

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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June 5, 2017

H.E. Ayman Safadi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Amman, Jordan

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Jordanian military forces may be committing or complicit in violation of the laws of war in Yemen. We urge Jordan to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Jordanian forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Jordan should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 4,773 civilians have been killed and at least 8,272 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, the majority by Saudi Arabia-led coalition airstrikes, according to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

To date, Jordan has not publicly provided information about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. According to media reports, Jordan initially contributed six fighter jets to coalition efforts in Yemen and in February a Jordanian pilot flying an F-16 on a mission in Yemen [crashed](#).

Jordan has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The United Nations, Human Rights Watch and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Jordanian forces in any of these airstrikes, Jordan may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Jordan is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must “ensure respect” for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Jordan to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Jordan is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Jordan should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Jordanian

government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved. To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Jordanian military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Jordanians involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems. The International Criminal Court also has jurisdiction over the nationals of countries that are members of the court, including Jordan.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Jordan should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by July 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Jordan is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has Jordan, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Jordanian forces participated? If so, please share

information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.

2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Jordanian forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Jordan begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Jordanian military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Jordan currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Jordan fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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July 31, 2017

H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Ali Khalifa
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Manama, Bahrain

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Bahraini military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We urge Bahrain to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Bahraini forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Bahrain should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and

hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Bahrain has provided little information about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. The number of troops Bahrain has deployed in Yemen is unknown. According to [media reports](#), Bahrain has deployed troops near the Saudi-Yemen border and in the southern city of Aden. Bahrain initially contributed fifteen jets to coalition efforts in Yemen, [the Associated Press](#) reported, and, in December 2015, a Bahraini F-1 jet carrying out coalition operations crashed in Saudi Arabia, according to [Reuters](#).

Bahrain has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Bahraini forces in any of these airstrikes, Bahrain may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Bahrain is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also “ensure respect” for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Bahrain to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Bahrain is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Bahrain should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including

disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Bahraini government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved.

To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Bahraini military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Bahrainis involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Bahrain should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* (“condolence”) payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by August 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them

into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Bahrain is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has Bahrain, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Bahraini forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Bahraini forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Bahrain begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Bahraini military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Bahrain currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Bahrain fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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July 31, 2017

Sameh Hassan Shoukry
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Cairo, Egypt

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Egyptian military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We urge Egypt to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Egyptian forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Egypt should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and

hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Egypt has provided little information about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. According to the [Washington Institute for Near East Policy](#), a United States-based think tank, Egypt conducted airstrikes in 2015 on Yemen's western coast and has [deployed](#) ships in the Red Sea to help impose the coalition's maritime blockade.

Egypt has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Egyptian forces in any of these airstrikes, Egypt may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Egypt is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also "ensure respect" for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Egypt to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Egypt is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Egypt should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Egyptian government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved.

To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Egyptian military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Egyptians involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Egypt should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by August 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Egypt is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has Egypt, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Egyptian forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Egyptian forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Egypt begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Egyptian military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Egypt currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Egypt fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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July 31, 2017

H.E. Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Kuwaiti military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We urge Kuwait to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Kuwaiti forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Kuwait should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

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The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and

hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Kuwait has provided little information about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. According to [the Associated Press](#), Kuwait initially contributed 15 fighter jets to coalition efforts in Yemen. In December 2015, [the National reported](#) that Kuwait committed artillery battalions to coalition efforts but did not disclose the number of Kuwaiti troops participating in coalition-led military operations.

Kuwait has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Kuwaiti forces in any of these airstrikes, Kuwait may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Kuwait is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also “ensure respect” for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Kuwait to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Kuwait is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Kuwait should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian

victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Kuwaiti government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved. To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Kuwaiti military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Kuwaitis involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Kuwait should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by August 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Kuwait is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has Kuwait, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Kuwaiti forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Kuwaiti forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Kuwait begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Kuwaiti military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Kuwait currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Kuwait fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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July 31, 2017

Gen. Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf
National Minister of Defense
Ministry of Defense
Khartoum, Sudan

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Sudanese military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We urge Sudan to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Sudanese forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Sudan should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and

hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Sudan has provided little information about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. Sudan initially contributed four fighter jets to the coalition and offered to provide up to 6,000 ground troops, the Associated Press [reported](#). Later reporting by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a United States-based think tank, said that at least 2,000 Sudanese troops had been [deployed](#) in Yemen's south, and [IRIN](#), a humanitarian news agency, reported that Sudanese ground forces had participated in fighting on Yemen's western coast.

