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The impact of armed conflict on depriving Yemeni children of the right to education



Preparation

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an introduction

The importance of education is no longer a matter of debate in any region of the world, where access to a quality education is one of the basic rights of every child. The low level of education is considered one of the most important factors of underdevelopment in Yemen. Illiteracy in Yemen reaches more than 60%, and children are the most Affected by the war in Yemen, whether through hunger and epidemics that threaten their lives or the deprivation of education for the damage of a large number of schools, in addition to the crisis of public education and the limited possibilities of private education and available alternatives, and Yemen's schools, universities and educational institutions, especially the cities of the south, have suffered from Houthi violations.

The lack of security and armed conflicts affect education in many ways, and some of their damages include threats to education from students and employees, or psychological and physical harm, such as the displacement of the population and the recruitment of children into the Houthi armed groups, especially the destruction of educational facilities or their use as training fields, and education itself has been affected by Using it as a tool for war propaganda or as a means of disseminating discrimination or inciting hatred.

The effects resulting from the continuation of the armed conflict in Yemen, in addition to the recent attack on education represented by the Corona pandemic, will have devastating and long-lasting effects on the educational process and the psychological and physical safety of children and adolescents in Yemen.

seeking study to me Learn about the role of armed conflicts in depriving Yemeni children of education

right to education in a International Humanitarian Law and the Yemeni Constitution

The right to education is one of the basic and indisputable human rights, but rather one of the most important economic, social and cultural rights that must be provided to man in order to enjoy all his other rights, as the right to education is guaranteed by many international conventions, declarations, treaties and protocols for every individual in society.

International law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law guarantee the protection of the right to education and the protection of education in conditions of insecurity and armed conflict.

According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The right to education is enshrined so that it is:



Everyone has the right to education. Education in the early and basic stages shall be free, primary education shall be compulsory, technical and vocational education shall be universal, and admission to higher education shall be facilitated on a full basis of equality for all and on the basis of competence.

The objective of education is the full development of the human personality, the consolidation of respect for the human person and fundamental freedoms, the development of understanding, tolerance and friendship among all peoples and racial or religious groups, and the increase of the United Nations peacekeeping effort.

Parents have the first right to choose the quality of education provided to their children.

Jomtien Declaration (1999): Known as the Global Declaration on Education for All, it aims to meet basic learning needs such as: reading, writing, oral expression, arithmetic, problem solving and the basic contents of learning (such as: knowledge, skills, values and attitudes) that humans need in order to survive and develop all their abilities. To live and work with dignity, to actively contribute to development and to improve their quality of life, to make informed decisions and to continue learning.

As stated in Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that advocacy of war or advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred is prohibited by law as constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, meaning that advocacy of war or incitement to hatred through educational materials) Books or educational programs) or through education personnel (a teacher's speech for example) is not allowed at all even in exceptional emergency situations, and teaching methods must also allow any form of violence such as collective punishment which is one of the ends associated with education prohibited in International human rights law.

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that education is protected under international human rights law, which guarantees the right to education.

The right to education as a legally binding right enshrined in international and regional treaties; It shall be respected by the states party to these treaties, and these states shall take the necessary concrete steps to achieve the full realization of the right to education immediately or wherever permitted within a reasonable time, even in contexts of war; States must make all efforts to meet the minimum core obligations associated with the realization of the right to education, when necessary; The state must benefit from international assistance and aid to achieve the realization of the right to education.

Article guarantees 24 of the Fourth Geneva Convention protects the right to education for children most Weakened in wars, they are those who have been orphaned or separated from their families, and the article requires the parties to



the war to take the necessary measures to ensure the facilitation and availability of education in all circumstances for children under fifteen years of age who have been orphaned or separated from their families because of the war AndThe education of these children should be entrusted to persons belonging to the same cultural traditions whenever possible, and this rule forms part of customary international law.

