



# NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2019

Special Edition on the situation in Yemen



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TChK3o2vLec?rel=0>

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
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INSTITUTIONS



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

## 42ND SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (9 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2019)

The IOLDCs hosted a side event

### OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTING COUNTER-TERRORISM MEASURES IN YEMEN

During the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva, which brought together



#### Speaker

**Dr. ELISABETH KENDALL**  
Senior Research Fellow in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Pembroke College, Oxford University, UK.



#### Moderator

**Ms. SHEILA ANAZONWU**  
Programme Coordinator  
IOLDCs



#### Speaker

**MR. SALAH BIN LAGHBAR**  
Journalist and Sky News Arabia Correspondent; Academic and Professor, University of Aden.

To see more on the video please click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TChK3o2vLec?rel=0>



Member states in the region were equally called upon the implementation of the UN global counter-terrorism strategy and to deny terrorist groups safe havens, access to financial, logistic or political support, freedom of movement, operation and recruitment of forces and where appropriate extradite those found to be perpetrators of terrorist acts or supporting, facilitating, participating in or planning acts of terrorism

The panelists gathered here in this debate will highlight the root causes of terrorism in Yemen, and the role of the United Arab Emirates are and the Southern-Forces with support of the the international community.

The panelists highlight also facts and obstacles which to date continue to prelude implementation of counter terrorism measures.

The panelists tackled the key obstacles and as a result determine concrete solutions and way forward to successfully accomplishing the goals of the United Nations global counter-terrorism strategy for Yemen.

# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

## 42nd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (9 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2019)

### STATEMENT Interactive Dialogue - Item 3

### WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AND THE WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF MERCENARIES

To see more on the video please click in this link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/n0p8bi1DcUc?rel=0>

*Mr / Madam Chairperson and Rapporteur*

In the last three years, the recruitment of mercenaries has intensified in Yemen, reports said the Houthi's involvement in the recruitment of mercenaries from the Horn of Africa for

- the laying of mines,
- transfer of weapons equipment,
- participation in the fighting,
- carrying out bombings in the cities.



Information from local organizations has confirmed that mercenaries have admitted that Houthi Militia are training individuals of different nationalities in camps in the neighboring African Islands of Yemen under the supervision of members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Lebanese Hezbollah.

An official from the Sanaa hospital revealed last April that they had received more than 120 bodies of African recruits including children.

The Islah Party, the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda and ISIS have recruited and trained hundreds of mercenaries arriving from the Horn of Africa in Islah camps in Marib, as well as Somalis affiliated with terrorist groups operating in Somalia.

The Somali Deputy Consul in Aden Hussein Mahmoud confirmed that the Al-Shabaab movement threatened to send fighters to Yemen.

Indeed, four Somalis suspected of having links with Al Qaeda have already been arrested.

The International Organization for Migration has warned against the exploitation of migrants from neighboring countries in illegal fighting in Yemen, mainly in the Horn of Africa.

My question to the chairman of the working group is: how does the task force intend to take action to combat this phenomenon in conflict zones and put pressure on the Houthis and Islah to stop the recruitment of mercenaries in Yemen?

*Thank you, Mr / Madam Chairperson and Rapporteur*



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/n0p8bi1DcUc?rel=0>



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

42nd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
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STATEMENT: General Debate – Item 2  
**ORAL UPDATE BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL  
INVESTIGATIVE MECHANISMS**

To see more on the video please click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/IfNzv525N-o?rel=0>

*Mr. /Madam President*

Mr. Jendoubi, the Chair of the Group of Eminent international and regional Experts on Yemen recognized last March, in a side event during the 40th session, that his report was the object of international criticism and rejected by some parties in the conflict.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/IfNzv525N-o?rel=0>

Today, we again find that the report presented, is based on some unfounded allegations and unreliable sources, with many references to having “reasonable grounds to believe that.” This is in light of the fact that the group’s ability to undertake onsite verifiable fact finding missions to Yemen, were hampered even prevented, since the renewal of its mandate last September.

The report was based on internet sources as well as statements obtained from some 600 people with the support of the Islah party (Muslim brotherhood) activists who facilitated the meeting with the group.

