



JOURNALISM BLEEDING

A report examining the 100 most important violations that journalists were subjected to during the period from 2015 to 2022 in three Yemeni governorates



Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism

A non-governmental, non-profit civil organization, established in 2018, registered with the official authorities with license No. (61). It **aims** to enhance a culture of investigative journalism methodology among journalists and media institutions in Yemen, and **seeks** to consolidate freedom of opinion and expression in order to protect human rights based on international conventions and local legislation in force.

Free Media encourages “careful journalism” based on interviews, fieldwork and research based on verified sources, **in order to answer two central questions: How and why.** The ultimate goal of this type of journalism is to serve the public good by providing deep and accurate narrations that reduce the unprecedented reliance on opinion articles and analysis.

Our team’s efforts focus on stories, reporting and journalistic investigations at a high level of impact, which create a change on the ground rather than waiting for this change to happen, while ensuring that there is no compromise in adhering to the journalistic principles that guide its work: objectivity, accuracy and serving the public good.



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Summary

Human rights in Yemen have been subjected to horrific violations Since Ansar Allah “Houthis” invaded the Yemeni capital Sana’a, on September 21, 2014.

Violations of international humanitarian law against civilians and civilian objects increased after the Houthis took control of Sana’a and began to attack other Yemeni governorates, increasing the intensity of the armed conflict between the forces of the internationally recognized government- under the umbrella of the former Yemeni President Abdo Rabbu Mansour Hadi, on one hand, and the “Ansar Allah” group (Houthis) and forces loyal to former Yemeni President Ali Saleh on the other hand. Before the Saleh-Houthi alliance ended in 2017 after calling on his supporters to rise up against the Houthis, which led to his death.

According to statistics from the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate During the period from 2015 to 2022, the international and local organizations monitored about 3,000 violations against journalists, including 49 killings, and the rest of the violations were divided between arbitrary arrest, forcibly disappearance, torture and prosecutions, in addition to the closure of media institutions and the blocking of websites.

The conflict was reflected in the situation of Yemeni journalists in general. In addition to losing their jobs, strict restrictions were imposed on the profession of journalism and journalists were considered more dangerous than warriors in the enemy lines, according to the statement of the leader of the “Ansar Allah” group “Houthis” in one of his speeches.^[1] All this led to the undermining of freedom of opinion and expression, the absence of law enforcement institutions and the dominance of repressive agencies instead. Which made the task of pursuing members involved from the security and military services and armed formations, almost impossible. Therefore, impunity prevailed in most violations, if not all.

1- - Inciting the leader of the Ansar Allah group against journalists: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKyphBXojcw>

The Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism” issues this report as part of its efforts with media and human rights institutions supporting the protection of rights and freedoms in Yemen within the framework of the “Free Voices” project. Which aims to monitor and study the most prominent 100 cases of violations of freedom of opinion and expression carried out by the parties to the conflict in three Yemeni governorates: “Sana’a, Aden and Taiz” during the period from 2015 to 2022. The report also focuses on studying the role of law enforcement institutions in cases of violations against journalists working in a highly censored and repressive environment, as Yemen ranks 169 out of 180 in the Press Freedom Index of Reporters Without Borders.

Through professional monitoring of cases of violations against journalists and other human rights defenders, we have reached the **following conclusions:**

1- Killing: During the period from 2015 to 2022, the killing of 25 journalists was documented in the three governorates targeted by the report, including a female journalist in Aden governorate and a female human rights activist in Taiz governorate in southern Yemen.

The report monitored 5 killings of journalists in Sana’a, northern Yemen, which is under the control of the Ansar Allah group “Houthis”. 3 of them by air strikes from fighter jets of the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia. And a killing incident that evidence indicates the involvement of the Houthi group in planning it. In the fifth incident, The Specialized Criminal Court in Sana’a convicted 7 people of the murder of journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani and sentenced them to death in 2020. In areas controlled by the internationally recognized Yemeni government, 9 journalists were killed in the southern governorate of Aden, including a female journalist, **while in Taiz governorate**, the report monitors the killing of 11 journalists, including a female human rights activist. Evidence indicates that the Ansar Allah group (Houthis) is behind most of the killings of journalists in the governorates of Aden and Taiz.

2- Arbitrarily Detention: The report monitors 52 incidents of arbitrary detention of journalists and human rights defenders in the governorates of Sana’a, Aden, and Taiz,

where the security and intelligence services of the different conflicted parties in Yemen arrested journalists by breaking into their homes, places of work, or public places such as hotels and streets without warrants.

