwatana organization investigated five other air strikes in Sana'a governorate.

On the morning of the 3rd of July 2015 Saudi-led Arab coalition forces killed four civilians, three children and a woman, and wounded eight others, including three children and two women when the coalition bombarded Al-Jeraf area in the capital Sana'a.

The Coalition planes bombed a densely populated area while the residents were sleeping according to a relative of the victims. He said that number of innocent people were killed in the air strikes including several children. He also mentioned that the victims were rushed to Al-Moayad, Azal, and Saudi German hospitals.⁽²⁷⁾

Mwatana organization investigated two air strikes by the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces in which they targeted military targets and weapons depots in Attan and Noqom mountains.

Attan Mountain is located southwest of the capital Sana'a while Noqom Mountain is east of the capital. Secondary explosions from the weapons depots caused the death and injury of a number of residents near the targeted areas.

A team from Mwatana Organization visited the affected neighborhoods nearby to the targeted areas and conducted interviews with witnesses and families of the victims who were affected by the explosions. The team also collected statistics on the number of dead and wounded people from hospitals such as Al-Thawra, Kuwait, Al-Mosheki, and the Republican hospital.

On 20 April 2015, the coalition warplanes targeted a weapons depot in Attan Mount located in Al-Sabeen District in the capital Sana'a. Also on 11 May 2015 at 5:30 p.m., the coalition forces bombed a weapons depot in Noqom Mount located in Azal District.

Both air strikes killed at least 25 civilians including four children and a woman and wounded at least 198 civilians, including 21 children and 19 women.

In another attack, on 6 April 2015, on Bair Rejjal village in Bani Mattar District, five civilians were killed, three children and two women, and six others were wounded, including three women and a child, when the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces bombed the house of a villager around 2:30p.m.

An eyewitness who's a neighbor of the victims said that the area was pounded with two bombs. One bomb fell in a Qat field and the other targeted Shalaan house while his

(27) A telephone interview with a relative of the victims, 14 July 2015

family was inside. He denied the existence of any military camps or armed men in the village, pointing out that the nearest military site is Ayban Mount where the village is three kilometers away to the northwest of it.⁽²⁸⁾

The Saudi-led Arab coalition warplanes had bombed on 3 April 2015 Hajjar Ekaish village in Bani Matar District in Sana'a, at 7:00 p.m. killing 11 civilians, including seven children and two women, and wounding seven civilians, including three children and two women.

Ahmed Al-Okeshi, an eyewitness and relative of the victims, said that his brother, sister-in-law, three of his nephews, and five of his brother grandchildren and the wife of his nephew were all killed in the attack, said that the coalition bombed three houses owned by his brother at a time when the three families were inside the houses. The victims were rushed to 26 September Hospital in Mattna (southern west of Sana'a) and Al-Thawra hospital in Sana'a.⁽²⁹⁾

Al-Okeshi denied the existence of military camps or groups of militants in the area, pointing out that the nearest military post is located in Prophet Shuaib Mountain, which is about five kilometers away from the village.

(28) A Telephone interview with an eyewitness, 1 September 2015.

(29) A Telephone interview with Ahmed Al-Okeshi, 1 September 2015.

■ ■ Air strikes in Sada'a Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated six incidents of air strikes by the Saudi-led Arab coalition in Sada'a governorate located in the far north of Yemen and is 243 kilometers away from the capital Sana'a. These air strikes caused the deaths of 22 civilians, including 12 children and three women and injured 21 people, including three children and three women.

The coalition's fighter jets struck densely populated residential areas. Most of these areas are far from military camps or armed militants gathering points. When investigating a number of the air strikes incidents in Sada'a, it became clear that they were arbitrary strike that did not distinguish between military and civilian targets, and that's after the coalition announced that the entire governorate of Sada'a is a military objective.

Incidents included in this section are based on field visits and phone interviews by Mwatana researcher between 15 - 18 August to areas affected by air strikes by the coalition planes in Sada'a governorate. The field researcher faced several difficulties in obtaining information because of the tight security grip that the Houthi group (Ansar Allah) imposes there and the restrictions they put on movement. In addition to the displacement of the families from the targeted areas.

■ Al Al-Zaraa neighborhood – Al-Talh area, Sahaar District

July 2, 2015

On 2 July 2015 at one in the afternoon, Saudi-led Arab coalition forces bombed two houses in a residential neighborhood and they are Ibn Zahir house and Al-Zaraa house in Al Al-Zaraa neighborhood in Sahaar District.

The targeted area is located to the north of Al-Talh market which specializes in arms trade and its about 12 kilometers north-west of the city of Sada'a. The air strike killed five civilians, including three children and a woman, and wounded seven others, including three women.

According to Sadeq Al-Zaraa, 35 years old, a mechanic who his cousin was killed and five members of his family wounded (his brother and sister, two uncles and a cousin), the

coalition planes bombed Al-Zahir home at 1 p.m. The residents of the neighborhood began to flee from their homes, including Al-Sawan family who fled to Al Al-Zaraa home before it was targeted by a bomb in a raid.

Al-Zaraa told Mwatana that three members from Al Sawan family died, the mother and her son and grandson, in addition to a child from Al-Zaraa family, and a child from Al-Dashal family who was the only son among seven girls and his father suffers from difficult psychological condition.

He added: “Many people from these families were also injured, and the house in the neighborhood were destroyed. My family and I got out of the hole we ran into to hide. We wanted to know who died and who got injured in the attack. We saw a member of the Al-Zaraa family, he was wounded and was saying (Sufficient is God for me, and how perfect is the Trustee). We shrouded the dead at that time except one of Al Al-Zaraa as we did not find him until four in the afternoon. His body was buried under the house gate where the metal gate and concrete columns fell over him. We rushed the wounded to Al-Salam hospital in Sada’a. None of them belongs to Al-Houthi or his group, while the houses of the Houthi leaders were not touched by anyone.”⁽³⁰⁾

He explained that the closest site that the Houthis occupied was a police station outside the village, about two kilometers away, adding that the coalition forces had bombed that station before the bombing of the village.

■ Shatt Nofaan, Jumaa bin Fadel area - Haydan District

June 11, 2015

An air strike by the Saudi-led Arab coalition planes on 11 June 2015 killed three civilians as they were preparing to irrigate their fields in Shatt al Nofaan area, in Haydan district 80 kilometers west of Sada’a city and It’s a rugged mountainous area which is about 10 kilometers away from Maran Mountain.

Hussein Tawey, a 42-year-old teacher, lost his cousin and the son of another cousin in

(30) An interview with Sadeq Al-Zaraa, Al Al-Zaraa village, 16 August 2015

the attack. He recounted to Mwatana the circumstances leading up to the incident saying that his cousin Khaled Tawey, 37 years old and one of the victims, went to market in the morning to buy meat. Then Khaled passed by his brother's house to eat breakfast and try convince him to fill up water tank from the water for irrigating vegetables planted and particularly sold in the month of Ramadan.

Hussein said: "when Khaled's brother refused to go with him because he was worried of the coalition jets hovering over the area that day, Khaled took his nephew Naeb Tawey to have breakfast then to go to the well along with a third person. When they arrived there, they got out of the car except for Khaled who was trying to position the car as close as possible to the water well. That's when the coalition planes attacked them with a bomb. Nothing was left of Khalid's body except his legs and his head when they found his remains the next day of the incident. Whereas for his nephew, they only found his hand and they were able to identify him from the ring that he was wearing. A third person was killed with them that day."⁽³¹⁾

Tawey went on: "none of them is Houthi, but air strikes in Haydan district do not differentiate between Houthis or non-Houthis. They even hit agricultural equipment."

Rawda Hussein, 33 years old, who's a distant relative to Khaled and Naeb, also believes that coalition forces planes do not differentiate between military and civilian objectives in the area:

"The plane came to bomb poor Khaled. He didn't belong to Al-Houthi group, he didn't even like mixing with them. The coalition orphaned his children, and widowed his wife and humiliated their lives. He didn't do anything except plant garlic, horseradish, and Ramadan vegetables in his farm, as anyone in this region does. That's when the plane bombed them and tore them apart. What did they do to be bombed? They killed them in vein while they were on their way, not harming anyone. They are belonging to the Houthis, or to Saudi Arabia. Khaled's wife is sick, keeping to herself the pain of her oppression and anguish."⁽³²⁾

(31) An interview with Hussein Tawey, Shat Nofaan area, 17 August 2015

(32) An interview with one of the relatives of the victims, Shat Nofaan area, 17 August 2015

■ Al Jabrah house – Al Rabea village - Sahaar District

May 8, 2015

On 8 May 2015, the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces bombed Al-Jabrah house in Al-Rabea village, located to the east of Al-Talh weapons market. The village is 12 kilometers away north-west of the city of Sada'a.

At 11:00 a.m. the strike took place killing a woman and wounding a child.

Mohamed Jabrah, 40 years old, a Qat seller and the brother of the victim who was killed in the incident, said that he was outside his house when the coalition forces hit a nearby village, and when he returned to his home, a plane bombed it.

“The house collapsed over our heads after it was bombed by the coalition forces. I wasn't hurt because I was in one of the corners when the bomb fell. As for my brother's house, which is located next to my house, a metal fragment entered the house from above the colored windows and hit my sister in the head killing her instantly. I was praying to God then and saying (Sufficient is God for me, and how perfect is the Trustee). My brother took out my sister body and left it outside my house, and then came to check on me. He told me that my sister was wounded only and he did not tell me that she was dead so as not to scare me. Then we took her and my little son in a neighbor's car to Al-Salam Hospital because my car was destroyed by the air strike.”⁽³³⁾

Abdullah Ahmad (36 years old) a mechanic, recalls that he was in Al-Talh market when he heard the sound of two explosions in the direction of Al Tayef and Al Rabea areas. So he rushed to his house without buying what he needed.

He Said “When I got home, I made several phone calls to inquire about the places that were bombed, and they told me that the strike was in the house of Al Jabrah. I am their friend and we know each other very well. I knew that they are in Al-Salam hospital so I went to them and found that their sister had died and that one of their young children was injured. After we buried their sister, I went to their house to see what happened there, and found the house completely destroyed. The only thing that remained from the house was a pile of bricks.”⁽³⁴⁾

(33) An interview with Mohamed Jabrah, Al Rabea village, 15 August 2015.

