

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced disappearance

A Human Rights Report that Documents Enforced Disappearance, Arbitrary Detentions, and Cruel Treatment of Detainees in Yemen

During the Period from January 1st until June 30th, 2018

التحالف اليمني لرصد
انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان

Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring
Human Rights Violations

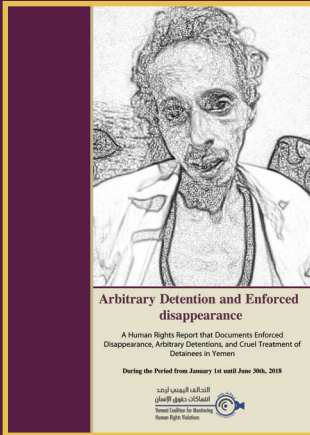


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Published by YCMHRV



**Cover Photo: Journalist
Anwar Al-Rukn, Died Due to
Brutal Torture at
Houthis Militia Prison in
Al-Saleh City, Taiz**

Contact

**Republic of Yemen
Taiz - Jamal Street
Tel:009674252534
info@ycmhrv.org
facebook.com/YCMHRV
twitter.com/YCMHRV
telegram.me/YCMHRV
www.ycmhrv.org**

**Arbitrary Detention and Enforced
disappearance**

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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Introduction:

Over three years of armed conflict in Yemen, violence and threats have reigned supreme, and the fourth year of the war is coming to a close with the parties to the conflict using the same methods that they have used during the whole period of the conflict, which started with the fall of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, to the Houthi militia, who were supported by forces loyal to the former President, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

At the same time that the parties to the conflict are using violence, they are also using detentions, enforced disappearance, and cruel treatment of detainees. This is the case all over Yemen, and especially in the areas where there is fighting. The cases of detained and forcibly disappeared individuals have become very disturbing for Yemenis and for all organizations who work in the field of human rights. There is no silver lining that can be used as a starting point to find a solution for this problem, decrease detentions and enforced disappearance, and release all of the detainees and forcibly detained individuals in the prisons operated by all of the parties to the conflict.

We, at the Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations, are still monitoring cases of detention and enforced disappearance on a daily basis, and we have horrifying statistics on detained and disappeared individuals since the capital, Sana'a, fell to the Houthis in September of 2014. This crime is carried out in different ways, with it mostly re-

sembling a kidnapping without any legal justifications. In that regard, the Yemeni Coalition has been following up with the efforts of the UN Special Envoy to Yemen to reach a comprehensive solution to the issue of detainees. Despite the early concern that the previous UN Special Envoy, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, showed in 2016, when he submitted recommendations for the release of a percentage of prisoners in a short period of time as gesture of goodwill and a confidence-building measure between the parties to the conflict, and the efforts of the new UN Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, and his attempt to inform the UN Security Council in April 2018 of demands from the Yemeni parties to the conflict to carry out measures to bring hope that the war will end, including among these procedures steps to release all of the prisoners and detainees from their prisons, the detainees are still suffering from harsh prison conditions and there have not been any serious steps to secure their release.

Enforced disappearance causes constant pain for the victim, and it causes even more pain for his family and relatives, who do not know the fate of the victim. Similar is the crime of arbitrary detentions, which are usually carried out in vague circumstances and with no legal justification. These actions cause terror among the families of the victims. The things that are done to the victims while they are being detained, including torture and cruel treatment, as well as the unhealthy and inhuman conditions of the prisons that they are held in, are all causes for worry and concern. During the three past years, the Yemeni Coalition has documented the pains and very difficult conditions that dis-

appeared individuals, detainees, and their families are going through. This report aims to uncover these violations, which are disappearance and detention, along with the crimes that are usually committed with them, as well as the effects that they have on the victims and their families, especially since there is no statute of limitations for these crimes. This report is a call to attention for the international community and for international rights organizations to start working and taking effective decisions to end this constant suffering.

Executive Summary

This report documents the condition of human rights relating to the deprivation of freedoms and cruel treatment of detainees during the period from January 1st until June 30th, 2018. Among the most prominent of these violations are the crimes of abduction, arrest, and arbitrary detention, in addition to enforced disappearance, torture, and cruel treatment of detainees. These crimes have led to the deaths of some of the detainees, while others have been illegally executed. The report also covers the conditions in the prisons that are controlled by a number of parties to the armed conflict in Yemen.

The Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations has worked through a number of mechanisms to get information and reach victims, witnesses, and detention centers, including carrying out field visits, interview victims and witnesses, and using modern communication techniques to get information. The Yemeni Coalition has also relied on

reports submitted to it through the media and social media sites. These reports are then investigated and documented either through field visits or through communication with a number of different sources. The Yemeni Coalition has also used technical and methodological means, like photography and television interviews. The team at the Yemeni Coalition has relied on a number of alternative sources of information in detention centers and the security and police departments that are under the control and supervision of the different parties to the conflict.

All of the parties to the conflict in Yemen have committed widespread violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law relating to the deprivation of freedom, cruel treatment of detainees, and related crimes, during the first half of 2018. The parties to the conflict that were monitored by the Yemeni Coalition are the Houthis militia, who are the most prominent perpetrator of violations committed in most of the governorates under their control, then the forces of the legitimate government, as well as forces not under the control of the Yemeni government, including the Security Belt Forces in Aden, Lahej, Abyan, and Al Dhalea, the Hadhrami Elite Forces and the Shabwani Elite Forces, the Security Directorate in Aden, the Counter Terrorism Forces in Aden, and the Abu Al Abbas Brigades in Taiz. In addition to that, extremist organizations, including Al Qaeda, have also been responsible for violations relating to the torture of prisoners. There are also unknown entities, individuals, and armed gangs that have carried out a number of violations relating to human dignity and deprivation of freedom against Yemenis.

The Yemeni Coalition has investigated, during the first half of 2018, the death of 36 detainees because of torture that they were subject to in prisons controlled by a number of different parties to the conflict in Yemen. These deaths included 1 women, 3 rights activists, 7 politicians and political party activities, 1 journalist, 13 soldiers, 4 laborers, 3 educators, 2 students, 1 businessman, and 1 victim whose profession was not known. 19 of them died in prisons controlled by forces that are not under the control of the Yemeni government, while the Houthi militia are accused of causing the death of 14 of them by torturing them in their prisons, and 2 of them died after being tortured by individuals from unknown parties. Al Qaeda is accused of tortured one person to death in one of its prisons. The Yemeni Coalition has also documented the field execution of prisoners in the cells and detention centers of forces that are not under the control of the government in Aden. The illegal execution of 14 prisoners was documented during the period covered by the report, out of a total of 34 individuals who were executed in the first half of 2018. The individuals executed were made up of 9 politicians and political activists and 5 soldiers.

During the period covered by the report, the Yemeni Coalition team documented the severe torture of 208 detainees in prisons and detention centers that are controlled by the parties to the conflict in Yemen, including 107 politicians and political activists, 6 journalists, 2 rights activists, 10 children, 2 women, 16 students, 15 educators, 13 businessmen, 12 soldiers, 12 laborers, 7 doctors and medics, 6 sheikhs, social

figures, and other groups. From that group, the Houthi militia tortured 199 detainees, while government forces tortured 2 detainees, and 2 detainees were tortured by forces that are not under the control of the government.

The Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations documented the disappearance of 278 Yemenis in a number of Yemeni governorates, including 8 women, 6 children, 40 politicians and political activists, 7 journalists, 5 rights activists, 76 laborers, 35 soldiers, 32 students, 27 sheikhs and social figures, 10 businessmen, 3 doctors and academics, and 14 from other groups. The Houthis disappeared 239 of the total number, while government forces disappeared 24 of them, military forces loyal with the UAE disappeared 11 victims, and unknown entities disappeared 4 victims.