Interviews with former detainees or those close to them show that all arrests were arbitrary, and the detainees did not know the reason for their arrest. They were also prevented from getting lawyers throughout the interrogation. **This is contrary to the constitution, Yemeni law, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (details of this are mentioned in Part Two of this report).**

- 3- Enforced Disappearance:** The report examined 44 incidents of forcibly disappearance of journalists in the three governorates targeted by the report. **The areas under the control of the Ansar Allah group “Houthis” topped** the incidents of disappearance of 34 journalists, including 32 incidents of disappearance in the capital, Sana’a, and 2 others in the areas controlled by the group northeast of Taiz governorate. **In the areas controlled by the internationally recognized government**, in the governorates of Aden and Taiz. The number of forcibly disappearances examined in the report was 10, divided as follows: 3 incidents of forcibly disappearance in Aden governorate, by the forces of the Southern Transitional Council, 5 incidents by the military intelligence services and the military axis forces in Taiz governorate, and two incidents by unknown gunmen.
- 4- Torture:** All detained journalists in the governorates of Sana’a, Aden, Taiz were subjected to torture after their arrest, or to some form of ill-treatment, cruel and degrading throughout the period of detention. The forms of torture inflicted on them varied, between beatings, kicking, fake execution, or forcing them to stand in painful positions, hanging them by the wrists, death threats, interrogation for consecutive days, sleep deprivation, etc. As a result of torture, a journalist died two days after his release from the prisons of the Ansar Allah group “Houthis” northeast of Taiz. Most detainees continue to suffer from the consequences of torture such as back pain and other health problems as a result of cruel treatment and not getting adequate health care during detention.
- 5- Women journalists and activists:** Women journalists and activists in Yemen were subjected to many violations against press between 2015 and 2022. In the governorates of Sana’a, Aden, and Taiz, the report documented examples of violations against women journalists in the country. The Ansar Allah group “Houthis” topped the list of violators

of the rights of female journalists, including their right to life. **In the assassination of journalist Rasha Al-Harazi** in Aden governorate southern of Yemen. According to an interrogator the Houthis were behind planting the explosive device in her husband's car, journalist Mahmoud Al-Atmi.

Evidence suggests that activist Riham Al-Badr, who was killed in Taiz governorate, lost her life by a sniper of the Ansar Allah group "Houthis" in one of the clash areas in Taiz between the Yemeni government army and the Houthi group, which was allied with the forces of former President Ali Saleh at the time. **In addition to these violations, the report documents arrests, sexual harassment and torture in Sana'a, and in Taiz the team monitored** four incidents of violations of female journalists by institutions affiliated with the internationally recognized government, represented by security and judicial prosecutions, threats, and assault.

- 6- Law enforcement institutions:** Law enforcement institutions, including the police, security forces, and intelligence agencies, in Yemen have been accused of failing to provide adequate protection to journalists or investigate attacks against them. This lack of action has contributed to a climate of impunity, where those who attack journalists are not held accountable.

The report examined the performance of all institutions concerned with law enforcement and the extent of their commitment to the legal and constitutional texts and international conventions ratified by Yemen.

It was clear that all law enforcement institutions did not follow the legal procedures that protect the defendants, as they arrested journalists without warrants, and broke into their homes and other places at times not permitted by law, in addition to not respecting their right to know the charges against them and the reasons for their arrest. Also in detention, they were not allowed to communicate with their families or to get lawyers.

Law enforcement institutions dealt with detained journalists with forms of degrading and ill-treatment such as torture, forcing victims to confess to alleged charges, signing statements they know nothing about their contents, and not referring their cases to prosecutors and courts to complete litigation procedures within the period stipulated by law^[2].

As it will become clear in the chapters of this report

2-Article (48) of the Yemeni Constitution, and Articles (6, 7, 11, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 164, 77, 173, 185) of the Code of Criminal Procedures

It was found that all security, military and judicial institutions and new structures, whether those affiliated with the Ansar Allah group “Houthis” or affiliated with the legitimacy (the internationally recognized government), are subject to the political orientation of the conflicted parties, as these institutions did not respect the legal and constitutional texts that oblige them to apply clear procedures that preserve the rights of the defendants. From the facts of the trial of journalists, it is clear that they are not subject to fair trial standards. The cases of journalists have been referred to trial by the Specialized prosecution and the Criminal Court, which reveals the obstruction of the role of public prosecutions and ordinary courts from performing their duties, in order to weaken the independence of the judiciary and disrupt accountability mechanisms for perpetrators of human rights violations.

The political intent is clear in the prosecution of journalists. The report documents the death sentence of four journalists, issued by the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana’a, which sentenced 4 others, including a female activist, to prison terms of at least 3 years and most 10 years, based largely or only on confessions that the defendants confirmed were extracted from them under duress through torture and ill-treatment. Which confirms that the courts have not adhered to international and Yemeni law, which guarantees impartial investigations into any claims of torture or ill-treatment, and that a confession can only be admitted as evidence in the case after a serious investigation finds the torture claims false.

Methodology

The contexts of this report discuss the series of violations committed against journalists in three Yemeni governorates, “Sana'a, Aden, Taiz” during the period from 2015 to 2022. These violations included: the facts of killing, arbitrary arrests, forcibly disappearance, torture, assault, restrictions on freedoms, and escaping of those involved from punishment and the absence of international pressure to achieve accountability. For six months, the Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism monitored the 100 most prominent violations against journalists and human rights defenders, in the three governorates under the control of the various conflicted parties.

