

## ***Incidents of Drones***

### ***Introduction***

Mwatana has documented on 2017 six bloody air attacks by US Air Force "drone". Following the drone attacks, twelve people died, including five children. We were unable to obtain sufficient information about them. Drones carried out attacks on the governorates of Marib, Shabwa, Abyan and Al-Bayda, which are adjacent Governorates to the east of the Yemeni capital Sana'a.

The drones have caused panic and fear among the civilians in these Governorates. They have been making the noise of their fearful roar because of their continuous flight over their villages and towns.

It is noted that four of the six attacks documented by us, carried out against mobile targets as it passed in the roads and streets of the civilian population, most of the goals were cars and motorcycles that cross these public roads.

### **Incident#1: Abyan province, Khanfar directorate (13<sup>th</sup> August 2017)**

On Sunday, 13 August 2017, a drone targeted two civilians in the village of Maroun, Khanfar District, Abyan Governorate. While Al-Khadher Ali (19 years), accompanied by his friend Ali Haidar (17 years), were guarding the beehives (bee houses), a missile from a drone targeted them directly, according to eyewitnesses, the drones did not stop flying for 3 days before the accident. *(You will find the Interviews below) ...*

Victims's name	Age / Sex	Injury details	Notes
al Khudr Ali Sa'eed Jeradah	19 / male	(killed) amputated limbs and shrapnel everywhere	
Ali Haidera Sa'eed Jeradah	17 / male	(killed) torn to pieces	

## **Interview #1**

**Date: 5th , October 2017**

**Place: Incident location**

**Interviewee: Abdullah Ali Jeradah**

**Age: 30 years    Sex: Male**

**Relationship with ( victim/ incident):**

**eyewitness and the victims cousin**

Details of the interview:

We were all born and lived in the same village. I had a strong relationship with the victims, especially with al Khudr Ali Sa'eed. Both victims are my relatives; we are cousins. Al Khudr Ali (19 years) and Ali Haider (17 years) are my friends and also my cousins. They got married in the same year, two years ago. Both decided to find jobs that fit their expertise. al Khudr became a beekeeper and Ali a fisherman because the sea is only a few kilometres away. They both liked to spend time with each other. I didn't hear or see that they had any contact with any armed part. Few days before the incident, al Khudr had transported the beehives near an area close to the international road. The location was suitable because there were more trees there and a well too. We used to go there with a group of other young people to spend time with him, same with Ali.

Three days before the incident, the locals from the village and the surroundings noticed a drone flying often. It wasn't a regular thing to see. Sometimes there were two drones at the same location. We were expecting something to happen because everyone was sure that these drones belong to the American forces. These drones are notorious in our area, they killed people, but we didn't care much because we were sure that we were innocents and weren't involved in the conflict. We weren't worried about our lives. We were confident that these drones would never target us, just as you are standing in front of me here and know that these drones will not target you. This is how we and the other victims felt.

The day of the incident we didn't hear the drone at all, at 15:30 on Sunday 13th of August 2017, while the mosques were about to call for the afternoon prayers, locals in the area and the adjacent regions heard a noise of an intense explosion. We saw the smoke and dust and listened to the drone noise while it was soaring. Nobody knows what was happening at that moment, I was only kilometers away from the incident location, so I ride my motorcycle and head to the place. I never thought that the drone had targeted, anyone, there. When I arrived, I called one of my friends who informed me that the drone had targeted the bees place that belongs to al Khudr and he was killed with his friend Ali.

Immediately, I went there fearing that the drone would bomb the place again. When I arrived, the scene was shocking. I didn't see the bodies because they were taken to the village. I saw the tree where we used to sit, it was covered by their bodies remains, pieces of their clothes and blood stains were everywhere. The smell of the gunpowder filled the place. I quickly collected the remains that have not been taken, and buried them under the tree so that the animals would not eat them. We

left the place to attend the burial ceremony. The bodies of the victims were buried in Hussn Sa'eed cemetery .

At the graveyard, everyone was shocked. No one feels safe anymore. Everyone was saying that they or their families might be the next target. I went home that day feeling very sad. Now, every time I hear a drone, I get the feeling that I will die. Currently, I have some psychological issues and feel irritable all the time since the incident. I still pay a lot of visits to the location and collect the gun's remains that have killed the very dear person to me, and put it next to the hole where I buried my cousins remains. I find condolence that I have buried my cousins and their killer next to them... then I quickly leave the place.

