

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU YÉMEN  
GENÈVE



الوفد الدائم للجمهورية اليمنية  
لدى المقر الأوروبي للأمم المتحدة  
جنيف

No.: 313

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the esteemed Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and has the honour , in reference to the letter of the chief of Special Procedures Branch ref. AL YEM 1/2023 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 regarding the Joint Communication from Special Procedures, to include the reply of the Government of Yemen (Arabic) to the questions submitted within the Joint Communication.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration. ع.س

Geneva 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023



**To : The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva**

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
Ministry of Legal Affairs and Human Rights**

**Republic of Yemen  
Reply to the enquiries of special rapporteurs**

Pursuant to the wish of the Yemeni Government to cooperate with all United Nations mechanisms, including the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, which include the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions A/HRC/RES/44/3 A/HRC/RES/44/5, A/HRC/RES/45/3 and A/HRC/RES/45/10;

Whereas the Yemeni Government expresses its thanks and appreciation to the special rapporteurs for their unstinting efforts to promote human rights in Yemen and worldwide; and with reference to the inquiries received from the aforementioned special rapporteurs and sent under reference AL YEM 1/2023,

**The Government of the Republic of Yemen would like to begin by setting straight the context and advising the special rapporteurs of the political, legal, economic and security developments that took place in the Republic of Yemen between 2013 and 2022, which can be summarized as follows:**

- The Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference was launched on 18 March 2013 and continued until 25 January 2014, during which time participants agreed on the Comprehensive National Dialogue Outcomes Document. The President of the Republic issued two Republican Decrees, Nos. 26 and 27 (2014), setting up a constitutional drafting committee and appointing its 17 members. The committee spent nine months carrying out its work.
- On 21 September 2014, Iran-backed rebel Houthi militias occupied the capital, Sana'a, by force of arms, taking control of State institutions and looting weapons from the armed forces, security forces and State facilities. They had previously occupied Amran and Saada Governorates and enforced mass population displacement from those governorates. Note that Houthi militias began their rebellion in 2004 and fought six wars against the State, culminating in the coup of 2014.
- On 21 January 2015, Iran-backed Houthi rebel militias placed the elected President of the Republic, Prime Minister and several ministers under house arrest. However, the Government was subsequently able to flee to Aden Governorate and declare it the temporary capital. On 19 March 2015, Iranian-backed rebels used captured warplanes to launch airstrikes against the presidential palace at Maashiq. On 21 March 2015, the leaders of the Houthi militias announced a general mobilization with a view to seizing the southern and eastern governorates. Following this, armed Houthi militias took over most governorates, looting State funds from the Central Bank and government departments and threatening international peace and security.

extension of State authority, putting an end to the coup and achieving economic stability. In the higher national interest, the President of the Republic, [REDACTED], announced the transfer of power and formation of the Presidential Leadership Council, consisting of eight members, chaired by [REDACTED]. The House of Representatives met in extraordinary session in the temporary capital of Aden and the members of the Council swore the constitutional oath before parliament. The Council formed the Joint Security and Military Committee to ensure security and stability and the restructuring of the armed forces and security forces, pursuant to article 5 of the Declaration, announcing the transfer of power. The Council further issued Republican Decree no. 21 (2022), on the restructuring of the Supreme Judicial Council and appointment of the President and members thereof. As well as the appointment of the Attorney General and President of the Supreme Court, the declaration of the transfer of power requires the formation of a national body for consultation and reconciliation and a legal and economic team to assist the Presidential Leadership Council in the performance of its duties.

