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# “What Military Target Was in My Brother’s House?”

Unlawful Coalition Airstrikes in Yemen





**“What Military Target  
Was in My Brother’s House”**  
Unlawful Coalition Airstrikes in Yemen

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## Summary

When I got to the house, there was still dust in the air, and everything was covered in a layer of black ash. My wife and kids were lying there, covered in black ash. Thank God they were alive. I saw my sister-in-law Asma and her daughter under some rocks, and I tried to dig them out. Asma's head was open, and her leg was bleeding. Her 2-year-old daughter, Hyam, was lying on her shoulder, her head was smashed open. Her other daughter, Hasna, who's 7, was shouting "Baba" [father]. Her hair and skin were covered in ash, and she was burned badly. Her father, my brother Muhammad, had been asleep when the strike happened, and the roof landed on top of him. When I dug him out, there was a thin trickle of blood dripping from his ear. He was already dead.

—Muhammad Saleh al-Qihwi, whose house was destroyed in an April 2015 airstrike on the town of Amran, July 23, 2015.

On March 26, 2015, a coalition of Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia, with United States participation, began a military campaign in Yemen that has so far resulted in the deaths of more than 2,500 civilians, mostly by coalition airstrikes. This report documents 10 coalition airstrikes from April through August that appear to have violated international humanitarian law, the laws of war.

The laws of war are intended to minimize harm to civilians and other non-combatants during armed conflict. While not all civilian casualties indicate laws-of-war violations, attacks that deliberately target civilians, that do not discriminate between civilians and combatants, or that cause disproportionate loss of civilian life or property, are all unlawful. Individuals who commit such violations with criminal intent are responsible for war crimes.

In the cases discussed in this report, which caused at least 309 civilian deaths and wounded at least 414 civilians, Human Rights Watch found either no evident military target or that the attack failed to distinguish civilians from military objectives. Under international law, states have an obligation to investigate alleged violations of the laws of war, and appropriately punish those individuals responsible for war crimes. Human Rights

Watch is unaware of any investigations by Saudi Arabia or other coalition members in these or other reported cases.

In September 2014, Ansar Allah (Partisans of God), commonly known as the Houthis, a Zaidi Shia group from northern Yemen, took control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa. In January 2015, they effectively ousted Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and his cabinet members, who subsequently relocated to Saudi Arabia. The Houthis, along with elements of the armed forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, then swept south, threatening to take the port city of Aden.

On March 26, 2015, the Saudi Arabia-led coalition—consisting of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Sudan—launched an aerial campaign against Houthi and allied forces. The United States is also a party to the conflict by playing a direct role in coordinating military operations. According to Lt. Gen. Charles Brown, commander of the US Air Force Central Command, the US military has detached personnel to the Saudi Arabian center planning airstrikes to help coordinate activities. US participation in specific military operations, such as bombing raids, may make US forces jointly responsible for laws-of-war violations by coalition forces. As a party to the conflict, the US is obligated to investigate allegedly unlawful attacks in which it took part.

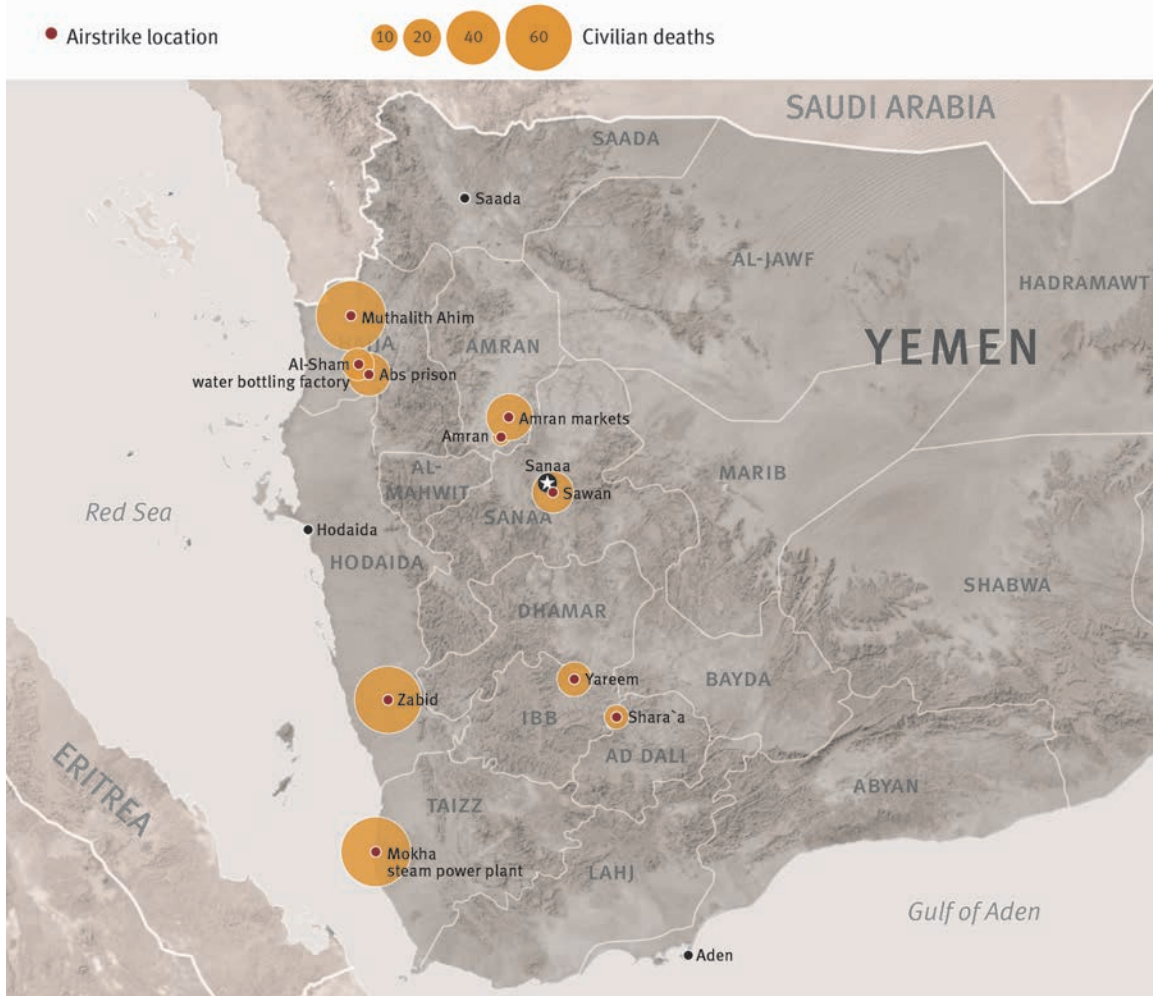
The United Kingdom and France, while not members of the coalition, have supported the coalition by making arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other members.

The 10 attacks detailed in this report occurred in the Houthi-controlled governorates of Sanaa, Amran, Hajja, Hodeida, and Ibb. Airstrikes hit residential houses, market places, a factory, and a civilian prison.

Human Rights Watch investigated each of these incidents by interviewing victims and witnesses to the attack, searching for possible military targets in the vicinity, and speaking to medical staff who treated the injured. On the basis of information from relatives, witnesses, medical staff, and local Houthi authorities, Human Rights Watch compiled the names of 309 individuals—199 men, 43 women, and 69 children—killed in the 10 attacks. We found no evidence that any of those killed in these attacks were combatants. The full casualty list from the attacks is included as an appendix to the report.

## AIRSTRIKES IN YEMEN VIOLATING THE LAWS OF WAR

In 10 coalition airstrikes that took place between April 11 and August 30, 2015, Human Rights Watch found either no evident military target or the attack failed to distinguish civilians from military objectives, in apparent violation of the laws of war. At least 309 civilians were killed and 414 wounded in the 10 airstrikes.



Human Rights Watch also wrote to Saudi authorities to seek additional information about the strikes, including the weapons used, the intended targets, and the precautions taken to minimize civilian harm. At time of writing, Human Rights Watch had not received any response.

Under the laws of war, a party to the conflict may only attack military objectives, normally the enemy's forces, their weapons, and their structures. In carrying out attacks, all feasible precautions need to be taken to minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects. The weapons used and the manner in which the attack is carried out must distinguish between



the military objective and civilians. Attacks in which there is no evident military target, that strike indiscriminately, or cause civilian harm disproportionate to the anticipated military gain, are unlawful.

Human Rights Watch investigated several coalition airstrikes in which there was no evident military target in the vicinity, such as strikes on the markets at Muthalith Ahim and Amran. These amount to an unlawfully indiscriminate attack, if not a deliberate attack on civilians. In other cases, bombs struck, sometimes repeatedly, civilian objects a significant distance from any military objective, killing and wounding civilians. If insufficient precautions were taken to avoid civilian loss—such as not clearly identifying a military target or using weapons with wide area effects in populated neighborhoods—these attacks would also be indiscriminate. Attacks harming civilians might also have been the result of incorrect targeting coordinates or other errors—an inquiry would need to determine whether all feasible precautions were taken.

Parties to the conflict must also take all feasible precautions to spare civilians under their control against the effects of attacks. That includes avoiding deploying in densely populated areas, and removing, to the extent feasible, civilians in the vicinity of their military forces. In several instances, it is not clear if the Houthis or allied forces took significant measures to move civilians away from places they stored ammunition or deployed their forces.

Human Rights Watch is also concerned by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's use of explosive weapons with wide area effect in populated areas. A weapon that impacts an area in a radius of dozens or hundreds of meters of where it explodes will almost certainly kill or wound civilians when used in populated areas. The coalition appears to use explosive weapons that are unguided or are used without spotters, which means that they cannot be targeted precisely, posing additional risk to civilians.

International law does not explicitly prohibit the use of these weapons in populated areas, but a party using weapons with wide area effect in populated areas is unlikely to be able to comply with the laws-of-war requirement that an attack should distinguish between combatants and civilians.

On May 8, 2015, coalition authorities declared the entire Houthi stronghold cities of Saada and Marran to be military targets. Such blanket determinations, effectively disregarding the status of civilians who remain in the area, violate the laws of war. Human Rights Watch investigated several attacks after the May 8 announcement on apparent civilian objects in Saada, including airstrikes on a residential house, two markets, and a school.

In September 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council expressed concern about the escalation in armed violence in Yemen, and called for an investigation into all cases of abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law.

States that are party to a conflict have an obligation to investigate credible allegations of war crimes and hold those responsible to account. War crimes are serious violations of the laws of war committed with criminal intent. Human Rights Watch has seen no indication that the Saudi Arabia-led coalition has conducted any meaningful investigations into alleged laws-of-war violations.

On August 19, 2015, Human Rights Watch, together with 22 other human rights and humanitarian organizations, called on the UN Human Rights Council at its upcoming September session to create an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged laws-of-war violations by all parties to the conflict. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights similarly called on UN member states to encourage the establishment of an “international independent and impartial” investigative mechanism.

Instead, on September 7, 2015, President Hadi announced the creation of a national commission to investigate all alleged violations of the laws of war and international human rights law since 2011. During the ensuing Human Rights Council session in Geneva, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries effectively blocked an effort led by the Netherlands to create an international investigative mechanism.

Human Rights Watch calls on all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law. The coalition should promptly investigate alleged laws-of-war violations by its forces, including those detailed in this report, and provide compensation and other redress to civilian victims as appropriate. Human Rights Watch urges the coalition to cease using explosive weapons with wide area effect in populated areas because of the inevitable civilian harm caused. In addition, the coalition should revoke any declaration

that particular cities or towns are in their entirety military targets, and take appropriate disciplinary action against officials making such declarations.

President Hadi's government should request the coalition to provide detailed information about intended military targets for airstrikes in which civilians died. His government should make such information publicly available and press for compensation where there is a finding of wrongdoing.

The United States and other coalition supporters should also press the coalition to abide by its international legal obligations. The United States should investigate any airstrike alleged to have violated the laws of war in which the US directly participated, such as by providing targeting information.

The UN Security Council should highlight its concern for ongoing abuses in Yemen by requesting a public briefing from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. It should publicly remind all parties to the conflict that under Resolution 2140, anyone responsible for "planning, directing, or committing acts that violate applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law" or "obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance" to Yemen is subject to travel bans and asset freezes.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should monitor the national investigative mechanism created by President Hadi, provide support to help ensure that it conducts its work in accordance with international standards, and regularly report to the UN Human Rights Council on progress of the investigations. Member states of the Human Rights Council should consider holding a special session to discuss the human rights situation in Yemen if the Saudi Arabia-led coalition does not adequately address the issue of civilian casualties or if the humanitarian situation in Yemen fails to improve. The council should supplement the national mechanism set up by President Hadi by creating an independent, international investigative mechanism to investigate alleged violations of the laws of war by all parties to the conflict.

# Recommendations

## To Saudi Arabia and other Coalition Members, and the United States

- Abide by the laws of war, including the prohibitions on attacks that target civilians, that do not discriminate between civilians and combatants, and that cause civilian loss disproportionate to the expected military benefit.
- Take all feasible precautions to minimize harm to civilians, including making advance effective warnings of attacks when possible.
- Conduct transparent and impartial investigations into credible allegations of laws-of-war violations, including the incidents included in this report.
- Make public the findings of investigations and undertake disciplinary measures or prosecutions where violations or war crimes are found.
- Revoke any declaration that particular cities or towns are entirely military targets, and take appropriate disciplinary action against individuals making such declarations.
- Consistent with the prohibition on indiscriminate attacks, end the use of explosive weapons with wide area effect in populated areas.
- Provide prompt and appropriate compensation to civilians and their families for deaths, injuries, and property damage resulting from wrongful strikes. Consider providing payments to civilians suffering harm from airstrikes without regard to possible wrongdoing.
- Institute a policy of conducting investigations into airstrikes in which there were high numbers of civilian casualties, even where no evidence suggests violations of the laws of war.
- Make public information on intended military targets in airstrikes that resulted in civilian casualties, and all countries participating in such strikes.
- Facilitate all humanitarian aid and commercial shipments carrying items needed for the survival of the civilian population, particularly assistance for those injured in the conflict.

## To President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's Government

- Urge that the coalition provide detailed information about intended military targets of airstrikes in which civilians died. Make that information publicly available and press for compensation where there is a finding of wrongdoing.

## To the United States

- Publicly clarify the US role in the armed conflict, including what steps the US has taken to minimize civilian casualties in air operations and to investigate alleged violations of the laws of war.

## To Coalition Supporters

- Urge Saudi Arabia and other coalition members to implement the recommendations listed above, especially pressing for impartial investigations into airstrikes that allegedly violate the laws of war.
- Publicly clarify your country's role in the fighting, including whether you are participating in a manner that would make you party to the conflict.
- The United States should conduct investigations into any airstrikes for which there is credible evidence that the laws of war may have been violated and that the United States may have been a direct participant, either by refueling participating aircraft or providing targeting information, intelligence, or other direct support.
- Those countries that are supplying weapons to the coalition, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany, should investigate whether these weapons have been used in any airstrikes that have involved violations of the laws of war and end the sale or delivery of such weapons.

## To Houthi and Allied Forces

- Abide by the laws of war, including taking all feasible steps to minimize the risks to populations under their control, including by assisting civilians leave areas subject to military attack.
- Avoid placing military objectives in densely populated areas and take steps to remove civilians from areas under attack.

## To UN Security Council Member States

- Request a public briefing from the UN high commissioner for human rights on the current human rights situation in Yemen.
- Remind all parties to the conflict in Yemen that anyone responsible for “planning, directing, or committing acts that violate applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or acts that constitute human rights abuses,” as well as those responsible for obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemen, are potentially subject to travel bans and asset freezes under Resolution 2140.
- Encourage the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Resolution 2140 to gather evidence on individuals responsible for violations of applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law or obstructing humanitarian aid and to share the evidence with the 2140 Sanctions Committee.

## To the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Monitor the work of the national investigative mechanism decreed by President Hadi on September 7, 2015, and provide support to help ensure that it conducts its work credibly and impartially in accordance with international standards.
- Regularly report to the Human Rights Council on progress of the national investigative mechanism or other investigations, and make recommendations on further steps needed to ensure that alleged violations of the laws of war and human rights since 2011 are properly investigated, documented, and publicly reported.

## To UN Human Rights Council Member States

- Hold a special session to discuss the human rights situation in Yemen if the Saudi Arabia-led coalition does not address the issue of civilian casualties, or if the humanitarian situation in Yemen fails to improve.
- Supplement the national investigative mechanism by creating an independent, international investigative mechanism to investigate alleged violations of the laws of war by all parties to the conflict.

## Methodology

This report is based on Human Rights Watch field research in the Yemeni governorates of Ibb, Amran, Hajja, Hodaida, Taizz, and the capital, Sanaa, in July 2015. Human Rights Watch researchers interviewed 62 people who had witnessed airstrikes carried out by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition.

Most interviews took place at the sites of the airstrikes or in hospitals where the wounded were brought. Human Rights Watch conducted all interviews in Arabic or in English with Arabic translation.

