



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

UN Human Rights Council: 32nd Session
Item 4, General Debate: Oral Intervention
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
22 June, 2016
Delivered by: Salma Amer

Thank you Mr. President,

The international community and this Council are failing the people of Yemen on a massive scale.

In February of this year, the Security Council recognized “the humanitarian crisis in Yemen... as the largest in the world”¹ As this session began the High Commissioner highlighted that “More than 21 million Yemenis – 80% of the population – need basic assistance, 2.8 million people have been forced to leave their homes. [And] Humanitarian aid is frequently obstructed by the parties to the conflict.” The UN has only received 16% of the funds it requires to simply “keep people alive.”²

Meanwhile, attacks against civilians and other grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law that may amount to war crimes continue to be carried out by all sides to the conflict. Over the last year alone the OHCHR has documented 3,539 civilians killed and 6,268 injured.³ A large proportion of these have resulted from indiscriminate bombing by the coalition forces and to a lesser degree by the Houthi rebels.

Like Syria, Yemen has become hell on earth for millions of innocent people. This was never inevitable. Impunity for crimes committed, including the immunity given to former President Saleh within the GCC peace agreement of 2011, has been a primary cause of the current situation.

Promises by Yemen and its allies to insure independent, credible investigations into crimes being committed in the country have been broken time and time again. The creation of an international investigation into these violations is long overdue, and UN member states must act to ensure that this occurs when Yemen comes under consideration at the 33rd session of this Council. Failure to do so will only prolong the cycle of violence and human suffering that currently engulfs Yemen, and aid the rise of terrorist organizations in the country.

¹ At <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12250.doc.htm>

² At <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-aid-un-idUSKCN0Y82JI>

³ At <http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20082&LangID=E>

Thank you Mr. President.