## **Interview #2**

**Date: 5th, October 2017**

**Place: Incident location**

**Interviewee: Yassin Sa'eed Saleh Sa'eed**

**Age: 22 years    Sex: Male**

**Relationship with (victim/ incident):  
relatives**

**eyewitness and one of the victims'**

During the last years, we got used to the American bombing on the area and the other adjacent regions. The shelling, sometimes, targets specific places and sometimes the targets were empty places. Despite the fear it causes to the locals, who many of them were displaced due to the bombing, the recent attack was unprecedented, it has crossed all the red lines, it started to target citizens, and nobody feels safe anymore .

Drones have displaced many families. We Bedouins - male or female - use the outdoors for defecation (at night or day). Now, because drones fly over us all the time, many were afraid to go out during the day especially women because they think the drone take pictures. While during the night we are also scared to go out because using any light will make us a target for the drones. In many times we notice the drone hovers very close and makes loud noises that we afraid of, thus, life became hard in these areas.

Twenty days before the incident, there was heavy firing from a machine gun at night by an aircraft; I think it was Apache, we didn't know where it was coming from, the drone, that we are used to its noise was still flying. Sometimes if we didn't hear it for days, we feel that there is something wrong, although we know that these drones only bring death and destruction. It has killed many of our friends and relatives and was the cause of displacing so many people. The last incident was killing my two best friends and cousins, al Khudr Ali Sa'eed (18 years) and Ali Haidera Sa'eed (17 years). Khudr was a beekeeper, and Ali was a fisherman who used to help Khudr sometimes with his work because khudr has moved the beehives to another place where there are trees and well .

Both victims have married recently, so they were so occupied providing for their families. They didn't have any relations with any armed groups; if they have any ties

with those people, I won't hesitate to tell. Both Ali and Khudr used to meet to have Qat (a tree, Yemenis are used to chew its leaves at middays) close to the beehives. I used to go there too with many of my friends to chat and have Qat. We used to hear the drones, but we haven't thought that the place will be a target. Anyone who is suspected of or involved with any terrorist group would prefer to stay hiding and far from the area to save his and others lives. So, we didn't feel we were in danger with the people we were hanging out with. This situation continued till 13th August, Sunday at 15:20 .

On that day I heard a loud explosion noise, it was only one explosion, so I went out to see what happened. I was looking around me and saw smoke coming from a distance; I stayed at home for a while. I went out after some time and found a friend who informed me that American aviation had targeted al Khudr and Ali. I was shocked to hear this and went to their homes. Upon my arrival, I found that the remains of the victims were prepared for prayers and burial in Hussn Sa'eed cemetery.

Everyone there was afraid and shocked. How come aviation well-known for its accuracy targets people, who have nothing to do with terrorists. People were more terrified after visiting the place the next day and saw the remains of their clothes and bodies scattered on the trees; even the bees died because the explosion was powerful. Accordingly, many families decide to leave the village, even the victims' families have no desire to stay there .

I am very moved by this incident; I am terrified every time I hear a drone. Not because I'm concerned with my life, but I don't want my children to be orphans. People were left desperate after the incident. People also are suffering from new dyesis that is related to fear like Phobia, insanity and Jaundice

#### **Incident #2: Abyan province, Khanfar directorate (4<sup>th</sup> March 2017)**

"A drone targeted two civilians on a motorcycle on the road in an area called Al Rahabah, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate on 4 March 2017. They were hit by two missiles fired from an unmanned aerial vehicle while they were bringing food to their family from the area".

- eyewitnesses said. *(You will find the Interviews below) ...*

#	Victim's name	Age / Sex	Injury details	Notes
1	Salem Ahmed Abdullah Saleh	34 / male	(killed) torn to pieces	
2	Hadi Ali Ahmed Abdullah	28 / male	(killed) torn to pieces	

## **Interview #1**

**Date: 10th May 2017**

**Interviewee: Ali Ahmed Abdulla Saleh**

**Relationship with (victim/ incident):**

**Place: displacement place**

**Age: 51 years    Sex: Male**

**Hadi's father and Salem's brother**

Details of the interview:

We used to live peacefully in Mujan village. We were like one family in that village, but due to the last unrest in 2011 in Abyan province namely the invasion of Al Qaeda militants, some villagers were tempted to join them. After Al Qaeda left Abyan in 2013, some of these villagers return to the village, and some went to the valleys and adjacent mountains to our village. This led the government forces to randomly bomb the area as if we were all have joined al Qaeda including our women and children .This situation continued till the intervention of the Arabian coalition forces led by the Saudi government, where we were subjected to some of their attacks .

