

**XXV**

**TECMUN Jr.**

---

Office of the United

Nations High

Commissioner for Human

Rights

“Cuando pones la proa visionaria hacia una estrella y tiendes el ala hacia tal excelsitud inasible, llevas en ti el resorte misterioso de un ideal. Custódiala; si la dejas apagar no se reenciende jamás. Y si ella muere en ti quedarás inerte; frío. Solo vives por esa partícula de ensueño que se sobrepone a lo real y que te hace sentir vivo”.

José Ingenieros, *El hombre mediocre*, Buenos Aires, 1913.

Delegados, embajadores, jueces, ministros, fiscales y compañeros:

Dentro del cosmos de la modernidad, entre las corrientes de la paz y el conflicto, yacen miles de hombres como tú y como yo, hambrientos de cambio, deleitados con la ficción irrisoria de un mañana distinto. Nuestra realidad es fruto de los sueños de los visionarios de antaño y nuestros ideales son las líquidas y abstractas partículas que cristalizarán la realidad de los hombres del futuro. No es hasta que reflexionamos acerca de la naturaleza de este proceso de transición que valoramos las verdaderas implicaciones de nuestras acciones.

No somos más que individuos aislados entre la masa social, sin embargo, no es esta individualidad lo que genera el cambio, por el contrario, las ideas son la fuerza motriz que marca la senda de las revoluciones; son las ideas aquellas que impulsan la materialización del cambio. No obstante, si demeritásemos el valor de la potencia personal, nos encontraríamos con la nada, pues, no existe revolución que haya sido emprendida sin conciencia individual. Es esta suma de unidades lo que empodera la raza humana y nos aproxima a la evolución perpetua.

TECMUN es el crisol que funde las perspectivas personales en una gran razón colectiva. Es aquella entidad viva que congrega a visionarios aislados en una red de sueños, esperanzas y acciones. Hago un llamado categórico hacia todos ustedes, exigiéndoles que jamás dejen morir sus ideales, pues la decadencia del deseo contrae el desgarramiento del cambio, que conducirá a la muerte de nuestro espíritu y, al cabo, a la muerte perpetua e irreversible de nosotros mismos.

Delegados, nosotros hacemos la diferencia. Vivamos con unidad, conciencia e ideales.

---

Kevin Zamora González  
Secretario General  
XXV TECMUN Jr.

Delegados, jueces, embajadores, ministros, fiscales y compañeros:

Son diversas las acciones que nos llevan a corromper la paz y obstaculizar el crecimiento; sin embargo, hay dos actitudes que considero las más perjudiciales para nuestro progreso: la ignorancia y la indiferencia. A mi parecer, una más grave que la otra. La primera se resume en la falta de información y conocimientos sobre conceptos, que sin importar el nivel de dificultad, son vitales para el desarrollo del ser humano, así como la negligencia de las personas de adquirir estos conocimientos inclusive cuando tienen un deber moral o legal. La segunda, y la más grave, se basa en el comportamiento indistinto ante las situaciones que nos afectan tanto individualmente como colectivamente, sin importar el conocimiento adquirido acerca de éstas. Se puede tener la información, pero predomina la inactividad. Ambas representan el mayor peligro para nuestro futuro y lamentablemente están cada vez más presentes, en todos los sectores y en todas las edades.

Todos somos un engrane, que sin importar el tamaño, es fundamental para el funcionamiento de un reloj. En este caso, de una sociedad. Si un engrane falla, el sistema completo cae. Las acciones que decidas llevar a cabo, o la falta de éstas, van a dictar tu porvenir y el de tus alrededores. No se trata de esperar a que alguien tome riendas en el asunto con la convicción de que la decisión que tome, sea la más apta para un futuro del cual eres protagonista. No se trata de estar a la espera de tiempos mejores con la ilusión de que en algún momento llegarán. Se trata de crear y trabajar por un futuro en el que el diálogo y el intercambio de ideas está presente en todos los sectores y en todas las edades; en el que la gente quiera estar informada para poder ser partícipe en la toma de decisiones.

Debemos dejar de ser espectadores del cambio si realmente queremos ver un progreso y empezar a ser intérpretes de nuestro propio futuro. Aprovecha la oportunidad que se te presenta el día de hoy y las herramientas que te brinda TECMUN para trabajar por un futuro en el que la participación ciudadana y la responsabilidad social son los actores principales que van a dictaminar las decisiones que va a llevar a esta sociedad, a este gran reloj, a trabajar de la manera más efectiva posible.

