



[Human Rights Lawyers File a Case Accusing Officials in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates of Complicity in Yemeni War Crimes](#)

A group of human rights lawyers from the United Kingdom-based organization Guernica 37 have filed a case against senior government figures in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for their complicity in Yemeni war crimes. In the dossier, the activists cited the officials' involvement in egregious atrocities committed during the course of the ongoing conflict in Yemen – which observers have consistently highlighted as the world's worst and most dire humanitarian crisis. Impartial analysts point out that the calamitous degree of the crisis has been directly caused by the destructive Saudi and Emirati-led coalition airstrikes that have devastated Yemen's civilian population and infrastructure. The foreign intervention's actions have had an especially negative effect on children in Yemen, with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently releasing new data outlining that at least 10,000 children have now been killed as a result of the crisis, while 80% are also in need of humanitarian assistance. These latest developments regarding Yemen emphasize how rights advocates are trying to maintain focus on the critical crisis there and ensure accountability for those who have played a major role in creating and exacerbating it.

The dossier filed by Guernica 37 has called for the United Kingdom to arrest specific Saudi Arabian and UAE officials that have been deemed to be complicit or directly involved in blatant crimes against humanity in Yemen. The names of the 22 individuals have not been released to the public, but the human rights lawyers have cited multiple specific instances in which the accused have contributed to the state of the humanitarian crisis. These include a 2018 airstrike on a school bus in northern Yemen which killed 26 children, a 2016 bombing of a funeral, and the Saudi-led coalition's long-documented torture of political opposition in the port city of Aden. The activists used survivor accounts as part of the evidence to highlight the atrocities committed and are hopeful that the actions, which are a clear violation of international and humanitarian law, provide the basis for U.K. authorities to arrest the Saudi and Emirati officials.

In its totality, the Saudi and UAE-led coalition against the Houthis in Yemen has caused the largest humanitarian disaster currently in existence in the world, according to the United Nations and others. The blockade has hindered the ability of Yemeni citizens to receive much-needed resources, and the indiscriminate airstrikes have killed and displaced thousands of civilians. While attempts to achieve lasting ceasefires have been made, there has been a lack of success regarding the implementation of them.

Over the preceding week, UNICEF has released new data documenting the rising death toll due to the foreign coalition's crimes against humanity. It is conservatively estimated that at least 10,000 children have now been killed or maimed with many more suffering from acute malnutrition, and there is a disturbing child mortality rate of around one in every ten minutes. Although shocking, these figures are an estimate based on documented fatalities and are more than likely to be even higher in actuality. Unfortunately, these numbers will only continue to rise so long as not enough is done to alleviate and lessen the degree of the humanitarian crisis.