All participants gave oral consent to be interviewed; participants were informed of the purpose of the interview and the way in which their information would be documented and reported, and that they could stop the interview at any time or decline to answer specific questions posed. No one received any remuneration for giving an interview.

Human Rights Watch also reviewed the medical log books and individual records of patients admitted to hospitals in Amran, Hajja, Mokha, and Hodaida.

On September 26, 2015, and on November 6, Human Rights Watch wrote to the Saudi Arabian government to share its findings and to seek information on intended targets of 10 of the airstrikes that we had investigated. At time of writing, Human Rights Watch had not received a response. Future responses to this report from the Saudi Arabian government or other coalition members will be posted on the Yemen page of the Human Rights Watch website: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org).

# I. Background

In September 2014, Ansar Allah, commonly known as the Houthis, a Zaidi Shia group from northern Yemen, seized control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa.<sup>1</sup> They were backed by units of Yemen's army that remained loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had stepped down in 2011.<sup>2</sup> In January 2015, Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and his cabinet departed Sanaa and subsequently relocated to Saudi Arabia.<sup>3</sup>

In March, Houthi forces and their allies advanced southward, threatening to take the port city of Aden and other areas. On March 26, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition of Arab states began aerial attacks against the Houthi forces. Coalition aircraft began bombing Houthi forces in Sanaa and other locations.

The Saudi Arabia-led coalition comprises five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates—as well as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Sudan.<sup>4</sup>

The United States is also a party to the conflict. In June, a US defense department spokesman stated that the United States was helping the coalition with “intelligence support and intelligence sharing, targeting assistance, advisory support, and logistical support, to include aerial refueling with up to two tanker sorties a day.”<sup>5</sup> In November, Lt. Gen. Charles Brown, commander of the US Air Force Central Command, stated that the military had a small detachment of personnel located in the Saudi Arabian center planning

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<sup>1</sup> “Yemen: Civilian Toll of Fighting in Capital,” Human Rights Watch news release, November 19, 2014, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/11/18/yemen-civilian-toll-fighting-capital>.

<sup>2</sup> Ali al-Mujahed and Hugh Naylor “Yemen’s Houthi rebels get boost from country’s ousted dictator,” *Washington Post*, March 31, 2015, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/rebels-push-offensive-in-aden-killing-dozens-with-artillery-fire/2015/03/31/79f53d9e-d729-11e4-bf0b-f648b95a6488\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/rebels-push-offensive-in-aden-killing-dozens-with-artillery-fire/2015/03/31/79f53d9e-d729-11e4-bf0b-f648b95a6488_story.html) (accessed June 22, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> Belkis Wille, “The Rebels Holding Yemen Hostage,” *Daily Beast*, January 22, 2015, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/21/the-rebels-holding-yemen-hostage.html>, (accessed November 5, 2015); Mohammad Mukhashaf and Sami Aboudi, “Yemeni leader Hadi leaves country as Saudi Arabia keeps up airstrikes,” *Reuters*, March 26, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/26/us-yemen-security-idUSKBN0MLoYC20150326> (accessed May 29, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Pakistan was initially listed as a member of the coalition, but the Pakistani parliament voted in April 2015, to remain neutral in the conflict. “Yemen conflict: Pakistan rebuffs Saudi coalition call,” *BBC News Online*, April 10, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32246547> (accessed June 6, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> Somini Sengupta, “Pressure mounting on Saudis’ coalition in Yemen,” *New York Times*, June 30, 2015, [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/01/world/middleeast/pressure-mounting-on-saudis-coalition-in-yemen.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/01/world/middleeast/pressure-mounting-on-saudis-coalition-in-yemen.html?_r=0) (accessed October 17, 2015).



airstrikes to help coordinate activities.<sup>6</sup> This constitutes taking direct part in hostilities and US participation in specific military operations, such as bombing raids, may make US forces jointly responsible for laws-of-war violations by coalition forces. Under international law, the US is obligated to assist in investigations where there are credible allegations of war crimes and hold those responsible to account.<sup>7</sup>

According to the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Adel bin Ahmed al-Jubeir, the coalition launched its military operations at the request of President Hadi, whom the coalition forces continue to recognize as Yemen's head of state.<sup>8</sup> At least one member of Hadi's cabinet who is in exile in Riyadh is a member of the committee that selects strike sites, according to several diplomats who spoke with him about his position.<sup>9</sup>

The United Kingdom, a supporter of the coalition, is "providing technical support, precision-guided weapons and exchanging information with the Saudi Arabian armed forces through pre-existing arrangements," the UK Ministry of Defence said in response to a House of Lords question on July 14, 2015.<sup>10</sup> The weapons include 500-pound Paveway IV bombs, used by Tornado and Typhoon jets.<sup>11</sup> France is also providing jets, military transport aircraft, aerial refueling tanker aircraft, helicopters, amphibious assault ships,

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<sup>6</sup> Robert Wall, "U.S Military Working to Prevent Weapons Shortfall in Islamic State, Yemen Strikes," *The Wall Street Journal*, Updated November 10, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-military-working-to-prevent-weapons-shortfall-in-islamic-state-yemen-strikes-1447143660#livefyre-comment> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), *Customary International Humanitarian Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), Rule 158, citing First Geneva Convention, article 49; Second Geneva Convention, article 50; Third Geneva Convention, article 129; Fourth Geneva Convention, article 146. The US Law of War Manual states that, "The duties to implement and enforce the law of war also imply duties to investigate reports of alleged violations of the law of war." Defense Department "policy has required the reporting of possible, suspected, or alleged violations of the law of war for which there is credible information, or conduct during military operations other than war that would constitute a violation of the law of war if it occurred during armed conflict ('reportable incidents')." US Department of Defense, Law of War Manual, June 2015, <http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/Law-of-War-Manual-June-2015.pdf> (accessed November 11, 2015), sec. 18.13.

<sup>8</sup> Transcript of News Conference, Saudi Arabia Ambassador to the United States Adel bin Ahmed al-Jubeir, Washington DC, March 25, 2015, <https://www.saudiembassy.net/press-releases/presso3251501.aspx> (accessed May 29, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> Two diplomats told Human Rights Watch that a Yemeni cabinet official told them he was on the committee. Human Rights Watch interview, August 14, 2015 and August 20, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Andrew Chuter, "RAF bombs diverted to Saudis for Yemen strike," *Defense News*, July 16, 2015, <http://www.defensenews.com/story/breaking-news/2015/07/16/britain-diverts-bombs-destined--raf-help-saudi-fight-yemen/30236031/> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> Ian Black, "Britain urged to stop providing weapons to Saudi Arabia," *The Guardian*, October 6, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/07/britain-urged-stop-providing-weapons-saudi-arabia>, (accessed November 3, 2015).

military patrol boats, light armored vehicles, and logistical support to some member states of the coalition.<sup>12</sup>

Coalition airstrikes have struck alleged Houthi military targets in densely populated areas in the capital, Sanaa, and other cities, including Saada, Marran, Amran, Hajja, Hodaida, Taiz, Ibb, Lahj, al-Dale`a, Shabwa, Marib, and Aden. During a five-day ceasefire from May 12 to 17, the coalition suspended the airstrikes, except in Yemen's border regions with Saudi Arabia. The United Nations on July 10 announced a seven-day pause in strikes, which quickly collapsed. On July 25, the coalition announced a unilateral humanitarian pause, during which it again suspended airstrikes for five days, except in the border regions.<sup>13</sup>

At time of writing, airstrikes were continuing, and so-called southern "resistance" forces were advancing north from Aden with the support of the coalition, including ground troops

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<sup>12</sup>Michel Cabriol, "Armement: des exportations en route vers des records en 2015," *La Tribune*, October 26, 2015, <http://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/industrie/aeronautique-defense/armement-des-exportations-en-route-vers-des-records-en-2015-516584.html>, (accessed November 3, 2015); Georges Malbrunot, "La 'diplomatie sunnite' de Paris séduit les pays du Golfe," *Le Figaro*, May 4, 2015, <http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/2015/05/04/01003-20150504ARTFIG00349-la-diplomatie-sunnite-de-paris-seduit-le-golfe.php>, (accessed November 2, 2015); *Le Monde*, "François Hollande au Qatar pour la signature de la vente de 24 Rafale," May 4, 2015, [http://www.lemonde.fr/economie-francaise/article/2015/05/04/francois-hollande-au-qatar-pour-la-signature-de-la-vente-de-24-rafale\\_4626712\\_1656968.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/economie-francaise/article/2015/05/04/francois-hollande-au-qatar-pour-la-signature-de-la-vente-de-24-rafale_4626712_1656968.html), (accessed November 2, 2015); Gareth Jennings and Robin Hughes, "Egypt receives first Rafale fighters," *IHS Jane's*, July 20, 2015, <http://www.janes.com/article/53097/egypt-receives-first-rafale-fighters>, (accessed November 2, 2015); Jeremy Binnie, "Kuwait lines up Caracal helicopters," *IHS Jane's*, October 22, 2015, <http://www.janes.com/article/55491/kuwait-lines-up-caracal-helicopters> (accessed November 3, 2015); Bastien Bonnefous, "Au Caire, Manuel Valls finalise la vente des navires Mistral à l'Egypte," *Le Monde*, October 10, 2015, [http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2015/10/10/au-caire-manuel-valls-finalise-la-vente-des-navires-mistral-a-l-egypte\\_4787080\\_3218.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2015/10/10/au-caire-manuel-valls-finalise-la-vente-des-navires-mistral-a-l-egypte_4787080_3218.html) (accessed November 3, 2015); Hélène Sallon, "Mistral: l'Arabie saoudite et l'Egypte "sont prêtes à tout pour acheter les deux navires," *Le Monde*, August 7, 2015 [http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/08/07/l-egypte-et-l-arabie-saoudite-candidates-au-rachat-des-mistrals\\_4715520\\_3212.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/08/07/l-egypte-et-l-arabie-saoudite-candidates-au-rachat-des-mistrals_4715520_3212.html) (accessed November 3, 2015); Elizabeth Pinou "UPDATE 1- Despite fanfare, France's Valls leaves Saudi with few deals", *Reuters*, October 13, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/10/13/france-saudi-contracts-idUSL8N12D2Q420151013> (accessed November 3, 2015); *La Tribune*, <http://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/industrie/aeronautique-defense/defense-les-neuf-dossiers-en-suspens-entre-la-france-et-l-arabie-saoudite-512784.html> (accessed November 3, 2015); Michel Cabiro, "Défense: les neuf dossiers en suspens entre la France et l'Arabie Saoudite," *Le Figaro*, October 13, 2015 <http://bourse.lefigaro.fr/indices-actions/actu-conseils/airbus-l-arabie-saoudite-a-commande-quatre-c295w-4355562> (accessed November 3, 2015); Michel Cabriol, "Arabie Saoudite: un mégacontrat à partager entre Thales et Airbus," *La Tribune*, October 13, 2015, [http://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/industrie/aeronautique-defense/arabie-saoudite-un-megacontrat-a-partager-entre-thales-et-airbus-513202.html#xtor=EPR-2-\[industrie-services\]-20151014](http://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/industrie/aeronautique-defense/arabie-saoudite-un-megacontrat-a-partager-entre-thales-et-airbus-513202.html#xtor=EPR-2-[industrie-services]-20151014) (accessed November 3, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> *Al-Jazeera.com*, "Arab coalition declares pause in Yemen campaign," July 25, 2015, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/arab-coalition-declares-pause-yemen-campaign-houthi-saudi-150725140410364.html> (accessed October 17, 2015).

from Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates, with other countries, notably Mauritania and Senegal, pledging troops.<sup>14</sup>

Human Rights Watch documented 16 airstrikes between March 26 and July 24 that appear to have been unlawfully indiscriminate, resulting in civilian casualties.<sup>15</sup> These include a March 30 airstrike on a camp for internally displaced persons in Mazraq, a town in Hajja governorate of northern Yemen, about six kilometers (3.7 miles) from the border with Saudi Arabia. The strike killed at least 29 civilians and wounded 41, and damaged a medical facility at the camp, a local market, and a bridge.<sup>16</sup>

A March 31 airstrike on a dairy factory outside the port city of Hodaida killed at least 31 civilians. Shortly after 11 p.m., one or more warplanes carried out four separate strikes that hit the Yemany Dairy and Beverage factory, a multi-building compound about 100 meters (328 feet) from a military air base controlled by Houthi forces. Military units loyal to former president Saleh were at another nearby military camp. Eleven days later, on April 11, coalition warplanes subsequently attacked both the military air base and the neighboring military camp.<sup>17</sup>

In Saada City, a Houthi stronghold in the north, Human Rights Watch examined more than a dozen airstrikes that occurred between April 6 and May 11 that destroyed or damaged civilian homes, five markets, a school, and a petrol station, though there was no evidence

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<sup>14</sup> *The Guardian*, “UAE forces bomb Yemen rebels after coalition troop deaths,” September 5, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/05/uae-forces-retaliate-50-coalition-troops-yemen-missile-attack> (accessed October 17, 2015); *Al-Jazeera.com*, “Qatar deploys 1,000 ground troops to fight in Yemen,” September 7, 2015, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/qatar-deploys-1000-ground-troops-fight-yemen-150907043020594.html> (accessed October 17, 2015). *The North Africa Post*, “Mauritania to send ground boots to Yemen, military source,” October 16, 2015, <http://northafricapost.com/9559-mauritania-to-send-ground-boots-to-yemen-military-source.html> (accessed November 5, 2015); *Sudan Tribune*, “Sudan to send 10,000 troops to join Arab forces in Yemen: report,” October 19, 2015, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article56779> (accessed November 5, 2015); Khaled Abdullah, “Qatar sends 1,000 ground troops to Yemen conflict: al Jazeera,” Reuters, September 7, 2015, <https://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/07/us-yemen-security-idUSKCN0R710W20150907> (accessed November 5, 2015); Abdourahmane Dia, “Why is Senegal sending troops to Saudi Arabia?” *BBC News Online*, May 5, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32589561> (accessed November 5, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> “Yemen: Saudi-led Airstrikes Take Civilian Toll,” Human Rights Watch news release, March 28, 2015, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/03/28/yemen-saudi-led-airstrikes-take-civilian-toll>.

<sup>16</sup> “Yemen: Airstrike on Camp Raises Grave Concerns,” Human Rights Watch news release, April 2, 2015, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/01/yemen-airstrike-camp-raises-grave-concerns>.

<sup>17</sup> “Yemen: Factory Airstrike Killed 31 Civilians,” Human Rights Watch news release, April 16, 2015, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/15/yemen-factory-airstrike-killed-31-civilians>.

these sites were being used for military purposes. These strikes killed 59 people, mostly civilians, including at least 35 children.<sup>18</sup>

On May 8, 2015, Brig. Gen. al-Assiri, the military spokesman for the coalition, declared the entire cities of Saada and Marran, another Houthi stronghold, to be military targets. This followed Houthi incursions into and rocket attacks on Saudi Arabia from Saada governorate that killed at least 12 civilians in the Saudi Arabian city of Najran and areas of Jizan province, according to Saudi Arabian government sources.<sup>19</sup> Several coalition attacks on apparently civilian objects that Human Rights Watch investigated in Saada took place after the May 8 announcement.

Treating an entire city or town as the object of military attack violates the laws-of-war prohibition on attacks that treat separate and distinct military objectives in a city or town as a single military objective.<sup>20</sup> Doing so unlawfully denies civilians protection from attack.

Human Rights Watch also documented the coalition's use of four types of cluster munitions in Yemen in 2015.<sup>21</sup> Cluster munitions are indiscriminate when used in populated areas and pose long-term dangers to civilians. They are prohibited by a 2008 treaty adopted by 116 countries, though not Saudi Arabia or Yemen.

Other strikes may not have violated the laws of war, but resulted in civilian casualties and should be investigated to determine if all feasible precautions were taken and to avoid such loss of civilian life in the future. For instance, an airstrike on Hajja City, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) northwest of Sanaa, on May 29, 2015, killed at least three civilians,

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<sup>18</sup> "Yemen: Unlawful Airstrikes Kill Dozens of Civilians," Human Rights Watch news release, June 30, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/06/30/yemen-unlawful-airstrikes-kill-dozens-civilians>.

<sup>19</sup> "Yemen: Pro-Houthi Forces Launch Rockets on Saudi City," Human Rights Watch news release, May 13, 2015, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/05/13/yemen-pro-houthi-forces-launch-rockets-saudi-city>.

<sup>20</sup> ICRC, *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, rule 13, citing Protocol I, art. 51(5)(a).