Sudan has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Sudanese forces in any of these airstrikes, Sudan may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Sudan is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also “ensure respect” for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Sudan to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Sudan is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Sudan should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including disciplinary

action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Sudanese government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved. To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Sudanese military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Sudanese involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Sudan should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by August 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Sudan is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has Sudan, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Sudanese forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Sudanese forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Sudan begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Sudanese military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Sudan currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Sudan fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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July 31, 2017

Nasser Bourita
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rabat, Morocco

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Moroccan military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We urge Morocco to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Moroccan forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Morocco should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and

hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Morocco has provided little information about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. According to [Gulf News](#), Morocco deployed around 1,500 soldiers and a team of paratroopers to participate in coalition operations in December 2015. Morocco has also reportedly played a role in the Saudi-led coalition air campaign, including placing six US-made F-16 warplanes under the command of the coalition, according to [Arab Weekly](#). A Moroccan F-16 plane crashed on May 11, 2015 while on a mission in Yemen, [Reuters](#) reported.

Morocco has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Moroccan forces in any of these airstrikes, Morocco may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Morocco is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also “ensure respect” for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Morocco to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Morocco is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Morocco should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including

disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Moroccan government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved. To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Moroccan military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Moroccans involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Morocco should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by August 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Morocco is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Please confirm the extent of Morocco's participation in Saudi-led coalition military operations campaign in Yemen from March 2015 until today.
2. Has Morocco, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Moroccan forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
3. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Moroccan forces or personnel in these attacks.
4. Has Morocco begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Moroccan military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
5. To what extent does Morocco currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Morocco fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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July 31, 2017

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Doha, Qatar

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Qatari military forces may have committed or have been complicit in violations of the laws of war while Qatar was a member of the Saudi-led coalition conducting military operations in Yemen.

We urge Qatar to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Qatari forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. Qatar should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, the majority by Saudi Arabia-led coalition airstrikes, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Although Qatari forces have reportedly ceased their operations in Yemen, Qatar has yet to provide complete information about the role its forces played in Yemen, in particular any potential role Qatari forces played in unlawful coalition attacks conducted since March 2015. According to [media reports](#), Qatar provided [ground](#) and air support to the Saudi-led coalition, including contributing [10 fighter jets](#) to coalition operations.

Qatar has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Qatari forces in any of these airstrikes, Qatar may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Qatar is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also “ensure respect” for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Qatar to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Qatar is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Qatar should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information, and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including disciplinary

action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Qatari government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved. To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Qatari military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Qataris involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other countries' domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, Qatar should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by August 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Qatar is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has Qatar, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which Qatari forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Qatari forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Qatar begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Qatari military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Qatar currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Qatar fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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August 21, 2017

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zaid
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Highnesses,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Emirati military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We also write to follow up on our [June 5 letter](#) regarding the role of the UAE in arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances, and our [April 6 letter](#) calling on the UAE to clarify what role, if any, its forces played in a March 16 helicopter attack on a boat filled with Somali refugees and migrants.

In an [Emirates News Agency statement](#) regarding the March attack, a member of the UAE Armed Forces “stressed that the UAE Armed Forces welcomed any independent, international investigation into the incident.” We urge the UAE to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Emirati forces participated that raised possible laws-of-war obligations. The UAE should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in Yemen.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The UAE, while taking a prominent role in ground, sea, and air operations, has provided few details about the role its forces are playing in Yemen. In regards to the aerial and naval campaign, in March 2015 the Emirati state news agency [reported](#) that the UAE had deployed 30 fighter jets to take part in coalition operations in Yemen, and that these forces had carried out [airstrikes](#). In July 2017, the *Intercept* [quoted](#) US Defense Department spokesperson Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway: "The Emirati Air Force are the primary air force that we [the United States] help refuel." The UAE has also [deployed ships](#) in the Red Sea to help impose the coalition's maritime blockade and appeared to lead coalition strategy for a planned attack on [Hodeida](#) port.

