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Item 10 – General Debate

Amnesty International's oral statement to the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council
(27 February-24 March 2017)

Mr President,

In the two years since the Saudi Arabia-led coalition launched airstrikes on the Huthi-armed group in Yemen, over 12,000 civilians have been killed or injured.¹

All parties to the conflict have committed serious violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law, some of which should be investigated as war crimes.

Amnesty International is concerned that the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's [Joint Incidents Assessment Team \(JIAT\)](#)² and the Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry appear to fall short of international standards, in particular with regard to transparency and impartiality.

Human Rights Council resolution 33/16 requesting the High Commissioner to allocate additional human rights experts to his Office in Yemen to complement the work of the national commission, and establish the facts and circumstances of alleged violations and abuses was a positive step. However, it does not provide for a fully-fledged, impartial and independent investigative mechanism able to contribute to a process of justice, accountability and reparation.

Amnesty International urges members of this Council to support the High Commissioner's call³ for the establishment of an international investigative body which can establish the facts about alleged violations by all parties to the conflict and identify alleged perpetrators to ensure justice and accountability.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Press briefing notes on Thailand and Yemen", 28 February 2017, <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21244&LangID=E>

² Amnesty International, *Yemen: Amnesty International's response to the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's investigations*, 16 January 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/5494/2017/en/>

³ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 'Civilians in Yemen caught between warring parties', 10 February 2017, <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21163&LangID=E>