<sup>21</sup> "Yemen: Cluster Munition Rockets Kill, Injure Dozens," Human Rights Watch news release, August 26, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/08/26/yemen-cluster-munition-rockets-kill-injure-dozens>; "Yemen: Cluster Munitions Harm Civilians," Human Rights Watch news release, May 31, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/05/31/yemen-cluster-munitions-harm-civilians>; "Yemen: Saudi-led Airstrikes Used Cluster Munitions," Human Rights Watch news release, May 3, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/05/03/yemen-saudi-led-airstrikes-used-cluster-munitions>. On July 9, 2015, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the Saudi Arabia-led coalition airstrikes in Yemen, including the use of cluster bombs. The resolution was adopted without a vote: European Parliament, "Joint Motion for a Resolution on the Situation in Yemen," Resolution 2760 (2015), <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+MOTION+P8-RC-2015-0680+0+DOC+XML+Vo//EN> (accessed November 5, 2015).

including one child, and wounded at least 17 civilians. Human Rights Watch visited Hajja City and the site of the attack on July 24. At the site of the attack, it was evident that a bomb had struck right outside the wall of the Naman camp for private security personnel, which is located near the top of a high hill in the city. According to residents, the Houthis were apparently using the camp to store weapons. The blast had spewed rocks and pieces of concrete onto residential houses located on the steep hillside below the camp, significantly damaging at least five houses.<sup>22</sup>

Since late 2014, Houthi and allied forces conducted ground operations primarily against local armed groups in the southern cities of Taizz, Lahj, al-Dale`a, and Aden. They have conducted unlawfully indiscriminate shelling, including in some cases by launching Katyusha rockets, killing dozens of civilians.<sup>23</sup> Houthi forces also carried out indiscriminate attacks by firing artillery rockets from Saada governorate into the southern Saudi Arabian border city of Najran and areas of Jizan province.<sup>24</sup> The Houthis also laid antipersonnel landmines, which are banned under the laws of war as inherently indiscriminate, in Aden before withdrawing from the city in July 2015. The landmines have killed at least 11 civilians.<sup>25</sup>

Houthi forces and their allies and opposition armed groups have engaged in military operations around Aden, Taizz, and other areas that repeatedly put civilians and civilian structures such as hospitals at unnecessary risk.<sup>26</sup>

According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the fighting in Yemen had killed at least 2,500 civilians, most as a result of airstrikes, by October 23.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with [name withheld], Hajja, July 24, 2015; Human Rights Watch interview with [name withheld], Hajja, July 24, 2015; Human Rights Watch interview with [name withheld], Hajja, July 24, 2015.

<sup>23</sup> “Yemen: Houthi Artillery Kills Dozens in Aden,” Human Rights Watch news release, July 29, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/07/29/yemen-houthi-artillery-kills-dozens-aden>.

<sup>24</sup> “Yemen: Pro-Houthi Forces Launch Rockets on Saudi City,” Human Rights Watch news release, May 13, 2015, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/05/13/yemen-pro-houthi-forces-launch-rockets-saudi-city>.

<sup>25</sup> “Yemen: Houthis Used Landmines in Aden,” Human Rights Watch news release, September 5, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/09/05/yemen-houthis-used-landmines-aden>.

<sup>26</sup> “Yemen: Fighting Damages Hospitals,” Human Rights Watch news release, April 17, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/17/yemen-fighting-damages-hospital>; “Yemen: Houthis Southern Fighters Endanger Aden Hospital,” Human Rights Watch news release, June 17, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/06/17/yemen-houthis-southern-fighters-endanger-aden-hospital>.

<sup>27</sup> “Press briefing notes on Burundi, Yemen, Cambodia and Congo,” OHCHR Briefing Notes, October 23, 2015, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16642&LangID=E> (accessed November 9, 2015).

The high commissioner has expressed grave concern at the high number of civilian casualties in Yemen and called for urgent and thorough investigations.<sup>28</sup>

Nongovernmental organizations have increasingly called for an international investigation into alleged attacks by all parties to the conflict that may violate the laws of war. President Hadi instead announced on September 7 the creation of a national commission to investigate all alleged violations of the laws of war and human rights since 2011.<sup>29</sup> During the three-week-long UN Human Rights Council session that began in Geneva one week later, the Netherlands put forward a draft resolution that would have mandated the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, together with relevant experts, to document violations by all sides since September 2014. It withdrew its draft on September 30 under pressure from Saudi Arabia and due to weak backing from key countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom. The Yemeni government boycotted negotiations on the Dutch resolution during the council session. Several members of the coalition, including Qatar, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates, openly opposed the proposed UN inquiry.<sup>30</sup>

The Arab group in the council, led by Saudi Arabia, prepared the draft resolution that the council adopted on October 2. This resolution lacked any reference to an independent UN inquiry, calling instead on the high commissioner for human rights to provide Yemen with “technical assistance” to support Hadi’s national investigative mechanism and to report to the council on the resolution’s implementation.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> “Yemen: Zeid calls for investigations into civilian casualties,” OHCHR news release, April 14, 2015, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15836> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>29</sup> President Abudrahbu Mansour Hadi, “The issuance of Presidential Decree No. 13 for the year 2015 amending Presidential Decree No.140 of 2012,” news release, September 7, 2015, <https://presidenthadi-gov-ye.info/archives/%D8%B5%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D9%85%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%85-13-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2015%D9%85-%D8%A8%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82/> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>30</sup> “UN: Rights Council Fails Yemeni Civilians,” Human Rights Watch news release, October 2, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/10/02/un-rights-council-fails-yemeni-civilians>.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

## The Humanitarian Crisis

With the beginning of the bombing campaign, Saudi Arabia imposed an aerial and naval blockade, which has limited aid and commercial shipments to Yemen. About 90 percent of Yemen's basic food intake before the war came from imports, with only 15 percent of prewar imports reaching the country as of June 2015.<sup>32</sup> By July, the UN stated that 13 million Yemenis were food insecure, that is, lacking reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.<sup>33</sup>

Throughout the blockade, only 20 percent of the country's minimum fuel needs have been met, gravely exacerbating difficulties of food and water distribution.<sup>34</sup> Fuel is also needed to operate clean-water pumps, and according to UN reports water and sanitation aid has reached only 3.3 million of the over 20 million Yemenis who lack access to clean water.<sup>35</sup>

On July 2, the UN designated Yemen to be at the highest level of humanitarian emergency—level 3—with an estimated 80 percent of the country's population in need of immediate humanitarian aid.<sup>36</sup>

In mid-July, coalition-backed armed groups were able to reestablish control over the city of Aden, thus allowing aid shipments into the port.<sup>37</sup> Soon afterwards, on August 2, Saudi Arabia announced the closure of the Houthi-controlled port of Hodeida, one of Yemen's largest, which received more than two-thirds of all ship arrivals during the blockade.<sup>38</sup> On

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<sup>32</sup> Julian Borger, "Saudi Arabia-led naval blockade leaves 20m Yemenis facing humanitarian disaster," *The Guardian*, June 5, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/05/Saudi-Arabia-led-naval-blockade-worsens-yemen-humanitarian-disaster>, (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>33</sup> UN News Centre, "Durable ceasefire needed as 'humanitarian catastrophe' leaves millions suffering in Yemen-UN relief chief," July 28, 2015, [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51516#.VcioC\\_lViko](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51516#.VcioC_lViko) (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>34</sup> "Fuel shortage in Yemen could become deadly," Oxfam America news release, July 14, 2015, <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/fuel-shortage-in-yemen-could-become-deadly/> (accessed 17, 2015).

<sup>35</sup> UN News Centre, "Durable ceasefire needed as 'humanitarian catastrophe' leaves millions suffering in Yemen-UN relief chief," July 28, 2015, [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51516#.VcioC\\_lViko](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51516#.VcioC_lViko) (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>36</sup> "Yemen: highest emergency response level declared for six months," UNOCHA news release, July 1, 2015, <http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/yemen-highest-emergency-response-level-declared-six-months> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>37</sup> Fawaz al-Haidari, "Aid finally trickling Yemen's devastated Aden," Reliefweb, August 3, 2015, <http://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/aid-finally-trickling-yemens-devastated-aden> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>38</sup> "Yemen: Reduced imports worsen crisis," Reliefweb, August 3, 2015, <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen%20OCHA%20Commercial%20Shipping%20Report%204%20August.pdf> (accessed October 17, 2015).

August 18, coalition aircraft bombed the port. It remains unclear the extent of the damage to the port and the military objectives targeted.<sup>39</sup> It was reported in October that coalition warships have been "broadcasting a warning to commercial vessels to stay clear of operational areas."<sup>40</sup>

Aid agencies report that, outside of Aden, the remainder of Yemen's southern governorates remain inaccessible because of ongoing fighting.<sup>41</sup> Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and to a lesser extent, Islamic State in Yemen, have become more active in Aden, threatening the activities of humanitarian organizations.<sup>42</sup>

Under the laws of war, fuel and other goods with military uses can be prevented from entering the country unless it would threaten the population's survival or otherwise cause disproportionate harm to the civilian population compared with the expected military gain.

Human Rights Watch has documented specific instances in which the coalition has prevented commercial ships carrying urgently needed fuel from berthing in Yemen, despite their fulfilling all the procedural requirements that the Saudi government has put in place since March. In these instances, the coalition violated humanitarian law restrictions on the imposition of a military blockade.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Al Arabiya News, "Arab coalition bombs Yemen's Hodeidah port," August 18, 2015, <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/08/18/Arab-coalition-bombs-Yemen-s-Hodeidah-port.html> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>40</sup> Jonathan Saul and William Maclean, "Arab coalition slowing aid efforts in Yemen: U.S. Navy report," *Yahoo News*, October 14, 2015, <http://news.yahoo.com/arab-coalition-slowing-aid-efforts-yemen-u-navy-131737359.html> (accessed October 19, 2015).

<sup>41</sup> Fawaz al-Haidari, "Aid finally trickling in to Yemen's devastated Aden," Reliefweb, August 3, 2015, <http://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/aid-finally-trickling-yemens-devastated-aden> (accessed November 5, 2015).

<sup>42</sup> Yahoo News, "Red Cross suspends activity in Yemen's Aden after attack," August 25, 2015, <http://news.yahoo.com/red-cross-suspends-activity-yemens-aden-attack-005331700.html> (accessed November 5, 2015); "Yemen: Southern Forces, Houthis Abuse Prisoners in Aden," Human Rights Watch news release, September 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/09/01/yemen-southern-forces-houthis-abuse-prisoners-aden>.

<sup>43</sup> "Yemen: Coalition Blocking Desperately Needed Fuel," Human Rights Watch news release, May 10, 2015, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/05/10/yemen-coalition-blocking-desperately-needed-fuel>.



## II. Applicable International Humanitarian Law

International humanitarian law, also known as the laws of war, applies to the armed conflict between the Saudi Arabia-led coalition and the Houthis. It also applies to the non-state armed groups allied to the coalition or the Houthis, as well as to other states that are parties to the conflict.

The fundamental tenets of the laws of war are civilian immunity from attack and distinction. While the laws of war recognize that some civilian casualties are inevitable, they impose a duty on warring parties at all times to distinguish between combatants and civilians, and to target only combatants and other military objectives.

Civilian objects are those that are not considered military objectives.<sup>44</sup> Military objectives are combatants, including civilians directly participating in the hostilities, and those objects that “by their nature, location, purpose or use, make an 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 advantage.”<sup>45</sup>

In general, the laws of war prohibit direct attacks against what are by their nature civilian objects, such as homes and apartments, places of worship, hospitals, schools, or cultural monuments, unless they are being used for military purposes.<sup>46</sup>

Deliberate, indiscriminate, or disproportionate attacks against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited. Attacks are indiscriminate when they are not directed at a specific military objective, or employ a method or means of warfare that cannot be directed at a military objective or whose effects cannot be limited.<sup>47</sup> They are also indiscriminate if they treat as a single military objective a number of clearly separated and distinct military objectives located in a city, town, village, or other area containing a similar concentration

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<sup>44</sup> See ICRC, *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, rule 9, citing Protocol I, art. 52(1).

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 8, citing Protocol I, art. 52(2).

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 8, citing military manuals and official statements.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 12, citing Protocol I, art. 51(4)(a).

of civilians or civilian objects.<sup>48</sup> Threatening such attacks may amount to unlawful acts for which the primary purpose is to spread terror among the civilian population.<sup>49</sup>

A disproportionate attack is one in which the expected incidental loss of civilian life and damage to civilian objects would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.<sup>50</sup> The expected danger to the civilian population and civilian objects depends on various factors, including their location (possibly within or near a military objective), the accuracy of the weapons used (depending on the trajectory, the range, environmental factors, the ammunition used, etc.), and the technical skill of the combatants (as lack of technical capacity can result in imprecise targeting).<sup>51</sup>

In the conduct of military operations, parties to a conflict must take constant care to spare the civilian population and civilian objects from the effects of hostilities.<sup>52</sup> Parties are required to take precautionary measures with a view to avoiding, and in any event, minimizing, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects.<sup>53</sup>

Before conducting an attack, a party to the conflict must do everything feasible to verify that the persons or objects to be attacked are military objectives, and not civilians or civilian objects.<sup>54</sup> According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the requirement to take all “feasible” precautions means, among other things, that those conducting an attack are required to take the steps needed to identify the target as a legitimate military objective “in good time to spare the population as far as possible.”<sup>55</sup> They also must take all feasible precautions in the choice of means and methods of warfare to minimize loss of civilian life and property.<sup>56</sup> The laws of war do not prohibit fighting in urban areas, although the presence of civilians places greater obligations on warring parties to take steps to minimize harm to civilians.

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid., rule 13, citing Protocol I, art. 51(5)(a).

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., rule 2, citing Protocol II, art. 13(2).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., rule 14, citing Protocol I, arts. 51(5)(b) and 57.

<sup>51</sup> ICRC, *Commentary on the Additional Protocols* (Geneva: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1987), p. 684.

<sup>52</sup> ICRC, *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, rule 15, citing Protocol I, art. 57(1).

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., rule 15, citing Protocol I, arts. 57(1-2).

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., rule 16, citing Protocol I, art. 57(2)(a).

<sup>55</sup> ICRC, *Commentary on the Additional Protocols*, pp. 681-82.

<sup>56</sup> ICRC, *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, rule 17, citing Protocol I, art. 57(2)(a)(ii).

Forces must avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas, and endeavor to remove civilians from the vicinity of military objectives.<sup>57</sup> Belligerents are also prohibited from using civilians to shield military objectives or operations from attack.

"Shielding" refers to purposefully using the presence of civilians to render military forces or areas immune from attack.<sup>58</sup> The unlawful deployment of forces within or near densely populated civilian areas does not relieve opposing forces from taking into account the risk to civilians when conducting attacks. The obligation to respect the laws of war does not depend on reciprocity by belligerent forces.<sup>59</sup>

Human Rights Watch opposes the use of explosive weapons with wide area effect in populated areas due to the inevitable civilian harm caused.

Individuals who commit serious violations of international humanitarian law with criminal intent are responsible for war crimes. Criminal intent has been defined as violations committed intentionally or recklessly.<sup>60</sup> Individuals may also be held criminally liable for attempting to commit a war crime, as well as assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Responsibility may also fall on persons planning or instigating the commission of a war crime.<sup>61</sup> Military commanders and civilian leaders may also bear personal responsibility as a matter of command responsibility if they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and failed to prevent them or punish those responsible.

Those acts considered to be war crimes can be found in customary law as reflected in the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and other sources. They include a wide array of offenses, including deliberate, indiscriminate, and disproportionate attacks harming civilians, and mistreatment of persons in custody.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, rules 22-24.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 97.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 140.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 156, citing, for e.g., Prosecutor v. Delalic et al. (Celebici Case), International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Case No. IT-96-21-T, Judgment (Trial Chamber) November 16, 1998, affirmed on appeal Case No. IT-96-21-A, ICTY Judgment (Appeals Chamber), February 20, 2001.

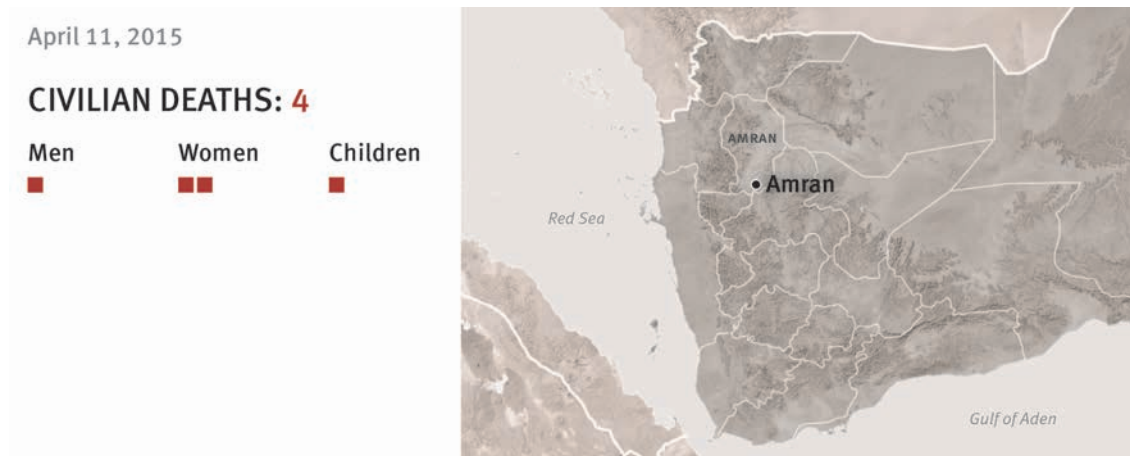
<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 151.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, rule 156.

