



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

United Nations Human Rights Council: Session 33
Oral Intervention: Item 10 General Debate on Yemen
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
28 September 2016

Thank you Mr. president.

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies welcomes the Office of the High Commissioner's report on Yemen and is deeply concerned with the "sharp increase in civilian casualties" in Yemen, with "180 people killed and 268 injured in August" alone.

All parties to the conflict in Yemen continue to commit grave rights violations that may amount to war crimes. The ongoing blockade imposed by the Houthis in Taizz is feeding the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in the country, which effects more than 80% of the population. While only last week, an airstrike by coalition forces hit a residential area killing at least 26 civilians.

Last year, under pressure from Saudi Arabia, this Council failed to heed the call of the OHCHR and civil society and ensure an international investigation into crimes in Yemen. Since then, at least 1,444 more civilians have been killed, many of them women and children. At that time many states argued that the national investigation should be given more time.

Mr. President,

Time is up. So far no credible investigations have been carried out by any party to the conflict. As pointed out by the High Commissioner in his report, the Yemen national commission has been "unable to implement its mandate in accordance with international standards."

The time for the establishment of an international investigation is long overdue. No credible arguments exist to further delay the creation of such a mechanism at this Council. Failure to do so will only encourage the further killing of civilians in Yemen, and severely erode this Council's credibility in the eyes of the world.

Thank you Mr. President.