(34) An interview with Abdullah Ahmed, Al Rabea village, 15 August 2015

■ Al- Khafji Qat market – Bani Moath Area - Sahar District

April 18, 2015

The Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets bombed a Qat market called Al-Khafji market at 8:00 a.m. on 18 April 2015. This market is one of the big Qat markets in Sada'a and is located on the main road between the city of Sada'a and Al-Talh market and is seven kilometers north of the governorate capital.

This strike killed three civilians, including two children, and wounded at least seven, including two children. All the victims were either guards or Qat sellers and most of them belong to Al Ajlan who collect the Qat tax in the market.

Nasser Mahdi, 49 years old, one of the victims in the incident and a Qat seller spoke to Mwatana saying that he didn't hear the sound of the plane when it hit the market, but he heard it when it was flying after it had targeted the market with a bomb that exploded 100 meters away while he was inside his Qat shop inside the market.

Nasser continued by saying that he sprawled on the ground when the bomb exploded and crawled about 12 meters, asserting that "Those who were killed and wounded in this incident are innocent people, who are pursuing their livelihood to care for their families."⁽³⁵⁾

Another witness who's working as a guard in the targeted market said that all those who were at the market were Qat sellers and ordinary citizens who are not linked to Al-Houthi armed group. He said "The strike turned the market into a massacre of the dead and wounded, many of the victims are not familiar or known because the target was a market to which many people go."⁽³⁶⁾

(35) An interview with Nasser Mahdi, Al-Khafji Qat market, 18 August 2015.

(36) An interview with a witness, Al-Khafji Qat market, 18 August 2015.

■ Al Thabyan village – Al-Thamyd area - Sahar District

May 5, 2015

An airstrike, on 5 May 2015 on Al Al-Thabyan village which is located about 20 kilometers to the north-west of Sada'a city, killed eight civilians from the same family, seven children and a woman, when a Saudi-led Arab coalition forces plane bombed a house in this agricultural village around 2:00 a.m. in the morning.

Mwatana noticed during its investigation that a major destruction came upon the targeted house which is owned by Mohammed Al-Habbi and is located near a farm he owns as well.

The nearest facility to Al-Habbi house is about 50 meters away and it's a complex containing agricultural equipment owned by Moaith Abo Meskah and it was bombed more than once after the Houthis seized it.

Hassan Yahya, a 26 years old farmer and Al-Habbi neighbor, said to Mwatana "I was in my farm when the plane hit the home of Mohammed Al-Habbi. The entire place shook and I lost my ability to hear for a short time. I went immediately to his house to rescue his family and I found him crying out loud. No one from his family was spared except him as he was outside the house when the strike hit."⁽³⁷⁾

Another witness said: "Coalition's fighter jets bombed Mohammed Al-Habbi's house wrongfully and in total aggression. He had no relationship with the Houthis. I never saw him in any day carrying a gun with Houthi sticker or slogan. He never said even once that he is with them or supporting them. All his family members died and now he has no family and no property. His life is difficult and full of hardship. I do not think that I could live if I were in his place. I think he is now living in his brother's house in Sada'a city, if he is not insane yet."⁽³⁸⁾

(37) An interview with Hassan Yahya, Al Al-Thabyan village, 15 August 2015.

(38) An interview with a witness, Al Al-Thabyan village, 15 August 2015

■ Al Hamdan Petroleum Station – Al Mazroua area - Sahar District

April 15, 2015

On 15 April 2015, the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces killed at least two civilians and wounded at least six others, most of them farmers, when they fired a bomb at seven in the morning at Al Hamdan Petroleum Station in Al Mazroua area, 16 kilometers northeast of the capital of Sada'a on the only asphalt road linking Sada'a city and Alb land port.

The air strike destroyed Al-Hamdan station and the adjacent shops and cars parked nearby. The air strikes have targeted most of the petrol stations around Sada'a city over three consecutive days. Some stations that are no longer used were the only ones spared.

Amer Ahmed Rashid (28 years old), a farmer, said that the coalition planes were flying almost continuously a few days before the incident. He described the day of the incident as “an ominous day” explaining that he was at his home, about 600-700 meters from the station in an elevated area which enabled him to see the station clearly, when the fighter jets bombed it.

Amer added speaking to Mwatana: “when the station was bombed, fragments were blown everywhere in the area. The fragments even reached a farm in front of our house. Some of the fragments reached to a fuel station that is no longer used on the opposite side of Al-Hamdan station, causing emission of fumes. I thought that the air strike hit that place. When I passed by our workshop which is about 500 meters from the targeted station, I saw people rescuing victims from the vicinity of the station. Among the victims were Al-Jarwan, two brothers, one died and the other was wounded. They were good people and did not belong to the Houthi group and did not even come near them. There were other victims, all of whom are farmers.”⁽³⁹⁾

Hassan Ali Al-Saifee (25 years old), a mechanic, and was involved in the rescue of the victims, also spoke to Mwatana saying that the bomb fragments also hit a car which was loaded with cucumber and was parked on the asphalt road near the station.

Al-Saifee further added that the fragments and shrapnel amputated the leg of the driver of the car and hit him in the back. The fragments and shrapnel also injured other

(39) An interview with Amer Ahmed Rashed, Al Mazroua village, 16 August 2015

passengers inside the car in different parts of their bodies.

Al-Saifee added: “all those who were inside the car are farmers. Their injuries were more serious than that of the driver. After the driver was unable to drive the car, one of the passengers drove it. He was able to drive up to 500 meters away from the scene until they reached near our workshop, where I work. Then we rushed them to Al-Salam hospital. One of them died before we arrived to the hospital because of bleeding resulting from a cut to an artery in the leg.”⁽⁴⁰⁾

Obadi Ali Al-Sadiq, 33 years old, a transport truck driver, said that he heard the explosion when he was at his home, which is one kilometer away from the station. He went up to the roof only to see that the planes had bombed Al Hamdan station. He rushed to the scene and found the victims, as he put it, scattered on the ground.

Sadiq added: “Mohammed Mazroua, one of the wounded, flew (the explosion threw him) to under the water tank at the station. He suffered serious injuries and burns in the left half of his face, neck and chest. A hole in the water tank is what saved him from the fire. Ibrahim Jarwan (32 years old) was killed when he was thrown by the explosion 20 meters away and hit a metal container. His brother, Hamid Jarwan (35 years old), suffered serious injuries in different parts of his body while he was eating breakfast. Mohammed Hattab, (34 years old), was killed because of the severity of the bleeding, which was caused by bomb shrapnel that hit him while he was passing by in his car in front of the station. His cousins also were wounded. Muhammad Arif was wounded while he was close to the station to fill his car tank with petrol. There are many others who were wounded whom I don't know.”⁽⁴¹⁾

(40) An interview with Hassan Ali Al-Saifee, Al Mazroua village, 16 August 2015

(41) An interview with Obadi, Ali Al-Sadiq, Shamlan Area, 21 August 2015

■ ■ Air Strikes in Ta'iz Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated nine incidents of air strikes by the Saudi-led Arab coalition in Ta'iz governorate, which is located in the southwestern part of the Republic of Yemen, and is about 256 kilometers away from the capital Sana'a. Ta'iz is the most densely populated among the governorates in the Republic, with a population of nearly three million people.⁽⁴²⁾

These strikes killed 188 civilians, among them 71 children and 42 women and wounded 106 others, including 34 children and 30 women. Coalition planes bombed densely populated areas in the city of Ta'iz. Most of these areas were far from military sites or places where Al-Houthi group fighters and the forces of former President Ali Saleh were deployed to or stationed.

■ A Wedding camp – Waheja village - Thobab District

September 28, 2015

In a matter of seconds, a wedding party turned into a funeral in a remote village in Thobab district, about 123 kilometers north-west of Ta'iz governorate capital. 26 civilians were killed, including 13 children and 12 women, when the Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets bombed a wedding camp in the village of Waheja on 28 September 2015 with two bombs.

The first bomb fell near the men's camp while the second bomb hit the women's tent between ten and ten thirty in the morning.

In his house next to the women's camp, the father of the groom, Mohammed Ali Bosaybis, 50 years old, was working on preparations for the wedding when the first bomb exploded.

Bosaybis is a relative of eight of the victims who died in the attack (The mother, the

(42) Yemen, Complete Guide: Taiz Governorate. <http://www.yemenna.com/index.php?go=guide&op=show&link=taiz>

sister, the wife of the brother, two nephews and three nieces). He narrated to Mwatana part of what happened:

“About 10:00 a.m., I heard the bomb in the village. When I came out of my house, I saw that it was near the men’s tent. Dust filled the air then. I was calling on the women inside the women’s tent to get out quickly as the tent was full of them. I tried with some men to dismantle the women’s tent so the planes would see what’s inside and do not bomb it as they did with the men’s tent. We opened the tent canvas from the western side. After nearly seven minutes, the plane hit the women’s tent from the eastern side. Pressure from the explosion threw one of the men who were dismantling the tent to a far-off distance. The rest of us fled in fear of another air strike. We stayed away for half an hour and then we went back to see what happened. We could not identify those who were there. All what we found were pieces and parts like legs and arms. We did not know who most of these body parts belong to. We found remains as far as 100 meters away or more. We are still finding remains of the bodies until now.”⁽⁴³⁾

Bosaybis continues to say: “This is a criminal act. I still do not know where my family is until now. My children fled to another village after the bombing and I haven’t seen them until now. One of my brothers had work outside the village when the bombing occurred, and when he returned to it he did not find his children because there was nothing left of them. My brother was not able to stay in the village for a longer time, and left without finding his children.”

Another witness, Osama Al-Raei (26 years old), said that he was in his house when the first strike took place around ten in the morning.