### III. Cases of Unlawful Airstrikes

#### Amran

On April 11, 2015 at about 11:45 a.m., a coalition aircraft dropped two bombs near the office of the Ministry of Education in Amran, a town under Houthi control 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Sanaa. One bomb hit a single-story building housing three families about 20 meters (66 feet) outside the education ministry compound, killing four members of one family, including two women and a girl, and wounding one more.



Muhammad Saleh al-Qihwi, whose house was destroyed in the strike, said he was at the Tawheed Mosque, about 100 meters (328 feet) away, when he heard the blast:

When I got to the house, there was still dust in the air, and everything was covered in a layer of black ash. My wife and kids were lying there, covered in black ash. Thank God they were alive. I saw my sister-in-law, Asma, and her daughter under some rocks, and I tried to dig them out. Asma’s head was open, and her leg was bleeding. Her 2-year-old daughter, Hyam, was lying on her shoulder, her head was smashed open. Her other daughter, Hasna, who’s 7, was shouting “Baba” [father]. Her hair and skin were covered in ash, and she was burned badly. Her father, my brother Muhammad, had been asleep when the strike happened, and the roof landed on top of him. When I dug him out, there was a thin trickle of blood dripping from his ear. He was already dead.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad Saleh al-Qihwi, Amran, July 23, 2015.



The house of Muhammad Saleh al-Qihwi was destroyed in an airstrike on April 11, 2015, killing four members of his family. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Al-Qihwi told Human Rights Watch that as far as he knew, there were no Houthi or other military forces or structures in the area at the time of the airstrike, nor had he seen Houthis using the education ministry building. On that morning he had not seen any Houthi vehicles on the road. He said that the only other airstrike in the area had taken place a few days earlier, and had struck a park a few kilometers away, near Amran University, but he did not know what the intended target of that strike was either.<sup>64</sup>

Muhammad al-Harasi, 31, a guard at the Ministry of Education building who was present at the time of the airstrike, told Human Rights Watch that he saw anti-aircraft fire coming from a mountain a couple of kilometers to the southwest. He also said that he believed that senior officials from Amran’s administration had been meeting in a nearby house.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad al-Harasi, Amran, July 23, 2015.

<sup>65</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad Saleh al-Qihwi, Amran, July 23, 2015.

Human Rights Watch examined the site on July 23. Al-Qihwi's house had been completely destroyed by the bomb blast, which had also blown out a section of the concrete wall surrounding the Ministry of Education compound. A second bomb had left a crater next to the road near the compound.

An attack on the Ministry of Education compound would have been unlawful, unless the compound was being used for military purposes. Civil authorities would not be legitimate military targets unless they were directly involved in planning or participating in military operations.

## Abs/Kholan Prison

At about 3:15 p.m. on May 12, just before the afternoon prayer time, two bombs hit the Abs/Kholan Prison and other buildings in Abs, a town 150 kilometers (93 miles) north of the port city of Hodaida. Thirty-three men convicted of petty crimes were incarcerated there at the time. The strikes killed at least 25 civilians, including one woman and three children, and wounded at least 18 civilians.

May 12, 2015

**CIVILIAN DEATHS: 25**



Human Rights Watch examined the site on July 25. The bomb hit the prison's mosque, at the corner of the prison compound, collapsing the structure. Ali Muhammad Hassan Mualim, 55, a local builder, told Human Rights Watch that he was chewing *qat* with friends at the time of the strike, in a building about 200 meters (219 yards) away and facing the prison:<sup>66</sup>

<sup>66</sup> *Qat* is a plant that many Yemenis chew as a mild stimulant.

When I heard the explosion, I went out and ran toward the prison. I saw bodies, about 30 of them, some cut in half, some with severed limbs. Sometimes I get flashbacks to that day and I get sick—I start throwing up and get headaches.<sup>67</sup>

Among those killed were 17 prisoners, a prison guard, and two people in a shop near the prison, according to a medic at the hospital in Abs.<sup>68</sup> Mualim said he also saw the body of a man who had been driving by the prison on his motorcycle at the time of the attack.

The second bomb struck minutes later, hitting the home of Omar Ali Farjain, about 50 meters (164 feet) from the prison, killing his wife and three of their children. The strike injured Farjain and his daughter, Maryam, 5, who was left with burns and metal fragments in her head.<sup>69</sup> The blast ripped the façade off the building and incinerated the family’s car parked in front.

Muhammad Ahmed Yahya Wadar, a government soldier who lost his brother in the attack, arrived at the scene right after the bombing:

I heard the bombing from home, and immediately came running to the prison. I saw torn bodies—legs and hands lying where the prison mosque used to be, including my brother Kamal’s. He was a guard at the prison. His son was wounded in the explosion as well.<sup>70</sup>

Human Rights Watch has not been able to determine the intended target of the attack. Khalid Ali Farjain, the brother of Omar Farjain, said he had visited the prison every day since the war began to provide food to the inmates, and that he had never seen any military activity at the prison, such as weapons stored inside or nearby, or Houthi or allied military personnel.<sup>71</sup>

One local resident said that a few dilapidated buildings near the prison belonged to the Yemeni military and had been used to house families of officers, but others denied this.

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<sup>67</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ali Muhammad Hassan Mualim, Abs, July 25, 2015.

<sup>68</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad Muhawas, Abs, July 25, 2015.

<sup>69</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Maryam Omar Ali Farjain, Sanaa, May 24, 2015.

<sup>70</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad Ahmed Yahya Wadar, Abs, July 25, 2015.

<sup>71</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Khalid Ali Farjain, Abs, July 25, 2015.

Human Rights Watch discovered the chassis and parts of what appeared to be two military jeeps among the dilapidated buildings, but found no other signs that the area had been used for military purposes, or that people had recently lived in the buildings.



The remains of the home of Omar Ali Farjain, hit by an airstrike on May 12, 2015. Minutes earlier, another bomb struck Abs/Kholan Prison across the street. The two attacks killed at least 25 civilians. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

A National Security officer in Sanaa told Human Rights Watch that at the time of the strike, the Houthis had been holding several Saudi prisoners of war at the Abs/Kholan Prison. Human Rights Watch was unable to verify this information.<sup>72</sup>

Since the beginning of the war, several airstrikes in other parts of Abs targeted the military airport, a military compound, and another building off the main road that residents said was being used for military purposes.

Ordinary prisons are civilian objects that may not be targeted unless they are being used for military purposes. Had the Houthis been using the prison to hold captured combatants, it

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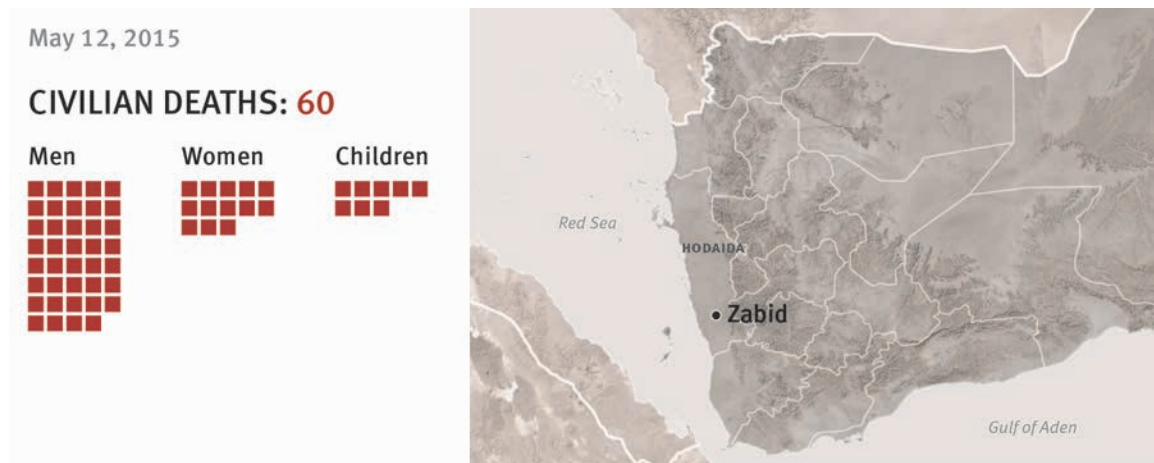
<sup>72</sup> Human Rights Watch interview, Sanaa, September 15, 2015.



would be a legitimate military objective, though any attack would need to be proportionate, not causing more civilian casualties than the anticipated military gain of the attack.

## Zabid

At about 4:15 p.m. on May 12, aircraft dropped at least five bombs on the Houthi-controlled town of Zabid, 96 kilometers (0.6 miles) south of the western port city of Hodaida, killing at least 60 civilians, including 13 women and eight children, and wounding at least 155.<sup>73</sup>



Human Rights Watch examined the site on July 26. Three of the bombs had struck a three-story building in the middle of the Shagia market. The first bomb struck a sweets shop in the building. The second strike, which witnesses said took place about five minutes later, hit a restaurant on the building's ground floor. The third struck the building's second floor, causing the structure to collapse. The force of the blasts also destroyed two other buildings housing another restaurant and four grocery stores.

Abdu Ahmed Thayfi, 36, a *qat* seller at the Shagia market, was injured in the second strike:

I heard the first strike, and then a few minutes later, the second. I felt as if everything was spinning around me, and then it went black. I woke up and saw the muscle of my left leg torn open. My right leg bone was snapped in half. My

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<sup>73</sup> The casualty figures were reached by cross-checking the names reported by local residents with information from the local medical clinic.

brother Muhammad suddenly appeared and wanted to take me to the hospital, but I refused to go, because I knew they would want to amputate my leg.<sup>74</sup>

Thayfi ended up having a bone transplant in his left leg and avoided an amputation.

Abdullah Amin al-Dhabi, 34, a local freelance editor, told Human Rights Watch that after hearing the explosion, he rushed to the market to find his cousin, a *qat* seller there:

I saw at least 50 limbs ripped apart from the fragments of the explosion. I also saw other bodies of people I could recognize in front of the Shagia restaurant. There I saw my cousin, next to the bodies of three other people I knew: two of them were kids under the age of 12, another was a woman who used to sell bread by the door of the restaurant. Days later, we heard that neighbors were still finding the hands and heads of other victims on their roofs and their shops. The whole area stank.<sup>75</sup>

Dr. Faisal Awad, chairman of the Zabid Relief Society, which led efforts to identify the dead, told Human Rights Watch that the authorities gathered 66 unidentified body parts from the marketplace.<sup>76</sup>

At the same time as the strikes hit Shagia market, two bombs fell on a lemon grove about 600 meters (656 yards) from the market, and about 50 meters (54 yards) from the entrance to the home of Ahmed Bagesh, the owner of one of the restaurants destroyed in the market attack, killing nine civilians, including two women and four children. Three witnesses said that one of the two bombs did not explode, and that Houthi fighters came soon after the incident and removed the munition.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Abdu Ahmed Thayfi, Zabid, July 9, 2015.

<sup>75</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Abdullah Amin al-Dhabi, Zabid, July 26, 2015.

<sup>76</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Dr. Faisal Awad, Zabid, July 26, 2015.

<sup>77</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interviews with Abdullah al-Agam, Fekri Nasser al-Waslah, and Ali Ahmed Thayfi, Zabid, July 9, 2015.



Three bombs hit a building housing a restaurant and sweet shop in the middle of Shagia market in the town of Zabid on May 12, 2015. This airstrike, and another minutes later on a neighboring lemon grove, killed at least 60 civilians. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Bagesh told Human Rights Watch:

Just as I heard the strikes on the marketplace, there were also two strikes right outside our doorway. My sister’s husband had just left our house—he had been over for a visit—and when I ran out, I found the top half of his body lying on the path by the door. The bottom half had been blown about 10 meters away.<sup>78</sup>

Thabit Hamdain, 55, a *qat* seller at the Shagia market, told Human Rights Watch that a large public-sector textile factory about one kilometer (0.6 miles) from the market had been producing military uniforms for the Houthis, and said he suspected this was the

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<sup>78</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ahmed Bagesh, Zabid, July 26, 2015.

target of the airstrike.<sup>79</sup> The factory was unaffected by the airstrikes and had not been subsequently targeted by the time Human Rights Watch visited Zabid on July 26. Hamdain noted that the day before the airstrike he recognized three mid-level Houthi commanders eating lunch in one of the restaurants in the market.<sup>80</sup> Bagash, the restaurant owner, said that Houthi fighters often came to the market to buy *qat* and to eat at the restaurants, but they did not “hang around.” He also said there were no Houthi checkpoints near the market.<sup>81</sup>

The presence of small numbers of Houthi military personnel at the market would not make the entire market a legitimate target for a bombing attack. A factory producing uniforms or others goods for the military would be a valid military target, but the workers inside would not be considered civilians directly participating in the hostilities. The coalition should conduct an investigation to determine whether the attack was unlawfully indiscriminate, whether an attack on the factory during working hours was disproportionate, and whether all feasible precautions had been taken to minimize civilian casualties.

## **Muthalith Ahim**

At about 10 p.m. on July 4, coalition aircraft bombed the marketplace in the middle of the village of Muthalith Ahim, about 20 kilometers south of the Saudi border in Yemen’s northwest. Because the attack occurred during the holy month of Ramadan, the area was crowded with people breaking their fast in restaurants late in the evening. The airstrike destroyed at least six buildings along the main road of the village, including a four-story building housing the Sanaa Restaurant, a small shop and hotel, and a water truck and car parked outside.

Human Rights Watch examined the site on July 24 and spoke to the staff of four hospitals that received the dead and wounded, as well as officials with the Ministry of Human Rights. The attack killed at least 65 people, including at least six African migrants and three children, and wounded at least 105. Forty of the wounded who were sent to al-Jumhuri Hospital in Hajja

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<sup>79</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Thabit Hamdain, Zabid, July 26, 2015.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ahmed Bagesh, Zabid, July 26, 2015.

were suffering from metal fragment injuries, and most needed surgery, according to a nurse who was on call that night.<sup>82</sup>



The remains of two buildings destroyed in a July 4, 2015 airstrike on the marketplace in the village of Muthalith Ahim, which killed at least 65 people. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Muhammad Hassan, 35, a waiter at Sanaa Restaurant who was wounded in the attack, told Human Rights Watch that several hours earlier, there had been a strike on a gas station about two kilometers (1.2 miles) further north. Then, about an hour later, there was a strike on a football field about one kilometer (0.6 miles) away, and at the same time another strike on an empty building about two kilometers away. He said he had heard from some people in town that the Houthis were using the empty building to store weapons.<sup>83</sup> None of the other interviewees raised this allegation with Human Rights Watch.

Hassan estimated that at the time of the strike, there were about 50 people in the restaurant, and about 100 in the hotel above. Outside the restaurant, there was a large open space with fishmongers and people selling vegetables, cell phones, *qat*, and other

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<sup>82</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad Jaha, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

<sup>83</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad Hassan, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

items. He believed that there were also about 50 to 60 African migrants, as well as many displaced Yemenis from northern border villages, sitting on the steps of the restaurant at the time of the bombing. Hassan told Human Rights Watch:

I was outside in the alley beside the restaurant taking out the trash when the strike hit. I saw fire and smelled gunpowder. The pressure of the explosion threw me back about 10 meters into a pile of trash bags. I tasted blood, and felt a pain in my chest, and then I lost consciousness. I woke up here at the Hajja hospital, only to find out that 13 waiters from the restaurant who worked with me were killed in the explosion.<sup>84</sup>

Muhammad's doctor said he had metal fragment injuries to his left shoulder, chest, and right leg. After multiple surgeries, Muhammad had yet to regain movement in his left arm.<sup>85</sup>

Salem al-Mashwali, 40, a truck driver who was in the market at the time, described the scene after the explosion:

I counted 45 bodies intact, many lying under the stalls of the *qat* sellers. I saw other bodies that had been shattered to bits, some already stiff. People all around me were shouting. I saw the driver of the water truck, a friend of mine, and his assistant both dead in the vehicle, as it was burning. I witnessed a terrible thing, a very scary scene.<sup>86</sup>

Dr. Adnan al-Wazzan, a pharmacist at al-Jumhuri Hospital in Hajja, some 140 kilometers (87 miles) away, drove an ambulance to Muthalith Ahim after the strike:

We got news of the strike about 30 minutes after it happened, but we waited two hours before leaving because we were scared the coalition might target us on the road. We finally left at 12:30 a.m. While on the road we passed a truck carrying 23 of the victims—we stopped the driver to see if we should help the people on the truck or keep driving. It was piled high

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<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Salem al-Mashwali, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

with bodies, heads open and bleeding. Two of the people in the truck were already dead, another 10 were near death. We kept on driving and made it to the Bani Hassan medical center [in Hajja, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of Muthalith Ahim], where most of the wounded had been brought. I will never forget the scene—there were bodies all over the floor.<sup>87</sup>

Abd al-Rauf al-Silwi, 52, a mechanical engineer who went to the site of the bombing early the next morning, told Human Rights Watch:

When I arrived, there were still many bodies—most of their faces looked normal, like they were sleeping, just with some marks from metal fragments. In front of Sanaa Restaurant, I saw one man with his backbone sticking out of his neck. By the *qat* market, I saw dozens of bodies, charred, some headless, others without legs. I saw 10 bodies inside the Hadramawt Restaurant, many missing their arms and legs, all killed while they were in the middle of having their dinner. The arm of one man was still attached to the large water cooler by the entrance. A water truck had exploded, and I saw the head of the driver hanging off the end of what was left of the truck.

