

MANUFACTURING VIOLENCE AND HATRED

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
الموت لأعدائنا
الموت لأعدائنا
اللعنة على
النصر للامم



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A qualitative report on the Summer Centers Organized by the Houthi group during the Summer Vacation for School Children and Students from 2017 to 2022 in the Governorates under their Control in Yemen.

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INTRODUCTION

On September 21, 2014, the Houthis invaded the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, and overthrew the legitimate government by force of arms. They successively expanded in the northern and central governorates, so that most of those areas became subject to their influence. Since then, the Houthis launched a strategy aimed at imposing political, economic, security, and even social and ideological hegemony over all of these areas. Consequently, all institutions in Sana'a and the rest of the governorates under the control of the Houthi group turned into a tool to achieve the greater goal which is the creation of a society that is intellectually, culturally, and socially loyal to the group, including the summer centers that it organizes during the school vacation period from 2017 until the current year under the slogan (Education and Jihad).

These courses target groups of children and youth under the slogan of nurturing, educating, and protecting the generation from false culture. However, the lessons that students receive in summer centers are imbued with hatred, revenge, sectarianism, and violence, which causes, in the short and long term, dire consequences for social peace in a country that has been torn apart by wars for several years. In application of the slogan of those centers, (Education and Jihad); the Houthi group makes an opportunity to supply its fronts with fighters, even if they are young.

The American Center for justice (ACJ) conducted this report to inform the local and international public opinion about the danger of summer centers that work to create violence and hatred, and the upbringing of children on sectarian and ideological ideas that have serious implications for the security of communities at the local, regional and international levels, and the gross violations taking place in these centers Against Children, Education and educational institutions.

THIS REPORT CONSISTS OF TWO CHAPTERS:

Chapter I: Summer Centers (Courses, Objectives, Activities)

Chapter II: Violations Associated with Summer Centers



CHAPTER I:

Summer Centers (Courses, Objectives, Activities)



A picture of one of the summer centers organized by the Houthi group for school children during the year 2022

(A): THE SECRET BEHIND THE HOUTHIS' INTEREST IN SUMMER CENTERS:

For six years, the group has made a great effort to organize summer courses during the school vacations for students, starting with the top of the hierarchy represented by the leader of the group, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, who annually calls in his speeches, on the occasion of the opening of summer centers, for parents to send their children to these centers in Sana'a and the rest of the governorates under their control. In parallel; the group carries out extensive publicity for the courses at all levels to increase participation. To ensure the effectiveness of these courses in achieving the goals of the group; a committee was formed in the Ministry of Education in Sana'a, affiliated by supervisory and executive sub-committees in the governorates to engage the group's supervisors, heads of neighborhoods and villages, and preachers of mosques in the mobilization for summer courses. The Houthis use schools and mosques as headquarters for summer centers, whether in major cities or rural areas, and seek to recruit all age groups of primary and secondary school students to reach one goal, which is to create a society that is intellectually and ideologically loyal to the Houthi group.

(B): WHAT ARE THE HOUTHIS' GOALS IN ORGANIZING SUMMER COURSES?

The Houthi group aims, through the organization of summer courses, to achieve several goals, the most important of which are:

The first goal is strengthening the identity of the sectarian beliefs of the group, and imposing its ideology in the minds of young people in order to ensure the long-lasting future of this ideology in the country.

The second goal is to supply the battle fronts with recruits, even if they are young.

The third goal is to impose the ideology and beliefs of the group in the governorates that embrace the Shafi'i and Hanbali Sunni schools of thought.

(C): COURSES AND CONTENT OF SUMMER CENTERS

The curriculum taught in the summer centers consists of (7) books with a number of (278) pages. The first book is written by Badr al-Din Amir al-Din al-Houthi, and the second book is written by Muhammad Badr al-Din al-Houthi. The rest of the books are summaries of the Malazim [Fascicles] of Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi. The curricula taught are subject to modification on an almost annual basis. Those enrolled in these centers are divided according to age groups into three levels (the first level, the intermediate level, and the higher level). Regarding the school calendar for summer centers; The study period was set at (50) days. As for the agenda, it is prepared according to the levels, and the classes varied between the Holy Qur'an, reading and writing, biography, jurisprudence, literature, and knowledge, in addition to cultural activities and field visits. We will discuss these courses in a kind of clarification as follows:

First: First-Level Courses:

According to the schedule for determining the academic levels for the summer centers, this level was divided into two parts, *the first part* is the training level. It includes students of the first, second, and third grades of basic education. *The second part* is the basic level, which includes students of the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades of basic education, and they are taught three books:

The first book: (My Prayers)⁽¹⁾ consists of (32) pages prepared by the Curriculum Committee and includes several topics in faith, including (the characteristic of the Testification [Tashahhud] and the call to prayer, the two Eid prayers, the prayer for the deceased, and impurities). The author of this book was keen to explain the doctrine of the Houthi group in these issues and stated that they are more correct and obligatory to follow and act upon and to slander the opposed opinion in other sects embraced by millions in most of the country's governorates.

The second book: (Reading and Writing), consists of (78) pages,⁽²⁾ which the author was keen to enrich with linguistic wealth derived from the Qur'anic culture, as stated in the introduction to the book, and asked the new generations to learn them.

In the lesson on compound words, examples are (faith identity, flags of guidance, God's saints, God's men, God's helpers, and jihad for the sake of God). In a lesson on how to write letters in words, "Read the words and then rewrite them in the corresponding spaces" (Mujahid, Shaheed, Al-Murtada, supplication, defense, call, fight, weapon, enemies). In the lesson of reading and writing sentences, examples are: (God is the greatest, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse on the Jews, Victory to Islam, Ali is God's guardian, we are God's supporters, America is the great Satan, every martyr among you builds a nation, I am hostile to America, martyrdom is a gift met by God Boldly, boycott American and Israeli goods.)

In a lesson " Train to read and write the words: (I will slaughter you).

In the lesson on the tied ta'a and the open ta'a: (march, marches).

In the expression lesson: (Husseinists, America the Great Satan).

The linguistic dictionary of the author of the book shows the words (curse, death, Wali, martyr, I slaughter you, weapon, jihad, purified persons, march, marches, the strongest, America, Israel, enemies, loyalty, flags of guidance), and is completely devoid of any word calling for peace or love coexistence, homeland, or patriotism.

The third book: (Book of Juz Amma) with an explanation of the vocabulary of the Holy Qur'an, consists of 26 pages.⁽³⁾

(1) The book was prepared by the Curriculum Committee ,the publisher is the Martyrs Center for Cultural and Artistic Works in Sa'ada ,and the date of the fifth edition is.2017

(2) The book was prepared by Mohammed Ibrahim al-Dawla ,who wrote in its foreword" :In order to build a linguistic wealth for the new generations ,derived from the Qur'anic culture".

(3) The book was prepared by Mohammed Badr Al-Din al-Houthi ,and the publisher is the Martyrs Center for Cultural and Artistic Works in Sa'ada .The date of the fifth edition is ,2017 and it is the same as his father's book for the second level.

Second: Intermediate-Level Course

This level was divided according to the schedule for determining the academic stages of the summer centers into two levels. The first level is intermediate, which includes students of the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades of basic education, and the second level is intermediate, which includes first-secondary students and above. The intermediate-level curriculum book consists of (108) pages.⁽⁴⁾ The book contains three parts, the first part: "Juza Amma with a statement of vocabulary", the second part: "Important Texts for the Guidance of the Ummah", which includes topics about Imam Ali and the Ahl al-Bayt, and what is required of their love, loyalty, and obedience,⁽⁵⁾ which the author considered one of the most important reasons for achieving victory over the enemies, and the third part: "Lessons from Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi's Malazim [Fascicles]."

Third: Higher-Level Courses:

This level is intended for high school graduates, as they study three books:

1. A brief book of interpretation, consisting of (68) pages.⁽⁶⁾
2. A book of lessons in jurisprudence, consisting of (33) pages.⁽⁷⁾
3. Lessons in Knowing God, (33) pages. This book is a summary of the lectures of Hussein Al-Houthi, which he used to deliver at the Believer Youth Forum in Saada. In the foreword, the following was stated: (The general objective of these lessons is to develop students' knowledge of God, Glory be to Him, and establish the correct Islamic faith in their souls, hearts, and consciences, through which they set out to wage jihad against the enemies).

