

Question for written answer E-005440/2021

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Crimes committed by the Houthi militia in Yemen

Since 2004, crimes and human rights violations committed by the Houthi militia against civilians have been a daily occurrence in Yemen. Kidnappings, torture of prisoners, bombings of houses and the displacement of thousands of families are only some of the severe war crimes and human rights violations of which the Houthi militia is responsible. The Houthis have planted mines randomly, without differentiating between military or civilian sites. Mine explosions have occurred near homes, schools, mosques, markets, water sources and other places. There have been 580 victims so far, including children and women, and 457 injured.

Crimes committed against women are particularly grave, amounting to murder, maiming, detention, kidnapping and sexual violence. Supervisors in militia prisons repeatedly rape women detainees. Minors have also been victims of crimes. In fact, since 2014, the Houthi in Yemen have forcibly recruited 10 300 children, opening 52 training camps for thousands of adolescents, and have incited violence and promoted the group's ideology through special lectures to fill students with extremist ideals and involve them in the group's military actions.

Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy establish a new investigative mechanism to document Houthi crimes against women and preserve evidence of these serious human rights violations and war crimes occurring in Yemen?