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MARCH 26, 2018

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The Saudi Arabia-led coalition and the Houthis Still Attacking Hospitals and Denying Humanitarian Access Across Yemen

Updated Report Shows Attacks on Health Care and Denial of Humanitarian Access Continued Last Year; Children Disproportionately Affected

NEW YORK – The Saudi Arabia-led coalition and the Houthis have attacked medical facilities and personnel and denied humanitarian access as tactics of war, Watchlist on Children and Armed conflict said today.

Watchlist found that in 2017, parties to Yemen’s conflict carried out at least five attacks on medical facilities and personnel and at least 70 incidents of denials of humanitarian access in multiple governorates throughout the country. Watchlist noted the number of incidents documented in 2017 was much smaller than in 2015 and 2016 because publically available information was comparatively limited; however, this doesn’t indicate fewer attacks and denials, but instead shrinking public space for humanitarian and human rights organizations.

“ We know that in just the first six months of the year, there were more airstrikes in 2017 than in all of 2016,” said Christine Monaghan, Watchlist’s research officer and the report’s author. “It speaks to how bad the situation has become that we’re losing the ability to even document where those strikes are landing and the destruction they’re causing.”

Widespread disruptions in health care access from these attacks, ongoing conflict, and an air, land, and sea blockade on all commercial and humanitarian supplies imposed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in November have had devastating

impacts on children's health. "Tens of thousands of children keep suffering and dying from diseases that are preventable or easily treatable," said Monaghan.

Her 2017 report, *["Every Day Things are Getting Worse" The Impact on Children of Attacks on Health Care in Yemen,](#)* highlights how the targeting of medical facilities and personnel throughout Yemen in 2015 and 2016 and routine denial of humanitarian access have led to a public health crisis for children.

Watchlist's recommendations include a call to the Secretary-General to continue to include the Saudi Arabia-led coalition on his annual list of shame for parties to conflict that commit grave violations of children's rights. Watchlist is also calling on the Saudi Arabia-led coalition to share information with the UN on what it has done to stop attacks and better safeguard children's rights.

Watchlist's updated report details the day, location, type of attack, and perpetrator, when such information is known.

Today's update is part of a series of Watchlist reports focusing on attacks on health care and denial of humanitarian access and their impact on children. In addition to the Yemen report, published in April 2017, Watchlist issued a report on [Afghanistan](#) in March 2017, and will issue a South Sudan report next month.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a New York-based global coalition that serves to end violations against children in armed conflict and guarantee their rights. For more information: <https://watchlist.org/>