The UAE leads coalition efforts in southern and eastern Yemen, and has led counterterror efforts against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Yemen affiliate of the Islamic State (IS-Y), including by supporting Yemeni forces carrying out security campaigns. Human Rights Watch has [documented](#) numerous abuses by these UAE-backed forces, including torture, arbitrary detentions, and forced disappearances.

The UAE trains, funds and, in some cases, directs these forces. The Security Belt in Aden and the Hadrami Elite Forces, for example, are funded, trained, and directed by the UAE, said several activists, lawyers, government officials, and family members of detainees. In dozens of interviews, former detainees or their family members told Human Rights Watch that officers claimed they were following UAE orders in detaining terrorism suspects and that they lacked the authority to release detainees without specific UAE authorization. Separate reports by the UN Panel of Experts on Yemen and the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) found that the

Security Belt and Hadrami Elite Forces operated largely outside the Yemeni government's control. The UN Panel of Experts concluded that the Hadrami Elite Forces "are effectively under the operational control of the United Arab Emirates."

The UAE runs at least two detention facilities in Yemen, including where Human Rights Watch has documented abuses, and is reported to have moved high-profile detainees outside the country, including to its base in Assab, Eritrea. The UAE also reportedly participated in the US raid against AQAP in central Yemen in January, according to the *New York Times* and the *Intercept*. Human Rights Watch investigated the raid, which killed at least 14 civilians, including nine children, and raised concerns that the raiding party may have violated the laws of war.

The UAE has an obligation under the laws of war to investigate alleged violations in which its forces participated. The UN, Human Rights Watch, and other independent organizations have reported on scores of apparently unlawful airstrikes by the coalition over the past two years. By providing no public information regarding the role of Emirati forces in any of these airstrikes, the UAE may be implicated both for its direct role in any unlawful attacks and for failing to investigate them and take appropriate action.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which the UAE is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also "ensure respect" for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge the UAE to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If the UAE is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, the UAE should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information, and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as possible. The public findings of investigations should

include an explanation of what accountability measures it has taken, including disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Emirati government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved.

To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016.

We urge that you hold to account any Emirati military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

War crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction, and Emiratis involved in war crimes could be prosecuted in other country's domestic judicial systems.

In addition to justice mechanisms, the UAE should provide redress to civilian victims or their families, including providing compensation for wrongful deaths and injuries. *Ex gratia* ("condolence") payments should be considered in the event of civilian harm but without a finding of wrongdoing.

Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other information you wish to provide by September 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate

them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps the UAE is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

1. Has the UAE, either independently or through JIAT, investigated any coalition attacks in which UAE forces participated? If so, please share information on the date and location of the attack investigated and the conclusions reached.
2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Emirati forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has the UAE begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Emirati military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does the UAE currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that the UAE fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch

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August 22, 2017

H.R.H. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman
The Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister, and the
Minister of Defense
Ministry of Defense
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Subject: Investigating Alleged Laws-of-War Violations in Yemen

Your Royal Highness,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to express our deep concern that Saudi military forces may be committing or complicit in violations of the laws of war in Yemen.

We also write to follow up on our letters dated [May 20, 2015](#), [September 26, 2015](#), and [May 16, 2016](#) regarding our research on apparent coalition violations during its aerial campaign in Yemen.

We urge Saudi Arabia to impartially investigate and publicly report the findings of any incident in which Saudi forces participated that raises possible laws-of-war obligations. Saudi Arabia should also support an independent international investigation into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in Yemen.

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization that monitors and reports on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by states and non-state armed groups in more than 90 countries around the world.

