



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 June 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-seventh session

21 June–9 July 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Joint written statement* submitted by Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



The Effects of Yemen War on children

The war on Yemen is considered as the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world for the past six years and has raised many concerns about the human rights of civilians, especially women and children. The attacks still continue with the outbreak of Covid-19, and the situation has become much more critical due to the country's inadequate infrastructures. A generation of Yemeni children has been severely affected by the deprivation of the most basic human rights, including the right to education.

According to the Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.”

This is while, in a September 2020 report¹, the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen noted with great concern that some parties of the conflict are involved in the military use of schools, the bombing of schools and the targeting of educators which continue to deprive children of their right to education.

Yemen is one of the world's largest humanitarian catastrophes, with 20.7 million people - or 66 percent of the population - including 11.3 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. There are currently more than 3.5 million people internally displaced in Yemen, most of whom are women and children.

In addition, according to the data analyzed by Save the Children International, in March 2021, it is estimated that 5 attacks on schools left 30,600 children without access to education which raises the issue of education crisis in this country.

These figures are more than double the number of attacks on training centers reported in the last quarter of 2020. In total, more than 2 million children have dropped out of school and at least 2,500 educational institutions are affected by the war.

However, according to paragraph 1 of the Article 77 of the First Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, “Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The Parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason”.

Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims believes that the war has led to the destruction of educational infrastructure, death and injury of many children and their deprivation of education. In other words, in present-day Yemen, the possibility of targeting schools is high due to the war and the daily bombardment of civilian targets including markets, weddings, hospitals, medical centers, and even water facilities by the Coalition which has continued in the last six years. Destruction of schools means the destruction of the educational system in Yemen. Children in these situations suffer a lot of stress and instead of studying, they should be afraid of attacks and bombings. These conditions have not only endangered the lives of children but also destroyed their dreams for a better life through education.

Recommendations:

Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims calls on the Special Rapporteur on the right to education to travel to Yemen and conduct a comprehensive field research on Yemeni children and their access to education and provide the international community with the findings.

¹ A/HRC/45/6.

Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims calls on the Special Rapporteur to put pressure on Coalition forces to end all airstrikes, bombings and attacks on schools and training facilities as soon as possible.