It is not clear if any Houthi or allied fighters were killed in the attack. Al-Mashwali, the truck driver, told Human Rights Watch there had been a Houthi checkpoint about 50 meters (55 yards) from where the strike hit, manned by 10 to 12 Houthi fighters.<sup>88</sup>

Witnesses who spoke to Human Rights Watch said the strike did not damage the checkpoint.

Even if the checkpoint, a legitimate military objective, was the target of the attack, the coalition should conduct an investigation to determine if all feasible precautions were taken to minimize the harm to civilians, and whether the attack as carried out was unlawfully indiscriminate or disproportionate.

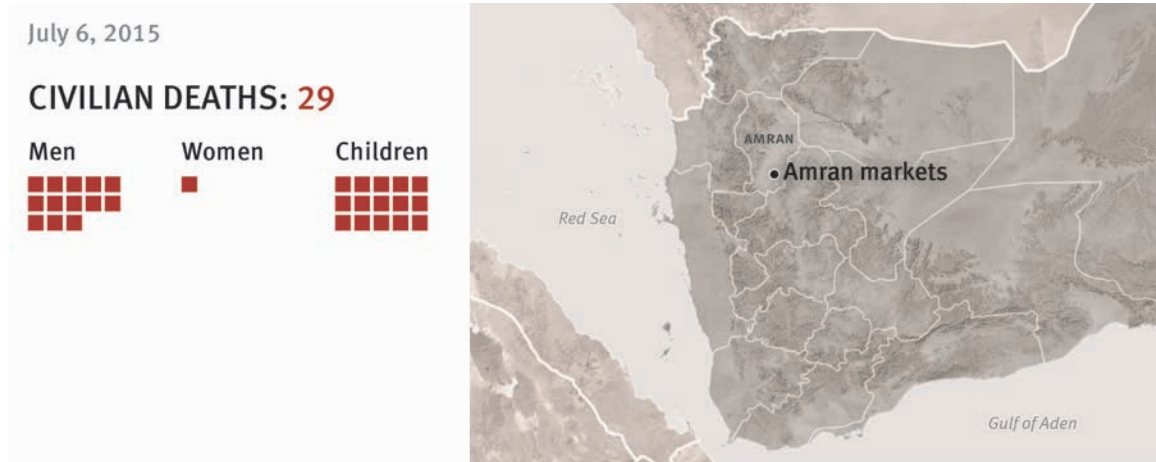
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<sup>87</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Adnan al-Wazzan, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

<sup>88</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Salem al-Mashwali, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

## Amran Markets

Starting about 4:30 p.m. on July 6, bombs hit two locations in the governorate of Amran, north of Sanaa, killing at least 29 civilians, including a woman and 15 children, and wounding at least 20 civilians.



The first strike hit an area known as Bawn market, where vegetable sellers gather near the main road between Amran and Raydah, about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) northeast of Amran City. Mufarih, 35, a potato seller who only goes by his first name, told Human Rights Watch he was walking towards the local mosque because he had missed the afternoon prayer, when the bomb hit:

I suddenly saw all this dust rise and felt something hit my back, and then I blacked out. I woke up at Raydah Hospital at about 6 p.m. The doctors had removed a metal fragment from my back. I later went back to the site of the strike and saw how close I had been, I was only 15 meters away from where the bomb landed.<sup>89</sup>

Nishwan, 21, a vegetable seller who only goes by his first name, described the blast to Human Rights Watch: “It was like fire lifting me into the air. My leg was broken in three places. I tried to stand up, but couldn’t.”<sup>90</sup>

<sup>89</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mufarih, Amran, July 24, 2015.

<sup>90</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Nishwan, Amran, July 24, 2015.





Khaled `Odah, 35, a local vegetable seller who had his right leg amputated after sustaining injuries in an airstrike on Bawn market outside the town of Amran on July 6, 2015. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Radwan Yahya Ahmed, 25, a fruit seller injured in the strike, showed Human Rights Watch his wounds. Doctors had to remove large pieces of skin from his shoulders to transplant to his cheeks.<sup>91</sup> He and other witnesses to the strike interviewed by Human Rights Watch said that they had not seen any Houthi or allied military vehicles on the road at the time of the strike, nor did they know of any military targets in the area. The Bawn market strike killed at least 10 civilians, including nine children, and wounded at least six.

Minutes later, a second bomb struck the Jawb market along the road just over one kilometer (0.62 miles) further north, damaging a gas station, a car outside the local mosque, and the home of Mansour Ahmed Taqi, 40, a local farmer.<sup>92</sup> The market had been there for at least two years and was the largest in the area, attracting hundreds of people daily.<sup>93</sup>

Faten Saleh said she was standing at the doorway of her home with her baby and her older son and daughter when the bomb hit the first market. She saw her husband, Zahir Mabkhoot Taqi, running towards her with their son Taqi, 9, close behind:

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<sup>91</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Radwan Yahya Ahmed, Amran, July 24, 2015.

<sup>92</sup> Human Rights Watch interviews with Mabkhoot Ali Taqi al-Jawbi, Faten Saleh, and Mansour Ahmed Taqi, Amran, July 24, 2015.

<sup>93</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mabkhoot Ali Taqi al-Jawbi, Amran, July 24, 2015.

He [Zahir] was calling and waving at me to grab my bag and to leave the house as quickly as possible, saying that the planes might bomb us as well. About 15 meters (16 yards) from our house, suddenly another bomb landed. A piece of metal hit him in the back and cut through his side, killing him. We found Taqi's body ripped to pieces. My husband's cousin was close by, but was only wounded. My husband was just a simple farmer, but later on TV, they said he was a Houthi trainer. I don't know why they would lie about that, but I promise you it's not true.<sup>94</sup>

Mabkhoot al-Jawbi, a local farmer, 70, said his son, grandson, aged 17, and two cousins were killed in the blast. He helped with the burial at the local mosque and said that he helped with 17 funerals of local villagers.<sup>95</sup>



Bawn market outside the town of Amran was hit by a bomb on July 6, 2015, killing 10 civilians. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

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<sup>94</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Faten Saleh, Amran, July 24, 2015.

<sup>95</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mabkhoot Ali Taqi al-Jawbi, Amran, July 24, 2015.

Mansour Ahmad Taqi, another relative of Zahir Taqi, said he was home when the strike hit, damaging part of his house. When he came to the gate, he saw at least 20 wounded and dead lying in the market place, at least three in the car outside the local mosque, another person lying at the gate of the mosque, and another three people lying near the entrance to the home of Zahir Taqi—namely Zahir, his son Taqi Zahir Mabkhoot Taqi, aged 9, and his cousin Habib Saleh Taqi. “His son’s hand was found inside the electricity meter of the house on the other side of the road days later,” Mansour Taqi told Human Rights Watch.<sup>96</sup>



Jawb market outside the town of Amran was hit by a bomb on July 6, 2015, minutes after a bomb struck nearby Bawn market, killing at least 19 civilians and damaging a gas station, a car outside the local mosque, and the home of Mansour Ahmed Taqi. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

The Jawb market strike killed 22 people, at least 19 of them civilians, including one woman and six children, and wounded 14. Four of the dead were members of the Taqi family. Three people who were in a car at the time of the attack had not been identified at the time that Human Rights Watch visited, so it was not possible to determine whether they were civilians.

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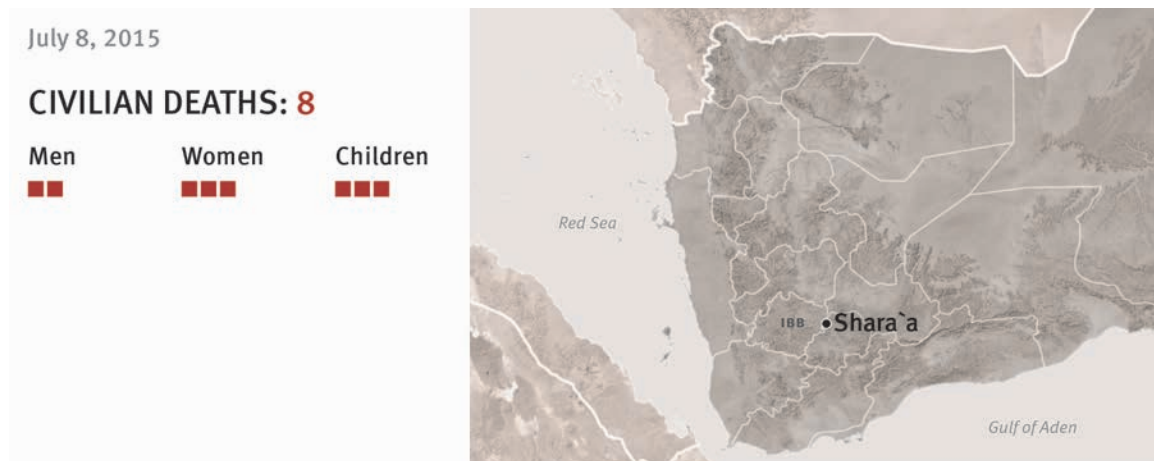
<sup>96</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mansour Ahmed Taqi, Amran, July 24, 2015.

Al-Jawbi told Human Rights Watch that after the attack, there was no more market in the area: “Now there is nothing. People are afraid.” He said that he was unaware of any military targets in the area, such as military vehicles, at the time of the strike.<sup>97</sup>

According to Khaled Sanad, the representative of an aid organization linked to the Houthis, a third airstrike hit a security checkpoint south of Amran, about 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) away, at about the same time as the attack on the two markets, killing four Houthi members manning the checkpoint and three civilians who were on the road at the time.<sup>98</sup>

## Shara`a, Ibb

On August 8, starting at 8:30 p.m., coalition aircraft dropped five bombs in the span of several minutes, destroying eight homes in the village of Shara`a, located in southern Ibb governorate’s Radhma district. The village has a population of about 800 people.<sup>99</sup> The strikes killed eight civilians, including three women and three children, and left at least two civilians wounded. The al-Salam military base, which was occupied by Houthi forces, is located two kilometers (1.2 miles) from the village.<sup>100</sup> Although the base was apparently not struck, 10 minutes before bombs hit Shara`a, two strikes hit the Al-Ahram event hall, located next to the base.



<sup>97</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mabkhoot Ali Taqi al-Jawbi, Amran, July 24, 2015.

<sup>98</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Khaled Sanad, Amran, July 24, 2015.

<sup>99</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Saif al-Haddi, 30, Advocacy and Outreach Officer at Transparency International, Ibb, September 25, 2015.

<sup>100</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Nasser Mohsen al-Thaibani, Ibb, September 8, 2015.

Human Rights Watch was not able to visit the village, but spoke to seven residents by telephone.

At 8:30 p.m. the first bomb hit the home of Mane`a al-Haddi, killing his mother, wife, sister and his sister's two children, ages 6 and 7. The blast wounded him as well. He told Human Rights Watch:

The first strike that hit the village targeted my house. I ran out to see what had happened, despite being injured. But two minutes later, my cousin's house was hit by a second bomb. Then minutes later, two more fell, one on my house again, and a fourth on my cousin's house again.<sup>101</sup>

Another resident described the scene after the first strike:

I never expected to see something similar, people running around and crying. It was horrific. We were trying to pull some of the people out the rubble when two minutes later another bomb fell and sent us running.<sup>102</sup>

Minutes after the first strike, a bomb hit the home of Sheikh Muhammad al-Haddi, a retired army general, only a few meters from the first strike.<sup>103</sup> His home was a gathering place for many in the village, who used his generator to charge their cellphones and laptops because it was the only house with reliable electricity. There were about 70 people at his house at the time of the strike, charging their devices, watching TV, playing cards, talking, and chewing *qat*, according to Mane`a al-Haddi, who was there at the time.<sup>104</sup>

The attack severely damaged Sheikh al-Haddi's house and left it uninhabitable. Two men who ran from the house after the initial blast on the home of Mane`a al-Haddi were killed.

The blast also destroyed the home of his neighbor, Nagi al-Masan, killing 3-year-old Saeed Waheb Tanbash, who was inside at the time.

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<sup>101</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Mane`a al-Haddi, Ibb, September 17, 2015.

<sup>102</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with [name withheld], Ibb, September 15, 2015.

<sup>103</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Ala'a Ahmed al-Haddi, Ibb, September 8, 2015.

<sup>104</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Mane`a al-Haddi, Ibb, September 17, 2015.



The remnants of the house of Sheikh Muhammad al-Haddi, which was damaged in an airstrike on August 8, 2015. The home had attracted many visitors, as the only house in the village with a generator, and there were about 70 people present at the time of the bombing. Noone in the house was wounded. © 2015 Private

About two minutes later, two more bombs hit at the same time, one on the southern corner of Mane`a al-Haddi's home, and one by the entrance to Sheikh al-Haddi's house. Two minutes later a fifth bomb fell on the neighboring home of Naji Saleh Hadash, a retired military officer.

Mane`a al-Haddi told Human Rights Watch, "It is the first time our village witnessed anything like this, the village is still in a state of terror. Even the dogs run away whenever a plane passes by now."

Nasir Mohsen al-Thaibani, a 33-year-old local resident, told Human Rights Watch that at the time of the strikes, Houthi forces were at the al-Salam military base, but he said the base was not hit by any of the airstrikes.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Nasser Mohsen al-Thaibani, Ibb, September 8, 2015.





The rubble after a July 12, 2015 airstrike destroyed homes in the residential neighborhood of Sawan in Sanaa, the capital. The airstrike killed 23 civilians. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Majid al-Jamal, 30, whose relatives were killed in the blast, said he was sleeping at the time the bomb struck:

I didn't hear the strike itself, or the plane. But I awoke to the sound of bricks being smashed against the side of my home. I jumped out of bed and rushed outside and saw burned bodies, but I could not do anything to help.<sup>106</sup>

Yumna Obayth, 35, a mother of 10 whose house was damaged in the strike, said:

Why, I ask, why would they bomb us? We have no guns, no food, nothing. We are poor. They brought down the house over the heads of my children. Now we are living outside in the street, what can I do?<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Majid al-Jamal, Sanaa, July 20, 2015.

<sup>107</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Yumna Obayth, Sanaa, July 20, 2015.





Remnants of the control fins of a laser-guided bomb found at the site after an airstrike on the residential neighborhood of Sawan in Sanaa, the capital, on July 12, 2015. © 2015 Amnesty International

The Military Engineers' Compound was a legitimate military target. The nearby military medical facility was not a valid military target—medical facilities, including those serving military personnel, may not be targeted unless they are being used to commit hostile acts and a warning has been given. The proximity of the hospital to the engineer's compound unnecessarily placed it at risk of being damaged in an attack on the compound.

## Yareem

At about 2 a.m. on July 19, airstrikes killed at least 16 civilians, including three women and nine children, and wounded at least 16 civilians, in Yareem town, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of Sanaa.

July 19, 2015

**CIVILIAN DEATHS: 16**

Men	Women	Children
■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



Human Rights Watch examined the site on July 22. The strike had partially damaged, and in some cases completely destroyed, 11 one-story residential homes and a two-story building.

Human Rights Watch also established that the site is located about 200 meters (219 yards) from the entrance to the 55<sup>th</sup> Rocket Artillery Brigade. Residents told Human Rights Watch that since the beginning of the air campaign in March, and on that night, they heard anti-aircraft guns being fired from the base. One nearby resident said that the now-dismantled Republican Guard, the military wing under the command of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, had controlled the base since 1994. The base had been the main depot of Scud ballistic missiles for the Yemeni military, the resident said, but those had been removed about four years ago, and now the main weapons at the base were artillery rockets. There had been as many as 2,000 troops at the base in the past, he said, but only 300 troops were there since current conflict started.<sup>108</sup>

Local residents told Human Rights Watch that at about 1:30 a.m., three strikes hit the military base at 10-minute intervals. The fourth strike hit the residential area.

Sabah Saleh Ahmed al-Boghomy, 50, said she and her husband owned most of the houses in the neighborhood, and her relatives lived in several of them. She said she was asleep at the time of the strike and was awakened by her daughter screaming and shaking her, saying that planes were bombing the military base. Al-Boghomy tried to calm her by taking her outside:

After we left the home, all of a sudden the windows of the house shattered and the roof collapsed. We heard a loud explosion but had no idea that it was in our own yard. At the time my three sons, their wives and children and my two [other] daughters were still inside the house.... I remember hearing my neighbor screaming, "Save my children, save me, we are under the rubble!"<sup>109</sup>

Her family survived the attack without injury, but she said she knew of at least 12 neighbors who were killed in the strike. The attack destroyed six of their family homes and three cars.

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<sup>108</sup> Human Rights Watch interview, Yareem, July 22, 2015

<sup>109</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Sabah Saleh Ahmed al-Boghomy, Yareem, July 22, 2015.