- Regarding the UN-sponsored peace talks, the Yemeni Government signed the Stockholm Agreement on December 2018 and implemented all its obligations thereunder in the belief that this would have a humanitarian impact on the lives of the population of Hudaydah Governorate and neighbouring governorates, which are among those most affected by the fighting. The Houthi militias, however, sought to obstruct implementation of the Stockholm Agreement in relation to Hudaydah, thereby prolonging the suffering of its population. Consequently, the Agreement did not achieve its desired humanitarian goals.
- To address the impact and repercussions of the humanitarian crisis on the Yemeni population and achieve lasting peace, the Presidential Leadership Council and the Government agreed on 4 April 2022 to the UN envoy's proposal for a two-month humanitarian truce involving a ceasefire, the reopening of Sana'a airport to humanitarian flights and the exemption of the port of Hudaydah from the regulations imposed at other Yemeni ports on the import of petrol. The truce began on 4 April 2022 and lasted until 30 May 2022. It was extended from 1 June to 30 August 2022 and then for another two months, until 2 October 2022. There are ongoing efforts on the part of the United Nations for a further extension of the truce but the Houthi militias continue to reject this.
- **Given the precise political and historical facts and variables stated above, the *de facto* and *de jure* profiles of the Yemeni conflict show that it was caused by foreign-backed armed militias turning against the State in the form of the legitimate Yemeni Government, elected by the people and recognized internationally. The militias seized control of State institutions by force of arms, obstructing the transitional phase and process of peaceful political transition. Refusing to implement Security Council resolutions, they threatened international peace and security. Accordingly, the State was obliged, under national and international law, to assume its responsibility to put down the rebellion, end the coup and restore the State and its institutions. International assistance was requested, in accordance with international law and the commitment to the measures to achieve security and stability, taking care to avoid human rights abuses. The necessary measures were taken to this end.**

- Regarding allegations of serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, the Yemeni Government affirms its total and absolute commitment to international humanitarian and human rights law, stressing that it will not tolerate any violation of the rights of its citizens in the Republic of Yemen, whether in areas under government control or under the control of rebel Houthi militias. The Yemeni Government has sought and still seeks to prevent violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law of any sort through governmental and independent non-governmental organizations, conducting administrative and judicial investigations into allegations of transgressions of human rights or international humanitarian law. Legal measures are taken against those whose involvement in or responsibility for violations has been proven. The Government is working across multiple trajectories to protect human rights and prevent violations by adopting certain specific measures, including more comprehensive and diverse policies, to ensure the highest possible degree of security. After the Houthi militias destroyed the institutions of State, the Government sought as a matter of urgency to restore normality in liberated areas and foster government institutions: indeed, the Government attaches great importance to reactivating the enforcement agencies that promote justice, especially the Public Prosecution Service and courts. For this reason, it has prioritized reactivation of civil and military prosecution services and courts in all liberated governorates and provided the material resources and operational expenses necessary, as follows:
  - Restoration and repair of offices of the Public Prosecution Service and courts; delivery of essential operational needs and expenditures and payment of the salaries of the staff of judicial bodies, judges and administrators, while ensuring the continuity thereof;
  - Addressing the situation of the staff of the judiciary (courts and Public Prosecution Service) in accordance with the law and available resources;
  - Payment in full of the salaries of members of the judiciary (courts and Public Prosecution Service), ensuring the continuity thereof;
  - Introduction of numerous reforms within the judiciary to boost its presence and efficiency, including:
    - ✓ Adoption of Presidential Leadership Council Decree No. 21 (2022), on the restructuring of the Supreme Judicial Council and appointment of the first female member of the Council in Yemen;
    - ✓ Appointment of the Attorney General, President of the Supreme Court and President of the Judicial Inspection Authority;
    - ✓ Presidential Leadership Council Decree No. 155 (2023), on the appointment of judges to the bench of the Supreme Court;
    - ✓ In September 2023, the Supreme Judicial Council carried out a series of transfers and appointments, involving the courts and Public Prosecution Service of the Governorates of Taiz, Shabwa and Abyan and including the appointment of judges to courts of appeal and first instance and the Public Prosecution Service. It also established new appellate divisions and courts in several governorates to address the sheer number of cases by speeding up the process of litigation and adjudication, facilitating access to the courts and ensuring justice for plaintiffs and victims.