(D): ACTIVITIES OF SUMMER CENTERS

Through the summer courses, the Houthi group focuses on children and young people because they are easy to influence and absorption of their own concepts and beliefs, through intensive campaigns, non-stop visits, military activities, and sectarian mobilization. In practice, summer centers are divided into two Types:

The First Type: Known as Open Centers

It is the one through which the aforementioned curriculum is taught in a simulated manner, as the reality of the situation is completely different because the content of the curricula books is simulated, and the schedule of classes is as well. The curriculum is taught only to a small extent. Attention is paid to the jihadi mobilization cultural aspect and encouragement to participate in the activities and events called for by the Houthi group, including the anniversary of the slogan, known as the Sarkha, or scream, that the group celebrates on the 23rd of Shawwal every year. Visits are also arranged to the graves of the group's dead, which are called "The shrines of the martyrs".⁽⁸⁾

(4) The book was written by the Curriculum Committee for Summer Centers ,the publisher is the Martyrs Center in Sa'ada ,edition date is.2020

(5) The Houthi group's ideology is based on the fact that their right to divine rule derives from their lineage of the Rightly Guided Caliph Ali bin Abi Talib ,and that all Yemenis must believe in this and obey their leaders ,because this is a divine command ,and those who oppose them are enemies and must be fought and their money stolen.

(6) Written by" :The Qur'anic jurist ,Sayyid Mujahid Badr Al-Din bin Amir Al-Din Al-Houthi " ,according to what was stated on its cover .The publisher is the Martyrs Center in Sa'ada.

(7) The book was prepared by the Curriculum Committee of the Summer Centers.

(8) Educational witnesses add that during the morning the students receive sectarian doctrinal lessons that urge fighting and glorify the dead .Then the students are taken to visit the graves of the dead Houthis .And the supervisors are mobilizing students ,most from the second to the seventh grades ,with myths about the miracles of these dead people ,and that they are now living in palaces inside Paradise .The sources also added that the lessons include presentations of combat training for the purpose of supplying the fronts with fighters whereas the religious lessons were only a cover.

The Second Type: Closed Centers⁽⁹⁾

It is similar to recruitment camps, through which military preparation takes place for those enrolled in sports training associated with uniforms and chanting the slogan, known as the Sarkha, or scream. Students enrolled in the courses are taught how to follow the means to confront “the aggression”⁽¹⁰⁾, the establishment of electronic pressure campaigns against the aggression, the registration of those who wish to battle fronts, and training children to use combat weapons. Part of the course time is devoted to learning how to use these weapons⁽¹¹⁾ and watching incitement videos against opponents of the Houthi group called Dawa’esh.⁽¹²⁾

Through these centers, recruits are supplied to the fighting fronts, even if they are children under the age of (15). The course program also includes the provision of awareness lectures on the importance and loyalty of the group’s leaders, Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi and Aal Al-Bayt, and the teaching of supplications and sayings of the group.

(E): A SURVEY BY ACJ’S RESEARCHERS ON SUMMER CENTERS

to find out the facts about summer centers, the ACJ’s researchers visited one of the open summer centers in Al-Hazm District, Al-Jawf governorate. (50) male students of different ages, including eight-year-olds, joined the center. Students are divided into three levels. The first level is for children from the age of six to ten, the second level is from the age of eleven to fifteen, and the third level is from the age of sixteen and over.

We met with the supervisor of the center, Professor (M.A.A.), who explained to us the importance of summer centers and their role in building a generation armed with science and knowledge, under the pretext that the educational curricula in schools are insufficient and are only concerned with worship. While the curricula of the summer courses are distinguished by important issues, “such as drawing closer to God and His Messenger and the Holy Qur’an, talking about the enemy and the religious stance towards it, loyalty to God’s guardians and hostility to the enemies of

(9) The closed centers that the group establishes during the summer vacation are shrouded in secrecy and mystery ,and we do not know what is going on inside them.

(10) The term aggression is applied by the Houthi group to the Arab coalition consisting of Saudi Arabia and the UAE to support the legitimate government.

(11) At the center ,we listened to the testimonies of a number of educators in Sana’a governorate ,who stated that the intellectual rehabilitation programs that students receive in the summer centers include sectarian intellectual prompts that are summaries of what is known as” the Malazim] Fascicles[of the founder of the Houthi group“.

(12) The term” Dawa’esh “is applied by the Houthi group to its political and religious opponents and all those who disagree with them.

traitors and agents, and creating a generation that loves death and martyrdom and confronting the soft war waged by the enemies against the country.”

He added that the center organizes recreational trips every weekend and visits to the tombs of the “martyrs”. Regarding the outputs of the summer courses, the director of the center informed us that many of those who joined the courses have set out and participated on the fronts as cultural officials whose task is moral guidance, and some of them participate in military operations on the frontlines directly. After careful examination of the courses taught in the summer centers, the field visits, and the interviews that the ACJ conducted during the reporting period with educators and academics, we came up with the following facts:

The first fact: The summer curricula contain vocabulary that perpetuates the culture of violence, sanctifies death, and calls for violence and hatred, in addition to vocabulary that perpetuates the state of societal segregation by dividing it into mujahideen and hypocrites in reference to anyone who opposes the group and does not believe in its ideology.

The second fact: The activities of the summer centers are linked to sectarian mobilization and the instillation of a policy of revenge, through visits that are imposed on students to cemeteries and raising slogans and pictures of the leaders of the Houthi group.

The third fact: The Houthi group exploits summer centers to achieve its political, ideological, and military goals by supplying its fronts with fighters from the students enrolled in those centers, and also pushing them to participate in the activities of the group.

The fourth fact: The Houthi group imposed its ideology by force in several governorates that embrace the Shafi’i school of thought, which the group does not believe in.

(F): SAMPLES OF SUMMER CENTERS IN THE GOVERNORATES OF DHAMAR, AL-MAHWIT, AL-HODEIDAH, IBB, AND SA'ADA

During the year 2022, the capital secretariat and Sana'a governorate witnessed the inauguration and opening of (593) summer centers in several districts, and the same is the case in the rest of the governorates controlled by the Houthi group where all of them witnessed the inauguration of many summer centers in the presence of the governors and leaders of the Ministry of Education. The American Center for Justice (ACJ) researchers carried out field visits to centers in several governorates, including, for example, the governorates of Dhamar, Al-Mahwit, Al-Hodeidah, and Sa'ada.

DHAMAR GOVERNORATE

In 2022, the Houthi group in Dhamar governorate, through the Sub-Committee for Summer Centers in the governorate headed by the leader of the group, Abbas Al-Amdi, inaugurated about (500) summer centers in all districts and villages of the governorate, (19) of which are closed. Thousands of children, boys, and girls were mobilized in these centers where they receive forms of extremist mobilization and incitement to violence and fighting under the slogans of upbringing, education, and protecting children from the dangers of soft war, among other names promoted by the group. The summer centers in Dhamar governorate are divided into open centers in which participants attend from five to six hours daily in the morning, and closed centers which last for (45) days, in which students undergo intensive courses that include military training in locations that are considered civilian objects. During the past year only, the ACJ team monitored the Houthi's recruitment of (186) children enrolled in summer courses, where 85% of them are under the age of (15). The team also monitored a visit carried out by the leader of the Houthi group, Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, who was appointed governor of the governorate, to one of those closed centers on the second of June 2022, which is seen in the photos published around it. The children enrolled in this center received military training in the sports stadium, and indoctrination of the so-called "oath of allegiance and disavowal" in the group's belief, which confirms the Houthi group's violation of the right to childhood and the exploitation of summer courses to mobilize children to the frontlines.

