



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Impact of 9/11 on Human Rights in the Arab Region

Prepared by

Anti-Hate Speech Unit at Maat

Introduction

The world is experiencing the twenty-second anniversary of one of the most significant global events in American political history¹. The event that caused 19 terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda to destabilize the prevailing image of American supremacy, shaking it to its core and demonstrating that even the most formidable military, economic, and security powers can be vulnerable to acts of terrorism. At a time when the United States held the reins of all international policies, it woke up to the shock of four planes hitting three of its landmarks in different parts of the country within a few minutes between each strike. The first strike on the North Tower of the World Trade Center occurred at 8:46 AM, while the strike on the South Tower came immediately after that at 9:03 AM. Then, at 9:37 AM, the Pentagon hit the US Department of Defense, while the fourth plane crashed in a forest in the state of Pennsylvania², allegedly intended to target the headquarters of the House and Senate in Washington³.

Andrew Cord, the White House Chief of Staff, used the phrase "America is under attack" to depict the scale of the sudden upheaval that gripped the nation within moments⁴. In just two hours, the United States witnessed the loss of nearly three thousand lives⁵, alongside the tragic collapse of the iconic Twin Towers, and the destruction of the western side of the US Department of Defense building⁶. These were not just the losses caused by the incident, but its repercussions cast shadows on the sovereignty of many countries, destroying the lives of innocents and depriving thousands of their most basic right, which is "life." Unexpectedly, this became the winning card for the United States, allowing it to justify all its actions under the pretext of revenge, disregarding all its claims of democracy, freedom, and human rights.

¹ 20 years since the events of September 11: The Secretary-General pays tribute to first responders who made the highest sacrifices, United Nations, September 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/4z9byucx>

² Minute by minute...the terrifying moments of the September 11 attacks, Sky News Arabia, September 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/yc4n6bx5>

³ September 11, 2001 attacks: What happened that day?, BBC News Arabic, August 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/h2sy2h4w>

⁴ He told Bush that 'America is under attack', nbc news, Sep 2010. <https://tinyurl.com/5n7y3ex8>

⁵ US honors victims of the September 11 attacks in New York, Euronews, and September 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/mue4ys5k>

⁶ Ibid

First: What is behind the September 11 attacks?

Several decades back, we find that the United States set up a trap for jihadist organizations to dismantle the Soviet Union, then received its share from them later on⁷. Al-Qaeda's roots trace back to 1987 when it emerged from the "Afghan Jihadist"⁸ who not only received American material support; but also received intelligence, training, and most possible forms of support⁹:

- In 1987, US intelligence funded more than half a billion dollars in advanced military aid to the jihadist .

- It provided advanced logistical and military training, most of which took place on the Pakistani-Afghan border and included support for many Afghan leaders, including Najm al-Din Hekmatyar; the senior partner of Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda. They cooperated to supply the numbers receiving American military training during the transfer of many From the Arab Jihadist to the border with Pakistan. Later, bin Laden began carrying out these exercises on the United States in particular, advising in a special statement in 1998 that "if anyone can kill any American soldier, it is better for him than wasting time on other matters¹⁰."

From a distance, we can confirm that the United States of America is responsible for all terrorist operations that have harmed the Arab region, as it was the one that opened the door for them by its support until they dominated the world in an unprecedented manner. Many jihadist fighters trained in Afghanistan began to return to countries like Egypt, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia, and form such organizations after being saturated with aggressive jihadist experiences at the military and planning levels¹¹. The Egyptian leader who was at the forefront of the attackers had received training in Afghanistan within Al-Qaeda camps, on the use of weapons, explosives, and document forgery in 1997¹².

⁷ From "Al-Qaeda" to "ISIS"... The American magic turns against its maker (tables turned)

. America supported the "Taliban" against Iranian and Soviet influence before the clash. And "Bin Laden" obtained 6 billion from the "CIA" before the attack on the Twin Towers. Trade, Youm7, August 2015 <http://tinyurl.com/fmhh39u>

⁸ Al-Qaeda: establishment, history and leaders, Al Jazeera, March 2015 <http://tinyurl.com/yhdzm59p>

⁹ Afghan Mujahideen and the Islamic Awakening, Al-Shorouk, May 2022. <http://tinyurl.com/ndxh972h>

¹⁰ Osama bin Laden, Al Jazeera, March 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/2e6t92hw>

¹¹ AL-QAEDA INTERNATIONAL, FBI, Dec 2001. <http://tinyurl.com/427f5jk>

¹² Who are the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks? They are 19 in number and led by an Egyptian, Arab Sputnik, September 2021 <http://tinyurl.com/yhesra6v>

Apart from this indirect support, there are other claims suggesting that the entire events were fabricated through a collaboration between the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its agent, the leader of Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden. These claims argue that the attack on the Pentagon was not carried out with a hijacked plane as commonly believed, but rather with a missile that caused significant damage to both lives and the building¹³.