---

Gisela Anahí Lima Castillo  
Subsecretaria General de la Asamblea General  
XXV TECMUN Jr.

It is from the perspective that life has granted me, that I can refer to you in a way that I would have liked to have approached me as. Maybe my experience is not enough, but if anything I can say is that over the years I have learned not one, but several very important lessons, where persevering in the pursuit of beliefs is much more enriching, even when that implies impose. Being part of TECMUN, therefore, participating in a Mun, hasn't taught me anything more important than failure can be a burden that we can carry along our way for a long time, so far we realize that what is stopping us from solving any of those questions is our own will.

Failure is that fuel that has given me an impetus to confront my fears and go for more and it is perhaps the best advice that someone could give to another person to overcome their own false ideas and do each of the things that arise day to day, because yes, you can register each of these things, without having to take into account the ideas of not being productive, or not being realistic, or not being good enough. Because delegate, let me remind you something, this is not a real debate, the real debate is out there, in the real world where everything is in your hands and where you have to reach the consequences of your actions and inactions. You may still not have realized all this and you still have to complete a number of tasks as well as go through some serious knocks along the way, but until then, you will realize that what surrounds you is directly related to you.

This is a challenge that has been presented to you so that you can improve the solutions of scenarios currently presented in the real world. It is with complete discomfort that you will realize that no resolution that can come during these days will not affect or change anything that is happening in different countries around the world at all, but I think it is important to recognize the fact that these days have the capacity to change yourself, from the deepest within. Thus arriving at the realization that we ourselves are able to come to terms with our own knowledge, along with our morals.

Last but not least, face this test, embrace whatever experience you can get from this, with the sole idea of never losing the direction of what being yourself, with the realisation that what you are doing cannot be diminished in any way fear, overcome fear, overcome yourself.

---

Arantxa Carrillo Ibarra

President of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

XXV TECMUN Jr.

---

# **Outline of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as OHCHR) was established on 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly. It officially recognises forty seven countries as members of the committee, noting that Sweden, Netherlands, United States of America and Norway represent the largest donors to said committee. The main objectives to which the OHCHR strive to, are those intended to develop and oversee the proper application and promotion of human rights, ensuring that both governments and added organisms support a cooperative action towards common goals

# Topic A

---

Measures regarding labor regulation and the fulfillment of the protection to the integrity of the Syrian refugees in Turkey

## ***Background***

In recent years due to the situation that is happening in Syria, it has been seen that thousands of inhabitants of this territory have had the necessity to leave their country in search of a better place, although they are often seen in much more decadent situations when settling in another country. An example of this are the Syrian refugees in Turkey, who find themselves in need (both adults and children) of working long hours in order to survive, thus making themselves vulnerable to labor exploitation by recognized industries, this situation known by the Turkish president, Erdogan. As a result, the Business and Human Rights Resource Center advocated towards investigating this situation more thoroughly, and reported that the number of refugees exploited by European retailers such as H&M and Next is approximately 250,000 to 400,000 Syrians. Information provided as well that they were exploited during sixty hour days for as little as 600 Turkish lira per month (equivalent to \$ 200). This scenario shows the need of measures aiming to legalize and regulate current labor situation, mostly regarding the outlining of measures close to current legal labor terms.

## ***Beginning of the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis***

For years the world has been aware of the serious problems experienced daily in the country, but the origin of all this humanitarian crisis arises in the Syrian Civil War starting 2011, a conflict in which the Syrian army clashed with rebel groups that had as the main purpose of overthrowing the government of Bashar Al-Assad.

Currents Syria's scenario finds one of its main caused factors in the succession of the Al-Assad family, since his father, Hafez Al-Assad who served as the President of Syria from 1970 to 2000. Hafez Al-Assad was recognized for providing stability to the country and establishing it as a powerful presence in the middle East, as well as for governing an authoritarian regime. After Hafez Al-Assad demise, his son Bashar Al-Assad took position as President of the Syrian territory. When Assad took office as President, the Syrian people had regarded him as a modernizing and reforming ruler. However, hopes that Syria had a democratic government were decreasing, this, because as it passed the time Assad retook the oppression tactics of his father's administration, mainly actions like the censorship and widespread surveillance and brutal violence against suspects who were opposed to the regime.

