



[Dozens are Killed in a Missile and Drone Attack as Some Victims of the Ongoing Conflict in Yemen Push for a War Crimes Investigation](#)

Earlier this week, a drone strike hit the Al-Anad Air Base in southern Yemen, killing at least 30 people and wounding dozens of others. Al-Anad, Yemen's largest air base, is located near the front lines of the ongoing conflict in the country between the Houthi rebels and a Saudi-led military coalition. The attack is the latest escalation in the fighting which has resulted in what the United Nations deems to be the largest and most dire humanitarian crisis in the world. Civilians in Yemen have suffered greatly during the course of the conflict, with an estimated 80% in need of humanitarian aid and assistance. Impartial analysts point out that the Saudi-led military intervention, and particularly the regimes in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have been major culprits in perpetuating and exacerbating the crisis. They have also been credibly accused of conducting air strikes indiscriminately targeting civilian and non-civilian infrastructure alike, and recently in the preceding days, some of the surviving victims and families of those killed in these attacks have filed evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in an effort to push for a formal war crimes investigation against the Saudi-led coalition.

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Yemen back in 2015, the country's civilian population has been forced to endure the devastating consequences. More than 4 million Yemenis have been externally or internally displaced, however, most remain within the war-plagued nation. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) contends that around 66% of internally displaced Yemenis live in dangerous regions of the nation with severely limited access to water, food, health services, and sanitation – which has further worsened due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Yemen has also been flooded with approximately 130,000 refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia, despite the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis.

Women and children in particular are the citizens of Yemen who have faced the brunt of the widespread suffering caused by the longstanding fighting. These two categories make up close to 80% of the displaced population, with large groups of the affected families being comprised of children under the age of 18. The United Nations fears that nearly 1 million pregnant women will suffer from acute malnutrition. Meanwhile, a disturbing number of young children have been severely injured or killed, and others have fallen victim to preventable diseases. Today, human rights groups warn of a looming famine in Yemen if the circumstances do not drastically improve. It is undeniable that the root cause of the humanitarian crisis is the manner of the ongoing conflict. Large amounts of air strikes, especially those conducted by Saudi-led forces, have been the main contributing factor to the destruction of infrastructure, civilian casualties, food shortages, and deteriorating health care services. There is a clear link between the nature of these attacks and the desperate humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

In the past, the United States has backed the Saudi-supported regime in Yemen. However, due to public pressure because of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen gaining awareness, the United States has declared an end to its support. President Joe Biden has also pledged to stop the United States' selling of arms for the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen. However, the United States has declared its intent to maintain its antiterrorism operations, as Yemen has been deemed to be a breeding ground for extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda. Observers fear that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen will persist if attacks such as this past week's air strike continue to take place.