



Houthi Crimes in Yemen 2020

January 2021

**Report of the Egyptian Coalition
for Human Rights and Development**



Introduction

The Arab region and the peoples of the Middle East are suffering from the consequences of the phenomenon of terrorism and its impact on the human rights situation and the multiplicity of terrorist organizations that pose a threat to the state of security and social peace in Arab societies, which suffer from the fragility of the components of the state and the ineffectiveness of its institutions, especially against the strikes of terrorism coming from within.

The phenomenon of cross-border terrorism, the emergence of terrorist organizations such as the Houthis in Yemen, their incursion into Yemen with the support of the State of Iran and their use as a tool to threaten the security of the Arab Gulf have been exacerbated by the violence they have committed, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, increasing the number of victims of violence and complicating an agreement for peace in Yemen 10 years after the Yemeni conflict erupted.

The recent US decision to recognize the Houthis as a terrorist group was a late move toward criminalizing the actions of the organization, which caused hundreds of casualties in Yemen and caused numerous material losses to Saudi Arabia and threatened the Arab Gulf region with violence and piracy against passing ships, which affected the trade process and the maritime-based economy, which is a continuing violation of the Rome Convention signed on 10/03/1999. on the suppression of illegal acts against the safety of maritime and ships, whether military, commercial or political, the International Piracy Condemnation Convention of 1988 and the Rome Protocol of 10/03/1989 on the prevention of illegal acts against fixed platforms on the continental shelf and the 2005 Protocol to the Convention on the Suppression of Illegal Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation.



The militia's bombing of Aden airport in southern Yemen, which killed 135 civilians, journalists and International Red Cross staff and met with numerous international condemnations, constitutes a serious violation by the group against the Montreal Convention of 23/09/1971 on the suppression of illegal acts against the safety of civil aviation. It came into force in 1973 and the Montreal Protocol of 24/02/1988 on the suppression of illegal violence at airports using civilian aircraft.

In this report, we monitor how the organization poses a threat to human rights in Yemen and neighboring countries due to its use of violence and terrorism in contravention of international norms and human rights charters.

Who are the Houthis?

They are a "Shiite religious group based on loyalty to the imam and follows the Twelver sect same as Iran", and the Houthi elements in Yemen have emerged from the womb of the Zaidi branch, named after Imam Zeid bin Ali, one of the three Shiite groups: Zaidi, Twelver, and Ismaili, and followers of this sect reside in the north of the country. Badreddine al-Houthi has led the movement after the killing of its leader, his son Hussein al-Houthi, in 2004, and most of its members live in northern Yemen, and their main stronghold is Sa'da province near Saudi Arabia, but they have also managed to spread to other areas in southern Yemen.

The beginning of the organization «Young Believers» dates back to 1990, in some areas of Sa'da province, which is 240 km north of Sana'a, and later on the declaration of Yemeni unity and the constitution allowed political pluralism in a cultural and educational framework. The Yemeni government tolerated the establishment of educational centers by the Houthis which



became to be the beacon of many students coming to it from various provinces historically known to belong to the Zaidi Hadawy sect, and then went beyond Sa'da governorate to many provinces and cities. According to some estimates, the number of students was about 18,000, sixty-seven workshops and centers, spread to nine Yemeni provinces, including some sunni or mixed provinces.

The Yemeni Shiite presence took on a different dimension with Iran's approach to exporting the idea of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, so the «Young Believers» evolved to become an armed organization, or what is now known as the Houthi group, which began since June of 2004, where the organization, or part of it, turned into those military militias with an ideological dimension.

An Iranian government study published in the Iranian journal Foreign Policy Studies revealed that "the success of the Islamic revolution in Iran caused the formation of Ansar Allah (Houthis) in Yemen, with the aim of standing up to tyranny and foreign domination over Yemen", and the study clearly talked about the tools of the Iranian regime to support the Houthi militia at the cultural level as well as its support militarily and politically, and Tehran's efforts to invade Yemen culturally with the aim of spreading its sect and ideology among Yemenis.

"The Supreme Leader of Iran has repeatedly stressed in his official speeches the need to provide direct assistance and support to Yemenis," said the study, entitled "The Role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Supporting the Yemeni People."

The study noted that "Tehran plays a role in supporting the Yemeni people politically, "including hosting Houthi delegations officially, and holding meetings with senior officials even with the



Supreme Leader, as well as opening an office for the Houthis in Tehran, in conjunction with the dispatch of an Iranian ambassador to Yemen.