A local resident, Hana Saad al-Nazhi, told Human Rights Watch that when she heard the first explosion, she grabbed her children and hid in a small room in their home:

We stayed in that room while all the strikes happened, so I assumed that my brothers were safe and had escaped, only to realize when I went outside that one strike had hit my brother's house. It wiped his house to the ground, they blew it up and killed him and his daughters... What was the military target in my brother's house?<sup>110</sup>



Hana Saad al-Nazhi and her son, who were both injured when an airstrike hit a residential area in Yareem on July 19, 2015, killing at least 16 civilians. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Another brother, Radwan Saad al-Nazhi, came to the site of the strike after hearing the blasts from his home, located a few streets away. He told Human Rights Watch that altogether eight members of two of his brothers' families were killed, five of them children. His sister, Hana Saad al-Nazhi, and her children were the only ones who survived the airstrike, but with injuries:

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<sup>110</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Hana Saad al-Nazhi, Yareem, July 22, 2015.

I am not employed, my brothers were, I am not. I make a living doing odd jobs in the streets.... I had to take my sister and her three kids out of the hospital because I could not pay their bill.<sup>111</sup>



Residents sifting through the rubble of homes destroyed in an airstrike three days prior in Yareem town. The strike killed at least 16 civilians. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

Muhammad al-Faqih, 45, said he was sitting in his living room when he heard the initial strikes on the military base. He grabbed his clothes and woke his five children and wife, telling them to get dressed and be ready to leave. His son Osama al-Faqih, 20, was walking down the steps out of the house just as the strike hit about 20 meters (7 feet) from the door of their home. Muhammad al-Faqih, standing behind him just inside the door, was blown back into the house:

We scrambled to our feet and got out of the house, and I heard cries. I turned to my left and saw my neighbor, an older woman. She was lying on the ground, with a large rock crushing her legs. She was begging us to help

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<sup>111</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Radwan Saad al-Nazhi, Yareem, July 22, 2015.

her so we did. After we helped move it, we rushed off to get my son, who we realized was injured, to the hospital. As we got to the main road we saw another neighbor, Salma, wandering along, and wailing for help. She was badly burned and her head was open and gushing blood.... I don't know what happened to her.<sup>112</sup>

Osama had a metal shard lodged in his neck that the doctors planned to remove, Muhammad al-Faqih told Human Rights Watch. He said that they were lucky that other families had helped to pay their medical bill. His house was only slightly damaged by the strike.

Ali Muhammad al-Milah was in his house, which was destroyed in the strike, at the time of the blast:

I didn't see anything when the explosion happened, it was all black. My ears started ringing, they are still ringing now, days later. I came back the next morning and saw five bodies just lying on the ground, including the bodies of two young kids. Only yesterday when I was here they found the body of another kid, a young girl. They pulled her out of the rubble.<sup>113</sup>

Another resident said he heard a fifth strike about 10 minutes later, again on the military base.<sup>114</sup>

The military base was a legitimate military target. The attack that struck the residential neighborhood should be investigated by the coalition to determine if it was unlawfully targeted and whether all feasible precautions had been taken to minimize civilian loss of life and property.

## **Mokha Steam Power Plant**

On July 24, in a series of attacks that began between 9:30 and 10 p.m., coalition aircraft repeatedly struck two residential compounds of the Mokha Steam Power Plant, which housed plant workers and their family members, killing at least 65 civilians, including 13

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<sup>112</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Muhammad al-Faqih, Yareem, July 22, 2015.

<sup>113</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Ali Muhammad al-Milah, Yareem, July 22, 2015.

<sup>114</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Mohna Gahtan, Yareem, July 22, 2015.

women and 10 children, and wounding at least 55. The plant is located outside Mokha City, a western port about 280 kilometers (174 miles) southwest of Sanaa. The main residential compound is one kilometer (0.6 miles) from the power plant, and the smaller compound is adjacent to the plant.



Human Rights Watch examined the site on July 26. Craters and building damage showed that six bombs had struck the plant’s main residential compound. This compound housed at least 200 families, according to the plant’s director general.<sup>115</sup> One bomb had struck a separate compound for short-term workers about a kilometer (0.6 miles) north of the main compound, destroying the water tank for the compounds, and two bombs had struck the beach and an intersection nearby.

Bombs hit two apartment buildings in the main compound directly, collapsing part of their roofs. Other bombs exploded between the buildings, including in the main courtyard, stripping the exterior walls off dozens of apartments, leaving only the load-bearing pillars standing.

Workers and residents at the compounds told Human Rights Watch that one or more aircraft dropped nine bombs in separate sorties in intervals of a few minutes.

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<sup>115</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Bagil Jafar Qasim, Mokha, July 26, 2015.

Wajida Ahmed Najid, 37, a resident in one of the compounds, whose husband is a plant employee, said that when the first strike hit, she grabbed her three children close and they huddled together hoping the danger would pass:

After the third strike, the entire building began to collapse on top of us. Then I knew we needed to leave because it was not safe to stay. I grabbed my girls and we started running in the direction of the beach, but as we were running pieces of metal were flying everywhere, and one hit Malak, my 9-year-old daughter. Thank God she is going to be okay. While we were running, I saw bodies, seven of them, just lying on the ground, in pieces.<sup>116</sup>

A doctor at Amal Hospital in Hodaida told Human Rights Watch that they had removed a metal fragment from Malak's abdomen.

Khalil Abdullah Idriss, 35, a nurse at the plant's clinic, said that he rushed to al-Salam clinic in Mokha City when he heard news of the attack.<sup>117</sup> There, he and other medics administered basic first aid, then sent the wounded on to hospitals in Hodaida. He said that within an hour of the airstrikes, they had received at least 30 wounded and eight bodies. At 1 a.m., he said, he went to the main compound:

As I walked through the gates, I saw my friend, an engineer at the plant, Abdu Samid al-Subaie. He was lying on the ground, just outside his apartment. He had a deep gash to his waist and he was bleeding to death as his two children lay at his side screaming and crying. But it was hopeless. At the same time, the airplanes were still buzzing above us. We could hear them for hours afterward.<sup>118</sup>

Loai Nabeel, 20, who works at a shop in the compound, said he rushed to his family's apartment when the attack started.<sup>119</sup> A second bomb hit the apartment before he got there, collapsing the roof. He found his mother and younger brother by the entrance and

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<sup>116</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Wajida Ahmed Najid, Hodaida, July 25, 2015.

<sup>117</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Khalil Abdullah Idriss, Mokha, July 26, 2015.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Human Rights Watch interview with Loai Nabeel, Mokha, July 26, 2015.

brought them to the beach before he went back to search for his sisters Hadeel, 12, and Taghreed, 17:

It was dark. It took me 10 minutes to find Hadeel under the rubble. The bomb hit the roof of the room where she was sleeping and her head was seriously wounded. I found Taghreed in another room with minor injuries to her head. Hadeel is still in a coma.<sup>120</sup>

Power plants that produce electricity used by the military are legitimate military targets. However, the harm incurred to the civilian population by an attack on a power plant can be enormous, making its destruction unlawfully disproportionate, as the long-term harm to civilians will be far greater than the immediate military gain.



The residential compound of a steam power plant in the coastal city of Mokha two days after a July 24, 2015 airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition killed 65 workers and their family members. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch

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<sup>120</sup> Ibid.



The Mokha power plant, built in 1986, was not struck in the attack. Human Rights Watch found no sign that either of the two residential compounds for the power plants had been used for military purposes. More than a dozen workers and residents said that there had been no Houthi or other military forces at the compounds.

Early in the morning of July 25, a news ticker on *Al-Arabiya* TV, a Saudi-owned media outlet, reported that coalition forces had attacked a military air defense base in Mokha. The ticker was swiftly taken down and the story can no longer be found anywhere on *Al-Arabiya's* website. Human Rights Watch identified a military facility about 800 meters (875 yards) southeast of the Mokha Steam Power Plant's main compound, which plant workers said had been a military air defense base. The plant workers said that it had been empty for months, and Human Rights Watch saw no activity or personnel at the base from the outside, except for two guards.

## Al-Sham Water Bottling Factory

On August 30 at about 3:50 a.m., an airstrike hit Al-Sham Water Bottling Factory in the outskirts of Abs. The strike destroyed the factory and killed 14 workers, including three boys, who were nearing the end of their night shift, and wounded 11 more. Many of the dead and wounded, as well as the owner of the factory, were from the same family.



Hamza Abdu Muhammad Rouzom, 26, a factory worker present at the time of the explosion, told Human Rights Watch he was on the shift that started at 8 p.m. and was set to end at 5 a.m.:

Because we work with noisy machines, if there were planes flying overhead, we would not have heard them. The explosion was almost like a dream, it all happened so quickly. I heard a whizzing sound for a second, then a huge explosion. I lost consciousness for at least 30 minutes, and when I woke up I saw people were trying to help me. I was covered in blood and dust and had a big cut on my right foot. They carried me to my car, and as they did, I looked around me and saw fire everywhere. I saw my friends and coworkers wounded, some completely burned. It was one of the worst moments of my life.<sup>121</sup>

He was taken to a hospital in Hodaida, but because of a lack of medical supplies, was transferred to a second hospital soon after.

Khaled Ibrahim Musaed, 34, a journalist who lives about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from the factory, said that coalition aircraft carried out more than a dozen strikes on a range of military and government installations that night in other parts of Hajja governorate, and the strike on the factory was the last.<sup>122</sup> Two workers at the plant told Human Rights Watch that this was the only strike in the direct vicinity and that they knew of no military targets close to the area.

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<sup>121</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Hamza Abdu Muhammad Rouzom, Abs, September 8, 2015.

<sup>122</sup> Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Khaled Ibrahim Musaed, Abs, September 8, 2015.



Residents gather on August 30, 2015 on the outskirts of Abs at Al-Sham Water Bottling Factory, which an airstrike hit hours earlier, killing 14 workers. © 2015 Khaled Ibrahim Musaed

Later on August 30, after the airstrike, Brig. Gen. Ahmed al-Assiri, the military spokesman for the coalition, reportedly told Reuters that the plant had been used by the Houthis to make explosive devices, and was not, in fact, a bottling factory.<sup>123</sup> All of the individuals Human Rights Watch interviewed said that plant was being used to bottle water and was not used for any military purposes. A group of international journalists traveled to the site of the blast two days after it was hit and reported that they could not find evidence of any military targets in the area.<sup>124</sup> They said that they carefully examined the site, and took photos and videos of piles of scorched plastic bottles melted together from the heat of the explosion. They could not find any evidence that the factory was being used for military purposes.

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<sup>123</sup> Saeed al-Batati, "At least 13 reported dead in Yemen strikes," *New York Times*, August 30, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/31/world/middleeast/civilians-reported-dead-in-yemen-saudi-strikes.html> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>124</sup> Gabriel Gatehouse, "Yemen crisis: 'Bodies melted onto machines' by strike," *BBC News Online*, September 19, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34212125> (accessed October 17, 2015).

## IV. Houthis Endangering Civilians

Human Rights Watch documented several cases in which Houthi forces endangered civilians by establishing a military presence and using military bases located in populated areas, including to store weapons and ammunition, and took inadequate steps to remove civilians from danger.

For example, residents of the northern town of Haradh told Human Rights Watch that Houthi commanders at checkpoints told them in April that the entire town and surrounding areas were a military zone. The Houthis said that the local council had signed off on the decision, and that local residents would be allowed to enter the area between 7 and 10 a.m. to collect their belongings, but then they had to evacuate.<sup>125</sup> The residents said that many poorer residents of Haradh had no place to go, so they stayed in town despite these orders. All of the residents of Haradh with whom Human Rights Watch spoke said that the Houthis had not provided any assistance to families that needed help in leaving the area.

Haradh residents told Human Rights Watch that Houthi forces established a checkpoint near the abandoned office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and stored what appeared to be ammunition in its courtyard.<sup>126</sup> One resident who lives near the IOM office said that fighters set up the checkpoint on June 3, and that it was manned by gunmen wearing a mix of civilian dress and military caps and uniforms. Several days later, he said, he saw a pickup truck arrive. Gunmen got out and unloaded dozens of what looked like weapons crates and stored them in the yard of the IOM office. Two men had to carry each crate. He said that since then, he had seen many cars coming to bring and remove boxes. He said at least 70 families were still living in the area at the time.<sup>127</sup>

A second Haradh resident, who also lives near the former IOM office, told Human Rights Watch that he saw eight men with weapons arrive at the office one day in late June to

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<sup>125</sup> Human Rights Watch interview, Hajja, July 24, 2015; Human Rights Watch interview, Shafar, July 24, 2015; Human Rights Watch telephone interview, Haradh, July 26, 2015; Human Rights Watch interview, Haradh, July 27, 2015.

<sup>126</sup> The International Organization for Migration, based in Geneva, is an intergovernmental organization that works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental partners to manage migration and aid migrants.

<sup>127</sup> Human Rights Watch interview, Shafar, July 24, 2015.

unload about 200 heavy crates.<sup>128</sup> He estimated that there were 100 families, about 600 people, living in the area at the time.<sup>129</sup> On July 1, the IOM office was damaged by an airstrike.<sup>130</sup>

Declaring an area a military zone and ordering civilians to leave does not relieve a warring party from taking all feasible measures to protect civilians still present, such as assisting in their relocation. The civilians remaining near the IOM building were at grave risk.

The May 29, 2015 airstrike on the apparent Houthi camp in Hajja City killed at least three civilians and wounded at least 17 when a bomb blast sent rocks and pieces of concrete onto residential houses located on the steep hillside below the camp. Residents of the neighborhood told Human Rights Watch that they had seen Houthi forces bringing weapons into the security camp from the beginning of the war. Two residents said that they saw fighters remove light weapons from the building in the evening after the strike. The residents told Human Rights Watch that the Houthis had not taken any steps to inform them or their neighbors that they were storing weapons at the facility, or to warn them that the area was a military target.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Human Rights Watch interview, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> “Yemen: Airstrikes, Mortars damage IOM premises in Hardh and Basateen,” International Organization for Migration news release, September 3, 2015, <https://www.iom.int/news/yemen-airstrikes-mortars-damage-iom-premises-hardh-and-basateen> (accessed October 17, 2015).

<sup>131</sup> Human Rights Watch interviews, Hajja, July 24, 2015.

## V. Acknowledgments

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Joe Stork and Michael Page, Middle East and North Africa division deputy directors, Ole Solvang, senior researcher in the Emergencies division, and Robin Shulman, program editor, edited the report. James Ross, legal and policy director, provided legal review. Mark Hiznay, senior researcher in the Arms division, Josh Lyons, satellite imagery analyst, Bede Sheppard, deputy director of the Children's Rights division, and Adam Coogle, Middle East and North Africa researcher, provided specialist review. Sandy Elkhoury, Middle East and North Africa senior associate, Kathy Mills, publications specialist, and Jose Martinez, senior coordinator, prepared the report for publication.