The Free Media Center designed a form for monitoring violations as a monitoring and documentation tool, taking care that there should be at least one source of information who is the victim himself or a first-degree relative of the victim with the statement of the defense lawyer, as well as one witness who supports the statement of the victim, Provided that the legal conditions are met in the witnesses, The Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism was keen to adhere to ethical values and principles that ensure monitoring and documentation of violations committed by all parties to the conflict in a transparent, impartial and objective manner. We also took care not to harm the victims and witnesses, respecting privacy and ensuring their safety.

Therefore: All the information in this report was the outcome of the monitoring and documentation process conducted by the Free Media Center for Investigative Press, relying on distant interviews , through the phone and other safe applications during the period from August to December of the year 2022, with a number of journalists who were subjected to violations, or with people close to them.

Interviews were also conducted with a number of lawyers for some cases contained in the report. In addition to informing the Free Media Center team of some of the accusations and legal reports of some of the detainees whose cases have been documented in this report.

The report also relied on open source information documented in the reports of Yemeni

community organizations, including Mwatana organization and Sam Organization in addition to what was stated in the reports of international organizations, such as Human Rights Watch reports, Reporters Without Borders and Amnesty International. In addition to interviews with government officials who has a functional association in dealing with cases of human rights violations, including employees of the Criminal Investigation and Prosecution in Aden and Taiz.

We point out that the numbers mentioned in the report are what have been verified through the monitoring and documentation process and do not necessarily reflect the reality of violations on the ground, but rather contribute to exposing violations against journalists in the targeted areas.

The cases mentioned in this report were selected based on the consent of the victim, his relatives, or his lawyer to publish, taking into account not harming the victim or witnesses, and taking into account the diversity of cases according to the perpetrators of the violations and the geographical scope.

Free Media has identified those responsible for the violations against journalists described in this report, through testimony from victims, witnesses, and defense lawyers, as well as through the context of the facts.

Through the testimony of the victims, witnesses, and the victims' lawyers, as well as through the context of the facts, those responsible for the violations against the journalists mentioned in this report were determined.

The Free Media Center for Investigative Press wrote to the Supreme Judicial Council in the internationally recognized government and to the authorities of the Houthi group "Ansar Allah" in Sanaa, in November 2022, to demand the response to the outcomes concluded by this report, in addition to requesting information about investigation and prosecution in violations against journalists, but it did not receive any response until January 2023, which is the time to edit this report.

Background

After a wave of protests known as the Arab Spring revolutions, which did not take long to reach Yemen after the Tunisian revolution, and because Yemen is a poor country with a government widely recognized for corruption, at the beginning of 2011, the Yemeni youth revolution erupted, at a time when the country was facing challenges from al-Qaeda and the Southern Movement in the south and Ansar Allah (Houthis) in the north.

Yemenis came out in large crowds in 2011, protesting the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who transferred his authority to his vice president at the time, Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi as president. According to the Gulf initiative and its executive mechanism, Hadi was elected as a president without opposition. His election on February 24, 2012, was widely seen as a continuation of the goals of the youth revolution that began in 2011, but the Southern Movement boycotted the presidential elections, as did the Houthis.

After that, Yemenis started the National Dialogue Conference in 2013, which included broad political and societal formations, including the Ansar Allah group “Houthis”. The federal constitution draft was formulated after extensive discussions with the components of the dialogue conference.

However, the Ansar Allah group “Houthis”, which took advantage of the protests of Yemenis and declared its support for them, after fighting six wars with the Yemeni army, turned against the outcomes of the national dialogue, as they began to invade the governorates bordering Saada governorate, which is the stronghold of the group in the north of the country.

The state of conflict between former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and political forces made him ally with the Houthis, to help them control the rest of the governorates. Then on September 21, 2014, the Ansar Allah group “Houthis” invaded the capital, Sanaa.

On January 17, 2015, the Houthis kidnapped the Director of the Office of the President of the Republic, Ahmed Awadh Bin Mubarak, who was the candidate to form the government, on charges of financial and administrative corruption and passing the “draft constitution”

without consensus on the issue of the form of the country. In addition to kidnapping senior political and military leaders, the Houthis also imposed house arrest on Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi. They announced the formation of a governing council called the Political Council of the Houthis and officials belonging to the General People's Congress Party, the wing of former President Ali Saleh. Then the two allies, "Saleh and the Houthis", began to march towards the governorates of central and southern Yemen, which enabled President Hadi to flee from Sana'a to Aden, which he then declared the temporary capital of the country.

