

# Militarized Childhood

A report on the Houthis' recruitment of Yemeni children during war



Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor  
SAM for Rights and Liberties  
February 2021



# Contents

Introduction	4
Child soldiers recruited by the Houthi group: statistics	7
Strategies used in recruiting children	10
Geographical distribution of children recruited by the Houthis	12
Tasks, punishments, and impacts related to child recruitment	13
Houthis' child training camps	14
Testimonies of child soldiers recruited by the Houthis	23
Child victims recruited by the Houthis	31
Legal background	32
Recommendations	33

# Introduction



Child recruitment and use by armed forces is one of the gravest violations that Yemeni children fall victim to as Yemen has been witnessing wars and armed conflicts for several years. This phenomenon emerged in Yemen since the era of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, when the Ministry of Defense started to accept children under the age of 15 years old into their ranks. Tribal sheikhs also sent their children to war to secure their monthly salaries the government paid at the time. However, this phenomenon significantly diminished after pressures imposed on the Saleh regime, especially after Yemen had signed several international child rights agreements.

On the other hand, armed groups in Yemen, especially the Houthis, sought

to recruit children to reinforce their capabilities. The Houthis have been exploiting child soldiers since they waged a war against the Hajour al-Sham tribes in Hajjah Governorate in early 2012; their war on the Dammaj area in Saada governorate in 2013; and at a greater pace, in 2014, after they seized power in Yemen and the battles expanded. The Houthis have used complex patterns to forcibly recruit these children and use them in hostilities and compensate for their losses during the battles against the Yemeni government forces and the Arab coalition forces led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

There have been various estimates regarding the number of children recruited by the warring parties during the conflict in Yemen. A 2017 UN report estimated the number of children recruited by the Houthis at about 1,500 children. Mwatana for Human Rights said the number is close to 1,900 children in the last three years (2019 ,2018 and 2020). An Associated Press report said the Houthis had recruited about 18,000 children by the end of 2018. The Human Rights Ministry of the Yemeni government estimated that the Houthis had recruited about 30,000 children in total since 2014.

Our team collected data from 19 Yemeni governorates that indicated the Houthis have recruited 10,333 Yemeni children since 2014. This includes 248 of those children between the ages of 11-8 years old, 3,838 children between 14-12 years old, and 6,2471 children between 17-15 years old (as detailed in Table No. 10).



The Houthis are not the only party to resort to recruiting children. Local and international reports indicated that the Yemeni government and the Arab coalition forces have also recruited children taking advantage of their families' desperate need for money, despite the Yemeni government signing an agreement with the United Nations in 2018 that includes a roadmap to stop the recruitment and use of children in the conflict.

In late September 2020, the UN international team of experts in its third report presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council, monitored the Yemeni government recruitment of children in the Special Security Forces camp in Shabwa. The Yemeni government used child soldiers in hostilities in Abyan governorate during May 2020. Some of these children were captured by the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council. The report stated that the Yemeni government forces, the Arab coalition, or "brokers", recruited many children in the governorates of Taiz, Lahj and Abyan. The children were then transferred to training camps in Saudi Arabia to defend its borders from Houthi ground attacks.

The report said that during the period from June 2015 to February 2020, the Houthis have recruited boys from all Yemeni governorates some of them as young as seven years old. These children were recruited from schools, poor areas, urban centers, and detention centers; through lectures, financial incentives, or after being kidnapped. This led to the death of some of them and the wounding of others.

Moreover, the Houthis' recruitment of children is not limited to boys. From June 2015 to June 2020, they recruited 34 girls (aged between 13 and 17), and used them as informants, soldiers, guards, paramedics, and members of Zainabiyat, whose job is inspecting women and homes, lecturing other women about the group's ideology, as well as maintaining order in women prisons.

By recruiting them, the Houthi group severely damaged these children's educational process, and deprived many of them from their right to education. Local reports documented Houthis' activities that led to the recruitment of children in 150 schools distributed in many Yemeni governorates. The Houthis also deliberately used schools and educational facilities for military purposes and used the education system to incite violence and indoctrinate students with the group's ideologies. They did this by giving lectures with sectarian propaganda contents and promoting its military victories.

The Houthis also have been recruiting children to carry out activities inside schools to influence their colleagues and lure them into the groups' extremist ideology and join the battlefronts. Euro-Med Monitor and SAM found that many students who joined the Houthis' fighting fronts fell victim to encouragement from classmates who were given special courses on recruitment strategies and provided with audio and visual materials motivate their targets.

The security headquarters and defense camps of the Ministry of Interior,

headed by Major General Abdul Karim Amir al-Din al-Houthi, were also used to recruit child soldiers. In order to recruit children, the Houthis lured many of them by recruiting them to work at security points inside cities before they were later transferred to battle fronts.

Euro-Med Monitor and SAM believe that the Houthi group were able recruit children after: 1) influencing them through ideological courses; 2) exploiting their poverty or social needs, due to the absence or death of the breadwinner; 3) using false and misleading promises; 4) exploiting their obedience.

During the preparation of this report, Euro-Med Monitor and SAM observed a set of complex patterns used to recruit children and use them in hostilities. The numbers and statistics provide only a partial account of child recruitment in Yemen, which threatens the lives of Yemenis in all governorates and areas controlled by the Houthis and exposes them to other violations.