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Forcibly Disappeared

The Yemeni Coalition also documented the illegal detention and abduction of 1,076 Yemenis, including 42 children, 23 women, 230 politicians and political activists, 32 rights activists, 17 journalists, 307 laborers, 114 college and intermediate students, 81 soldiers, 64 educators, 60 businessmen, 44 sheikhs and social figures, 21 doctors and academics, and 31 distributed among other groups. The Houthi militia detained 851 detainees from the total number documented in this report, while government forces illegally detained 170 individuals, forces not controlled by the government detained 43 Yemenis, and 3 detentions were carried out by unknown entities.

The report also addresses the condition of the prisons that are used by the Yemeni parties to the conflict to deprive individuals of their freedoms. All of the parties to the conflict have secret prisons and ones that are publicly known. Most of these prisons do not have suitable tools to ensure the health and safety of the prisoners, and they do not have even the most basic levels of good treatment. The conditions in these prisoners are bad and are not suitable, and buildings that were not equipped as prisons and are not under the supervision of the Yemeni Prison Authority are being used as prisons. As for state prisons, they are also being used without the authority and supervision of the law.

Deprivation of Freedom and Cruel Treatment in International Agreements

The Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court, defined, in Paragraph 2-I of Article 7, states that the “enforced disappearance of persons means the arrest, detention or abduction of persons by, or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons, with the intention of removing them from the protection of the law for a prolonged period of time.”

Meanwhile, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights mentions arbitrary detention by describing it as the deprivation of freedom or arrest, legally or illegally, and it becomes illegal and requires compensation if the case is not referred to the court quickly and without

delay. Paragraphs 1, 2, and 5 of Article 9 of the Covenant state that:

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.
2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.
3. Anyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

International agreements, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention, the two International Covenants, and the United Nations Convention Against Torture clarify that human freedoms and the inherent dignity of humans must not be violated. People who are detained of their freedoms, or have been arbitrarily detained, must be treated in a human manner that is suitable with their dignity. Arbitrary arrests and the wrongful detention of civilians is considered a serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, while the wrongful detention of a person protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention is considered a serious violation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Rome Statute, which defines torture as “the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, upon a person in the custody or

under the control of the accused,” as a crime against humanity.

Enforced disappearance and arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as the torture and mistreatment that happen during them, are considered a crime against human dignity that is condemned as a denial of the purposes of the United Nations Charter and a dangerous and flagrant violation of the human rights and basic freedoms in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All of the parties to the armed conflict in Yemen are required to respect the regulations of international humanitarian law, the principles of human rights, and the provisions of the agreements that were ratified by the Republic of Yemen, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. All of the parties to the conflict in Yemen, whether they are the government of Yemen or the authorities of the Houthi militia, as well as the countries in the Arab Coalition, the forces loyal to the UAE, and any other group that controls a part of Yemen, are required to implement these agreements and operate in accordance to their provisions. All of these parties to the conflict, whether as individuals or entities, are subject to domestic and international criminal liability.

Recommendations

To the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Yemen

- Working to use all of the available methods to pressure all of the parties to the armed conflict in Yemen to release detained and forcibly detained individuals and considering this a first step on the path to achieving a comprehensive peace, as well as forming a team to work on visiting the detainees, improving the conditions of their detention, and communicating with civil society organizations to discover secret prisons.

To the Houthi Militia

- Revealing the locations where forcibly detained individuals are being kept and immediately releasing them, along with all arbitrarily detained individuals being held in their secret and public prisons
- Stopping any practices that degrade detainees, including mistreatment or physical or mental torture, and allowing detainees to contact their families.
- Revealing all secret prisons before closing them and allowing rights and international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, to visit the prisons under their control.

To the Legitimate Government

- Immediately releasing all of the disappeared and detained individuals and bringing anyone who ordered or carried out orders of disappearing, detaining, or mistreating detainees to justice.
- Closing all of the secret and private prisons that are under the con-

trol of the military factions, brigades, and forces in all of the parts of the country under its authority.

- Linking all prisons and bringing them under the authority of the public prosecutor's office, and not allowing the deprivation of freedoms outside the orders of the public prosecutor's office and the judiciary, which are the only authorities authorized to do so.

To the Command of Military and Security Forces Not Under the Control of the Yemeni Government:

- Immediately stopping all violations against civilian residents in the governorates of Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, Shabwa, Abyan, Al Dhalea, and Lahej, and closing all of the secret prisons controlled by these forces
- Releasing all of forcibly detained individuals in the prisons that these forces control, as well as detainees and abductees, and stopping all forms of torture practiced in these prisons
- Working to bring these forces under the authority of the Yemeni government and cooperating with it to bring all individuals accused of committing human rights violations to justice.

To the Coalition Forces

- Releasing all detainees being held in the prisons of the Coalition Command in Aden and Hadramout, revealing the location of forcibly disappeared individuals, closing all prisons, and compensating all of the victims of torture and cruel treatment in those prisons

- Working with the legitimate government to take stock of the prisons and bring them under the authority of the judiciary and not allowing any military forces from playing the role of the public prosecutor's office and the judiciary in detaining and releasing individuals.

Part I: Cruel Treatment and Extralegal Execution

Cruel and violent treatment was the most prominent violation used by the parties to the armed conflict against detained, imprisoned, and forcibly disappeared individuals. The psychological effect of years of conflict have resulted in [??] that Yemenis did not know before 2014, and, with the law not being applied and with investigators and correctional officers not being punished in the past few years, torture and mistreatment in prisons have become the norm and the parties to the armed conflict in Yemen use it against detainees in their prisons. There have been a number of prominent methods and means of torture that have been used, including beatings with a stick, electrical shocks, hanging detainees from the ceiling, the use of sharp instruments, rape, psychological torture, acid, humiliation, not feeding the detainees, not providing enough healthcare and water, and using detention centers without ventilation. Due to the torture and the conditions in the prisons, a number of detainees have died in the prisons or after their release because of the violent physical and mental harm that they were subject to. A number of detainees were also illegally executed, without trials, in detention centers, while others went through mock executions.

During the first half of 2018, the Yemeni Coalition team documented the torture of 208 detainees, including 107 politicians and political activists, 6 journalists, 2 rights activists, 10 children, 2 women, 16 students, 15 educators, 13 businessmen, 12 soldiers, 12 laborers, 7 doctors

and academics, and 6 sheikhs, social figures, and others. The Capital Secretariat came first among all of the governorates for the number of incidents of torture of detainees, with 118 documented incidents of detainees being tortured there, followed by the Al Baidha governorate with the torture of 30 detainees, the Saddah governorate with 16 detainees who were tortured, the Ibb governorate with 14 detainees tortured, 8 detainees tortured in the Hajjah governorate, and 8 others and 4 in the governorates of Sana'a and Amran, distributed equally among them, 8 tortured in Taiz and Hodeidah, also distributed equally among them, 5 in Dhammar, and 5 in each of Al Mahweet, Aden, Hadramout, Al Jawf, and Mareb. Table No. 1 shows the geographic distribution and category of the victims of torture.

The parties to the conflict committed these crimes in different percentages, and the Houthi militia were at the top of the list, with 199 documented incidents of detainees in private and secret prisons, as well as in public prisons that are controlled by the militias, being tortured. These prisons and detention centers are located in the Capital Secretariat, Al Baidha, Ibb, Saddah, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Dhammar, Sana'a, Amran, Taiz, Al Jawf, and Al Mahweet, and the incidents included 107 politicians, 4 journalists, 2 rights activists, 5 children, and 2 women. Government forces tortured two detainees, among them a journalist, in Aden and Mareb, while 2 detainees were documented as having been tortured in the prisons of the military forces not under the control of the Yemeni government in Taiz and Hadramout, and they were 1 soldier

and 1 journalist. Table No. 2 shows the different categories of victims and the entities that carried out the torture.

The Yemeni Coalition also documented the death of 36 detainees due to torture, as well as the execution of 14 detainees in prisons. Forces not under the control of the government tortured 19 Yemenis to death, among them 6 politicians. These forces were the Security Belt Forces in Aden, who tortured 10 individuals to death, the Security Belt Forces in Abyan tortured 5 individuals to death, the Security Belt Forces in Lahej tortured 2 individuals to death, the Shabwani Elite Forces tortured 1 individual to death, and 1 individual was tortured to death in a prison under the control of the Security Directorate in Aden. The Houthis militia are accused of killing 14 detainees due to torture, with 4 cases in Taiz, 3 cases in the Capital Secretariat, 2 cases in Hajjah, and 1 case for each of Ibb, Hodeidah, Al Dhalea, Dhammar, and Soddah. Members of Al Qaeda tortured 1 victim to death in the Hadramout governorate, and there were 2 documented cases of victims being tortured to death by unknown armed men in the Dhammar and Aden governorates. Table No. 1 shows the geographic distribution and categories of individuals who were tortured to death and those who were illegally executed in prisons, and Table No. 2 shows the categories of the victims and the entities responsible for their deaths.

Forces not under the control of the government executed 14 detainees in their prisons, including 9 politicians. This included 7 detainees exe-

cuted by the Counter Terrorism Forces in Aden, 2 detainees executed by the bodyguards of the Security Director of Aden, Shallal Shaya, and 5 detainees who were executed in areas under the control of the Abu Al Abbas Brigades, with individuals affiliated with these forces accused of executing them. Table No. 2 shows the distribution into categories of the victims of illegal execution in prisons and the entities responsible for these executions.

Part II: Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance is a form of collective punishment against a community because of the physical, emotional, and mental pressure that the victims and their families are kept under. This affects their future and makes their present one of catastrophe and harshness. International humanitarian law has addressed this issue by saying that it is a violation and breach of a number of rights, the most important of which are the right to freedom and safety, the right to not be subject to torture, the right to life and identity, the right to a fair trial and effective justice, and the right of the victim and their families to know the truth. We hope that we can, through this report, remind the world of the importance of finding out where the forcibly disappeared are and what their families are going through.

During the period of the armed conflict in Yemen, enforced disappearance has been used on a large and unjustifiable scale. During the period that is covered by the report, the Yemeni Coalition recorded an increase

in the incidents of enforced disappearance carried out by all of the parties to the armed conflict in Yemen. The victims of these incidents included politicians, activists, human rights defenders, journalists, children, women, and other groups. The Houthi militia top the list of the groups that use this crime to disappear their opponents, and they have shown their skill in using a number of methods to detain, degrade, and mistreat detainees.

During the period between January 1st and June 30th, 2018, the Yemeni Coalition documented 278 cases of Yemenis who were forcibly disappeared in a number of governorates. The governorate with the highest number of documented cases is the Sana'a governorate, with 65 cases of enforced disappearance, followed by the Taiz governorate with 55 cases, the Sadaah governorate with 31 cases, Hodeidah and Hajjah with 19 cases each, the Capital Secretariat with 17 cases of enforced disappearance, the Aden governorate with 14 cases of enforced disappearance, Hadramout and Dhammar with 13 cases each, Al Baidha with 11 cases, Al Mahweet with 10 cases, Ibb with 4 cases, Lahej with 3 cases, and Al Dhalea and Raimah with 4 total cases. The individuals who were forcibly detained were from a number of categories, and, out of the total documented cases, there were 8 women, 6 children, 40 politicians and political activists, 7 journalists, 5 rights activists, 76 laborers, 35 soldiers, 32 students, 27 social figures, 10 businessmen, 3 doctors and academics, and 14 from other categories. Table No. 1 shows the geographic distribution and categories of the victims of enforced disappearance.

The Yemeni Coalition team investigated the disappearance of 239 of the victims in areas that are under the control of the Houthi militia in the governorates of Sana'a, Taiz, Sadaah, Hodeidah, Hajjah, the Capital Secretariat, Dhammar, Al Baidha, Al Mahweet, Ibb, Raimah, Al Dhalea, and Lahej, including 35 politicians, 5 journalists, 3 rights activists, 7 women, 4 children, 67 laborers, 31 soldiers, 30 students, 27 sheikhs and social figures, 15 educators, 10 businessmen, 3 academics, and 2 from other groups. The team documented the disappearance of 24 Yemenis in cases where the Yemeni government is accused of being responsible for their disappearance in the Hadramout and Aden governorates, including 3 politicians, 4 rights activists and journalists, 4 laborers, 1 soldier, and 12 from other groups. Forces not under the control of the Yemeni government in Taiz and Lahej have disappeared 11 Yemenis in their prisons, including 1 politician, 1 child, 2 students, and 4 laborers. The Abu Al Abbas Brigades are accused of disappearing 9 victims, while the Security Belt Forces in Lahej are accused of disappearing 2 journalists. 4 cases of Yemenis being disappeared by unknown individuals or groups were recorded, including 1 politician, 1 child, and 1 woman in the Taiz and Aden governorates. Table No. 2 shows the distribution into categories of the victims of enforced disappearance and the entities responsible for the disappearances.

Section 1: Politicians and Political Activists

The most prominent group that has been affected by the crime of enforced disappearance in Yemen are politicians and political activists. This is not because of the number of forcibly disappeared individuals from this group, but because they play a big role in influencing the people and changing their minds. They are seen by the perpetrators of these crimes as opponents that must be silenced, and usually they are detained illegally under false charges. Usually these false charges are leveled at them to justify their detention to the public.

The Yemeni Coalition team documented the disappearance of 40 politicians and political activists in the Capital Secretariat and the Hodeidah, Sana'a, Aden, Hajjah, Dhammar, Saddah, Raimah, Lahej, Taiz, Al Mahweet, and Al Baidha governorates. The Houthi militia is accused of disappearing 35 of them, while the government forces are accused of disappearing 3 of them. Forces that are not under the control of the government are accused of disappearing 1 politician, while another politician was disappeared by unknown entities. Table No. 3 shows the geographic distribution of the victims in this category, while Table No. 4 shows the distribution of these victims based on the entity responsible for their disappearance.

Section 2: Journalists and Human Rights Defenders

The work of journalists and human rights defenders in Yemen has become very dangerous. In addition to the violations that they are subject to, including that they might be killed, and other violations of their

human dignity, the crime of depriving them of freedom and forcibly disappearing them has become prominent in recent years of the armed conflict. What is new is that there are a number of new entities that have carried out this crime, whether they are military brigades, forces loyal to the legitimate government, or forces supervised by the United Arab Emirates. This crime has also been increasing in the areas that are under the control of the Houthi militia during the first half of 2018.

The Yemeni Coalition documented the disappearance of 7 journalists and 5 rights activists in the capital, Sana'a, the temporary capital, Aden, and the Hodeidah, Hajjah, Saddah, and Sana'a governorates. The Houthi militia is accused of disappearing 5 journalists and 3 rights activists, while 4 journalists and rights activists have been documented as being disappeared by government forces. Table No. 3 shows the distribution of journalist and rights activists victims of enforced disappearance by location, while Table No. 4 shows the entities that are responsible for the disappearance of journalists and rights activists.