Year 2022

Houthi group launched

Summer Center 500

In all directorates and villages of the governorate, including (19) closed centers

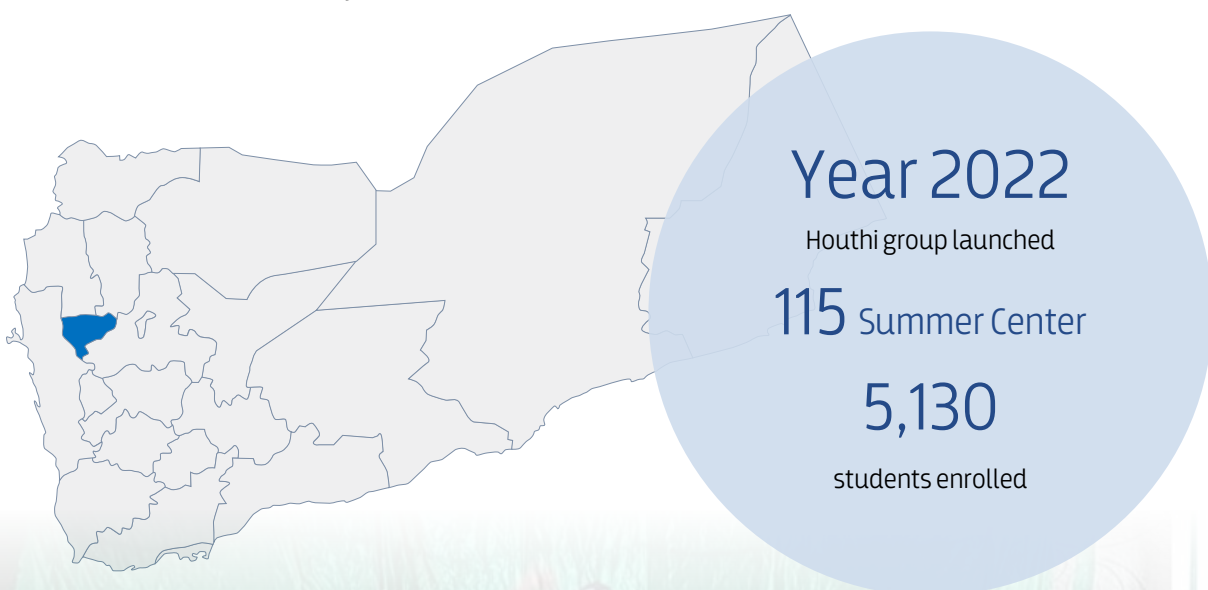
hours a day 6-Participants attend 5 in the morning and a closed one lasting for (45) days

AL MAHWIT GOVERNORATE:

The Ansar Allah group (Houthis) in Al Mahwit governorate⁽¹³⁾ organized (115) open summer centers in all districts and sub-districts of the governorate, and the number of students enrolled in those centers reached (5130) male and female students. While the number of closed centers reached (10) centers, including (3) in the Shibam district, and (7) centers were established in the rest of the districts except for the Bani Saad district.⁽¹⁴⁾ The American Center for Justice (ACJ) monitors carried out a field visit to some centers and noted the amount of violence, hatred, and killing of childhood that abound in those summer centers.

(13) The summer centers were inaugurated in the governorate under the auspices of the general supervisor of the congregation, Mr. Aziz Al-Tahifi, Mr. Ibrahim Al-Zain Al-Mueen, director of the Education Office in the governorate, Mr. Abdul-Ghani Al-Darb, an official in the cultural unit, Mr. Hamid Al-Radmi, an official at the General Authority for Zakat, Mr. Ibrahim Abdul-Hamid, youth and sports official, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Dailami, director of Endowments.

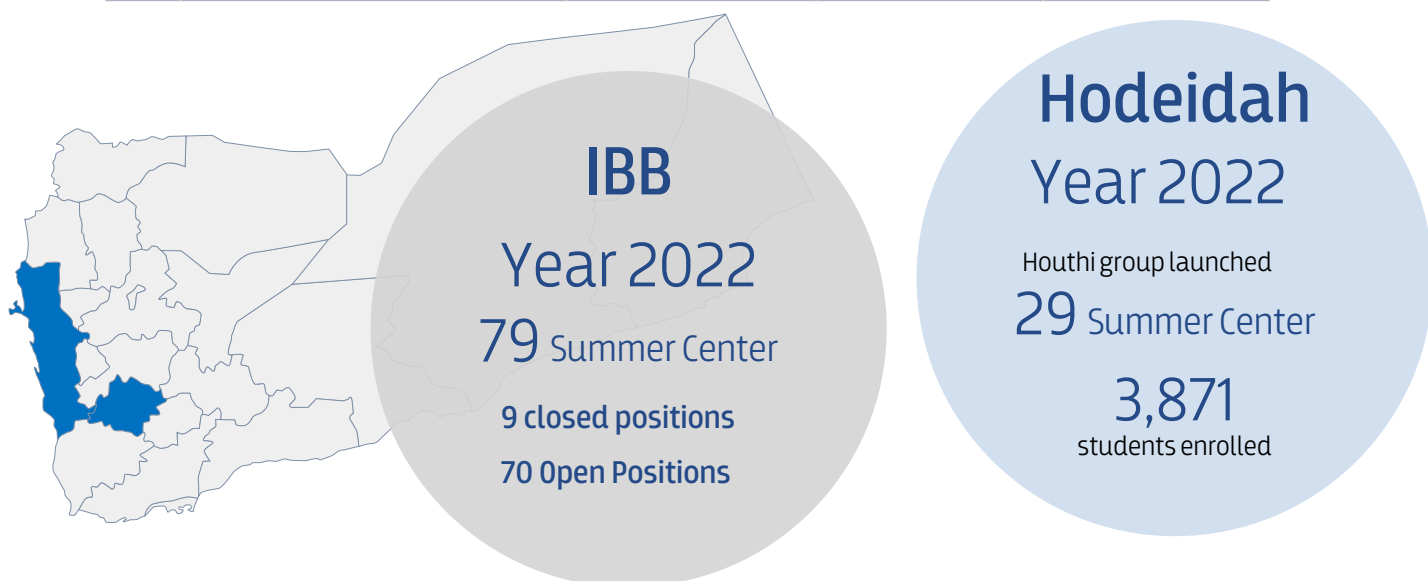
(14) At the beginning of last June, the general supervisor of the Houthis in Al-Mahwit governorate directed the confiscation of a large quantity of furniture belonging to the Red Crescent Society brought by the International Committee of the Red Cross for emergency needs in the governorate. The furniture consisted of (600) sponge beds and (600) blankets and pillows. He used them in the closed summer centers in the governorate.

