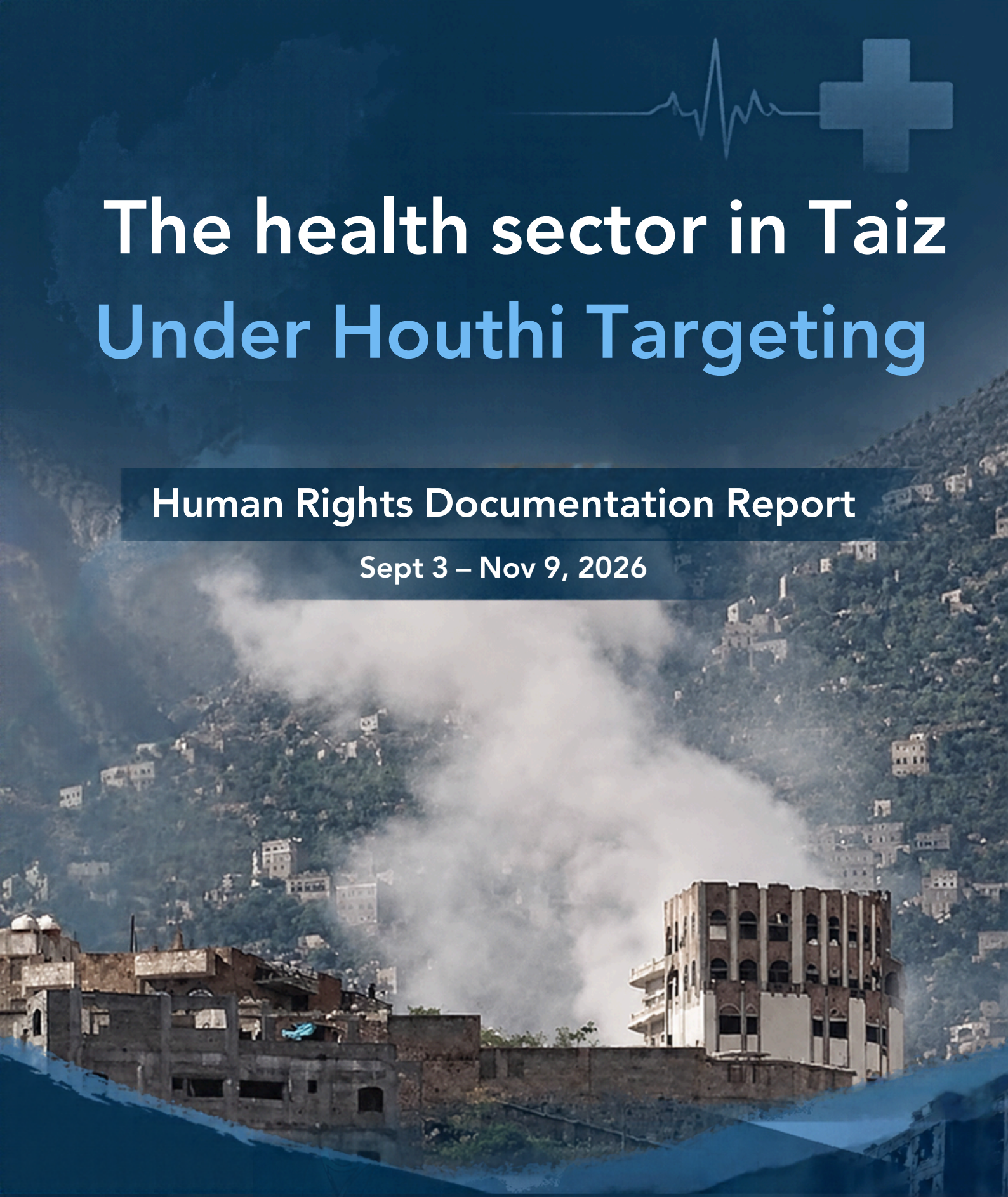
The health sector in Taiz
Under Houthi Targeting

Human Rights Documentation Report

Sept 3 – Nov 9, 2026



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The health sector in Taiz
Under Houthi Targeting

A Human Rights Documentation Report on the Health Sector "Sept 3 – Nov 9, 2026" ,In Taiz Governorate Republic of Yemen

This documentation report is part of a series of reports on the human rights situation, covering the monitoring of monthly and specific types of violations in Taiz Governorate, Republic of Yemen.

The Center holds:

- Consultative status with the (ECOSOC).

- Observer status with the League of Arab States.