The Iranian study acknowledged Tehran's interference in the Yemeni crisis, stating that "Iran's support for the Yemeni people requires trimming the nails of foreign players in the Yemeni political scene, and striking anti-Yemen plans," pointing out that Iran is the first country to recognize and officially receive Yemen's Houthi ambassador.

In addition to this Iran provides support to the Houthis at the cultural level, including "media support in various media oriented in foreign languages, organizing conferences and seminars in support of the Houthis, and dedicating Iranian films and series to Yemeni channels, especially those works that discuss the topics of resistance."

"Iran also offers scholarships to outstanding Yemeni students, supporting and producing works of art on the issue of the Yemeni people, and even preparing scientific research that is in the interest of supporting the Yemeni people", the study continued.

The Study also noted that among Iran's cultural support for the Houthis is "the focus of Friday sermons in Iran on highlighting the suffering of Yemenis, condemning Saudis, and organizing cultural and artistic competitions for Yemeni children."

The following item in the Iranian study may illustrate the regime's efforts in Tehran to invade Yemen culturally and sectarianly through the Houthis, as the study revealed that "Iranis working to attract Yemeni students studying religious sciences to Iranian Shiite estates."

In general, the Houthis' follows in the lines of Lebanon's Hezbollah, although the group has not yet announced its transformation into a recognized political party for the authorities, but borrows



a recent name that entered the National Dialogue Conference known as Ansar Allah and receives support from Iran and the participation of The Lebanese Hezbollah in the project of establishing the Shiite Crescent.

The Houthi movement initially appeared as a proselytizing movement before it became a social and political movement. There are those who date the start of the group to 1992 with the name of "Young Believers". The Houhtis like many similar groups that engaged in political work in their provinces, participated in demonstrations against the late President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and then took over the capital Sana'a, in what was described as the Houthi coup against the legitimate Yemeni government, which led to them entering a war with the Yemeni government and the Arab alliance led by Saudi Arabia.

The fall of Saleh's rule in 2012 was a valuable opportunity for the Houthis to consolidate their position and influence in Yemen, even extending their control in 2014 over the capital Sanaa.

The Houthis have a huge arsenal of weapons and ammunition thanks to its relationship with Iran, the main supplier of weapons to the Houthis. In addition to taking over many weapons from the Yemeni army.

Child Recruitment Crime

The Houthis recruited children and adolescents and conscripted them into the fighting, with the blessing of the tribes supporting them, and the number of children recruited into the Houthi ranks has increased steadily, the latest Yemeni government statistics indicate that 23,000 children recruited by the Houthi militia, including 2,500 children. Since the beginning of 2018, the number has risen to 25,000 according to other human rights statistics, mostly from the cities of Sana'a, Damar, Omran, Al-Mahweet and Hajjah, and have been distributed to the fronts, to



participate directly in combat operations, in violation of international conventions, and laws protecting the rights of the child.

According to UN reports, about 50 percent of Houthi fighters have fought since 2004. Experts in child psychology estimate that the nature of Yemeni society, which is full of weapons and glorified early masculinity, as well as factors such as widespread illiteracy and poverty, have all helped the group attract thousands of young people to its ranks after undergoing intensive sectarian education in its specialized centers. According to Yemeni and international human rights reports, the war sparked by the Houthis in Yemen has pushed more than 2 million children into the labor market due to difficult economic conditions, in addition to depriving more than 4.5 million children of education, including 1.6 million children who have been denied access to school in the past two years.

International humanitarian law prohibits the use of children in combat during international and non-international armed conflicts, and under the ICC Statute, "mandatory or voluntary recruitment of children" into armed forces or groups constitutes a war crime in international and non-international armed conflicts.

States and international organizations have condemned alleged child recruitment practices, for example, in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Myanmar and Uganda, and in a resolution on children in armed conflict, adopted in 1999, the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned the recruitment of children as a violation of international law.

Refusing to calm down and thwarting peace

The Houthis are pursuing a political approach, rejecting any solutions to the Yemeni crisis and were the direct cause of the failure of the Geneva peace talks in September 2018, where the



Houthi delegation was absent from attending on the pretext of not receiving guarantees for their return to Sana'a, which indicates the ambiguity of the movement's objectives and what it seeks to achieve, especially in the face of the growing number of victims of the war in Yemen as a result of the ongoing conflict between the Houthis and the Yemeni government.

