

التحالف اليمني لرصد
انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان

Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring
Human Rights Violations



Torture to Death Yemen 2017



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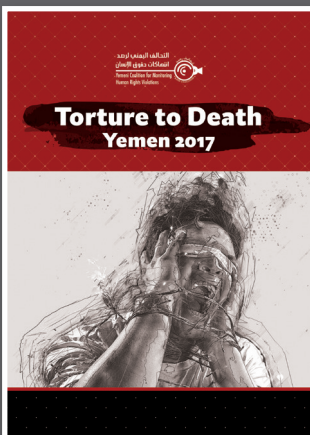
A Report on the Crimes of Torture to Death in Yemen
Between 1 January and 31 December 2017

التحالف اليمني لمرصد
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Human Rights Violations



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Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV), also known as “Rasd Coalition”, is a coalition of a number of specialized Yemeni NGOs active in human rights issues including monitoring and documenting human rights violations in the country. YCMHRV was established in January 2015, License No. 1240 in response to valid need in the field of human rights, and considering the deteriorating human rights situation is Yemen, the matter that necessitated establishment of such Coalition. YCMHRV monitors and documents all human rights violations in Yemen and issues specialized reports on them. Also, organizes seminars and various events to disseminate and publicize these reports. YCMHRV submits these reports to relevant concerned entities. Noting that the first step in bringing justice to victims is to document their grievances for the moment of truth, committing ourselves in this respect with relevant human rights standards and laws.

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Summary

Torture and other ill- treatment continue to be used by the Houthi-Saleh militia, terrorist groups and, to a lesser extent, the pro-Hadi government forces. Torture crimes continue to be widespread in prisons, detention centers in Yemen where human rights conditions have deteriorated following the takeover of Yemen's legitimate government by the Houthi-Saleh militias and the ensuing conflict between the pro-Hadi government forces backed up by the Arab Coalition forces on the one hand, and the Houthi-Saleh militias on the other. By the end of 2017, the Houthi-Saleh alliance suffered a crackdown, which ended in the killing of ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh on 4 December 2017 at the hands of his allies, the Houthi group.

This report documents the monitoring process of 28 victims of torture to death between 1 January and 31 December 2017. Out of these 28 victims, 22 were men aged between 19 and 49 years as well as two children and one elderly person.

These cases of torture victims were documented in (11) Yemeni governorates, with (5) cases in Ibb, (4) in Hodeidah and Sa'ada each, (3) in Amanah (the Capital Secretariat), Taiz and Aden each, and (2) in Hajjah, while the other (4) cases were documented in Abyan, Al-Bayda, Shabwah and Amran with one case in each governorate.

The victims, who were tortured to death – and mentioned herein, were all civilian noncombatants, working as farmers, fishermen,

entrepreneurs (workshop owners), workers, teachers, former soldiers, and activists. Most of them were also married and had and children.

Most of the abusive incidents against the victims of torture begin with abduction, detention and enforced disappearance. None of the torture victims was allowed any form of contact with the outside world, relatives, or any other human rights groups. Most victims' families were unable to obtain information about the fate or place of their detained relatives, especially in view of the frequent inter-district or inter-governorate transfers of the detainees.

Of the 28 victims who died of torture- documented in this report- the Houthi-Saleh group was responsible for the torture and death of 22 victims, while the pro-legitimate government forces were responsible for the torture and death of five victims and one victim died of torture by terrorist groups.

Compared to the number of victims of torture to death by the Houthi-Saleh militias, the number of torture victims in areas controlled by the pro-legitimate government forces appears to be lower. However, these cases remain alarming as human rights are being violated in cities and areas under the authority of the legitimate government.

This report concludes with a number of recommendations for the different parties to the conflict, human rights groups as well

as international organizations and institutions to take the necessary actions so as to end abduction, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and to prevent further deaths in prisons and detention centers.

Introduction

The human rights conditions in Yemen have rapidly worsened following the take-over of the Yemeni Capital on 21 September 2014 by the Houthi-Saleh militias, and the ensuing armed conflict between the pro-Hadi government forces backed up with the Arab Coalition forces on the one hand and the militias responsible for the coup on the other.

Since then and until writing this report, the Houthi forces and terrorist groups continue to violate the international humanitarian and human rights laws and continue to go unpunished. Hundreds and rather thousands of people, the vast majority of whom are civilians, have suffered imprisonment, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, physical and psychological torture, and other forms of inhuman and ill-treatment.