## Appendix I: List of Airstrike Casualties

**Location:** Abs/Kholan Prison

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Suleiman Abdu Muhammad al-Haj	Male	18	Killed
Muhammad Ahmad Aqash	Male	18	Killed
Kamal Wadar	Male	over 18	Killed
Wife of Omar Farjain	Female	over 18	Killed
Abdullah Omar Ali Farjain	Male	8	Killed
Maria Abdullah	Female	2	Killed
Nassim	Female	3	Killed
Walid Abdu Muhammad	Male	20	Killed
Maryam Omar Ali Farjain	Female	5	Wounded
Omar Ali Farjain	Male	over 18	Wounded
Abdul Haddi Kamal Wadar	Male	under 18	Wounded

*\*The rest of the casualty list is on file at Abs Clinic*

**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Ahmed Sulaiman Olian	Male	over 18	Killed
Khalil Abdu Sulaiman al-Mizgagi	Male	35	Killed
Amar Muhammad Amin al-Ahdal	Male	over 18	Killed
Bunian Ahmad Sawlah	Female	over 18	Killed
Abd al-Aziz Salem Omar Orouq	Male	30	Killed
Thabit Ahmad Qaderi	Male	over 18	Killed
Ibrahim Ahmad Hiba Makbuli	Male	over 18	Killed
Abdu Ahmad Dar	Male	over 18	Killed
Abdu Yusif Taher Marzouqi	Male	over 18	Killed
Muhammad Dawud Hakim	Male	over 18	Killed
Muhammad Izzu Abdullah Rukbi	Male	over 18	Killed
Mansour Muhammad Abdullah Mawqri	Male	over 18	Killed
Noaman Hassan Ragab	Male	over 18	Killed
Ahmed Ali Muftah Askri	Male	over 18	Killed
Ahmad Muhammad Awad Makbuli	Male	over 18	Killed
Aiman Muhammad Hassan Rami	Male	over 18	Killed
Gumala Ayash Said Derein (Uzaiti)	Female	over 18	Killed

**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Hassan Yahya Ismail Murahal	Male	over 18	Killed
Faisal Muharam Salman al-Shamiri	Male	over 18	Killed
Muhammad Anwar Futaini Wisabi	Male	over 18	Killed
Murad Muhammad Adam Haddi	Male	over 18	Killed
Wafa Yahya Salem Mauda Kabah	Female	over 18	Killed
Abdullah Abd al-Aziz Salem Qirshi (Orouk)	Male	3	Killed
Abdullah Abdullah Ridwan	Male	over 18	Killed
Ismail Dawud Sulaiman al-Ahdal	Male	over 18	Killed
Akram Abd al-Hamid al-Qubati	Male	30	Killed
al-Raimi al-Shaibah	Male	over 18	Killed
Bashar Hawash Daoud al-Wisabi	Male	12	Killed
Bashir Ghalib Mahdi al-Shamiri	Male	22	Killed
Bayan Ahmad Sawlah	Female	over 18	Killed
Gawad Muhammad Qaid al-Wisabi	Male	over 18	Killed
Husam Saif al-Qubati	Male	over 18	Killed
Hamoudah Wajih	Female	over 18	Killed
Salah Yahya Muhammad Ali	Male	over 18	Killed
Abd al-Hakim Muhammad Abdullah Ghalib	Male	over 18	Killed
Abd al-Rahman Abd al-Adhim Dabwan	Male	over 18	Killed
Abd al-Latif Yahya Muhammad Qurashi (Orouk)	Male	15	Killed
Fatima Salem Omar Qurashi (Orouk)	Female	30	Killed
Muhammad Abd al-Aziz Salem Qurashi (Orouk)	Male	5	Killed
Murad Faisal Muhram Salman al-Shamiri	Male	over 18	Killed
Nagib Qaid Abdu Ghalib	Male	over 18	Killed
Neima Hassan Omar Kaboub	Female	40	Killed
Haifa Abd al-Aziz Salim Qurashi (Orouk)	Female	8	Killed
Hassan Ali Qasim Marwai	Male	over 18	Killed
Waila Kamela	Female	over 18	Killed
Muhammad Abd al-Aziz Salem	Male	9	Killed
Hayfa Abd al-Aziz Salem	Female	7	Killed
Abd al-Latif Orouq	Male	18	Killed
Abdullah Bin Abdullah al-Shamiri (Bagesh)	Male	40	Killed
Faisal Muharam	Male	45	Killed
Murad Faisal Muharam	Male	12	Killed
Numan Rajab al-Khalil	Male	over 18	Killed
1 <sup>st</sup> daughter of Yahya Ahmad Sawlah	Female	over 18	Killed
2 <sup>nd</sup> daughter of Yahya Ahmad Sawlah	Female	over 18	Killed
Daughter of Yahya Khabah	Female	over 18	Killed



**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Daughter of Ayash Aziz	Female	over 18	Killed
Ibrahim (Hibah)	Male	over 18	Killed
Salah al-Shamiri	Male	over 18	Killed
Hassan Murahal	Male	35	Killed
Daughter of al-Musyab	Female	18	Killed
Abd al-Majid Muhammad Abd al-Ghani	Male	15	Wounded
Qasim Ali Qasim Akil	Male	15	Wounded
Abdullah Ahmad Abdi	Male	13	Wounded
Abdullah Salim Dawud	Male	16	Wounded
Yahya Awad Yahya Murahal	Male	15	Wounded
Khawla Salim Ali MUSAIB	Female	10	Wounded
Ahmad Futaini Hawis	Male	10	Wounded
Ismail Abdullah Ismail Salami	Male	15	Wounded
Bassam Muhammad Abdullah Radman	Male	14	Wounded
Zyad Rabia Muafa Galal	Male	12	Wounded
Hisham Said Ahmad Hin	Male	16	Wounded
Muhammad Abdullah Mata	Male	12	Wounded
Muhammad Ammar al-Bahr	Male	13	Wounded
Murtadha Faris Hadadi	Male	9	Wounded
Qasim Ahmad Qasim Mahwat	Male	15	Wounded
Nasim Muhammad Saghyir Talha	Male	18	Wounded
Akram Wahb Allah Hafid	Male	15	Wounded
Haitham Wahb Allah Hafid	Male	16	Wounded
Othman Muhammad Adam Saigh	Male	15	Wounded
Muhammad Ahmad Sulaiman Olian	Male	8	Wounded
Murad Kadaf Sulaiman Ashiq	Male	6	Wounded
Abdullah Abd al-Wahab al-Ahdal	Male	15	Wounded
Adil Hatim Ali Garwan	Male	12	Wounded
Ahmad Abdullah Hilal	Male	43	Wounded
Muhammad Ahmad Numari	Male	22	Wounded
Muhammad Abdu Hamza	Male	19	Wounded
Adel Hatim Ali Garwan	Male	12	Wounded
Ridhwan Abdu Ahmad Mizgagi	Male	over 18	Wounded
Hamada Ismail Futaini Kushi	Male	22	Wounded
Walid Muhammad Ali Omar Ahiaf	Male	35	Wounded
Sami Ahmad Muhammad Sulaiman Quba	Male	30	Wounded
Muhammad Fawzi Khadim al-Okli	Male	25	Wounded
Hassan Omar Ayash	Male	45	Wounded

**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Isam Ahmad Bahkali	Male	36	Wounded
Abdullah Sulaiman Daoud al-Wisabi	Male	25	Wounded
Asim Abd al-Ghafar Abd al-Wahab al-Maghbashi	Male	27	Wounded
Abd Al-Rahman Muhammad Badr al-Hubaishi al-Shamiri	Male	25	Wounded
Fathi Ghalib al-Maqbani	Male	28	Wounded
Hashid Nasr Farhan	Male	26	Wounded
Nizar Yahya Rafia	Male	25	Wounded
Faris Abdu Ali Shama	Male	30	Wounded
Mahmoud Ali Muhammad Hajri	Male	13	Wounded
Sulaiman Daoud Halabi	Male	28	Wounded
Mariam Hatash Kharfag Abdullah	Female	30	Wounded
Yahya Obaid Omar Bashah	Male	30	Wounded
Ahmad Hassar Mashrai	Male	35	Wounded
Muhammad Amin Izzi al-Ahdal	Male	50	Wounded
Bassam Badr Qasim Mahreqi	Male	26	Wounded
Abdullah Muhammad Muhsin Balkam	Male	23	Wounded
Adel Muhammad Abdullah Zilali	Male	27	Wounded
Ishaq Abd al-Hakim Ahmad al-Shamiri	Male	20	Wounded
Murad Kadaf Sulaiman Asheq	Male	7	Wounded
Abdu Salim Hubal	Male	40	Wounded
Mutia Mansour Said Gabir	Male	14	Wounded
Khalid Ahmad Kadari	Male	38	Wounded
Yahya Ahmad Izzi Gubaili	Male	20	Wounded
Abdu Ibrahim Garahi	Male	45	Wounded
Murad Tahir al-Sharabi	Male	15	Wounded
Muhammad Abd al-Kadir Nassir Hizam	Male	20	Wounded
Futaini Ammar Salim Zawbal	Male	over 18	Wounded
Samir Tahir Hassan Maqbouli	Male	27	Wounded
Basil Hassan Sadiq	Male	28	Wounded
Ghalib Muhammad Antari	Male	36	Wounded
Gamal Muhammad Abdullah Gharmash	Male	25	Wounded
Nadir Rizq Izzi Saghyir	Male	25	Wounded
Haitham Wahb Allah Hafid	Male	16	Wounded
Hisham Ghalib Haroun	Male	35	Wounded
Fadl Omar Obaid Maraqah	Male	30	Wounded
Sami Ahmad Mubarab	Male	30	Wounded
Issam Omar Obaid Maraqah	Male	35	Wounded

**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Izzi Obaid Mass Maraqaq	Male	40	Wounded
Abdullah Obaid Mass Maraqaq	Male	30	Wounded
Fahman Yasir Saif al-Qubati	Male	over 18	Wounded
Abd al-Majid Abdullah Izzi Shaoush	Male	20	Wounded
Muhammad Ali Abdullah al-Qirsh	Male	30	Wounded
Nakli Ahmad	Male	over 18	Wounded
Muhammad Gamal Jidi	Male	over 18	Wounded
Abdullah Awad Qasri	Male	40	Wounded
Haitham Gamal Matari	Male	20	Wounded
Muhammad Saghyir Talha	Male	50	Wounded
Muhammad Abd a-Kadir Nasr al-Sharabi	Male	35	Wounded
Arfat Ahmad Kulaib Duqn	Male	25	Wounded
Obaid Salim Abdullah Khalouf	Male	60	Wounded
Muhammad Awadh Olala	Male	19	Wounded
Hayel Said Ibrahim Khalil (Numari)	Male	19	Wounded
Ibrahim Qasim Muhammad Shalalut (Mahwat)	Male	35	Wounded
Hamdoun Ismail Futaini Qirshi	Male	27	Wounded
Abdullah Abdu Hatib	Male	25	Wounded
Muhammad Omar Muhammad Ahiaf	Male	40	Wounded
Ali Qassim Aqll	Male	55	Wounded
Muhammad Ali Ahmad al-Ammar	Male	over 18	Wounded
Najd Abdu Ali Shama	Male	28	Wounded
Majdi Maged Guman Kharfaj	Male	over 18	Wounded
Nssir Bin Nassir Nawbi	Male	25	Wounded
Ahmad Abdullah Abdu Quroush	Male	26	Wounded
Muhammad Yahya Rudaini	Male	24	Wounded
Sulaiman Muhammad Ali Hajri	Male	58	Wounded
Basim Salim Yasin	Male	22	Wounded
Hussien Ismail Salami	Male	35	Wounded
Abdu Yahya Rafia	Male	over 18	Wounded
Nasser Ahmad Hamoud Fassa	Male	35	Wounded
Muhammad Sulaiman Mahmoud Olaian	Male	50	Wounded
Muhammad Said Awadh Duqn	Male	45	Wounded
Rim Hatash Abdullah Kharfaj	Female	20	Wounded
Sharjaba Muhammad Omar Faraj	Female	42	Wounded
Said Muhammad Talha	Male	30	Wounded
Mahmoud Yahya Qasim al-Ibbi	Male	50	Wounded
Muhammad Yahya Abd al-Baqi al-Ahdal	Male	40	Wounded

**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Fahd Ahmad Salem al-Abd	Male	25	Wounded
Harib Omar Muhammad Kadir	Male	35	Wounded
Muhammad Saghyir Ali Nahari	Male	25	Wounded
Ahmad Mahmoud Gharbi Muhsin	Male	30	Wounded
Fahim Abdu Muhammad Shaoush	Male	30	Wounded
Qaid Hassan Ibrahim Galal	Male	25	Wounded
Maged Salim Muhammad Muhjib	Male	27	Wounded
Ali Ahmad Abdullah Ilias	Male	33	Wounded
Ahmad Muhammad Antari	Male	28	Wounded
Hussein Sulaiman Awadh Kushmoua	Male	60	Wounded
Ibrahim Said Gabir	Male	over 18	Wounded
Abdu Ali Abdullah Hilal	Male	50	Wounded
Naji Muhammad Ismail Najm	Male	36	Wounded
Hisham Ahmad Abdu Bazi	Male	8	Wounded
Abdullah Ahmad Kadari	Male	29	Wounded
Ahmad Muhammad Bin al-Ahdal	Male	55	Wounded
Muhammad Abdullah Numari	Male	22	Wounded
Hussien Ibrahim Muhammad Shaqika	Male	over 18	Wounded
Kamal Ahmad Muhammad Sulaiman Kuba	Male	28	Wounded
Ahmad Futaini Hwais	Male	10	Wounded
Hisham Abdu Awadh Banjooh	Male	25	Wounded
Abdu Ahmad Baishi (Thanab)	Male	35	Wounded
Zyad Rabia Muafa Galagel	Male	12	Wounded
Muhammad Ahmad Maqbuli	Male	over 18	Wounded
Hassan Ahmad Ibrahim Hubaishi	Male	55	Wounded
Saber Ahmad Ismail Dulaiqa	Male	23	Wounded
Said Nasser Tamam	Male	55	Wounded
Abd al-Rahman al-Mizgagi	Male	over 18	Wounded
Muhammad Abd al-Haddi Matah	Male	10	Wounded
Muhammad Ali Ghalib al-Inabi	Male	50	Wounded
Adel Khadim Muqtari	Male	40	Wounded
Issam Muhammad Ali Ikab	Male	36	Wounded
Rabia Murshid Omar Khadim	Female	50	Wounded
Ibrahim Ahmad Hubaishi	Male	31	Wounded
Amin Rizq Izzi Saghyir	Male	30	Wounded
Muhammad Salim al-Maqbouli	Male	35	Wounded
Muhammad Awadh Abd al-Malik	Male	21	Wounded
Ahmad Ismail Futaini Qurashi	Male	23	Wounded

**Location:** Zabid

**Date:** 5/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Faiz Ahmad Qasim Muhawat	Male	19	Wounded
Abd al-Malik Qasri	Male	20	Wounded
Muhammad Daoud Halabi	Male	35	Wounded
Ahmad Salim Amin Balkam	Male	45	Wounded
Abdullah Taher al-Sharabi	Male	21	Wounded
Taysir Muhammad Talha	Male	25	Wounded
Bashir Hussien Abdu Batash	Male	over 18	Wounded
Amro Amr Mass Marfah	Male	over 18	Wounded
Hani Said Ali Gawmah	Male	20	Wounded

**Location:** Hajja

**Date:** 5/29/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Hamid Hassan Sabir	Male	45	Killed
Ali Matar	Male	60	Killed
Abd al-Malik Sabah	Male	10	Killed
Amjad Sabah	Male	5	Wounded
Muhammad Sabah	Male	8	Wounded
Omar al-Qarah	Male	12	Wounded
Abdullah Abdu Dahshush	Male	6	Wounded
Osama al-Hushf	Male	16	Wounded
Muhammad Abd al-Ghani al-Qushybi	Male	6	Wounded
Ismail Ali al-Dukhyna	Male	8	Wounded
Ali Kamil al-Dharwani	Male	3	Wounded
`Amir Ahmed al-Hushf	Male	25	Wounded
Abdu Dahshush	Male	30	Wounded
Bint Muhammad Nasser Sasa	Female	under 18	Wounded
Bint Muhammad Abdullah	Female	under 18	Wounded
Rahma Zid al-Ghurbani	Female	6	Wounded
Bint Abdullah al-Dukaina	Female	under 18	Wounded
Bint Ahmad Sabah	Female	18	Wounded
Ibtihal Dahshush	Female	14	Wounded
Maryam Muhammad Nasser Yaqub	Female	30	Wounded

**Location:** Muthalith Ahem

**Date:** 7/4/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Abdul Salam al-Raimi	Male	over 18	Killed
Abdullah al-Aawar	Male	over 18	Killed
Faisal Ahmad	Male	over 18	Killed
Bashir Ali	Male	over 18	Killed
Abdu Ali	Male	over 18	Killed
Muhammad Ahmad	Male	over 18	Killed
Abdu Ali al-Raimi	Male	over 18	Killed
Waddah Said	Male	over 18	Killed
Shawki Ahmad	Male	over 18	Killed
Ali Shuai	Male	over 18	Killed
Majid Ali	Male	over 18	Killed
Sultan Ahmad	Male	over 18	Killed
Muhammad Hassan Hassan Abkar	Male	35	Wounded
Muhammad Ahmad al-Raimi	Male	over 18	Wounded
al-Maslamani	Male	over 18	Killed
His assistant	Male	over 18	Killed
Faisal Ali Yusif	Male	22	Killed
Hassan Rabia Muhammad	Male	27	Killed
Abdul Wahid al-Zabidi	Male	40	Killed

*\* The rest of the list is available with Abs Clinic and Jumhuri Hospital in Hajja City.*

**Location:** Amran Markets

**Date:** 7/6/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Yahya Yahya Taqi	Male	60	Killed
Habib Saleh Yahya Taqi	Male	38	Killed
Zahir Mabkhut Taqi	Male	29	Killed
Taqi Zahir Mabkhut Taqi	Male	9	Killed
Bashiq Ahmed Musleh	Male	18	Killed
Abd al-Malik Ibrahim Mujahid	Male	16	Killed
Muhammad Nasir al-Jasmi	Male	40	Killed
Rana Muhammad Nasir al-Jasmi	Female	over 18	Killed
Abd al-Fatah Ahmed al-Harhi	Male	30	Killed
Raja Abd al-Fatah al-Harhi	Female	12	Killed
Dhafran al-Sa`lah	Male	40	Killed
Yahya Husain al-Harhi	Male	40	Killed
Atab Yahya Husain al-Harhi	Male	20	Killed

