

**Which Health? : A Content Analysis Evaluation on the Syria and Yemen Civil Wars**İzzet Erdem<sup>1</sup>, Ayşe İspirli<sup>2</sup>, Fatma Taş<sup>3</sup>**Abstract**

Civil war is at the forefront of non-human atrocities that have destroyed societies and individuals in both physically and spiritually. Particularly in Syria, one of the parties that have exposed the people to violence and massacre makes the issue of the government of the country an even more graver and tragic. Assad Regime is used for all types of heavy weapons as well as chemical attacks against civilians. Organ losses, injuries and irreparable physical damage have begun to appear to be almost normal in areas of war. In Yemen, starvation, thirst, absence of medical supplies caused epidemics such as cholera.

The method of study consists of a qualitative research method of document review. TRT's news site [www.trthaber.com](http://www.trthaber.com) between September 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 subject to content analysis on Syria and Yemen. The meaning of health in the domestic warfare is critically questioned. The relationship between war and health is tried to be put forward.

**Keywords:**

Civil war, Syria, Yemen, health, massacre

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## **PURPOSE**

The aim of this study; The massacre in Syria and Yemen is the critical question of what health means sociologically for the atrocities and oppression.

## **METHOD**

The method of study consists of a qualitative research method of document review. A document review refers to an analysis of sources containing information about the subject being searched (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2008). Document analysis has been preferred because it provides enough information and time saving about the research topic. Thus, TRT's news site [www.trthaber.com](http://www.trthaber.com) between September 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 subject to content analysis on Syria and Yemen. The reason why the news is examined for four consecutive months is that it is a process of war, which is the subject of investigation. In this way the process is considered to be better understood.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

In total, 122 new documents which were published in the last 4 months of 2017, were subjected to categorised analyze. The categorised analyze means the division of a message into units and to classify these units due to certain criteria. ( Bilgin, 2014)

## **INTRODUCTION**

War has become a comprehensive and dynamic concept, which has been exist with the humanity, has changed throughout the history and has been different in terms of method and practice. (Eker, 2015) The wars cause many destruction that cannot be compensated. The impact of this destruction is more evident in children who need adults for their needs. Injuries and deaths as a result of conflicts can be defined as the direct impact of the war. This effect is felt more intensely near the war zone. Other problems arise for civilians who may move away from the war zone. (Oğuz et al., 2016 ) Children are most affected ones by the results of armed conflicts. The environment of war and violence affects even unborn children (Çelik & Özpınar, 2017).

## **THE SITUATION SYRIA AND YEMEN**

In the Middle East in December 2010, popular uprisings in Tunisia began to be known as the Arab Spring. While the governments in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen changed, armed non-state actors in the Middle East brought regional instability and chaos (Semin, 2015: 1). Syria is another country where this uncertainty continued since 2011. In Yemen, the severity of violence and war has increased gradually with Ali Abdullah Salih leaving the seat.

The efforts of international organizations, especially the United Nations, the European Union and the Arab League, as well as the global powers, have failed to solve the Syrian crisis (Göker & Keskin, 2015), which started with public demonstrations in March 2011 and became a civil war (Semin, 2015: 1). Thus, the last stop of the revolt in the Middle East was Syria (Orhan, 2011). Terrorist organizations have been produced in the region by the authority gap and the arming of the great states. It is known that one of

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these organizations, Deas, has captured a large number of women in northern Syria and Iraq, sold most of them or forced them to marry, and these women and their little girls were raped (Puttick, 2015).

Since the beginning of the war in Syria, where torture and ill-treatment in prisons has been out of control, more than 120,000 people have been imprisoned or lost, and at least 12,000 people have been killed in prison. More than 20,000 children have lost their lives in the country where chemical weapons, marble and barrel bombs are used. One third of the houses and the half of the hospitals and educational institutions were destroyed in Syria, where a great deal of destruction and victimization were experienced under the conflict of interests of global powers (IHH Syria Annual Report, 2017).

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and members of a coalition it established (hereinafter referred to as the Saudi-led coalition) launched a military operation aimed at restoring the rule of Yemen's internationally recognized President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi (Sharp, 2017). There is a power struggle in Yemen due to regional interests between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Ülke'de İran destekli hükümet karşıtı Husiler ile Suudi Arabistan'ın desteklediği hükümet güçleri arasında savaş devam etmektedir. Yemen people pay the price of this war Because of the embargo of Saudi Arabia in the country, millions have been left with hundreds of hunger, thirst and illness (Salisbury, 2015).

