

Effects of War

On Yemeni Woman and Her Role to Reinststate Peace

2015-2017



Yemeni observatory for human rights

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Abstract

Effects of War and Conflicts on Yemeni Woman and Her Role to Reinststate Peace

(2015-2017)

The study is composed of two main parts :

Section one : Violence against Yemeni woman during war.

In the first component :

The first component tackled the most important concepts and terms that were mentioned in the study:

(concept of violence, concept of violence against woman, concept of gender-based violence, abuse, violation, discrimination against woman, effective equality, participation, monitoring).

This component also tackled the international legal mechanisms to protect women against violence, such as international humanitarian law, international human rights law, asylum law, and special provisions to address the needs of women during war, in addition to international conventions such as the four Geneva Conventions, on all forms of discrimination against women, and Security Council resolution No.1325, which includes the needs and issues of all women, related to protection and empowerment, participation in decision-making and conflict resolution, participation in the promotion of international peace and security and increased representation of women at all levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms, and supporting resolutions, as well as the UN Declaration on the Protection against Violence and Violations against Civilians.

In the second component:

The study dealt with the forms of violence against Yemeni women in the current war. This component elaborated on the situation of women in Yemen and their achievements and gains, where she had preceded many women in some Arab countries before the outbreak of war in the field of recognition and acknowledgment of many political rights, leadership in various State institutions.

It also reviewed the nature of the situation of Yemeni women during the war, and the terrible losses that have undermined the achievements achieved over several decades. The war that Yemen has been living in for three years has resulted in multiple sufferings, including all aspects of life and its effects on human life due to the severe damage to all aspects of social and economic life, culture, infrastructure, natural environment and historical monuments. However, by virtue of her responsibility and social status, which has made her bears the heavy burdens in this war.

Hence, this study is important as it highlights the forms of violence that women were exposed to during this war.

The study also discusses the impact of the war on the social situation, the health situation and the economic situation of Yemeni woman.

In the second part of the study, this section deals with the political situation of Yemeni woman before the war, the participation of woman in the process of change and her role in the comprehensive national dialogue conference, where Yemeni woman dominated the public scene and participated in the comprehensive national dialogue conference by 29.04%.

This section also addressed the role of Yemeni woman in the peace-building process, as affirmed in Security Council resolution No.(1325) for (2000), which stipulates the importance of women's participation in the political process and public life.

The impact of the war on women's lives, the lack of political will to involve women in official political peace-building processes, and the fact that some political forces believe that women's participation in the peace process is not a priority, this led to the weak participation of women in the official negotiations , since women did not participate as an independent powers who represent the voice of peace in the official negotiations.

Therefore, women tried to establish entities and initiatives to end the war, end violence and rebuild peace, also to convey the voice and suffering of women because of the loss of security, stability, and consequences of war, this entities including:

Yemeni Women's Consensus for Peace and Security, which includes activists from various political and civil organizations and affiliations, and accommodates women who support its goals, without prejudice to any party.

The consensus has carried out a number of steps aimed at enhancing the participation of women in the political process in peace building, in cooperation with the Office of the UN Envoy in Sana'a. The most prominent of these steps are: pressure on the parties to the conflict to represent women in the official negotiations held in Kuwait in 2016, a team of the women's consensus was sent to pressure and bring closer views, and to send messages to the negotiating parties and the regional and international parties involved in the peace-building process in Yemen. The women's group has delivered messages expressing Yemeni women's vision of peace through holding meetings with all local , regional and international parties. The delegation called on the need for timely:

- Achieving a comprehensive and just peace.
- Commitment to cease all hostilities.

- Opening corridors for humanitarian relief.
- Release of prisoners and detainees.
- Protection of women and children, including the cessation of child recruitment and rehabilitation of children.
- Ensure the continuation of the educational process and the provision of health services.
- Neutralization of basic services (health and education).

There are civil political entities included : Civil Society Organizations and initiatives such as Peace Partners Initiative that played an active role in the peace building process, dissemination of a culture of peace, enhancement of the role of women in building peace and security, monitoring violations from all parties to form a human rights memory in order to save the rights of victims.

The most prominent recommendations of the study:

- ❖ The importance of conducting quantitative and qualitative studies and researches aimed at monitoring the situation of Yemeni women and their needs and the implications of the war for their reality and future.
- ❖ To redouble efforts to support women, in particular those who have been subjected to violence in all its forms and types, and to focus on victims of violence during displacement / asylum to ensure that women victims of war receive aid, medical, psychological and social services in displacement camps.
- ❖ To promote the preventive aspect to reduce violations and gender-based violence within humanitarian interventions, as an integral part of assistance and interventions, and taking into account the sensitive needs of women and girls in the Yemeni society.
- ❖ To develop a national plan to implement resolution No. 1325 and coordinate efforts between civil society, government and international organizations to promote women's participation in the peace building process.
- ❖ The need to promote women's participation at all levels and stages of peace.
- ❖ To activate gender policies in all phases of preparation and planning for post-conflict phases, ensuring that women's quotas, at least 30% of peace-building programs and bodies, delegates of peace negotiations, disarmament, transitional justice, constitutional review bodies, and building state institutions.

Dr. Mariam Al-Jawfi