This report highlights «torture» as a heinous crime and a very serious physical and psychological abuse, to which a number of detainees held in prisons and detention centers continue to be subjected in Yemen. This universally condemned practice represents a serious violation of the inherent human right to life and has led to the death of a number of Yemeni citizens between 1 January and 31 December 2017.

The main objective of this report is to monitor and document the violations committed against some of the victims of torture to draw the attention to their conditions inside prisons and detention centers, in areas under the control of various parties to the conflict in Yemen.

The number of victims, who died of torture and who are included in this report, is not inclusive of all cases of torture to death in Yemen during the reporting period. However, it represents the extent of enormity and widespread of the crime among the parties to the conflict. The monitoring team of the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations has successfully monitored and documented the cases of torture to death in spite of all the difficulties they have faced in the process. The first and foremost of the difficulties is the inaccessibility of torture- to- death victims especially in the areas where these crimes are committed, under the control of the Houthi-Saleh militias that in turn refuse to allow any human rights advocacy to be carried out in the areas under their control. The other difficulty they have faced is the refusal of some of the victims' families to give any information about the abuses their relatives suffered for fear of reprisal by the perpetrators of these crimes.

This report could, therefore, provide an indication of the vulnerability of thousands of people held in prisons and detention centers, especially in light of the on- going armed conflict in Yemen.

The Methodology of the Report:

This is a systematically methodological report. Figures and information provided by the report are based on the monitoring process of the violations against the victims of torture to death. Located in 20 governorates, the team of the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations was able to gather information about the cases of death in custody, in prisons and detention centers located in various regions. Following a series of interviews with families and relatives of the victims or with a number of witnesses, along with forensic specialists in torture and death cases in detention centers, it was clear that the Houthi leading field officers and their allies are responsible for the abduction, detention and torture of most of the victims in the Houthi-controlled areas.

First: Legal framework that criminalizes torture:

Yemen has ratified a number of international treaties and conventions relating to combating and criminalizing the acts of torture. Some of these conventions and treaties are as follows: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was ratified in Yemen in article No. 6 of its modified Constitution dated 29/9/1994, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (29/2/1987), the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (5/11/1991), Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (9/2/1987), Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

(9/2/1987), the four Geneva Conventions (16/7/1970), the two additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (17/4/1990) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1/5/1991).

1 - The most important provisions of the international human rights law that criminalize torture:

Article No. (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Article No. (5) of the same Declaration provides that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

The provisions of Article No. (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that, “every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.” The same Covenant stipulates that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article No. 7). All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person (Article (10), Paragraph (1)). It also stressed the inadmissibility of restricting the right to freedom from arbitrary killing, which is that this right cannot be disabled even in times of emergency (article 4).

Article No. (3) of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment stipulates that “No State may permit or tolerate torture or other cruel, inhuman or de-

grading treatment or punishment under any circumstances including public emergency.”

For the purposes of the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Article No. (1), Paragraph (1) defines torture as “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful».

2-The most important provisions of the international humanitarian law that combat and criminalize torture:

The Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Two Protocols to the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Victims of International and Non-International Armed Conflicts, prohibit all states from engaging in torture. Article No. (3) common to the Four Geneva Conventions prohibits several acts that violate the physical and physiological integrity or practices that degrade humanity, or any arbitrary actions relating to detention and trial. Paragraphs (a) and (c) particular-

ly provide that the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever: “(a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture”, “(c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment”. This article applies to the government and the armed opposition forces.

Protocol II of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Article No. (4), Paragraph (2)) stipulates that parties to the conflict are prohibited from acts of violence to the life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder as well as cruel treatment such as torture, mutilation or any form of corporal punishment against the persons protected by international treaties.

3- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court approved in Rome on 17 July 1998:

The most serious crimes against the international community according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force in 2002, are as follows: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The statute defines torture and considers it as a crime against humanity and a war crime.

According to Article No. (7) of the Rome Statute, torture, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack, is a “crime against humanity”.

Whereas Paragraph (2- a) of Article No. (8) of the same Statute relative to the consideration of war crimes provides, «torture or inhuman treatment including biological testing» and «intentionally causing severe suffering or serious harm to the body or health» is a violations of the four Geneva Conventions within the jurisdiction of the Court on war crimes, when committed as part of a plan or policy or as part of a large-scale commission of such crimes.