Al-Raei recounted to Mwatana some details of the incident:

“I heard a powerful explosion that shook the entire place. I got scared then and did not know what happened. When I came out of the house I saw thick dust, and there were trees burning, and one can hear the sound of the plane very clearly. I went into the men’s tent, and I saw that the tent roof had fallen on Ali Aseili (16 years old), and I saw Riyadh Awadhi, 25 years old, who was still breathing, but I could not do anything to him because of my fear of another strike. Only 10 minutes passed and the other bomb dropped but this time it was on the women’s tent. When I went out to see what happened, I saw dust covering the village, and I heard someone screaming next to the men’s tent calling on people to save his mother Hawi Darwish, 55 years old.”⁽⁴⁴⁾

Al-Raei added: “I went with someone else to him and saw his mother Hawi Darwish cut in half, so we covered her with a blanket. The mother was hit on the first strike, which

(43) An interview with Mohammed Ali Bosaybis, Wahija village, 30 September 2015.

(44) An interview with Osama Al-Raei, Wahija village, 30 September 2015

occurred outside the village next to the men's tent as fragments and shrapnel from the bomb reached her house. If the bomb was dropped in the middle of the village, it would have wiped it out with everyone in it. When I went to the women's tent, I saw the remains of women and children in front of my eyes. The remains were scattered over a large distance. I could not tolerate staying longer in that place and I left right away."

Attrosh Ali Saeed (54 years old), the father of a child killed in the incident, said to Mwatana that he and his brother were among the people who tried to dismantle the women's tent after the first strike. He said that a fighter jet hit the women's camp on the other side a few minutes later.

Attrosh continued talking: "The pressure of the explosion threw me a large distance away because I was dismantling the tent when the bomb fell on it. Many women died and the number would have been much greater had it not been that most of them had fled from the tent after the first bomb. Half an hour after the second strike, we went back to the women's tent and we only found body parts. We could not identify the bodies. Some residents of the village are still looking for their families and they do not know if they had died in the incident or fled outside the village. The strike has left nothing but meat chunks. If the first strike did not happen next to the men's tent causing women to flee, the crime would have been much bigger. For those who did it, this is an unforgivable crime."⁽⁴⁵⁾

Attrosh mentioned that the planes continued flying over the village sky until nightfall, causing more horror to the residents of the village.

■ Salah neighborhood – Salah District

August 20, 2015

For a fighter warplane to drop a bomb on a densely populated neighborhood inside the city of Ta'iz, which is already crowded, only means exposing a large number of the residents to death. And that's what really happened in Salah district (east of the city) where one of the bloodiest Saudi-led Arab coalition attacks occurred on 20 August 2015.

50 civilians have been killed, including 23 children and 12 women, and 31 others were injured, including nine children and eight women, by an air strike that targeted a

(45) An interview with Attrosh Ali Saeed, Wahija village, 30 September 2015.

residential neighborhood in Salah district, near Salah Palace.

Abdo Mohammed Al-Raimi (39 years old) did not expect that the plane flying over the area would attack with a bomb. But seconds later, he will see “Resurrection”⁽⁴⁶⁾ and finds himself injured.

“The first strike was next to my house. It was as if it’s the day of Resurrection. I was screaming but to no avail. No one heard me. I tried to get out of the house, and I saw that everywhere around me was full of dirt. I heard the voice of my sister’s husband, shouting and calling on people to help him search for his family. His house along with the house just below it destroyed. I tried to get two of my children out of the house and I was able to get them out to the street. When I went back to the house, the area was hit again and the pressure threw me a great distance away from the house. I was very afraid for my wife and the rest of my children, but - thank God - I was able to reach home and got my wife and my four children out to the street. They were all injured.”⁽⁴⁷⁾

Al-Raimi went on saying “The planes bombed the neighborhood six times. All of them hit homes where there are civilians. These strikes caused the destruction of many homes in the area because most of the houses here were built next to each other like slums. I am suffering from cancer in the lymph nodes and a charitable foundation had built my house. Now that my house is destroyed, where would I go? Who would rebuild my house?”

A witness told Mwatana that the situation was calm and there were no clashes in the neighborhood before the incident.

“We did not feel anything except the tremor of the violent explosion. After that we heard the sound of the plane. We felt great fear and horror, the situation cannot be imagined. We did not know what to do then. Do we get out of the house or stay. We heard afterwards several explosions and the sounds of planes, and we were waiting for death at any moment. The windows in the house broke and the house shook strongly. Then we heard people and women screams and children cries. When the bombing ended, I went out and I saw people trying to rescue the wounded and saw the houses destroyed over the heads of residents. We tried to save whoever we could save. The rest, were under the rubble. Entire families were buried under the rubble. May God never forgive who killed all those innocent people and destroyed our houses. We stayed for days digging out the bodies from under the rubble until the place was filled with bad smell because of our inability to dig out the bodies sooner.”⁽⁴⁸⁾

(46) Experience the horror of the Day of Resurrection

(47) An interview with Abdo Mohammed Al-Raimi, Salah neighborhood, 23 August 2015.

(48) An interview with a witness, Salah neighborhood, 24 August 2015

Eman Amin (25 years old), an eyewitness recounted: “about 8:30 p.m., we heard planes flying then the planes bombed the area six times. Each bomb was stronger than the previous one to the point that the entire area caught fire. The pressure was great on neighboring houses because of the explosions. The air strikes were consecutive except the last, which was delayed nearly 20 minutes. All of these air strikes hit the homes of civilian people. The dead and wounded who were bombed in the first five strikes were rushed to Yemen International Hospital. While people were still rescuing the victims, they bombed for the sixth time. So rescuers fled fearing more bombing is coming and so the rescue operation was delayed. The rest of the wounded were rushed in trucks that belong to the Houthis who were in Salah Palace during the incident.”⁽⁴⁹⁾

■ Auto Spare Parts Center – Al-Rahidah area - Dumnat Khadder District

August 9, 2015

On 9 August 2015 between 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., a fighter jet belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces dropped a bomb at a center for the sale of auto parts at the entrance of Al-Qobaitah in Al-Rahidah area. It’s an area that is located within Dumnat Khadder District 40 kilometers south of the city of Ta’iz. The bombed caused the deaths of a child and wounded three civilians, including a child.

Abdel-Fattah Saeed Abdo⁽⁵⁰⁾, a motorcycle driver who was injured in the attack said: “I was chewing Qat with my friends when the first strike occurred. It was very scary. I stood up from between the rubble and smoke and I was shouting in hysteria I am alive, I am dead.”

He continued saying to Mwatana: “they hit poor laborers and civilians. My brother was injured in another air strike in May of this year, and I was injured in this air strike, we are not linked or affiliated with the Houthis or Resistance or any other party or group.”

(49) An interview with Eman Amin, Salah neighborhood, 16 September 2015

(50) An interview with Abdel-Fattah Saeed Abdo, Al-Rahidah area, 10 May 2015.

■ Al-Qimmah Hall – Haoth Al-Ashraf – Cairo District

August 5, 2015

Six civilians including three children and a woman were killed and seven civilians including a woman were wounded, in an airstrike by the Saudi-led Arab coalition on the 5th of August 2015 that targeted a residential house in the vicinity of Al-Qimmah hall in Haoth Al-Ashraf area, which is located within Cairo District (east of the city of Ta'iz), where heavy fighting between Houthi fighters and popular resistance militants took place.

The house that was bombed consists of two floors, each floor contains two apartments. Three families live in the house according to one of the relatives of the victims.

A witness whose uncle was killed in the strike recounted part of a terrifying experience he went through:

“I was sitting next to the house with members of the Popular Resistance - though I am not one of them - and about three in the morning, when I entered my house, I heard the sound of a plane hovering over the area. I had started falling asleep when the plane hit just above our house. The situation was very terrifying and I could not grasp what happen then. I ran out of the house hysterically through one of the destroyed walls. I could not believe that I am alive. I saw the house after I got out and it was totally destroyed. We started rescuing the victims, and when we heard the sound of the plane again, we fled fearing that the area would be bombed again. After that we spent 3 hours looking under the rubble for the bodies. We dug out six bodies. What is the crime of these innocent lives? We were asleep and safe in our homes until the coalition forces came to bomb us without first verifying the target.”⁽⁵¹⁾

Another eyewitness said that the coalition forces bombed the house next to his home at three in the morning when he was about to go to sleep, but he fled from his house fearing that it would collapse on him after the house stones were blown to the inside and were flying due to the intensity of the explosion.

He said: “I saw my house and the neighbor’s houses and they were destroyed, either totally or partially. People were crying out loudly which demonstrates the extreme horror they felt because of the bombing. We hurried to rescue the wounded and dig out the bodies. We were able to dig out six bodies from under the rubble of the house that was bombed. This Area is under the control of the popular resistance fighters. There are no Houthis here. The bombing was on civilians.”⁽⁵²⁾

(51) An interview with a relative of the victims, Haoth Al-Ashraf area, 5 August 2015

(52) An interview with an eyewitness, Haoth Al-Ashraf area, 5 August 2015

■ Steam Power Generation Plant – Al-Makha District

July 24, 2015

Al-Makha may be the most recalled place whenever those involved in documenting Yemen war need an example of the horror that affected civilians by the errors of the military campaign waged by the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces on this poor country. As in this coastal city overlooking the Red Sea, the deadliest attacks against civilians took place.

94 kilometers to the west of the city of Ta'iz where Al-Makha is located, 65 civilians were killed, including 13 children and 12 women, and at least 36 others were injured, including 14 children and 13 women, according to statistics obtained by Mwatana from the General Manager of the Steam Power Generation Plant in the city(53) and testimony of witnesses and families of the victims.

The attack, which took place on 24 July 2015, targeted a residential complex of about 200 apartments housing the families of the power plant staff there. The city had not seen any clashes before the attack.

Mwatana team conducted interviews with 20 people at the scene of the attack in Al-Makha and in Al-Amal Hospital, and Al-Thawra Hospital in Hodaidah.

Witnesses from the city's residents denied the existence of military camps or posts or check points for the Houthis or the popular resistance close to the residential complex. Indicating that the nearest military site is an air defense base which is 600 - 800 meters south east of the area.

In an interview for Mwatana with Nabil Mokrid, the Deputy Director of the Maintenance Department in Al-Makha steam plant who is an eyewitness, he said that the first bomb fell on the camp area(54) at nearly 10:30 p.m.