The group has carried out all kinds of terrorist crimes, including killing, kidnapping, torturing and displacing thousands of Yemenis. According to official Yemeni statistics, the Houthi militia blew up 898 houses, private property and public facilities, including 753 residential houses,⁴⁵ mosques, a Qur'an house,³⁶ schools and educational facilities, and turned 160 mosques into military barracks and rest rooms for their members.

At the external level, the militia continued its terrorist and criminal acts, which posed a threat to the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and the region as a whole, but also to global security by threatening traffic in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and threatening the global oil trade and Saudi oil installations.

The launch of Iranian missiles and drones by the Houthi militia has become a valuable propaganda tool to boost the morale of its members with fictitious victories, as well as an Iranian strategy aimed at political pressure and disruption of global oil supplies.

Over the past months, the Houthis have launched several long-range and short-range missiles and explosive drones in areas of Saudi and Yemeni territory, and the Arab coalition's defenses have succeeded through intercepts, collecting overwhelming evidence of the flow of Iranian missiles to the Houthis, through projectile debris with Iranian manufacturing posters, seizure of smuggled arms shipments from Iran, training materials and missile-related equipment found on the front lines of combat with militias.



According to U.S. reports, Iran's top revolutionary guard officer, Abdul Rida Shahli, who is in Yemen to support Houthi militias, is the mastermind behind the launch of ballistic missiles, drones and boats and overseeing the smuggling of arms shipments from Tehran.

The militia also has a black record of targeting international shipping lines, targeting a number of oil and humanitarian ships in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait and off the port of Al-Makha, with attacks carried out by Iranian-made sea boats and thermal missiles, which made the demand for their inclusion on the list of international terrorist organizations a "formal and popular demand" in Yemen.

Terrorist crimes committed by Houthi militias in Yemen in 2020.

Houthi violations against the Yemeni people increased during 2020, with more than 2,914 violations, including the killing of 64 children by Houthi snipers and nearly 267 victims of landmines and improvised explosive devices, while it has expanded the targeting of civilian facilities, whether private or public, the destruction of 708 buildings and facilities by the Houthi militia has been monitored, including the total destruction of some 18 schools.

Houthi militias concluded in 2020 by targeting several civilian facilities in Taiz alone during December, which amounted to about 55 violations between public and private property, most notably the bombing of the Teachers Institute, Al-Safwa General Hospital and Al-Ahli Club, other than 52 violations against private property resulting in the complete destruction of about 8 houses as a result of the shelling of medium and heavy weapons and the bombing of 14 houses by planting explosives directly.



Examples of terrorist crimes committed by Houthi militias against civilians and installations in Yemen during 2020

1. On January 3, 2020, Houthi militias blew up the house of a tribal sheikh after a military campaign launched on a village in Ibb governorate in central Yemen, where the Houthis blew up the house of Sheikh Abd Rabbo al-Bakhiti in the village of "Azam" in Al-Sadr's isolation in Habeesh district north of Ibb province.
2. On January 22, 2020, two girls were killed in a Rocket Attack by the Houthis on the house of Barmani Yamni, where the rocket "Palisti" targeted the house of representative Massad al-Suwaidi in Marib province, killing his daughter-in-law and daughter, and the representative was seriously injured in addition to injuring 3 of his relatives.
3. Houthi militias shelled May 22nd hospital and a ceasefire observation checkpoint inside the western Yemeni city of Hodeidah, where a fire broke out in the hospital building after it was targeted by three shells. On January 24, 2020.
4. On January 27, 2020, 3 people were killed and 9 others injured when a Houthi artillery fire hit the al-Muqhaiya market in the fog area west of Taiz.
5. On February 5, Yemeni national Fatima Salem lost her right arm and left leg after a Houthi mortar shell landed on her while grazing sheep in haifan, south of Taiz province.
6. During March, Houthi militias blew up two schools in Mederia islands in Marib province east of Sana'a, al-Saleh and Al Muthanna schools, and kidnapped teachers Yahia Caid and Tariq al-Jabri as they expelled and displaced a number of teachers in the directorate.