(The Yemeni Constitution: Article 2) Education is a right for all citizens. It is guaranteed by the state in accordance with the law by establishing various schools and cultural and educational institutions. Education in the basic stage is mandatory. The state works to eradicate illiteracy and is interested in expanding technical and vocational education.

Articles of the Public Education Law indicate that education is a basic right for all citizens.

International law affirms the state's responsibility to provide basic education with good quality awareness for all Yemeni children, for the age group from 1 to 14 years.

This is evident from the texts of Articles 6, 8, 7, 9, 14 and 10 of the Public Education Law:

Article 6: In addition to investing in human development, basic education is one of the basic human rights guaranteed by the state and made available to all citizens.

Article 7: The state builds sufficient schools in all parts of the Republic that meet the conditions of education at every stage of study. The school is considered sufficient for the purpose when it accommodates all students and is provided and equipped with libraries and all other educational inputs.

Article 8: Education is considered free in all its stages and guaranteed by the state, and the state gradually implements this principle according to a plan approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 9: The state works to achieve social justice and equal opportunities in education, taking into account the economic and social conditions that may prevent some families from sending their children to schools.

Article (10) The state takes care of health care in all the different stages of education.

Article (14) The educational policy is based on scientific foundations in planning, curriculum formulation, evaluation and follow-up. The educational policy links theoretical knowledge and technical skills in pre-specialization education, and works to achieve balance in the education system and justice in distributing education services and capabilities between governorates and directorates, as well as achieving Decentralization in the administration of education.



The deteriorating conditions of education in Yemen

Yemen witnessed the development of education during the period leading up to the civil war as Yemen was able to make progress. Lost Yemen's ranking was 153 in 2015 in the Human Development Index (HDI), but it declined in rank 179 in 2020 out of 189 countries, and expectations indicate that Yemen will not be able to achieve any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, and the deterioration of education in Yemen is largely due to; Because of the civil war, which led to the displacement of thousands of families, and the destruction of a number of schools in whole or in part, as well as the deterioration of the economic situation in the country, after more than 82% of Yemenis became in need of humanitarian aid after the Houthi coup militia overthrew the state and overthrew the capital. Sanaa in September 2015.

The outbreak of war in the country in most of the governorates of the Republic of Yemen has led to an unprecedented deterioration of the educational process, as a result of the destruction of a large number of schools and their damage, either completely or partially, as well as turning many of them into military barracks, and the irregularity of salaries that led to a large number of interruptions from teachers to work.

The dire situation in Yemen, including the ongoing conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks, has resulted in more than two million children dropping out of school, in addition to the 5.8 million students who were enrolled in schools before the COVID-19 pandemic, who are now at risk of dropping out. And the armed conflict in Yemen between March 2015 and December 2020 is destroying the educational process.

It can be said that the war in Yemen was the most painful blow to education in the country, as the Davos 2020 indicators show that Yemen is among the countries that do not possess the lowest quality standards in education, and witnessed a decrease in the number of school hours, reaching 350 hours, compared to 750 at the local level, and 1,000 hours at the global level.

Houthi attacks against Yemeni schools in March 2015 and December 2020

Missile targeting using "mortar" shells by the Houthi militias in Ma'rib Governorate on Al-Mithaq School in the center of the city.	Marib Governorate
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<p>Armed conflicts reduced the number of schools in Hays District to 3 out of a total of 42 schools.</p> <p>The Houthi groups turned the rest of the schools into military barracks, where the Houthis launched their attacks while the students were in Al-Nahda School, and detonated many schools with explosive devices, the last of which was the "Al-Kifah School".</p>	<p>Hays District</p>
<p>In Taiz governorate alone, 280 cases of killing and assassination at the hands of the Houthi militia were monitored, in addition to 180 cases of kidnapping and enforced disappearance.</p> <p>Houthis targeting educational and health facilities in the city of Taiz, by bombing Al-Zubairi school in Al-Nasiriya neighborhood, killing 21 teachers and students during the past two years as a result of mines planted by the Houthi militia</p> <p>500 students have been killed in the city of Taiz since the beginning of the war, due to the indiscriminate bombing of schools and population centers by the Houthi militia.</p>	<p>Taiz</p>
<p>The Houthi group recruited 57 children from one school, Al-Ilm and Al-Iman School, in the district of Bani Hushaish, east of Sana'a governorate, and they were all killed on the frontlines.</p> <p>The report of the "Human Rights Office" in the capital Sana'a 2019, the violations, which amounted to 24,488 violations, varied between killing, kidnapping, injuries, physical assault, recruitment, looting relief materials, storming and looting health and educational institutions, and conducting sectarian activities and events.</p> <p>The Houthi militia blew up 21 schools and converted 14 schools into military barracks and prisons, in addition to documenting the recruitment of 211 children under the age of 15 by the Houthi militia.</p>	<p>Sana'a</p>



