

# Yemen

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In 2024 and 2025, GCPEA identified reports of scores of attacks on schools and on school students, teachers, and other education personnel. Additionally, at least 54 cases of military use of schools and universities were reported, and nine attacks on higher education. Although the number of reported attacks decreased as compared to the previous reporting period, GCPEA was unable to establish whether this was as a result of decreasing attacks or decreased reporting.

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## Context

The conflict in Yemen between Houthi forces (also known as Ansar Allah), the internationally recognized government, and regional actors, persisted throughout the reporting period, although stability improved in some areas.<sup>1</sup> A fragile truce largely held through 2024 and 2025, reducing large-scale front-line fighting even as regional tensions intensified.<sup>2</sup> International Crisis Group reported that the Houthis controlled roughly 28 percent of the country's territory, concentrated mainly in the densely populated north and west, and held much of the western coastline and Yemeni islands in the Red Sea.<sup>3</sup> From October 2023, the Houthis began launching missiles and armed drones toward Israel, and later began striking Israel-linked vessels in the Red Sea, leading to exchanges of fire with U.S. and allied navies.<sup>4</sup> Toward the end of the reporting period, hostilities further escalated after Israel killed the Houthis' Prime Minister, prompting renewed violence and intensified repression of opposition groups.<sup>5</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, all parties to conflict in Yemen committed widespread abuses that may amount to war crimes, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and restrictions on civil society.<sup>6</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, in April 2024, US airstrikes on the Ras Issa Port in Al Hudaydah governorate allegedly killed 84 civilians.<sup>7</sup> In May 2024, a Houthi missile strike killed civilians.<sup>8</sup> Israeli airstrikes in Yemen were also reported to have damaged school buildings during the reporting period.<sup>9</sup>

Yemen remained among the world's most mine-affected countries, and landmines and explosive remnants continued to cause civilian deaths and injuries.<sup>10</sup> In April 2024, five children were killed by unexploded ordnance while playing soccer.<sup>11</sup> In 2022, the Houthis signed an Action Plan with the United Nations committing to stop the recruitment and use of children, release those in their ranks within six months, and provide reintegration support.<sup>12</sup> By 2024, Human Rights Watch indicated that Houthi forces continued to recruit and use children, including following the escalation of regional hostilities after October 7, 2023.<sup>13</sup> The UN verified 583 grave violations against children in Yemen in 2024, including recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and sexual violence.<sup>14</sup>

Yemen continued to rank as one of the most protracted and overlooked humanitarian crises globally, and the number of displaced people and those in need of assistance remained among the highest in the world.<sup>15</sup> According to the UN, 19.5 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2025,<sup>16</sup> including 17.1 million experiencing acute food insecurity.<sup>17</sup> By mid-year, more than 4.8 million people were internally displaced, many in protracted displacement since the start of the conflict.<sup>18</sup> Heavy rains and flooding occurred in both 2024 and 2025, damaging homes, displacing families, and cutting off access to basic services.<sup>19</sup> Some government-controlled areas saw limited improvements in access to services and security, with humanitarian actors successfully handing over facilities to local authorities.<sup>20</sup>

Following years of conflict, the UN reported in 2025 that across Yemen at least 3,400 schools had been partially or completely damaged, destroyed, or repurposed.<sup>21</sup> Approximately 4.5 million school-age children were out of school in 2024, including 1.5 million girls at heightened risk of child marriage and permanent dropout.<sup>22</sup> The UN reported that displacement and insecurity continued to disrupt learning for millions of children, with many unable to return due to destroyed facilities or economic pressures.<sup>23</sup>

## Attacks on schools

GCPEA identified at least 16 attacks on schools in the 2024-2025 reporting period. This represents a decrease in reported attacks in comparison to the previous reporting period where 21 and 26 attacks were reported in 2023 and 2022, respectively.<sup>24</sup>

GCPEA identified at least ten attacks in 2024, most of which involved explosive weapons, including airstrikes and explosive remnants of war.<sup>25</sup> For example:

- As reported by local media, on April 1, 2024, in Wadi Habab, Sirwah district, Marib governorate, an explosive remnant of war exploded near Habab school, killing one civilian and injuring one other, although GCPEA was unable to establish whether they were students or staff of the school.<sup>26</sup>
- On August 25, 2024, in Bani Matar district, Sana'a governorate, a conflict-related explosion at Al Qulais school injured at least 30 students, some critically, as reported by local media.<sup>27</sup>
- On September 10, 2024, a US-UK airstrike targeting a Houthi training camp allegedly struck the Umm Al-Mu'minin Aisha School, in Al-Jund, Taizz governorate, killing two female students and wounding at least nine more as reported by international and local media.<sup>28</sup>
- On October 23, 2024, in Wadi al Hinnayah, Al Maafer district, Taizz governorate, Houthi forces allegedly attacked a primary school with a drone attack, seriously injuring at least two students, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>29</sup>
- On 1 December 2024, in Al Boumiya village, Maqbanah district, Taizz governorate, a drone reportedly struck a market near to a school, according to ACLED and local media.<sup>30</sup>