### **CIVIL WAR AND HEALTH**

One of the most well-known and popular definitions of health is the definition of the World Health Organization. Health) A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity state (WHO, 2014). According to the Biomedical Model; biological self-health is evaluated as healthy state and disruption of this balance is considered as a disease or medical condition (Pearson et al., 2005: 44). According to Bircher (2005: 336) the health; Age is a dynamic well-being characterized by a physical, mental and social potential that meets the demands of life in proportion to culture and personal responsibility. It is a condition where the potential is not sufficient to meet these demands. Baudrillard (2010: 177) emphasizes the social determinants of health and defines the healthġ "Health is a social command based on status rather than a biological command that is bound to survival today. Health is more of a burden than a basic value."

It seems rather vicious and meaningless to draw the concept of health for the people who resist to death in the geographies where war and brutality prevail. What does health mean for a helpless Syrian woman who has no home or her goods, who has lost her children and husband and has been raped, and starving Yemeni child? The explanation of the meaning of health for the people of these two countries, who are living their lives biologically, with pain, trauma and meaningless, do not seem possible.



**FINDINGS**

The distribution of the news examined between 1 September 2017 and 31 December 2017 is given in Table 1.

Table 1: *Distribution of News by Months*

<b>Months</b>	<b>News Numbers</b>	<b>%</b>
September	17	13,9
October	18	14,8
November	30	24,6
December	57	46,7
Total	122	100

As seen in Table 1, the number of news stories in Syria and Yemen increased towards the end of the year. It can be concluded that more real events (explosion, conflict, negotiation, attack, explanation, etc.) related to civil war have taken place as of 2018.

In the study, basically 4 basic dimensions were obtained.

Table 2: *Main Dimensions*

<b>Dimensions</b>
1. Efforts
2. Problems
3. Attacks
4. Massacres

**1. Efforts**

Efforts; It consists of all kinds of actual or verbal attempts made or planned for Syria and Yemen. This dimension consists of 3 categories:

- 1. Turkey's efforts
- 2. International efforts
- 3. Local efforts in Syria and Yemen

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## **2. Problems**

The problems point to the war and any material and spiritual problems that come with war. The problems were categorized under 4 headings. These are:

1. Economic problems
2. Social problems
3. Psychological problems
4. Child problems

## **3. Attacks**

Attacks: Express the attacks against the civilian and vulnerable people made by the coalition forces, government forces, terrorist groups and the countries that support them with all kinds of weapons and war vehicles.

The attackers are also classified under 4 headings.

1. Attacks on health institutions
2. Attacks on public spaces
3. Attacks on civil defence team
4. Attacks on religious minorities

## **4. Massacres**

Massacres: It means the collective death of a group of civilians at the same time in result of any kind of attack. These massacres are carried out especially with bombs and chemical weapons thrown out from planes. The UN has not had any sanctions against the regime for the use of chemical weapons. Types of massacres are listed below:

1. Chemical weapons
2. Heavy weapons
3. Torture
4. Suicide

## **CONCLUSION**

Since the last century in the history of the Middle East, drama, savagery and massacre social traumas have never ended. Still, it does not seem to end. The biggest indescribable pain is suffered by innocent civilians. The fact that the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (USA, France, Britain, China and Russia) did not take concrete steps to solve the Syrian crisis allowed the Assad regime to carry out major massacres in the civil war in the country (Semin, 2015: 2). Hundreds of health centers and hospitals have been destroyed due to bombings, and doctors have died. Because of non-medication, operations have been performed without sedation (IHH Syria Annual Report, 2017: 27). Hundreds of thousands of people who are unable to meet basic requirements such as food, water, electricity, fuel and medical supplies in Yemen and Syria due to the war; struggles for survival in hunger, disease and poverty



(Çevik, 2016: 82). In Syria, the women captured by the ISIS terrorist organization are raped and sold. It is reported that there are people who died from torture in the regime's prisons. Chemical attacks were carried out hundreds of times by the regime forces. In Yemen, starving babies and children die before the world. Nearly 8 million people are deprived of basic foodstuffs. Although there is limited international assistance, it meets the needs of very few people. Sometimes these aids cannot reach those in need.

Various definitions have been made by the world health organization and different authors about the concept of health. However, it is thought that these definitions in the war environment could not reveal a descriptive and diagnostic situation for oppressed and victimized civilians in the disease-health axis. Due to the fact that many traumas and pain cannot be described and explained, it is not possible to limit the health-disease severity of these people. How the health-disease definition can be explain in the condition of people whose wife, mother, child and brother have been killed, who were wounded by the bombs and bullets that they dont know where it comes from, who were starved, raped, tortured, abducted, and enslaved?

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