



United Nations Human Rights Council  
37<sup>th</sup> session  
06 March 2017  
Interactive Dialogue (ID) with SRSB/children and armed conflict

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

Mr/Mrs President,

Defence for Children International (DCI) Yemen warmly welcomes the decision made by the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2017, under resolution 31, requesting the High Commissioner to establish a Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts (GEE).

We understand and fully support that this Group will monitor and report on the situation on Human Rights and carry out a comprehensive examination of all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law committed by all parties to the conflict since September 2014; as well as make general recommendations on improving the respect for and protection and fulfilment of human rights and engage with Yemeni authorities and all stakeholders to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses in Yemen.

We are well aware of the effect the situation in Yemen is having on its children, as our National Section in Yemen has had to deal with this first hand. The war in Yemen has killed or injured more than 5,000 children and left another 400,000 severely malnourished and fighting for their lives, according to UNICEF. More than 11 million children are currently in need of humanitarian assistance.

Human rights violations persist, including attacks on education and health facilities. UNICEF reports that between March 2015 and November 2017 around 1,842 schools were either destroyed, partially damaged due to airstrikes or shelling. Two million children are out of school and teachers have not been paid salaries for more than a year. If no measures are put in place, we risk a generation of illiterate children. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly a third of reported cholera cases are children under five years of age. Although the reported numbers of suspected cholera cases are decreasing, health assistance needs to keep paying close attention to surges in numbers.

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.



**Defence for  
Children International**  
*the worldwide movement for children's rights*

Thank you.