- ✓ Re-opening of the Higher Judicial Institute in the capital, Aden, to applicants seeking to study the law, with a view to expanding the judiciary with young, new, competent and qualified staff.
  - ✓ Regarding activation of the security services, the President of the Republic and Ministry of Interior have issued numerous decisions with a view to filling vacancies in the security services, including the appointment of General Directors of Police in the governorates and promoting the activity of military schools, colleges and institutes.
- The Government has made great efforts, using available resources, to ensure that victims have access to effective and prompt mechanisms of redress through the Public Prosecution Service, courts and other national mechanisms. The total number of Public Prosecution Service offices in the liberated areas has reached 145, including 27 appeals offices and 17 first-instance prosecution offices distributed among governorates and in accordance with the qualitative and spatial jurisdiction between Public Prosecution Service offices, financial prosecutors, specialized criminal prosecutors and military prosecutors, as follows:
    - ✓ There are 110 public prosecutors, 13 public finance prosecutors, seven specialized procedural prosecutors and 15 military prosecutors.
  - The number of cases of all kinds received by first instance prosecutors in one year alone (2022) came to 15,218; the number of cases received by the appeals prosecutor came to 4,940; and the number of cases received by the cassation prosecutor came to 113. For detailed information on the activity and achievements of the public prosecution service in the liberated governorates in 2022, refer to the website of the Attorney General’s office in Aden and view the 2022 annual report.
  - Similarly, to facilitate access to means of redress, the office of the Attorney General has created windows on its website and social media pages to receive complaints and reports from citizens. Complaints and reports can be submitted concerning abuses they have been subjected to or obstacles or difficulties that have prevented them from obtaining redress. Furthermore, a special Human Rights Department has been set up in the office of the public prosecutor. Also, a decree was issued setting up a Prisons Section in the office of the public prosecutor. Moreover, a decision was issued by the public prosecutor authorizing the heads of appeals prosecution offices to file criminal cases directly via the Clerk of Court in criminal cases without referral to the Public Prosecution Service. This decree makes it easier for litigants to obtain prompt redress for violations committed by security and army personnel.

Working through the relevant ministries (defence, interior, legal affairs and human rights and attorney general) the Government held scores of workshops, introductory seminars and awareness-raising and training sessions for military and security personnel between 2017 and 2023 with a view to building capacity and awareness in the field of human rights and principles of international humanitarian law. Subject to available resources, the Government has implemented and continues to implement, alongside its international and

local partners, a series of training and introductory programs for officers and non-commissioned officers in military zones and security institutions and agencies across the governorates in the fields of international humanitarian law and human rights law. By way of example, we might mention some of these, as follows:

- In 2019, the Ministry of Defence, in partnership with international centres in the shadow of conflict, held a training program in the field of international humanitarian law in the governorates of Aden, Ma'rib and al-Jawf with an average of eight training workshops for 203 officers and non-commissioned officers from the armed forces, security services and military police from military hubs in those governorates.
- On 6 September 2022, a three-day workshop was held on the *Law of War: International Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflict*, organized by King Naif University in cooperation with the to support legitimacy in Yemen as part of the training programme for coalition officials. The programme discussed several key topics, the most important of which are international humanitarian law, the institutional framework of international humanitarian law and the protection of persons and property from criminal acts under international law.
- On 28 August 2022, a five-day training workshop on concepts of international and humanitarian law and human rights principles was held for joint forces leaders and officials, including 23 officers from the Tihama, Zaraniq, Amaliqah (“Giants”) and Republican Guard brigades.
- On 18 October 2021, in partnership with Geneva Call, a training course on international humanitarian law was held for members of Aden police and security service personnel stationed at security checkpoints. More than 20 participants from Aden police and security services took part. A working paper on the importance of the role of the security sector in society and the need to respect the concepts of international humanitarian law and human rights law was delivered. Furthermore, police behaviour when dealing with civilians was addressed.
- On 13 September 2018, the first training course was held for members of the Joint Technical Committee on guidelines for protecting children from the effects of armed conflict. Some 30 military and civilian trainees took part, alongside the Committee secretariat.
- On 24 May 2022, a workshop was held on international humanitarian law to review the progress of the action plan signed by the Yemeni Government and the United Nations in 2018, in the presence of a delegation from the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and members of the Joint Technical Committee on Preventing Child Recruitment.
- On 12 March 2021, within the framework of the roadmap to prevent child recruitment signed by the Government and the United Nations in 2018, and under the auspices of the Minister of Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the

Ministry and the Quartet on preventing child recruitment held a virtual meeting with the United Nations Assistant Under-Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, in the course of which aspects of cooperation were discussed, as well as the remaining steps needed to remove Yemen from the (b) list of States that violate the rights of children during conflict.