President Hadi asked Saudi Arabia for military intervention to defeat the Houthis and Saleh from the governorates that fell under their control. The call for intervention was warmly welcomed, as the expansion of the Houthis over large territories of the Republic of Yemen raised the concern of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries due to the relationship of the "Houthis" with Iran. So the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy, a military coalition of several Arab countries led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was quickly formed to support the legitimate government. On March 26, 2015, the coalition began bombing Houthi positions and Saleh-allied formations. The Houthi-Saleh alliance did not last long, as in December 2017, the Ansar Allah group "Houthis" got rid of its strategic ally by assassinating him, extending its influence over decision-making joints, and exclusivity managing the capital, Sana'a, and the rest of the areas under its control.

On the other hand, the components supporting the internationally recognized Yemeni government have not unified, as rounds of inter-conflict have erupted. The most prominent of which are confrontations between army forces affiliated with the Ministries of Defense and Interior, and formations affiliated with the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council, after it declared self-administration of the governorates under its control, including Aden, the temporary capital of the country. In Taiz, in the south of the country, armed clashes erupted between different military formations affiliated with the governorate's military axis.

All these confrontations, between two main parties: the internationally recognized Yemeni government represented by the army forces and with the support of the Saudi-led Arab coalition, and the forces of the Ansar Allah group "Houthis" backed by Iran and allied with Ali Saleh, and then the conflicts between the components of each party, reflected on human rights in general, and freedom of opinion and expression in particular. And over the past

seven years, all the conflicted parties have committed serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Yemeni journalists were among the prominent groups that were subjected to repression and prosecution, especially those who raise human rights issues. They were subjected to a series of violations amounting to war crimes in some incidents, including: killings, arbitrary arrests, forcibly disappearances, torture, assaults, and other violations committed by the various systems of the conflicted parties.

These violations clarify the danger of practicing the right of expression freedom in a difficult environment. And the absence of the pressure of international support in order to achieve accountability of the violations that journalists are exposed to, in light of the prevailing trend of impunity.

The “Free Media” center is concerned that impunity and cover -up on the grave violations of human rights encourages the perpetrators of crimes to continue practicing violations, and harming entire societies. To contribute to fight the phenomenon of impunity, and activating accountability mechanisms for the violation perpetrators against journalists. The “Free Voices” project – implemented by the Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism in three Yemeni governorates: “Sana’a, Aden, Taiz” – came to enhance advocacy and legal protection for journalists, through examining the patterns of violations of freedom of opinion and expression and studying the role of law enforcement institutions in violations cases. The project will also work to raise awareness of violations of freedom of opinion and expression in Yemen. And mobilize international public opinion by inviting international organizations from different parts of the world to highlight these violations and push towards the accountability of those involved, and ensure that they do not escape punishment.



legal framework

Yemen is considered a party in most of the major international human rights treaties, international humanitarian law “the four Geneva Conventions” and international criminal law. Therefore, it is subjected to the provisions of these treaties, which impose, among other things, obligations to respect the right to life, the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments, the prohibition of forcibly disappearances, and the right to freedom of expression.

The conflicted parties have violated these international treaties, conventions and laws. They also have committed a series of legal and constitutional violations against journalists through “security and military institutions, prosecutions, and courts.«

International Laws

This report shows that press freedom in Yemen has been subjected to extraordinary attacks that have led to an alarming decline in media activity in the country. Therefore, it appears that these threats and attacks violate the individual and collective right to freedom of expression, which is also enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article (19): “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart news and ideas through any media without limitation of geographical frontiers«.

Article (5):”No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Article (10): “Everyone has the right, in full equality with others, to a fair and public hearing in his case by an independent and impartial tribunal to determine his rights and obligations and any criminal charge against him.”

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article (19) (2): “Everyone has the right to hold opinions without any interference, and everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to hold opinions without any interference, and to seek, receive and impart news and ideas through any media whatsoever without limitation of geographical frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, artistically or through any other type of media of his/her choice.”

Article (14) (3) (A, B, C, G): “Every person accused of an offence shall enjoy, during the hearing of his case, on a full equal footing, the following minimum guarantees:

To be promptly and in detail, informed in a language he understands, of the nature and reasons of the charge against him; (b) To be given sufficient time and facilities to prepare his defense and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing; (c) To be tried without undue delay. (g) Not to be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt.”

Article (7): “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment«...

Article (9):

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of himself, and no one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained, and no one may be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds as are prescribed by law and in accordance with the procedure established therein.
2. Any person arrested shall be informed of the reasons for such arrest upon its occurrence and **shall be promptly informed** of any charge against him.
3. A person arrested or detained on a criminal charge **shall be brought** promptly before a judge or officer authorized by law to practice judicial functions and shall have the right to be tried within a reasonable time or to be released, and the detention of persons awaiting trial shall not be the general rule
4. Every person deprived of liberty by arrest or detention shall have the right to have a court to judge without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is unlawful. 5. Everyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have the right to compensation.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of:

Article (2): “1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction. 2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war, a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, shall be invoked as a justification for torture. 3. Orders issued by higher-ranking officials or by a public authority **may not be invoked** as justification for torture«.

