



War crimes in Yemen: Targeting Cultural and Historical objects



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Targeting cultural and historical objects

Overview

The cultural and historical heritage of nations consists of religious and historical monuments, buildings and places; museums; religious and funerary facilities, such as temples, cemeteries, mosques and civil; military and civil buildings, such as forts and palaces, castles and baths; dams, towers and fences, which all ought to be protected and optimised for the future generations. Archaeology, architecture and technology are highly essential sciences to preserve this heritage as they help to study the history of mankind. These sciences constitute the main pillar of protecting this heritage through validating it rather than copying or replacing its specificities.

The people of Yemen have witnessed one of the oldest civilisations known to humankind in the Middle East. Historical sources indicate that the science of history in the Arabian Peninsula was known in Yemen's south. This civilisation relied on trade, mining, agriculture and urbanism, which enabled it to establish a stable society. This society recorded and transferred its accumulated experiences throughout history in and outside Yemen, significantly with the human crowds that migrated to the north.

Indeed, the archaeology has constituted a distinguished heritage in the history of the Yemenis, including those that are related to the assumption of Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed, which was given

titles such as 'The Lady', 'Al-Hurra' and 'Al-Sulayhi' (473 - 532 AH / 1138 - 1080 AD). Queen Arwa's reign enjoyed a lot of reverence for the Yemenis, due to the solid political traditions it witnessed and the developmental mobility accompanied by a clear interest in the infrastructure.

Moreover, the Islamic state created various styles of religious buildings, schools, shrines, hospices, Qutab [an Arabic word meaning school used for teaching children language and Islamic studies], baths and castles that Yemen was distinguished by at that time, with their different architectural designs.

Currently, Yemen is witnessing a growing conflict, since March 2015, as the military operations carried out by the Saudi-led coalition continue and the measures of the imposed comprehensive blockade have increased, in addition to the proliferation of armed groups spreading chaos and terrorism in separate areas of Yemen. This status quo has exacerbated the suffering of the Yemenis, day after day, and has made their heritage and capabilities a target of the coalition's operations.

Legal Framework

The international law and international humanitarian law include an explicit prohibition of any acts of hostility directed against religious, cultural and tourist objects that constitute the cultural heritage of peoples, and whoever assaults them is a perpetrator of the war crime as stipulated in the Statute for the International Criminal Court, 1998 -[ICC]^[1].

The international humanitarian law and customary laws of war oblige parties to an armed conflict to protect and respect the cultural property as “the cultural and spiritual heritage of peoples.” The 1954 Hague Convention, the first among the UNESCO conventions related to cultural heritage, is the primary international instrument for the protection of cultural property in armed conflict .

Since 1970, Yemen has been a party to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property during the conflict and its first protocol, according to which all parties are obligated to respect existing cultural property, whether in its own territory or the territory of other High Contracting Parties. The convention stresses that damage to cultural properties of any people is but damage against the cultural heritage of all humanity, on the premise that each people contribute their share to the global culture. Besides, cultural objects, by their nature, are civilian objects that cannot be compensated in the event of any damage; in addition, this damage is not only inflicted on these people itself, but also on the cultural heritage of all peoples .

Hence, attacking, in any way, these modern and historical religious and cultural buildings are criminalised as they are of historical, civilisational and artistic value to peoples^[2] and as they are specially protected under international law in general and international humanitarian law in particular^[3] because they are closely related to man and express their religious and national identity and their culture and civilisation^[4] .

Methodology

This report is one of the periodic human rights reports and issues released by the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) on violations and human rights crimes committed in Yemen, including those that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity that are still committed at the time of writing this report in conjunction with the continuation of five-year military operations by the Saudi-led coalition against Yemen.

The report investigates detailed facts and documented examples of attacks targeting cultural, touristic and historical objects. The GIDHR has found that the widespread destruction that affected Yemeni cultural property is a clear violation of the protection provided by the laws of war in relation to cultural objects as they are considered by the coalition as military targets. The GIDHR has further found that archaeological sites have not been protected in accordance with the standards of international humanitarian law and this has led to the destruction of many cultural properties.

The data has been carried out through investigative field research conducted by the GIDHR's representative in Yemen, in addition to probing and analysing human rights reports and issues released by international and local organisations that monitor a number of military attacks, which target archaeological and historical sites in Yemen.