4-Yemen's legal framework that criminalizes torture:

Article No. (6) of the Yemen Constitution stipulates that “the Republic of Yemen confirms its adherence to the UN Charter, the International Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the Arab League, and dogma of international law which are generally recognized.”

In accordance with the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen in effect (the amended Constitution of Yemen on 15/4/2001), Article No. (48) (Paragraph a) states that «the state shall guarantee to its citizens their personal freedom, preserve their dignity and their security. The law shall define the cases in which citizens' freedom may be restricted. Personal freedom cannot be restricted without the decision of a competent court of law.” The same Article, (Paragraph b), stipulates that: “any person whose freedom is restricted in any way must have his dignity protected. Physical and psychological torture is prohibited. Forcing confessions during investigations is forbidden” ...“Physical punishment and inhumane treatment

during arrest, detention or imprisonment are prohibited.”

The provisions of Article No. 6 of Law No. 13/ 1994, of the Penal Code states that “the torture of any person convicted or charged is prohibited, as well as inhumane treatment, or cause of bodily harm, or harm to morale, for the sake of obtaining an admission of guilt; any statement proven to have been committed by the accused, or any witnesses, under duress through any of these acts, shall be annulled and will not be relied upon accordingly.”

Generally, we can say that the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen guarantees the right to freedom, personal safety, personal security and dignity, access to justice, and the right to respect privacy. It prohibits arbitrary detentions as well as physical and moral torture. These provisions are included in such laws as: the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Civil Code, the Child Rights Act, etc.

Articles 149, 150, 151 and 153 of the Constitution entrust the Judiciary (independent and ordinary Courts and Prosecutors) with the institutional protection of human rights, and prohibit the establishment of exceptional courts.

Second: The victims of torture to death in prisons and detention centers:

1- The acts of torture to death in prisons and detention centers:

The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations was able to gather information related to the acts of torture to death and other forms of ill-treatment of victims, which can be summarized as follows:

- Most of those who were tortured to death in prisons and detention centers were abducted, detained in detention centers, in prisons like General Security, Political Security or in detentions belonging to those who abducted and detained them.
- All the victims of torture, who had been abducted and detained, died before they were able to contact their families or hire a lawyer to defend them. Their whereabouts had remained unknown ever since they were abducted and detained by the perpetrators. Their families were never informed about the place, the reasons for their detention, or even the charges against them.
- The victims of torture, who had been abducted and detained, were disappeared for a long or short span of time depending on the perpetrators' desire. Only when the victims died of extreme torture in the detention centers, or in the hospitals, to which they were admitted before they breathed their last,

would most of their families be informed about their whereabouts to receive the dead bodies. The families of only two of the victims, documented herein, were just informed about the whereabouts of their related victims when their health conditions had extremely deteriorated due to torture in custody. They both died in the hospitals where they were admitted.

- Before they died, the victims had suffered from extreme torture and ill-treatment in the detention centers as they were subjected to many different methods of torture. According to the statements of the victim>s family members or the medical reports, such methods include severe beatings with the hands, rifle butts, and wooden or sharp objects all over the body. Moreover, other methods include burning with fire, exposure to electric shocks, in addition to pouring hot water on the detainee>s body, which results in various injuries. As a method of torture, the detainees were also denied access to medical drugs, of which they were in bad need due to their suffering from chronic diseases. This method of torture is intended for squeezing confessions out of the victims, or punishing them for acts, which the abductors view as punishable by torture. Such acts include the tearing apart of the posters of the Houthi top leader and the yelling at a Houthi leading officer in the field, in defense of one>s self before being abducted, which cause a victim to be beaten up severely. Other acts include false and baseless accusations, such as, secretly communicating with the [Saudi-led] coalition, or supplying Daesh/ISIS elements with weapons, according to statements

by the victims' family members.

- Bodies of some of those victims, who had been tortured to death in detention centers, were dumped by the abductors in several places, including water wells, or on the streets/roads. The body of one of the victims, however, was mutilated, according to the statement of the victim's relatives.