- The Government has been keen to put in place operational measures to promote human rights and prevent the recruitment of children. This led to the publication of a report by the United Nations Secretary-General on children and armed conflict – A/493/2022/76/871/S (2021) – which includes removal of the name of the Yemeni armed forces from the (b) list, concerning the commission of abuses involving the recruitment and exploitation of children in armed conflicts. This indicates the progress achieved by the Yemeni Government in implementing the 2014 action map and 2018 road map, both signed by the Government and the United Nations. Furthermore, a series of decrees were adopted by the Government, the most significant of which are:
  - Adoption of Cabinet Decrees Nos. 91 (2018) and 109 (2018) in which the Government recommitted itself to the 2014 agreement to form the Joint Technical Committee outlawing the recruitment of children. The aim is to review and promote the joint action plan to bring an end to the phenomenon of child recruitment, in line with the new reality. Included are activities designed to protect and radically address the phenomenon of children’s rights in Yemen, taking into account local cultural dimensions and focusing on addressing causes.
  - The Joint Technical Committee prepared a road map and submitted it to the cabinet, pursuant to the adoption of Cabinet Decree No. 109 (2018), approving the road map for the 2014 work plan.
  - Order No. 2.S.C.12 (2020) of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on preventing the recruitment of children into the ranks of the armed forces and security services is a military order issued to the Minister of Defence prohibiting the recruitment of children under the age of 18 into the ranks of the armed forces and directing that abuses be referred to the military courts.
  - As part of the field deployment program from 7 May to 26 May 2022, which targeted several military zones and hubs, some 300 copies of military instructions and orders were photocopied, covered and distributed to officers and NCOs. The documents included military instructions issued by the Minister of Defence and Ministry of Interior and designed to promote human rights and international humanitarian law as follows:
    - ✓ Memorandum No. M.D.137/20 (3 March 2020) of the Minister of Defence to the Department of Moral Guidance, on raising awareness of the recruitment of children as a crime punishable by law; implementing programs to raise awareness of the rights of the child; issuing instructional booklets; and delivering introductory lectures in all military units.

- ✓ Memorandum no. M.D.29/K.M (3 March 2020) from the Minister of Defence to the head of the Training and Qualification Authority, requiring the implementation of training programs on the dangers of child recruitment and serious violations of the rights of the child.
- ✓ Memorandum no. M.D.S.Th/20 (3 March 2020) from the Minister of Defence to the heads of military authorities, directors of military departments and commanders of military zones, hubs and units, on preventing the recruitment of children under the age of 18 and stipulating discharge in the event of violation; those who have recruited children shall be held accountable and rehabilitated in coordination with the local authority in the governorates.
- ✓ Memorandum no. M.D.28.K20 (3 March 2020) from the Minister of Defence to the head of the Military Intelligence Authority, Director of the Military Intelligence Directorate and commanders of military police units, requiring the preparation of a plan to conduct regular and systematic inspection campaigns for military and security units to ensure they are free of any taint of child recruitment; organizing inspection campaigns in training camps in coordination with the Joint Technical Committee; and referring any violations or transgressions to the military courts.
- ✓ Circulating the text of the protocol agreed by the Yemeni Government on the return of children captured during military operations. The Government, in coordination with the relevant organizations, has rehabilitated and reintegrated into society hundreds of child fighters captured at the front after forcible recruitment by the Houthi militias and used as cannon fodder in their war.
- ✓ Memorandum of the Minister of Defence on implementing the text of the global Safe Schools Declaration, approved by the Yemeni Government.
- ✓ Directives nos. 27/K(2020) and 14/Z/21 (6 July 2021) of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, supplementing the directives of the Minister of Interior, on excluding individuals under the legal age from the ranks of the security services.
- ✓ Circular of the Minister of Defence to all military zones and units on observing international humanitarian law and the rules of engagement, distinguishing between military and civilian targets and avoiding civilian casualties.