Contact:
HRITC
Al-Majliya Neighborhood – Taiz – Yemen

Email:
Hritc9@gmail.com
info@hritc.co

www.hritc.co

Special thanks

To everyone who contributed to the production of this report

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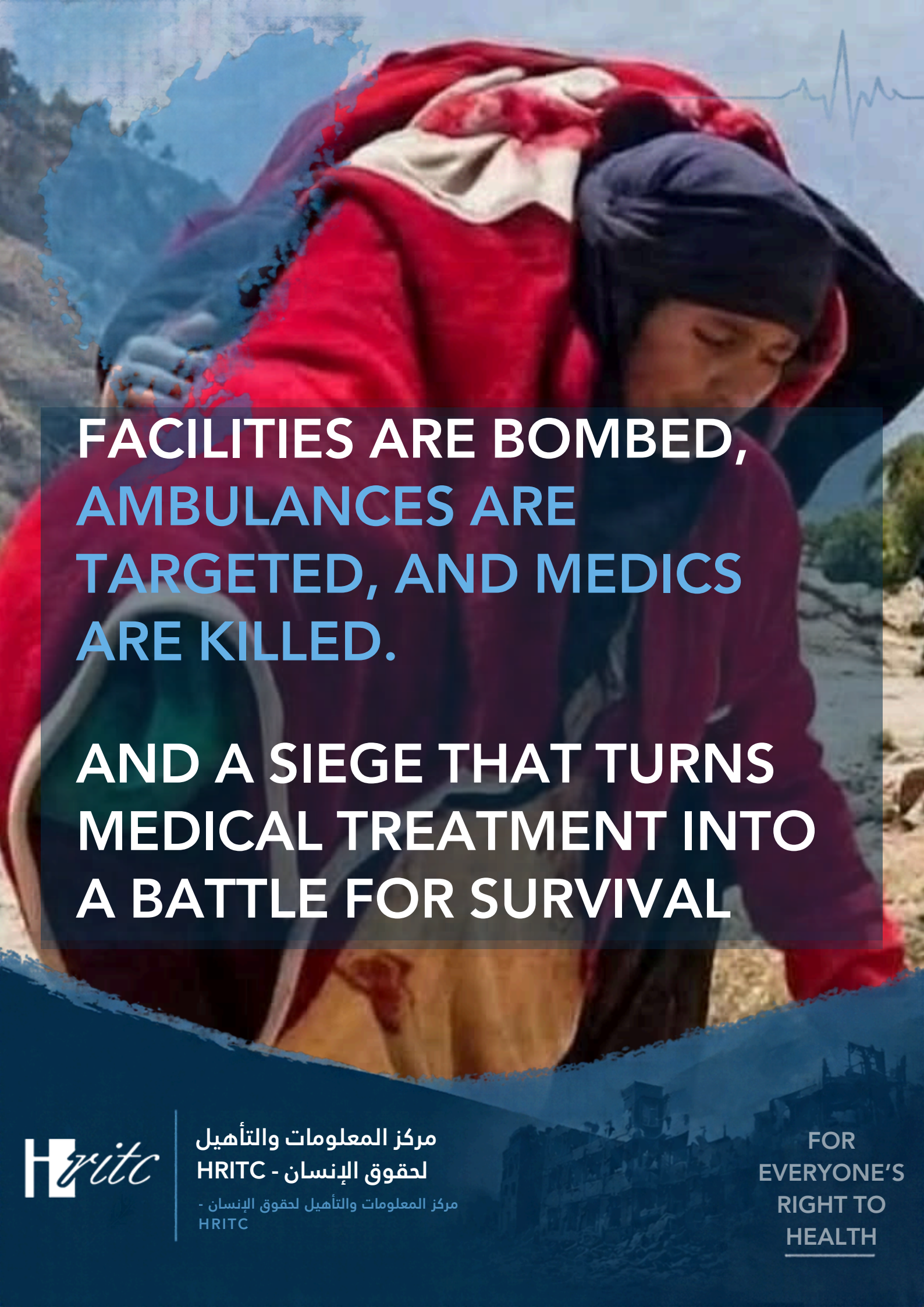
CONCURRENT VIOLATIONS THREATEN THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND HEALTH

THE HEALTH SECTOR IN TAIZ FACES THE TARGETING OF FACILITIES AND TRANSPORT, AS WELL AS A SHORTAGE OF SUPPLIES.