The GIDHR has endeavoured to provide documented information on models of the most prominent cultural and historical objects that have been directly targeted by airstrikes carried out by the coalition's war crafts, in addition to those objects that have been targeted by armed groups which control separate parts of the Yemeni regions .

Yemen's most prominent cultural and historical objects that were targeted during the military operations

During the past five years, historic and cultural objects in Yemen have been largely targeted. At a time when airstrikes have been the direct cause of destroying thousands of artefacts and more than 80% of Yemen's civilisational and cultural heritage sites, thieves have not stopped digging, looting, stealing, and smuggling many of the archaeological holdings. This represents a real catastrophe in light of the widening of smuggling operations; mostly to European and American countries.

A- The Old City of Sanaa

Sanaa is located in the middle of the Yemeni plateau, at an elevation of 2,300 metres (7,500 ft), along the western foot of the ancient mountain of Noqam. The city occupied only a small area, but the urbanisation in it increased during the Islamic times when the circle of its walls expanded. The first mention of the city of Sanaa in ancient Yemeni inscriptions dates back to the first century AD. Some historians report that the city of Sanaa was populated for about 2500 years. The Ottoman rule in its first stages (1539 - 1634) and the

second (1911 - 1872) had the most prominent effect in the construction of the old city of Sanaa, the way it is today.

At its general conference in Belgrade in 1980, the UNESCO decided to launch an international campaign to preserve the ancient city of Sanaa, and in 1986, it put it on the World Heritage List.

The historic city has been directly attacked and has been severely affected by the attacks that targeted the surrounding mountains. Since the first raid by coalition aircraft on March 26, 2015, which targeted the Naqam Mountain that overlooks the Old Sanaa, and until the date of writing this report, the city is been severely damaged as a result of the continuous raids. These damages are represented by the cracks that affected dozens of historical houses, buildings and monuments of the Old Sanaa, including the Ghamadan Palace, as this city is characterised by its tall and old buildings that can be affected by slightest vibrations.

Bustan Al Qasimi is one of the orchards that the historical city of Sanaa is famous for. It is located on the southwestern side of its old part, and the Saela separates it from the Sultan's orchard. Like other the old Sanaa's orchards, it is surrounded by houses from all directions.

At dawn on Friday, June 12, 2015, the Saudi-led coalition's jets targeted the Al-Qasimi neighbourhood that led to the death of five victims, including a woman and a sixteen-year-old child. This raid destroyed four houses in the historic city of Sanaa and caused severe damage to other nearby houses.

It is worth noting that Amnesty International has documented that the Arab coalition's planes targeted the homes of citizens in the old city of Sanaa. According to AI, "On 12 June, five members of the 'Abdelqader family were killed in another bombardment which destroyed four adjacent houses in the Old City in Sanaa. The strike would have likely caused many more casualties had many of the neighbours not left the area after a powerful airstrike targeted the nearby Defence Ministry "compound (200 metres to the south) two days earlier"^[5].

On Friday night, September 18, 2015, a plane of the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates threw a bomb targeting the house of citizen HafezuAllah Al-Aayni in Al Foulaiha neighbourhood in Old Sanaa. Thirteen people were killed in this raid, 10 of whom are from one family. No military targets were indicated in the targeted location.

On July 2, 2015, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, which met in Bonn, Germany, had announced the inclusion of the old city of Sanaa and the city of Shibam and its wall on the list of endangered World Heritage. The United Nations site also stated that the Old Sanaa sustained serious damages due to the war in the country. The Al-Qasimi neighbourhood has been severely damaged, in addition to Al Mahdi Mosque, which dates back to the 12th century, and a number of neighbouring houses.

At dawn on September 20, 2016, Saudi Arabia and the UAE-led coalition aircraft targeted with 11 bombs the ancient Al-Bakiriyya Mosque, which is approximately 30 meters away from the National Security Agency building,

but they did not explode. Another bomb fell on one of the historic houses in the city of Sanaa, about 200 meters away from the NSA building. This bomb did not explode either. Mohammed Al-Masouri, 75, was murdered after he was split in half by the bomb's direct fall, while his wife suffocated. As for the house, the bomb penetrated all its floors until it settled in the garage. The nearby houses were also damaged, as some of the walls were cracked and windows were broken.

