

TRUMP'S YEMEN STRIKE KILLED 61 IMMIGRANTS AND NO COMBATANTS

The attack on Sa'ada detention center violated humanitarian law and should be investigated as a war crime, says Amnesty International.

[Nick Turse](#)

October 28 2025, 8:01 p.m.



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THE U.S. MILITARY attacked an immigrant detention center in Yemen earlier this year, killing and injuring dozens of Ethiopian civilians, according to a new report by Amnesty International shared with The Intercept. Conducted during the Trump administration's campaign of air and naval strikes – codenamed Operation Rough Rider – against Yemen's Houthi government, the strike constituted an indiscriminate attack under international humanitarian law and should be investigated as a war crime, according to Amnesty.

“I was buried under the rubble and after about one hour my brother came and pulled me out,” one of the survivors told Amnesty. “I was bleeding. ... I had a head injury and I lost sight in one eye. ... It is a miracle we survived and got out of that place.” The April 28, 2025, strike on the facility in Sa'ada, in Yemen's northwest, killed 61 detainees and injured another 56, according to Houthi records.

“This was a lethal failure by the U.S. to comply with one of its core obligations under international humanitarian law: to do everything feasible to verify whether the object attacked was a military objective,” said Kristine Beckerle, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, who called on the United States to investigate the attack as a war crime. “The harrowing testimonies from survivors paint a clear picture of a civilian building packed with

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