<p>Houthi militia attacks against education in Amanat Al-Asimah, which amounted to about 8,140 violations during one year from (5 October 2019 to 4 October 2020 AD)..</p>	
<p>The report of the Rights and Media Committee in Al-Jawf Governorate 2021</p> <p>176 cases of intrusion into educational facilities between government schools, private schools, Holy Qur'an schools, educational institutes and training institutes,</p> <p>10 cases of bombing and burning of schools and educational institutions in Al-Jawf,</p> <p>181 cases of violation of the use of schools and educational institutions in military operations, weapons depots, prisons and places of mobilization and training were recorded.</p>	<p>Al-Jawf Governorate</p>
<p>The group stormed the People's School in the village of Hafaf in the Nadra district, in Ibb governorate (south of Sana'a) with the aim of mobilizing student fighters to the fronts..</p>	<p>Ibb Governorate</p>
<p>The city of Aden received the largest share of Houthi violations against educational facilities. The Houthi rebels destroyed its infrastructure, especially schools and universities.</p> <p>The Houthis entered the Basateen School, and turned it into a military barracks and a point for bombing civilian neighborhoods in the Basateen and Mansoura areas. In the cities of the south, the Houthi forces resorted to converting schools and their internal classrooms into weapons depots. The schools of Lahj, Zanzibar, and Lawdar had the largest share of the destruction that affected educational premises.</p>	<p>Eden</p>



Houthi Thought and Education in Yemen

The deterioration of education was not caused by the failure of the state or natural causes. Rather, the deterioration of education in southern Yemen was systematic and its causes were deliberate and deliberate. The current conflict in Yemen has escalated since the arrival of the Houthis and has caused widespread damage to the country's already fragile educational system, and it is no longer possible to use one school in five Schools in Yemen as a direct result of the conflict.

Spreading Shiite Thought: Since 2011, Yemen has witnessed many transformations and changes of multiple manifestations, and among the most important of these phenomena is the emergence of the Houthis in Yemen, and their control over mosques and schools, and the management of educational and cultural centers and institutions in the country, and their use in spreading the Shiite sect among children is the most dangerous. The Houthis realize the importance of education in schools and universities In the formation of the intellectual mentality of the sons of Yemen, he pushed them to exploit these institutions to influence them and spread Shiite thought among the children of Yemen. If the Houthis continue to control these institutions of great importance in Yemeni society, the next generation of Yemeni youth will carry Shiite ideas, threatening the intellectual future of Yemen, to create A generation that believes in Shiite superstitions.

Child Recruitment Under the cover of education or the so-called "summer education centers" there are closed training camps through which the Houthi militia has attracted more than 300,000 from Yemen, especially the areas under Houthi control. The Houthi presence is witnessing a significant increase in the number of children attracted by the Houthi militia in 3 governorates, Taiz and Ibb Al-Hodeidah, with 85,000 children, and there are about 176 summer camps in Taiz governorate, and 600 camps in Al-Hudaydah and Ibb.