One of the most determining factors of this conflict were the oppression of the same government towards the syrian people, the economic problems, as well as the repression against the protesters, an action that created a strong resentment of the Syrian government and encouraged to rise against Bashar Al-Assad the Syrian President. An actor whom, following

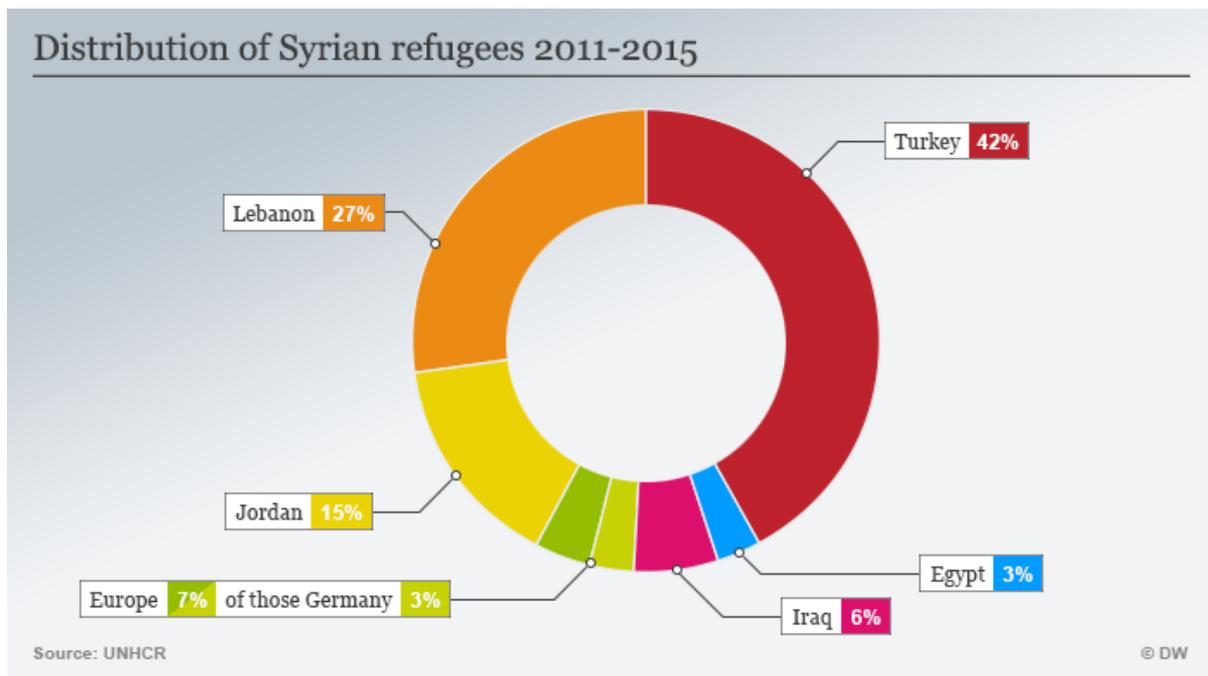
this, responded with an attack leaving hundreds of human casualties and giving arrest warrants against those who stood against his regime.

### ***Refugee flows in neighboring countries, focusing on Turkey***

Due to the past Syrian Civil War, as well as the most recent air attacks that the Syrian territory has received by foreign nations, many of the syrian population has been forced to abandon its property in exchange for its own survival.

At the end of 2015 and early 2017, International Amnesty reported that at least 95% of the syrian population (equivalent to 4.8 million inhabitants) live in five main receiving countries: Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

The following image shows the approximate percentage of refugees in some countries in the Middle East, as well as in the European continent:



As can be seen in the above graph, Turkey is the country that has opened its borders to the Syrian inhabitants in recent years. According to a report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at the end of 2016, there were 2.9 million refugees, a higher figure for all refugees living in Europe. But in 2017 the figure is above 3 million refugees, Turkish sources said.

As mentioned above, nowadays, Turkey is the country with the largest community of syrian immigrants worldwide who are displaced because of the conflicts that have arisen in

their country. The conflict of the syrian refugees developed as the turkish government presented a new reform for its immigration system, where they could meet international standards, mainly those of the European Union.