B- The Historical City of Zabid

The historical city of Zabid, west of Yemen, is one of the four historical cities that were included in the World Heritage List in 1992, in recognition of its historical and cultural position by UNESCO due to its civil and military architecture and its urban nature making it a prominent landmark of historical value, along with being the capital of Yemen from the thirteenth century to the fifteenth century AD.

The city of Zabid has been highly distinguished in both the Arab and Islamic worlds for many centuries thanks to the Islamic University in it. Zabid is one of the most important historical cities that has shaped the history of Yemen and has formed its most prominent cultural façade to this day. At the same time, it represents an important and essential part of the civilisational identity of Yemen.

On May, 12th, 2015, the coalition's planes bombed the city. One of the raids targeted the building of citizen Mohamed Mansour, another targeted the city's popular market for the city and a third raid targeted a residential

area called Al-Bish located behind the historic mosque and away from the market about 300 meters. During these attacks, at least 113 people were murdered, including children and women, among whom were an entire family, and more than 90 people were wounded.

C- The Marib Dam

The Marib Dam is one of the oldest dams in the world. Its establishment dates back to the era of the state of Sheba (1200 BC - 275 BC) and its construction started around the eighth century BC and continued until it took its final and complete form in all its facilities and banks, in the fifth century BC.

The dam, which irrigated approximately 98,000 square kilometres, was built of stone cut off from mountain rocks. The stones were finely carved to be identical, placed on top of one another, and fixed with gypsum material. Copper and lead rods were used in its construction, each with an estimated length of 16 meters and a diameter of about 4 centimetres. These rods were inserted into the holes of the stones as nails to connect the rocks together, to give the dam strength and stability against the dangers of earthquakes and violent torrents.

The Ma'rib Dam is considered one of the finest dams in terms of architecture as engineers had examined the nature of the land before the dam was built, then they built the engineering blueprint on it, which is a huge stone wall built on an obtuse angle, in an area called the 'Blood Stall' at the exit of the flood from the valley. This stone wall stretches

from south to north at a distance of 650 meters, and it has openings and doors that open and close as needed for the passage of water through in the surrounding sluices to irrigate fields, orchards and farms fields, orchards and farms. The people of Yemen view the Dam as a symbol of their ancient civilisation and glorious history .

In the first months of the war launched by the coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the northern gate of the Ma'rib Dam was bombed during an air raid. Eyewitnesses reported that at approximately 2:30 - 2:40 pm on Saturday, May 31, 2015, the northern gate of the dam was destroyed (the Northern Water Bank), as a result of an airstrike carried out by the coalition aircraft. This raid caused great damage to the dam's gate, and severely damaged the inhabitants who rely on it to irrigate their agricultural areas .

D- The Kawkaban Fortress

The fortress is archaeological fort overlooks the city of Shibam Kawkaban, 36 km away from northwest of the capital, Sanaa. It is mentioned in the Musnad inscriptions dating back to the reign of the Kingdom of Sheba (1200 BC - 275 AD). When the city prospered, the fortress was rebuilt in a luxurious manner during the reign of the Yufirid rulers, who took it as their capital during the period 997-847 AD. With the first Ottoman campaign on Yemen, Al-Muthar ibn Sharaf al-Din (1572-1503 AD) strengthened the construction of the Kawkaban fortress which he took as the seat of his rule and the city of Shibam as his capital.

On February 14, 2016, the coalition launched an airstrike on the historic Fortress of Kawkaban, which completely destroyed the archaeological building. The gate of the fortress was the only way for the residents to enter and exit to and from the city, and, according to witnesses, the residents were unable to assist the victims or survive themselves as a result of the gate being blocked by rubble. It is worth noting that several other raids targeted the houses of the civilians inside the city, resulting in casualties.

During 2016, Sudarsan Raghavan, an American investigative journalist, visited Yemen to look into the truth about the targeting of historical and archaeological objects in Yemen. In his article entitled “Why is the world so quiet? Yemen suffers its own cruel losses, far from Aleppo^[6]”, published by the Washington Post on December 18, 2016, he states that the fortress that survived from the wars of the Ayyubids, the Egyptians and the Ottomans in the past remained steadfast until February 2016. He confirms that Saudi warplanes bombed it with 4 missiles that and pulverised its ancient gateway and killed 7 people. “Behind the shattered walls, 700-year-old houses known for their spectacular architecture are now mounds of rubble”, he adds.