7. A landmine planted by Houthi militias explodes on a highway in Al-Darimi district, south of Hodeidah, western Yemen, killing two children, while a civilian was injured when an anti-vehicle landmine exploded in a truck carrying workers in al-Ruma area east of Al-Makha on March 26.
8. On March 29, Houthi militias bombed the Brotherhood Thabet industrial and commercial complex in Hodeidah city, injuring seven workers.
9. On April 5, 2020, the Houthis bombed the women prisoners' section of the central prison with heavy weapons, killing eight women as well as a child who was visiting her mother in prison and injuring 12 other ,women.
10. On April 6, 2020, a Houthi sniper stationed in Tabba al-Kambitin in Al-Zanuh, north of the city, targeted two nephews playing near their home, killing one (10) years old and the other 8 years old.
11. On April 12, Houthi militias blew up the ancient citadel of al-Quwaba in the northwestern province of Hajjah, one of the landmarks of Yemen's ancient civilization.
12. On April 19, Houthi militias bombed the Safaa Private Hospital in Hajjah province, partially destroying the hospital serving thousands of muwat, and targeting the WHO warehouse by snipers who prevented employees from entering.
13. On April 24, an explosive device left over from Houthi militias exploded, killing two citizens and injuring eight others south of Hodeidah in western Yemen, and burning the bus carrying passengers in Al-Safariya in al-Jah area of Beit al-Faqih directorate in Hodeidah governorate.



14. On May 1, Houthi militias stormed a mosque in the village of Makad al-Amhal "Hamir" in The Directorate of Atma, west of the city of Zamar, and killed imam and preacher of the mosque "Shawki Jaber Mohammed Rifan" in front of the worshippers and fired the light indiscriminately at the worshippers.
15. Eighteen civilians, including 15 children, were killed and wounded in al-Zahra neighborhood of the current directorate east of Hodeidah city as a result of artillery shelling by Houthi militias on May 31.
16. A Houthi shell hit al-Ba'ara neighborhood in central Taiz, killing a woman and injuring six others with various shrapnel, including children, on June 3rd.
17. On June 4, Houthi gunmen opened fire on a minibus dedicated to transporting passengers between areas of Ibb province, killing a Yemeni woman and her son, and another civilian on a motorcycle near the bus was injured.
18. On June 26, a Houthi mortar shell landed on the house of a citizen in the quarter-market neighborhood of Hesse, south of Hodeidah, killing a woman and her granddaughter.
19. A Houthi militia leader shot dead a citizen in The Omaran neighborhood in northern Yemen in front of his wife and children after he attacked the house and stormed his house on July 11th.
20. In August, a sniper belonging to the Houthi militias at the Central Security Camp in The Yemeni city of Taiz shot the child Rueda Saleh, known as the 8-year-old "Water Child", injuring her by a gunshot wound to the head while searching the water where she was. Carrying an empty container on its way to the track in al-Rawda neighborhood in order



to fill it, her brother rescued her crawling as she continued to shoot at them and was taken to hospital and performed a successful surgery to remove the bullet from her head.

21. By the end of August, kidnapped educator Mohammed Abdullah Mohsen Salba died of brutal torture in Houthi militia prisons for four consecutive days until he was horribly killed after being kidnapped from the northwestern Yemeni city of Hajjah.
22. Houthi militias blew up the houses of two brothers Abed Rabbo and Saleh Ahmed al-Jarin in al-Zub village in Al-Quraishiya directorate northwest of Al-Bayda
23. On September 24, Houthi militias shelled residential neighborhoods in the center of the city of Hesse, south of Hodeidah, using heavy 120-caliber mortar shells and RPG shells, causing serious damage to the homes of citizens, some of which were completely destroyed and animals also died from shrapnel.
24. On September 26, Houthi militias carried out indiscriminate shelling of residential villages and citizen farms in the mountainous and Al-Faza areas of Al-Tahita directorate south of Hodeidah in western Yemen, where targeting and shelling with machine guns caused panic and panic among the people and disrupted their work in agricultural fields.
25. In mid-October, a Houthi supervisor of the Houthi leadership, Abu Alaa, who was appointed by the militias, took more than 18 children in Sana'a city, where he raped, photographed and then killed them. It is reported that the perpetrator acts as the supervisor of the security square of Fortyth Street, according to the report published by the Yemeni Will Organization.
26. On October 26th, a houthi militia bomb targeted Al-Amal Cancer Hospital in Taiz, injuring 2 hospital staff and causing extensive damage to the health facility.