Given this situation on 20 March 2016, the European Union along with the Turkish government carried out a *Joint Action Plan*, which was aimed at solving the migratory crisis in turkish territory. In this agreement, the turkish government committed itself to the immediate return to Turkey of out-of-rule immigrants and immigrants who were rejected by Greek territory. Meanwhile, the European Union pledged to provide monetary support to Turkey, the release of immigrants who had visas, but mainly the negotiation of Turkey's accession to the European Union.

The agreement had as its main commitment the immediate return of asylum seekers to Turkey, emphasizing that Turkey is a safe territory for them, until the International Amnesty documented that this agreement has forsaken thousands of refugees, committing them to live in miserable conditions and unsafe in the greek islands, also highlighted the illegal returns of hundreds of asylum seekers to Turkey in a violation of their rights.

Faced with this problem, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that because of the large number of refugees seeking asylum, as well as temporary protection policies in turkish territory have encouraged registration procedures, causing many refugees not to have access to work, protection and even the services they really need. Even a collaborator in Human Rights Watch's refugee rights program, Stephanie Gee, remarked that the European Union was putting aside asylum claims, which is what it said:

*"The EU is morally and legally obliged to share part of the burden of refugees by sending Syrian refugees back to Turkey without assessing their asylum claims. As long as Turkey remains overwhelmed by overwhelming numbers of refugees and unable to provide adequate protection and security for all, the European Union should not send Syrian refugees to Turkey."*

As the Deputy Director of Amnesty International for Europe, Gauri van Gulik mentioned:

*"It is extremely absurd that European leaders are promoting the EU-Turkey agreement as a success, while closing their eyes to the unbearably high cost to those who suffer the consequences."*

### ***Employment situation for Syrian Refugees***

This situation has not only affected the refugees stranded in the greek territory but also the syrian community residing in turkish territory, leaving them in the forced need to work arduous hours in order to have access to food and goods in general, thus making themselves vulnerable to labour exploitation by farms across Turkey, as well as by recognized textile industries.

Faced with this situation, not only do the syrian adults need to work, but also the children who accompany them, bringing as a consequence that they can't carry an adequate education, or worse, that they can't continue with their studies. That is why the Business and Human Rights Resource Center (hereinafter referred to as B&HRRC) opened an investigation where they reported that syrian children and adults were exploited by large European textile industries, such as: Zara, H&M, Mango, Next, among others. In this report it wasn't known whether american industries were involved in this situation.

Not only this was published in the investigation, but it also reported an estimated from 250,000 to 400,000 syrians working in unworthy conditions, as it was discovered that most syrian employees are forced to work sixty hours a day for as little as 600 Turkish lira per month (equivalent to \$200 approximately). Not only boys and men are involved in this problem, women are also forced to work for long hours, giving them a profit of twenty turkish lira per day (equivalent to \$8 approximately), because women are considered as cheap labor, industries hire them more often.

The B & HRRC mentioned that:

*“Only a few brands appear to have engaged with the extent and the complexity of these issues in their Turkish supply base. Even fewer report taking action to protect these vulnerable workers”*

It should be mentioned that most of the Turkish textile industry has irregularities, since an estimate was made where at least 60% of the labor force within these industries is not officially registered. Due to the irregularities figure, B&HRRC took the initiative by sending a questionnaire to different retail industries, where they were asked for information about their suppliers of Syrian origin and if they worked in adequate conditions, where less than 6% worked in acceptable conditions.

The most worrying thing about this situation is that the Syrian government considers this problem in its favor, because this makes them the third position in the best industries manufacturing textiles.

### ***UN Regulations and NGOs***

The size of Turkey's textile industry in its total is paralleled to Europe's biggest suppliers, although an estimate establishes that 60% of its working force is unregistered and fails to fulfill the requirements regarding the conditions for job labor.

The informality developed by Turkish industry is a determining factor for the need of protection of the refugees within the country. It is important to note and emphasize the lack of infrastructure and institutions set by the own government in order to address the problems stated beforehand. The need for not only institutions for protection but regulations set in order to give a legal platform for the refugees is fundamental in order to solve this problem. Help has been asked to the Emergency Social Safety Net and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) however, we must recognize that people, institutions, NGO's and governments have been putting aside this problem from their own agenda. Human rights are being violated but Turkey is not responding and are hiding information from such institutions and organizations making the country and aggressors harder to prosecute and also, which inflicts a direct violation on the social contract which should be followed.