Some incidents of torture to death

Khaled Mohamed Haider Qura'ah: A 33- year- old man from the district of Otma in Dhamar Governorate, Khaled was a former soldier in the Republican Guard Forces. Even though Khaled was forced to work as a bus driver after the cessation of the salaries of civil and military servants, the militia responsible for the coup convicted him of supplying weapons to the members of Daesh (ISIS) (Daeshi is a word that is used by the Houthi group to describe anybody who disobeys or disagrees with their practices). He was abducted on 09/01/2017 while working on his bus to earn a living for his family. This incident frightened and terrified his family who made tireless efforts to find him. Four days later, his body was found dead in one of the areas in Sana'a City (Amanat Al-A'asimah), and was deposited to the morgue of the Military Hospital in Sana'a. After the body was identified, his family was informed. The autopsy showed that the victim was severely tortured (marks of torture were still visible on his face and body) and was electrocuted as well. The victim's family received information confirming that the victim had been tortured to death at the hands of the pro-Houthi- Saleh Preventive Security forces in Sana'a.

Given that the victim was tortured to death, his family filed a complaint to the pro-Houthi- Saleh militia Departments of Criminal Investigation and Political Security in Sana'a - requesting them to find the authority that killed him - which was the Preventive Security Department. But the officials refused to carry on the proceedings because of what they considered as the conviction of the victim– according to their oral statements - and they declared the file officially closed.

Ahmed Mubarak Ahmed Gar Allah Al-Falak: From the district of Saqeen, Sa'ada governorate, Ahmed owns a small workshop in which he earn a living for himself and his family. On 05/01/2016, at about 9 pm, he heard his sons calling for help from inside the workshop and he hurried from his home to the scene. As it was later revealed in a letter leaked from the victim's prison and through statements of witnesses, his sons were attacked by 15 armed members of the Houthi militia. He ran to his son's rescue to defend them after he saw that they were cruelly attacked and dragged with iron wires. But the armed members attacked, punched, kicked, beat and dragged him on workshop floor until he passed out. Then they arrested him.

Ahmed Mubarak Ahmed Gar Allah Al-Falak says in a letter leaked from his prison, that till the date of the letter, 26/03/2016, he was not able to figure out the prison in which he was. He adds that he was insulted and beaten up and that the marks of beating were clear on his body, head, back and belly. He continues narrating

his story of attack and arbitrary detention, that by the passing days in prison his pain became unbearable that he passed out, only to find himself in Al-Salam Hospital in Sa'ada. In the hospital, they removed one of his kidneys which got damaged as a result of the beating that he suffered in his workshop and in prison at the hands of the members of the Houthi militia. After the operation, he was immediately sent back to prison without being given time to recuperate and with no access to post-operation healthcare, which has led to the failure of the operation. Later his pain became severe and tumors began to appear in his abdomen and back.

After being able to identify the prison, in which he was arbitrarily detained, and with the intermediation and guarantee of a leading figure in Sa'ada, his family was able to get the approval on their request to take him to Sana'a for medical treatment only, on the condition that they shall bring him back to prison. His family immediately carried him to Sana'a trying to get him the medical care he needed badly, but he was already dying of his illness, and he passed away on 26/06/2017.

In his letter - leaked from his prison - the victim describes the miserable condition in which he was by saying: "I have gradually lost myself, starting with the death of my father who suffered a cardiac arrest and died because of what happened to me, and then the loss of my sons, my money and my wife followed".

Bandar Mohammed Adda Shathan: A 38- year- old man, from Amlah Noa'man village, Al-Hishaw District, Sa'ada gover-

norate, Bandar, like others in the village mosque, was surprised with the attack of an armed Houthi group on the village and the mosque to detain the Imam of the mosque on 21/10/2017 at 7 pm. The villagers present in the mosque at the time tried to stop them but the armed group started firing on the prayers inside the mosque. Bandar left the mosque with his father and one of the other prayers there. But the members of the militia forcibly took the three of them to an unknown destination. One day later, Bandar's body was found dead in Al-Salam Hospital. His dead body was still in shackles, and with visible marks of torture according to the eye witnesses who saw the victim's body.

Mukhtar Ali Mohammed Yaqut: A 35- year- old- farmer, Mukhtar is married and lives in the village of “Mada’a Al-Saleel”, Al-Qurshia District, Al-Bayda Governorate. He was abducted on 10/07/2017 by the Houthi-Saleh militia and some members of the Central Security forces led by someone named (Waleed) on allegations that he was a supporter of Daesh/ ISIS. He was taken to a prison in Al-Sawadia District and three days later his family was informed that their son was dead. His family asked for the body of their son, but the militia agreed to their request on the condition that they would bury him without opening the casket in which he was. The family and some of their neighbors rejected this condition and were able to receive the body on 15/07/2017. They opened the casket only to see the visible marks of torture on various parts of his body, especially on his belly, arms and legs.

