



United Nations Human Rights Council  
36<sup>th</sup> session  
28 September 2017  
General Debate Item 10

## **Human Rights Situation of Children in Yemen**

Mr President,

This statement is made on behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI) – Yemen.

Yemen is facing a grave humanitarian crisis, which calls for immediate action by the international community.

Since the conflict started in Yemen in March 2015, at least 5,000 civilians, including 1,120 children, have been killed and more than 8,500 wounded. Human rights violations have persisted, including attacks on education and health facilities as well as the recruitment of children as soldiers.

On August 25, an airstrike led by the Saudi Coalition pounded residential buildings in the Faj Attan neighbourhood in Sana'a, killing 14 civilians. Residents and rescuers dug through debris to retrieve the bodies of several children, who appeared aged under 10 years old. Still recently, civilians have been bombed in all provinces increasing the number of victims, especially children.

Defence for Children International calls on all parties to the conflict to comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, to protect civilians, particularly children, and to work for a political solution to end this suffering. To this end, we encourage members of the Human Rights Council to establish an international, independent mechanism to investigate into violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law in Yemen since March 2015.

Thank you.