



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Yemen - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 26 October 2023

Information on the current security situation

Human Rights Watch in July 2023 states that:

“Throughout the nearly nine-year conflict in Yemen, parties to the conflict have perpetrated widespread violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, causing extensive civilian harm...the parties to the conflicts’ perpetration of indiscriminate attacks, the use of torture, enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention, the proliferation of landmines, forced displacement, and the infliction of psychological harm” (*Human Rights Watch* (26 July 2023) *International and Regional Organizations Support the Yemen Declaration for Justice and Reconciliation*).

In August 2023 the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* states that:

“Since 2015, civilians in Yemen have suffered from recurrent war crimes and crimes against humanity. Fighting between Houthi forces, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and forces loyal to the internationally recognized government – as well as airstrikes by a Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE)-led international coalition – have resulted in the death of thousands of civilians since March 2015. More than 19,200 civilians, including over 2,300 children, have been killed or maimed as a result of coalition airstrikes alone. The conflict has displaced at least 4 million people and created the world’s largest humanitarian crisis, with more than 23.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance and 19 million facing food insecurity” (*Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* (31 August 2023) *Yemen*, p.1).

This document also states that:

“Although there has not been a significant escalation in hostilities and no airstrikes have occurred since the truce expired, over 1,464 civilians have been killed or injured since October 2022 as occasional clashes continue across several governorates, including Al Jawf, Shabwah, Marib, Hodeidah, Sa’dah and Ta’izz” (*ibid*, p.2).

In September 2023 the *United Nations News Centre* states that:

“Despite a significant decrease in fighting since last year’s UN-brokered truce, over 4.3 million people remain displaced across the country. Most do not feel safe enough to return home anytime soon and plan to remain in the areas they have settled in for the foreseeable future. Many are dispersed across hundreds of displacement camps in underdeveloped areas, mainly along the frontlines. Others have sheltered in urban areas or among host communities where social services are more readily available, yet poverty is rife” (*United Nations News Centre* (21 September 2023) *Yemen: Unsung heroes unite for lasting peace*, p.1).

Al Jazeera in September 2023 points out that:

“A UN-brokered ceasefire had already largely halted the violence and Yemen has seen only sporadic clashes since the truce expired nearly a year ago” (Al Jazeera (26 September 2023) *Bahrain says 2 soldiers killed in Houthi drone attack on Saudi-Yemen border*).

The *Associated Press* in September 2023 points out that:

“The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters, killing tens of thousands more...A U.N.-brokered cease-fire largely halted the violence, and Yemen has seen only sporadic clashes since the truce expired nearly a year ago” (Associated Press (30 September 2023) *Fourth soldier from Bahrain dies of wounds after Yemen's Houthi rebels attack troops on Saudi border*).

A report published in October 2023 by the *International Crisis Group* points out that:

“Despite having formally lapsed, the truce has largely held, bringing welcome respite in the conflict” (International Crisis Group (10 October 2023) *Catching Up on the Back-channel Peace Talks in Yemen*, p.1).

In October 2023 *Amnesty International* states that:

“Serious human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment have been committed by all parties to the conflict, including the IRG.³⁷ However, there is a significant reduction in civilian casualties due to an overall drop in the use of explosive weapons, including by the IRG...” (Amnesty International (19 October 2023) *Yemen: Ongoing violations amid conflict: Amnesty International’s submission to the 46th session of the UPR Working Group, April-May*, p.4).

Information on the current humanitarian situation

In September 2023 the *United States Agency for International Development* states that:

“...the situation on the ground remains fragile and humanitarian needs remain high due to the economic crisis, high levels of unemployment, protracted instability, and rising food and fuel prices. Approximately 21.6 million people require humanitarian assistance, including approximately 13.4 million people in acute need...” (United States Agency for International Development (29 September 2023) *Yemen - Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #12, Fiscal Year (FY) 2023*, p.5).