Masoud Yahia Masoud: He was born in 1984, married and lives in Hajja Governorate, Bakil Al-Mir District in Fas village. He was abducted on 23/09/2016 from his house in the village by the Houthi leading field officer in the area. He was taken to an unknown destination. After his father's efforts to know about the fate of his son and with the intermediation of a leading figure, the father was informed that the body of his son was in the Hajja Public Hospital. Upon receipt of the body, they found visible marks of torture on his body and his arms were broken which was confirmed by the statement of one of the witnesses, one who was in the same prison with the victim. The witness reported that he heard the victim scream as he was tortured in the Political Security prison, adding that he saw him unconscious before his death on 24/07/2017.

Abdul Ghani Aydh Jahlan Al- Da'ani: He is 40 years old, from Da'an village in Jabal Yazeed District, Amran Governorate, married and a soldier from the former Brigade 310. He was abducted on 30/07/2017 because one of his relatives- an officer in the Republican Guard Forces and a representative of the Houthi Revolutionary Committee in their district - had picked up a fight with him. The victim was arrested by the Houthi leading field officer in the area, jailed, and was later transferred to one of the secret prisons (according to the statement of the victim's family members). He was tortured, in this secret prison, on the charges of being a member of "Daesh"/ ISIS and a traitor". He was kept in prison for almost forty days, from 14/10/2017 until his death on 25/11/2017. (Daeshi, is a word that the Houthi group uses to de-

scribe anybody who disobeys or disagrees with their practices). The victim's family members were notified of his death, through the Houthi leading field officer of social affairs in their district. He called them to come to receive and bury the body. But they declined to receive the body until an autopsy and investigation was carried out.

Until the time of writing this report on 30/12/2017, the victim's body was still lying in the morgue of the Amran Public Hospital.

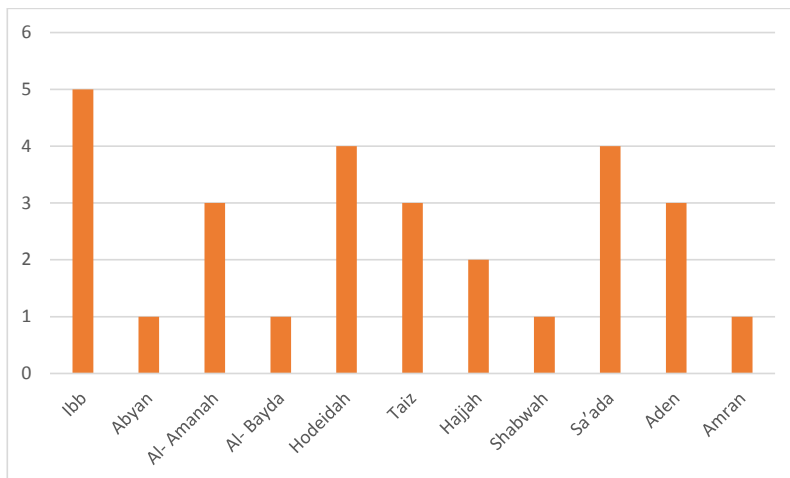
2- The victims of torture in prisons and detention centers:

The Yemeni Coalition for the Monitoring of Human Rights Violations in Yemen recorded a total of 28 deaths of torture in prisons and detention centers in Yemen from January to December 31, 2017. These cases were documented in 11 Yemeni governorates with the highest number of (5) death cases in Ibb governorate, followed by Hodeidah and Sa'ada with (4) cases each. (3) cases of torture victims were documented in Amanat Al- Asimah (the Capital Secretariat), Taiz and Aden each, (2) cases in Hajjah, while the other (4) cases were documented in Abyan, Al-Bayda, Shabwah and Amran with one case in each governorate.

Table (1) showing the cases of torture to death distributed according to governorates

No.	governorate	No. of cases
1-	Ibb	5
2-	Abyan	1
3-	Al- Amanah	3
4-	Al- Bayda	1
5-	Hodeidah	4
6-	Taiz	3
7-	Hajjah	2
8-	Shabwah	1
9-	Sa'ada	4
10-	Aden	3
11-	Amran	1
	total	28

2- The distribution of torture victims according to age groups and governorates:



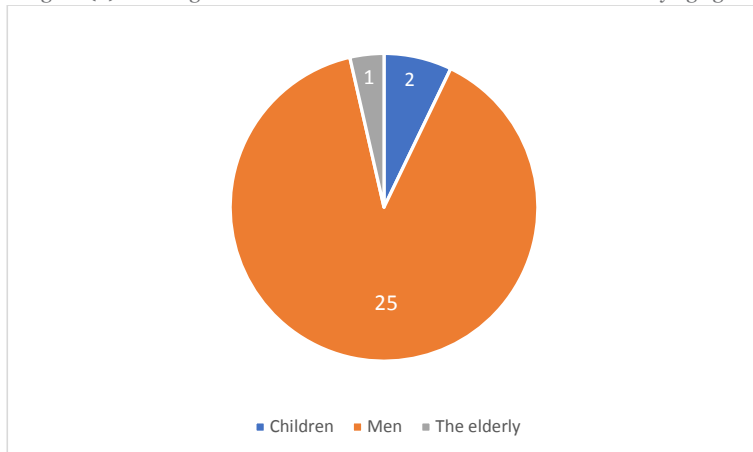
The information collected by the field monitoring team of the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations indicate that out of the 28 victims who died of torture, 25 of them were men, aged between 18 and 49 Years. These men were from 11 Yemeni governorates, namely: Ibb (4) victims, Hodeidah (4) victims, Sa'ada (4), Aden (3) victims, Amanat Al- Asimah (2) victims, Taiz (2) victims, Hajjah (2) victims, Abyan one victim, Shabwah one victim, Al- Bayda one victim and Amran one victim. The same information shows that two children under the age of 18 were also tortured to death. One child, from the rural areas of Ibb, was just 13 years old. He was abducted and forcibly disappeared for a month before his dead body was handed over to his family. The other child, from Taiz, Muzaffar district, was just 16. According to the testimony of the child's father, he was tortured before his dead body was thrown in in one of the sewers. We can clearly see that the acts of torture are not limited to adult men only. Children are not spared from the atrocities of this crime, which constitutes a stark violation of human rights in general and of children's rights in particular. The last torture victim was an elderly man who was tortured to death in Amanat Al-Asimah.

The information indicates that all the 28 victims, documented herein, were all civilian noncombatants, working as farmers, fishermen, entrepreneurs (workshop owners), workers, teachers, former soldiers, and activists. Most of them were also married and had children.

Table (2) showing the cases of torture to death distributed by age groups and governorates

No.	governorate	children	men	The elderly
1-	Ibb	1	4	
2-	Abyan		1	
3-	Al- Amanah		2	1
4-	Al- Bayda		1	
5-	Hodeidah		4	
6-	Taiz	1	2	
7-	Hajjah		2	
8-	Shabwah		1	
9-	Sa'ada		4	
10-	Aden		3	
11-	Amran		1	
	Total	2	25	1

Figure (2) showing the distribution of the cases of torture to death by age groups



Third: Perpetrators of the crimes of torture to death in the prisons and detention centers:

1. Torture to death at the hands of the Houthi-Saleh militias:

- Following the takeover of Yemen's capital, Sana'a, on 21 September of 2014, and the spreading out to the rest of the Yemeni governorates, the Houthi-Saleh militias have resorted to abduction, detention, and torture, in addition to the ill-treatment of some other people. This was intended as an attempt by the militias to eliminate any opposition and hold sway over those areas by imposing themselves as a de- facto authority.
- This report documents the responsibility of the Houthi-Saleh militias for the death of 22 detainees, whether in detention centers, or in hospitals after they were admitted to because their health conditions had worsened, as a result of being locked up under miserable conditions in detention centers or of torture. Based on first-hand information, which has been collected for the purpose of preparing this report through interviews with families and relatives of the victims or with a number of witnesses, in addition to forensic specialists in torture and death cases in detention centers, it was clear that the leading field officers from the Houthi group - along with their allies - are responsible for the abduction, detention and torture of most of the victims in the Houthi-controlled areas. We may, therefore, assert that the Houthi-Saleh militias are responsible for the abduction, detention and torture of

victims in the following seven governorates, which have been documented herein: Ibb, the Capital Secretariat, Al-Bayda, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Amran and some districts of Taiz, which are still controlled by the militia. Men were the majority of the victims who were tortured to death (20 victims), while (one victim) of children, and another (victim) of elderly people. It is clear that most of these victims were civilians, workers, drivers, students, teachers and fishermen.