The Houthis decided to re-compulsory conscription of high school graduates, and allocated weekly classes to teach its founder Hussein al-Houthi, as it incites death and hatred and calls for joining the battlefronts. An increase of more than 70% over previous years.

privatization of educationThe Houthi group announced the community school project, according to which it transformed some government schools into private schools, such as Belqis School for Girls and Nashwan Al-Hamiri School, and set fees for students to enroll in them, ranging between 100 and 150 dollars per student, and the Houthi group imposed in some Ibb schools The government paid five thousand Yemeni riyals per month (about \$10) despite the suffering of the population due to the cutting of employee salaries as a result of the war triggered by the Houthis..



harassing teachers : The Houthis group killed 21 teachers and issued death sentences for 10 school principals, in addition to carrying out 157 raids on educational facilities. The behavior of the Houthis prompted thousands of teachers to leave their schools and go to search for alternative professions to meet their livelihood and provide the necessary sustenance for their families after their salaries were cut.

Persevering in the bulldozing of this vital sector, the Houthi militia not only deprived about 130,000 teachers of their salaries, but also dismissed thousands of them, and transferred hundreds of its members to disseminate the group's ideas in various schools, as well as entrusting the administration's work to the group's elements so that the position of the Minister of Education is occupied by him. Brother of the group's leader, Yahya al-Houthi.

Houthi violations of the education sector in Yemen 2014-2020

The Houthi militias have not only corrupted political life in Yemen, but also expanded Houthi brutality against children, where the militias loyal to Iran are fighting - in parallel with the military war - another war no less dangerous on ideas, where we find the Houthi Curriculum Committee continues to make changes to textbooks for grades seven to nine, and we find Houthi literature and references exuding the legacy of human brutality such as sectarianism. Racism, hatred and lack of respect for human rights.

The Houthi-Iranian scheme aims to change the school curricula and poison the minds of thousands of children with the culture of violence, murder, extremism and societal and international terrorism, to create a new generation of "little terrorists."

Because of the corruption of the Houthi militias and their bulldozing of the education sector, including the Houthi militia making fundamental changes in the school curricula based on racism, sectarianism and religious and sectarian incitement, and the practice of sectarian incitement through school radios systematically in (12) governorates it controls.

Human rights reports indicated the refusal of some Yemeni parents in Sanaa and Taiz to enroll their children in schools, for fear of the impact of the new curricula approved by the Houthi groups, and for fear of the system of forced recruitment of children, especially since the Houthi military mobilization operations are aimed at attracting and preparing about one million children and young people. Mentally and ideologically for military training instead of attending classrooms and educational.

According to the international report issued by the United Nations Development Program, "A third of children of school age in Yemen cannot access schooling opportunities, and about two million out of six million school-age children are currently without education," and the number of children who have not enrolled in public education is nearly 3 million,



and the reason is due to economic conditions and social affairs in Yemen; This constitutes a real danger to the future of future generations.

World Bank statistics confirmed that 31.6% of school-age children do not go to school, while the number of displaced people is about half a million; Of them, 30% of school age (6-18 years), 23.9% of children of secondary school age (15-17 years) attend secondary schools, and 32% of boys attend secondary schools compared to 15% of girls.

Thousands of students are at risk of dropping out if they do not get help, which means that 78% of school-aged children will not be able to attend school in the coming years in a country occupies second place for global illiteracy.

Statistics of Houthi violations of the education sector in Yemen 2014-2020

Total	for military actions	sheltering displaced persons	partial destruction	total destruction	Governorate
81	8	50	21	2	Father
123	-	105	13	4	I show
180	14	12	146	8	honesty
49	3	12	28	6	white
225	50	79	78	18	Taiz
8	-	-	5	3	Hollow
73	-	20	42	11	argument
22	-	5	8	9	Iron
22	-	22	-	-	Hadramout
38	5	3	25	5	Dhamar
31	2	10	15th	4	Shabwa



