

Angel Lindsey
Woodland High
School Atlanta, GA,
USA Yemen-Human
Rights

Yemen: Right to Life

I chose the country Yemen and the topic human rights because The Yemen Crisis is a series of human rights violations that lacks adequate publicity to cause necessary change. Yemen's human rights are described as problematic and hectic. We need to bring awareness to these civilians. My country Yemen, is located in Southwest Asia. Yemen's population is 28.5 million, and 36.64 percent of their population is urban. Also, 63.36 percent of their population is rural.

The type of government Yemen has is a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Yemen was the head of the state, while the Prime Minister of Yemen, who was appointed by the President, was the head of the government. Thirty-four percent of Yemen's land is classified as agricultural, but the vast majority of Yemen is pasture and range land. Yemen's average farm size is 1.1 hectares. Yemen's major crops are millet, corn, wheat, barley, and sorghum. Yemen's major exports consist of oil, fish, cigarettes, animal hides and other products. The climate in Yemen can be described as subtropical dry, hot desert climate with low annual rainfall. Summer is from June to September, and it can get very hot, up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Arab world, with more than half of the country living in poverty.

The average family size in Yemen is about 7 members, with approximately 3 members sharing a room. A typical family diet consists of flour and rice; however, it does not include fresh produce, tomatoes or even meat. More than 20 million people in Yemen are experiencing food insecurity; 10 million of them are at risk of famine. For two years, Yemen has been identified as the world's worst food crisis. The two most common occupations in Yemen are a crop farmer and shop salesperson. Unfortunately, families do not have access to education for their children so many parents choose to keep their children at home.

The outbreak of cholera in Yemen has infected millions of people. Despite cholera being a treatable disease, thousands of people died. Only one third of Yemen's population is connected to a piped water network. However, children in Tur Asanti village in Lahij governorate have access to clean water for the first time in years. On the other hand, Yemen people do have access

to electricity, telephones, roads, local markets etc; A couple major barriers families face is not having all the nutrition they need, and humanitarian laws. Yemen is very poor, so therefore, families don't always get all the nutritious food they need. Also, Yemen is one of the most problematic countries in the world.

The "security" officials absolutely neglect all the humanitarian laws that have been put in place. The armed conflict in Yemen has resulted in the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. Consistent bombing and destroying markets and local neighbourhoods, results in harming the little resources that Yemen has.

The lack of media coverage contributes to the worsening effect of this crisis. The Yemen crisis affects both rural and urban areas, diminishing the populations in these communities. This crisis impacts all demographics, including refugees and innocent citizens. Families are losing their homes, jobs and businesses, in turn affecting their income, food security, shelter and other life necessities. Yemen's environment has also been affected by the crisis, creating an unstable landscape, diminishing food resources, poor infrastructure and air quality.

There are three possible solutions to this devastating issue. The first solution would be to start a local activist group. This would bring awareness to this issue, and it allows people to come together to help make a change. However, this is the exact type of group Yemen's law enforcement targets. It could possibly result in citizens being prosecuted, for wanting something different for their community. Another possible solution is to meet with Yemen's politicians. You may be able to get the elected leader's attention and let them know that the country is suffering. That could be something life changing, and monumental.

On the downside, politicians may not pay attention, or just simply not take this matter seriously. They could also say they're going to do something about it, and end up sweeping it under the rug. The last possible solution to this dire issue is to organize a protest or a stunt. Protests bring much attention to causes like this. This shows the government that you're not taking anymore of the torture, inequality, and persecution. Although this would be a great way to catch attention, this can also lead to mayhem and perhaps be arrested.

During protests people can get hurt or thrown in prison. I think these solutions would meet all the needs of the population in Yemen. I wouldn't suggest just one solution. This country needs all the help it can get. My plan of action to enact my solution would be to reach out to officials or human rights activists. As all of us know, there are countless states in America protesting for Black Lives Matter. This movement has taken the world by storm, and it's finally getting the attention it deserves. If I could reach out to activists like this, we could make this movement worldwide for All Lives Matter. Anybody could do the work for this movement. We will need

any and everyone who is dedicated to wake the world up, for Yemen Lives Matter. The people I would want to lead this movement would be Kamal al-Shawish, Twakkol Karman and Radhya Al-Mutawakel, who are already human rights activists in Yemen. This project could be funded in a number of ways. It could be a non-profit organization, a grant or many other things.

Yemen is a very poor country so we would have to reach out to other resources because the government will not help. My major goal would be to get the Black Lives Matter Organization to fund this movement for Yemen Lives Matter. The role that the community plays in my plan is to participate and come together for human rights. Other organizations will help execute my plan by spreading the word and funding this project. The government would most likely not approve this movement, seeing that they do not tend to human rights. We as a community, would have to advance together to make an impact, and maybe without the government's approval.

One cultural norm that would be in place would be women wearing hijabs. This is not a violent protest or a violent movement. No behavior such as arson, fighting, spitting or any behavior of that matter will be encouraged. This movement can last for weeks, months and even years. We will not stop until there is a change. This is a serious matter that needs to be addressed and treated. According to Amnesty.Org, Yemen continues to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law. International humanitarian law is a set of rules and principles, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.

Houthi forces bomb residential neighbourhoods in Yemen and launch missiles into Saudi Arabia. The coalition led by Saudi Arabia continued to bomb civilian infrastructure killing and injuring hundreds of civilians. My source also states that in Yemen there is suppressed freedom of expression, using arbitrary detention. Arbitrary detention occurs when an individual is arrested and detained by a government without due process and without the legal protections of a fair trial.

According to Human Rights Watch, on March 26, 2015, the Saudi- led coalition attacked Houthi-Saleh forces in support of Yemeni President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have led a coalition of states in Yemen against Houthi forces that, in alliance with former Yemeni President Ali Abullah Saleh, took over Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in September 2014.

This conflict causes not just the death of one person, but thousands. The Human Rights Watch states that 6,782 civilians had been killed in Yemen's armed conflict, and 10,678 wounded, as of November 2018. Also, 14 million people remain at risk of starvation and death due to outbreaks of cholera. With all this conflict and poor humanitarian rights, people will continue to

get sick, get injured or die.

Parties to conflict have aggravated what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe. This includes arbitrary detention, torture, sexual assault, and unlawfully impeding delivery of desperately needed humanitarian aid. If you could not guess, there is also a big problem with terrorism. According to my sources, both Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic state in Yemen have claimed responsibility for suicide and other bombings. Also, In 2016, the US continued to carry out drone attacks in Yemen against both groups.

The US has also worked closely with UAE, which leads coalition efforts in southern Yemen. This includes carrying out unjust security campaigns. Sites like Amnesty and Human Rights Watch are what we need. Without them, there would be no information about what the citizens of Yemen go through. They document incidents like torture, forced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions. Lastly, another major problem is accountability.

Human Rights Watch states that Coalition member countries have sought to avoid international legal liability by refusing to provide information on their forces' role in unlawful attacks. The UN Security Council, in Resolutions 2140 and 2216, established a sanctions regime in Yemen whereby individuals that have violated international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or obstructed the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In conclusion, this is a very unjust and scary world. We need to keep fighting for rights worldwide. The US is blessed because no one could know what it feels like to wake up and go to sleep to this mayhem and war. We need to wake up and not just fight in one country. The world is finally starting to see Black Lives Matter, so we can accomplish the same goal in Yemen. No one should die because the government is not paying attention. Let's make a change.

Yemen Lives
Matter

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