As regards monitoring, documenting and safeguarding the rights of victims, conducting effective investigations into abuses, prosecuting perpetrators to ensure justice, truth and ensuring there is no immunity from punishment, the Yemeni Government, pursuant to its responsibility to protect the rights of citizens from abuses by others, has implemented a series of arrangements, measures and procedures, as follows:

- The Government has taken all possible measures to address the impact of the Houthi rebellion and its serious, negative repercussions on the human rights situation in Yemen. Pursuant to its constitutional and legal responsibility to prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and ensure victims' right to redress and given that the protection of human rights represents a priority, the Government has taken a series of practical and organizational measures,

arrangements and procedures to ensure that victims have effective and easy access to legal redress. The most significant of these measures are the following:

- ✓ Restructuring of the National Commission for the Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights; adoption of Republican Decree No. 50 (2017), on the restructuring of the National Commission; amendment of Decree No. 140 (2012, amended), pursuant to Decree No. 13 (2015). The Commission is a national mechanism designed to monitor and scrutinize claims of human rights violations committed on the territory of the Republic of Yemen by third parties. It was established in accordance with Republican Decree No. 140 (2012, amended) and based on the provisions of the Gulf Initiative, its executive mechanism, Security Council Resolutions S/RES/2051(2012) and S/RES/2140 (2014) and relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council. Most significantly, Republican Decree No. 50 (2017) grants the Commission authority to forward completed dossiers to the judiciary. Its mandate stipulates that the Commission shall refer all observed and verified violations to the judiciary. The Commission was established in accordance with international standards and operates independently and impartially.
- ✓ Reports submitted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council in 2019 (No. A/HRC/42/33) and in 2020 (No. A/HRC/45/57), commend the role of the Commission, provide a detailed report on its activity, recommending that its work continue and that technical support be provided. The Office of the High Commissioner in Yemen works closely with the Commission and in several resolutions, the Human Rights Council has praised the efforts and work of the Commission. It has further recommended the provision of technical support to the National Commission and other national mechanisms. The special rapporteurs are able to study these, which is sufficient to dismiss any allegations or concerns about the independence of the National Commission, its working methods and the impartiality and transparency of the investigations it conducts into allegations of violations by all parties. To confirm this, see the committee's annual reports on its website.
- The appointment of a member of the National Commission as a member of the Supreme Judicial Council does not represent a conflict of interest and does not affect the independence of the Commission, given that the work of a member of the Supreme Judicial Council is administrative and organizational and does not involve carrying out any specifically judicial duties or functions. Furthermore, following the decision to reconstitute the Commission and charge it with referring case files that have been fully investigated to the judiciary, it has become useful, with a view to giving priority to the interests of victims, to have a member of the Commission who is also a member of the Supreme Judicial Council to coordinate the referral of files to the Attorney General and, subsequently, the courts.
- The National Commission for the Investigation of Allegations of Human Rights Violations has monitored and documented 25,511 claims with a total of 48,866 victims. It has investigated 23,230 cases, heard 124,878 victims and witnesses, reviewed 186,871 documents and referred some 3,000 case files concerning human rights violations by all parties to the Public Prosecution Service. Under

Decree No. 88 (2020), the public prosecutor charged a judicial committee, chaired by a senior attorney from the Public Prosecution Service, with reviewing the files; the committee is also charged with oversight of the military judiciary and human rights cases.