Article (12): “Each State Party shall ensure that its competent authorities conduct a prompt and impartial investigation whenever there are reasonable grounds for believing that an act of torture has been committed in any of the territories under its jurisdiction«.

Article (13): “Each State Party shall **guarantee** to any individual who claims to have been subjected to torture in any territory under its jurisdiction the right to lodge a complaint with its competent authorities and to have his case examined promptly and impartially. Steps should be taken to ensure that the complainant and witnesses are protected from all ill-treatment or intimidation as a result of his complaint or any evidence presented.”

Article (14):

1. Each State Party shall **guarantee**, in its legal system, that a person who has been subjected to an act of torture shall have redress and an enforceable right to just and adequate compensation, including the means of rehabilitation, as fully as possible.
2. Nothing in this article shall affect any right of the victim or of other persons to any compensation that may exist under national law.

Article (15): “Each State Party shall ensure that any statement proved to have been made as a result of torture shall not be cited as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that such statements have been made«.

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from forcibly Disappearance:

Regarding forcibly disappearance, you can refer to articles 1:25 of the [Convention](#)

United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

The conditions in which the journalists were detained violated the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners “[the Nelson Mandela Rules](#)” regarding adequate subsistence items, windows and light, sanitation facilities, personal hygiene and clothing, food and exercise outside and medical services^[1].

The Yemeni Constitution:

Article (42): “Every citizen has the right to participate in political, economic, social and cultural life, and the State shall guarantee freedom of thought and expression of opinion orally, in writing and photography within the limits of the law.”

Article (48):

A- The State shall guarantee to citizens their personal freedom and preserve their dignity and security. The law determines the cases in which the freedom of a citizen is restricted and no one’s freedom may be restricted except by a sentence of a competent court.

B- No person may be arrested, searched or detained except in flagrante delicto or by an order necessitated by the necessity of investigation and maintenance of security issued by the judge or the Public Prosecution in accordance with the provisions of the law. Every human being whose freedom is restricted by any restriction must have his dignity preserved, and physical, psychological or moral torture is prohibited, and coercion of confession during interrogations is prohibited. A person whose freedom is restricted has the right to refrain from making any statements except in the presence of his lawyer. It is forbidden to imprison or detain any person in places other than those subject to the Prisons Organization Law. Torture and inhuman treatment are prohibited upon arrest or during detention or imprisonment.

C- Anyone who is temporarily arrested on suspicion of committing a crime must be brought before the judiciary within twenty-four hours from the date of his arrest at most. The judge or the Public Prosecution must inform him of the reasons for his arrest, interrogate him and enable him to express his defense and objections, and a reasoned order must be issued immediately to continue his arrest or release him. In all cases, the Public

1- Rules No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Prosecution may not continue detention for more than seven days except by judicial order, and the law shall determine the maximum period of pretrial detention.

D- When any person is arrested for any reason, he must immediately notify the person chosen by the arrested person, as must be done when issuing every judicial order for the continuation of the detention. If the arrested person is unable to choose, his relatives or whom he is interested shall be informed.

E- The law shall determine the punishment of anyone who violates the provisions of any paragraph of this article and shall determine the appropriate compensation for the damages that may be caused to the person as a result of the violation, and physical or psychological torture upon arrest, detention or imprisonment shall be considered a crime that does not have a statute of limitations and anyone who practices, orders or participates in it should be punished.

Article (149): "The judiciary is an independent authority judicially, financially and administratively, and the Public Prosecution is one of its bodies. The courts adjudicate all disputes and crimes, and judges are independent and there is no authority over them in their judiciary other than the law. No party may interfere in any way in cases or in a matter of justice, and such interference is considered a crime punishable by law and the case does not have a statute of limitations"

Yemeni Laws

Security and military agencies, prosecutors, and courts have violated the rights guaranteed by law to journalists/victims, **some of them are mentioned in:**

Criminal Procedure Law:

Article (4): "The accused is innocent until proven guilty, and the doubt shall be interpreted in favor of the accused. The punishment shall not be imposed until after a trial conducted in accordance with the provisions of this law in which the freedom of defense is preserved«.

Article (6):"It is prohibited to torture the accused, treat him inhumanely, or harm him physically or morally in order to force him to confess, and any statement that proves that it was made by one of the accused or witnesses under the weight of any of the above shall be wast-

ed and unreliable.”

Article (7):

1. Arrests are permissible only in connection with acts punishable by law and must be based on law.
2. The Public Prosecution shall immediately release any person whose freedom has been unlawfully restricted or who has been placed in pretrial detention for a period longer than is authorized by law, judgment or judge’s order.

Article (9)

1. The right of defense is guaranteed, and the accused may undertake the defense himself. He may also seek the assistance of a representative to defend him at any stage of the criminal case, including the investigation stage, and the state provides the insolvent and the poor with a defense from among the accredited lawyers. The Council of Ministers issues a decision based on the proposal of the Minister of Justice. A regulation regulating matters of providing advocates from accredited lawyers for the insolvent and the poor.
2. The Judicial Enforcement Officer, the Public Prosecution, and the court must alert the accused to his money regarding the charge against him and the means of evidence available to him, and work to preserve his personal and financial rights.