According to Nabil, the residents of the area were out picnicking and their children were having fun playing in the gardens before the strike.

(53) Mwatana Organization for Human Rights received a list with 63 dead from because then there were 2 missing and it was thought they were still under the rubble.

(54) The Camp is a name for the area where the workers of the steam plant are housed. Whereas the residential city is the name for the buildings where the steam plant engineers are housed. The distance between them is approx. 400 meters.

Nabil described part of the scene:

“I was at home when the first air strike happened. At approximately 10:30 pm, I heard a loud explosion. Not like the first explosion. I moved to the living room. Then my wife and sister came rushing from outside and they were very scared. We could hear the sound of the planes flying above us, and after about 2-3 minutes, we heard the sound of an explosion stronger than the previous explosions. The glass of the windows in the house all broke and the door of the apartment was forced open by pressure from the blast. I never expected such a thing like this to happen. The second bomb fell on the residential city cafeteria. After another three minutes, the third bomb landed on one of the houses. Women were screaming and it was a very scary situation. My family and I went down to the first floor. We stayed there for some time before we escaped to the sea, feeling that we were attacked in cold blood. The view in the street was very painful. People were crying, and the elderly are unable to walk, and the voices of people calling for help filled the street. The rescue was delayed that night because of the continuous strikes.”⁽⁵⁵⁾

Ahmed Othman, an uncle to three brothers who were killed and a sister who was injured, said: “I cannot believe that there are human beings who can do that. This family has suffered from air strikes since 1994⁽⁵⁶⁾ when the father and three of his children died in an air strike on the residential city in Al-Makha, and now the same scene is repeated with the family where three children were killed in the air strike, and only the sister is left and she is wounded.”⁽⁵⁷⁾

Amal Al-Sabri, the 29 years old medical equipment engineer whose brother was killed in the attack and six others of her family were wounded, had a traumatic experience that she narrated to Mwatana:

“I was at home when the explosion happened, but my sisters were at the garden and my mother was at the neighbors. When the first strike happened, a lot of people ran to the residential compound cafeteria. After the second strike, it was dark and the sounds of people were all over the city. The house that my mother was in burned and two of her friends died. My sisters were running in the street with difficulty because one of them was injured in the feet and the other in the back. They sought refuge inside a house that had been hit and dead people were inside. My 15-year-old brother was killed in the air strike. They buried his remains in a mass grave. We didn’t even see his body, the neighbors

(55) A telephone interview with Nabil Mokrid, 13 August 2015.

(56) The summer of 1994 war also known as the 194 war or Yemen secession war, is a civil war that took place between the months of May and July between the Yemeni government and what was called Yemen Democratic republic. https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_الْأَهْلِيَّة_الْيَمَنِيَّة

(57) A telephone interview with Ahmed Othman, 13 August 2015.

and one of our relatives identified him.”⁽⁵⁸⁾

Amal remembers the pressure that resulted from the explosions and the houses shaking and the human remains scattered everywhere, as well as the dust and the smoke that blocked the horizon, and she equates what she experienced to the “Resurrection.”

And she continued saying “This is a massacre. Those responsible for it should be punished. Strikes were taking place in a row, and in less than half an hour. Al-Makha turned into a pile of blood and body parts. My family was displaced three times during this war. We were in Al-Shamasi area⁽⁵⁹⁾ which was bombed. Then we moved to Saber⁽⁶⁰⁾ Mountain and it was bombed, and as a last resort we moved to Al-Makha, which was also bombed.”

One of the people wounded in the incident indicated that he was injured as he tried to rescue his brother.

“I was working in the cafeteria that night with my brother and my cousin. Things were very normal. Security were present. We have not received any warnings to evacuate the area. I went out of the cafeteria to the coast, and when I was just 50 meters away from the cafeteria, the first bomb fell, followed by a second one. I quickly returned to the cafeteria to check on my brother and run away together. When I came close to the cafeteria, I could not see things clearly because of the thick smoke. When I got closer, I saw the cafeteria destroyed, I did not see my brother or my cousin. I fainted and when I woke up I was at the beach again. I was rushed to the Plant’s small clinic. There was only one doctor. Many people died because of bleeding and the lack of medical care and attention. Others died while on their way to Hodaidah, also because of bleeding.”⁽⁶¹⁾

From the interviews that Mwatana had with families of the victims and eyewitnesses, it turned out that only one hospital had been working in the residential city and it was not equipped to receive such a large number of serious cases and that is why the injured were taken to hospitals in Hodaidah governorate.

(58) A Telephone interview with Amal Al-Sabri, 13 August 2015.

(59) Al-Shamasi area is located east of Taiz city where fighting occurred between the Houthis/Saleh forces and the popular resistance before the resistance took control of the area.

(60) Saber Mountain area is located south west of Taiz. Fighting between the Houthis/Saleh and Popular resistance went on for months before the popular resistance controlled it.

(61) A telephone interview with of the people wounded in the incident, 15 August 2015.

■ Al-Najdain village - Al-Hawban area - Cairo District

July 1, 2015

On the 1st of July 2015, four civilians from the same family, including a woman and two children were killed when a Saudi-led Arab coalition plane bombed the house of Fahmi Al-Najdain at one in the afternoon, in Al-Najdain village, located in Al-Hawban area (east of Ta'iz city)

Mwatana met with the teacher Qasim Saeed (55 years old) whose daughter and his daughter's husband and his grandchildren were killed in the incident. He recounted to what extent the strike was devastating:

"I was at home when I received a telephone call informing me about what had happened. I went there immediately. When I arrived at the house, we tried to search for their bodies under the rubble of the house but we did not find them. During our search in the valley next to the house, we found their bodies burnt and torn. We found the body of the younger girl near the house door, 15 meters from the house.

Whereas for the old girl and her father, we found their bodies about 100 meters away outside the house. And we found my daughter about 60 meters from the house. No medical teams came to the rescue. I and the people from the neighborhood took the bodies then buried them." ⁽⁶²⁾

He added: "I didn't believe what I was seeing in front of me. The strike was not expected. It's like it is a nightmare. This is what I can describe it, but what I feel even a mountain will not be able to endure it. My little granddaughter was talking to me on the phone before the house was bombed when I called to check on them. The bombing then was in an area close to my house. My granddaughter had told me to come to their house because as she described it, it's safe. Imagine how my feeling would be after I knew that the bomb hit them."

Qassim said that the strike, which hit Al-Najdain house, was part of a series of air strikes in Al-Hawban area in Ta'iz that began at 7:00 a.m. and continued until 1:00 p.m.

(62) An interview with Qassim Saeed, Al-Najdain village, 26 August 2015.

■ Abdul Wahab Petrol Station – Al-Rahidah area - Dumnat Khadder District

May 27, 2015

An air strike by the Saudi-led Arab coalition killed 18 civilians, including six children, and wounded at least 16 others, including six children and three women, on 27 May 2015 when a fighter jet bombed a petrol station in Al-Rahidah area in Dumnat Khadder District, 40 kilometers to the south of Ta'iz city.

Aside from being surrounded by shops and a mosque, the station is located in a meeting point for people traveling to Al Qabbaytah District.

Mwatana researchers conducted interviews with 11 people from the eyewitnesses and the wounded in Al-Rahidah.

According to eyewitnesses, there were no militants either from Houthis or Popular Resistance in the station, except that the Houthis had used the station for a brief period and vacated it about 20 to 30 days before it was bombed. The station was closed when it was bombed.

One of the people wounded in the incident told Mwatana that he was near the station when a plane bombed a site in Al-Qarn Mount in a neighboring area. Then two minutes later the station was bombed.

The witness added: "The explosion was so violent that the fragments were scattered to 300 meters from the place of the bombing. I arrived at the place and saw a horrible scene, bodies were scattered all over the place, and most of the shops in front of the station were burned. Most of those who died in the incident were from the people working in those stores, and the children who sell ice, and also those who were next to the station watching the bombing on Al-Qarn Mount. We started to rescue the injured quickly and we took them to Dr. Firas Al-Shaibani clinic in the middle of Al-Rahidh area for first aid, because Al-Rahidh Hospital was closed and there was no other hospital in the area. After administering first aid to the wounded, they were taken to Yemen International Hospital in Al-Hawban area east of Ta'iz city."⁽⁶³⁾

He added: "There were no soldiers or Houthis in the station when it was bombed. The bombing destroyed the station and the mosque next to it. In addition to some of the neighboring houses. The area has become empty after the incident because most people

63 An interview with one of the people wounded in the attack, Al-Rahidah area, 27 August 2015.

have fled to faraway villages. I still cannot comprehend anything from what happened.”

Mohammed Hayel (47 years old), the owner of a grocery store in front of the station and one of the people injured in the incident, recounted that he was inside his store during the first strike on Al-Qarn Mount. He came out of the store to watch the bombing and after a minute or two later, Abdul Wahab station was bombed.

Mohammad went on talking about the circumstances of his injury: “It was Kindness of God that I was standing away from my store. Nevertheless, the air pressure blew me to the back of the building. I heard a voice like thunder, whereas the smoke has filled the place, it was hard to see through all the smoke. I was covered with dust and small stones, I tried to pull myself on the ground little by little because of my injury until I reached the farm fields which were close to me. I managed to reach a small house, and there were other injured people as well and they were falling on the floor beside me. When I managed to stand up on my feet, I went directly to my store. I saw a tragedy there, especially after the smoke started clearing. Inside the grocery store were body parts and legs and hands scattered everywhere. Outside the grocery store, I saw the bodies and body parts of people, and dead children. The whole street was full of dead bodies. There were nearly four children selling ice next to the station. They came from Amlah village, which is behind the station. People wished that they could find something of their bodies other than the charred pieces so they can bury them in the graves, but unfortunately, nothing of them was left. We have compiled the remains of people into one place buried it.”⁽⁶⁴⁾

■ Al-Dahi Valley - Al-Muthafar District

May 11, 2015

The Saudi-led Arab coalition planes bombed residential houses in Al-Dahi Valley area (west of Ta'iz city) at 6 am in the morning on 11 May 2015, killing 13 civilians, including eight children and three women, and injuring six others, three women and three children.