27. Houthi militias launched a booby-trapped boat prepared to blow up a merchant ship in the southern Red Sea on Wednesday, November 25, and the forces of the Alliance for the Support of Legitimacy in Yemen confronted it and thwarted the terrorist operation, which resulted in minor damage to the commercial ship as a result of some fragments of the bombing of the booby-trapped boat.
28. In late November 2020, Houthi militias shelled residential areas and neighborhoods with artillery mortars and medium weapons in Al-Darhmi district of Hadida, western Yemen, killing 14 civilians, including 5 children and 4 women, as well as displacing several families from the village of Al-Qaza, southwest of Al-Darhmi district in Hadida, western Yemen, to safe areas for fear of their lives as a result of the ongoing shelling.
29. Al-Houthi militia blew up two houses by laying mines near the neighborhood of the School of Muhammad Ali Osman, east of the Yemeni city of Taiz, one for a person working as a "photojournalist" and the other for one of his neighbors on Nov. 29, 2020, as part of its approach to blowing up the homes of its opponents as part of its policy of forced displacement and terrorism of the civilian population.
30. On Monday morning (November 30, 2020), houthi terrorist militias fired a ballistic missile from Omran province using civilian areas as the launch site and the missile landed after it was launched into Yemeni territory in Sa'da province, and Yemeni authorities did not announce any casualties.
31. November 30, Al-Houthi militias shelled residential neighborhoods in the east and north of Taiz city, killing two girls and injuring four others, including a woman, in Asyfra neighborhood north of Taiz, and al-Safwa Hospital received the bodies of two girls, aged



seven months and two years old, and four other injured, including a woman, injured by the shelling.

32. An explosive device planted by Houthi militias on the Al-Tahita Al-Peacha line in Yemen's Hodeidah province killed 12 civilians, including six dead and six wounded, in late November.
33. At the beginning of December, the women's forces of the Houthis called "Zenbiyat" broke into a large number of girls' schools in the capital Sana'a with the aim of distributing Houthi pamphlets and notes and throwing sectarian quotas on female students at various levels of school, with female principals threatening to dismiss or imprison them if they refused to allow those lectures to be given.
34. On December 3, 2020, the Houthi group attacked the private industrial and commercial complex of the "Thabet Brothers" located in the area of control of the Joint Yemeni Forces in Hodeidah governorate with five rocket-propelled grenades and two mortar shells, killing 9 workers and injuring at least 7 others.
35. Houthi militias on Saturday (December 12th) carried out artillery shelling targeting al-Ahli Sports Club in the besieged city of Taiz, killing Nasser al-Rimi and his son and injuring two other children while exercising in the club's stadium.
36. On Dec. 13, Houthi militias shelled the village of Beit Magare in Hesse district of Hodeidah governorate, targeting houses of residents and mosques of the village, causing significant material damage to it as a result of the shelling with heavy and medium weapons, and two reconnaissance planes were spotted flying over the target village.

