

## **List of Issues addressed to the Houthi/Ansar Allah by the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/36/31**

### **I. Introduction**

1. Following meetings between the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen and officials of Ansar Allah and Houthi forces in Yemen, in March 2018, the Chairperson and Experts of the Group respectfully seek assistance in further clarification and verification of facts related to the human rights situation in Yemen. Clarification and verification of these facts will contribute to the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen to “carry out a comprehensive examination of all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and other appropriate and applicable fields of international law committed by all parties to the conflict [in Yemen] since September 2014”. Responses will be included in the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ report to the Human Rights Council, unless the entity that provides the information requests to keep the shared information confidential.
2. The Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen would be grateful to receive a reply to the list of issues by 24 June 2018.

### **II. Command and Control**

1. The forces affiliated with or fighting alongside the Houthis include units of the Yemen Armed Forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Popular Committees (altogether “Houthi forces”).
  - a. How are these various forces coordinated?
  - b. Is there a unified leadership?
  - c. How did the leadership and formations change shape after December 2017?
  - d. Is there an organizational structure, a chain of command, a formal uniform and a military rank for the Popular Committees and other Houthi units?
  - e. Are there Rules of Engagement and Standard Operating Procedures? If so, please share copies.
2. How do Houthi forces and/or Ansar Allah exercise command and control over the units of the Yemen Armed Forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh that allied with the Houthis since September 2014? What is the role of the Houthi Revolutionary Committee in controlling these units?
3. Is the ministry of defense responsible for the salaries of all of these forces, including the former units of the Yemen Armed Forces and the Popular Committees?
4. Who within the Houthi forces exercises command and control over the missile force (the “strategic reserve missile group” based on the structure of the Yemeni army)?

### **III. Military Operations**

5. What is the methodology used by Houthi forces to minimise harm to the civilian population in attacks?
6. How are proportionality assessments carried out before attacks?
7. Please describe precautions that Houthi forces take to minimise civilian casualties and damage, particularly in the case of dual-use targets? How is this reviewed during the period leading up to the attack? Are warnings ever given and, if so, how?
8. Please explain how Houthi forces have defined military objectives for targeting purposes?

9. Please explain how Houthi forces have selected targets for artillery and mortar shelling in Taizz?
10. What training on International Humanitarian Law is provided to Houthi forces?

#### **IV. Weaponry**

11. What are the types of anti-ship missiles available to Houthi forces? Did Houthi forces use it during the conflict, if so when and where?
12. Have Houthi forces used landmines? If so, what are the types and manufacture of such mines? Do Houthi forces have maps of the minefields in areas such as Nahm, Sarawah, Bihan, Baqah and Taizz?

#### **V. Access restrictions**

13. Please respond to allegations that Houthi forces have delayed, diverted and/or denied the distribution of humanitarian assistance in areas under their effective control. Please provide information about relevant procedures for the distribution of such assistance in Houthi-controlled areas. What measures have Houthi forces and/or Ansar Allah put in place to reduce delays and otherwise ensure that assistance reaches isolated communities?
14. Please respond to allegations that Houthi forces have hindered the delivery of medical vaccinations in areas under their control.
15. Please respond to allegations that Houthi forces have restricted or prohibited certain items from entering Taizz. Are there certain items that are restricted or prohibited? If so, which items and for what reason?
16. Have there been incidents in which individuals or groups have been found transporting military-related cargo into Taizz? If so, please provide information on these.

#### **VI. Detention**

17. Please list the detention facilities under the operational control of Houthi forces and/or Ansar Allah and provide the names of the individuals in charge of each detention facility.
18. How many individuals are currently held in detention facilities run by the Political Security department?
19. How many individuals are currently held in detention facilities run by the National Security department?
20. Is there a mechanism in place to receive and investigate allegations of ill-treatment and torture in detention facilities? If so, please describe it.
21. What is the procedure for reviewing the legality of those detained?
22. Have there been any changes in the organizational structure of Houthi controlled detention facilities, after the former president Saleh was killed?

#### **VII. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)**

23. Please provide a list of all measures Houthi forces and/or Ansar Allah are taking to prevent, address, investigate, and prosecute SGBV?
24. What training/awareness raising do Houthi forces receive to prevent violence against women and girls, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse? What training/awareness raising do Houthi forces receive to help them protect vulnerable people including Internally Displaced People and Refugees?

25. Please provide a list of all allegations of SGBV by Houthi forces in Yemen reported to Houthi forces and/or Ansar Allah – if any were reported to them- since September 2014. Please advise how these were investigated and whether those accused have been prosecuted.

**VIII. Child Recruitment and Use**

26. Do Houthi forces have a formal policy on the recruitment and use of children by such forces? If so, please share the policy.
27. What is the minimum age of recruitment and use of individuals by Houthi forces?

**IX. Accountability**

28. Do Houthi forces have a mechanism for assessing military operations after the fact, including the impact of operations on civilians?
29. Have Houthi forces afforded compensation to any victims resulting from military operations? If so, please provide details.
30. Do Houthi forces have a military justice system? If so, please provide a copy of its rules and procedures.
31. Are there other administrative, disciplinary or criminal sanctions available to Houthi forces for conflict-related violations?
32. Please share information on any Houthi-affiliated individual who has been found responsible for violations of international human rights or international humanitarian law, or related national law.