Section 3: Children and Women

During the work of the Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations in Yemeni governorates and areas, the team noticed that there have been a number of incidents of women and children being detained, abducted, and forcibly disappeared. There has also been an increase in these cases in the governorates under the control of the Houthi militia, and they are usually linked to the cases of pressure that the Houthi militia are putting on Yemenis in order to get children to be conscripted

into their ranks or to force a relative of the disappeared victim to hand themselves over to the militia. There are also other social issues where the militia pressures individuals by detaining women and children.

The Yemeni Coalition investigated the disappearance of 8 women and 6 children during the first half of 2018 in the Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Al Baidha, Hodeidah, Taiz, and Hajjah governorates. During the search and investigations, it was concluded that the Houthi militia disappeared 7 women and 4 children, while forces that are not under the control of the government disappeared one child. A child and a woman were disappeared by unknown entities. Table No. 3 shows the distribution of the women and child victims based on geography, while Table No. 4 shows the distribution of the women and child victims based on the entities responsible for their disappearance.

Incidents

Sami Yunus Ayesh Muhammad, 31 years old, was a former soldier, and he was mentally disabled. He lived in the Ja'ar district. He was detained by Security Belt Forces in Abyan, who then executed him. The Yemeni Coalition got the details of the incident from a number of sources, who said that the victim was a member of the popular committees in the Abyan governorate. He fought in their ranks against the Houthis, and he sustained severe injuries in addition to mental problems. He left his home and has been homeless for two years as a result of the mental illness that he has. The head of the Security Belt, Abdullatif Al Sayyid, called the victim in a while ago, but the victim was released because of

his mental issues, and his father was made to promise to bring the victim in whenever the command of the Security Belt wants him because he knew that his son had a mental problem and did not pose any threat. According to the statements of witnesses, they found Sami eating from the trash, and everyone knows about his mental problems after the war in 2015. On Saturday, April 28th, 2018, Sami went back to his father's house after he had been missing for a long time, and he was in a very bad state. Before that, the command of the Security Belt in Abyan had contacted Sami's father and told him that it was important that he bring his son to them. When Sami returned home, Sami's father contacted the commander of the Security Belt Forces, Abdullatif Al Sayyid, and told him that his son was at home. Al Sayyid sent two military vehicles, and they took Sami with them to interrogate him. They promise his family that they would return him. The family of the victim were confident in the promise that had been made by the commander of the Security Belt Forces in Abyan, and, because their son had a clear mental illness, they thought that he would be immediately released. He was handed over to the soldiers on the two military vehicles in front of other people in the Ja'ar district.

In the early morning of Sunday, the family of the victim learned, through social media sites, that Sami had been killed. News on social media stated that Sami had been a member of Al Qaeda, and that he had been killed during a chase of Al Qaeda members in the Lahej governorate. The articles also stated that he was a high-ranking member of Al Qaeda.

The family of the victim, however, know that these articles are not true because they know that Sami has mental problems, and they know that he was voluntarily handed over to the command of the Security Belt Forces. The family of the victim tried to contact the command of the Security Belt Forces in Abyan, but they refused to answer their calls, and the victim's family learned that Sami's body was in the morgue in the Al Razi Hospital. The hospital administration refused to write a medical report on the incident because they were afraid of Abdullatif Al Sayyid. The family of the victim accuse the command of the Security Belt Forces of killing Sami after he had been handed over to them, and they say that they killed him even though they knew that he was mentally ill and had nothing to do with any terrorist group.

I.A.A.M., 27 years old, was a member of the Resistance in Aden. He fought against the Houthis during the liberation of the city of Aden, and he has been missing since January 23rd, 2018. The Yemeni Coalition contacted a number of individuals and entities related to his case, and we got some information from them. This information states that Issam lives in the Sheikh Ishak neighborhood in the Mualla district. After he finished fighting and laid down his weapon, he went back to his normal life, but he was wanted by an armed group from the Counter Terrorism Forces in Aden. He did not know why they were chasing him, but he had been able to get away from them every time. On Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018, the victim was on a motorcycle on the main street in Mualla, and there was a group of armed men who were watching him. Their

faces were covered with black masks, and they were on a white Toyota FJ Cruiser with tinted windows. That car crashed into the motorcycle that the victim, Issam, was driving, and he fell to the ground. The armed who were in the car got out of the car and started pointing their weapons at him. Issam stood up and raised his hands into the air, surrendering himself to them, and he was not armed. The armed men shot him, severely injuring him in his legs, then they took him, while he was still bleeding, to Tawahi. After that, they took him to the Doctors Without Borders Hospital, where he was operated on.

The victim remained in the hospital for three days, and his mother was with him, taking care of him. The armed men kept him, and the whole hospital, under guard. After three days, the armed men took the victim from the hospital, even though he still needed treatment and medical care. Since that time, his family has been looking for him. His family met with the Security Director of Aden, Shallal Shaya, as well as the public prosecutor, but they did not get anything from them. The news that the family got said that the victim is being detained in the Wadhah Cinema Prison. The administration of the Doctors Without Borders Hospital confirmed that the group of armed men who took him to the hospital are from the Counter Terrorism Forces, who are under the control of the Security Directorate in Aden. He is still disappeared until today.

Anwar Ahmad Muhammad Al Rakan, 48 years old, is a journalist and a political activist. He is from the Taiz governorate, and he lives in the

capital, Sana'a. He works in a number of newspapers, and he is a member of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. He decided to travel from the capital, Sana'a, to his hometown in the area of Al Rahidah in Taiz in September 2017. He disappeared while he was on the way from Sana'a to Taiz, until he was found, in the end of June 2018, in a prison in Saleh City in Taiz. This prison is controlled by the Houthi militias. He was released, but he died three later because of the torture that he was subject to while detained.

The Yemeni Coalition team met with A.M.R., one of the relatives of the victim. He said that the victim, Anwar, was returning from the capital, Sana'a, and he disappeared for ten months. His family kept looking for him for that whole period, but they could not find anything. While one of the victim's relatives was visiting another relative in the Saleh City prison, he saw Anwar, who looked very thin and frail. This visitor contacted the witness and told him about Anwar's whereabouts, and the witness went to the detention center in Saleh City to follow up with the procedures to release Anwar.

It was decided that he would be released, and the witness adds that Anwar looked almost dead upon his release.

"Anwar could not drink water and he was unable to talk. We tried to ask him about what had happened to him, he said that the Houthis would inject him with an acid-like substance called fire water. We took him to the clinic of Dr. Muhammad Abdulqadir, which is in the area, and

the doctor tried to save his life, but his body would not respond to the treatment. He died on Thursday, June 7th, 2018, three days after he was released from the prison in Saleh City.”

A.A.K., 28 years old, has been missing since he was detained in Aden on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017. Information that was gotten by the Yemeni Coalition team states that the victim, who is the only child of his parents, has been suffering from autism since he was a young boy. On the day that he was arrested, Counter Terrorism Forces raided the home of his father in Al Sha’b City in Aden. The raid took place at 10 pm, while the family was having dinner. The Counter Terrorism Forces surrounded the neighborhood with military vehicles and they did not allow the neighbors to come into the area. They surrounded the area with military and armored vehicles. Suddenly, unknown armed and masked men raided the home after breaking the door down, and they did not have permission to come in. They started firing and terrorizing the residents of the home. They searched the house, then they asked about the victim.

They went to his room and forcefully took him to the yard of the house, where they sat him on the ground before taking him on one of the military vehicles. The people of the neighborhood saw these military vehicles after taking the victim, and they saw them going to the Coalition Military Base. These military vehicles then left the Coalition Military Base and left in the direction of Mansoura.