Early 2017, our area was heavily targeted by the American aviation, who their drones continually raid the village and the neighboring regions on daily bases. This led some of the families to move to the nearby areas, among them were my brother Salem (34 years) and my son Hadi (28 years). They moved to the area close to Ahwar directorate and lived with an old man from our tribe .

Due to the food shortage, one day, my brother and my son decided to come to the village to see their families and bring food; this was on the 4th of March 2017. While they were in an area named al Rhaba near the borders of al Mrakasha area, they were targeted by more than one missile that tore them to pieces. At that time, I was in Aden province. I tried, with others, to go there and collect the remains but we couldn't due to the heavy aviation in that area. When my brothers decided to go, I stopped them; I told them "I have lost my son and my brother, and I don't want to lose more". I called people who happen to be in the area and asked them to collect what they can find of my brother and son remains and bury them; then we had the burial ceremony here .Some of my friends took the risk and moved the remaining families to Abyan province. Now we are a group of families live in one house. We have tried more than once to make our voices heard; that there are no terrorists here and we asked people to come and check, but no one is willing to listen to us. We even formed a committee from the village to kick any intruder that we suspect affiliated to Al Qaeda, yet the attacks continued.

We can't go back to the village especially after the American operation that took place this year. The problem is more significant than us. We genuinely thank you that you went there, no one went to the area even during the peace times, while you went during the dangerous times only to make our voices heard. We say enough; we do not want to lose more. .I have lost my brother and son in one day who were both civilians and was forced to leave my house, now I am displaced, and my salary is not enough. Because of the war, I can't get it. I only want to go back to my home in any possible way but I can't, and I don't know if our suffering is going to end soon, I am feeling depressed but I try to hold on for the kids' sake, they had their share too .

## **Interview #2**

**Date: 10th May 2017**

**Place: A house in al Kud area**

**Interviewee: Hadi Ahmed Abdulla Al Muraqeb Age: 26 years Sex: Male**

**Relationship with (victim/ incident): Hadi's uncle and Salem's brother**

Details of the interview:

I have moved with the victims due to the bombing and resided with the senior man who is a relative of us. After staying there for two days, we decided to move back to our village. We went to Ahwar directorate to shop for some things; then I used a motorcycle to go home, while they delay in Ahwar directorate. Later they joined riding a bike, Hadi was driving.

While I was at home, I received a call telling me that a drone has bombed two persons on a motorcycle on their way to Mohan village. I realised that these two were my brother Salem and my nephew, Hadi. The caller said they were attacked with more than one missile by a drone that is believed to be American and it has torn them to pieces, and that the drone was still flying over the area .

That was at 17:00 on Sunday, 4th of March 2017. We tried to go there but we couldn't, the place was dangerous, and we were afraid that we would be targeted too. We asked someone who was closer to collect the remains, and we had the ceremony here in Abyan. My brother was a volunteer teacher at the school in our area for 16 years. He was a respected teacher and was the mosque Imam in the village. He has no relation to any terrorists' groups. He and my nephew were both killed in cold blood .

I feel sad every time I hear in the news that the drone has targeted terrorists, while they don't know that these people were harmless civilians .Those attacks have left great destruction. We lost our beloved ones, and we were displaced. We can't go back, and we don't know if these raids are going to stop, we live in this world, but we feel like the dead .

## **Incident #3: Al Baidha province, Ukla (23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017)**

*On Thursday, 23/11/2017 at 5:30 pm, Ahmad Salem Mabkhout al-Amiri (25 years) and Mohammed Massad Abbad (24years) were out of a farm belonging to Ahmed Salim, riding a motorbike When a drone targeted them, which led to their immediate death. (You will find the Interviews below) ...*

#	Victim's name	Age / Sex	Injury details	Notes
1	Ahmed Salem Mabkhut al Amiri	25 / male	Complete burn	
2	Muhammed Musad Abad	14 / male	Complete burn	

### Interview # 1

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Place: the incident location**

**Name: Muhammed Mus'ad Abad**

**Age:--- Sex: Male**

**Relationship with( victim/ incident):**

**Father of the child Muhammed**

Details of the interview:

I have moved with my family to Marib province after that incident, to save the rest of my children. My son Muhammed was only 14 years old when he went with Ahmed's farm, once they left the farm on their way to our house which was 300 meters from the farm, a drone bombed them. The missile shrapnel reached our house and caused some fires and damages to the walls. Muhammed's mother was the first one to arrive at the location; she found Ahmed's and Muhammed's bodies burning and tried to extinguish them. It was a crime that no one would ever tolerate!! My son Muhammed used to spend most of his time at home, he has no relation to any kind of activity. He spends his time helping his mother and doing chores.