Article (11): “Personal freedom is guaranteed, and no citizen may be charged with committing a crime, and his freedom shall not be restricted except by order of the competent authorities in accordance with the provisions of this law.”

Article (132):”It is not permissible to search persons, enter dwellings, access postal correspondence, record wired, wireless or personal conversations, as well as seize objects, except by order of the Public Prosecution during the investigation or by the judge during the trial.”

Article (77) When a person is arrested for any reason, the person of his choice must be notified immediately of the fact of his arrest. This must also be done when every judicial order is issued for continued detention. If the arrested person is unable to make a choice, his relatives or whoever may be interested must be notified.

Article (133): “A person shall be inspected by searching for what is in his body, clothing or belongings with him.” In addition to Articles «from 134 to 137 and from 139 to 164», which explain how to conduct the inspection, the time of its conduct, the procedures that the inspector must follow during the inspection. The seizure of seizures, the conditions that

must be met to carry out the search of the person or residences, the powers vested in the inspector during the inspection, the matters that are prohibited by him during the inspection, and other matters intended to preserve the sanctity of homes, personal and family secrets, the sanctity of women living in the house, and other matters that may not be violated no matter what happens.

Article (185): “Pretrial detention shall not be permitted for crimes committed through newspapers unless they involve crimes involving defamation of honor or incitement to corrupt morals«.

Article (187):”The freedom of any person may not be restricted or imprisoned except in the places designated for this purpose by law, and those responsible for these places may not admit any person therein except by an order signed by the competent authority and not to keep him beyond the period specified in this order.”

Article (189): “The detention order issued by the Public Prosecution shall not be effective except for a period of seven days following the arrest or extradition of the accused to it if he was previously arrested. Arrest, habeas corpus or detention orders issued by the Public Prosecution may not be executed after the lapse of six months from the date of their issuance, unless they are approved for another period«.

Article (190):” If the Public Prosecution decides to extend the pretrial detention, it shall - before the expiry of the seven-day period-submit the papers to the competent judge to issue an order as he deems appropriate after hearing the statements of the Public Prosecution and the accused. The judge may extend the detention for a period or for successive periods so that the total periods of detention do not exceed forty-five days.«

Article 191: “If the investigation is not concluded despite the expiry of the period of pretrial detention mentioned in the preceding article, the Public Prosecution shall submit the papers to the competent Governorate Court of Appeal, held in the deliberation room, to issue its order after hearing the statements of the Public Prosecution, and the accused shall extend the detention for successive periods not exceeding forty-five days each, if the interest of the investigation requires so, or release the accused with or without guarantee. However, the

matter shall be submitted to the Attorney General if three months have elapsed since the detention of the accused in order to take the measures, he deems necessary to expedite the completion of the investigation. He has the right, in order to complete the investigation, to authorize the President of the Appeal Prosecution to request the extension of the period of pretrial detention for multiple periods not exceeding three months, so that the entire period of pretrial detention does not exceed six months, unless the accused has informed about his referral to the competent court before the end of the period, otherwise he must be released.”

Article (192): “Every member of the Public Prosecution shall visit the penal establishments within his jurisdiction and ensure that there is no illegal detainee, and he may examine their books and arrest and detention orders, take copies, contact any detainee and hear from him about any complaint he wants to say. The managers of these facilities should provide him with every assistance to get the information he requests.”

Article (193): “Anyone whose freedom has been restricted shall have the right to submit to the director of the penal institution a written or oral complaint at any time and ask him to deliver it to the Public Prosecution. The person to whom the complaint is submitted shall accept it and deliver it to the Public Prosecution immediately after recording it in a register prepared for this purpose.”

Penal Law

The imprisonment of persons by judicial officers in prisons that are not designated for imprisonment and are not subject to prison laws is considered a crime for which the law stipulates that the perpetrator is punished, in accordance with the text of Article (167) of the Penal Law:

»Any public official who orders the punishment of a person or punishes by himself other than or more severe than the penalty imposed on him, refuses to execute the order to release him while he is responsible for it, or deliberately keeps him in the penal facility more than the period specified in the order issued for his detention, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or by a fine. And in all cases, it shall be sentenced to remove the employee from his position«.

Article (166) of the Penal Law stipulates that: “Any public official who tortures during the performance of his job or uses force or threats by himself or by others with an accused,

witness or expert to compel him to confess to a crime or to make statements or information about it, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years, without prejudice to the victim's right to retribution, blood money or compensation.”

Article (168):”Any public official who uses cruelty to people based on the authority of his position unjustly in such a way as to violate their honor or cause pain to their bodies without prejudice to the victim's right to retribution, blood money and compensation shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine. And in all cases, it shall be sentenced to remove the employee from his position.”

Article (169) “Any public official who knowingly searches a person, his residence or shop without his consent or in circumstances other than or without observing the conditions stipulated by law shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years«.