A report published in October 2023 by *Human Rights Watch* points out that:

“Parties have attacked and mined food and water infrastructure, as well as medical facilities, and have blocked access to humanitarian aid, leaving over 70 percent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance” (Human Rights Watch (6 October 2023) *Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Yemen*, p.1).

The *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* in October 2023 points out that:

“Yemen remains one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises, with an estimated 21.6 million people needing humanitarian assistance or protection in 2023. The humanitarian crisis, primarily driven by continued conflict and an economic collapse, has been

exacerbated by critical funding gaps, global inflation, and access challenges. In addition, the global food shortages have worsen the situation, many vulnerable households in Yemen face difficulties in securing food, which prices become unaffordable” (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (9 October 2023) *Yemen: Humanitarian Response Snapshot*, p.1).

In October 2023 *Agence France Presse* points out that:

“Yemen erupted into conflict in 2014 when Huthi rebels seized Sanaa, prompting a Saudi-led military coalition to intervene the following year to prop up the internationally recognised government. The war has triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian tragedies, with two-thirds of the population currently requiring humanitarian aid, including more than 11 million children” (Agence France Presse (26 October 2023) *Save the Children halts north Yemen operations after staffer death*).

References

Agence France Presse (26 October 2023) *Save the Children halts north Yemen operations after staffer death*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crid=74425937-127a-414d-ae5e-a5eff54c69e1&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A69GJ-JBF1-DY93-M04F-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=10903&pdteaserkey=sr0&pditab=allpods&ecomp=hwmk&earg=sr0&prid=e15b92ec-69f8-4cc2-b877-ea571f996809>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

Al Jazeera (26 September 2023) *Bahrain says 2 soldiers killed in Houthi drone attack on Saudi-Yemen border*

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/26/bahrain-says-2-soldiers-killed-in-houthi-drone-attack-on-saudi-yemen-border>

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

Amnesty International (19 October 2023) *Yemen: Ongoing violations amid conflict: Amnesty International's submission to the 46th session of the UPR Working Group, April-May*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/7025/2023/en/>

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

Associated Press (30 September 2023) *Fourth soldier from Bahrain dies of wounds after Yemen's Houthi rebels attack troops on Saudi border*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crid=6ade0058-cc55-4329-a944-a59fc5b35f92&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A698Y-MXC1-DYMD-62YT-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=304477&pdteaserkey=sr7&pditab=allpods&ecomp=hwmk&earg=sr7&prid=fe2ca195-2aa2-40d8-9656-4fe8c60a8805>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (31 August 2023) *Yemen*

<https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/yemen/>

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

Human Rights Watch (6 October 2023) *Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Yemen*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/submission-universal-periodic-review-yemen-0>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

Human Rights Watch (26 July 2023) *International and Regional Organizations Support the Yemen Declaration for Justice and Reconciliation*

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/07/26/international-and-regional-organizations-support-yemen-declaration-justice-and>

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

International Crisis Group (10 October 2023) *Catching Up on the Back-channel Peace Talks in Yemen*

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/gulf-and-arabian-peninsula/yemen/catching-back-channel-peace-talks-yemen>

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

United Nations News Centre (21 September 2023) *Yemen: Unsung heroes unite for lasting peace*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/yemen-unsung-heroes-unite-lasting-peace>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 26 October 2023

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (9 October 2023) *Yemen: Humanitarian Response Snapshot*

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-response-snapshot-august-2023-enar>

Accessed Friday 27 October 2023

United States Agency for International Development (29 September 2023) *Yemen - Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #12, Fiscal Year (FY) 2023*

https://reliefweb.int/attachments/e5ff1b9c-e81e-45d5-ab21-1eb28b9637b0/2023_09_29%20USG%20Yemen%20Complex%20Emergency%20Fact%20Sheet%20%2312.pdf

Accessed Friday 27 October 2023

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Report Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
New Humanitarian
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld