



# SAUDI ARABIA

*and*

# THE YEMEN CONFLICT

## **FACT SHEET: MILITARY TARGETING AND THE REDUCTION OF CIVILIAN CAUSALITIES**

MAY 2017

## **Target Selection**

Saudi Arabia has taken several steps to create a more thorough vetting process for target selection and validation for the Saudi-led Coalition's operations in Yemen. This process is meant to ensure that the Coalition:

- Adheres to the Law of Armed Conflict;
- Expands the 'No Strike List' now at over 33,000 targets;
- Enhances target criteria such as Damage Assessment and Collateral Damage Estimates;
- Observes the implementation of stricter Rules of Engagement.

The Coalition has implemented additional vetting criteria for time-sensitive targets. These criteria place extra responsibilities on Coalition pilots before conducting a mission.

The Coalition adheres to a no-strike list that includes over 33,000 targets, as referenced above. This list includes locations provided by U.N. and other humanitarian organizations on the ground in Yemen, in addition to locations collected by the Coalition. Furthermore, the Coalition is constantly updating this list and adding locations to it.

Currently, the Coalition seeks to align its targeting practices and personnel training with NATO standards, and only personnel that meet these rigorous standards are involved in target selection.



## U.S. Cooperation

Additionally, the Coalition is in regular consultation with the United States government regarding U.S. assistance in the vetting process. Saudi Arabia and the Coalition welcome the opportunity to grant access to U.S. personnel to the Air Operations Center, and any other facilities where targeting is approved, to observe the decision-making process implementation of such procedures.

The Coalition believes that increased U.S. support for coalition operations, including assistance in vetting targets, will increase the effectiveness of operations, and more importantly reduce mistakes.

Investigations: The Coalition has implemented recommendations of the Joint Incident Assessment Team (JIAT), which is responsible for investigating any incidents where it is alleged that Coalition operations have targeted civilians. The JIAT's findings have been made public. The aforementioned steps were largely instituted based on JIAT recommendations.