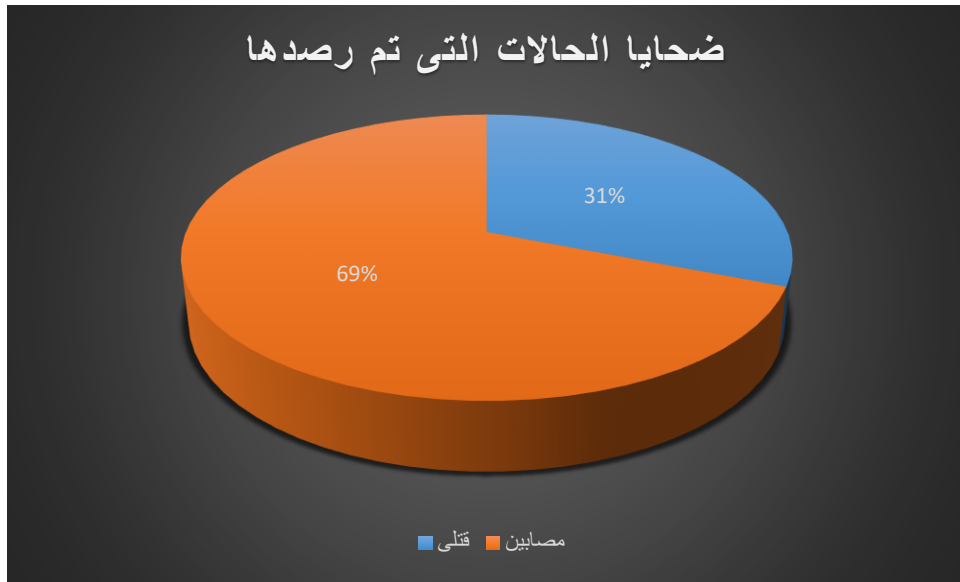


37. Houthi forces blew up a number of houses in Bani Kholi area of Manbah, where Houthi forces broke into the Area of Bani Kholi in the border directorate of Manba after besieging for more than 5 days because the Bani Kholi tribes refused to send their sons to participate with Houthi forces in wars and terrorist acts, killed tribal leader Salman Manaa al-Jalhoui, and assaulted tribal women and arrested a large number of people, including the wounded.
38. Houthi militias carried out raids on schools in the Yemeni capital Sana'a during the second half of December to collect money from school students under the pretext of community participation and to improve the conditions of teachers and transfer those funds to the militia account to support their terrorist acts, where they distributed empty envelopes to students urging them to pay a sum of their personal allowance to support teachers contrary to the truth, and some sources have said that these amounts are often taken in force within the limits of 1000 riyals per month.
39. Forces of Houthi militias killed a woman named Ahlam Mohammed Moqbel Al-Ashari, 25, in front of her four children in a town in al-Adin district northwest of Ibb province on December 25, 2020 after assaulting her and two of her sons. The four, who are four months old and died as soon as they arrived at the hospital, the Houthi forces had broken into the house in search of the husband [Mohammed Moqbel al-Ashari] and did not find him and they assaulted the wife and her children before she died of her injuries.
40. Houthi militias targeted members of Yemen's new government as they arrived at Aden airport on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, carrying out two explosions accompanied by gunfire at Aden airport when a plane carrying members of the government arrived,

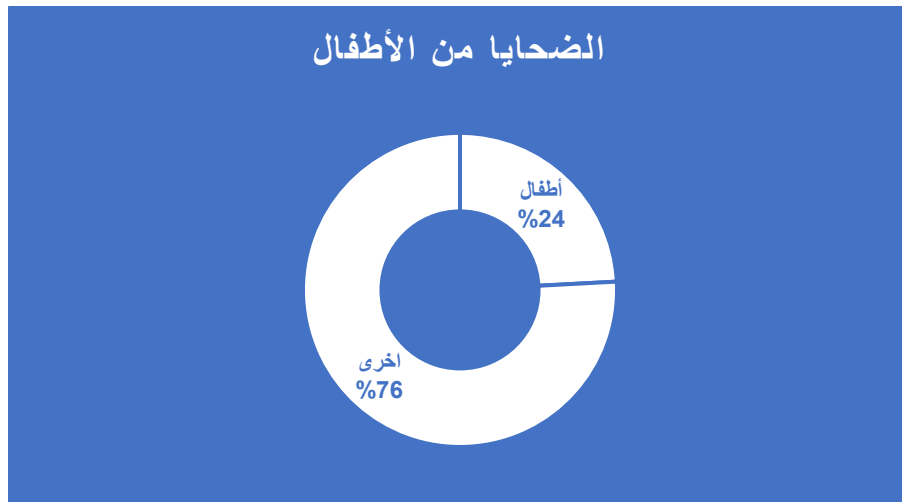


killing 22 people and injuring 50, including civilians, local officials and media, as a preliminary toll that can be higher, and the security belt and presidential protection forces and forces of the Arab Alliance intervened to transfer the president and members of the Yemeni government to the Palace of Machiq.