A thing to consider here is whether the economic prosperity of the state can be justified in exchange for violations of human rights of refugees. Even taking into account that some of the people being exploited did not go in the country through legal processes, it is important to recognize that each individual withholds intangible value and inalienable rights which include safety, social security, and other basic rights constituted within the mission and laws set by the United Nations and accepted by most countries including Turkey itself.

Action must be taken in order to solve this situation and social, cultural and current aspects must be taken into account regarding the refugee crisis within Europe in order to not only give a temporary solution but a long term which can benefit all parties, the refugees, citizens and the government. Private and corporate interests must be set aside or at least appeased in order to come to an agreement to stop this international violation.

### ***References***

1. Lendman, S. (2016). Turkey Exploiting Syrian Refugee Adults and Children in Cheap Labour Industrial Sweatshops. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *Global Research*. Web:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/turkey-exploiting-syrian-refugee-adults-and-children-in-cheap-labour-industrial-sweatshops/5505207>

2. Al Jazeera News. (2017). Syria's civil war explained from the beginning. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *Al Jazeera News*. Web: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-explained-160505084119966.html>
3. The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. (2017). Syrian Civil War. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Web: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War>
4. The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. (2017). Hafiz al-Assad. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Web: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hafiz-al-Assad>
5. Amnesty International. (2015). Syria's refugee crisis in numbers. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *Amnesty International*. Web: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/09/syrias-refugee-crisis-in-numbers/>
6. Fuchs, R. (2015). Survey leaves no doubt: Syrians are fleeing Assad. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *DW*. Web: <http://www.dw.com/en/survey-leaves-no-doubt-syrians-are-fleeing-assad/a-18775789>
7. Limia, E. and Rogel, C. (2017). Syria: A humanitarian disaster of endless and unfathomable consequences. Recovered: 30 June 2017, de El Universal. Web: <http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/articulo/english/2017/03/11/syria-humanitarian-disaster-endless-and-unfathomable-consequences>
8. Amnesty International. (2017). EU: Human rights cost of refugee deal with Turkey too high to be replicated elsewhere. Recovered: 30 June 2017, de *Amnesty International*. Web: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/02/eu-human-rights-cost-of-refugee-deal-with-turkey-too-high-to-be-replicated-elsewhere/>
9. CEAR. (2016). INFORME RELATIVO AL ACUERDO UNION EUROPEA-TURQUIA ADOPTADO EL 18 DE MARZO DE 2016 Y LAS CONSECUENCIAS DE SU APLICACIÓN EN LOS DERECHOS DE LAS PERSONAS MIGRANTES Y REFUGIADAS. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *CEAR*. Web: <https://www.cear.es/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/INFORME-COMISARIO-EUROPEO-DDHH.pdf>
10. Lekas Miller, A. (2016). Inside the Turkish Camps Where Syrian Refugees Work for \$8 a Day. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *News Deeply*. Web: <https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/articles/2016/09/08/inside-the-turkish-camps-where-syrian-refugees-work-for-8-a-day-2>

11. Kirişci, K. (2017). Don't forget non-Syrian refugees in Turkey. Recovered: 30 June-2017, Brookings. Web: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/06/22/dont-forget-non-syrian-refugees-in-turkey/>
12. Human Rights Watch. (2016). EU: Don't Send Syrians Back to Turkey. Recovered: 30 June 2017, *Human Rights Watch*. Web: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/06/20/eu-dont-send-syrians-back-turkey>
13. UNHCR. (2015). Survey leaves no doubt: Syrians are fleeing Assad. 29 June 2017, *DW*. Web: <http://www.dw.com/en/survey-leaves-no-doubt-syrians-are-fleeing-assad/a-18775789>

## *Glossary*

---

### **A**

**To aim:** The act of directing anything toward a target.

**Appeased:** To bring to a state of calm.

**Advocated:** Alternative term for attorney United States, South Asia, UK, and the most countries which follow common law.