The Traffic Police Department building, which is the nearest location where forces of Saleh and Al-Houthi are stationed, is located to the east of the targeted residential area by about 500-700 meters.

According to eyewitnesses, there were no militants in the targeted neighborhood

(64) An interview with Mohammed Hayel, Al-Rahidah area, 27 august 2015.

either during the bombing or in earlier days. Witnesses said that coalition warplanes bombed several sites where Saleh's and the Houthis' forces were stationed that morning before they bombed the house of Abdulqawi Al-Jabri, which killed 10 members of his family along with three people from neighboring houses.

Yassin Abdulqawi Al-Jabri (24 years old) was sleeping with one of his university friends in a room above the two-story house in Al-Sabbar neighborhood which is also called Al-Hayakel neighborhood when a bomb hit the house.

Yassin survived and 10 of his relatives fell victims in the attack. On the incident, he said to Mwatana: "When the explosion occurred, my brother died immediately, and my sister was blown 50-100 meters outside the house which caused her to suffer serious injuries, until now she is still suffering from the enormity of the shock. My friend and I did not know what was happening around us, for more than an hour we were like we are in a coma and we almost died from the inhalation of smoke. Ten people from my family died. No one survived from our family except me and my sister. Our neighbor whose house is only 20 meters away from our house also died. They said that she died as a result of shrapnel in her stomach. While she was sleeping on her bed. A small child also died, his family lived near us. And a teacher died, a large stone had fallen over his head from the blast, he lives close to our house as well."⁽⁶⁵⁾

Yassin denied the occurrence of armed confrontations or the presence of militants in the neighborhood or neighboring areas, saying "the majority of war victims are civilians, because the militants know how to prepare and protect themselves in time of war."

Muammar Al-Marwani⁽⁶⁶⁾, a lawyer, and a relative to Al-Jabri family, said to Mwatana that the force of the blast caused damages to five or six neighboring houses. And that he saw the bodies of the victims scattered into pieces, adding that digging out the bodies lasted for three days due to lack of fuel and the use of simple tools by the people.

He added: "During the aerial bombardment there were no clashes between the parties. The coalition planes had already bombed several locations close to the house, and they were: Ta'iz Traffic Department building, and the building of Criminal Investigations Department and the Technical Institute building, and Al-Sunnah Mosque behind 26 September School."

Ammar Ahmed (21 years old), another witness whose father was killed in the attack, told Mwatana about the circumstances of the incident: "Shrapnel and fragments scattered everywhere in the neighborhood, our neighbor died while she was sleeping in her home because of the shrapnel. Her house is located in front of our house. My father was passing

(65) An interview with Yassin Abdulqawi Al-Jabri, Al-Masal valley, 17 May 2015.

(66) An interview Muammar Al-Marwani, Al-Masal Valley, 17 May 2015

in the neighborhood, carrying breakfast as he was returning to us. When the strike took place I ran to the street although I was injured by shrapnel, and I found my father with his right hand separated from his body and he was severely bleeding, he was still alive. A Rock fell on his head because of the explosion. When the neighbors came to rescue the wounded, another bomb fell in the adjacent neighborhood, and so people fled and left us to survive on our own. I drove my dad in the car trying to rescue him but I did not find a place to receive him as hospitals were still closed. I was forced to take him to a small health center in a remote location, which was a clinic for the care of pregnant women, but he took his last breath there and was pronounced dead after one hour from his injury.”⁽⁶⁷⁾

Ammar went on saying: “our neighborhood was quiet, there was no presence of militants from Al-Houthi or The Resistance. We did not have or use even fireworks. Now homes are destroyed and people killed. After my father was killed, we are left without a breadwinner. My father had a large family of nine people, and I do not work yet. My family fled to a remote area after a large part of our house was destroyed, and now we live with relatives.”

■ Al-Sunnah mosque neighborhood - Al-Muthafar District

May 11, 2015

On May 11, 2015 at six in the morning an airstrike killed five civilians, including two children and a woman, and wounded seven others including two women and a child when a fighter jet of the Saudi-led Arab Coalition bombed a mosque in Al-Sunnah Mosque Neighborhood west of the city of Ta’iz in an area called Almuroor. The airstrike took place after fighter jets had bombed Al-Dahi Valley Neighborhood, which is about 250 meters away from Al-Sunnah Mosque neighborhood.

Jihad Al-Yousifi, an eye witness, 21 years old, working as a small bus driver told Mwatana that a violent explosion at 6:00 am woke him up from his sleep and he rushed to the scene before a second bomb fell next to the mosque.

“I saw my bus and it had turned into metal parts because of the explosion, and I saw a woman with her head separated from her body and her three children were torn into

(67) A telephone interview with Ammar Ahmed, 26 August 2015

pieces.”⁽⁶⁸⁾

Al-Yousifi continued “Most of the neighborhood folks left the neighborhood, some to the villages, and some went to live at the homes of their relatives. I also left after the bus that is my only source of income was completely destroyed. Fear is what made people leave their homes and livelihoods in order to feel safe again. Our neighborhood is close to Almuuroor area and the nearest military site to us is the Criminal Investigation Department which is only five minutes away by foot. Yes, there are Houthis in Technical Institute building, which is not far from our house, but the air strike was in a place where only civilians lived. The mosque was damaged because of strike, and people with no links to armed groups were killed and injured.”

In an interview with Saddam Al-Shamiri (25 years old), the son of one of the victims, he reported to Mwatana that he was asleep in his house and heard a sound of a nearby powerful explosion and after he woke up he discovered that the Coalition forces hit Al-Sunnah mosque destroying a large part of it.

Al-Shamiri added “My father and I were injured as a result of the explosion next to the Al-Sunnah Mosque. Our feelings were indescribable because of the horror and fear that was felt by all the residents of the neighborhood. We are now displaced from our homes, and most of the residents are also displaced in other areas.”⁽⁶⁹⁾

(68) A Telephone interview with Jihad Alyousifi, 18 August 2015

(69) A telephone interview with Saddam Al-Shamiri, 27 August 2015

■ ■ Air Strikes in Hodaidah Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated two incidents of air strikes in Hodaidah governorate, which is located west of the country, 226 kilometers(70) away from the capital Sana'a and it stretches on the west coast, overlooking the Red Sea.

These strikes caused the deaths of 84 civilians, including 14 children and four women, and wounded 58 others, including seven children and four women, after the Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets bombed a market crowded with shoppers and workers, and an island coast full of fishermen and far from military camps and militants sites.

■ Kaaban Island - Bayt Al-Faqih District

October 22, 2015

On 22 October 2015, at 11:30 a.m., air raids by the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces caused the death of 42 civilians, including five children, and wounded eight civilians, in Kaaban Island (about 190 kilometers north-west of Hodaidah city). The strike targeted a group fishermen sleeping on their boats at Kaaban Island coast.

According to eyewitnesses interviewed by Mwatana, there are no residents on this island at all. But fishermen stay in it for a period ranging between 1-2 months after which they return to their homes. Witnesses stressed that there are no military camps or gunmen inside the island.

In an interview with Mohammad Mashhor (35 years old), a fisherman whose brother was killed in the incident, he said that he was asleep inside his boat when the coalition forces struck a group of boats on the island's coast.

He said: "I fled to the mainland when it happened, and I along with other fishermen stayed hidden inside the island from 11:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and it's the period which the plane kept on hitting the coast. When the situation calmed, I got on my boat along with fishermen whose boats were bombed, and we ran away from the island toward Al-Salif

(70) Yemen, Complete Guide, Hodeida governorate:
<http://www.yemenna.com/index.php?go=guide&op=show&link=hodida>

port. I left some fishermen on a large boat that we saw in the middle of the way to take them to Al-Salif port and I headed towards Kamaran Island in a small boat.”(71)

He explained: “One of the boats with all fishermen who were inside was bombed in front of my eyes. Some people survived the attack and some of them were killed and others died and we did not know their names because they came from different areas. Until now we do not know where the bodies of the fishermen on the island, and we are not able to go there again because the way towards there is still not secured, as the planes are still up there. In addition, we do not have enough money or even boats that would take us to the island because our boats were destroyed there, and currently the waves are moving the bodies from one island to the other.”

He added: “The Island was safe before, there was nothing in it. We used to stay there for months without any objections, we were all fishermen, and now we lost the boats and our families and our children. Fishermen here are poor and they are not linked to what is happening between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia. The coalition planes bombed us although they know that we are a group of fishermen because they can see us from up there while we are working on our boats. They bombed everything, what is this humanity they possess? The sea color turned to red color from the abundance of blood.”

In an interview with the witness Adel Abdullah Al-Shreim, 25 years old, a fisherman, and a nephew to one of the dead in the incident, he said that when he was on board his small boat at around 11:30 noon in the coast of the island, he heard the sound of a plane approaching the coast, then hit the boat of a fisherman on the coast.

He went on: “I was close to the area which was bombed. So I ran away from the boat to the island and hid inside a mountain there for a few minutes after the first strike. Then the plane hit the other boats and after that bombed the fishermen who were fleeing and trying to save themselves by swimming to the island. The plane continued striking the area until around 3:30 p.m. Then I got out of the island with the fishermen who survived using a small boat and we went to Al Khubah. Whereas for the rest of the fishermen who died at sea, we don’t know their fate or where their bodies are.”(72)

And he ended: “The planes do not differentiate between the armed and non-armed but strike randomly and they don’t show mercy and compassion to anyone. There are no militants inside the island. We would hear the sound of the planes every day flying above us but they just pass without doing anything, except for that day when they bombarded us. I counted four bombs that fell on the boats, and although the plane continued to bomb but I did not continue counting the bombs as all I was thinking about was to survive.”

(71) An interview with Mohammad Mashhor, Al-Hadariah village, 30 October 2015.

(72) An interview with Adel Abdullah Al-Shreim, Al-Hadariah village, 30 October 2015.

■ The Main Road - Zabeed District

May 12, 2015

The Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets dropped three bombs on a Main road that is used as a market by the residents of Zabeed city (about 80 kilometers south-east of the city of Hodaidah) at 4:30 p.m. in the evening of 12 May 2015, killing 42 civilians, including nine children and four women, and injuring 50 others, including seven children and four women, according to statistics issued by the Public Health and Population Office in Zabeed. The statistics were consistent with testimony of local residents who spoke to Mwatana team, which conducted interviews with 10 people in the place of the incident.