117	-	-	24	93	Saada
24	2	-	17	5	Al Dhale'
230	15th	22	185	8	Eden
36	5	7	21	3	Omran
95	12	56	21	6	pilgrimage
82	11	30	39	2	Marib
6	-	6	-	-	Al Mahwit
25	-	25	-	-	Rima
49	7	2	32	8	Sana'a
1515	134	466	720	195	Total

repercussions of armed conflict And the fate of the children of Yemen:

The armed conflict led to the closure of 3,700 schools in Yemen, which deprived nearly 18 million students from continuing education and completing the 2014-2015 school year, and their results were approved based on the results of the first semester of the same year, and the war caused various damages. In more than (1010) schools, of which (190) schools were completely destroyed and (720) schools were partially damaged, while about (461) schools were used as shelters for the displaced, and (134) schools were used for military work, and a large number of education offices were exposed In the governorates and districts, various damages were caused, and many of them were looted, robbed, and some documents belonging to the students were destroyed, and the school book presses in Aden were set on fire.

Armed conflict in Yemen It caused various damages to more than 3652 schools, or 21% of the total number of educational facilities operating in Yemen, of which 412 were completely destroyed, 1,491 were partially destroyed, 993 were used as shelters for the displaced, and 756 were closed because they were used for military operations or for other reasons. It has about 89,840 male and female teachers; This resulted in the deprivation of approximately



1,898.22 male and female students from continuing education, or 32.3% of the total public education students in Yemen.

According to an international report, more than 5,000 students, teachers and academics were injured, killed and harmed in attacks on education in Yemen during the period 2015-2019, as well as 3,804 wounded.

Al-Houthi's violations against children reached the point of preventing education, as nearly 5.4 million children were deprived of education, including 1.6 million children who were denied enrollment in schools during the past two years only, due to the bombing of about 2,372 schools in separate Yemeni regions, in addition to the destruction of 1,500 schools and their use as training camps. and weapons stores.

The number of working children in Yemen increased due to the war to more than two and a half million children under the age of 17, during the year 2020. According to the Ministry of Education, there are 14,090 schools in Yemen, of which 9,224 are mixed schools, 8,638 of which are in rural areas and 586 in urban areas.

The Ministry of Education estimated the direct losses of damages to the education sector during the period March 26, 2015 - March 26, 2020 at about \$383 million.

The study of the UNICEF office in Yemen on the reality of children in Yemen indicated that "more than 22% of Yemeni children do not receive education," noting that the percentage of girls out of school represents 30%, while boys out of school represent 14 %, in addition to other challenges in the educational aspect represented in the presence of a shortage of female teachers, especially in rural areas, as well as the increase in the number of students of school age and limited schools, which results in the density of students in existing school classes.

UNICEF confirmed that there are 6 children killed or injured every day due to Houthi strikes, since the situation in Yemen worsened. The Houthi group has planted many mines in separate places in Yemen, and those mines cause the death and injury of dozens of children, according to a report by the Peace Without Borders Organization. Nearly 40,000 Yemeni children were forced to take up arms by the Houthi group.

The Houthi militia is still systematically targeting the educational process by deliberately bombing and burning schools, and using them for military actions and weapons stores. Over the course of 5 years of presence in Yemen, the Houthis carried out 1,492 attacks on schools and educational facilities in 19 Yemeni governorates, which varied by bombing, raids, and closures. Looting, and use for military purposes, Oxfam relief organization confirmed that 1,600 schools are out of service in Yemen, which means that thousands of students are out of school..



UNICEF stated that the violence in Yemen has forced more than 3,600 schools to close and displace students and their families to safer areas in the country. To house the displaced and 68 schools occupied by the Houthi rebels.

More than 523,000 displaced school-aged children suffer from difficulty in accessing education due to the lack of sufficient space in the current classrooms. Schools have been damaged and used by armed forces or settled by displaced families, and teachers and students have lost their lives, injured or traumatized.

On the other hand, we see more than 170,000 male and female teachers living in Houthi militia-controlled areas suffering from the interruption of their salaries for 5 years, despite the group's financial ability to pay their salaries, but it exploits this humanitarian aspect in political swaps."