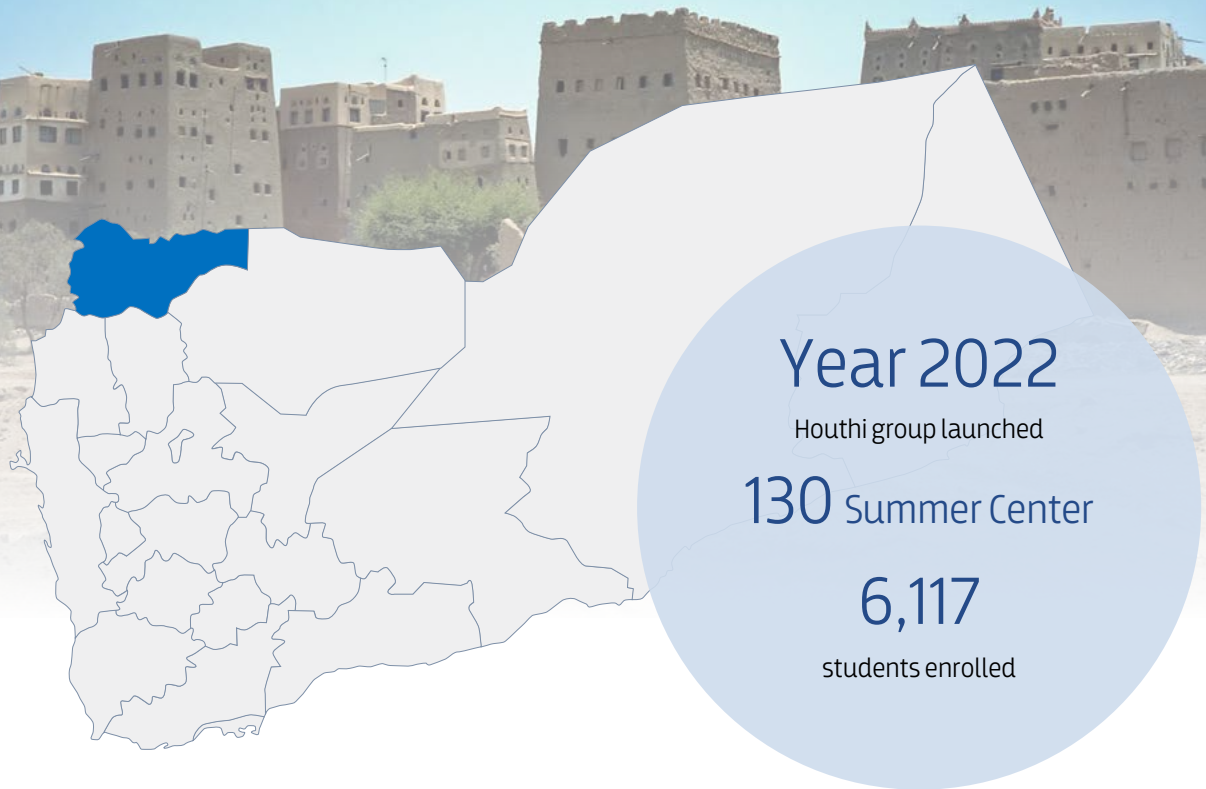


SUMMER CENTERS IN IBB AND HODEIDAH GOVERNORATES

The governorates of Ibb and Al-Hodeidah are among the governorates in which all its people embrace the Shafii school of thought but the Houthi group is very keen to establish summer centers in them to oblige generations to embrace their school of thought, under the pretext that the belief and worship of the people of these governorates are based on a false culture and must be corrected through the courses indoctrinated to students enrolled in the group’s summer centers which the people of the two governorates consider alien to their beliefs and cause a serious threat to the social fabric in their areas. In the governorate of Ibb, the Houthi group organized (79) summer centers this year, including (9) closed centers in different districts of the governorate. In Al-Hodeida governorate, the ACJ team monitored the organization of (29) summer centers in (12) districts, and the number of those enrolled in these centers reached (3871) male students, and (765) female students, as shown in the following table:

No.	District	Number of Centers	Males	Females
1	Al Hawak	4	600	250
2	Al Hali	2	480	-
3	Al Mina	2	275	180
4	Al Mansuriyah	4	300	128
5	Bayt Al Faqiah	4	750	207
6	Al-Husayneiah	3	427	-
7	Zabid	2	207	-
8	Al Garrahi	2	315	-
9	Bajil	3	222	-
10	Az Zaydiyah	1	116	-
11	Alluheyah	1	119	-
12	At Tuhayat	1	60	-
	Total	29	3871	765





SADA'A GOVERNORATE

The ACJ's researchers noticed during the last year 2022 a relative decline among the people of the governorate in the demand for summer centers compared to previous years because of the experiences that parents had with the Houthi group, as the child who was deceived in the summer camps became more impulsive to violence and killing, and may kill his father or mother or anyone who opposes or criticizes the ideology of the Houthi group.

In the city, the capital of the governorate; the attendance did not exceed 10% of the city's school students while in Razih district, the attendance was higher. The group organized a central summer center at the district level in Shaara area. The number of students is estimated at hundreds, and all its teachers and supervisors have mobilized to supervise and manage the center. In the districts of Saqin, Haydan, Al-Zahir, and Ghamr, the number of summer centers is estimated at dozens, and the group has mobilized all its mentors in the four districts to organize summer centers in more than 33 public schools. However, the students' attendance in these centers was somewhat low, as they did not exceed one hundred students in each center, and Haydan district appears to be the most responsive to summer centers.⁽¹⁾

(1) Observers attribute the reasons behind the decline in the demand for these summer centers to the human losses suffered by the Houthi group in past wars, and their inevitable knowledge of the fate of their children after the end of the activities of those booby-trapped centers, as the number of children recruited by the group reached approximately (15,467) fighters, (4,320) of whom were killed or wounded since 2014, in the group's battles, in addition to dozens of prisoners.

In the districts of Sahar, Majz, Baqim, Qatabir, Al-Hashwah, Kataf, over 40 public schools and 3 private headquarters were opened to organize summer centers, and the number of students reached over a thousand. The children of these districts look forward every year with fear to the outcomes of those camps, which are centers of incitement to killing, hatred, and violence.⁽²⁾

A list showing the number of summer centers, students, and mentors in each district

No.	The district	Number of Centers	Number of Students	Number of Mentors
1	Sada'a City	6	264	35
2	Razih	3	812	93
3	Haidan	18	1076	107
4	Al Dhafer	6	97	22
5	Ghamr	8	112	15
6	Saqayn	14	974	117
7	Sahar	12	618	75
8	Majz	8	486	62
9	Baqim	3	210	25
10	Qatabir	16	554	83
11	Al Hashwah	2	110	12
12	As Safra	4	185	15
13	Kitaf wa Al Boqe'e	3	215	22
14	Shada'a	12	318	29
15	Monabbih	5	143	9
16	Total	130	6117	721

(2) In the last two years, the killing of relatives (father, mother, brother) has become increasingly common at the end of summer camp activities, and the Houthi group was solely dominating the school, the street, the print, and the visual and audio media, while the role of the international NGOs and effective NGOs in protecting children from the dangers of the ideas of extremist religious groups was absent.

(G): MANUFACTURING VIOLENCE AND HATRED IN SUMMER CENTERS

Through the study conducted by the American Center for Justice (ACJ), it turns out that the Houthi group, through the summer centers, is working to inculcate sectarian and jihadist ideas that call for violence and hatred, and this is evident through the following:

First: The summer center curriculum contains many sectarian lessons

This is clear and established in the introductions to the books of the taught curriculum, that the aim of these lessons is to inculcate jihadist and sectarian ideas.⁽¹⁾ In the second-level training book, page No. (39), there is a lesson that talks about “jihad for the sake of God and the subjugation of America, Israel, and their agents.” And another lesson on the page No. (40) talks about America, describing it as the Great Satan.⁽²⁾ A third lesson on page No. (43) is a poem entitled Husayniyyun that includes sectarian phrases. In the first-level book, a basic lesson is entitled (Ahl al-Bayt), and the lesson focused on what the Houthis call (flags of guidance), in reference to the leaders of the group, including Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi. Another lesson on page No. (66) is entitled The Two Holy Mosques, and it contains political mobilization by saying that the Two Holy Mosques were seized by the “Al Saud,” and criticizing the Saudi authorities’ prohibition of blessing the shrine of the Messenger of God, in return for preserving the Khaybar Fortress as a fortress for the Jews, according to what was stated in the lesson.

Second: Most of the examples that are set as models for students, their content depends on sectarian and jihadist mobilization, for example:

The lesson on reading and writing sentences on page No. (25) of the reading and writing book for the second training level, and the lesson of compound words on page No. (28) of the same book.

Third: The activities imposed by the summer centers are of a sectarian nature, including the wide interest in some events organized by the Houthi group, for example, the memorial of the slogan, known as the Sarkha, or scream, that it celebrates on the 23rd of Shawwal every Hijri year, and arranging group visits for students to the graves of the group’s dead. The summer centers are also concluded with scouting and training activities in which the group’s slogans and pictures of its leaders are raised.

Fourth: by the Hadawi school of thought, such as performing the prayer in the sarbala, changing the well-known reading of the tashahhud, and the Eid prayer, and other provisions. Adoption of the jurisprudential rulings approved, and this doctrine is the one espoused by the Houthi group and is trying to impose it on all Yemenis, who represent more than 85% of the total population in Yemen .

(1) The introduction to the book of the first-level training and the first-level basic states that the aim of teaching the curriculum is to inculcate sectarian and jihadist ideas.

(2) The term «Great Satan» is a political term used by Khomeini’s supporters during the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979.