Residents in the affected area stated that the first bomb targeted a building where a local crowded restaurant is located in the main street. The second bomb fell on a sweets shop in the same street, before the third bomb drops next to the Qat market but it did not explode.

One of the victims of the bombing died while trying to rescue the wounded from the first and second strikes, as told by the victim's brother Abdul Aziz Makboli (20 years old): "My brother and I were working in a shop selling bread when we heard the first and second explosions. We came out of the shop to see what happened, and people were scared, fleeing in all directions. Whereas my brother rushed to rescue the injured in the attack. I was afraid that he may get hurt, and indeed the third bomb landed in the road but it did not explode, but fragments hit my brother in the head and neck when he was on his way to rescue people and he died on the spot. People had called on him not to go as he may get hurt, but he went to his death."⁽⁷³⁾

Another witness said: "I was selling shoes in the street just outside my shop when I felt the tremor from the big explosion. The smoke was filling the area, and I could not see things clearly at first. The second bomb fell on a shop that sell sweets next to where I were, and when I came out of the shop, I saw the building that housed the restaurant and it was destroyed and the sweets shop was also completely destroyed with everyone inside it. People were scattered in the street, one of them without a leg, and others with body parts cut off of their bodies because of the force of the explosion. There were no Houthis at the time of the explosion, just innocent people."⁽⁷⁴⁾

a juice seller who was in the area during the attack indicated that there was a group of

(73) An interview with Abdul Aziz Makboli, The main Road in Zabeed, 25 August 2015

(74) An interview with an eyewitness, The main Road in Zabeed, 25 August 2015

soldiers who went to have lunch at the restaurant and then went to buy Qat and sweets, but they left the area 15 minutes or more before the attack. No one was affected by the strike except the civilians.(75)

Imad Al-Izzi (28 years old) was one of the wounded in the strike, he told Mwatana that he was talking with his friend next to his vehicle when the first bomb fell. He said that he was afraid that his brother, who owns a shop in that area, might get hurt, so he rushed to see him when the second bomb went off in a shop selling sweets, next to his brother's shop and he found him wounded by shrapnel.

In addition to his injured brother, Al-Izzi saw "burned children and adults, and a building collapsing and the entire Sweets shop gone, and women not covered and getting out of their houses with what they had on out of fear, that I had to give them my keffiyeh (76) as a cover."(77)

(75) An interview with an eyewitness, The main Road in Zabead, 25 August 2015

(76) Male head scarf, also known as Shaal or Ghutrah.

(77) An interview with Imad Al-Izzi, The Main Road in Zabead, 25 August 2015.

■ ■ Air Strikes in Lahj Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated two incidents of air strikes in Lahj governorate, south west of the Republic of Yemen, 320 kilometers(78) away from the capital Sana'a. These strikes caused the deaths of 19 civilians, including four women and two children, and wounding nine others, including three women and a child. The Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets bombed a densely populated residential neighborhood and a Main road. All the victims of the two incidents were civilians

■ Al-Hamra village - Tuban District

August 1, 2015

On the 1st of August 2015 at 1:00 a.m., a bomb dropped by a fighter jet belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition force, exploded in three houses in the middle of a residential neighborhood in Al-Hamra village, Tuban district which caused the death of eight civilians, including three women and two children, and wounding three others, including a woman.

Three of Ayoub Hanash relatives were killed in the attack, his brother and two of his nephews and another brother was injured.

Ayoub said to Mwatana that eight houses were destroyed almost completely and 23 houses were damaged. While casualties were sustained by the families of Saleh bin Saleh, and Mohammed Ahmed Hanash, and Abdul Fattah Mohammed Ismail. They were the families that were inside their homes during the attack.

He explained: "Three members of Mohammed Hanash's family and four members of Saleh bin Saleh's family, and a child from Abdel Fattah Ismail family were all killed. Three people were wounded and were unable to get out of the village for medical treatment for two days because of internal fighting in the village between the Houthis and The

(78) Yemen Complete Guide, Lahj governorate:
<http://www.yemenna.com/index.php?go=guide&op=show&link=lahej>

Resistance. When the fighting stopped in Lahj, they were able to go to Aden for treatment, but unfortunately the hospitals were full and they refused to receive new cases. Currently they are being treated in the homes of their relatives.”(79)

Ayub clarified that Al-Hamra village is about 10 kilometers away from Al-Hotah city, and that Houthi gunmen were stationed in two locations inside the village which were about 200-300 meters away from the targeted area.

■ **Khabt Al-Rejaa area - Tor Al-Baha District**

June 16, 2015

An airstrike by the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces on 16 June 2015 killed 11 civilians, including a woman, and wounded six, including two women and a child, when a fighter jet bombed 2 vehicles (Toyota Hilux and a mini bus) in a road that goes through Khabt Al-Rejaa in Tor Al-Baha district in Lahj.

Mwatana interviewed nine eyewitness and relatives of the victims in the incident area and over the phone.

According to the testimonies of nine people from the relatives of the victims and witnesses who spoke to Mwatana in the incident area and over the phone, the coalition bombed a Toyota Hilux that had five civilians onboard and killed all of them. Another Toyota car, a Cressida, was damaged. It was traveling on the road with five civilians from one family onboard. One of them, the driver, was killed and three others wounded.

A second strike in the same place killed five civilians and wounded three, they were all onboard a minibus.

The testimony of the brother of one of the victims of the Hilux car gives a glimpse on how the risks of the war affects even those who decided to withdraw from it.

This witness has said that his family fled to a small village after the outbreak of the war, and on 16 June 2015, his brothers and cousins decided to go to the city to buy Ramadan needs. They went in the morning and when they returned, the car that they were in was bombed.

The witness gave more details: “exactly at 5:00 p.m., the victims set out driving the car

(79) An interview with Ayoub Hanash, Beyout Al-Shortah (Police Houses) area, Aden, 5 August 2015.

that was loaded with Ramadan's needs like cream caramel (Pudding), vegetables, honey and dishes. The car is a pickup truck so the trunk is open and visible, and my brothers and cousins were inside and they were on the way back to the house through Khabt Al-Rajaa road. The plane bombed a Steel Factory in that region, my brothers and cousins got scared and so they waved a white flag and started waving their hands to the plane, but the plane bombed them. About half a kilometer away, the plane dropped another bomb on a minibus with a family inside the bus and it killed and wounded many people. Our car was hit despite the fact that our car was licensed and had gone through more than one security check point belonging to the Houthis and the resistance, and no one stopped it and there were no weapons in it.”(80)

He added: “our family distanced itself away from the conflicts, we moved to the village and we do not belong to any party in this conflict. Although we are against the policy and actions of one party to the conflict, we chose not to join the other side in the conflict, even though we are soldiers. Some people belonging to the resistance contacted us and told us to come and collect the bodies of the dead. We went there and took the bodies. One of my brothers was a in the military and he was among the soldiers who were terminated in 1994. My cousins and brothers were very young. We buried them all in their hometown. Now their salaries are withheld and it was very little to begin with. We have been afflicted with losing them. They have all died even though they didn't deserve to die.”

In an interview with the cousin of the driver of the Cressida car who died in the bombing, he said: “the air strike caused damage to the car that was carrying my relatives, and led to the death of my cousin, the car driver, and injuring three members of my relatives except their 1-year-old daughter. Some of my relatives contacted me and they told me about the incident, I went to the scene. I got there after Maghreb prayers (After sunset), and I was told that all my relatives died. I fainted when I heard this news. When I woke up, I knew that only one was dead and he was the one driving, and the rest were wounded, they rushed the wounded to Al-Rahida hospital in Ta'iz, and when we knew that it is closed, we had to take them to Aden governorate.”(81)

According to witnesses, there were no Houthi (Ansar Allah) fighters in the area as the area was under the Popular Resistance control at the time.

(80) A telephone interview with a relative of the victims, 9 September 2015.

(81) A telephone interview with a relative of the victims, 9 September 2025

■ ■ Air Strikes in Ibb Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated four incidents of airstrikes, where civilians fell victims to the strikes in Ibb governorate, which is located in the middle part of the Republic of Yemen and is 193 kilometers away from the capital Sana'a. These strikes caused the deaths of 38 civilians, including seven children and six women, and wounded 88, including 20 children and 10 women after the bombing by The Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets of residential neighborhoods far from military camps of militants' positions.

■ Main Street – Jebelah District

August 17, 2015

On 17 August 2015, an air strike by the Arab coalition forces resulted in the death of at least five civilians, three women and two children, and wounding at least five other civilians, including a woman, in Al-Qarameah neighborhood, in the Main street in Jebelah, located about 6 kilometers to the south of Ibb city.

The strike destroyed a two-story house, containing eight apartments and inhabited by six families that were inside when it was targeted.

In Addition to the fact that Abdul Razak Ahmad Ba'alawy was wounded in the raid, his mother and two sisters and his two nephew were all killed.

Ba'alawy explained to Mwatana that a coalition plane dropped a bomb on his uncle Abdul Karim house, who is an immigrant in Saudi Arabia, at 1:00 a.m., saying that he had come here with his family from Hodaidah to escape the hot weather in the coastal city, while most of those living in the building were Displaced from Ta'iz and Hodaidah.

Ba'alawy went on: "We heard the sound of a plane that bombed in a place somewhat far away from Jebelah, and after half an hour the plane bombed in Jebelah. I barely emerged from my uncle's house after the fall of the bomb, and all I saw was a totally destroyed house. The neighborhood residents dug out the children first from under the rubble, then the rest of the victims. We found my sister and her head is divided into two halves. My other sister, a mother of three children, died while breastfeeding her young son, while her son survived and nothing happened to him."

Ba'alawy denied any movement or deployment of militants in the area.

Shawki Al-Wosabi (25 years old), a witness and a neighbor of the victims said that most of the residents fled after the strike for fear of renewed bombardment, pointing out that the majority of the area's residents are women and children, because the breadwinner of these families are immigrants in other countries.