The strategy the Houthis would use to recruit a child depends on his/her age, gender, and economic status. In all verified cases, poverty and hunger were primary factors that cause children to fall victims to recruitment.

In this report, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor and SAM for Rights and Liberties shed light on the strategies used by the Houthis to recruit children in Yemen and force them to take part in the armed conflict in the country. The report reviews testimonies of children who were recruited by the Houthis, which highlights the nature and extent of violations they were subjected to. The report also presents the position of international law on violations committed against these children.



Statistics on

# child soldiers recruited

into the Houthis' ranks



# 10333

child soldiers

aged between **8-11** years



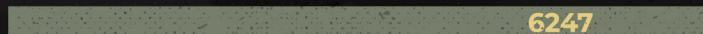
248

aged between **12-14** years



3838

aged between **15-17** years



6247



## 438

children were taken to  
the battlefield and used  
in planting mines



## 52 camps

used by Houthis to  
recruit child soldiers

## The number of child soldiers recruited by the Houthis disaggregated by age and governorate

Governorate	The Houthis			
	11 – 8 years old	14- 12 years old	17 – 15 years old	Total
Omran	18	622	1146	1786
Sana'a	52	568	858	1478
Dhamar	26	570	854	1450
Taiz	36	352	712	1100
Amanah	8	343	657	1008
Saada	28	378	566	972
Hajjah	24	258	373	655
Hodeidah	16	192	240	448
Ibb	15	161	233	409
'Al Bayda	4	78	144	226
Aden	2	68	94	164
Mahwit	7	99	90	196
Marib	4	36	48	88
Shabwa	-	9	34	43
Abyan	2	18	34	54
Al Jawf	4	36	32	72
Lahj	-	16	54	70
Ad Dali	2	24	42	68
Rima	-	10	36	46
Total	248	3838	6247	10333



## Strategies used to recruit child soldiers



Strategies the Houthis use to persuade children to join the military operations are varied. The Houthis sometimes enroll children in extremist ideological programs whose duration ranges from three weeks to one month. Then, they are sent to training camps to attend one-month military training where they learn how to use weapons, landmines, and improvised explosive devices. Afterwards, they are sent to the battlefield, where they are put on the front lines or used in landmine-planting missions or ordered to guard sites.

Euro-Med Monitor and SAM teams has conducted an interview with, child soldier F. A., 14, from Magreb Anns district in the Dhamar governorate, he said: “I used to spend my after-school time playing in the neighborhood with the rest of my schoolmates. One time, a Houthi supervisor asked us to come to their headquarters. This was on July 2019, which is the date I was recruited until April 2020. There they gave us intensive ideological indoctrination sessions, while some of the lecturers used to cover their faces during the courses. They took me to the Nihm front, east of the capital, Sana’a, where a man named Abu Turab supervised several children including myself.

On the Nihm front, I used to receive combat skills courses, such as using light and medium weapons, methods of camouflage, how to avoid being detected by aircraft, espionage and transferring information. Then I was assigned new tasks such as loading guns and transporting them and food to high, rugged areas. Transporting supplies was exhausting and took long hours, especially during military clashes, when we had to take other routes than in normal conditions. The ways to the sites I had to reach daily were difficult and arduous. I used to get beaten and reprimanded when I arrived late. I cried a lot during those nights, fearing for my life and for missing my mother, father and brothers.

They used to divide us into groups after the dawn prayer. Then, they make us read the jihadist books of Hussein Al-Houthi, founder of the Houthi group and listen to his sermons and lectures. In addition, we had to listen to the sermons and lectures of his brother Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi. Later, in the afternoon, the hard tasks begins. We used to transport supplies to the heights. Nihm front was one of the stiffest and most dangerous fronts, as it was in high mountainous heights. The situation remained like this for several months, before I finally managed to escape to Ma'rib governorate where my older brother is staying”.

The Houthi group resorts to threatening Yemeni families in the villages and areas under its control to force them send their children to the battlefields. They have also resorted to recruiting children in the displaced camps and orphans from orphanages.

In some cases, the Houthis dragged children into military operations without the knowledge of their families. In other cases, children were recruited from poor families who accepted in return for a monthly salary of 150\$. In one case, a family allowed the recruitment of their child in exchange for a gas stove, which gives a clear indication of the poor living conditions of Yemenis.

In another interview, M.H., 15, from Sanaa governorate said: “In January 2020, I was recruited by a Houthi supervisor in Sanaa, after he paid a sum of money to my father, since we are extremely poor. The beginning of my recruitment was in the Houthis’ headquarters in the Asr neighborhood. Then, I was transferred to training at the Sabha camp, west of the capital, where I received ideological lectures in an underground headquarters. I remember some Houthi leaders’ names who were supervising me: Abu al-Karar, Abu Sakher and al-Ashtar.

The Houthis later took me to the Nihm front, east of Sanaa, where my job, along with several children, was transporting military and food supplies to several fronts. In addition, I used to work in security points. I continued this work for many months. On one mission, I was seriously injured after the military vehicle I was in overturned. The accident put me into a coma for five months.