CHAPTER TWO:

Violations Associated with Summer Centers

The summer centers organized by the Houthi group during the summer vacation witness many violations, foremost of which are violations of the right to a childhood (the six grave violations of children), which they are often exposed to as an inevitable result of joining these centers. There are also violations of the right to education, violations against educational institutions, and other violations which we will review in this chapter, as follows:



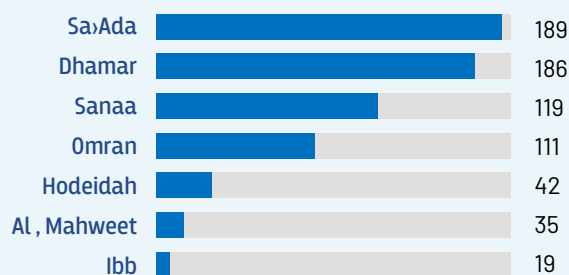
FIRST: RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN

The military goal of the Houthi group behind the organization of summer centers and their generous support is to supply its fronts with new fighters in the face of the human bleeding that the group suffers from on the fronts more than seven years after the start of the war in Yemen. The Houthi group takes advantage of the summer courses to intensify its efforts to recruit new fighters and supporters into its ranks. However, families in the areas controlled by the group are surprised to know that their sons go to fight without their prior knowledge and later news of their death often reaches them on the battle fronts.⁽¹⁾

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) verified during the year 2021 that the Houthi group recruited hundreds of children under the age of (15) by joining summer centers in several governorates. In Sana'a governorate, the center team monitored the recruitment of (119) children. While (111) children were recruited in Amran governorate, (186) in Dhamar governorate, (35) in Al Mahwit governorate, (189) in Saada governorate,⁽²⁾ (41) in Al Hudaydah governorate, and (19) children in Ibb governorate.

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A child recruited by the Houthi group from those enrolled in summer centers in 2022



SECOND: DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

The Houthi group launched summer centers this year. It called on parents to send their children to these centers through its various media. It also announced that school students who will join the centers would receive the curriculum for basic and secondary education during the next academic year for free, and will be exempted from any tuition fees imposed on the rest of the students. This is a violation of the principle of equal access to the right to education for all, which would fuel the spirit of hatred between generations. The Houthi group has also permanently suspended licenses for teaching the Holy Quran in mosques, private schools, and youth clubs, which have suffered a large share of violations, including storming, looting, closing and controlling, and turning them into headquarters and centers for the Houthi group. The group closed (118) summer centers in Amanat Al-Asimah and raided and looted (89) centers⁽³⁾ while establishing (69) centers affiliated with the group in several districts in Amanat Al-Asimah.

(1) In mid-April, the United Nations announced that they had signed an action plan with the Houthi group to stop the recruitment of children in the war that has been going on in the country for seven years. The agreement came after verifying that the Houthis had recruited more than (3,500) children under the age of (15).

(2) In early May, the Associated Press reported that Houthi leaders had confessed to recruiting hundreds of children, including children under the age of 10, during the past two months during the validity of the United Nations-sponsored truce between the parties to the conflict in Yemen.

(3) They are the summer centers that were established by the Ministry of Education during the summer vacation for students before the Houthi group took control of Sana'a and overthrew it by force of arms at the end of September 2014.

THIRD: VIOLATIONS AGAINST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Under the education law in Yemen, schools are designated for generations to receive useful sciences during the education period specified in the academic year. However, with the control of the Houthi group over state institutions, all of these institutions in Sana'a and the rest of the governorates under the group's control have been used as a tool to achieve the group's greater goal, which is to create a society that is intellectually, culturally and socially loyal to the group in order to achieve its political, economic, security, and even social and ideological goals in all the areas it controls. The group is exploiting educational facilities for other than the purpose set by the law. In the last six years, it has been using public and even private schools⁽⁴⁾ to set up summer centers that the Houthis are preparing as a successful way to attract children under various banners and names, including the mask of education and awareness through which it works to incite violence, hatred, and fighting, which directly affects the minds and psyche of children, and accordingly affects society negatively.

FOURTH: FINANCIAL EXTORTION OF MERCHANTS

The Houthi group spends exorbitant money on summer centers, especially the suspended ones, as its media announced that the expenses of summer centers cost billions of YER. However, the group seeks to cover those expenses by putting pressure on merchants to finance them, and merchants respond to these pressures under duress in order to preserve the sustainability and survival of their commercial activities in the group's control areas.

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) conducted interviews with merchants in the governorates of Ibb, Dhamar, and Sana'a.⁽⁵⁾ The merchants interviewed complained to the Center's team about the financial extortion they receive from the Houthi group, to cover the expenses of summer camps that last for (50) days during the summer vacation for school students.



(4) During this year, the Houthi group obligated the administration of Al-Aqsa private schools in the Sa>wan neighborhood of the capital, Sana'a, to open its doors during the summer vacation, and to turn it into a summer center to receive students and teach them the curriculum of summer courses.

(5) The ACJ conceals the names of merchants who complained of being subjected to financial extortion by the Houthi group by being forced to pay foodstuffs to summer centers or sums of money to run their expenses.

THE TRAGEDIES OF THE OUTPUTS OF THE SUMMER CENTERS:⁽¹⁾

THE FIRST INCIDENT: (He joined the summer centers and then returned to kill his father)



Osama was finally convinced to go to the summer center with tears in his eyes, and there where he received a number of courses through which students are taught lessons that call for violence and hatred, and instill the concept of the need for jihad and taking up arms to fight enemies, so that Osama is saturated with that hostile thought.

Osama, 16, was not a child attracted to summer centers, as he liked to spend his vacations in fun, games, and picnics at the weekends with his family.

The summer vacation in 2021 was not normal for him. The Houthi group forced parents to send their children to the summer camps the group ran in various schools in the capital, Sana'a, by encouragement and intimidation techniques.

After a tug-of-war between the Houthi group and Osama's father, the father tried to convince his son to join the centers in order to take courses to build up his education and that they would be full of fun and games.

Osama was finally convinced to join the summer center with tears in his eyes. There, he received a number of courses calling for violence and hatred, and inculcating the concept of the necessity of jihad and carrying arms to fight the enemies. Thus, Osama was saturated with that hostile thought.

After a whole month, Osama returned to his house as a different person. He came back with a different thought than his own. That peaceful child returned as if he was a predatory beast about to pounce on his prey. As soon as his mother spoke to him, he would reply by shouting and breaking utensils.

Osama, who is not interested in studying, spends long hours in his room reading Hussein Al-Houthi's Malazim [Fascicles], which he brought with him from the summer camp and which included contents of violence and hatred, and how to kill the opponents for any type of disagreement.

As hostility and devotion rooted in Osama's mind, he began to discuss the matter of his master in the presence of his family over and over. One night a gunshot was heard in Osama's house, and people rushed there to find a Kalashnikov in his hand while his father was lying on the ground covered in his blood. Osama had killed his father as a result of his objection to his absolute loyalty to his master, Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi, and his duty to obey him, as Osama claimed.



Osama killed his father as a result of his objection to his absolute loyalty to the group's leader, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, and the duty to obey him.

(1) Informants request not to mention their names and the ACJ respects their desire and suffices to refer to some information only so as not to cause them any harm.



Ahmed was sent to the summer center based on his father's desire to strengthen his combat skills, and he returned from those courses with a different thought, so that he became fluent in carrying weapons and sniping with them, in addition to mastering the method of dismantling and installing them.



Murad's father says that the Houthi group brainwashed his son by instilling its extremist ideology and ideas in his mind, and worked to train him and other children in military courses on the use of weapons, firing live ammunition, and fighting clashes, battles and raids.

INCIDENT II: (He joined the summer center and returned to his mother in a coffin with his picture on it)

15-year-old boy, Ahmed, only one month had passed since his graduation from the summer center organized by the Houthi group in Amran governorate, was sent to the front lines on the Harib fronts of Marib governorate at the beginning of the year 2020, carrying a Kalashnikov rifle in his hand, wearing in his waist a belt loaded with bombs and a few bullet magazines, and beliefs and delusions overwhelmed his young mind.