On the second day, unknown individuals called the father of the victim and asked him to bring his son's laptop. They gave him a time and a location, on the Aden Hotel intersection, and they asked him to not tell anyone about this. A relative of the victim who works in the Security Belt Forces went and met with two masked men in a car. He gave them the laptop and mobile phone of the victim and told them that the victim is autistic. They told him that they had found this out during the interrogation. The father of the victim kept looking for his son in a number of places, and he met with the Aden governorate Security Director, Shalal Shaya, who promised to investigate the matter of the disappearance of his son. The victim, however, remains missing until the date of this report, and his family does not know anything about his whereabouts.

Suhail Abdulrahman Al Khirbash, a journalist, was detained by the Houthis. He was taken from his uncle's home in the capital, Sana'a, and accused of supporting what is known as the Popular Resistance in Taiz.

He was moved around different prisons controlled by the Houthis for more than a year, then he was released as a part of a prisoner exchange deal, according to him. After he was released, he met with the Yemeni Coalition team, and he said that he was visiting his uncle's house in the capital, Sana'a, when a military vehicle with armed Houthi men on it came and took him from the house. They took him to the Al Himyari Police Station jail, where he spent a week from the day he was arrested on Monday, June 26, 2017. He adds: "They moved me, after that, to the

Criminal Investigation Department prison in the capital, and they put kept me in a solitary confinement cell for two months. In that cell, I was subject to different types of physical and mental torture.”

The journalist, Suhail, adds: “In that cell, I had eight interrogation sessions, and each interrogation session would continue for five hours, from 8 pm until 1 am. I was beaten, humiliated, and slapped. The interrogator, Muhammad Qawi, is an officer in the Criminal investigation Department. That officer would hang me from a metal pipe tied between two tables. The pipe would be behind my knees and my head, and I would be lowered. This type of torture was called the grill.

They also tortured me by making me stand on one leg for an hour or two, and they did this to get me to confess that I work for the Popular Resistance in Taiz. When they did not get any information out of me, Qawi handed me over to another interrogator from the Political Security Organization, then another one from the National Security Bureau. During that time, they did not allow me to contact my family, and no one knew where I was being held. After two months of torture in the Criminal Investigation Department, I was taken to the prisoners of war section of the Central Prison, in the capital, Sana’a. I was among 130 detainees in that section. In the Central Prison, I was allowed to contact my family, for the first time, but on the condition that I do not inform them of where I was being held.”

Al Khirbash says that, during the time of his detention, which continued for a year and five days, he was treated harshly. The food that was given to him and the other prisoners was not suitable for consumption, and the prisoners were not given medical treatment. The prisoners who got sick had to buy medicine from outside the prison with their own money, and anyone who did not have enough money to buy the medicine would remain sick, on their own, with no one to help them. He says that he was released in a prisoner exchange between the Houthis and the Resistance Forces in Taiz, even though he was not a prisoner of war. He was taken from his uncle's house in the capital, Sana'a.

Z.A.M.Q., 54 years old, is a human rights activist, and he lives in the Mualla district. He works in the Iqra'a Charitable Foundation, and he was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in the early morning of Saturday, April 27th, 2018. His relative, F.Y.T., says that the victim went out to pray the dawn prayer in the masjid in the neighborhood. The masjid had been built thanks to the work of the victim, who is a philanthropist, and is around 100 meters from his house. While he was going to the masjid, a black Hyundai Santa Fe suddenly drove up. The car had been waiting for him at the end of his street. Masked armed men got out of the car, and they were wearing civilian clothes. They attacked him and laid him out on the ground. Zakaria tried to find out what was happening, and what they wanted from him, but they attacked him with their rifle butts. They humiliated him and took him by force. The relative of the victim adds that some of the people who were also going to the

masjid to pray gathered around the victim to save him, but the armed men started shooting at them and anyone else who tried to get close. They took him to an unknown location, and the reason for his detention is not known.

The relative of the victim says that he is known in the neighborhood for doing charity work and providing humanitarian relief, and that he is not known for violence. He has never carried a weapon. She says that she has information. That he is being detained in the Wadhah Cinema Prison, and she has been promised, by Shallal Ali Shaya, the Security Director of the Aden governorate, that the victim would be released, but to no avail. She adds: “We do not know where he is now, and we do not know who we can turn to. We do not know what has happened to him until now.”

Part III: Detainees and Abductees

The cases of arbitrary detention and abduction have spread in a very worrying manner. The detention of individuals is usually carried out in an illegal manner that is not in line with sound legal procedures. These arrests are arbitrary and irrational. This crime has become a phenomenon that is being practiced by all of the parties to the armed conflict in Yemen and is outside the law. The people are very afraid of being detained if they pass over lands controlled by one side or the other. The number of detentions have increased a lot during the first half of

2018, especially after the violent conflict between the former allies; the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces, in northern governorates, and the conflict between government forces and military factions that are not under the control of the government, like what happened in the Taiz and Aden governorates.

There are a number of motivations for arrests and enforced disappearance, but most of them are political or because of a person's opposition to a certain group in contest areas. In addition to that, there is also the detention that targets the freedom of movement between different governorates. The Houthi militia have carried out this type of crime many times in the areas that link it to the parts of Yemen that are controlled by the Yemeni government, as well as the Security Belt Forces in Aden, which are not under the authority of the Yemeni government.

The Yemeni Coalition documented the detention of 1,067 Yemenis during the first half of 2018, with the Sana'a governorate having the highest number of these violations, with 152. The Sana'a governorate was followed by the Al Mahweet governorate, with 124 detainees, then Al Baidha with 111, Taiz with 87, Hodeidah with 79, Dhammar with 77, Amran with 75, Aden with 62, the Capital Secretariat with 60, Lahej with 54, Hajjah with 39, Al Dhalea with 29, Abyan with 28, Ibb and Hadramout with 52 for both, Al Jawf with 11, Mareb with 10, Raimah with 9, and Saddah and Shabwa with 8 total. The detainees were from

a number of different categories. Among the detainees, there were 42 children, 23 women, 230 politicians and political activists, 32 rights activists, 17 journalists, 307 laborers, 114 college and intermedia students, 81 soldiers, 64 educators, 60 businessmen, 44 sheikhs and social figures, 21 doctors and academics, and 31 from other groups.

Table No. 1 shows the geographic distribution and categories of the detainees and abductees.

The Yemeni Coalition investigated the Houthi militia's detention of 851 individuals, among them 123 politicians and political activists, 21 rights activists, 13 journalists, 36 children, 20 women, 321 laborers, 107 students, 66 soldiers, 59 educators, 44 sheikhs and social figures, 31 businessmen, 19 doctors and academics, and 11 from other groups. Government forces illegally detained 170 total victims, including 105 politicians and political activists, 6 rights activists, 1 journalist, 3 women, 1 child, 22 businessmen, 5 students, 4 laborers, 4 soldiers, 1 educator, 1 academic, and 17 from other groups. Forces not under the control of the Yemeni government in Lahej, Taiz, Hadramout, Shabwa, and Aden were documented as having detained 43 victims, including 5 rights activists, 3 journalists, 2 politicians, 3 children, 11 soldiers, 7 businessmen, 4 educators, 3 laborers, 2 students, 1 academic, and 2 from other groups. The Yemeni Coalition also documented the abduction of 3 Yemenis, among them 2 children, by unknown groups. Table No. 2 shows the distribution, by categories, of the detainees, as well as the entities that carried out the detention.

Section 1: Politicians and Political Activists

The Yemeni Coalition documented the detention of 230 politicians and political activists during the period covered by the report. These detentions took place in the Aden, Al Mahweet, Al Baidha, Lahej, Abyan, Hodeidah, Dhammar, Taiz, Sana'a, Amran, Hajjah, Raimah, Ibb, and Sa'adah governorates, and the Capital Secretariat. The Houthi militia were the most prominent perpetrator of the detention of politicians and political activists, where they detained 123 politicians from the total. Government forces came in second, after the Houthi militia, in the detention of politicians and political activists, detaining 105 politicians and political activists. Forces not under the control of the legitimate government detained 2 politicians. Table No. 3 shows the geographic distribution of the politicians who were victims of detention, while Table No. 4 shows the distribution of politicians who were victims of detention by the group responsible for their detention.