**Location:** Amran Markets

**Date:** 7/6/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
N/A al-Babli	Male	over 18	Killed
Abd al-Ghani Yahya Yahya al-Faqih	Male	17	Killed
Abd al-Latif Mabkhoot Naji	Male	35	Killed
Khairan Abd al-Latif Mabkhoot	Male	8	Killed
Gibran Abu al-Latif	Male	17	Killed
Abdullah Abdu Samad	Male	16	Killed
Abd al-Samad Abd al-Baset Yahya Faqih	Male	12	Killed
Inas Imad al-Thari	Female	15	Killed
Abd al-Malik Ahmad Yahya	Male	15	Killed
Haitham Gamil Qaid Siraj	Male	12	Killed
Muhammad Ahmed Yahya	Male	17	Killed
Muhammad Abd al-Fatah Ahmad Hussien al-Harithi	Male	10	Killed
Atab Yahya Hussien al-Harithi	Male	20	Killed
Muhammad Nasser Muhammad al-Hussami	Male	40	Killed
Zakaria Muhammad Nasser Muhammad al-Hosseini	Male	12	Killed
Rina Muhammad Nasser Muhammad al-Hussami	Female	13	Killed
Muhammad Abd al-Latif Mabkhoot	Male	11	Wounded
Muhib Abd al-Latif Mabkhoot al-Arhabi	Male	13	Wounded
Akram Abd al-Latif Mabkhoot	Male	5	Wounded
Ahmad Gamil Qaid Siraj	Male	11	Wounded
Mustafa Hamoud Hassan al-Ashmouri	Male	over 18	Wounded
Sadam Hassan al-Mahgeri	Male	30	Wounded
Muhammad Derhim al-Tawil	Male	60	Wounded
Sad Yahya al-Qusari	Male	over 18	Wounded
Amjad Majid Mansour Taqi	Male	over 18	Wounded
Abd al-Rahman Fouad Saleh Taqi	Male	over 18	Wounded
Abd al-Malik Ahmad Yahya Saleh Taqi	Male	15	Wounded
Muhammad Ahmad Saleh al-Gawbi	Male	17	Wounded
Hana Mansour Taqi	Female	12	Wounded
Sabah Ahmad al-Abdi	Female	35	Wounded
Ismail Ibrahim al-Mujahid	Male	13	Wounded
Taysier Saleh Yahya Taqi	Male	23	Wounded
Mabrouk Saleh Yahya Taqi	Male	37	Wounded
Sadeq Amin Muhammad Hamoud al-Suala	Male	17	Wounded
Isam Muhammad Hamoud al-Suala	Male	over 18	Wounded
Muhammad Dhafran Hussein al-Suala	Male	40	Wounded

**Location:** Sawan, Sanaa

**Date:** 7/12/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Shuba Khamis al-Jamal	Female	60	Killed
Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	35	Killed
Asad Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	16	Killed
Alaallah Hassan Ahmed Hals al-Jamal	Female	70	Killed
Hassan Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	14	Killed
Nasir Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	10	Killed
Ashuaq Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Female	8	Killed
Raziki Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Female	2 months	Killed
Mariam Muhsin al-Awadi	Female	20	Killed
Dhaifallah Said Khamis al-Jamal	Male	4	Killed
Kusi Said Khamis al-Jamal	Male	3	Killed
Odai Said Khamis al-Jamal	Male	2	Killed
Amora Ali Khamis al-Jamal	Female	22	Killed
Mutasim Darwish Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	2	Killed
Musa Darwish Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	4	Killed
Fuad Darwish Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Male	2 months	Killed
Afnan Salim Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Female	12	Killed
Kefaya Amar Khamis Sa`ad al-Jamal	Female	6	Killed
Yahya Saad al-Jamal	Male	18	Killed
Samara Muhammad Khamis Sa`ad al-Jamal	Female	20	Killed
Shuia Musa Hassan Rajih al-Jamal	Female	2	Killed
Mariam Darwish Gurina	Female	30	Killed
Sahlah Abdullah Hassan al-Jamal	Female	30	Killed

*\*The list of wounded is available in hard copy with Human Rights Watch*

**Location:** Yarim

**Date:** 7/19/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Ziad Akram Ali al-Farz`i	Male	17	Killed
Muhammad Sa`ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Male	43	Killed
Shadad Sa`ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Male	35	Killed
Rasha Muhammad Sa`ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Female	13	Killed
Sa`ad Muhammad Sa`ad al-Nazhi	Male	8	Killed
Su`ad Muhammad Ahmed al-Khubani	Female	37	Killed
Amin Majid Ali Zid (?) al-Suwaidi	Male	4	Killed
Mariam Shadad Sa`ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Female	6	Killed



**Location:** Yarim

**Date:** 7/19/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Muna Shadad Sa'ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Female	5	Killed
Sawsan Shadad Sa'ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Female	3	Killed
Abdu Said al-Wesabi	Male	43	Killed
Najla Ali Qasim	Female	25	Killed
Saqr Adnan al-Shu`ibi	Male	3	Killed
Nasimah Adnan al-Shu`ibi	Female	10	Killed
Hani Abdullah Muhammad al-Ansi	Male	27	Killed
Fathia Muhammad Abdullah al-Ansi	Female	37	Killed
Majid Ali Zid al-Suwaidi	Male	35	Wounded
Rasha Shadad Sa'ad Saleh al-Nazhi	Female	13	Wounded
Salma Muhammad Aiash	Female	over 18	Wounded
Ibrahim Muhammad Sa'ad al-Nazhi	Male	20	Wounded
Hisham Mukhtar al-Ansi	Male	25	Wounded
Mukhtar al-Ansi	Male	35	Wounded
Muhammad Muhammad Sa'ad al-Nazhi	Male	over 18	Wounded
Jarallah Omar al-Siri	Male	25	Wounded
Ali Qasim	Male	60	Wounded
Fatima	Female	65	Wounded
Walid Rajab	Male	35	Wounded
Belkis	Female	35	Wounded
Rafiqah Muhammad al-Nazhi	Female	40	Wounded
Hana Sa'ad al-Nazhi	Female	50	Wounded
Elham Ali Muhammad Qasim	Female	17	Wounded
Hasna Yahya Gaber	Female	over 18	Wounded

**Location:** Mokha Steam Power Plant

**Date:** 7/24/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Abdullah Muhammad Moqbel Bazel	Male		Killed
Mazin Ahmed Hassan al-Mujib	Male		Killed
Moath Abdullah Ali Abdullah	Male		Killed
Ali Fazel al-Abti	Male		Killed
Aymen Abdul Karim Bashir	Male		Killed
Wasim Saif Ahmed Asad	Male		Killed
Amro Ahmed Ba Alawi	Male		Killed
Muhammad Muhammad Ali Aqlan	Male		Killed
Khaled Ahmed Muhammad Qasem al-Sabri	Male		Killed

**Location:** Mokha Steam Power Plant

**Date:** 7/24/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Ahmed Khaled Muhammad Ahmed Ghamazi	Male		Killed
Muhammad Mabruk Ahmed (unclear)	Male		Killed
Ammar Abdul Wasea Andul Waham Ahmed	Male		Killed
Tawfiq Ahmed Said al-Athoori	Male		Killed
Amjad Abdul Karim Bashir	Male		Killed
Muhammad Abdu Hassan al-Sabi	Male		Killed
Ahmed Muhammad Abdu Hassan al-Sabi	Male		Killed
Osama Yusuf Abdul Razaq	Male		Killed
Othman Bajash Othman	Male		Killed
Ahmed Ali Saif al-Adoa	Male		Killed
Bashir al-Salawi	Male		Killed
Thabil Abd al-Rahman Omran Nabil Muhammad Said	Male		Killed
Abd al-Rahman Ghamdan Nabil Muhammad Said	Male		Killed
Aymen Muhammad Ahmed Noaman	Male		Killed
Osama Muhammad Abd al-Hassan al-Absi	Male		Killed
Eissa Muhammad Mahyub	Male		Killed
Abd al-Samad Abd al-Haq al-Sabai	Male		Killed
Hamza Abd al-Rahman Muhammad	Male		Killed
Nazar Muhammadd Abd al-Ghani al-Harmim	Male		Killed
Adib Abd al-Wahab al-Hakimi	Male		Killed
Eissa Muhammad Abd al-Rahim	Male		Killed
Muhammad Adnan Shalan	Male		Killed
Haytham Khaled Muhammad Said al-Sharji	Male		Killed
Shakib Muhammad Abd al-Wadud	Male		Killed
Yusuf Abd al-Razaq al-Hakimi	Male		Killed
unidentified family member	Male	Under 18	Killed
unidentified family member	Male		Killed
unidentified family member	Male		Killed
Sahira Shawqi Shaher al-Adabji	Female		Killed
Bint Ahmed al-Wasabi	Female		Killed
Amana Ahmad Mohsen	Female		Killed
Ala Absi Muhammad Mahyub	Female		Killed
Rasfa Muhammad Qayed	Female		Killed
Asma Muhammad Abd al-Hassan al-Absi	Female		Killed
Eman Qayed al-Sabri	Female		Killed
Doa Qayed al-Sabri	Female		Killed

**Location:** Mokha Steam Power Plant

**Date:** 7/24/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Sahar Qayed Muhammad al-Sabri	Female		Killed
Nahla Muhammad Ahmed Noaman	Female		Killed
Noha Muhammad Ahmed Noaman	Female		Killed
Thoraya Adib Muhammad Taher	Female		Killed
Nedal Muhammad Abdu	Female	Under 18	Killed
Khaled Ahmed Qasem	Male	Under 18	Killed
Yasser Muhammad Saleh	Male	Under 18	Killed
Visiting child from Aden	n/a	Under 18	Killed
Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	Male		Killed
Wife of Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	Female		Killed
1 <sup>st</sup> Child of Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	n/a	Under 18	Killed
2 <sup>nd</sup> Child of Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	n/a	Under 18	Killed
3 <sup>rd</sup> Child of Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	n/a	Under 18	Killed
4 <sup>th</sup> Child of Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	n/a	Under 18	Killed
5 <sup>th</sup> Child of Sadeq Abdullah Saleh	n/a	Under 18	Killed
Sameh Muhammad Ali Ahmad	Male		Wounded
Muhammad Najib Muhammad Abd al-Wadoud	Male		Wounded
Hadil Nabil Abdu Hassan	Female		Wounded
Malak Abdu Muhammad al-Azazi	Female		Wounded
Ali Abd al-Salam	Male		Wounded
Tamir Muhammad Hassan	Male		Wounded
Zakaria Najib Muhammad	Male		Wounded
Hussein Samir	Male		Wounded
Haifa Abd al-Samad Abd al-Khaliq	Female		Wounded
Gamila Ali Hizam	Female		Wounded
Gamil Qaid Thabit al-Subaihi	Male		Wounded
Muhammad Ali Tariq	Male		Wounded
Abd al-Wasia Abdullah al-Hakimi	Male		Wounded

*\*The details of five more casualties are on file with the power plant administration*

**Location:** Ibb

**Date:** 8/8/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Sa'adah Ali al-Masan	Female	70	Killed
Yasmine Saleh Qaid al-Haddi	Female	28	Killed
Adhbah Sa'ad Abdullah al-Haddi	Male	38	Killed

Shehab Sinan Ahmed al-Haddi	Male	6	Killed
Inferaj Sinan Ahmed al-Haddi	Female	7	Killed
Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Sa'ad al-Haddi	Male	31	Killed
Muhammad Najji Masa'ad al-Saidi	Male	30	Killed
Said Wahib Tanbash	Male	3	Killed
Mane'e al-Haddi	Male	32	Wounded
Hamdi Ahmed Masa'ad al-Haddi	Male	31	Wounded

**Location:** Al-Sham Water Bottling Plant

**Date:** 8/30/2015

Name	Gender	Age	Killed/Wounded
Abdullah Haddi Muhammad Rouzom	Male	32	Killed
Omar Muhammad Ahmad Hashed	Male	28	Killed
Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Hashed	Male	25	Killed
Abdu Muhammad Ahmad Hassen Shabin	Male	20	Killed
Ahmad Ibrahim Muhammad Hashed	Male	13	Killed
Ali Shamil Ali Boheis	Male	40	Killed
Hassen Muhammad Shabin	Male	30	Killed
Hashed Ali Bin Ali Hashed	Male	16	Killed
Muhammad Hassan Jalhouf	Male	45	Killed
Muhammad al-Roussaie	Male	40	Killed
Hisham Ali Shouai Makin	Male	28	Killed
Walid Muhammad Ibrahim Hansh	Male	25	Killed
Ali Doubish	Male	25	Killed
Ahmad Ali Shabin	Male	16	Killed
Ali Bin Hashed	Male	35	Wounded
Ibrahim Ali Hashed	Male	27	Wounded
Saad Ali Ahmad Hashed	Male	19	Wounded
Hamza Abdu Muhammad Rouzom	Male	26	Wounded
Zain Yusif Zain	Male	35	Wounded
Abdu Ibrahim Muhammad Hashed	Male	32	Wounded
Yahya Ali Donami	Male	28	Wounded
Ibrahim Taib Ali	Male	24	Wounded
Abdu Ali Muhammad Hashed	Male	25	Wounded
Adel Muhammad Ismael	Male	18	Wounded
Muhammad Ibrahim Zamoh	Male	40	Wounded

**Appendix II:  
Human Rights Watch Letter to the  
Minister of Defense His Royal Highness  
Mohammad bin Salman Al Sa`ud**

September 26, 2015

His Royal Highness Mohammad bin Salman Al Sa`ud  
Minister of Defense  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Royal Highness,

Human Rights Watch has been conducting research into alleged violations of the laws of war by all parties to the armed conflict in Yemen, including Coalition forces, Ansar Allah (the Houthis), and other armed groups. This includes research into a number of airstrikes by Coalition forces that struck residential homes, markets, and a prison, and killed and wounded civilians or damaged civilian property.

To help us understand whether these attacks were carried out in accordance with the laws of war, we would appreciate responses to the following questions with regard to each of the attacks listed in the attachment.

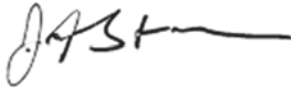
1. What was the intended target of the attack?
2. What weapon or weapons were used in the attack?
3. What precautions were taken to minimize civilian harm?

Any other information you can provide on any of these incidents, including whether you are conducting an investigation into possible laws-of-war violations, would be appreciated.

To meet our publication schedule, we would need to receive a response from you by October 15 so that your answers and comments can be reflected in our reporting.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response and stand ready to discuss with you our findings.

Sincerely,



Joe Stork  
Deputy Director  
Middle East and North Africa Division  
Human Rights Watch

**Aerial attacks in Yemen under Human Rights Watch investigation:**

1. Date: April 11; Time: 11:45 a.m.; Latitude: 15°39'36.04"N; Longitude: 43°57'18.59"E.
2. Date: May 12; Time: 3:15 p.m.; Latitude: 15°59'56.27"N; Longitude: 43°11'55.88"E.
3. Date: May 12; Time: 4:15 p.m.; Latitude: 14°11'49.05"N; Longitude: 43°19'17.42"E.
4. Date: May 29; Time: 4 p.m.; Latitude: 15°41'12.22"N; Longitude: 43°36'19.04"E.
5. Date: July 4; Time: 10 p.m.; Latitude: 16°19'31.58"N; Longitude: 43° 5'22.38"E.
6. Date: July 6; Time: about 4:30 p.m.; Latitude: 15°46'8.98"N; Longitude: 44° 0'22.42"E.
7. Date: July 6; Time: about 4:40 p.m.; Latitude: 15°46'38.81"N; Longitude: 44° 0'46.59"E.
8. Date: July 12; Time: 12:30 a.m.; Latitude: 15°22'48.43"N; Longitude: 44°14'19.99"E.
9. Date: July 19; Time: 2 a.m.; Latitude: 14°19'4.49"N; Longitude: 44°22'50.35"E.
10. Date: July 24; Time: about 9:30 p.m.; Latitude: 13°20'40.79"N; Longitude: 43°15'26.26"E.
11. Date: August 30; Time: 03:52 a.m.; Latitude: 16.080000°N; Longitude: 43.137183°E (MGRS: 38QLC0074478682).

Times are indicated in UTC +3:00. Impact coordinates are presented in the dd.mm.ss.sss format and were recorded with a civilian GPS unit (WGS84).

# “What Military Target Was in My Brother’s House?”

## Unlawful Coalition Airstrikes in Yemen

On March 26, 2015, a coalition of Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia, with United States participation, began a military campaign against Houthi forces in Yemen that has so far resulted in the deaths of more than 2,500 civilians, mostly by coalition airstrikes.

*“What Military Target Was in My Brother’s House?”: Unlawful Coalition Airstrikes in Yemen*, documents 10 coalition airstrikes from April through August that appear to have been in violation of the laws of war. Human Rights Watch investigated these incidents by interviewing victims and witnesses to the attacks, searching for possible military targets in the vicinity, and speaking to medical staff who treated the injured. In each case, Human Rights Watch found either no evident military target or that the attack failed to distinguish civilians from military objectives.

On the basis of information from relatives, witnesses, medical staff, and local authorities, Human Rights Watch compiled the names of 309 individuals—199 men, 43 women, and 67 children—killed in coalition air attacks.

The report calls on coalition members and the United States to abide by the laws of war, including the prohibitions on attacks that target or indiscriminately harm civilians, and to conduct transparent and impartial investigations into credible allegations of laws-of-war violations, including the incidents documented in the report. The report also calls on Houthi forces to take all feasible steps to minimize the risks to populations under their control, including by assisting civilians leave areas subject to military attack and avoiding deploying in densely populated areas. Human Rights Watch calls on the coalition’s supporters, including the United States, to conduct their own investigations into strikes involving possible laws-or-war violations that they have directly supported, or in which the coalition used weapons sold by them.



*Residents gather their remaining possessions two days after coalition airstrikes on the residential compound of a steam power plant in the coastal city of Mokha, on July 24, killing 65 civilians.*

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