During the recovery phase, I was always afraid that the Houthis would come and take me back to recruitment. So, I escaped after my friend’s father helped me get to Ma’rib. I am now in the city of Ma’rib where a notable personality pledged to take care of me after I was rescued from the Houthis.”



In the past three years, the Houthis began an open and compulsory campaign to recruit Yemeni children. The group opened 52 training camps for thousands of teenagers and children. The compulsory recruitment campaigns spread in Saada, Sanaa, Al Mahwit, Al Hudaydah, Tihama, Hajjah and Dhamar, targeted children as young as ten years old.

### **The number of child soldiers recruited by the Houthis disaggregated by recruitment strategy**

Intimidation	Temptation	Misdirection	Abduction
2039	6745	639	832

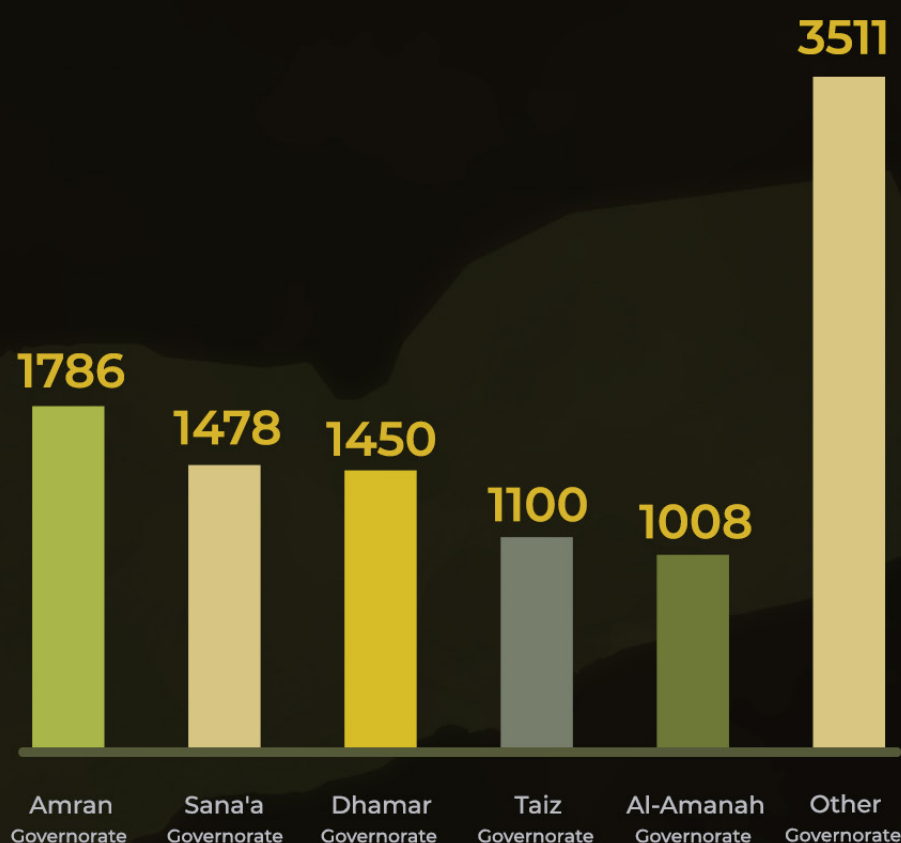
### **The number of child soldiers recruited by the Houthis disaggregated by the financial situation of the children's families**

Extremely poor families	Limited-income families	Average-income families
5213	2839	1843

## Geographical distribution of child soldiers the Houthis recruited



### Geographical distribution of **Yemeni children recruited** into the Houthis' ranks



## Tasks and punishments, and recruitment impact on children

Tasks assigned to children recruited by the Houthis
Direct participation in combat
Guarding checkpoints
Data collection
Driving
Manning supply points
Accompanying the group's leaders

Impact of recruitment on children
Mental disorders
Suicidal thoughts
Becoming introverts
Bedwetting
Having nightmares

## **Punishments recruited children are subjecte to if they fail to carry out orders**

Imprisonment

Food deprivation

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Death threats

## Houthis' child soldiers training camps



The Houthis have established four new camps in Al-Hudaydah governorate dedicated for training children brought from other governorates, namely, Sana'a, Dhamar, Al Mahwit, and Al Rayma.

There are other training camps for child soldiers in the governorates of Saada and Amran, which are dedicated to training children brought from the governorates of Saada, Al-Jawf, Amran and Hajjah. Child soldiers in these camps receive training programs such as physical fitness, using light and medium weapons, defusing landmines, and throwing bombs and mortars. The following are places of new camps and with a description of the activities practiced there:

	Name	Name
<b>Camp 1</b>	The farms of Al-Arj area in Al-Doha District, north of Al Hudaydah Governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training the navy forces, whose mission is to manufacture boats, and booby trap roads and coastlines</li> <li>• Storing marine and Scud missiles</li> <li>• Training children to use weapons and do combat tasks</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 2</b>	Farms in Abal area, Bajil District, east of Al Hudaydah Governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training children brought from governorates of Sana'a, Raima, Dhamar and Mahwit</li> <li>• Storing weapons and missiles launch bases</li> <li>• An operation and information gathering room</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 3</b>	Baraa Reserve, eastern Al Hudaydah Governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training children coming from different directorates of Al Hudaydah</li> <li>• Storing weapons and missiles, and missiles launch base</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 4</b>	Mawasalat Street in Al Hudaydah Governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training children brought from other camps to be sent to frontlines</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 5</b>	"(Camp 48) Al-Sawad area in the capital, Sana'a"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training child soldiers brought from areas surrounding the capital, Sana'a, and other governorates</li> <li>• Reinforcing fronts, especially the frontlines</li> </ul>