Section 2: Journalists and Human Rights Defenders

The Yemeni Coalition investigated the detention of 32 rights activists and 17 journalists in the Capital Secretariat and in the Hodeidah, Hadramout, Mareb, Dhammar, Al Dhalea, Ibb, Al Mahweet, Sana'a, and Lahej governorates. The Houthi militia detained 21 rights activists and 13 journalists, government forces detained 6 rights activists and 1 journalist, and forces not under the control of the government detained 5 rights activists and 3 journalists. Table No. 3 shows the distribution of journalists and rights activists who were victims of detention based

on governorate, while Table No. 4 shows the distribution based on the entities that violated the rights of the journalists and rights activists by kidnapping them.

Section 3: Children and Women

The Yemeni Coalition documented the detention of 42 children and 23 women in the Capital Secretariat and the Al Baidha, Al Dhalea, Amran, Dhammar, Sana'a, Taiz, Lahej, Hadramout, and Hajjah governorates. The Houthi militia detained, from among them, 36 children and 20 women, government forces detained 3 women and a child, forces not under the control of the government detained 3 children, and 2 children were detained by unknown entities. Table No. 3 shows the geographic distribution of the women and children victims of detentions, while Table No. 4 shows the distribution of the women and children victims of detention based on the entities responsible for their detentions.

Incidents

A.H.T., 30 years old, is from the area of Al Hayet in Iyal Surayh. He is a political activist in the General People's Congress in the district. Houthi militants came to his home in the city of Amran, and they found his wife, who told them that he was traveling to the capital, Sana'a.

When he found out about what had happened, he returned to his village, where Houthi militants raided the area and arrested him at 10 am on Tuesday, April 24th, 2018. They took him from his house in his hometown. The Houthi militants detained him on the charge of spying for Saudi Arabia on the killing of the so-called President of the Political

Council of the Houthi militia, Saleh Al Sammad. The victim had written on his wall on Facebook, commenting on the televised speech given by Saleh Al Sammad, that this would be the last speech he would give, and Al Sammad was coincidentally killed. The Houthis believed this to mean that the victim had been spying for Saudi Arabia. According to N.H.H., a relative of the victim, the victim was taken to the Amran Prison, then to the prison of the Political Security Organization in the capital, Sana'a. He remained there for more than a month without anyone knowing where he was, until a Houthi leader in the Amran governorate was contacted and the wife of the victim was allowed to visit him in Sana'a, albeit for a very short time. The relative of the victim says that the victim is still being detained because of those false charges, and his family is not allowed to contact him or visit him.

A.A.A., 48 years old, is a political activist in the Islah Party, and he was detained by the Abu Al Abbas Brigades in Taiz. He was treated cruelly in the prison, and he was put through a mock execution. The Yemeni Coalition met with the victim, who said that he was in the Al Khairat Masjid in the Jumhoori neighborhood in the evening on Tuesday, April 24th, 2018, when a group of armed men came to him. "Their faces were covered, and I knew one of them. His name is Ahmad Al Surah, and he is from the neighborhood that I live in. He is a member of the Abu Al Abbas Brigades. They pointed their weapons at me and ordered me to get up. I was taken, along with S.A.T., on their vehicle. They covered our eyes and took us to the area of Al Majliah. They took us into the yard

of the home of Abdulrahman Hayel Saeed, and they told us to prepare for martyrdom, making me think that they were going to execute me. I told them that I was looking to be a martyr, and they told me that they would execute me then throw my body into the ditch. One of them shot a bullet into the wall that I was leaning on, then they took me on the vehicle once again.

The victim adds: “Armed men covered our eyes then took us on the vehicle once again, taking us to the Hayel Complex School, which is under the control of the Abu Al Abbas Brigade in the Old City in Taiz. They took us to the third floor, where they separated my friend and me. They put us in two separate rooms. I was detained, in that room, along with 17 other individuals, and they would not allow me to contact my family. They did the same thing to the other prisoners that were next to me. They treated us very cruelly in the prison. They would only allow us to go to the bathroom once a day, and the food that they used to give us was never enough. One night, one of the guards came and woke us up, telling us that Abu Al Abbas would come to visit us. Abu Al Abbas came to us at 2 am, and there was an armed man next to him, pointing his weapon at the prisoners. Abu Al Abbas started by asking the prisoners why they were imprisoned.

When he came to me, he asked me why I was imprisoned, and I told him that Ahmad Al Surah was the one who took me from the Al Khairat Masjid. Sheikh Abu Al Abbas asked the men next to him to write down

my name so that he could look into my case, but he did not do anything. I spent 28 days in prison, and, on the 6th of Ramadan, we were moved to Abu Al Abbas' home in the Old City.

Nabil Al Wasili came to the home and took us with him, and we were released because of the intervention of the Deputy Governor, Aref Jaamil. Houthis militiamen detained A.Q.J., a civilian, along with his wife and children, then the victim was detained. S.Y.S.J. says that his relative was driving through a security checkpoint manned by the Houthis in the Bait Al Washr area on the way from Arhab to Al Jawf, and his wife, H.M.M.Kh. and two children were with him. This was on Sunday, February 4th, 2018. He was detained from 2 am, with his wife and children, until noon. The relative of the victim adds that one of the Houthis supervisors, who is called Abu Al Fadhel (Abdullah Al Qaseer), threatened the family and moved them to the security directorate of Bait Marran.

He stole the car of the victim, a Toyota Hilux, along with some money that the victim had. The victim contacted one of his relatives, who came to the location. The Houthis handed over the victim's wife and children to the relative. The relative of the victim adds that the charge against the victim was that he was a supporter of the Legitimacy, and that he had been in Mareb for that reason. He is still being detained, according to the victim's relative who was interviewed by the monitoring team.

A.A.Y.H., a soldier, is from the area of Bani Hussam in Taiz. He was

detained by armed men from the Houthi militia as he was returning to his home, and he was detained on the claims that he was recruited by one of the brigades controlled by the Legitimacy. M.A.A.A. says that the soldier was returning from Mareb to visit his family in the village. While he was on the bus with other travelers, they went through a security checkpoint manned by Houthi militiamen on 60 St. in northern Taiz city. The armed men took him off the bus, along with a number of his colleagues, and they were taken to the Saleh City detention center in Al Hawban, in the eastern part of the city of Taiz. They are still detained in the prison there, and their families are not allowed to visit them or contact them. The relative of the victim adds that the soldier and his colleagues were detained on Thursday, February 7th, 2018.

A soldier in the 22nd Mechanized Brigade in Taiz, Adel Abdullah Hasan, was tortured, mentally and physically, and mistreated after he was detained in the prisons of the Abu Al Abbas Brigade in Taiz. He was met by the monitoring team after his release, and he said: "I was with my men in a military position in the home of Tawfik Abdurraheem. On Monday, April 23rd, 2018, Adel Al Izz, a commander in the Abu Al Abbas Brigades, came with a lot of men from the Brigades, as well as men from other groups. They surrounded the position, and my men and I turned ourselves in. We were taken to the Hayel Saeed Complex School, which is the headquarters of the Abu Al Abbas Brigades. While my men and I were being taken in through the door, one of the guards at the door started attacking one of my men, Mahfoudh. He savagely beat him with his rifle but until the victim was bleeding from his head and face.