■ Shar'ah Village – Al-Radmah District

August 8, 2015

On 8 August 2015, the Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets dropped four bombs on Shara'h Village that is part of Al-Radmah District (50 km north-east of Ibb city), killing seven civilians, including three children and two women and wounding 49 others, including 14 children and nine women. Mwatana interviewed three witnesses in the area.

According to the statement made by witnesses, the first bomb fell in Al-Ihram area, which is another village in the Al-Radmah District at eight thirty in the evening. Then the second bomb landed on a residential house adjacent to the house of Sheikh Mohammad Saleh Al-Hadde, and five minutes later a bomb fell on the southern side of the house of Sheikh Mohammed Al-Hadde, followed by a fourth bomb on the chewing room (Al-Diwan) in Sheikh Al-Haddes house who was in the room chewing Qat with a number of the residents of the village.

Witnesses reported that the targeted areas had no military targets.

Ammar Mohsin Al-Hadde (37 years old), employee of the immunization fund, mentioned to Mwatana that he was chewing Qat in the Diwan (chewing room) of Sheikh Mohammed Saleh Al-Hadde when the first bomb fell in the area.

Al-Hadde added "After the first bomb was dropped, all who were in the chewing room came out to see the place where the bomb fell. After that the rest of the bombs fell, we ran away from that place towards the valley, and after half an hour, we went back to the scene and saw the dead and the wounded everywhere in the village. We rushed the wounded to the Republican and Military hospitals in Sana'a."⁽⁸²⁾

(82) An interview with Ammar Mohsin Al-Hadde, Shar'ah village, 15 August 2015

■ Al-Daleel Bridge – Al-Makhader District

April 26, 2015

On 26 April 2015, 22 civilians were killed, including two children, and 32 others were wounded including five children in an airstrike, by the Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets that targeted a bridge in Al-Daleel area in Al-Makhader district which is located about 16 kilometers to the north of Ibb city.

Salah Masoud (25 years old), whose two brothers were killed in the strike, narrated to Mwatana about moments of terror he experienced: “I was talking with my brother while I was under the bridge, my younger brother was next to me, and my 2-year-old nephew was on my lap, and my older brother was on the bridge. Suddenly we heard a huge explosion and I did not feel anything afterwards. I was running and trying to catch my breath, I don’t know how I survived. My brothers died, the eldest who was the only breadwinner for our family, and my younger brother. After I ran away from the bomb, there was a man calling me to take the young child as he was thrown on the ground. I went back to take my nephew and saw that he had suffered burns on the right side of his head. As for my brothers, we didn’t find their remains to bury them.”⁽⁸³⁾

Salah went on to say: “After the incident, every day I leave home to the sound of my mom crying and I return home to the sound of her crying too. I became the sole breadwinner of the remaining five members of my family.”

In an interview with Khaled Al- Ghaithi (30 years old), one of the eyewitnesses, he said that the remains of some of the victims were scattered everywhere to the point that residents were unable to collect them or even identify who they belong to.

Al- Ghaithi went on: “Before the planes hit, we heard the sound of the planes flying over the area, then the first bomb fell around 10:00 a.m. After that the second bomb fell after approximately 10 minutes. The second bomb left many victims because people had gathered to rescue the wounded from the first bomb when the second bomb fell next to them and killed everyone.”⁽⁸⁴⁾

He added: “I was in my field when I heard the sound of the first explosion. I knelt

(83) An interview with Salah Masoud, Al-Daleel area, 25 August 2015

(84) An interview with Khaled Al- Ghaithi, Al-Daleel area, 25 August 2015.

down on my knees when I heard the sound, then I saw the smoke rise. Some rocks and dust that were blown by the explosion fell over our heads. The sound of the second bomb was stronger than the first. I was then with my mother and my brother, my mother was not able to walk or run away due to her old age, so I had to carry her on my back. I saw a huge crowd of people running, and when I would look back, I would see people running without knowing where they are going.”

■ Other air strikes

In another attack, a plane belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces bombed on 24 August 2015 the house of one of the residents in Al-Mesgah village which is part of Al-Saddah district in Ibb governorate, killing four civilians, including a woman, and wounding two others including a child.

One of the village residents reported that this area has been under constant bombardment from the coalition forces although it is not a military zone and there are no military posts, saying that all the victims of this attack were civilians from the area.⁽⁸⁵⁾

(85) An interview with one of the residents of the area, Al-Mesgah village, 26 august 2015.

■ ■ Air Strikes in Dhamar Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated one incident of air strikes in Dhamar governorate, located about 100 kilometers⁽⁸⁶⁾ south of the capital Sana'a. This strike caused the deaths of 40 civilians, including 15 children and 14 women, and injured 42 others, including 14 women and 13 children, as a result of bombing a wedding celebration that was held inside a residential house far from military camps or Houthi militants' positions.

■ Sanaban village - Mayfaat Ans District

October 7, 2015

It would be difficult for the people of Sanaban village in Dhamar governorate to forget the day of the 7th of October 2015 the day in which they experienced how a joyful event can turn into a great tragedy within a few seconds.

In this area that is part of Mayfaat Ans district (33 km to the east of Dhamar city), a bomb dropped by a fighter jet belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition turned a wedding party to a sad occasion when the bomb killed 40 civilians, including 15 children and 14 women.

Also 42 civilians were wounded, including 14 women and 13 children, in the strike that destroyed a three-story house that had dozens of civilians inside it who gathered from three neighboring villages to celebrate the wedding of one of the residents.

Abdullah Ali Al-Sanabani, 35 years old, a teacher, lost 18 members of his family in the attack and they were his three cousins and their families.

Al-Sanabani described the incident in his interview with Mwatana as ominous and disastrous, adding that the bomb fell on the house that was crowded with guests at 9:30 p.m. and destroyed it.

He said, "Many of my cousins were killed. We are still in a state of severe shock, as if

(86) Yemen complete guide, Dhamar governorate, <http://www.yemenna.com/index.php?go=guide&op=show&link=dhamar>

we are in a dream. Because of the pressure from the blast I can't hear properly now and I suffer from blockage in my ear. Although I was far from the house that was bombed. What made them bomb our house? There is no reason. The people just gathered there for the joy and to celebrate the wedding."⁽⁸⁷⁾

Abdullah Mohammed Naji, 38 years old, a teacher whose five members of his family were killed in the incident said that after half an hour from hearing the sounds of the planes flying over, he heard the sound of a strike while he was going out of his house.

Naji Said "The crime committed by the Saudi planes is disastrous by all standards. We found heads scattered a few meters away from the scene of the blast. Inside the house that was bombed there were people from three nearby villages. My wife and my daughters were inside the house that was bombed, but thank God they were only slightly injured. However, the psychological impact will remain with them forever. We cannot address the fear and panic easily. What have we done to them? Why did they commit this genocide? I have heard the sound of the bomb and I saw the flame which was coming off from the rear of the bomb to kill our women and children. There were three grooms, one died with his bride, and the second was wounded and his bride was wounded as well, only one grooms and one bride survived."⁽⁸⁸⁾

(87) An interview with Abdullah Ali Al-Sanabani, Al-Sanabani area, 8 October 2015.

(88) An interview with Abdullah Mohammed Naji, Sanaban village, 8 October 2015

■ ■ Air Strikes in Hajja Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated four incidents of air strikes by the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces in Hajja governorate, about 127 kilometers northwest of the capital Sana'a.⁽⁸⁹⁾ These strikes caused the deaths of 53 civilians, including 22 children and four women, as well as wounding 36 others, including 18 children and seven women. The coalition warplanes bombed residential areas far from military camps or militants' positions.

Incidents included in this section are based on a field visit by Mwatana researcher between 4 - 8 October to many areas in Hajja where air strikes occurred. The field researcher faced several difficulties in obtaining information because of the tight security grip and other restrictions imposed by the Houthi group (Ansar Allah) in Hajja city.

■ Bani Labinah Village - Abs District

August 29, 2015

What used to be a water bottling plant became just rubble and burned-out ground soaked with the blood of many victims in Abs District (90 kilometers north-west of Hajja city). As 14 civilians, including two children died, and two civilians were wounded when the coalition warplanes bombed Al-Sham water bottling factory in Bani Labinah Village in Abs District on 29 August 2015.

Ali Shaabain Libanah⁽⁹⁰⁾, 40 years old, a worker whose son and two nephews were killed in the incident said that he was asleep in his house before the sound of a plane flying over the area woke him up right before the bombing of the factory.

Libanah added: "at about 3:20 a.m., I woke up when I heard the sound of the plane flying above us in a very annoying mode. We did not expect that this disaster will occur. At approximately 3:30 a.m., I heard a big explosion and I saw flames coming out of the

(89) Yemen complete guide, Hajja governorate, <http://www.yemenna.com/?go=guide&op=show&link=haja>

(90) An interview with Ali Shaabain Libanah, Bani Labinah village, 4 October 2015.

factory. I said to myself, my son died. I ran to the factory and found him burning, I was afraid to enter there because the plane was still flying and I thought that it might strike again. When we entered to the factory, we saw the dead and the wounded and those whose bodies were torn, we rescued the wounded, and as for the rest they were finished.”

Another witness, Mohamed Hassan Siddiq (34 years old) a teacher, said: “We were scared and frightened when we heard the sound of the plane, and the sound was getting closer and closer until we heard the sound of the strike, and it was a very strong sound. I got out of my house running quickly and I saw that the strike was on the plant and saw it burning completely. I saw with my own eyes the bodies burning, and I saw bodies that were torn. We tried to save the plant manager, I and one of his relatives rescued him but he did not survive. The rest of the workers were on the ground and scattered, we could not go into the factory fearing the planes may strike again.”⁽⁹¹⁾

Eyewitnesses interviewed by Mwatana said that the nearest military site to the water factory is located three kilometers away and next to the camp there are checkpoints manned by militants.

■ Dhahr Abo Tayr Village - Al-Shagadrah District

September 21, 2015

Four bombs dropped on the office of the security department in Al-Shagadrah district and on a nearby grocery store, by fighter jets that belong to the Saudi-led Arab coalition forces, killed 18 civilians, including three children, and wounded six others, including a child, on 21 September, 2015.