False allegations, targeting the coalition, in particular the United Arab Emirates, acting within the framework of the international coalition on counter-terrorism in the South, were repeatedly cited in several paragraphs of the report. This raises doubts on the partiality of and level of external influence on the content of the report, which precludes its credibility, professionalism and neutrality.

Thank you, *Mr. /Madam President.*



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

42nd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (9 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2019)

## STATEMENT: Interactive Dialogue Item - 4

## WITH THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH SUDAN

To see more on the video please click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/v02mXHyiBAG?rel=0>



*Mr. /Madam Vice-President*

Signing of Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in September 2018 indicated an appetite for progress by the Government of South Sudan as well as its commitment to work to demobilize all children under 18 present in the ranks of its armed forces. In addition, the protection of children is addressed in its implementation by ensuring that crimes against children are not amnestied.

Nevertheless, spikes in abductions and sexual violence against children were noted post signing of the Agreement. Also noted have been spike attacks predominantly involving destruction and looting of educational or medical facilities, all of which are having devastating effects on access to education and to health services for children.

The progress made in the release of more than 900 children in 2018 is acknowledged together with reintegration support facilitated by the government, UNICEF and partners. However, the number of children still within the ranks of armed groups remains high, and several areas unsafe, leaving many children beyond the reach of support actors.

OIPMA believes the issue of recruitment of children in armed conflict to be a matter of human rights violation against children which deserves closer and greater attention by the Council.

Mr. Chairperson, What are the constraints and obstacles that prevent the commission from carrying out its mission in implementing the agreement on the ground?

*Thank you Mr. /Madam Vice-President*



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

42nd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (9 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2019)

## STATEMENT: General Debate – Item 9

### **RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

To see more on the video please click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/GgwPlfTpgV0?rel=0>

*Mr. /Madam President,*

OIPMA, has been subjected to a form of racism and targeted by a member of the secretariat responsible for the arrangement of speeches of the NGOs.

Our organization was obstructed in delivering oral statements under item 4 and Item 5 ID for which our registration was confirmed in person on the 1st day of the Session.

In addition, for interactive dialogue under item 5, mis-information from the secretariat personnel resulted in OIPMA not being present to deliver oral statement.

OIPMA would appreciate an explanation and requests investigation and correction of the matter were manifestly resisted

*Mr. /Madam President,*

Combating intolerance, hatred, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence, extremism and terrorism, the Council should Support “Document on Human Fraternity” signed in Abu Dhabi last February with the presence of religious leaders from around the world.

Due to the importance of this document, member states should take the same steps that has been taken by the UAE through the development of legislations and policies and media initiatives aimed at criminalizing intolerance and hatred and institutionalizing values of tolerance.

*Thank you, Mr./Madam President.*



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/GgwPlfTpgV0?rel=0>



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

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Statement: General debate: Item 10

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY- BUILDING

To see more on the video please click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/y34x9Xdd6wA?rel=0>

*Mr./Madam President,*

The INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES attaches the utmost importance to the situation in Yemen, where the conflict between the two parties HOUTHIS and AL ISLAH (the Muslim Brotherhood), the ruling party of the Yemeni government, has been transformed into worst humanitarian crisis in the world, according to the report of the HIGH COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Both parties have committed extremist ideologies in the name of religion as a means of controlling governance. They used school programs, mosques, charities and camps to mobilize youth and brainwashed children into extremism, intolerance and hatred which led to the current war.

Therefore, OHCHR should provide technical assistance to Southern civil society organizations to strengthen their role in the implementation of the values of tolerance and broaden its scope to be able to combat intolerance, extremism and terrorism, which have been spreading systematically in the southern regions since the imposition of unity and taking control of the south by the North Yemeni army in 1994.

*Thank you, Mr./Madam President.*



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/y34x9Xdd6wA?rel=0>



## Written Statement

### Obstacles and continued challenges to conflict prevention and peace building in Yemen

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fioldcs.org%2Fengine%2Fdownload.php%3Fid%3D27%26area%3Dstatic%26viewonline%3D1>

### Children and armed conflict – the case of the Republic of South Sudan and of the Republic of Yemen

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fioldcs.org%2Fengine%2Fdownload.php%3Fid%3D26%26area%3Dstatic%26viewonline%3D1>

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