Second: The consequences of the attacks of September 11, 2001 on human rights in the Arab region

The consequences of the September 11 attacks were not only dire, but they were painful and painful for people who are still suffering from their pain to this day. The aftermath of the September attacks resembled a chronic disease that no matter how much time passes, it does not disappear or heal, but only subsides with temporary treatments, because they took on a direct and indirect nature, or more precisely, the "unforeseen." It was undeniable that the ramifications of this catastrophe would affect everyone. It didn't take long for the United States' policies to swiftly incinerate anyone hindering what they termed as a "response or retaliation," represented in:

1. The war on terrorism

The war that American President "George Bush" called for in front of Congress following the September 11 attacks in 2001, started with the words, "Our war on terrorism begins with al-Qaeda, but it doesn't stop there, and it won't end until all terrorist groups with global reach are identified, stopped, and defeated¹⁴."

The war was expressed by the former Minister of Environment in the government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair as "the war waged by Washington against terrorism is used as a false cover to achieve broader American political strategic goals¹⁵." Indeed, this war was nothing but an innovative American tool that the United States has not been able to recover from until now, which is "addiction to intervention in other countries' affairs to further their

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¹⁴ The War on Terror speech... How did Bush's famous speech change the Middle East region?, Youm7, September 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/2wc8mytu>

¹⁵ Burning the devil and the invasion of Iraq...do they suggest the "conspiracy" in the September attacks? Independent Arabia, September 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/k85eau7t>

interests and control globally, adorned with the curtain of defending human rights worldwide, even if no state entrusted it with that¹⁶.

2. Occupation of Iraq

The United States of America decided to blame the governments of countries with strategic interests for the September 11 attacks, so that it would have a definitive justification for war against them. Even if this does not justify it at all, it would violate a state's right to sovereignty and its people's security under international law. In addition to the American Intelligence Service's inability to provide concrete evidence of this connection, everything it has produced is mere unsubstantiated allegations, casting doubt on its credibility. The main pretext for it was the connection between one of the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks, "Mohamed Atta was among the Iraqi officials who provided the plotters with passports and logistical facilities after they were impressed by the targeting of the two American embassies in 1998. Atta met with an Iraqi official in Prague to agree on cooperation. Importantly, these claims were made without solid proof, and their falsehood was uncovered a year after the October 2002 war¹⁷. However, the American administration worked to convince Americans of the legitimacy of the war on Iraq, despite the fact that American intelligence was unable to find a single piece of evidence for that. This persuasion escalated to the point where 69% of Americans believed at the time that Saddam Hussein was "personally" involved in the 9/11 attack, and 82% believed that Saddam assisted Osama bin Laden¹⁸. It is worth noting that this will and insistence stemmed from British Prime Minister Tony Blair's pressure on US President George Bush to obtain evidence of Iraq's fingerprints on the September 11 attack and its connection to Al-Qaeda, until it objected to the Security Council not approving its request to take military action against Iraq. It struck it with 29,166 missiles and bombs until it destroyed the infrastructure, exhausted the lives of between 200,000¹⁹ and one million people, and forced more than 9 million to flee their homes²⁰. Violations of human rights in Iraq were not limited to direct killings, but US military documents on the war in Iraq indicated that hundreds of Iraqi civilians were killed at checkpoints established by US forces following the invasion. This is

¹⁶ Washington's Addiction to Interference in the Affairs of States, the Reporter, April 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/4r9cza2s>

¹⁷ "Atta in Prague"... How was the lie about the connection between Saddam Hussein and Al-Qaeda made?, Al Jazeera, March 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/3d3putpp>

¹⁸ 9/11 and Iraq: The making of a tragedy, brookings, sep 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/mrdyx6hv>

¹⁹ The 2003 Iraq War... Violation of international law due to false pretexts!, DW, March 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/y2jtc54p>

²⁰ Iraq War points to Washington's worst violation of human rights, chinadaily, March 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/4d64v7u6>

in addition to arbitrary arrests of Iraqis and deadly torture methods that included the use of electric shocks, drills, burning, waterboarding, sleep deprivation, sexual humiliation, and attacking prisoners while they were tied up with dogs. There were even special teams trained to kill and torture in Iraqi prisons²¹. The US Department of Defense did not hide this, but worked to prove it by publishing 198 photos showing brutal torture in February 2016, while it did not want to publish hundreds of other photos²².