<b>Camp 6</b>	Al-Naqfa area in Saada governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training child soldiers alongside other recruits</li> <li>• Giving doctrinal educational courses</li> <li>• Supplying the fronts with fighters</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 7</b>	"(Hamza camp) Ibb governorate"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training child soldiers alongside other recruits</li> <li>• Giving doctrinal educational courses</li> <li>• Supplying fronts with fighters</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 8</b>	Al-Iman University, Sana`a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving recruits, including children</li> <li>• Reinforcing the fronts</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 9</b>	Sports stadium in the city of Dhamar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving and training recruits</li> <li>• Giving them doctrinal educational courses</li> <li>• Reinforcing the battle fronts</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 10</b>	Shuob Hosh Political Security + Shuob area next to the Military Police headquarters in the capital, Sana'a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and educational courses</li> <li>• Distributing recruits to Dhamar governorate to receive courses and training for two months</li> </ul>
<b>Camp 11</b>	Harf Sufyan area + Shawaba area towards Al-Jawf in Amran Governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving and training recruits</li> <li>• Distributing them battlefronts</li> </ul>

These camps, sat by the Houthis contribute to training child soldiers in field combat, booby-trapping operations, and using all kinds of weapons of war.

## Testimonies of Houthi-recruited child soldiers



Euro-Med Monitor and SAM's field teams have interviewed several children whom the Houthis recruited. Their testimonies indicate several violations these children experienced during their recruitment period, which have left very dangerous physical and psychological effects on them.

After the children's recruitment period ends, they cannot return to their governorates out of fear that they might be forcibly recruited again. Ma'rib governorate receives children after surviving their conscription, as most of the recruitment operations take place in several governorates, such as Sanaa, Amran, Dhamar, Saada and Hajjah.

In his testimony, child soldiers Saeed Saleh Ali Falah, 15, from Khawlan district in Sana'a, said: "In December 2019, while schools were closed after teachers' salaries were cut off, some Houthi members came to our house and told my parents they wanted me to take educational courses with them. The courses included fighting the 'aggression' and 'mercenaries' [cooperators with the Yemeni government], which I did not understand at all. This lasted for ten days until I managed to escape.

However, the Houthis were able to find me again. This time, I was taken to the battle front for transporting supplies. And because I used to perform my tasks diligently, the supervisor, Abu Jihad, gave me a motorcycle, which I learned to drive quickly, to transport food and Khat to the fighters on the fronts. My recruitment period lasted for five months. My task was transporting supplies in the morning and evening, until one time I had an accident and my motorcycle overturned, which caused several fractures in the foot. So, I underwent three surgeries in a hospital in Sana'a Governorate. After my treatment ended, I went home again, but my family smuggled me to Ma'rib governorate so that I would not be [forcibly] recruited again."

In another interview with child soldier A.N., 15, from the Maḥrib governorate, he said: “In January 2020 the conflict intensified in Sarwah district, eastern Maḥrib, where my family and I live in Salb Najd village. The fighting caused the displacement of those who were in the village to the Al-Khanq camp, however, my family and my cousins remained in the village. When the Houthis came to us, they accused us of being collaborators with ISIS, because we did not leave, and that we were spying on them and passing on information.

The Houthis remained surveilling my family for a while before they started asking us to join them. They wanted us to join the training while promising us a salary and a weapon if agreed, and so we did. Throughout the seven-month conscription period, I was so afraid. I felt as if I was a hostage because I was interrogated at the beginning and was not assigned with any tasks, except for staying inside the military sites. I used to hear some Houthis calling my family members and telling them that if their sites were bombed, I would be the first to die. All of this was their attempt to push me to engage in the front-line field operations and the logistics lines. I was afraid that they would harm me. I wanted them to trust me to protect myself, so I used to hear their religious lectures and educational and ideological lessons. Then, I was assigned with

transporting supplies, which I had to do almost daily. I managed to escape in July 2020, when I was able to flee and go to the camp where my family were after they were displaced later, which is still not far from the fighting. I was deprived of my education for two years, and now I am in eighth grade. All my family and I hope for is to return to our home”.

In another interview, child soldier A.D., 15, from Nihm district in Sana’a governorate, said: “My father belongs to the Houthis, and he used to take me with him to take intellectual sessions. This made me influenced by the group’s ideology, which was in 2018. After I attended several intellectual and cultural courses on the group, the last of which was in February 2020, a person called Abu al-Karar, from Nihm district, took me to a special military course. There, I learned how to disassemble, assemble and use weapons, in addition to laying mines, and camouflage.