PERIOD: SEPT 3 – NOV 9, 2026

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I. Executive Summary

The incidents documented between 3 September and 9 November 2026 show that the health sector in Taiz Governorate was subjected to a series of simultaneous and systematic violations and attacks by the Houthi militia. These included direct and indirect shelling of health facilities; attacks on ambulances while performing their humanitarian duties; endangering paramedics and medical personnel; the seizure of ambulances and medical equipment; and restrictions on the movement of civilians and supplies. Together, these have directly undermined the ability of hospitals and health centers to save patients and the wounded.
The gravity of these violations is not limited to the physical damage to health facilities.

They threaten the right to life and health, obstruct the population's access to treatment, and increase the risk of death and disability among the wounded, critically ill patients, newborns, and kidney failure patients.
The seriousness of these incidents is compounded by the fact that the attacks on medical facilities, personnel, and ambulances took place amid a broad military escalation in the governorate, alongside road restrictions and a decline in the flow of fuel, medicines, and medical supplies.
Statements by the Director of the Public Health and Population Office in Taiz indicate that five hospitals and health centers sustained varying degrees of damage from shelling and attacks, including the Al-Thawra General Hospital Authority, Al-Safwa Hospital, the health center in Al-Arus in Jabal Sabir, a health center in Al-Wazi'iyah, and a health center in Al-Mawasit. He also stated that the health sector lost 15 ambulances to looting, in addition to medical devices and equipment that were also looted.

The Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) considers that these practices cannot be treated as isolated incidents. They call for an investigation into a recurring pattern affecting the special protection that international humanitarian law affords to medical facilities, health workers, and medical transport.

A Medical Facility in the Line of Fire

Five hospitals and health centers damaged, according to reports from the Health Office

- **Al-Mawasit** — Rural health center
- **Al-Wazi'iyya** — Rural health center
- **Al-Arous** — Rural health center
- **Al-Thawra General Hospital Authority**
- **Al-Safwa Hospital**



Al-Safwa Hospital: Material damage and injury to a civilian

On October 13, Al-Safwa Hospital was subjected to shelling, which caused damage to its departments and windows and resulted in an injury to a civilian.

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II. Al-Safwa and Al-Thawra Hospitals: Medical Facilities in the Crosshairs of Bombardment

At dawn on 13 October 2026, Al-Safwa Hospital in central Taiz was directly targeted by the Houthi militia. The shelling injured a civilian and caused material damage to hospital departments and patient-room windows. Shattered glass scattered inside the patient rooms, causing fear and panic among patients and medical staff.

The incident is especially grave because the hospital was carrying out its medical function of receiving patients and the wounded. The attack followed shelling of residential neighborhoods that caused civilian casualties, while paramedics were gathering to evacuate and treat the wounded.

This incident confirms that the danger facing the health sector in Taiz is not confined to a shortage of resources. Medical facilities themselves are being shelled, threatening the lives of patients and staff and undermining the ability of health facilities to function.

The Taiz Health Office also reported that the Al-Thawra General Hospital Authority sustained damage from shelling, as did other health facilities in the governorate.



Ambulances
Recurring goal

Attacks during the transport of the wounded and the provision of medical aid to civilians







Murders, injuries, and the disabling of ambulances

8 November

Al-Awat

Medics killed and wounded; ambulance put out of service

28 October

Al-Sarari

Medics killed and wounded

20 October

Sabr Al-Shaqab

Medics killed and wounded

Protecting medical transport is
A humanitarian and legal obligation

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III. Ambulances: A Repeated Target of Houthi Fire

The incidents documented in October and November reveal a dangerous pattern of attacks on ambulances while carrying out humanitarian missions.

1. 20 October: Deaths and injury while transporting a wounded woman

On 20 October 2026, the Houthi militia struck an ambulance with a mortar shell in the Sabir Al-Shaqab area while it was transporting a wounded woman to hospital. Sources reported that two people, including a girl, were killed and another was wounded in the attack, which occurred during the ambulance mission.

On the same day, another ambulance was targeted in the Al-Sarari area of Al-Misrakh District. The attack killed the vehicle's driver and wounded several paramedics.

These incidents indicate that the danger no longer threatens only patients and the wounded; it now extends directly to the personnel who transport and rescue them.



- **Location: An ambulance in the Al-Awawat area, Sabr Al-Mawadim District (west of Al-Shaqab), Taiz.**
- **Name of the martyr: Abdul-Sattar Saleh.**
- **Profession: Paramedic and nurse.**
- **Location:In an ambulance**

Recurrence of the incident: This is the third such incident in which ambulances and medical personnel have been targeted in the same area within a short period.