GCPEA identified at least six attacks on schools in 2025.<sup>31</sup> According to reports, at least three schools were damaged by airstrikes.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, GCPEA identified at least three separate reports of attacks on schools:

- On January 2, 2025, in Uzlat Huban region in Wald Rabi district, Al Bayda governorate, a hand grenade was thrown towards a New Year's event at a school, injuring three students, according to ACLED and local media.<sup>33</sup>
- On January 7, 2025, in Ash Shuub, Hays, Al Hudaydah governorate, a school was allegedly hit by artillery shells fired by an unknown perpetrator, according to the Civilian Monitoring Project (CIMP).<sup>34</sup>
- On April 1, 2025 in Washhah, Hajjah governorate, a school was allegedly hit by airstrikes, as reported by CIMP.<sup>35</sup>
- On September 7, 2025, Houthi forces allegedly raided and looted Al Farouq school in Juban City, Dahle governorate, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>36</sup>
- On December 18, 2025, in Al Mudhaffar, Taizz governorate, an IED targeting the Headquarters of Al Islah Party allegedly detonated next to Ammar Bin Yassir school, according to Save the Children, ACLED and local media sources. One student was killed and another two were injured.<sup>37</sup>

## Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel

GCPEA identified at least 62 reported attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel during the 2024-2025 reporting period, most of which took place in 2025. This was an increase compared to the previous reporting period, when 18 were identified in 2023, and eight in 2022.<sup>38</sup>

In 2024, at least four attacks were identified by GCPEA:

- On April 28, 2024, a Houthi fighter working as a security guard at al Faruq school in Aflah Al Yaman district, Hajjah governorate, allegedly shot and killed one student and injured another as they were trying to enter the school, as reported by local media sources.<sup>39</sup>
- On August 13, 2024, in Maqbanah district, Taizz governorate, Houthi forces allegedly shot and killed a security guard when he refused to let them enter a girls school, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>40</sup>
- On September 7, 2024, suspected Houthi forces allegedly abducted one student from the Moath Bin Jabel School in Al Makhadir, Ibb governorate, and accused him of 'treason and collaboration' for allegedly tearing down a banner hung by the Houthis, as reported by ACLED and local media sources.<sup>41</sup>

- On September 12, 2024, suspected Houthi forces allegedly stormed a girls school in Hamdan district, Sana'a governorate, and attacked students with batons for planning 26th September Revolution celebrations, as reported by ACLED and local media sources.<sup>42</sup>

In 2025, school students and teachers faced grave protection risks.<sup>43</sup> GCPEA identified at least 58 attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel, which harmed at least 140 students and staff.<sup>44</sup> Most attacks were abductions, with abduction campaigns targeting teachers and principals occurring especially in Ibb and Taizz governorates as Houthi forces increasingly and violently enforced their ideology in schools.<sup>45</sup> Additionally, the Yemeni Network for Rights and Freedoms documented 34 alleged abductions of educators and students in Ibb governorate between March 1 and July 20, 2025.<sup>46</sup> These numbers have not been included in the overall incident account above, since GCPEA could not confirm their overlap with other incidents.

Examples of attacks on students, educators, and education personnel identified by GCPEA include:

- As reported in January 2025, in Ibb city and governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted dozens of teachers from schools, and forced them to take part in courses on Houthi teachings, as reported by local media.<sup>47</sup>
- On January 14, 2025, in Far Al Udayn District, Ibb governorate, dozens of students, most of whom were children, were detained at Al Mithaq School for protesting when at least one staff member was replaced with individuals aligned with Houthi forces, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>48</sup>
- On August 5, 2025, at four different locations in Ibb governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted at least six teachers and school principals, some of whom were reportedly taken to a prison facility, and some of whom were taken to an unknown location, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>49</sup>
- Similarly, on August 15, 2025, at four different locations in Taizz governorate, Houthi forces abducted at least six teachers, who were taken to an unknown location for questioning, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>50</sup>
- On August 26, 2025, in Dhi Naim city, Al Bayda governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted a number of students from Omar Ibn Abdul Aziz school and took them to a prison, allegedly because they did not attend a training on using and dismantling weapons; the students were reportedly released upon signing written pledges to attend the sessions, according to reports from ACLED and local media.<sup>51</sup>
- As reported on August 27, 2025, in Hayfan district, Taizz governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted at least 48 teachers from different locations, and took them to an unknown location, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>52</sup>

## Military use of schools and universities

GCPEA identified at least 63 cases of military use in the 2024-2025 reporting period. This was a slight decrease as compared to the previous reporting period, when 32 were identified in 2023, and 67 in 2022.<sup>53</sup>

The UN reported 54 cases of military use in 2024.<sup>54</sup> Separately, GCPEA identified four incidents, although this number was not added to the UN count, to avoid double counting.