They used to give us a lot of intellectual and ideological lectures that lasted for five months and take us to the group’s celebrations in Sanaa. We also discovered that they put pills for us in soft drinks, we did not know what they were, but we felt energetic after consuming them. This led us to create chaos because of our fear of these pills, which caused the dismissal of our supervisor. One time,

they gave me a financial reward of 20,000 riyals (25\$). Then, they sent me to another educational course for 15 days, in which they gave us many lectures. They also used to take me to visit the graves of Houthi leaders.

After that, I returned to the Harib front with eagerness to fight. Our supervisor was Abu al-Karar. There, I fought for two months without rest. In the end, I managed to escape with the help of a relative and went back home to my family who smuggled me for treatment to Hadramawt. I used to have nightmares and anxiety, and they left me with my uncle in the Ma'rib governorate.

Child soldier G.N., 15, from Al-Hawk district in Al-Hudaydah governorate, said: "The Houthis were active in the schools of our governorate, including mine. The Houthi security and educational supervisors used to frequently visit our school to attract and recruit students. They also used to participate in the events the schools organized, such as the advocacy stances for the group, commemoration of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, and other activities. I was one of the participants in these events, which made a Houthi supervisor approach me for recruitment. The supervisor was called Abu Qaher, and he recruited me in the directorate's security department. He used to tell me that he liked



me for enthusiastically repeating their slogans.

I continued to go to the Houthi security department, where I worked as a special escort for the supervisor in all his security campaigns. Later, I was given a military number. They also gave me what is known as the “Certificate of Entering Heaven.

After I was given a military number, I initially stopped my education, and became a security officer despite my young age, which was in March 2020.

I then joined training courses, where I was trained to carry and use weapons, how to attack, withdraw and break into buildings. I was also proactive to carry out the work assigned to us and to initiate the [Houthi] slogan in any place or occasion, even in the mosques after the prayer, or before and after a sermon. I not only worked in security, but also participated in the military operations on the fronts of the governorates of Al-Jawf, Al-Hudaydah and Marib, until I was captured by the Yemeni army. My family managed to get me out of captivity and I now live with them in a camp in the Ma'rib governorate.”

## Child victims recruited by the Houthis

Euro-Med Monitor and SAM got a list of the names of children who were killed during their forced recruitment by the Houthis across the different battlefronts in Yemen. In July and August only, casualties reached 111, based on the Houthis' official statistics.

	Name	Code name	Date of the death	Governorate	Place of birth	Age	Notes
1	Mustafa Mohamed Mohamed Ahmed Shas	Abu Jinnah	2020-07-14	Mahwit	Altaweelah	17	
2	Taha Ali Ahmed Al-Kabsi	Abu Jihad	2020-08-19	Al-Amanah	Shu'ub - Eastern Garraf	16	
3	Abdullah Fadl Muhammad Hatram	Abu Hezbollah	2020-08-16	Dhamar	East Mountain - Dammam – Khirbet	16	
4	Ahmed Abdullah Ibrahim Ajlan Al-Naami		2020-08-24	Hajjah	Al Miftah	17	
5	Sami Ali Ahmed Al-Zulail	Kazem		Hajjah	Kushar	17	
6	Youssef Mohamed Ahmed Ali Al-Azraq	Abu Yunus	2020-08-18	Dhamar	Al-Madinah	17	Field commander
7	Muhammad Ali Muhammad Hassan Al-Haid	Abu Moataz	2020-08-23	Mahwit	Altaweelah	17	
8	Ahed Faisal Abdullah Ahmed Al-Ameri	Abu Aseel	2020-08-14	Dhamar	Jabal Al-Sharq	17	
9	Maghthi Aziz Maghthi Musafar Jabal	Abu Ahmad	2020-08-25	Saada	Sahar	17	Field commander
10	Ashraf Hamid Ahmad Al-Surabi	Abu Zakaria	2020-08-15	Hajjah	Al-Madinah	17	
11	Hussein Abdullah Jubran Gharm	Abu Othman	2020-08-04	Saada	Sahar	17	