3. American violations in Yemen

In Yemen, unlike the situation in Iraq, the United States played the deceptive savior policy in this case. Despite not initially using direct intervention policy, it professionally planned for this war and worked on controlling and setting Yemen's policies from afar without appearing in the political scene. This scene was not hidden from the world even before the exposure of leaked secret documents, not only revealing the involvement of the United States in the Saada wars but also its leadership in what was disclosed about the direct military participation of the United States in the war²³, as well as American reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft over Saada city before and during the wars²⁴. The decision to engage in war was issued by the United States itself following the preparatory meeting that brought together former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and former US President George Bush during Yemen's participation in the G-8 summit in Georgia just six days before the war²⁵. This American strategy is part of the counterterrorism policy following the bombing of the American destroyer USS Cole in October 2000, where 17 American sailors lost their lives and around 40 crew members were injured. The United States attributed this incident to Al-Qaeda based on investigations conducted by 100 agents from the counterterrorism department, the FBI laboratory, and several field offices deployed to Yemen²⁶.

²¹ US Forces Ignored Human Rights Violations in Iraqi Government Prisons," BBC News, October 2010.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhjhrac>

²² Torture, humiliation, and horrific violations... 5 years after the publication of more scandals from Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, Al Jazeera, February 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8cttrb>

²³ See the documents: The direct American role in the war on the Qur'anic project + (details), Ibb News, February 2023.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7mfpk5>

²⁴ Secret documents reveal America's leadership in the wars on Saada, "the second series," Yemeni Press Agency, February 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/mt3kkrh9>

²⁵ The war against the martyr leader is distinctly American...and these are its facts and details, Al-Thawra, February 2023.

²⁶ USS Cole Bombing, Fbi, <https://tinyurl.com/y2x5z4zz>

The American support for the war quickly began to appear publicly, whether through the reception of American leaders, generals, and congressional employees in Sanaa, or through successive statements by leaders confirming full American support for the authority in Sanaa, culminating in leaked documents revealing the military and logistical support provided by the United States to the Yemeni government, including the dispatch of a "counter-terrorism" unit trained by America to Saada with Hill Aircraft to carry out any emergency mission²⁷.

4. Sudan is on the US list of states sponsoring terrorism

We cannot limit the United States' human rights violations in Sudan after the September attacks. The sanctions imposed by Washington on Sudan under the pretext of accusing it of sponsoring terrorism date back to the year 1988, which intensified when it included it on the list of states sponsoring terrorism in 1993. Despite the cooperation agreement in combating terrorism between Washington and Khartoum in 2001²⁸, American sanctions continued on the pretext of Sudan's human rights violations for nearly three decades until Sudan was removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism in December 2020 after Khartoum agreed to pay compensation of \$335 million for the Al-Qaeda attacks on Washington's embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998²⁹. Although the determination to take this decision was due to Sudan severing its relationship with Iran, the enemy of the United States³⁰. The US's claims of upholding human rights and fighting terrorism seem to be disregarded when it conflicts with its own interests. The economic and trade sanctions that it imposed on Sudan for nearly three decades without paying attention to the conditions of innocent civilians and children there caused an inflationary crisis that made citizens suffer from unemployment that led most families to fall below the poverty line, in addition to issuing a decision in 2006 to seize funds of 133 Sudanese companies and individuals in the same year³¹. Moreover, it violated the Sudanese citizen's right to access information because it imposed semi-isolation on Sudanese citizens from the world through its sanctions related to educational exchange, which limited access to information

²⁷ America and its direct role in the war against the Qur'anic project, Sheba, February 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/a7vs8t6w>

²⁸ Learn about the history of US sanctions imposed on Sudan since 1988, Al Bawaba News, October 2017 <https://tinyurl.com/yhxasrfa>

²⁹ Facts - Sudan removed from the US list of states sponsoring terrorism, Reuters, December 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/u8jv3uaj>

³⁰ In pictures.. The story of US sanctions on Sudan in 20 years, Youm7, October 2017 <https://tinyurl.com/yja69a6s>

³¹ A timeline of US sanctions on Sudan, BBC News Arabic, July 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/ycywhezx>

and closed many websites, which deprived an entire generation of their right to education and caused many academics to migrate to keep up with their peers abroad³². We cannot overlook the United States' role in Sudan's suffering from the collapse of the pharmaceutical industry and the spread of diseases after targeting Sudan's largest pharmaceutical factory in 1998, "Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory," which provides more than fifty percent of the Sudanese drug market needs, by claiming its production of chemicals and its connection to Al-Qaeda³³, a claim that was later proven to be nothing more than another series of misinformation spread by the United States intelligence in Washington³⁴.

³² US sanctions hinder higher education in Sudan, Al-Fanar Media, July 2016 <https://tinyurl.com/48n6ecb7>

³³ American Trouble in Sudan: Written by Faye Sarah, Al-Bayan, September 1998. <https://tinyurl.com/3xf4nfhs>

³⁴ Al-Shifa Factory owner sues the US government, Salah Idris demands \$50 million in compensation, Al-Bayan, July 2000. <https://tinyurl.com/yc65fvfa>