### **B**

**Burden:** Something that is carried, a load.

**Beforehand:** In anticipation, ahead of time.

### **C**

**Censorship:** The act of censor, to blackout.

**Casualties:** Any person or thing harmed or destroyed as a result of some act or event usually by accident.

### **F**

**Fulfill:** To accomplish something

### **H**

**Hereinafter:** In a subsequent part or from this point on in this document, statement, etc.

### **I**

**Inhabitants:** Person that resides permanently in a particular place or region.

**Inalienable:** That can not be taken away.

**Intended:** Deliberate; intentional.

### **L**

**Lira:** the basic monetary units of Italy, Malta, and Turkey.

## O

**Overthrowing:** To end something by force

## R

**Retails:** A business that sells goods to the consumer, as opposed to a wholesaler or supplier, who normally sell their goods to another business.

## S

**Strive:** To make hard efforts toward any goal.

**Surveillance:** Close observation or supervision maintained over a person or group.

**Stranded:** To be left in a place, aground.

**Settling:** The allowance is used to pay for expenses related to moving of residence such as transportation, storage costs.

## U

**Unbearably:** that cannot be endured, suffered through, or tolerated.

## W

**Widespread:** spread over a large area.

**Warrants:** A force of guarantee, authorization or justification.

**Withholds:** To hold back, retain.

### *Guiding Questions*

---

1. How many refugees does Turkey host and under what conditions?
2. Why does Turkey refrain from recognizing Syrian refugee status?
3. What are the economic impacts of hosting two million refugees on Turkish society?

## **Topic B**

---

Emergency efforts to improve Yemen's current humanitarian crisis as a result of the ongoing civil war

---

*By: Arantxa Carillo Ibarra*

## ***Introduction***

According to the timetable set from the start of the conflict, back in 2014, the current situation taking place all over Yemen's territory goes back to a mixture of specifically three factors regarding its integrity: *President Ali Abdullah Saleh, his deputy and successor President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and the Houthi Movement*. The latter, having fought a series of uprisings against Mr. Saleh's regime, a decade before the main conflict and resulting in an offensive that took control of the northern province of Saada. This action echoed in the public opinion of many Yemenis who ended up supporting the Houthi movement, leading to a full taking over of the country's capital, Saana. The scenario is divided upon followers of the new-coming president Hadi and the former regime of president Saleh and the Houthi movement. The humanitarian crisis is predominantly defined by the collapse of Yemen's infrastructure, mostly regarding that linked to salaries and payments for people's labour.

With this in mind, this crisis is known as the strongest in the world, but today, due to other problems that have arisen over the years, this conflict has not been taken seriously and therefore hasn't led to the application necessary measures in order to bring stability to this territory.

## ***Background***

In order to have a better understanding of the current crisis in Yemen, it's necessary to have knowledge of how this situation occurred.

Yemen is one of the most dangerous countries in the world, due to the great instability and humanitarian crisis that has persisted for decades. But this problem increased in the past January 2011, when countries in the Middle East and North Africa started pro-democracy protests in their respective countries, including Yemeni territory. In which hundreds of pro-democracy militants, as well as opposition elements, tired of the corruption of the Yemeni government, as well as, against the modifications that were raised in the constitution of Yemen, the unemployment and the strong economic conditions, carried out protests to overthrow the President of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had ruled the country since 1990.

Due to the strong uprising of the Yemeni people and the protests becoming increasingly aggressive, in November of the same year President Saleh was forced to resign his position, thus leaving his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi as ruler of Yemen.

When Hadi takes office, the first action is a meeting with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, William Hague; where the Yemeni president proposed to carry out an offensive for the insurgents that formed part of

Al-Qaeda and that they operated in Yemen, declaring the following:

*“We intend to fight terrorism with all possible force and anyone who is part of the insurgent group will seek it even in its last hiding places.”*

In September 2012 President Hadi agrees to conduct an interview for the Washington Post, where he notes that the conflict with which he fought Yemeni territory could turn out to be a civil war just as in Afghanistan, as well as Yemen was faced with three wars by al-Qaeda, the pirates in the Gulf of Aden, and the Houthis rebels in the north, noting that these were being indirectly supported by the Iranian government. Due to the conflicts presented in Yemeni territory, in December of the same year Hadi decides to take precautions and tries to reunite the Yemeni army, dividing it in five main ramifications: the Air Force, the Land Force, Armada and Coast Guard, border troops and Strategic Reserve Forces, including the Special Operations Command, the Defense Missile Command and the Presidential Protection Forces.