2- Torture and death at the hands of pro-legitimate government police forces:

- In addition to the torture and death of several victims at the hands of Houthi-Saleh militias, five victims were tortured to death in governorates that fall under the authority of the legitimate government. Three victims were detained and tortured in Aden cit - the temporary capital of the legitimate government, among them two were tortured to death by the so-called “Security Belt” forces in the city. The fourth victim was documented in Abyan governorate, who was tortured to death by “Security Belt” forces, while the fifth victim was documented in Taiz governorate by the Abo Al-Abbas faction- a group of anti-Houthi, Salafi militiamen in Taiz. The legitimate government bears full responsibility for these crimes and violations that had occurred in areas under its authority. While the number of the victims who were documented in areas under the legitimate government’s authority is

less than that documented under the Houthi-Saleh-controlled areas, it remains a matter of serious concern to human rights violations in cities and areas under the authority of the legitimate government.

3. Torture to death at the hands of the terrorist groups:

- In addition to the torture and death cases that occurred in areas that fall under the authorities of both the Houthi-Saleh militias and the legitimate government, one victim was tortured to death at the hands of terrorist groups. He was a 25-year-old man from Shabwah governorate.

Table (3) showing the cases of torture to death distributed according to the perpetrators and the governorates

No.	governorate	Coup makers	groups terrorist	Legitimate authorities
1-	Ibb	5		
2-	Abyan	0		1
3-	Al- Amanah	3		
4-	Al- Bayda	1		
5-	Hodeidah	4		
6-	Taiz	2		1
7-	Hajjah	2		
8-	Shabwah	0	1	
9-	Sa'adah	4		
10-	Aden	0		3
11-	Amran	1		
	total	22	1	5

Table (4) showing the cases of torture to death according to the age groups and the perpetrators

No.	Age group	Coup makers	Terrorist groups	Legitimate authorities
1	children	1		1
2	men	20	1	4
3	The elderly	1		
	total	22	1	5

Figure (3) showing the perpetrators of the crime of torture to death

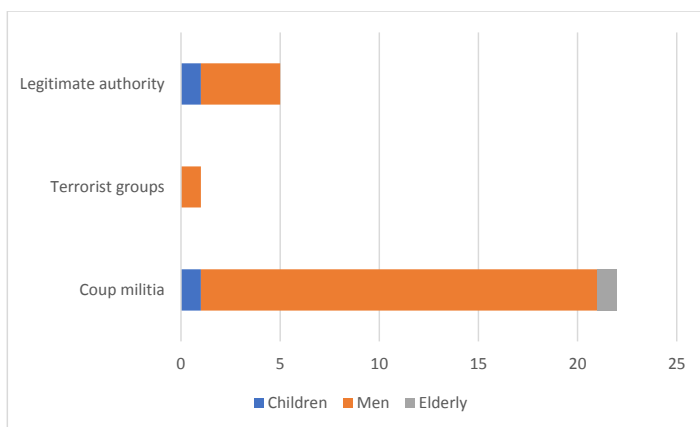


Figure (4) showing the perpetrators of the crimes of torture to death according to governorates

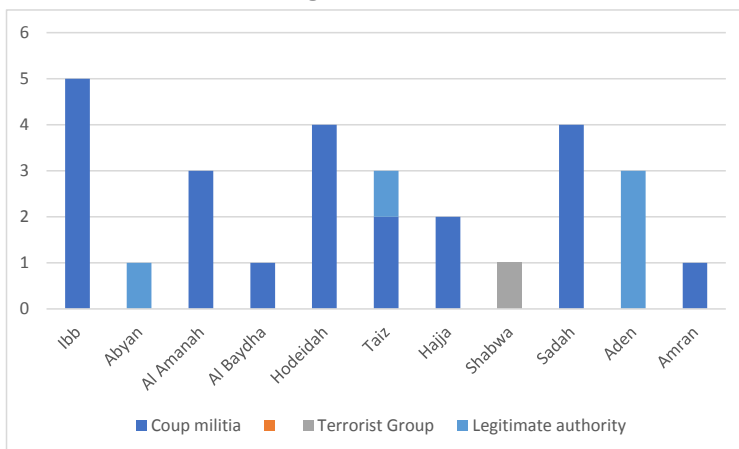
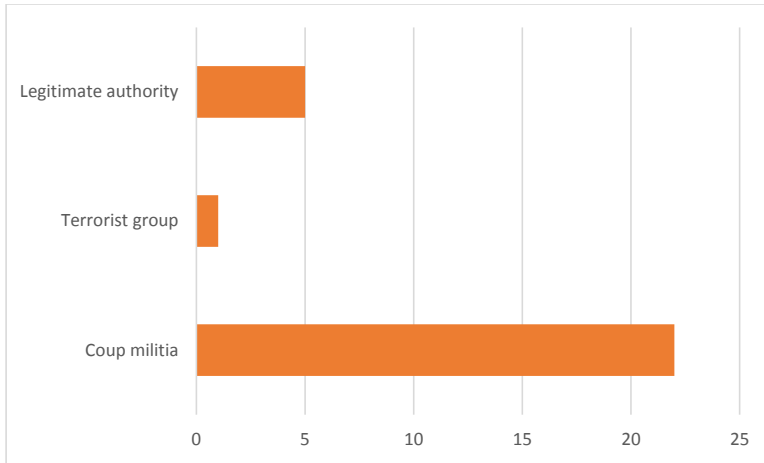


Figure (5) showing the perpetrators of the crimes of torture to death according to age groups



Findings

The report highlighted torture as a heinous crime and serious physical and psychological abuse of detainees in Yemen's prisons and the detention centers. The report monitored cases of torture that led to a serious violation of an inherent human right to life, as well as other forms of ill-treatment in the in prisons and detention centers of the conflicting parties in Yemen (the legitimate authority on the one hand, the militias responsible for the coup and terrorist groups on the other) between 1 January to 31 December 2017. The report monitored a number of victims of torture in a number of Yemeni governorates in order to draw attention to this form of human rights violations in order to follow up with relevant national and international competent authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes.

The report concluded with a number of findings, the most notable of which are the following:

1. Acts of torture continue to take place in prisons and detention centers under the authority of the parties to the conflict in Yemen, including the Houthi-Saleh militias and other armed groups, as well as the authorities in areas under the authority of the legitimate government.
2. Many abductions or enforced disappearances victims have been subjected to various forms of abusive acts during their abduction and detention in prisons and detention centers. These acts are not individual cases, but are rather systematic and contemplated acts intentionally and knowingly committed by those who are responsible for them, particularly the Houthi-Saleh militias.
3. Evidence about victims of torture to death indicates that these acts are largely committed by the Houthi militias against their political rivals.
4. There is no evidence that suggests that the authorities responsible for these violations - whether in the governorates under the control of the Houthi-Saleh militias or under the authority of the legitimate government - have taken any serious measures to stop these acts, and to hold those who have committed such acts responsible for their crimes.
5. It is clear that there is no follow-up of the investigation into and the prosecution of the perpetrators of torture crimes. The monitors did not record any case (of the cases monitored herein), where any of the cases of victims of torture was followed up so as to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice.

Recommendations

In light of the facts and the findings presented in this report, the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations in Yemen recommends the following:

1. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations calls on the Houthi militias and non-state armed groups, as well as the legitimate authority, to cease the acts of torture against persons abducted and detained in their prisons and detention centers in the areas under their control.
2. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations calls on the legitimate government to quickly activate the force of the judicial System to conduct serious investigations into the acts of torture and death committed against Yemeni citizens by the perpetrators of torture crimes to see to it that those responsible for these and other crimes and violations are prosecuted and shall receive the fullest punishment possible by law. The crimes of torture are not subject to statute of limitations and their perpetrators shall not go unpunished.
3. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations calls upon the parties to the conflict in Yemen, namely: the Houthi-Saleh militias and the legitimate government authorities to open all their prisons and detention centers, in the governorates and areas under their control. By doing so, the parties to the conflict will enable human rights groups, as well as local and international media to learn about the conditions under which the detainees and abductees are kept

and to make sure that they are not subjected to torture or other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment.

4. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations calls upon human rights activists to coordinate their efforts with civil society and media organizations in order to monitor these crimes and expose the perpetrators. They also have to push for bringing these crimes to an end and for bringing those responsible for them to justice.
5. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations calls upon the international community to exert maximum pressure on the parties to the conflict in Yemen to comply with Yemen's international obligations, to put an end to the acts of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as to prevent further deaths as a result of such acts.