I will always remember Muhammed's sisters when they surrounded his burning body, they were shocked and crying hard. His mother almost lost her mind, remembering her situation is making me mentally exhausted. I had to move to Marib and rent an apartment there, I had to borrow all the money I have now. I have six boys and eight girls. I have moved with my family to Marib province after that incident, to save the rest of my children. My son Muhammed was only 14 years old when he went with Ahmed's farm, once they left the farm on their way to our house which was 300 meters from the farm, a drone bombed them. The missile shrapnel reached our house and caused some fires and damages to the walls. Muhammed's mother was the first one to arrive at the location; she found Ahmed's and Muhammed's bodies burning, and tried to extinguish them. It was a crime that no one would ever tolerate !

My son Muhammed used to spend most of his time at home; he has no relation to any activity. He spends his time helping his mother and doing chores. I will always remember Muhammed's sisters when they surrounded his burning body, they were shocked and cried hard. His mother almost lost her mind, remembering her situation is making me mentally exhausted I had to move to Marib and rent an apartment there; I had to borrow all the money I have now. I have six boys and eight girls.

#### **Incident #4: al Baidha province, Ukla (26<sup>th</sup> November 2017)**

That on Sunday, 26/11/2017 at 01:45 P.M., a drone in the area of Yakla – Al-Baidaa Governorate targeting three children. In the first Missile Salman Salem Mbkhout Amiri 14 years was killed and ten minutes later another missile targeted Fadhil Ali Mohammed al-Tissi 13 years and Dahan Saleh Naji Amiri - 12 years. *(You will find the Interviews below) ...*

#	Victim's Name	Age/sex	Body status	Notes
1	Salman Salem Mabkhut al Amiri	14/ male	The upper part of the body is burned the lower part is torn	
2	Fadhil Ali Muhammed al Taisi	16/ male	The upper part of the body is burned the lower part is torn	
3	Dahan Saleh Naji al Amiri	14/ male	The upper part of the body was burned the lower part is torn	

#### **Interview #1**

**Date:** 9th December 2017

**Place:** the incident location

**Name:** Abdullah Ali Muhamed Al Taisi    **Age---** :    **Sex:** male

**Relationship with (victim/ incident):**    **Brother of the victim Fadhil**

Details of the interview:

So far, drones have targeted more than fifteen children. My brother Fadhil was only 16 years; he used to work on our farm. He dropped out of school after passing the third grade because education was not good in our village .

With the advance of the armed forces of the Ansar Allah "Houthis" group, many young people joined the popular resistance camps and the forces loyal to President Abderbo Mansour Hadi. The three children were delivering food and drink to those who had joined the camps when the drone targeted them. At that day, the three children Salman Salem al Amiri (14 years old), Fadhil Ali al Taisi (16 years old) and Dahan Saleh al Amiri (14 years old) were on their way to their relatives in the camp. The three children were walking separately, carrying rice and chicken. The first missile hit Salman, who was 200 meters away from the other kids. The other two run away but the drone chased them and attacked them with two missiles. The three children bodies were torn and charred.

#### **Incident #5: al Baidha province, Ukla (14<sup>th</sup> December 2017)**

On Thursday, December 14, 2017, at 6:00 pm, there were women gathering in a house in the area of Yakla. As soon as one of them went off the house, a drone fired a missile

at her turning her body into charred pieces. One shrapnel killed one of the other women in the house.

*(You will find the Interviews below) ...*

#	Victim's name	Age/ sex	Injury details	Notes
1	Dhabia Ali Ahmed Al Taisi	63 /Female	Charred and torn	
2	Hajra Saleh Ahmed Al Taisi	33 /Female	A shrapnel penetrated her neck	

#### **Interview #1**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Place: Via phone**

**Name: Ahmed Zubed Muhammed Al Taisi**    **Age: 35 years**    **Sex: male**

**Relationship with (victim/ incident):**    **Son of the victim Dhabia Al Taisi**

Details of the interview:

At first, we will not benefit from this interview anything, we are tired talking about our suffering, yet, once again, that drone is going to bomb us. What did these women do to be targeted by these damn American drones? Our women and children have become vulnerable to American aviation, but no one cares.