12	Abdul Hafiz Abdul Aziz Muhammad Ali Al-Tair	Abu Ali	2020-08-10	Dhamar	A'nas	17	
13	Abdo Hassan Mohammed Al- Raghdhi			Dhamar	Otomah	17	
14	Yunus Ali Ali Yahya Abdullah Jarir	Abu Karrar	2020-08-09	Hajjah	Al-Shahil	17	
15	Nayef Saleh Abdullah Yahya Abu Lawh	Abu Samoud		Sana'a	Nihm	17	
16	Ali Nasser Ali Saleh Abu Shaye	Abu Maa'rik	2020-08-11	Dhamar	Al Hada - Bani Zaid	17	
17	Muhammad Nabil Ali Ibrahim Moqbel		2020-08-01	Al-Hudaydah	Al-Hock	17	
18	Talib Ali Abdo Al Salmi	Abu Rami	2020-08-02	Ibb	Qafr" "Al-Karabah –	17	
19	Arafat Mahyoub Saeed Ali Al Kamali	Abu Fares		Taiz	Shar'ab as-Salam	17	
20	Hussein Muhammad Hussain Al-Mahboubi	Abu Ahmad	2020-07-13	Dhamar	Douran – A'nas	17	
21	Rabih Qasim Abdullah Al- Hashoush	Abu Ragheb	2020-08-18	Saada	Rahban	16	
22	Nasser Mohammed Ahmed Ali Al-Tam	Abu Muhammad	2020-08-13	Saada	As Saфра" "Nushor –	16	
23	Maad Badr Ali Saleh Bahaa El Din	Abu Harb	2020-08-21	Hajjah	Al Maghrabah	16	
24	Abdul Salam Ali Ali Al-Hilafi	Abu Camail	2020-08-16	Hajjah	Al Miftah	16	
25	Abdullah Nasser Yahya Ahmed Al-Shawash	Abu Qasif	2020-08-22	Mahwit	Altaweelah	16	
26	Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad Salih Saleh Hader	Abu Turab	2020-08-19	Mahwit	Al-Khabt - Al- Ammaria	16	
27	Nabil Mansour Ali Al-Jamali		2020-09-18	Mahwit	Altaweelah	16	
28	Hilal Zaid Muhammad Saleh Al-Fadhili	Abu Sariih	2020-08-16	Dhamar	Manar	16	
29	Abdul Azim Aziz Ali Hazml Shahaba	Abu Gaza	2020-08-25	Saada	Sahar – Almhader	16	Field commander
30	Hussein Samir Ali Deif Allah Al- Thaubani	Abu Nasser		Sana'a	Sanhan	16	
31	Ali Mufreh Munser Jarman			Al Jawf		16	
32	Ali Qaid Hussain Rajeh Al Sharif			Al Jawf		16	
33	Ramzi Muhammad Hammoud Ali Moqbel	Abu Saber		Sana'a	Al Haymah Ad" Dakhiliyah "Amarsh –	16	

34	Omar commander Saif Alnafish	Ashtar		Al-Amanah	Shu'ub	16	
35	Mohammed Dhaif Allah Ahmed Saleh Al-Tayyara	Abu khalil	2020-08-10	Marib	Al-khalif	16	
36	Alaa Al-Din Muhammad Ghaleb Ahmed Al-Marouni		2020-08-12	Dhamar	Jabal Alsharq	16	
37	Taha Ahmed Aziz Yahya Musleh Al-Zubairi	Abu Bashir	2020-06-22	Sana'a	Bani Matar	16	
38	Ahmed Kharif Ahmed Ali Dashila	Abu Taha	2020-08-10	Omran	Thebeen	16	Field commander
39	Muhammad Ali Hammoud Abdullah Mohieddin	Abu Hujom		Sana'a	Bani Hashish	16	
40	Ibrahim Jamil Numan Al-Qudsi	Abu Gaza	2020-08-10	Taiz	Al-Janad	16	
41	Hashed Mohammed Ali Ahmed Nasser Al-Nahmi	Abu Thayer	2020-08-10	Dhamar	A'nas	16	
42	Abdullah Hussein Naji Johar			Sana'a	Al Haymah Al Kharijiyah	16	
43	Zakir Qayed Abdullah Al Marabi	Abu Karrar	2020-07-20	Dhamar	Wosab Al-Aali	16	
44	Jamal Ali Ahmed Saleh Al-Sabrani	Saif al-Islam	2020-07-12	Sana'a	Sanhan – Aswad	16	
45	Ziad Walid Muhammad Saif Muhammad al-Hashemi	Abu Mashakel	2020-07-15	Taiz	At-Ta'iziyah	16	
46	Essam Abdo Qasim Ali Radfan Al Hashemi		2020-07-08	Taiz	At-Ta'iziyah" "Al-Rakeb -	16	Field commander
47	Muhammad Mansour Ali Muhammad Saleh Bais	Abu Al-Hasan	2020-07-06	Mahwit	Hufash	16	Field commander
48	Abdo Saeed Lutf Mohammed Al-Awadi	Abul Abbas		Dhamar	Otomah	16	
49	Munther Saif Ali Muhammad Hadi Al-Qadami	Abu Harb	2020-07-24	Hajjah	Sharas	16	
50	Fawaz Mansour Ali Ahmed Gathwan	Kazem		Saada	Razih - Bani Ahmed	16	
51	Muhammad Mujahid Muhammad Musleh Al-Hasibi	Abu Jihad	2020-07-25	Sana'a	Al Haymah Ad" Dakhiliyah "Bait Al Hasibi -	16	
52	Abdul Salam Mujahid Saleh Al-Jarimi	Abu Hamza	2020-08-03	Ibb	Qafar	16	
53	Abdul Karim Yahya Ahmed Abdel Qader Al Kabsi	Abu Sajjad	2020-08-06	Dhamar	Al-Madinah	16	
54	Ibrahim Mohammed Yahya Qaid			Hajjah	Qafil Shamer	16	
55	Abdul Majeed Ahmed Muhammad Abdullah Al-Mushki	Abu Shahid	2020-07-22	Mahwit	AL-Rajem - Bait Mushki	16	