Prisons Organization Law

Throughout the period of detention, detained journalists moved between different and multiple detention centers and prisons. In these centers there is a prevailing pattern of inadequate health care, overcrowding of cells, insufficient food and clean water, and the lack of adequate sanitation facilities. In addition to preventing detainees of meeting their lawyers in prisons and their families as well, which violates the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 21, 22, 57, 58 of the Executive Regulations of Law No. (48) of 1991 about the Organization of Prisons, Articles 23 to 26, and Article 30 and 31' of the Prisons Organization Law.

Part 1:

patterns of violations

Chapters



Arbitrary Detention



Conditions of Detention



Torture



Enforced Disappearance



**Violations of the right to
«life «killing**



**Violations against women
journalists and activists**

Chapter 1: Arbitrarily Detention

During the period from 2015 to 2022, the report documented 52 cases of arbitrary detention of journalists and human rights defenders in the three governorates of Sana'a, Aden and Taiz, which are the three governorates targeted by this report.

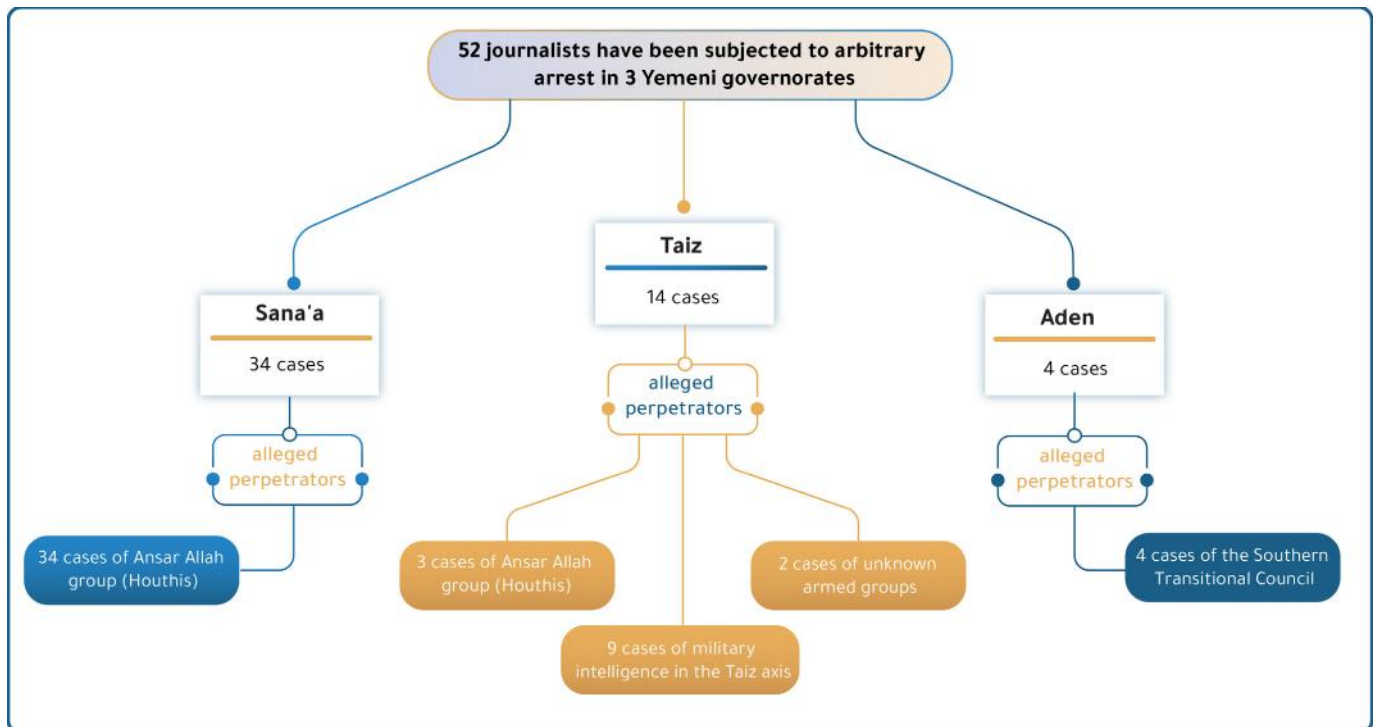


Figure (1): shows the number of victims of journalists who were subjected to arbitrary arrest in the targeted governorates during the period from 2015 to 2022

During the period from 2015 to 2022, the report team monitored 52 cases of arbitrary arrest of journalists and human rights defenders in the three governorates “Sana’a, Aden and Taiz”, which are the three governorates targeted by this report. The evidence verified in this report confirms that all conflict parties, to varying degrees, violated procedural and legal integrity in all incidents of arbitrary arrests of journalists. The journalists, who were arbitrarily arrested, were deprived of freedom outside the limits of nationally recognized laws and international treaties guaranteeing the right to freedom of opinion and expression. They were subjected to many human rights violations, and were deprived of the means to defend themselves and to have lawyers after their arrest and throughout the investigation period. In addition to being deprived of their right to a fair trial.