Raghavan points out that the war waged by Saudi Arabia with the support of the United States of America threatens the future of Yemen after turning

factories, hospitals and power stations in many parts of the country into rubble, noting that Yemen has been subjected to several wars in the past, but none of them left as much destruction as the current war.

The newspaper states that thousands of Yemenis died in the war amid the escalation of the humanitarian crisis and that the Yemenis are “aware of their country’s status as one of the world’s oldest repositories of civilisation, dating back centuries before Christ — voice equal outrage about cultural losses. Armed groups, including radical Islamists, have damaged or destroyed ancient mosques and churches.

Raghavan points out that the museums of Yemen have been looted and that some historic sites that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognises as unique have been bombed by warplanes, noting that the Saudi bombing of places that are part of the history of Yemen and a source of pride is a serious insult and jeopardises future tourism revenue, vital to rebuilding the nation.

The Washington Post quotes Mohannad Al-Sihani, who runs the government body that oversees Yemen’s antiquities and museums, saying that the antiquities of Yemen have been subjected to a fearful amount of destruction, which needs a long time to be repaired. He notes that 85 archaeological sites have been directly or indirectly destroyed since the outbreak of the war in 2015.

E- The Dhamar Museum

On May 21, 2015, the Dhamar City Museum, south of Sanaa, was bombed with a direct air raid carried out by the aircraft of the coalition countries led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which destroyed all its components and turned it into ruins, in addition to the destruction of the office of the General Authority of Antiquities and Museums, which was part of the museum building .

According to the Director of the Antiquities Department, the raids completely destroyed the museum and there is no architectural component has been left, except for the underground storehouse that fell on the collapsed ceilings of the upper floors and contained a large number of artefacts, in addition to some boxes that contain the findings of fieldwork carried out by some local and foreign missions such as the American mission of the University of Chicago under the supervision of the American Center for Yemeni Studies in Sanaa, and the results of field survey work for a number of foreign researchers such as Christa Lewis and others .

The aerial bombardment of the museum resulted in the loss of all documents related to the museum in addition to the documents belonging to the branch of the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums that contain information related to most of the archaeological sites located in the geographical range of the province of Dhamar .

F- The City of Shibam Hadramout

Shibam - Hadhramaut, an ancient town and it is believed to be mentioned for the first time in the Musnad inscriptions of the Kingdom of Hadhramaut. However, the city of Shibam in its present form dates back to the sixteenth century AD.

The city is one of Yemen's most ancient archaeological cities considered to be one of the four Yemeni cities registered in the World Heritage List, since 1982, with Sanaa and Zabid, due to its unique architectural style. In 2007, the city of Shibam was awarded the Aga Khan International Prize for Islamic Architecture.

The city is considered one of the oldest and best examples of meticulous civil organisation based on the vertical building system, and it is called "Manhattan of the Desert" due to its tall tower buildings emanating from the rocks. In July 2015, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, meeting in Bonn, Germany, announced the inclusion of the city of Shibam-Hadhramaut and its wall on the list of endangered World Heritage.

In November 2015, a terrorist car bomb explosion on the southern side of the city damaged more than 200 houses, which ISIS claimed responsibility for.

G- The Al-Hadi Mosque in Saada

Al-Imam Al-Hadi Mosque is one of the historic city of Saada's mosques. It was built around the year 290 AH/897 AD. It was named after Imam Yahya Bin Al-Hussein, known

as Al Hadi Ela Al Haq [Guide to Justice], who is founder of the Imams state in Yemen. The mosque consists of an open courtyard in the centre surrounded by four corridors, the deepest of which is the qibla hallway. It can be accessed through thirteen gates and has two minarets. The larger minaret is located in the courtyard and is among the tallest in Yemen, reaching around 52 meters high, while the second minaret is smaller and is located in the southern part of the courtyard.

The mosque has a great religious and historical status, especially among the followers of the Zaidi school of thought, who make it a shrine as it houses the mausoleum of Imam Hadi. The mosque indeed is a main headquarter and a religious reference school of thought, where religion and language sciences are taught, and seminars, lectures and workshops of a religious nature are held. In the mosque, there is also a library containing many ancient religious and historical books and is accessible to many so-called 'immigrants' and dropouts that are in search of education.