Human rights reports monitored the killing of (1579) teachers and (2624) cases of injury since September 2014, of which the Houthi militia is responsible for 80%, in addition to (621) cases of arrest and (36) cases of enforced disappearance. And (142) cases of forced displacement of teachers, the Houthi militia is responsible for 70% of these violations.

The repercussions of the deterioration of educational opportunities on the young generation in Yemen have become clear to all, especially through the low enrollment rates in universities in areas under the control of the Houthis.

Yemeni students are now paying more attention to the issue of joining dangerous armed groups, and this willingness stems from a deep sense of despair and the absence of any viable alternatives, as these groups provide a sense of belonging and a source of earning, as the poor economic and educational situation in Yemen was a catalyst for a large number of students to join the ranks of these armed groups.

Exploiting the educational system in order to attract the Yemeni youth generation to the battlefields has serious repercussions for the future of Yemen. Students and children who join the ranks of these groups and become saturated with their ideology will further fuel the ongoing war. For this reason, the collapse of the education sector in the areas under the control of the Houthis - which includes the majority of the Yemeni people - only serves the interests of armed groups and extremist organizations in the country.



Conclusion

Yemen remains the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, and after six years of conflict, children’s education has become the biggest victim of the war in Yemen - according to a UNICEF report 2020, which revealed that more than two million children are out of school due to poverty, conflict and lack of educational opportunities.

International humanitarian law obligates all parties to armed conflict to take all feasible precautions to minimize harm to civilians, and schools and other civilian objects (property) cannot be attacked unless they are being used for military purposes.

In the capital, Sana'a alone, the Houthi group committed more than 28,000 violations against the education sector during one year between October 2018 and October 2019. These violations were distributed between extrajudicial killings, assaults, torture, arrests, looting salaries and humanitarian aid, and recruiting children from schools. The imposition of sectarian thought and group slogans, in addition to changing curricula and cultivating a culture of death and hatred.

Houthi violations against children in Yemen Between March 26, 2015 and February 28, 2021.

Assault on educational facilities and their use for military purposes	465
One million children out of school	2
One million children need emergency education support.	8.1
privatization of schools	14
Changing the curriculum to blur identity.	231
Intrusions and looting of educational institutions.	194



The course of events in Yemen does not predict a solution soon looming on the horizon, as the flames of war are still burning, which indicates further damage to the educational infrastructure, especially since the armed Houthi groups are still taking schools and educational institutions as a starting point for their military actions.

The armed conflict in Yemen has delayed development and poverty depriving millions of children in Yemen of their right to education – and their hope for a better future. Violence, displacement and attacks on schools also prevent many children from accessing schools, and with teachers not being paid for more than two years, the quality of education is also at stake."

Recommendations

- Stop the Houthis' politicization of exams and education and not turn it into a tributary of war and an arena for student recruitment.
- Confronting the Houthis' continuous attempts to change the educational curricula in March, by introducing foreign concepts about Yemeni society.
- Focusing on directing support to Yemeni educational institutions to work on raising a generation that possesses awareness who will be able to deal with such dangerous intellectual attacks and not be drawn into them and push their danger to the nation as a whole. Education is the bulwark against such perverted intellectual projects.
- Demanding an end to the war, lifting the siege, and moving forward with peacemaking and reconstruction.
- Increasing spending on education, sustaining its funding, and paying the salaries of its affiliates during crises and wars, as a human right guaranteed in international laws and covenants.

Urgent efforts must be made to prevent an entire generation of children in Yemen from being deprived of their opportunity to obtain an education.:

- Stop attacks on educational facilities to protect children and teachers, as these attacks constitute a grave violation against children and violate international humanitarian law. Schools must be protected as safe learning spaces.
- Education authorities across Yemen should work together and come up with an immediate solution to provide salaries to all teachers and education staff so that children can continue their education.
- The international community, donors, and development partners should support the cash incentives for teachers as the search for long-term solutions to Yemen's salary crisis continues.



the reviewer

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