2. 28 October: An ambulance targeted and disabled

On 28 October 2026, the Houthi militia targeted an ambulance as it attempted to assist an injured civilian in the Al-Awat area, west of Al-Shaqab, in Sabir Al-Mawadim District.

The Taiz Health Office confirmed that the vehicle was carrying out a humanitarian mission to evacuate a wounded person from villages that had come under Houthi shelling, and that the attack caused major damage to the vehicle and put it out of service, while shelling of the villages with various weapons continued.

The office added that this incident followed the targeting of another ambulance with a shell the previous week, which also disabled it, and noted that 15 ambulances had been looted from health offices and health centers in the districts.



3. 8 November: A wounded man and his father killed, a paramedic injured

In the most recent incident, and the clearest sign of escalating danger, the Houthi militia targeted an ambulance on 8 November 2026 in the Al-Awat area, west of Al-Shaqab, in Sabir Al-Mawadim District, as it was transporting a wounded person to a health facility.

According to the Ministry of Interior and local and medical sources, the ambulance came under a barrage of fire while traveling on the main road. The wounded man it was carrying and his father were killed, and a member of the ambulance crew was injured while trying to provide assistance.

Sources reported that the gunfire came from Houthi positions on the outskirts of the Al-Sina area, using sniper rifles and a heavy machine gun. The ambulance was pinned down and damaged, and the victims could not be recovered because of the continuing threat of fire. Another ambulance team had to reach the scene from the upper slopes of Jabal Sabir to help retrieve them.

The escalation in the area was not limited to the ambulance: four other civilian vehicles also came under fire, injuring two women and damaging the vehicles. Sources confirmed that the 8 November incident was the third attack on ambulances while performing their humanitarian duties during this period.

The blockade poses a threat

Continuity of medical services

Shortages of fuel, medicines, oxygen, and medical supplies, along with road restrictions, hinder the operation of health facilities in Taiz and threaten the lives of patients.

Active incubators: 40 to 10

40
before the diesel shortage

10
Active incubators

Oxygen plant shutdown affects critical departments

محطة الأكسجين

Intensive Care Impact

Dialysis-related complications

Shortages of fuel and supplies threaten the lives of patients

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IV. The Siege: A Slow Killing of the Health Sector

In addition to shelling and direct attacks, hospitals in Taiz face a serious operational crisis caused by shortages of fuel, medicines, oxygen, and medical supplies, amid restrictions on roads and supplies.
Accounts from health workers reveal that the crisis has reached a level that threatens the continuation of some essential services.

At the Yemeni-Swedish Hospital for Maternity and Childhood, the number of functioning incubators fell from 40 to just 10 because of diesel shortages. The oxygen plant stopped working, and other departments were affected. The number of children the unit can admit each month has also dropped sharply.

In practical terms, this means that dozens of premature babies and newborns are exposed to direct risk because the hospital cannot operate the equipment their survival depends on, which requires continuous electricity, heating, oxygen, and medical monitoring.

The fuel shortage has also extended to intensive care units, dialysis departments, and oxygen plants, all of which rely heavily on generators during power outages.

Hospital staff have warned that if the shortages of fuel and oxygen continue, vital services may stop, turning a supply crisis into a direct threat to patients' lives.

V. The Destruction of Health Capacity Is Not Limited to Shelling

Accounts from the health sector in Taiz document damage to multiple health facilities, as well as the loss of ambulances and of medical devices and equipment.

The attacks affected at least five hospitals and health centers, and other facilities were damaged by direct and indirect shelling. The assessment of damage is still ongoing.

The Houthi militia uses health facilities for military purposes, and has converted some into assembly points or command centers, or has sheltered inside them.

The seizure of ambulances has also reduced the capacity of health facilities to transport patients and the wounded, especially in rural and mountainous areas that depend on ambulances to reach hospitals in Taiz city.

In a geographic environment already marked by difficult roads and movement restrictions, disabling a single ambulance can mean delaying a casualty's arrival in an operating room, a patient's arrival for a dialysis session, or a child's arrival in an intensive care unit.



An image appears:
A Yemeni mother carried the body of her daughter on her back through rugged terrain in the Saber (Sabr) district of Taiz, Yemen, after Houthi shelling killed her daughter and elderly father.

The Ambulance Attack: When an ambulance was dispatched to recover the victims, Houthi forces reportedly targeted or obstructed the vehicle.