Since March 2015, 5,021 civilians have been killed and at least 8,588 wounded in the armed conflict in Yemen, [according](#) to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The war has deepened and exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which the UN has now declared the world's largest. At least seven million people are on the brink of famine and hundreds of thousands suffer from cholera, yet both sides to the conflict are impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Saudi Arabia is the leading member of the coalition. The coalition's command control structure is in Riyadh and Saudi warplanes have played a predominant role in the military campaign. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia deployed 100 fighter jets and 150,000 members of its armed forces and naval units to the Yemen offensive, according to Saudi-owned satellite news channel [Al Arabiya](#). The Emirati state news agency also [reported](#) that Saudi Arabia deployed 100 fighter jets to Operation Decisive Storm, three times as many as any other coalition member, including the UAE, listed in the report. A few days after the military campaign had begun, Al Arabiya [reported](#) that King Salman had initially ordered coalition strikes to begin and that "Yemen air space is currently under full control of the Saudi Royal Air Force." By 2017, media had reported numerous incidents that Saudi aircraft or Saudi forces had participated in or been [wounded or killed](#) during fighting.

Consistent with Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Saudi Arabia is a party, states not only have an obligation to abide by the laws of war, they must also "ensure respect" for the laws of war by using their influence, to the degree possible, to stop all laws-of-war violations. They are responsible not only for violations by their own armed forces, but also for those committed by forces acting under their instructions, directions, or control.

We urge Saudi Arabia to immediately release information on any strikes in which its forces participated and for which there are credible allegations of laws-of-war violations. If Saudi Arabia is not collecting this information, we urge the government to do so.

In carrying out investigations, Saudi Arabia should make full use of the investigatory tools available, including military intelligence, operational information, and targeting videos. The government should also make efforts to obtain information from the target site as soon as possible. The public findings of investigations should include an explanation of what accountability measures it

has taken, including disciplinary action and criminal prosecutions, the redress provided to civilian victims or their families, and the process through which accountability or redress it has determined to be necessary or not.

The fact that the coalition conducts preliminary investigations through its Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) on certain strikes does not relieve the Saudi government of the obligation to conduct investigations into possibly unlawful strikes in which its forces were involved.

To Human Rights Watch's knowledge, JIAT has only once released information on which coalition members' armed forces participated in an attack JIAT investigated – alleging that faulty intelligence from Yemeni armed forces led to the attack on a funeral in Sanaa in October 2016. We wrote a [letter](#) to JIAT in January 2017, raising some of our concerns regarding JIAT's working methods and in an effort to open a dialogue with the investigative body, but have yet to receive a response.

We urge that you hold to account any Saudi military personnel credibly implicated in war crimes or others within your jurisdiction. Individuals who have committed serious violations of the laws of war with criminal intent – that is, deliberately or recklessly – are responsible for war crimes. They may also be held criminally liable for assisting in, facilitating, aiding, or abetting a war crime. Commanders and civilian leaders may also be prosecuted for war crimes as a matter of command responsibility when they knew or should have known about the commission of war crimes and took insufficient measures to prevent them or punish those responsible.

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Inquiries

Human Rights Watch is continuing to monitor accountability efforts in Yemen and would appreciate receiving answers to the following questions or any other

information you wish to provide by September 5, 2017, so that we can incorporate them into our ongoing work and better understand the steps Saudi Arabia is taking to comply with its international legal obligations:

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2. JIAT found the coalition acted unlawfully in the Mokha and Great Hall attacks. Please provide information on the participation of Saudi forces or personnel in these attacks.
3. Has Saudi Arabia begun investigations, disciplinary actions, or prosecutions against any Saudi military personnel implicated in alleged war crimes in Yemen, including as a matter of command responsibility?
4. To what extent does Saudi Arabia currently cooperate with the UN Human Rights Office in its inquiries into alleged unlawful attacks in Yemen?

We believe it important that Saudi Arabia fulfill its international legal obligations with respect to its participation in the armed conflict in Yemen by taking all feasible measures to minimize harm to the civilian population.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristine Beckerle, Yemen researcher, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
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