### ***Houthi Coup d’Etat***

Hadi not only managed to unify the Yemeni army, but also achieved the creation and realization of different reforms in the country, reforms in which the Houthis (group that defends the Shiites Zaidi of Yemen / against Saleh and backed by Iran) didn’t agree, since these would affect his economy greatly (highlighting this fact, because this group lives in the poorest part of the country), reason why they decided to carry out a protest in which the government was required to provide support to the Houthi, as well as the resignation of the President Hadi, in this situation the government invited them to reach an agreement, which was rejected, since the Houthi considered the concessions insufficient. Given this situation, the Houthi launch an attack to a base of the Yemeni army, being this the first attack in large scale. Following this, on September 21 the Houthi movement took control over the offices of the Prime Minister, the Armed Forces and state television, thus gaining control of Saana.

The following image shows the divisions that were carried out in 2014 as a result of this conflict:



After having taken Saana, the Houthis did what former President Saleh didn't achieve during his 32 years of rule, destroyed the tribal base of Islah's power and defeated his enemy.

### ***Yemeni Humanitarian Crisis***

Before this crisis, Yemen was one of the poorest countries in the world, but as a result of the problematic problem, the economy of the territory was in a strong decline, to the extent of leaving the country with limited resources.

This situation increased from March 2015, when President Hadi received the support of the neighboring nation of Saudi Arabia, forming a coalition with countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan and Senegal, who attempted to counter the Houthi rebellion to return control to the Yemeni government, carrying out actions such as land attacks and constant bombardment.

Following this event, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reported the following:

*“The Saudi-led coalition launched rocket attacks on civilian areas near the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the cities of Saada and Yaji in northern Yemen. In these attacks, at least 13 victims, including three children, have been killed in seven rocket attacks from April to mid-July in Hajja province.”*

Due to the high number of casualties during this coalition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stated:

*“The cases monitored by the Office indicate that air strikes were the single largest cause of casualties, resulting in approximately one third of the deaths and injuries recorded by the OHCHR.”*

This statement provides us with an idea of the poor development of actions led both by Yemen’s government and Saudi-led coalition, leading to a direct affection towards regular population.

As a result, the United Nations (UN) carried out a number of investigations over the course of 2015 until the year 2017, where experts stated that this coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, hasn’t properly fulfilled its obligations to this conflict. This statement was made, given that in an investigation conducted in 2016 it was discovered that during these attacks residential areas had been marked as military targets, to which they expressed:

*“The Coalition has committed a grave breach of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution and, in some specific cases, has found that such violations have been carried out in a widespread and systematic manner.”*

Faced of the clashes that have arisen in the country, the UN called for an arms embargo to be carried out, so that Saudi Arabia's army was ordered to block supplies, either maritime or air, which has resulted in that the Yemeni people are living in deplorable conditions. This is because Yemeni territory depends on a considerable percentage of the imports of primary sources that it receives from international organizations, but due to the problems in which it is lived and the blockades that have been carried out, these organizations have been prevented from supplying food, medicines, among others

Yemeni residents are not only affected by the bombings and constant attacks, according to a report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), reported that about 2.4 million Yemenis are internally displaced. Following this, the UN opened an investigation in which it was announced that at least 21.2 million people, including four out of five inhabitants, require humanitarian assistance, as well as 7.4 million people suffering from food insecurity.

In the following image, we can see the percentage of inhabitants that require resources:

## The Mounting Civilian Costs of Yemen's War

**2,800**

CIVILIANS KILLED  
AS OF JANUARY 2016

**6**

CHILDREN HAVE BEEN KILLED  
OR MAIMED DAILY

**60%**

OF CASUALTIES CAUSED BY  
SAUDI-LED AIR STRIKES

**21.2 million**

OR 4 OUT OF 5, ARE IN NEED  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**5.3 million**

MORE THAN BEFORE THE START OF  
THE SAUDI-LED INTERVENTION

**7.6 million**

AT RISK OF STARVATION

**14.1 million**

LACK ACCESS TO  
ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

**600**

HEALTH FACILITIES HAVE CLOSED

**63**

HEALTH FACILITIES ATTACKED

Sources: UNOCHA, UNICEF, UN Panel of Experts, IOM Credits: David Foster, Zachary Laub

COUNCIL *on*  
FOREIGN  
RELATIONS

### *Human Rights Abuses*

Because of the violation of principles committed by the coalition in support of Yemen, Amnesty International carried out a number of investigations which revealed that "all parties to the conflict" have violated human rights, as has international law Humanitarian law, this includes war crimes. As well as at least thirty-four air strikes, which emerged through different governments belonging to this alliance, where international humanitarian law was violated, were attacked by civilians, hospitals, schools, markets and mosques, it is worth mentioning that this is considered as a war crime.