In the summer camps organized by the Houthi group, it was normal for Ahmed to join them, as his father, who is one of the supervisors of the Houthi group, pushed him to join the camp. It was necessary for the father to confirm his sincere loyalty to the group by sending his son to the battle fronts.

Ahmed was sent to the summer center upon his father's desire to strengthen his fighting skills. However, he came back from those courses with a different thought. He also became proficient in carrying weapons and sniping, and mastering the method of disassembling and assembling them. His father sent Ahmed to the summer center also because the group pays the greatest attention to those who push their sons to the battle fronts.

Ahmed's father had his desire as his son was stationed in the first ranks of the Harib front where the raging battles are taking place and intensified between hit and run. Ahmed fell dead as a result of a shell that scattered his body into pieces and was brought to his mother in pieces in a plastic bag with his picture on it.

INCIDENT III: A PICTURE ON THE WALL

Murad, 16, from Dhamar governorate, was attracted by the Houthi group to its summer centers after it took advantage of his parents' poor living conditions. He was attending two courses, one cultural and the other military. Murad's father says that the Houthi group brainwashed his son by entrenching its extremist "belief and ideas" in his mind, and training him and other children in military courses on the use of weapons, firing live ammunition, and engaging in clashes, battles, and incursions.

Murad's father added, "Murad used to return home with some money in his pockets. The group in the camps sought to encourage the children there by luring them with money, carrying weapons, and teaching them to drive military vehicles, after that they persuaded them to join their combat camps."



His body remained in the mountains for three nights, as the fronts were burning and his body was difficult to retrieve, until the battles subsided.

His mother recounts: “He often talked to me about his desire to join the fronts and take up arms to take revenge on the invaders, but every time I tried to deter him from that. Until one day I woke up and did not find him.” A week after his absence, Murad called his mother and informed her that he had joined the fighting brigades on Rahabah front in Marib.

His first month in the brigade did not pass until he was killed at the front, and his body remained in the mountains for three nights. The fronts were on fire and it was difficult to retrieve his body until the battles subsided and it was allowed to approach and drag the body for burial through the Red Cross team, according to his father, who added, “I have nothing left of his memories except a picture of him on the wall.”

INCIDENT IV: HALF A BODY

They took him to 48 Hospital in the capital, Sana’a, with half a body and amputated limbs. He was groaning from the pain that no one could describe. Shaher, a 12-year-old child from Hajjah governorate, was attracted by the Houthis to their summer centers without the knowledge of his poor family. They lured him with money, a job, and a salary. The joy of the child is indescribable when he gets all these privileges at a young age. However, he did not realize that these promises were the price of his soul. The doctor said when she saw that the child had become half a body and his face had been blurred out, “I did not know how to console his poor family”.

Murad's father says



The Houthis have attracted his child since 2017 from the neighborhood, the cultural supervisor took him to courses at the summer center, and promised to employ him, and because we are poor, he took advantage of my son's innocence for three months, then joined the battlefield to return to us with half a body.

His father says with sadness, “The Houthis recruited his child since 2017 from the neighborhood. The cultural supervisor enrolled him in courses in the summer center and promised us that he would be employed. Because we are poor, he took advantage of my son’s innocence for three months recruiting him to deliver supplies (Qat and burdaqan) [the first is a type of tree that Yemenis usually chew, and the last one is a type of smoke] and information to their people on the battle fronts.”

He added with deep sadness, “My son used to go behind me under the pretext of working to pick and sell Qat. Then, when I knew about that, I prevented him from leaving the house. But the supervisor came to me and threatened to kill me or hide me and displace my family. He lied to me that he was only taking my son for cultural courses, and a year after he was recruited, they brought him, as you can see, just half a body, no more.



I realized that my son, whose birth I filled the world with joy and watched over him and labored for his comfort, had become a devil in every sense of the word, when he raised a weapon at me and threatened me with arrest for «hypocrisy.»

INCIDENT V: THE HOUTHI'S FIRST DRUGGED MY SON'S MIND AND THEN TOOK HIS SOUL

Fadl, 14 years old, was attracted by the cultural supervisor of the Houthi group from his neighborhood in Mosayk neighborhood, east of the Amanat Al Asemah, and attached him to the summer center in mid-2022. Because of the lessons he received that incite violence and hatred, He returned to his family like a wild beast that aroused fear and anxiety among them. All his father's attempts to bring his child back to his senses, whether through dialogue or severe beatings and preventing him from going out, failed until that dangerous transformation occurred.

Fadl's father says, "I realized that my son, who filled the world with joy at his birth and stayed up late for him and tired for his comfort, has turned into a devil in every sense of the word when he raised a weapon in my face and threatened me with arrest on charges of "hypocrisy" in front of his mother and sisters. After that, he left the house and did not return. After a year, they brought us just a picture of him and news, without his corpse.

INCIDENT VI: TOWARDS DEATH

The child Mannaa Al-Dhalei, 15, joined the summer centers in Amran governorate in the middle of 2019 though he had no desire to do so. One of the supervisors of the Houthi group took him with others and told them that they would work at the security points inside the city. However, they found themselves on the front lines to fight in the Al-Jawf governorate.

"I saw Manna, after a period of recruitment, with a slender body and a yellowish face, showing signs of severe weakness due to malnutrition, staying up late, and chewing Qat and other stimulants on the front lines," his friend Amin Ali, who is from the same village, said.

"Manna was hoping to return to his house. He tried to escape once, but he was caught and beaten extensively, and the supervisor threatened to kill him, so he was afraid and kept waiting for another opportunity to escape, and I tried to help him, but I could not," Amin added.

He continues with pain, "On the day of his murder, he said to me 'I am killed, convey my many greetings to my mother, and tell her that I wish to return to her.'"

One day, I received a phone call from a friend of mine, who told me that Manna' had been killed, and after months his mother learned of his death. What increased her pain was that her child, whom she had been searching for days, had been kidnapped and driven to death by the Houthi group.



If I am killed, my mother has reached a lot of peace, and tell her that I wish to return to her,» and he was crying heavily, so I begged the supervisor to keep him with me in the camp, but he strongly refused, saying, «Death is better for him.»

FINDINGS

1. The Houthi group, through its summer centers, seeks to recruit hundreds of young students in several governorates on an annual basis and push them to the battle fronts, regardless of their young age.
2. The Houthi group aims, through the curricula it offers in the summer centers, in the Sunni regions that embrace the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools of thought, to incite social division, sow religious strife, and spread their ideology by force.
3. The summer curricula contain vocabulary that perpetuates the culture of violence, sanctifies death, calls for violence and hatred, and disseminates the state of societal segregation by dividing it into mujahideen and hypocrites in reference to anyone who opposes the group and does not believe in its ideology.
4. The Houthi group seeks, through the organization of summer centers, to strengthen its sectarian identity, dedicate its ideology to the minds of young people in order to ensure the long future of this ideology in the country, and instill hostile ideas against the different people who disagree with the group's ideologically or politically.
5. The summer centers' activities are linked to sectarian mobilization and instilling a policy of revenge through visits that are imposed on students to cemeteries and raising slogans and pictures of the leaders of the Houthi group.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