- The Ministry of Legal Affairs and Human Rights also monitors violations by means of a local network of monitors across Yemen, including areas under the control of Houthi militias, in partnership with civil society organizations and human rights activists. The Ministry has launched a hotline to receive complaints and reports of violations; governorates publish reports monitoring violations.
- International cooperation whereby the Government, through the competent authorities, coordinates cooperation and facilitates the tasks of the United Nations Security Council Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen during its visit to Aden Governorate and other governorates. All inquiries and questions submitted by international human rights bodies are responded to.
- By way of example only, the names of the new leadership of the rebel Houthi militias have been included on the international sanctions list in accordance with Security Council resolutions. In February 2021, the Security Council included the name of one of the leaders of the Houthi militias in the list of sanctions imposed on those involved in the disappearance and sexual assault of women, pursuant to Resolution 2564 (2021).
- A committee has been formed from the Supreme Judicial Council, Ministry of Justice and the office of the Attorney General to study the creation of a Specialized Human Rights Court.
- Decree No. 1 (2022) of the National Defence Council has been adopted, on the inclusion of Houthi militias on the terrorist list, pursuant to national law and the international agreements to which Yemen has acceded; the Government has been directed to take the legal measures to implement the decree.
- Lawsuits have been brought before the courts by the competent authorities against leaders of the Houthi rebel militia involved in or responsible for abuses; with the following results:
  - ✓ A ruling was delivered in Case No. 4 (2020), brought by the military prosecutor of the Third Military District, city of Ma'rib, stipulating the death penalty for the senior leaders of rebel Houthi militias convicted of serious abuses and crimes against humanity.
  - ✓ In Case No. 67 (2020), the Specialized Criminal Prosecutor of Aden Governorate filed a lawsuit against the Houthi militias, as terrorist groups that undermine security and stability.

- ✓ Case no. 167 (2018), heard before the Specialized Criminal Court in Aden Governorate, calls for the prosecution of a number of Houthi militia leaders who have committed serious crimes and abuses.
- International cooperation whereby the Government, in the form of the competent authorities, coordinates cooperation and facilitates the tasks of the United Nations Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen in the period 2018-2022. The names of the new leaders of rebel Houthi militias were included on the international sanctions list in February 2021, pursuant to Security Council resolutions.
- A committee has been formed from the Supreme Judicial Council, Ministry of justice and office of the Attorney General to study the creation of a Specialized Human Rights Court; work is underway on achieving this.
- Decree No. 1 (2022) of the National Defence Council was adopted, including the Houthi militias on the terrorist list, pursuant to national law and the international agreements to which Yemen has acceded; the Government has been directed to take the legal measures to implement the decision.
- Lawsuits have been brought before the courts by the competent authorities against the leaders of the armed Houthi rebel militias involved in or responsible for violations; these have resulted in the following:
  - ✓ A ruling was delivered in Case No. 4 (2020), brought by the military prosecutor of the Third Military District, city of Ma'rib, stipulating the death penalty for senior leaders of rebel Houthi militias convicted of serious abuses and crimes against humanity.
  - ✓ In Case No. 67 (2020), the Specialized Criminal Prosecutor of Aden Governorate brought a lawsuit against the Houthi militias, as terrorist groups that undermine security and stability.
  - ✓ Case no. 167 (2018), heard before the Specialized Criminal Court in Aden Governorate, calls for the prosecution of several of Houthi militia leaders who have committed serious crimes and abuses.

As regards the measures adopted by the Government to provide urgent and emergency aid to victims, as well as means of redress, justice, reparation, and compensation for civilian victims of human rights violations, the Yemeni Government has:

- Worked with the Incident Assessment Team set up by the leadership of the Arab coalition to reveal the truth about unintended errors that have caused injury to civilians and to initiate the compensation process for those affected. The process began with the award of compensation to 113 civilian casualties of six air strikes. Aid was delivered in coordination with a joint committee set up to review the casualty list and ensure the accuracy of the names of those affected. Work is currently under way to develop and improve the compensation and reparations mechanisms in a fair and comprehensive manner.