At 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of Saturday, May 9, 2015, the Arab coalition aircraft, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, launched an airstrike that hit a number of shops selling clothes and Janabi (Yemeni daggers) next to the mosque. The next morning, coalition aircraft launched a second raid that destroyed all the shops in the square next to

the mosque and the water project. The mosque and the façades of the surrounding houses and shops were damaged as a result of these attacks. All the shops that were inside the city were moved out of the city, specifically next to the Saudi Peace Hospital

H- The Cairo Citadel – Taiza

The Cairo Citadel is located in the Cairo district of Taiz, on top of a hill adjacent to the foot of Jabal Saber from the north. It overlooks the nearby old city neighbourhoods and provides a perspective view of all of the city's neighbourhoods. Therefore, it is one of the most important outlets for residents of the city of Taiz, especially after the establishment of a park in it, which was considered an exquisite painting.

Some historians refer to the construction of the Cairo Citadel to the fifth century AH, while others argue that it was built in the first half of the sixth century AH, by Sultan Abdullah bin Muhammad al-Sulayhi (459 - 439 AH / 1066 - 1047 CE), and that it was built in the reign of his brother Ali Bin Muhammad al-Sulayhi (484 - 458 AH / 1091-1066 CE).

Since March 2015, the Cairo Citadel has been used as a military site by armed groups backed by Saudi Arabia. In mid-May 2016 warplanes of the Arab Alliance targeted the Cairo Citadel with 22 bombs during 12 airstrikes, which made it vulnerable to collapse.

According to the Director-General of the Antiquities Office

in the governorate, “the citadel is being destroyed with every airstrike.” He notes that the constant Saudi coalition raids have resulted in severe damage to the historic citadel and its entire cultural and human heritage that cannot be compensated.

I- The Al Sennarah Citadel - Al Abala – Saada

The Al-Sinnara Citadel or the Citadel of Imam Al-Hadi Sharaf Eddin was built in 1880 in the Rahban-Al Abedin area, approximately 10 kilometres away to the south of the city of Saada. It is regarded as one of the most important archaeological and touristic citadels and monuments in Saada Governorate. During the 30s and 40s, Imam Yahya Hameeduldeen, and later his son Ahmed, used it as a prison for political dissents.

Due to its historical importance, the Al-Abala archaeological site was a tourist attraction for the residents of the area, due to its location above the Al-Abala Mountain, which overlooks the city of Saada in the north.

On October 5th, 2015, the Arab coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE bombed the telecommunications towers on top of the Al-Abala mountain, causing damages to the historic citadel.

Conclusion

Yemen is one of the oldest civilisations of the earth, which has a rich heritage of cultural and historical notables, but that legacy has been exposed to many increasing risks with the ongoing airstrikes and military operations of the coalition countries led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE and the growing internal conflicts, including the armed groups funded by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in addition to the looting, robbery and smuggling of antiquities in Yemen.

In light of the international silence upon the ongoing war, the lack of serious intervention to stop it and the lack of both holding perpetrators accountable and independent international investigation regarding the systematic targeting of cultural and historical objects, humanity will lose one of the most important pillars of human civilisation and their cultural and historical heritage.

Recommendation

Parties to the conflict shall:

Take all necessary measures and actions to spare cultural property and objects any damage or destruction and to immediately cease all hostilities from within or near the archaeological sites and monuments.

Promptly initiate transparent and impartial investigations into allegations of serious violations of the laws of war, including incidents of attacks on objects and cultural property, publicise these investigations and hold those responsible to account.

The necessity to abide by the rules of international humanitarian law, especially the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property and its Protocols, as well as the Geneva Conventions and their protocols to prohibit attacks directed against cultural property and objects.

Take all possible measures to minimise damage to cultural objects, which should include issuing effective prior advance warnings of attacks as possible.

Stopping the sale of weapons to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its allied states, because these weapons can be used to carry out attacks on cultural property and objects that may amount to war crimes.

Initiate international investigations into the attacks that targeted cultural objects, including revealing the type of weapons used in those attacks and the country that manufactured them, so as to ensure the fairness of accountability for these crimes.