FIRST: TO THE HOUTHI GROUP

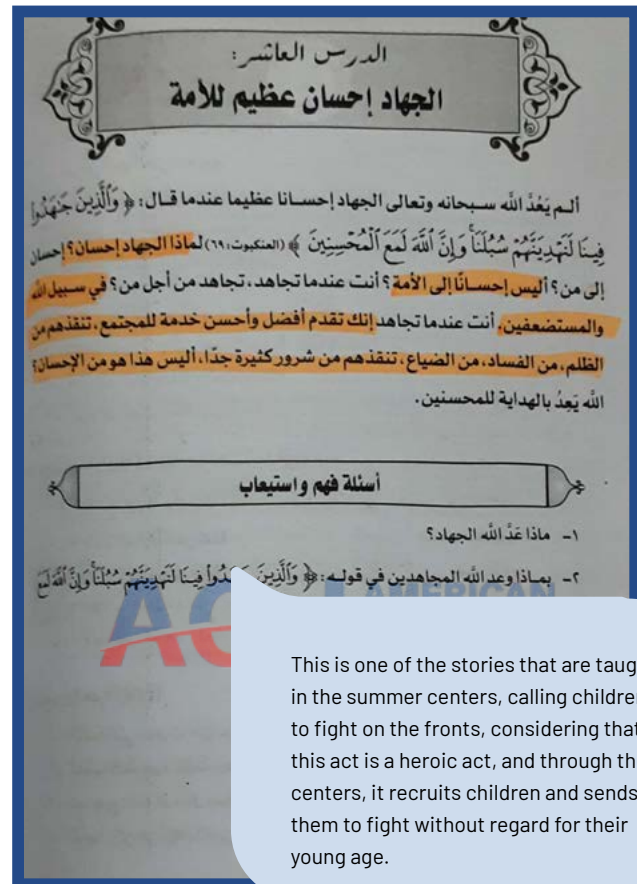
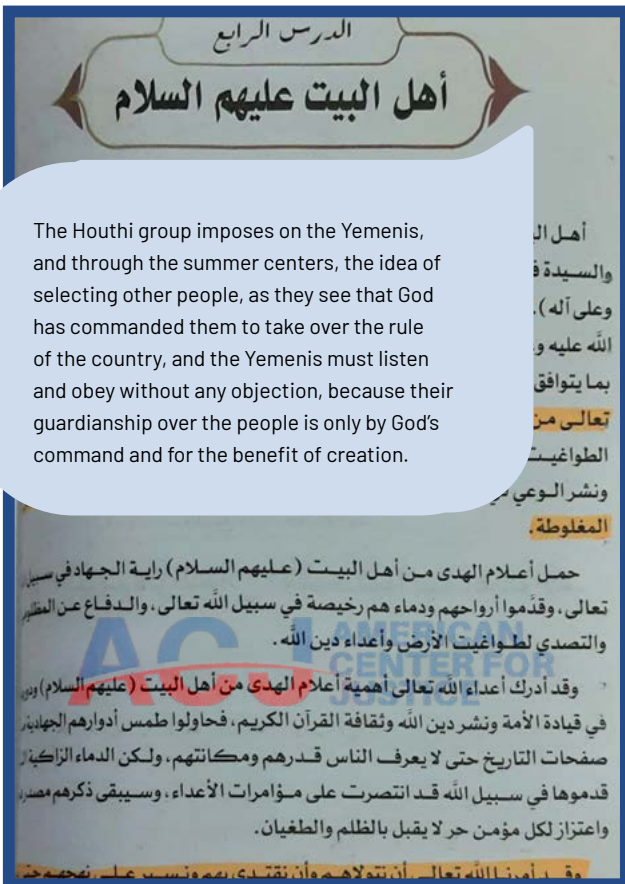
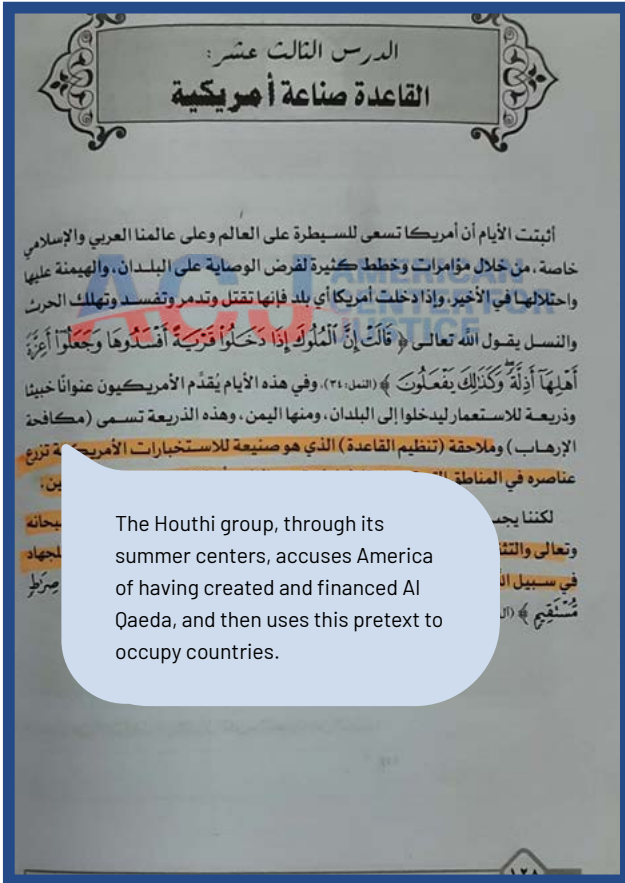
1. Closing the summer centers because they represent sectarian sorting and incitement to violence and hatred.
2. Immediately stop using summer centers as an opportunity to recruit children and push them to the battleground.
3. Cancel the curricula of summer courses that incite violence, hatred, sectarianism, and fighting, and replace them with materials that call for coexistence, peace, and the rejection of differences and hatred in Yemeni society.
4. Transfer the exorbitant financial expenses of the summer centers to support the educational process and pay the salaries of teachers in the areas under its control, which have been interrupted for over six years.
5. Neutralize school students and children from the existing conflict by avoiding the planting of hostile ideas that incite violence and hatred in their minds.

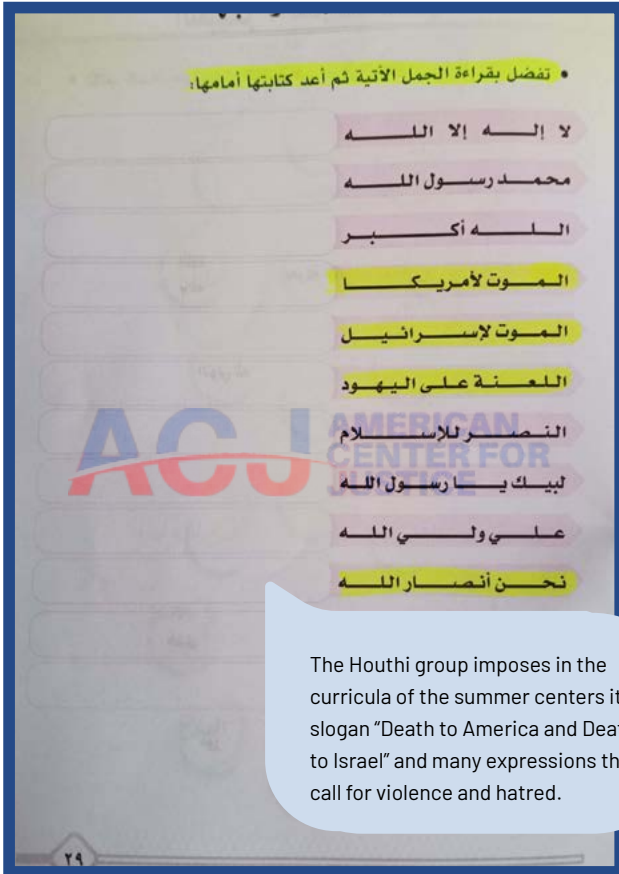
SECOND: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT

1. Take serious actions through the Ministry of Endowments on continuous awareness of the danger of sectarian and regional ideas that threaten the security of society, present and in the future, and to adopt the moderate thought that calls for unity of class and brotherhood and the rejection of violence and hatred among the people of the same country.
2. Enact a law criminalizing the use of young people in armed conflicts in any way or introducing ideas calling for violence and hatred in youth.
3. Adopt awareness programs through various media outlets, calling for love, peace, brotherhood, and renunciation of violence and hatred.