- Provided emergency services for victims; assistance to local authorities; emergency aid to victims; surgical treatment, partly at government expense. The Government provided \$2 million in aid in 2021, in addition to helping implement the aid programmes of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, as well as interventions from organizations within the humanitarian response plan, such as the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Doctors Without Borders etc.
- Pursuant to a request from the Yemeni Government, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre set up a prosthetic limb and rehabilitation programme, financing the establishment and operation of four centres in the Governorates of Aden, Ma’rib, Hadhramaut and Taiz). Statistics from 1 January 2020 to 31 August 2023 show that 166,703 free services were offered to 51,370 beneficiaries. Some 36,347 victims were rehabilitated; 7,914 prosthetic limbs were fitted and 7,109 were reconditioned. Information and reports received indicate that 85.5 per cent of cases are victims of landmines, laid randomly by Houthi militias on roads and in farms, which continue to claim thousands of victims. Since mid-2018, some 368,350 mines laid by rebel militias have been cleared under Project Masam. It is estimated that more than two million mines remain to be cleared in areas occupied by the Houthis.
- Among the urgent directives issued by the President of the Presidential Leadership Council in his address to parliament, was the establishment of a higher national body to care for the war wounded and families of the dead; the Government has taken the initial institutional steps to create such a body.
- **In its 2023 annual plan, the Government included the roll-out of a compensation and reparations fund for human rights violations. The fund will operate in accordance with successful international standards and experience in this field.**
- In addition, the Government has sought to issue laws and decrees to help improve the human rights situation in various ways. We might mention, by way of example only, Cabinet Decree No. 38 (2022), ratifying the Second Additional Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; Cabinet Decree No. 31 (2021), announcing new protected areas in the suburbs of Aden; Cabinet Decree No. 17 (2021), approving the statutes of the Financial Information Collection Unit, formed pursuant to the law and regulations on combating money laundering and terrorism; Cabinet Decree No. 22 (2021), regarding implementation of the Economic Council decree exempting flour, oil and infant formula from customs duty; a cabinet decree approving the restructuring and activation of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking; Cabinet Decree No. 41(2021), on the ratification of the statute of the Women’s Development Organization of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; a cabinet decree on the formation of a ministerial committee to address the economic, financial and monetary situation, chaired by the Minister of Planning and International

Cooperation and building on the mandate of the Presidential Leadership Council; and Cabinet Decree No. 4 (2020), forming a development committee as a mechanism for dealing with the humanitarian crisis, facilitating the work of relief agencies and international organizations and acting on behalf of the competent authorities.

The Government has adopted a number of measures and procedures to protect displaced persons, who are vulnerable victims of armed conflict and forced displacement by rebel Houthi militias. It has provided them with protection and care in a way that guarantees them a decent life with access to all their rights in accordance with the national and international laws ratified by Yemen. Measures taken to that end include:

- The Government has adopted a national policy to address the victims of internal displacement and forced relocation, who have fled the violence of the Houthi militias. It has assigned responsibility for implementing policy to the Executive Unit. The Government affirmed implementation of the policy at Cabinet Session No. 1 (4 January 2023). The policy represents a broad-based, national framework for dealing with and providing care for the displaced prior to and during displacement, as well as upon return. With this policy, the Government recognizes the full rights of the displaced and its responsibility to protect them. The Government, in the form of the Executive Unit, has taken the following measures:
  - ✓ Provision of shelter in camps for 84,304 internally displaced families in 2022.
  - ✓ Working with local authorities to provide safe and suitable land on which to set up camps; 646 such sites have been provided, including 214 with legal title.
  - ✓ Agreement with the task force led by the humanitarian coordinator to incorporate livelihood projects in the 2023 humanitarian response plan; livelihood projects were offered to 2,326 families in the first half of 2022.
  - ✓ Coordination with the Ministry of Education to accommodate displaced students, leading to the absorption of some 406,755 displaced students in government schools.
  - ✓ Facilitating the registration of displaced students who have lost their documents; issuing the necessary educational documentation. Some 67 temporary schools have been set up inside the camps in places where there are no schools in the vicinity.
  - ✓ Putting in place lasting solutions to internal displacement, including voluntary return, living in areas of displacement or resettlement in other areas with services and security. Despite the Houthi militias' continuing war against the Yemeni people the Government, in the form of the Executive Unit, is seeking to implement sustainable solutions in the areas under its control, adopting long-term projects with humanitarian partners in Ma'rib, Aden, Taiz and Lahj, which involve consultation with displaced persons and host communities to hear their views on lasting solutions.
  - ✓ Coordinating with the relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the judiciary, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Local Administration and the National Commission for

the Investigation of Allegations of Human Rights Violations to develop a consolidated working mechanism to register and document land and property lost due to displacement in such a way as to ensure its restoration and their right of redress upon return.