Appendix: List of cultural and historical objects that were targeted by the coalition states' attacks against Yemen 2019 and December 2015 during March

Date	Targeted Object	Region	Damages
10/4/2015	Hamra Alab Mosque in Dar Al-Haid	Sanhan, Sanaa	Total destruction
10/4/2015	Saada city and its environs	Saada	Partial destruction
21/4/2015	The historic village of Faj Atan	The secretariat of the capital, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
23/4/2015	Dar Al-Hassan	Demet, al-Dhalea	Total Destruction
24/4/2015	The ancient city of Baraqish	Sarwah, Marib	Partial Destruction
24/4/2015	Sarwah city	Sarwah, Marib	Partial Destruction
9/5/2015	Imam Al-Hadi Mosque	Old Saada city	Partial Destruction
11/5/2015	Naqm Castle	The secretariat of the capital, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
11/5/2015	Cairo Ancient Castle	Taiz	Partial Destruction
11/5/2015	The National Museum	The secretariat of the capital, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
11/5/2015	Folk Heritage Museum	The secretariat of the capital, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
12/5/2015	Historic city of Zabid	Hodeidah	Partial Destruction
13/5/2015	Asaad AL-Kamel Archaeological Cliff	Al Qafr District, Ibb Governorate	Total Destruction
13/5/2015	Al-Qafla Fortress	Saada ,Saqeen	Partial Destruction
21/5/2015	Dhamar Museum	Dhamar	Total Destruction
24/5/2015	Jabal Al Sharif Citadel	Bajil - Al Hudaydah	Partial Destruction

29/5/2015	Numan Fortress	Hajjah	Partial Destruction
29/5/2015	Al-Mansoura Fortress	Hajjah	Partial Destruction
31/5/2015	Marib dam	Marib	Partial Destruction
5/6/2015	Dar Al-Hajar Palace	Sanaa	Partial Destruction
10/6/2015	Al Aaradi complex	The secretariat of the capital, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
12/6/2015	Historic city of Sanaa	The secretariat of the capital, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
12/6/2015	The Palace of Weapons -Ghamadan	Old Sanaa	Partial Destruction
13/6/2015	The old town of Marib	Marib	Partial Destruction
22/6/2015	Ataq Museum	Shabwa	Partial Destruction
22/6/2015	Historic Sirah Castle	Sirah, Aden	Partial Destruction
22/6/2015	Aden Museum (Abdali Palace)	Crater, Aden	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	Sharaf Fortress	Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	Qashla	Medi, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	Mansoura Castle	Medi, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	The old government complex	Medi, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	The ruins of Al Idrisi Castle	Medi, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	Juba ruins and Al Khood ruins	Medi, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	The ruins of Al-Alali in Teshreen Valley	Bakil al-Meer	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	Haradh Lock Fort Haradh	Haradh, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
26/6/2015	The ruins of Jaffan Mountain	Haradh, Hajjah	Partial Destruction
17/9/2015	Habour Zalima Mosque	Omran	Partial Destruction

18/9/2015	Al-Falihi Mosque	Old Sanaa	Partial Destruction
25/10/2015	Salah Palace	Taiz	Partial Destruction
16/1/2016	The Temple of Awaal Sarwah	The city of Sarwah, Marib	Partial Destruction
14/2/2016	Qashlat Kuwkaban	Kawkaban Al Mahwit area	Partial Destruction
14/2/2016	Muslim Money House	Directorate of Masore, Imran	Partial Destruction
14/2/2016	House of Imam Muhammad al-Badr	Directorate of Masore, Imran	Partial Destruction
6/3/2016	The Temple of Narkh	Baraqish, Marib	Partial Destruction
17/3/2016	Harib Bayhan Castle	Baraqish, Marib	Partial Destruction
13/5/2016	Qefwl al-Mehalel Castle	Khemer, Imran	Total Destruction
13/5/2016	The dome of Sheikh Abdul Hadi Al-Sudi	Taiz	Total Destruction
20/7/2016	Sheikh Jamal Al-Din Al-Sarari Mosque	Taiz	Total Destruction
16/8/2016	Mosque of the Prophet Shuaib	Bani Matar, Sanaa	Total Destruction
7/10/2016	The historic village of Beit Boss	Bani Matar, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
24/9/2017	The ancient Kahla Fortress	Shada, Saada	Total Destruction
19/10/2017	The Grand Mosque in the Mozaea Directorate	Mozaea Directorate, Taiz	Partial Destruction
24/11/2017	A mosque in the village of Ayal Muhammad in the Directorate of Neham	Nahham District, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
04/12/2017	Cairo Castle	Taiz	Partial Destruction
06/12/2017	A mosque in the villages of Ramada and Ayal Muhammad in the Directorate of Neham	Directorate of Neham, Sanaa	Partial Destruction
15/12/2017	Mosque in the Ghamr Border Directorate	Ghamr, Saada	Partial Destruction