VI. Storming of Health Facilities, Abduction of the Wounded, and Coercion of Medical Staff

The Houthi militia's violations against the health sector in Taiz were not limited to shelling hospitals and targeting ambulances. During the recent escalation, they extended to storming health facilities, assaulting medical staff, imposing security measures inside hospitals, and using health facilities to treat the militia's own wounded at the expense of civilians' right to treatment. They also include the abduction of a wounded man from inside a medical facility.

On 30 September 2026, medical and local sources reported that members of the so-called Preventive Security apparatus of the Houthi militia stormed health facilities in the city of Damnat Khadir, east of Taiz, and beat a number of doctors and nurses. This followed the refusal of government and private hospitals to admit more of the militia's wounded because their inpatient rooms and intensive care units were full. According to the same sources, the group pressured and threatened medical staff to force them to continue receiving and treating its fighters. Some doctors were also forced to work under duress and to perform operations in conditions lacking the minimum medical standards.

Published accounts indicate that the pressure was concentrated on the Damnat Khadir Health Center, the International Emergency Hospital in Al-Damnah, Taiz General Hospital, and Al-Khaleej International Hospital in Al-Hawban. There is also information that critically ill civilians were denied intensive care beds in favor of the militia's wounded. Sources also described some wounded Houthi fighters being crowded into apartments and houses near the facilities after these filled up, and deaths among some of the wounded due to infection and poor care.

A wounded person was abducted from Khalifa Hospital in the city of Al-Turba by the Houthi militia

In a more direct incident, the command of the 35th Armored Brigade announced on 17 October 2026 that the Houthi militia had abducted Colonel Taha Awn from Khalifa Hospital in the city of Al-Turbah, where he was receiving treatment for a foot injury sustained in clashes in the Qudus area of Al-Mawasit District.

The brigade command said Awn was abducted from inside the medical facility and taken to an unknown location. It held the Houthi militia fully responsible for his safety and demanded that it disclose where he is being held and his state of health. It also warned of the risk of torture and execution, particularly given reports that he had been transferred to Sanaa.

The abduction of a wounded person from inside a hospital is of particular significance in light of the protection that international humanitarian law grants to the wounded and sick and to medical facilities. A patient inside a treatment facility is supposed to be protected and cared for, not turned into a target for arrest and removed from his hospital bed.



Name: Colonel Taha Aoun

Location of abduction: Khalifa Hospital in the city of Al-Turba

Responsible party: Houthi militia

Exploiting healthcare facilities to serve military efforts and restricting civilian access to medical treatment

In a related development, local sources reported on 5 September 2026 that the Houthi militia had converted a number of hospitals and health facilities in its areas of control in Taiz Governorate into facilities dedicated to receiving its fighters' wounded. These included Hajda Rural Hospital, Al-Barh Rural Hospital, and Al-Nasr Hospital in Shamir. According to those accounts, beds, operating rooms, medicines, and medical staff were allocated to treat militia members, while tight security measures were imposed around some facilities and residents' entry was restricted, which affected services provided to civilians.

These accounts reinforce the later statement by the Director of the Taiz Health Office that the Houthi militia had converted health facilities into gathering points for its fighters and sites for managing military operations, and had deployed armed vehicles inside them, while other health facilities were being shelled and damaged. The official also reported that the health sector had lost 15 ambulances to looting, in addition to medical equipment and devices.

Taken together, these incidents reveal a pattern that goes beyond incidental damage to health facilities. They point to coercive interference in the work of medical facilities, threats against staff, restrictions on civilians' access to treatment, the exploitation of health facilities for the military effort, and the arrest of wounded persons from places that are supposed to be protected.

HRITC considers these incidents to be extremely serious violations of the rules protecting patients, the wounded, medical personnel, and medical facilities. They require identifying and holding accountable those responsible, including command responsibility for ordering or allowing these practices.

VII. Humanitarian Impact on Civilians

Attacks on medical facilities and ambulances do not merely produce direct casualties; they create a chain of far-reaching humanitarian consequences. The patient who fears shelling inside the hospital, the paramedic who fears his vehicle will be targeted, the doctor who works in a facility exposed to shelling, and the family unable to take its child to hospital because roads are closed or transport costs have risen: all of them pay the price of the deteriorating protection of health care.

The risks are compounded for the most vulnerable groups, foremost among them:

- Premature babies and newborns.
- Kidney failure patients.
- Intensive care and ventilator patients.
- Those seriously wounded by shelling.
- Pregnant women and patients in need of urgent surgery.
- Residents of besieged rural areas who rely on ambulances to reach hospitals in the city.

