

UNICEF condemns latest Saudi-led airstrike on Yemeni children



Geneva, August 27 (RHC)-- The UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has denounced a recent Saudi deadly airstrike in Yemen's Hudaydah province that killed over two dozen children.

The carnage took place in Durayhimi city last week, when a Saudi-led strike hit a civilian vehicle, killing 31 people, mostly children. The attack came about two weeks after a Saudi-led warplane hit a school bus in the northern province of Saada with a 227-kilogram laser-guided Mark 82 bomb, killing a total of 51 people, including 40 children, and leaving nearly 80 others wounded.

"I had hoped that the outrage that followed the Saada attack in Yemen two weeks ago would be a turning point in the conflict. Now, the reported attacks in Durayhimi, killing 26 children, indicate that it was not," said Henrietta Fore, the UNICEF executive director, in a statement.

"I -- once again -- call for the warring parties, those who have influence over them, the UN Security Council and the international community to take action and end this conflict once and for all," she further said; adding that the lives of thousands of "vulnerable children" all over the war-torn country "must be a priority for all."

Yemen's Ansarullah movement, which plays a significant role in aiding the Yemeni army in defending the

impoverished country against the invading coalition, condemned the latest attack, saying the blood of children was spilled again before that of those killed in the bus attack dried.

Saudi Arabia and some of its allies, including the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Sudan, launched a brutal war, code-named Operation Decisive Storm, against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, Yemen's former president and a staunch ally of Riyadh, and crush the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The movement has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective administration during the past three years. The imposed war initially consisted of a bombing campaign, but was later coupled with a naval blockade and the deployment of ground forces to Yemen.

Several Western countries, the United States and Britain in particular, are also accused of being complicit in the ongoing aggression as they supply the Riyadh regime with advanced weapons and military equipment as well as logistical and intelligence assistance.

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