30/12/2017	A mosque in Marib Governorate, Sarwah city	Sarwah, Marib	Partial Destruction
06/01/2018	A mosque in the Saada district, al-Jawzatt Zone	Saada	Partial Destruction
08/1/2018	A mosque in Al-Hanashat district of Nahham District		Partial Destruction
26/5/2018	A mosque in the Hamzat region		Partial Destruction
07/2/2018	A mosque in the district of Zabid		Partial Destruction
14/2/2016	A mosque in the district of Zabid		Partial Destruction
14/2/2016	A mosque in Al-Drahamy District		Partial Destruction
6/3/2016	A mosque in the district of Baqim		Partial Destruction
17/3/2016	A mosque in the Sufour Village in Al-Jah region, Beit Al-Faqih District		Total Destruction
13/5/2016	Al-Rahma Mosque, in Al-Marawaa District		Total Destruction
13/5/2016	Haret Al-Dobyani Mosque		Total Destruction
20/7/2016	Al-Waheen Mosque in the 7th of July area		Partial Destruction
16/8/2016	Musa Castle in the Bani Shahr district of the Koshier District		Partial Destruction

- The table was prepared by the General Authority of Antiquities & Museums



The most prominent cultural and historical objects that were targeted in Yemen

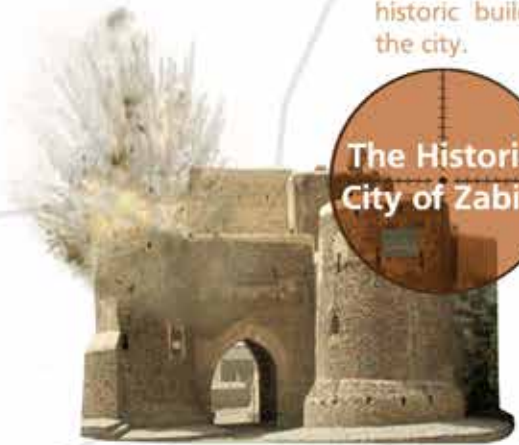


In 1980, the UNESCO decided to launch an international campaign to preserve the ancient city of Sanaa, before listing it in the World Heritage List in 1986.

The historic city has been the target of several direct attacks by the Saudi-led coalition's aircraft since March 26, 2015, that caused damage and cracks to dozens of historic buildings and houses in the city.



The Old City of Sanaa



The Historic City of Zabid

It is one of 4 Yemeni cities on the World Heritage List and it represents an important and essential part of the cultural identity of Yemen.

It was targeted by Saudi-led coalition's aircraft with several raids that claimed more than 110 lives, including children and women.

It is one of the oldest dams in the world, its construction extended from the eighth century BC until the fifth century BC, and it used to irrigate approximately 98,000 square kilometres.

The Saudi-led coalition's raids have caused extensive damage to the Ma'rib Dam and severe damage to the agricultural areas that depend on it as a primary source of irrigation.



The Marib Dam

The Kawkaban Fortress



It is an archaeological fortress mentioned in the Musnad inscriptions dating back to the reign of the Kingdom of Sheba.

On February 14, 2016, coalition fighters launched an airstrike on the fortress, which completely destroyed the archaeological building, and the residents were unable to assist the victims or survive on their own as a result of the blockage of the fortress gate, which was the only way out of the city, with the rubble. The fighters launched several other raids targeting civilian houses in the city.

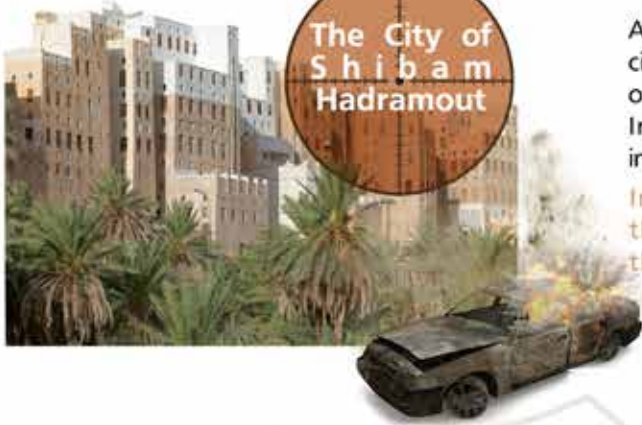
It is the main museum in the governorate, built in the year 2002 and it contained 12,500 pieces attesting to the rich cultural heritage of Yemen.