Not only has the break in attacks been reported, but also the type of ammunition used by the army since it does not use normal ammunition, but it uses cluster munitions and explosive weapons, which are totally Prohibited by international law, as well as, some of these weapons are manufactured by countries such as the United States, United Kingdom and Brazil.

These transgressions haven't only been carried out in the coalition, since there have been cases in which armed groups of huthies (supported by state security) have given orders for arrests and in some cases forced disappearance of civilians in Against their movement, including human rights defenders, journalists and students who have assaulted them.

### *References*

1. The New York Times. (2015). The Crisis in Yemen: What You Need to Know. 26 July 2017, The New York Times. Web:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/03/26/world/middleeast/yemen-crisis-explained.html>

2. The New York Times. (2015). Saudi-Backed Forces Gain Momentum. 26 July 2017, The New York Times. Web:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/03/26/world/middleeast/geography-of-chaos-in-yemen-maps.html>

3. BBC News. (2014). How Yemen's capital Sanaa was seized by Houthi rebels. 27 July 2017, *BBC News*. Web: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-29380668>

4. Spencer, J. (2011). How Yemen's revolution was thwarted. 27 July 2017, *The Guardian*. Web:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/aug/29/yemen-revolution-saleh-arab-spring>

5. Laub, Z. (2016). Yemen in Crisis. 28 July 2017, *Council on Foreign Relations* Web: <https://www.cfr.org/background/yemen-crisis>

6. Wikipedia. (2017). Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi. 28 July 2017, *Wikipedia W*. Web: [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abd\\_Rabbuh\\_Mansur\\_al-Hadi](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abd_Rabbuh_Mansur_al-Hadi)

7. Blecua, R. (2015). Una revolución en la revolución: los Houthi y las nuevas relaciones de poder en Yemen. 28 July 2017, *Real Instituto elcano*. Web: <http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/fd1e6e8047ff95f7991b99a97cb72b9a/ARI21-2015-Blecua-revolucion-en-revolucion-Houthi-y-nuevas-relaciones-de-poder-en-Yemen.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=fd1e6e8047ff95f7991b99a97cb72b9a>

8. Amnesty International. (2016). Yemen: The forgotten war. 28 July 2017, *Amnesty International* Web: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/09/yemen-the-forgotten-war/>

## *Glossary*

---

### **A**

**Against:** in opposition to.

**Arisen:** To result.

**Attempt:** To try.

### **B**

**Blockades:** Obstruction of passage progress.

### **C**

**Current:** Belonging to the present time.

**Coup d'Etat:** The sudden overthrow of a government by a usually small group of persons in or previously in positions of authority.

**Concession:** Something, such as a point previously claimed in argument, that is later conceded.

**Coalition:** An alliance.

**Casualty:** One who is injured, killed, captured, or missing.

**Clashes:** To be in opposition or disagreement.

### **D**

**Deputy:** An assistant exercising full authority in the absence of his or her superior and equal authority in emergencies.

**Defeat:** To frustrate.

**Deplorable:** Worthy of severe condemnation.

### **I**

**Intend:** To have in mind.

**Insurgent:** A member of a section of a political party that revolts against the methods or policies of the party.

## L

**Lead:** To guide or direct in a course.

**Latter:** Final.

**Launch:** Initiate.

## O

**Overthrow:** To bring about the downfall, destruction, or ending.

## P

**Predominantly:** Having the most importance, influence.

**Provide:** To make available.

## R

**Resign:** To submit.

**Regarding:** In reference to.

**Regime:** A government, especially an oppressive or undemocratic one.

## S

**Seek:** Search for.

## T

**Timetable:** A list or table of events arranged according to the time when they take place.

**Therefore:** For that reason or cause.

**Thus:** In this manner.

**Troops:** An assemblage of persons or things.

**Transgression:** Violation

## U

**Uprising:** A popular revolt against a government or its policies; a rebellion.

### *Guiding Questions*

---

1. How is the situation for human rights in Yemen today?
2. What are the obligations of parties to the conflict regarding fighting in populated areas?
3. Who can be held responsible for violations of international humanitarian law?