Recent health and media reports indicate that shortages of medical supplies and fuel have persisted for weeks, and that hospitals face mounting pressure to maintain essential services.

VIII. Legal Assessment

Medical units, medical personnel, and medical transport enjoy special protection under the rules of international humanitarian law and may not be attacked as long as they perform their humanitarian function.

Accordingly, targeting an ambulance while it transports a wounded person, firing on it so as to kill patients and injure paramedics, or shelling a hospital that is receiving patients, constitutes a serious violation of the rules protecting medical and humanitarian work.

Likewise, obstructing patients' access to treatment by targeting medical transport, seizing ambulances, or impeding the delivery of medicines, fuel, and medical supplies raises serious legal questions concerning the protection of the civilian population and the guarantee of access to medical care.

HRITC affirms that the final legal characterization of these facts as clear war crimes calls for an independent and comprehensive investigation into each incident, including determining the nature of the target, the intent, and the circumstances surrounding the attack, and whether the facility or medical vehicle lost its legal protection in any specific case.

However, the facts documented so far justify opening serious investigations into individual criminal responsibility and the chain of command.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Protecting the Health Sector and Holding Officials Accountable

- Independent investigation
- Protection of ambulances
  - Crews and facilities
- Ensuring fuel delivery
  - Medicines and oxygen
- The Right to Treatment
  - The tram is legal and humane.

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IX. Conclusions

The incidents documented between 3 September and 9 November 2026 reveal an escalating pattern of attacks by the Houthi militia that have weakened the ability of Taiz's health sector to perform its essential function. This pattern consists of four interrelated tracks:

First: Shelling and targeting of health facilities, including Al-Safwa Hospital, the Al-Thawra Hospital Authority, and other health centers.

Second: Targeting ambulances while transporting the wounded, including incidents that killed patients and civilians, injured paramedics, and killed an ambulance driver.

Third: Seizure or looting of ambulances and medical equipment, which has weakened the health sector's ability to respond to emergencies.

Fourth: Restrictions on the movement of supplies and on roads, coinciding with a severe shortage of fuel, oxygen, medicines, and supplies, which has curtailed medical services and threatened the operation of incubators, intensive care units, and dialysis.

The harm to the health sector in Taiz therefore cannot be reduced to physical damage to buildings and vehicles. It represents a direct threat to the entire life-saving system.

X. Recommendations

The Human Rights Information and Training Center calls for the following:

1. An independent, impartial international investigation into all attacks on health facilities, ambulances, and medical personnel in Taiz since 3 September 2026.
2. An investigation into the attack on Al-Safwa Hospital, identifying the source of the shelling and those responsible, and documenting the human and material damage and losses.
3. An investigation into the targeting of ambulances in Sabir, Al-Sarari, and Al-Awat, including the 8 November incident in which a wounded man and his father were killed and a paramedic was injured.
4. Guaranteed protection for ambulances and medical personnel, who must not be obstructed, targeted, or disabled while carrying out their humanitarian duties.
5. An end to any practices that obstruct the delivery of fuel, medicines, oxygen, and medical supplies to the residents of Taiz.
6. The return of the seized ambulances and medical equipment, and a guarantee that health facilities will not be used for military purposes.
7. That all parties to the conflict be required to respect international humanitarian law, particularly the rules protecting patients, the wounded, medical personnel, facilities, and medical transport.
8. That the United Nations and the relevant international health and humanitarian organizations establish an urgent mechanism to monitor the situation of the health sector in Taiz and to ensure regular access for medical supplies and fuel.
9. Accountability for those responsible for the violations, and no tolerance for attacks on the health sector becoming a continuing pattern of impunity.

Conclusion

In Taiz, the danger facing patients no longer begins at the point of shelling and ends at the hospital door. The road to the hospital itself has become fraught with death, and the ambulance, which should be a safe haven, has become a target of fire. Meanwhile, incubators, oxygen equipment, and intensive care units are at risk of shutting down because of shortages of fuel and supplies.

Targeting those who save lives, drying up the sources of treatment, and exhausting hospitals through siege and shelling do not merely strike concrete buildings or metal vehicles. They strike at the fundamental human right to find a doctor, an ambulance, and medicine when facing death.

HRITC affirms that protecting the health sector in Taiz is not a secondary humanitarian matter but a legal and moral obligation that demands protection and accountability. Continued violations without investigation or accountability open the door to more victims and deepen one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the governorate.



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Al-Majliyah Neighborhood – Taiz – Yemen

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