My mother, Dhabia (63 years old), was sitting with her niece, Hajra Saleh Ahmad al Taisi (33 years old), next to the house in the al Sorour Branch of the Yakla kindergarten [ as mentioned in Arabic]. The plane targeted them with a missile that tore their bodies apart. We found only pieces of meat after the incident. This happened about 18:00. I live next to the house and was the first to arrive at the scene, we found only pieces of meat, especially the body of my mother. I buried them, and my heart was filled with sorrow and pain. The children were devastated after the incident, especially, Hajra's son, who was 9 years old and saw his mother dying before his eyes. People's lives are almost paralyzed, they are afraid, and their movements are restricted especially after the increase in American air strikes and the mistakes targeting defenseless citizens.

#### **Interview #2**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Place: Via phone**

**Name: Mahmmud Saleh Amed**    **Age: 38 years**    **Sex: male**

**Relationship with (victim/ incident):**    **Hajra's Husband**

Details of the interview:

These Americans are criminals, their drones attacked innocent people, they killed children, women and the elderly, they also killed workers. Americans are war criminals. On Thursday the 14th of December, 2017 at 18: 00, I was doing my afternoon prayers. There were women in our house visiting, including our neighbour Dhabia, God bless her soul. While I was praying, my pregnant wife was in the kitchen preparing dinner for us. Dhabia left and was hit by a missile at the door of my house;

she was burned and torn to pieces. The shrapnel were scattered in the area, one of them hit my pregnant wife in the kitchen. The shrapnel penetrated her neck and went out of her back; it killed her with the fetus. A while ago my wife was pregnant in the fifth month, and a drone bombed a place near us, she miscarriage due to the fear. Now shrapnel hit her and killed both.

My son was next to her; he was eight years old. It was too much for him to see, for a second I thought he's going to die because of what he witnessed.

#### **Incident #6: al Baidha province, Ukla (22 December 2017)**

On Friday, December 22, 2017, at 4:30 pm, a US drone targeted a vehicle belonging to Abdullah Ahmad Hussein al-Amiri. Abdullah's body and his car were turned to pieces.

*(You will find the Interviews below) ...*

<b>Victim's name</b>	<b>Age/ sex</b>	<b>Injury status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Abdulla Ahmed Hussain al Amiri	45 /male	Burned and torn	

#### **Interview #1**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Place: via phone**

**Name: Ahmed Zubed al Taisi**

**Age: 35 years Sex: male**

**Relationship with the (victim/incident): eyewitness**

Details of the interview:

On Friday, 22nd of December, 2017 at 16:30 an American drone have targeted Abdullah Ahmed Husain al Amiri. Abdulla is a good citizen, he never interferes with any problem and has no relation to any political or military party. He has a car which he used to drive the villagers to the hospital or carry the bags of flour.

In his last days, he started to sell chicken. He brings the chicken from Radaa and sells them in our village. He was targeted while he was in his car. His body was torn to pieces inside the car, and the car was in flames from 16:30 till 21:00. His car was loaded with seeds that are served as humanitarian aid. When we arrived, we found a part of his body was burning inside the car and other parts we collected from around the car. We rapped him and took him to the mosque for the prayers then we buried him . America is killing us, and the world is watching! His family have lost their only provider. The incident made the security situation even worse. People are panicked; they are afraid to move or work because they are afraid that they will be targeted too.

#### **Interview #2**

**Date : 19 December 2017**

**Place: via phone**

**Name: Umar Saleh Ali al Amiri**

**Age: 42 years Sex: male**

**Relationship with (victim/ incident): eyewitness**

Details of the interview:

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2017 at 16:30, a drone have targeted Ukela area which close to Radaa city. The citizen Abdulla Ahmed Hussain Al Amiri, is a good person he has nothing to do with what happens in the area, and has no affiliation to any of the conflict parties. Abdulla sells groceries and chicken. The American drone bombed him, we witnessed the incident and run to the place, he was already dead and his car was destroyed and half of his body was burned. We collected the other parts from the surroundings.

I was very sad to see how his mother and children affected. He was 45 years old, married, has eights boys and three girls. He also provides for his mother and his brother's family, who is kept by one of the Saudi prisons for three years. Abdullah has passed away and his brother is still in the prison. Both families are in deep sorrow.

We ask the human rights organizations to make our voices heard, our children are burned to death, our women are widowed and our lands are burned, yet no one hear or feel our sufferings.