56	Hussam Saleh Salem Azzan	Zulfiqar	2020-08-22	Saada	Razih – Al-Nazeer	15	
57	Ali Muhammad Ali Saeed Al-Qabili	Abu Najm		Sana'a	Al Haymah Al Kharjiyah	15	
58	Jamil Nasser Ali Mohsen Al-Salahi	Abu combatant	2020-08-20	Hajjah	Al Maghrabah	15	
59	Azmi Aziz Abdo Al-Gabri		2020-08-12	Dhamar	Otomah	15	
60	Osama Mohammed Hussein Nouredine Al Saadi	Abu-Saqir	2020-08-16	Ibb	Al-Saddah	15	
61	Wajdi Al-Jamaai Qaid Al-Shaouri	Abu Atan		Ibb	Al-A'deen	15	Field commander
62	Abdul Majeed Ahmed Ahmed Nasser boy	Abu Taha	2020-08-19	Mahwit	Al Khabt	15	
63	Abdullah Muhammad Muqbel Qatina	Abu Sarkhah	2020-08-18	Mahwit	Altaweelah	15	
64	Ali Hussain Ali Hassan Ghouth	Abu Miqdad	□□□	Hajjah	Kuhlan Ash Sharaf	15	
65	Radwan Muhammad Yahya al-Mahdali	Abu Abed		Hajjah	Sharas	15	
66	Amer Mohammed Ahmed Allan Al-Soudi	Abu Ahmad	2020-08-15	Hajjah	Hajjah	15	
67	Abdul Malik Saleh Muhammad Ali Al-Baseer Al-Amdi	Karrar	2020-08-12	Dhamar	A'nas	15	
68	Saqr Nabil Abdo Mahdi Al-Khawlani	Abu Abdul Malik	2020-08-21	Sana'a	Bani Al-Harith	15	Field commander
69	Mohammed Hammoud Yahya Hassan Al-Yandi	Abu Taha	2020-08-13	Omran	Omran	15	
70	Hussein Ali Ahmed Shoukh			Al Jawf		15	
71	Nasser Mohammed Hassan Hamama			Al Jawf	Mtoon	15	
72	Fares Mabrouk Mubarak Al-Suod			Al Jawf	Mtoon	15	
73	Abdul Khaleq Jameel Ahmed Mohammed Al-Siyaghi	Abu Qattal	2020-07-27	Sana'a	Al Haymah Ad" Dakhiliyah "Bani Al-Sayagh -	15	
74	Najman Ahmed Mohammed Issa Daghfal	Abu Al-Rashidi	2020-08-09	Dhamar	Otomah	15	
75	Ahmed Yahya Ahmed Abdullah Jahaf	Al-Mukhtar	2020-08-12	Hajjah	Mabyan	15	
76	Mohammed dirham dirham Hezam Salah	Abu Nashmi	2020-08-12	Hajjah	Mabyan	15	Field commander
77	Hani Ali Mahdi Abdullah Al-Moayad	Abu Barq	2020-08-12	Hajjah	Khairan Al Muharraq	15	

78	Muhammad Ali Saleh Khalifa	Abu-Malik	2020-08-14	Sana'a	Welcome - Bani Ali	15	
79	Ahmed Mujahid Abdo Muhammad Al-Sayed	Abu Sultan	2020-08-02	Ibb	Qafar	15	
80	Hamdi Abdullah Ahmed Al- Maasabi	Abu Hamid		Taiz	Dimnat Khadir	15	
81	Yunus Najeeb Hussein Muhammad Ali	Abu Yaqoub		Dhamar	A'nas – Al-Qeflah	15	
82	Mohammed Ahmed Saleh Mohammed Mari			Sana'a	Bani Al-Harith	15	
83	Bandar Antar Shouei, Amin Al-Hamli	Abu Thabet	2020-08-15	Omran	Al-Qeflah	15	Field commander
84	Mohammed Abdullah Ahmed Omar Wali		2020-08-02	Hodeidah	Al-Hali	15	
85	Mohsen Muhammad Mohsen Abd al-Rab Hamid		2020-07-24	Dhamar	Jabal Alsharq – Al- Hejrah	15	
86	Montaser Mansour Ali Ahmed Al-Nimrani	Abu Jubran	2020-07-14	Sana'a	Bani Matar	15	Field commander
87	Naseem Abdo Mohammed Abdullah the AL-A'akes	Abu Harb	2020-07-23	Dhamar	Wosab AL-Alsafel	15	
88	Muhammad Murshid Saleh Nasser Al-Sobel		2020-07-16	Ibb	Qafa	15	
89	Zakaria Ahmed Abdullah Al- Mutamiz	Abu Mortada	2020-08-02	Saada	Rahban	15	
90	Nader Abdullah Ali Saad Al- Qahouti	Abu Abdullah	2020-08-02	Saada	Saada	15	
91	Youssef Ahmed Naji Hatem Al-Jahili	Abu Haidar	2020-07-28	Sana'a	Bani Matar	15	
92	Mohammed Hussein Massad Al-Omari	Abu Hussein	2020-08-19	Dhamar	Al-Madinah	14	
93	Ismail Ali Nasser Ali Al-Zarea	Abu Hammam	2020-08-09	Dhamar	Otomah	14	
94	Ibrahim Mohammed Rashid Rashid Al Makersh	Abu Hajar	2020-08-10	Dhamar	Douran - Bani Sweid	14	
95	Arhab Abdel Salam Abu Zaid Ibrahim Al-Masry	Abu attack	2020-08-15	Sana'a	Arhab – Bani Ali Al- Rakab	14	
96	Abdullah Muhammad Qaid Al-Qames			Dhamar	Manar	14	
97	Nabil Mohammed Ahmed Harib Al-Shaabi	Abu-Saqir	2020-07-30	Al-Hudaydah	Al-Zahrah	14	
98	Khaled Anwar Ahmed Mohammed Rajeh Al-Maqtari		2020-06-15	Al-Amanah	Al Sabeen	14	
99	Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Abdullah Rashid	Abu Jihad		Al-Amanah	Minaeans	14	