They took us to a room and detained us there, and they did not give us lunch that day. At night, a man named Amr Jaamil came and kicked the door of the room, then he grabbed my face and slapped me, promising that he will come back for me later.”

The victim added: “At 2 am that night, Amr Jaamil came while we were sleeping in the room that my men and I were detained in. He grabbed me by my neck and turned me around on the well. He tied my hands and covered my eyes, then he brought a child who was being detained in the school as well. The child’s name was Dini, and he also tied his hands and covered his eyes. They took me, along with the child. Jaamil was walking behind us, and he kept saying ‘The ditch. The ditch.’ He meant that they were going to kill us in the ditch, then throw our bodies into it. After that, they took us, along with another detainee who I later learned was Abdulalim Al Ramisi. They took us to the Political Security Organization prison, which is being used as a detention center by the Abu Al Abbas Brigades. They took us to the yard of the Political Security Organization prison, and I thought that they would kill us there. Amr Jaamil raised his weapon and hit me with it, then he order us to stick our legs out. He chained our legs, and, while he was going that, he would hit the chains with a hammer, then he would hit my leg with the hammer.

I was screaming from the pain, but he did not care. He hit my leg with the hammer a number of times, then he put chains on the legs of the child, Dini, and Abdulalim Al Ramisi. They threw us in a closed cell that

let in no light or air. That cell smelled really bad. Our eyes were covered, and we slept on the floor. The chains were kept on my legs for 25 days,” The monitoring team of the Yemeni Coalition saw the scars from the chain on the legs of the victim. The victim added that his captors would only allow them to go to the bathroom twice a day, and they only gave them lunch and dinner. They remained like this until they were released a month after being detained in a prisoner exchange between the Abu Al Abbas Brigades and the military command in Taiz.

Houthi militiamen detained M.Q.D., a 55-year-old woman, from her home in Hajjah city. A.A.Q., one of her relatives, says that Houthi militiamen raided the home of the victim at 2 pm on Monday, January 8, 2018. They detained her and took her to a Houthi prison in the Ho-deidah governorate. The witness adds that the victim was detained in order to pressure her into giving her son, Ahmad Al Haddad, up. Al Haddad had been detained in the past by the Houthis, and he had remained in their prisons for two years. The witness added that the Houthis released the old woman two days after her detention, and they took money and jewels from her, as well as a signed statement saying that she will bring her son to them, after a prominent tribal figure in Hajjah city intervened in the case.

M.Y.S., a 14-year-old child, is from the Bani Qais Al Shaghadirah area in Hajjah. Houthi militiamen abducted him from his father’s home. The armed men attacked his father’s home and planted IEDs in it, and they

were ready to blow it up. During their attack, they arrested and detained the child in an unknown location, then they blew up his father's home. This happened while people were in the masjid in the area to pray the Friday prayer on February 2nd, 2018.

Part IV: Conditions in Prisons and Detention Centers

The increasing number of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, abductions, and deprivation of freedoms show that there is an increasing number of private and secret prisons. During the research and investigations carried out by the Yemeni Coalition team, they were able to reach a general idea of the condition of prisons in Yemen. These conditions, in most prisons, do not meet the minimum standards required by Yemeni law and international conventions on prisons. International law requires that there be minimum standards of treatment of prisoners, and these standards require a prison and health conditions that are suitable, including clothes, food, and covers, as well as humane treatment of the prisoners.

It should be noted that the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, which were ratified by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1979 and 1990, respectively, require the protection of the health of the prisoners. These documents consider a decrease in the food, water, or medical treatment provided to detained individuals is considered inhuman treatment.

Most of the prisons whose conditions the team looked into, whether through visits or by listening to the testimony of detainees, show that all of the parties to the conflict in Yemen have private and secret prisons, and all of these prisons do not meet the most basic requirements of good treatment. The conditions in these prisoners are bad and are not suitable, and buildings that were not equipped as prisons and are not under the supervision of the Yemeni Prison Authority are being used as prisons. As for state prisons, they are also being used without the authority and supervision of the law. The information that we have gotten shows that many of the detainees are not treated humanely. In addition to that, there is clear mistreatment, including physical and mental torture and illegal executions being carried out in the prisons. The food that the prisoners are getting is much less than what they should be getting, the water they are getting is dirty, and there is an almost complete absence of healthcare. The individuals in charge of these prisons are harsh and inhumane towards the detainees, and the psychological conditions of the prisoners are not suitable. Many of the prisoners are not allowed to contact their families, and their families are not allowed to contact them, in many cases. The deaths of many prisoners in prisons controlled by the different parties to the conflict have been recorded, and their deaths were caused because of this harsh treatment and the conditions in the prison.

Incidents

The Bir Ahmad Prison, which is controlled by the Security Belt Forces in Aden, is one of the prisons where the prisoners are degraded, and dif-

ferent kinds of torture and cruel treatment of the prisoners are carried out. The prison is made up of two parts, the new and the old wings, and the Yemeni Coalition recorded testimony from individuals who were detained there. N.N.A. says: “I, along with a number of other detainees, carried out a hunger strike, and we were taken to the new wing of the Bir Ahmad Detention Center. Before we were transferred, the warden of the prison, Ghassan Al Aqrabi, who is from the Security Belt Forces, promised to send our cases to the public prosecutor’s office, but nothing happened. While we were being transferred to the new detention center, they did not allow us to take all of our belongings and clothes. They only allowed us to take the clothes that we were wearing at the time.”

The previous detainee adds that the new Bir Ahmad detention center is around 150 meters from the old wing, and the administration of the detention center put up sandbags and bricks around the old building, saying that it is a weapons depot. They did this to make everyone think that there is only one detention center. “In the new Bir Ahmad detention center, we would be searched, and we would tear up all of the papers and lists with the names of forcibly disappeared individuals, people who were killed, and statements because we were afraid that they would be found. We were severely tortured, along with a group of detainees who were being held by Shallal Shaya before they were moved here.”

He adds: “We were tortured by people while our eyes were covered, and our hands bound in metal chains. Our legs were bound as well. We were

tortured by the guards and soldiers, and they used violence against all of the detainees, with no exceptions. I used to sit with people in the same cells, and these people were subject to horrifying torture that people just cannot imagine. We were physically tortured, with electricity, and we got beat with sticks, batons, metal pipes, and car exhaust pipes. They also used to put large stones on our chest, and they would break bones with them. They would hit our heads with large metal locks and throw cold water on our faces. I spent 75 days in a solitary confinement cell that had an air conditioner on the whole time, and I almost froze.”

The monitoring team met with one of the detainees in a Houthi militia prison. He told the team about the conditions that the prisoners were living in in these prisons. Saleh Al Thajri was abducted from near a masjid in Dhammar city, and he says that, after he was abducted, he was taken, along with a number of other abductees, under a lot of security, to the Al Wattiyah Prison. This prison is in the Al Baidha governorate, and he was searched there. Everything that he had on him, including money, telephones, and personal effects, were taken from him, and he was thrown in prison. In the prison, he was bound on the first night, and his eyes were covered. His clothes were taken off, and he was beat with sticks, rifle butts, and wires in a very cold room. He was also tortured in numerous other ways. He kept being interrogated in this manner, and getting tortured like this, for around a month.

Al Thajri adds that the number of detainees in that prison was more

than 400, and they did not have even the most basic necessities, like water and food. They were given one kudmah (a traditional Yemeni bread) in the morning and another one at night. They would be left without water for long periods of time. After a month, he was moved to the Criminal Investigation Department prison in Dhammar. There, they started interrogating him once again, and they used numerous torture methods with him, including slapping and beating him with rifle butts, sticks, and cables, shocking him with electricity, and binding his hands behind his back and hanging him from the ceiling. He was left without food and water for long periods of time, then he was moved to the Central Prison in the Dhammar governorate, where he was put in a dirty cell that smelled of decaying bodies and had absolutely no light in it. He looked for an empty spot in that cell to lay down until the morning. On the next day, he found out that he had been put in a cell for the mentally disabled, and that there were 60 mentally disabled detainees in it. He stayed in that prison for around 8 months.

