



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

AMID INTERNATIONAL INACTION SAUDI-LED COALITION AIRSTRIKE KILLED 40 YEMENI CHILDREN



Thousands of Yemeni attend a mass funeral in the northern city of Saada for the victims of the air strike which killed 40 children

Thousands of mourners gathered in Yemen's northern city of Saada Monday for the funerals of 52 people, including [40 children](#), who were killed in a US-backed Saudi-led coalition [airstrike on a school bus](#) while it drove through a market in Dahyan, a town in Saada, last week.

The massacre of school boys between the ages of 6 and 11 was one of the deadliest attacks on children in the history of Yemen's brutal war. Images posted online shows that a [US-built MK 82 bomb](#) was used in the bombing.

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Amid outrage from international human rights groups and U.N. officials, Riyadh continued to defend the raid as a “legitimate military action”.

Attack and Victims

The Saudi-led coalition strike that targeted the school bus happened in the middle of the market of Dahyan. All of those who died were residents, children and shop owners.

Yemeni authorities said last week that the number of casualties stood at 51 killed including 40 children, and at least 79 people wounded of whom 56 were children. The International Committee of the Red Cross reported the same toll on Friday.

On Monday another child had died from his wounds, raising the toll to 52.

International condemnation and investigation

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has condemned the air strike, calling for an independent investigation into the deadly attack.

Saudi Arabia refused and responded it will launch its own investigation, claiming the air strike was a legitimate military operation. Later, the US - who is also part of the coalition that has targeted civilians FOR FOUR YEARS - announced they will send a general to Saudi Arabia to help with the Saudi investigation.

This is not the first massacre in Yemen. The US-backed Saudi-led bombing campaign has repeatedly been committing war crimes. Two years ago, they killed 120 people in a market. They also killed 140 mourners in a funeral hall. And of course, every single day, there are ILLEGAL airstrikes and CIVILIAN casualties of the Saudi-led airstrikes.



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What Yemenis ask for is an international independent investigation, which has been put forward at the UN repeatedly and rejected by the Saudi-led coalition.

US support

The United States and other Western powers provide arms and intelligence to the alliance that have killed hundreds of civilians at hospitals, schools and markets.

On 13 August, President Trump signed off a US military bill – with a record-setting \$717 billion military spending bill, \$82 billion above the current year. Some senators and congressmen have managed to insert some Yemen provisions that are meant to limit US military spending on refuelling missions in Yemen.

The Saudi-led coalition relies on the US military to refuel their jets mid-air. This is just one of the many services that the US provides for the Saudi-led coalition. This bill contained provisions saying that it could not be used toward mid-air refuelling, but it allows for some exceptions.

It says that mid-air refuelling missions can occur as long as the Saudis and the Emiratis show that they are taking certain actions to prevent civilian casualties.

This is very vague language essentially providing loopholes for using military spending toward mid-air refuelling which does nothing to protect the Yemeni citizens from Saudi bombs, US-sold bombs to the Saudis and the US assistance of the Saudi-led military.

The fact that the coalition is continuously allowed to investigate its own crimes is preposterous. They have essentially absolved themselves of all wrongdoing every time they have investigated these violations.



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ICSFT condemns in the strongest terms the US-backed Saudi-led coalition brutal attack in Yemen that took the life of at least 52 innocent people, amongst them 40 young children. We deplore all violations committed against international law by this coalition and its supporters for the past four years. The US, which is part of the Saudi-led coalition, is responsible just as much as the Saudis and Emiratis are in the bombing of these children.

We urge the international community to condemn this attack and put pressure for an international independent and credible investigation, and ultimately end this genocidal war by Saudi Arabia.