100	Ahmed Muhammad Ali Hassan Al-Najjar	Abu Lotf	2020-07-19	Hajjah	The Shahil	14	
101	Abdul Latif Mohammed Muflih Al-Hamdani	Karrar	2020-07-18	Saada	As Safra	14	
102	Ali Muhammad Mansour Ali Al-Badi	Abu Harb		Omran	Jabal Yazid	14	
103	Abdul Rahman Ahmed Mohammed Hassan Abu Hadi	Abu Zahraa	2020-07-31	Hajjah	Al-Shahil	14	
104	Yasser Yahya Ali Abdullah Al-Rashidi	Abu Ammar	2020-08-04	Dhamar	Jabal Al-Sharq	14	
105	Amjad Saleh Mohammed Al-Nahmi	Karrar	2020-08-17	Dhamar	Jahran – Bayt Al-Nahmi	14	
106	Saqr Nasser Ali Ayed Al-Qarih	Abu Bashir	2020-06-18	Omran	Suber	13	Field commander
107	Arafat Nasser Yahya Al-Nusra	Abu Hussein	2020-07-27	Sana'a	Bani Matar	13	
108	Dhaif Allah Hassan Abdullah Mohammed welcome	Abu Jihad	2020-08-09	Dhamar	Otomah	12	
109	Abdul Salam Ali Hassan Ali Abadi		2020-08-12	Dhamar	Jabal Al-Sharq	11	
110	Mohammed Abdullah Ahmed Salem Sweid	Abu Abed	2020-08-09	Dhamar	Otomah – Bayt Al-Jahmi	11	
111	Ahmed Adel Ahmed Ayash Presbyterian	Abu Harb		Al-Hudaydah	At Tuhayta	11	

# Legal background

The phenomenon of child recruitment was a major legal problem after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) found that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 were inadequate to address the issue. ICRC worked extremely hard to find a decisive legal solution to the issue, which, at the end, adopted the additional Protocol I and II to the Geneva Conventions in 1977. These protocols unequivocally affirmed the complete ban on the participation of children in armed conflicts.

Additional Protocol II of 1977 bans child recruitment, since the armed conflict in Yemen is an internal conflict based on the provisions of the International Humanitarian Law. Article 4, Paragraph C confirmed this ban. It stipulates that “Children who have not attained the age of fifteen years shall neither be recruited in the armed forces or groups nor allowed to take part in hostilities”. In May 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts. This protocol is considered one of the most important legal provisions that ensures the protection of children’s rights and not to be forced to participate in armed conflicts. Also, it is the culmination of efforts in the 1990s made the legal age of children from 15 to 18, during which it is strictly prohibited to recruit children.

The protocol included some important provisions such as the age of forced

recruitment and voluntary recruitment. It also tackled the issue of child recruitment in armed groups distinct from the armed forces of the state. In the Protocol, Article 4 stipulates: “1. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years. 2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices”.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court confirmed this ban and considered child recruitment a war crime. In the statute, Article 8 entitled war crimes, stipulates the following:

1. The Court shall have jurisdiction in respect of war crimes in particular when committed as part of a plan or policy or as part of a large-scale commission of such crimes.
2. For the purpose of this Statute, «war crimes» means:
  - b. Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law, namely, any of the following acts:

7. Conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities.

Regarding imprisoned children, who were recruited by the Houthis and are now imprisoned by the Yemeni army. The general rules in the International Humanitarian Law ensured their protection.

In the additional Protocol II, Article 3) 4) Para d stipulates “3. Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require, and in particular: (d) The special protection provided by this Article to children who have not attained the age of fifteen years, shall remain applicable to them if they take a direct part in hostilities despite the provisions of sub-paragraph (c) and are captured”.

# Recommendations

Based on the aforementioned report, Euro-Med Monitor and SAM recommends the following:

- The Houthis should immediately stop recruiting and exploiting children as this poses a serious threat to their lives and future and constitutes a grave violation against their guaranteed rights in domestic and international conventions and customs.
- The UN Security Council should refer the issue of child recruitment in Yemen to the International Criminal Court (ICC), for it is considered a war crime based on the Rome Statute.
- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict should visit Yemen as soon as possible to conduct a direct assessment of child recruitment in areas run by the Houthis.
- The High Commissioner for Human Rights should adopt measures to put an end to the phenomenon of child recruitment in Yemen by strengthening the role of its field offices.
- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child should take appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Yemen has ratified. It is related to the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

- The Yemeni government should treat recruited child prisoners in line with relevant international protocols, involve them in special rehabilitation programs to get rid of the effects of war, and facilitate their integration into the society.





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