- In March 2024, Houthi forces reportedly conducted trainings at Ibb University, Ibb governorate, and students and faculty were allegedly forced to participate, including in weapons training, as reported by local media.<sup>55</sup> Similar trainings were reported at Ibb University in May 2024, although it was not clear whether the forces used the university for military purposes on two separate occasions, or continuously.<sup>56</sup>
- On September 10, 2024, in Al-Jund, Taizz governorate, an airstrike reportedly targeted a Houthi training camp near Umm Al-Mu'minin Aisha School, a girls' school; reports indicated that the school was damaged and two female students were killed and at least nine were injured, as reported by regional and local media.<sup>57</sup>
- On December 26, 2024, in Rihab, Al-Qfar district, Ibb governorate, Houthi forces reportedly looted and closed two Quran memorization schools for women, and used at least one as a base, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>58</sup>

GCPEA identified nine cases of the military use of schools and universities in 2025.<sup>59</sup> Examples included:

- As reported on June 27, 2025, in Al Matahin village, Anss district, Dhamar governorate, Houthi forces allegedly used the village school as a detention center, holding dozens of civilians for at least five days, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>60</sup>
- As reported on October 18, 2025, in Sana'a city and governorate, a University of Science and Technology building was allegedly turned into a headquarters of the Ministry of Defence by the Houthi militia, as reported by local media sources.<sup>61</sup>
- On October 29, 2025, in Dhamar city and governorate, Houthi forces allegedly entered and used the Dhamar University campus as a base for gathering armoured security vehicles in order to carry out raids in nearby residential neighbourhoods, as reported by ACLED and local media sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Around November 2, 2025, in Al Wathan village, Kuhlan Affar, Hajjah governorate, Houthi forces allegedly deployed three military vehicles and transformed a school into a field headquarters, as reported by ACLED and local media sources.<sup>63</sup>
- On December 19, 2025, in Mihatib, As Sayyani, Ibb governate, Houthi gunmen allegedly seized the Salafist Al Furqan mosque and Quran teaching center and evicted students at gunpoint, in order to transform the building into a military barracks, according to ACLED and local media sources.<sup>64</sup>

## Child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school

Reports of child recruitment continued in the 2024-2025 reporting period, when Houthi forces appeared to exert increasing power and pressure on schools, universities, and students and staff, as detailed above. GCPEA identified at least one incident of recruitment. This was a similar rate as compared to the previous reporting period, when GCPEA identified at least three cases.<sup>65</sup> Reports from 2024 described children attending Houthi-run camps that provided religious and military training.<sup>66</sup> In 2025, observers documented the continuation of these practices through organized "summer camps," suggesting the persistence of child indoctrination despite the Houthis' previous commitments to end child recruitment.<sup>67</sup>

As detailed in the section above, on August 26, 2025, in Dhi Naim city, Al Bayda governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted a number of students from Omar Ibn Abdul Aziz school, after reportedly converting the school into a recruitment camp at some point in July or August 2025, according to reports from ACLED and local media.<sup>68</sup>

## Attacks on higher education

GCPEA identified at least ten attacks on higher education in the 2024-2025 reporting period, in which at least 59 students or staff were reportedly abducted or arrested. This was a decrease in the number of reported attacks as compared to the previous reporting period, when eight were identified in 2023, and ten in 2022.<sup>69</sup>

GCPEA identified two attacks on higher education students or staff in 2024:

- On August 3, 2024, Houthi forces allegedly fired live ammunition, and assaulted and detained one student at Ibb University, Al Dhihar district, Ibb governorate, as reported by local media.<sup>70</sup>
- On December 7, 2024, in Ibb city and governorate, Houthi forces allegedly kidnapped Dr. Ali Nour al-Din, a professor at the Malaysian University, after a student allegedly reported the professor to the Houthis for criticizing the group in his lecture, according to ACLED and local media.<sup>71</sup>

In 2025, GCPEA identified at least eight attacks on higher education, three on facilities and five on students and staff.

According to reports, two universities were reportedly damaged by airstrikes.<sup>72</sup> Additionally, GCPEA identified one attack: on April 12, 2025, in As Sawmaah, Al Bayda governorate, the Technical Institute within the government compound was allegedly hit by airstrikes, as reported by CIMP.<sup>73</sup>

GCPEA identified five attacks on higher education students, teachers, and staff.<sup>74</sup> These included:

- As reported on September 19, 2025, Houthi forces allegedly abducted approximately 18 students, teachers, and administrative staff from Sana'a University, Maain district, Sana'a city and governorate, allegedly because they refused to participate in Houthi events, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>75</sup>
- Also around September 19, 2025, in Al Hawak, Al Hudaydah governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted an unspecified number of students, teachers, and administrators from Al Hudaydah University for their refusal to participate in Houthi events, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>76</sup>
- On October 29, 2025, in Dhamar City, Dhamar governorate, Houthi forces allegedly abducted an unspecified number of students during their occupation of the university campus, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>77</sup>