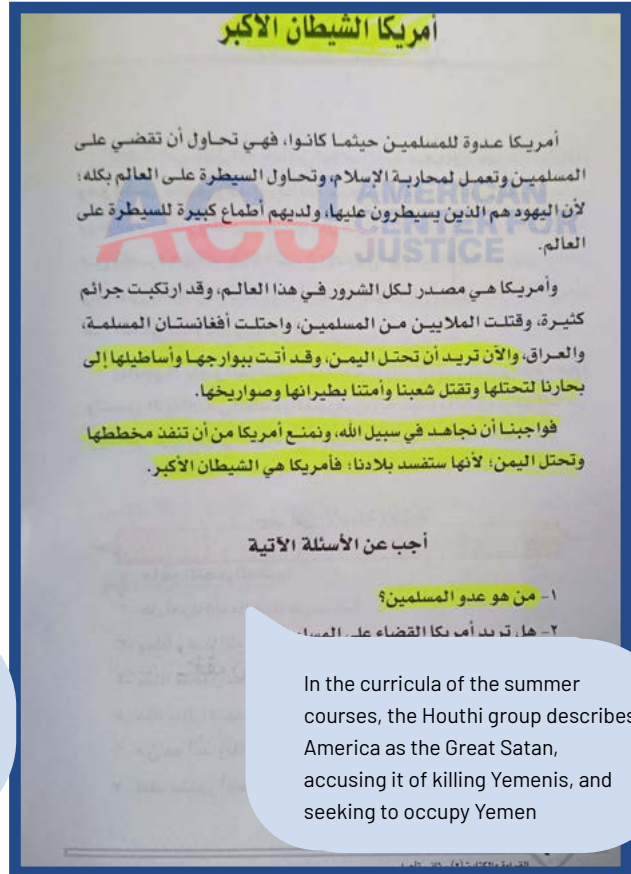
THIRD: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

1. Put pressure on the Houthi group to stop the summer centers.
2. Commit the Houthi group to implement the agreement signed with the United Nations to stop the recruitment of children and demobilize those who are still in the army or security and rehabilitate them health and psychological.
3. Take serious and urgent actions to stop the war in Yemen and restore the political balance between all components.
4. Support peace efforts aimed at restoring a civil state that guarantees the rights and freedoms of all citizens.
5. Stop regional support for militias and armed groups, and this is the first step aimed at combating violence in the country.
6. Provide support to the legitimate government to carry out its duties in all fields.

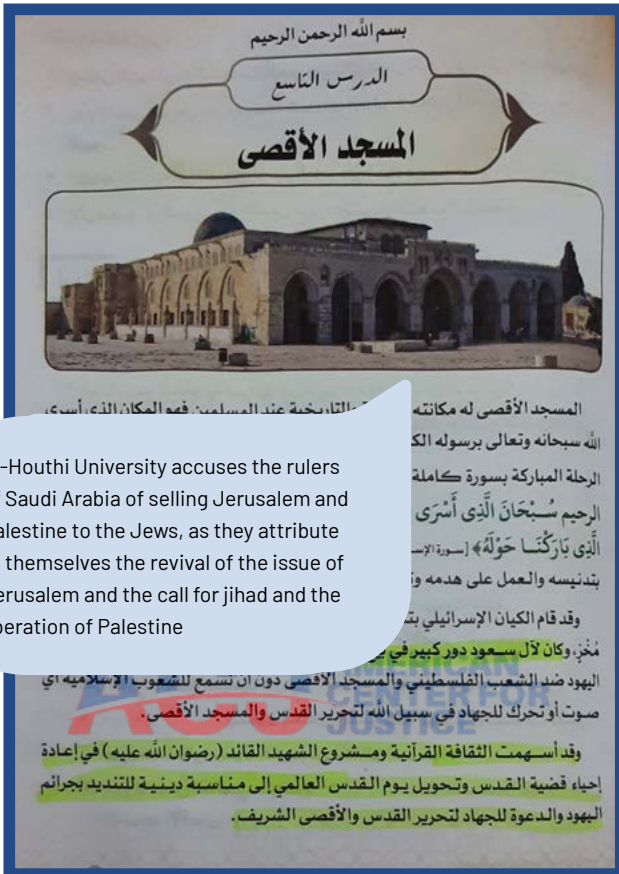




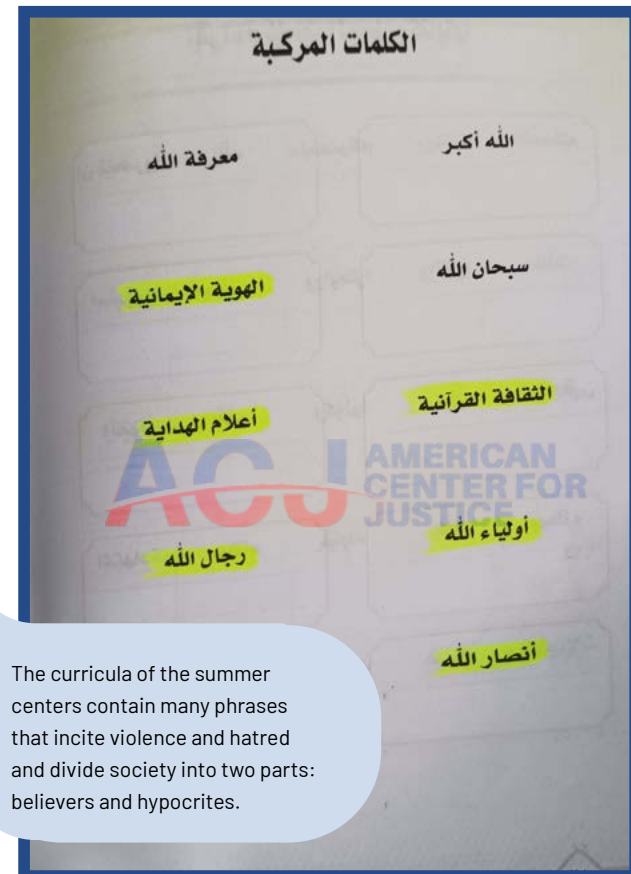
The Houthi group imposes in the curricula of the summer centers its slogan "Death to America and Death to Israel" and many expressions that call for violence and hatred.



In the curricula of the summer courses, the Houthi group describes America as the Great Satan, accusing it of killing Yemenis, and seeking to occupy Yemen



Al-Houthi University accuses the rulers of Saudi Arabia of selling Jerusalem and Palestine to the Jews, as they attribute to themselves the revival of the issue of Jerusalem and the call for jihad and the liberation of Palestine



The curricula of the summer centers contain many phrases that incite violence and hatred and divide society into two parts: believers and hypocrites.

WHY?

While violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are widespread, and at a time when extremist groups, armed violence groups and government authorities continue to commit violations and war in more than one country, the suffering of civilians has increased, the most heinous crimes against humanity have been committed, and numerous disasters have led to a rise in the prevalence of crime and the absence of the rule of law, accountability and punishment. The American Center for Justice (ACJ) has therefore come to defend human rights, stand by the victims without discrimination, champion their causes, reduce further violations, promote the values of democracy and freedom, and consolidate the norms of peace.

The war in Yemen and the humanitarian catastrophe that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands, most of them women and children, is among the reasons for establishing ACJ to be among the most important institutions that adopt the protection and defense of human rights in this country that has been intensified by wars for several years.

WHERE?

The United States of America is considered the most influential actor in global decision-making, as well as the most important office of the United Nations services, bodies and programs. Many international organizations and human rights institutions with great reach and influence are based in the U.S. and ACJ has also chosen this country to be the base of its activities.

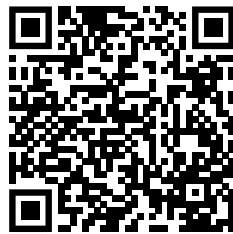
HOW ?

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) monitors, investigates and documents human rights violations, issues reports and provides legal support to victims to ensure that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity. Moving rights issues in international forums and seeking decisions and positions that support and champion the victims of human rights violations in the international community and United Nations decisionmakers will be a strong foundation and the basis for addressing all violations and breaches of domestic laws, international conventions and treaties.

The Center will also work on numerous programs and offer a range of activities, including conferences and symposiums, as well as producing human rights reports that reflect and coordinate the real picture of human rights, while working in coordination with the centers, organizations and personalities that influence international decision-making..

WHO?

American Center for Justice (ACJ) Team is a group of experts, specialists and prominent human rights advocates and victims of violations. The team has many capacities and relationships that enable it to perform its functions appropriately in accordance with international standards. The Center has a number of consultants, researchers and field investigators in its target areas and within its scope of work.



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