- ✓ As regards allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, attacks on schools and health care facilities, the use of starvation as a weapon of war, the imposition of restrictions on imports under the arms embargo called for by S/RES/2216 and the closure of sea ports and airports:

- The Yemeni Government affirms its commitment to the principle of non-discrimination and protection of civilians from torture and enforced disappearance and displacement. It seeks to monitor and document the victims of the ongoing, grave and systematic abuses committed by the rebel Houthi militias. Furthermore, the Government attaches great importance to humanitarian issues and seeks to recover victims of abduction and exchange them for captured rebel fighters, who have taken up arms against the State and the law by joining the militias. The Government has resolved to give priority to the interests of victims and their families, by arranging exchanges wherever possible to save them from torture and militia violence. Alongside the exchange of captives and victims of abduction that have taken place under United Nations auspices, directives were issued to the Government from the Presidential Leadership Council on 28 March 2023, to form aid and support committees for released victims and implement health and psychological rehabilitation programmes to reintegrate them into society. Committees have also been formed to provide legal advice for victims, prepare human rights files in accordance with international standards and coordinate with the relevant international organizations.
- The Government never closed the port of Hudaydah throughout the period of conflict. What happened was that it responded to reports of the United Nations expert group, stating that the importation of petrol through the port of Hudaydah is chaotic, involving fictitious companies used by the Houthi militias to facilitate the import from Iran of free petrol with forged documentation in order to finance their war against the Yemeni people in violation of S/RES/2216, which states that countries may not provide aid to rebel Houthi militias. Accordingly, the Government issued Decree No. 49 and Decree No. 75 to regulate the import of petrol. These regulations were applied at all Yemeni ports without discrimination. However, the Houthi militias forced merchants in areas under their control to ignore them and were able to blackmail the international community and United Nations by repeatedly creating spurious shipments in areas under their control; this was confirmed by the United Nations team of experts. The Government responded to calls to allow the entry of petrol without observing the regulations in order to achieve peace and rise above the pretexts of the Houthi militias. In 2022, it was agreed to exempt completely the port of Hudaydah from the regulations on the importation of petrol, while continuing to apply them at other ports under government control. See the website of the United Nations Verification and Inspection mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM) for further information and clarification. At the same time, the rebel Houthi militias launched economic warfare against the Yemeni people, imposing

restrictions on merchants in areas under their control, preventing them from importing goods through the port of Aden and targeting oil facilities to prevent the export of oil, which is the country's main economic resource, thereby weakening the Government's ability to pay salaries and provide citizens with public services. It has also aggravated the dire humanitarian situation. We confirm that Sana'a Airport is open and that United Nations flights and the flights of some international organizations continue to arrive. By way of example, the total number of passengers on flights to and from Sana'a Airport up to 23 August was 108,803.

Rebel Houthi militias continue to commit highway robbery and blockade civilian areas in a number of governorates, including Taiz and Ma'rib. They have rejected all the initiatives put forward by the Government and international and regional mediators to open the roads. They have also prevented the delivery of humanitarian aid, seizing most of it to support their own war effort, rebellion and coup, as well as to put pressure on international organizations. In response, the Government has implemented a series of measures, as follows:

- ✓ Inviting all international organizations to provide assistance, through talks and meetings with representatives of United Nations and humanitarian relief agencies, facilitating entry procedures for organizations, granting them the necessary work permits and granting entry and residence visas to crews, including international staff located in Sana'a.
- ✓ Providing international organizations with essential information without interfering with their work or imposing obstructive procedures or restrictions; signing memorandums of understanding and secondary memorandums with organizations to provide aid and implement projects.
- ✓ Facilitating the work of organizations by granting customs exemptions for all their imports, assisting humanitarian actors to ensure the smooth importation of humanitarian supplies, providing safe corridors for all movement of crews and providing protection and facilitating movement between governorates and region.