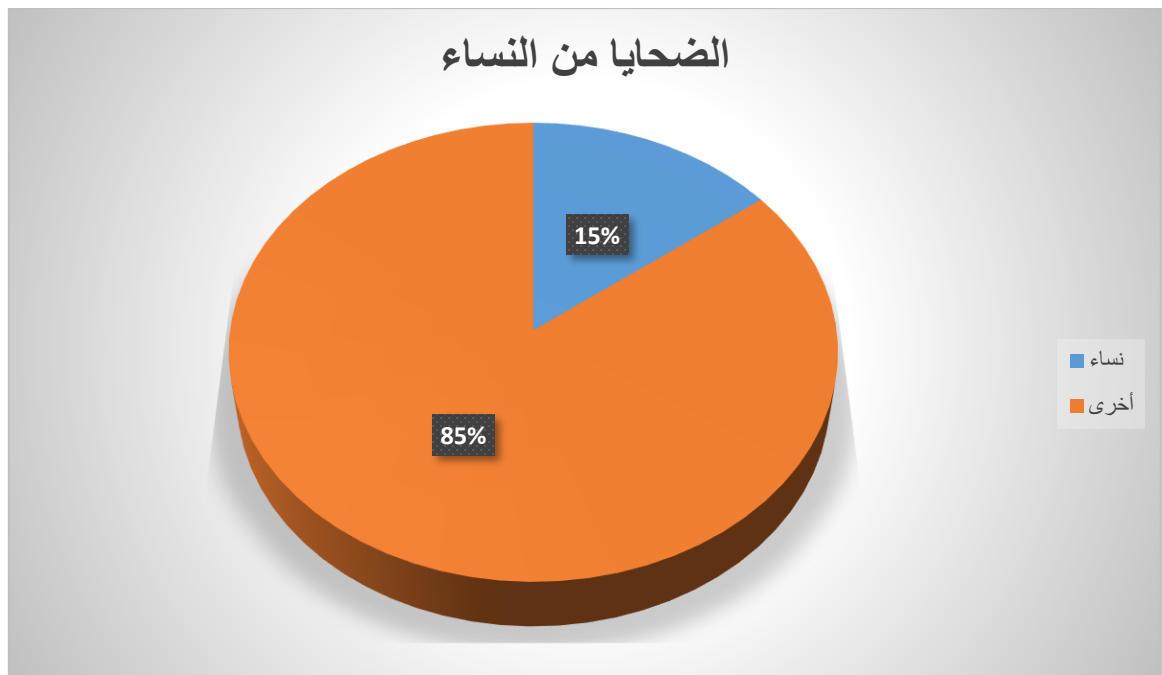
Victims monitored in the cases mentioned in the report (40 cases)



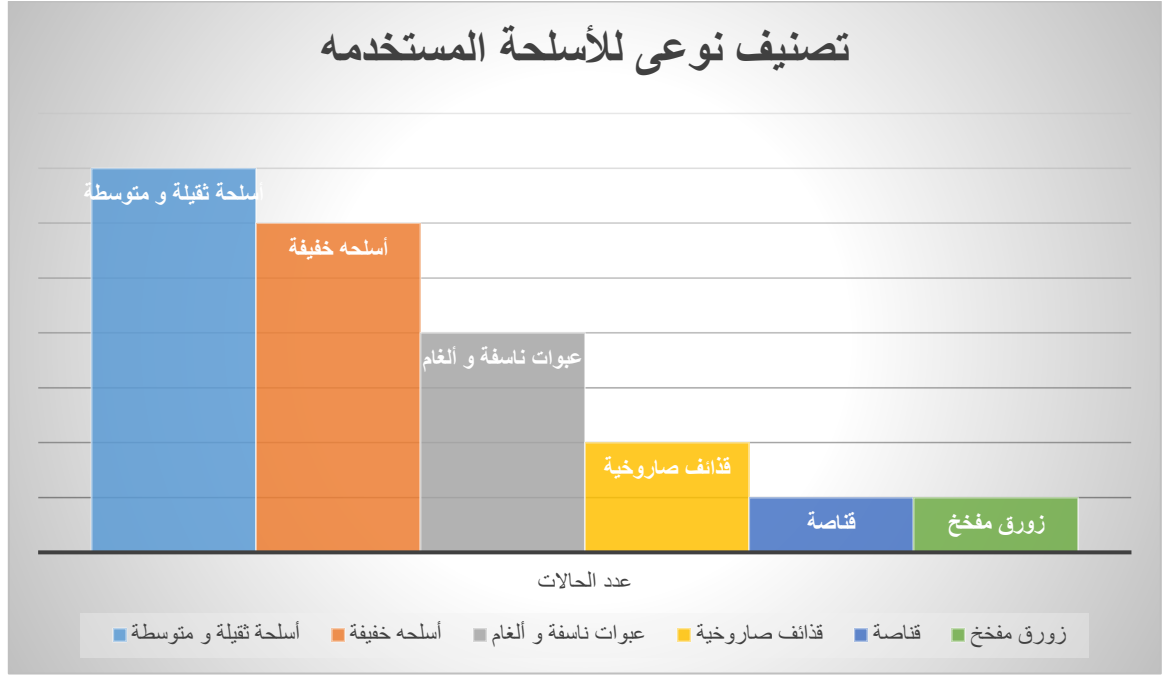
Child victims



The Female Victims



Qualitative classification of weapons used by the Houthis



Note: There are some operations in which more than one type of weapon has been used

Qualitative classification of targets from operations