They gave them food and water that was dirty, and different contagious skins diseases spread among the detainees because of the dirty conditions and open sewage in the cell. His condition got worse and worse, and his blood pressure went up constantly because he was deprived of healthcare in the prison. Al Thajri adds: “My condition kept getting worse and worse, and I fell unconscious. I was taken to the Dhammar General Hospital, where they did not allow any doctor to treat me. They waited until a Houthis doctor came, and he gave me a checkup. He told the armed men who had brought me to the hospital that I had high

blood pressure and that if I did not get good medical treatment I would have kidney failure.” Al Thajri was given some painkillers and taken back to the cell, once again, and they treated him the same way, until the doctor told them that he had kidney failure. Then, the Houthis decided to release him from the prison, and he returned to his village in the Al Hadaa district, after which he was able to escape to the Mareb governorate. There, he was given medical treatment, and he found that he had kidney failure and needed a new kidney.

Regarding the general conditions of the abductees and the prisons that he was kept in, Al Thajri says: “The Houthis abduct any person that opposes them or anyone that they suspect is not completely loyal to them. They take them from anywhere and make up false charges about them, then they torture and abuse them so that they can confess to these charges. With regards to the food that is given to the prisoners, it is not enough, and the water is polluted in most cases. The prisoners are not given clean water or personal hygiene products. The cells in these prisons are overcrowded, and the prisoners do not get medical services. This has made contagious disease spread quickly among the prisoners. The prisoners do not even get sunlight.”

Appendix of Data Tables

Table 1, Geographical Distribution and Types of Torture, Disappearance, Detention and Torture during 2018

Governorate	Abduction and Detention					Enforced Disappearance					Torture					Death under Torture				Execution	Total
	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Children	Elderly	Total	Men	Women	Elderly	Total		
Sana'a capital	138	19	4	10	152	57	6	1	1	65	2	114	2	2	118	3			0	219	
Al-Baidha	91		10	10	111	17				17	24	2	4	2	30				0	152	
Taiz	82		3	2	87	34	1	1	2	55	4				4	4			4	155	
Al-Mahwet	123			1	124	10				10	1				1	1			0	135	
Hodeidah	76			3	79	18		1		19	4				4	1			1	103	
Dhamar	64		5	8	77	12			1	13	4		1		5	2			2	97	
Aden	62				62	9	1	1	3	14					1	1	10	1	11	96	
Amran	65	1	6	3	75					0	2				2				0	77	
Hajjah	36	1		2	39	17		1	1	19	5				8	2			2	68	
Lahaj	49		2	3	54	2		1	1	3					0	3			3	60	
Sa'da	3			1	4	28			3	31	19		5	1	16	1			1	52	
Ibb	23			3	26	3		1		4	9			5	14	1			1	45	
Hadrामout	25	1			26	13				13	1				1			1	1	41	
Abyan	28				28					0					0	4		1	5	34	
Addallic	18		8	3	29	2				2					0	1			1	32	
Al-Jouf	11				11					0	1				1				0	12	
Raima	7			2	9			2		2					0				0	11	
Marab	7	2	1		10					0	1				1				0	11	
Shabwa	4				4					0					0	1			1	5	
Total	950	24	42	51	1067	230	8	6	14	278	9	0	0	5	208	0	0	0	36	1603	

Table (2), Distribution of Detention, Disappearance, Torture and Execution Victims according to Sex, during 1st half of 2018

Part Respon- sible	Type of Viola- tion	Laborer	Politician	Education Sector	Students	Social Digni- taries	Children	Media	Rights Activists	Women	physicians Academia	Traders	Others	Total
Houthis Militia	abduction	300	123	59	107	44	36	13	21	21	19	31	11	785
	Disappearance	67	35	15	30	27	4	5	3	7	3	10	2	208
	Torture	11	107	15	16	3	5	4	2	2	7	13	3	188
Legitimate Gov. Forces	Torture to Death	2	1	1	2			1	3			1	1	12
	Abduction	4	105	1	5		1	1	6	3	1	22	17	166
	Disappearance	4	3					2	2				12	23
	Torture	1						1						2
	abduction	3	2	4	2		3	3	5		1	7	2	32
	Disappearance	4	1		2		1	1						8
Forces not subject to Gov. control	torture							1						1
	Torture to Death		6	2										8
	Execution													9
Anonymous	abduction		9										1	3
	Disappearance	1	1				1			1				4
Al-Qaeda	Torture to Death	1								1				2
	Total	1												1
	Total	399	393	97	164	74	53	31	42	35	31	84	49	1452

Table (3), Violations against Politicians, HR Activists, Media, Children, Women, Geographically Distributed

Governorate	Politician						Enforced Disappearance						Torture						Death under Torture				Execution	Total	
	Politicians	Media	HR Activists	Children	Women	Total	Politicians	Media	HR Activists	Children	Women	Total	Politician	Media	HR Activists	Children	Women	Total	Politicians	Media	HR Activists	women			Total
Ibb	1	1	1			3				1	1	1	1	1				1					0	0	5
Abyan	28					28					0							0					0	1	29
Sana'a, capital	6	5	6	3	18	38	9	3			12	82	4	1	2	89					2		2	0	141
Al-Baidha	33		1	10		44	1			1	2	20			4	24							0	0	70
Al-Jouf						0					0					0							0	0	0
Hodeidah	20		8			28	6	1	1	1	9					0							0	0	37
Addalie			3	8		11					0					0							1	1	12
Al-Mahwet	36		1			37	1			1	1					0							0	0	38
Taiz	10	1		3		14	1		1	1	5	1				0			1	1			2	2	17
Hajjah	2		1		1	4	3		1	1	5	1				1							0	0	10
Hadrarmout		1	6		1	8					0		1			1							1	0	9
Dhannar	12	5		5		22	3				3	1		1	1	3							0	0	28
Raima	2					0	2				2				1	0							0	0	2
Shabwa						0					0					0							0	0	0
Sa'da	1					1	3		1		4	2				7							0	0	12
Sana'a	4	1		4		9	6	1		1	14			5		0							0	0	23
Aden	42					42	4	2	2	1	10					0		5				1	6	8	66
Amran	3			6	1	10					0					0							0	0	10
Lahaj	30	2		2		34	1				1					0		1					1	0	36
Mareh		1	5	1	2	9					0		1			1							1	0	10
Total	228	17	32	42	23	342	39	7	5	6	8	65	107	6	2	10	2	127	7	1	3	1	12	9	558

Table (4), Violations against Politicians, HR Activists, Media, Children, and Women, according to Responsible Party

Responsible Party	Abduction					Enforced Disappearance					Torture					Death under Torture				Execution	Total			
	Politicians	Media	HR Activists	Children	Women	Total	Politicians	Media	HR Activists	Children	Women	Total	Politicians	Media	HR Activists	Women	Total							
Houthis Militia	123	13	21	36	20	213	35	5	3	4	7	54	107	4	2	5	2	120	1	1	3	5	0	392
Legitimate .Govt	105	1	6	1	3	116	3	2	2			7		1				1				0	0	124
Forces not under Govt. Control	2	3	5	3		13	1			1		2		1				1	6			6	9	31
Anonymous				2		2	1			1	1	3						0				1	0	6
Total	230	17	32	42	23	344	40	7	5	6	8	66	107	6	2	5	2	122	7	1	3	1	9	553