



[A Saudi-Emirati Air Bombardment of Sanaa Targets Civilian Infrastructure](#)

A recent Saudi-Emirati air assault on Sanaa has targeted civilian infrastructure and exacerbated what is already one of the world's worst humanitarian crises in Yemen. The air bombardment was found to have bombed and damaged residential homes, a hospital, a maternity ward, a prison, and other noncombatant infrastructure. Attacks against civilian infrastructure by the Saudi-led coalition have unfortunately been common occurrences and have drawn widespread condemnation; during the course of the war, their airstrikes have targeted schools, hospitals, markets, and agricultural and water infrastructure. Environmental fallout from the war efforts have included the destruction of ecosystems, the production of mass pollution, and toxic dust, soil, and water contamination. This has led to persistent and worsening impoverishment and disease in Yemen, contributing to the forced displacement of 4 million people. With the Saudi-led coalition causing significant damage to Yemen's civilian infrastructure and ecosystems, 5 million Yemenis are suffering from famine and disease, while more than 20 million have been forced to rely on foreign aid for their survival.

The collective impact of the war and the Saudi-led coalition have had a devastating effect on Yemen's civilian population. According to the United Nations, these airstrikes have killed or wounded an estimated 20,000 Yemeni civilians. Additionally, analysis into the matter shows that the Saudi-led coalition has been responsible for 67% of attacks and destruction of infrastructure. These attacks include the deliberate bombardment of Yemen's agricultural sector, which has severely exacerbated food shortages. The targeted destruction of health, sanitation, agricultural, and water infrastructure in one of the most water-insecure countries in the world has been called a gross violation of international humanitarian law.

A Yemeni non-governmental organization, the Legal Centre for Rights and Development, has filed a legal complaint on behalf of victims of the war in Yemen against the crown princes of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The lawsuit accuses the two crown princes and their militaries of torture, forced disappearance, and severe war crimes. Yemen has been in a state of conflict since 2014. The Houthi rebel group there has challenged the Saudi coalition-supported government and controls much of the country. In addition to being subjected to regular and indiscriminate attacks by the Saudi-led coalition, Yemen's civilian population has also been devastated by the ongoing blockade. The United Nations and Saudi Arabia's Western allies have pressured the kingdom to lift its blockade of Yemen's airport and maritime ports, something which has greatly contributed to the disastrous humanitarian crisis there.

Days before this most recent bombardment, the Saudi-led coalition conducted airstrikes on the airport in Sanaa – the country's only airport. The Yemeni civil aviation authority said that the airport will require critical repairs before any flights will be allowed in or out. There have been no commercial flights to or from Yemen since the beginning of the Saudi blockade; all flights since 2016 have been aid flights carrying humanitarian supplies. It is yet to be determined how long it will be until humanitarian aid can be flown into the war-ravaged country after this latest Saudi-coalition bombing. The airstrikes targeted the tarmac, health quarantine quarters, and warehouses used to store imported supplies. Spokespeople from the Norwegian Refugee Council and UNICEF said that the blockade has created horrific amounts of harm to regular Yemenis and that without the airport, their ability to deliver aid to children and to the suffering is greatly imperiled.