Al-Shagadrah district is located about 30 kilometers south-west of Hajja city.

Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Mahdali (24 years old), a worker whose brother was killed in the attack, mentioned to Mwatana that he had heard an explosion that shook the area at 11:30 a.m. while people were shopping.

Al-Mahdali said: “When I got out of my house, I found that the strike took place in the security department building. People gathered then around the area to see the effects of

(91) An interview with Mohamed Hassan Siddiq, Bani Labinah village, 4 October 2015.

the bomb. After the first strike by nearly 40 minutes, another bomb was dropped on the grocery store located next to the security department building, only about five meters away from the building, then a third bomb landed in the yard of the security department building from the east side. A fourth bomb was dropped in front of the gate of the building, and the fifth bomb fell on the asphalt road in front of the Security Department building from the west side. These bombs hit innocent civilians, whether they were inside the grocery store, or who gathered to see the aftermath of the first bomb, or were shopping in nearby markets or were passing by in their cars in front of that area or were next to the petrol station which is about 10 meters from the security department building.”⁽⁹²⁾

He continued: “When I went to the site of the bombing, the plane was still hovering over the region. I found my brother injured beside the station. He was wounded by various shrapnel which led to his death later. The fragments from the bomb were large and they reached several distant places in the village and caused major destruction to homes and shops near the place that was bombed.”

Majid Ali Al-Mahdali (20 years old), a worker, who two of his cousins were killed in the attack and his uncle and two other cousins were wounded, was next to the petrol station when the first bomb exploded inside the security department building.

He said: “People were returning from work when they heard the strike, then they gathered next to the security department building to watch the bomb. After that another bomb fell on Abdo Al-Mahdali grocery store, as a result, his brother Essam (25 years old) died along with another worker by the name Mazen Ali (18 years old). There were many people next to the grocery store. The third bomb dropped inside the department building and the fourth bomb fell on top of the department’s gate and the fifth in the asphalt road in front of the building. there were a lot of people present next to the place where the bombing occurred because it’s a Monday and people were returning from the market so the fragments scattered all over them. As for the plane, its sound was strong hovering in the sky. The wounded were rushed to the hospitals, some of them are still there until today, and some of them died.”⁽⁹³⁾

Witnesses denied the existence of military or armed groups within the Security Department building or near it.

Ahmed Ali Al-Mahdali, 45 years old, whose son and brother were killed in the incident, said that his house is about 500 meters away from the security department building.

He added speaking to Mwatana: “I was at home listening to the sound of the plane, and it was very close. At approximately 11:30 a.m., I heard the first strike and went out of my

(92) An interview with Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Mahdali, Dhahr Abo Tayr Village, 6 October 2015.

(93) An interview with Majid Ali Al-Mahdali, Dhahr Abo Tayr village, 6 October 2015.

house to see that it was on the security department building. The bomb made a, 10 meters deep, hole in the ground seen by many residents of the village. After 40 minutes, four bombs fell in a row on the area, but the sound of these bombs was stronger. I heard from some neighbors and people who saw the four strikes that the bombs explode in the air and then come down like rain on those areas. The fragments of the bombs reached a distance of almost two and half kilometer.”⁽⁹⁴⁾

■ Bani Aziz village – Aflah Al Yemen District

September 23, 2015

An airstrike by the Saudi-led Arab coalition warplanes on 23 September 2015 led to the killing of three children and the injury of 19 civilians, including 13 children and six women, when warplanes bombed a two-story house in Bani Aziz village in Aflah Al-Yemen District located 50 kilometers north of Hajja city.

Witnesses in the area reported that there are security checkpoints at the entrance of the district’s center and these checkpoints are about five kilometers away from the targeted house, and the nearest military camp site is in Abs District, which is approximately 50 kilometers away.

Ibrahim Ahmed Khalofah, (33 years old), a member of the local council in the district, was a witness to the strike and he spoke to Mwatana: “I heard a big explosion early in the morning, it caused the destruction of one of the houses in the village. There were many people inside the house both from the owners or neighbors who came to celebrate Eid (Eid al-Adha). The people rescued the wounded and rescued those who part of the house fell over them. We found three dead children. One of them had wounds in the head and the leg, and another with a smashed head because a rock fell on it, the last child was hit in the head by a fragment from the bomb.”⁽⁹⁵⁾

Khalofah commented on the incident saying: “This is a crime on the day of Eid, they didn’t even give people a chance to celebrate it. There are no Houthis nor members of any other armed group in our village, only poor people who do not care about politics at all, and now people are afraid even inside their homes.”

(94) A telephone interview with Ahmed Ali Al-Mahdali, 11 November 2015.

(95) An interview with Ibrahim Ahmed Khalofah, Bani Aziz village, 5 October 2015.

Hamoud Zafer an eyewitness who is a government employee in his forties recounted part of what happened: “I was at home on the day of Eid eating breakfast at 7:00 a.m. I could hear the sound of the plane hovering over the sky of the village and then it bombed a two-story house in the village. The Strike led to the destruction of half of the house and damaged some nearby houses, which in turn led to the injury of many of the citizens and the children who were playing near the house. This strike killed three children from the village who were next to the house. I was one of the first rescuers of the wounded and helped save the children who were under the rubble of the house.”⁽⁹⁶⁾

■ Zeila village - Harad District

September 27, 2015

Three bombs launched by the Saudi-led Arab coalition fighter jets on Zeila village in Harad District killed 18 civilians, including 14 children and four women, and wounded nine, including four children and a woman on 27 September 2015.

Harad District is located about 100 kilometers to the northwest of Hajja city and it is a border area with Saudi Arabia, making it the target of intense air strikes during the war.

In an interview for Mwatana with Ahmed Hassan Zeila, a 27-year-old-worker and an eyewitness, he said that the first bomb landed in an empty area that had no houses and it wounded one person from the village.

Zeila continued: “shortly after the fall of the first bomb, the second bomb fell in the middle of the village, in a populated area. The second bomb failed to detonate, otherwise it would have caused the death and injury of many people. After the second bomb was dropped, the residents fled and went outside the village, including many women and children. Then the third bomb fell on those who fled from the village and killed and injured many innocent women and children.”⁽⁹⁷⁾

“When the strikes stopped, we rushed the wounded to Abs hospital, as for the rest, they were just pieces. This is an enormous crime against the poor, what have they done to Saudi Arabia for it to bomb them? Most of them were children.”

(96) An interview with Hamoud Zafer, Bani labinah village, 5 October 2015.

(97) An interview with Ahmed Hassan Zeila, Hajja city, 8 October 2015.

Zeila said the artillery belonging to the Houthi was firing from a farm, about four kilometers away from Zeila village, and that the village is seven kilometers away from the borders of Saudi Arabia.

Two people who were wounded in the incident said to Mwatana that they do not have any home or shelter to return to, as the strikes destroyed their homes.

■ ■ Air Strikes in Al- Baidha Province

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights investigated one incident of air strikes in Al-Baidha governorate (268 kilometers south-east of the capital Sana'a).⁽⁹⁸⁾ This strike caused the deaths of 10 civilians, including five women and four children, and injured three other children.

■ Mashabah village - Mukeiras District

August 30, 2015

At 10:00 p.m. of 30 August 2015, a plane belonging to the Saudi-led Arab coalition bombed the house of Mohammed Al-Jaroy, a resident of Mashabah village which is located within Mukeiras District (100 kilometers southeast of Al-Baidha city), killing 10 civilians from one family, including five women and four children, as well as wounding three children.

Mwatana called Nabil Mohammed Al-Jaroy, 29 years old, whose wife and mother and sister and brother and daughter and two nieces and three sisters-in-law (the wives of his three brothers) were killed in the incident, in addition to the injury of his sister and two of his nephews.

Al-Jaroy said: "The coalition forces bombed our one-story house about 10:00 p.m. I do not know why our house was bombed as the nearest military site where there are Houthis is far from our village about 1-2 km away. This is not the first time the coalition planes bomb near our village, despite the fact that none of the parties in the conflict are present in our village. The Houthis did not even enter our village because none of their opponents are here. The coalition bombed our house without any reason. We have submitted a paper (a complaint) to the fourth military region in Aden to find out what caused them to kill ten souls that have not committed any sin nor have a relationship with any party. The officials said they will communicate with the coalition forces to find out the reason. Until now they have not informed us of anything, even though it has been more than a month now since the incident."⁽⁹⁹⁾

(98) Yemen complete guide, Al-Baidha governorate, <http://www.yemenna.com/?go=guide&op=show&link=bida>

(99) A Telephone interview with Nabil Mohammed Al-Jaroy, 13 October 2015.

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Yemeni civilians found themselves trapped between the fire lines in the spring of 2015 when an all-out war broke out between gun men of Houthi armed group – Ansar Allah – and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the one hand and regular forces and armed groups loyal to President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi on the other hand. The situation of civilians worsened when Saudi Arabia intervened, leading a coalition of 10 countries to restore President Hadi into power that was seized by the Houthis by force in the beginning of 2015, as civilians become vulnerable to air strikes launched by the Arab coalition fighter jets on an almost daily basis since March 2015, which caused the killing of hundreds of victims and injuring thousands among the civilians, as well as the destruction of their homes and the loss of their jobs.

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights issued this report based on field research on 44 air strikes carried out by the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia in 9 Yemeni governorates (Sana'a, Ta'iz, Lahj, Ibb, Hodaidah, S'adah, Hajja, Al-Baidha and Dhamar) since the Saudi military operations began in Yemen on the dawn of 26 March 2015. Mwatana investigated the 44 incidents of air strikes through field research and interviews with 155 people who were either survived victims, families of the victims, eye-witnesses and medical sources. Mwatana investigations concluded that these air strikes killed at least 615 civilians including 120 women and 220 children and wounded 678 others including 125 women and 167 children in the nine governorates.

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights is an independent Yemeni organization concerned with defending and protecting human rights. It works through investigations and field research to obtain accurate and objective accounts of the incidents that fall within its mandate in order to stop and expose human rights violations, and to provide support and justice for its victims and hold accountable those responsible for the violations and to create effective safeguards in legislation and policy against repetition of such violations.



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