The Saudi-led coalition aircraft raided the museum directly on May 21, 2015, destroying it with all its components and turning it into rubble, in addition to destroying the office of the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums that was taking part of the museum.

The Dhamar Museum



The City of Shibam Hadramout



An ancient city, one of the most prominent historical cities in Yemen, and it is one of the cities registered on the World Heritage List. It was awarded the International Aga Khan Award for Islamic Architecture in 2007.

In November 2015, a car bomb explosion on the southern side of the city damaged more than 200 houses.

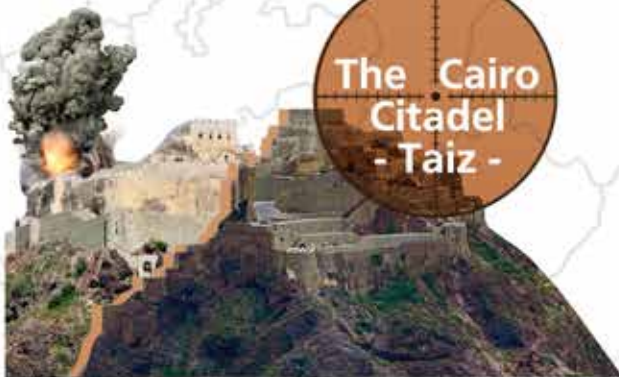
The Al-Hadi Mosque - Saada



It is one of the historical city of Saada's mosques, built around the year 290 AH / 897 CE.

The Saudi-led coalition's aircraft launched several raids in May 2015, which destroyed all the shops in the square next to the mosque, the water project, and which damaged the mosque and the facades of the houses and the surrounding shops.

The Cairo Citadel - Taiz -



The citadel was built around the fifth century AH or the first half of the sixth century AH. It overlooks the old city nearby neighbourhoods and was one of the most important space for residents of the city of Taiz after the establishment of a park that was considered an exquisite painting.

The Sinara Citadel was built in 1880 AH and is considered one of the most important archaeological and touristic castles and monuments in Saada Governorate. It was a tourist attraction due to its location above the mountain of Al-Abala.

On October 5, 2015, the coalition's aircrafts bombed the telecommunications towers erected on top of Al-Abala Mountain, damaging the historic citadel.

The AlSennarah Citadel

- Al Abala - Saada



- [1] Cultural objects protected during armed conflict, the attack of which is a war crime as stipulated in paragraph (A / 4) of Article 8: “The court shall have jurisdiction in relation to war crimes, including the infliction of widespread destruction and seizure of property without there being a military necessity” In violation of the law and in a foolish manner, “as well as in paragraph (B / 9), which states that “attacks on buildings designated for religious, educational, artistic, scientific or charitable purposes and historical relics” .
- [2] Article 1. For the purposes of the present Convention, the term “cultural property” shall cover, irrespective of origin or ownership: (a) movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites; groups of buildings which, as a whole, are of historical or artistic interest; works of art; manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest; as well as scientific collections and important collections of books or archives or of reproductions of the property defined above; (b) buildings whose main and effective purpose is to preserve or exhibit the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a) such as museums, large libraries and depositories of archives, and refuges intended to shelter, in the event of armed conflict, the movable cultural property defined in subparagraph (a); (c) centres containing a large amount of cultural property as defined in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), to be known as “centres containing monuments” .
- [3] Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977. PROTECTION OF CULTURAL Protection of cultural objects and of places of worship Without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954, and of other relevant international instruments, it is prohibited: (a) to commit any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples .

[4] Article 1 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) stipulates: “For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as ‘cultural heritage’: monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science” .

[5] <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/07/yemen-airstrike-analysis-shows-saudi-arabia-killed-scores-of-civilians>

[6] https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/why-is-the-world-so-quiet-yemen-suffers-its-own-cruel-losses-far-from-aleppo/2016/12/18/0b13e0ab-b19d-447d-b93b-6c2807a5067d_story.html

