48. While the tactics contained in the industry publication *Best Management Practices for Protection against Somalia Based Piracy* (BMP 4)\(^\text{46}\) will protect vessels, to some degree, against attempted boarding by small groups of armed militants or pirates, they will not provide protection against attacks involving waterborne improvised explosive devices, anti-ship missiles,\(^\text{47}\) land based anti-tank guided missiles or sea mines.

III. Armed groups and military units

49. Pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 2140 (2014), and as reiterated by the Security Council in its resolutions 2216 (2015), 2266 (2016) and 2342 (2017), the Panel continues to investigate individuals and entities associated with armed groups who may be engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen.

A. Yemeni Government and Saudi Arabia-led coalition regular forces

50. Troops under the ostensible control of President Hadi routinely display the flag of an independent south Yemen. At times, they have referred to the former Governor of Aden and current Head of the Southern Transitional Council, Aydarus al-Zubaydi,
A. Houthi-Saleh “land missile campaign”

1. Overview

80. The strategic “land missile campaign” of the Houthi-Saleh alliance against Saudi Arabia continued during 2017, although at a reduced level of intensity (64 per cent of the level in 2016). The Houthi-Saleh alliance continues to demonstrate a mobile short-range ballistic missile or free flight rocket capability to strike at Saudi Arabia. This has a strategic impact by: (a) demonstrating a defensive weakness on the part of Saudi Arabia to this threat, and compelling it to deploy disproportionately costly counter-measures to protect itself from such attacks; (b) demonstrating the vulnerability of the Saudi Arabian civilian population to such attacks; (c) countering inaccurate Saudi Arabia-led coalition claims to have destroyed the missile stockpiles in 2015, thus undermining the credibility of their wider media operations; and (d) demonstrating that the Houthi-Saleh alliance is capable of directly threatening Saudi Arabia. A summary of reported and confirmed launches of short-range ballistic missiles and free flight rockets is contained in annex 34 to the present report. Figure III illustrates launches of short-range ballistic missiles only.

Figure III
Launches of short-range ballistic missiles: 2015–2017

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97 The free flight rockets are the improvised S-75 Dvina surface-to-air missile, referred to by the Houthis as Qaher-1 missiles (see S/2017/81, para. 81 and annex 42).
E. Attacks inside hospitals

183. The Panel investigated two incidents, in which two seriously ill patients were assassinated inside the Revolution Hospital on 24 March 2017 and 13 December 2017 (see confidential annex 67).

184. In Sana’a, following the death of Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Panel is investigating incidents in which injured persons were killed inside hospitals. Wounded, sick and out of action personnel are protected under international humanitarian law.\(^{193}\)

F. Recruitment and use of children in armed conflict

185. The Panel investigated individuals and networks operating in Yemen that engage in child recruitment. The Panel has identified two individuals who recruited a total of five children on behalf of Houthi forces (see annex 68 and confidential annex 69). The Panel finds, based on their analysis over the past year, that these cases are representative of a much larger problem.

\(^{193}\) See common article 3 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and article 7(1) of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II).
Annex 17: Conflict Map of Bayda

1 Developed by the Panel.
Figure B.58.6
Imagery on 18 August 2017

Figure B.58.7
Imagery on 27 August 2017

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77 Satellite imagery obtained by Panel.
78 Ibid.
10. The lack of transparency for these transfers, combined with official denials of the presence of individual detainees and/or detention sites at certain locations, create an environment conducive for enforced disappearances. For example, families said that they were aware of detainees being present in some sites, for example, al-Rayyan UAE base or Bureiq base or Bureiaq UAE base, based on information received from former detainees or Yemeni officials who were involved in the transfers, but the UAE had not, to date, provided identification information on detainees held in these detention sites to families.18 The Panel also met with fourteen families who were informed that their disappeared relatives were in UAE administered or controlled prisons.19

11. The Panel finds that is no evidence that the UAE and/or Yemeni forces are taking the appropriate precautions required under international law, when engaging in the transfer of control of detainees into each other’s

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17 Image: Panel of Experts. Bir Ahmed I was described by detainees, while Bir Ahmed II was located using satellite imagery, based on descriptions provided by detainees and open source images.

18 Interviews with multiple family members who directly engaged with the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces in Aden and Mukalla on seeking information on the fate of their loved ones. Initially, these forces were cooperative with families (for example, in Mukalla, in December 2016, coalition forces requested families to provide detainee lists), but later, they refused to engage, according to these families.

19 Information provided to the families by other former detainees or security personnel. One detainee was witnessed by a relative entering the Bureiaq UAE base, his whereabouts are since unknown.
D. Security Belt of Lahij

14. The Government of Yemen considers the Security Belt as an instrument of the State under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. In detention related investigations, the Panel has not yet identified any detainee transfers between the UAE and the Security Belt in Lahij.

15. The Panel finds that in 2017, the Security Belt in Lahij was responsible for the death of a 16-year-old, enforced disappearance of another individual, and four extra-judicial executions. The Security Belt in Lahij was also involved in the death of a 14-year-old child whose younger brother was alleged to be an AQAP affiliate. For Colonel Hader al-Shukhaty is the Commander of the Security Belt in Lahij (see annex 6)

24 Source: Imagery obtained by the Panel. 7 November 2017.