Houthi

In areas controlled by the Houthi group – called Ansar Allah – the group arbitrarily arrested 37 journalists, as follows:

32 journalists and 2 human rights activists in the Yemeni capital, Sana’a. In addition to 3 journalists in the part under their control in eastern Taiz governorate. The report tracked a number of those arrests.

The Ten Journalists

Early in the morning on June 9, 2015, journalist Essam Balghaith was arrested along with nine other journalists. He was with his colleagues at the Dream Palace Hotel on 60th Street in the capital, Sana’a, doing their journalistic work.”We chose the hotel in search of electricity and the internet after the Houthi group - Ansar Allah - broke into media institutions, including Nas FM, where I was an employee,”. As Balghaith recounts the details of the arrest: “At 2:30 midnight, someone knocked on the door of the suite where we live in the hotel, our colleague Abdul Khaliq Omran opened the door and a gunman entered, immediately after that about 20 gunmen flowed. Some in civilian clothes and some in military uniform. They immediately started confiscating our mobiles and computers. Then we were divided into two groups, one group was transferred to Al-Hassaba police station, the other group to Al-Ahmar police station. They refused to allow us to communicate with our families”.

“We stayed in the station (police station) for three days. The investigations with us were only to find out our personal information and the nature of our work. The prison was very

bad, and after 3 days we were transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department in Sana'a in a humiliating way. We were handcuffed and blindfolded with weapons pointed at our bodies. Then they started interrogating and torturing us, **we were beaten with electric wires, sticks, batons and rifle butts. We were interrogated by five or six interrogators, this lasted for 3 months.** Then we were transferred to the Revolutionary Pretrial Prison, where we were detained for three days. We were beaten with all the tools to the point that big sticks broke on our bodies. That was after the speech of the leader of the Houthi group, on September 21, 2015, **in which he said:** "I say that mercenaries and agents of the media category are more dangerous to this country than traitors and fighters," after that we were transferred to the pretrial prison in Habra area, "Balghaith said.

On May 25, 2016, the detained journalists announced a strike, and after 46 days they were transferred to the Political Security prison and thrown into one cell, as Balghaith confirms: "We were 10 journalists, **we stayed there for 4 and a half years and were subjected to all kinds of torture. Since our arrest in 2015, we were only brought to trial in 2019** on charges of publishing misinformation that weakens the morale of the army and the popular committees (affiliated with the Houthis). We were asked to respond to the accusations at the Specialized Criminal Prosecution, but we refused".

In the sentencing session, the journalists were surprised that the Public Prosecution says that they – referring to journalists – confessed to the charges against them. Lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra volunteered to defend them, but he was expelled from the sessions several times. According to the testimony of Balghaith, the judge was attending the sessions carrying a Kalashnikov rifle with the logo of the Houthi group "Ansar Allah".

According to journalist Balghaith, **the initial verdict was "proving the charges against us, and stipulated that the time we spent in prison with five colleagues was sufficient, but we were not released until six months later in a prisoner exchange deal. The rest four colleagues were sentenced to death and are still in detention until the time of writing this report (in January 2023)".**

According to a journalist's statement to Free Media, members of the Houthi group's National Security Agency arrested him while he was returning to his home in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, he said: "On Friday, November 9, 2018, at nine o'clock in the evening, I was returning home, and I got out of a bus at Mathbah Bridge area

, I stopped for less than a minute to continue on another bus. Meanwhile, a white Corolla car blocked my path, I felt it was strange, then a man in his thirties - in civilian clothes got out of the car and addressed me, “Come with us, we are National Security. I quietly got into the car with them, and one of them told me that they were watching my movements since yesterday. He added many questions through which I was sure that they were really watching me since I left the house at three o’clock in the afternoon”^[1].

Journalist Younis Abdulsalam Ahmed was arrested in the Yemeni capital, Sana’a, on August 4, 2021, by the security and intelligence services of the Houthi group - called Ansar Allah.

Younes wasn’t brought to court until his release on December 7, 2022, which violates his right to defense and fair trial. Despite his release, they placed him under a kind of home detention, preventing him from practicing his right of expression freedom, as he was not allowed to use social media or to leave Sana’a.

Legitimate authority

In areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, 15 journalists were subjected to arbitrary arrest in Aden and Taiz governorates as follows: 4 cases of arbitrary arrest in Aden governorate by Southern Transitional Council forces, 9 cases by military intelligence services and military axis forces in Taiz governorate, and two cases by unknown armed groups.

Aden

The report team documented the testimonies of three journalists arrested in Aden governorate, who confirmed that they were imprisoned incommunicado and were not allowed to have lawyers. In some cases, lawyers refused to defend the journalists due to the potential risks they may be exposed to.

Mayas Abdullah Maher, the brother of journalist [Ahmed Maher](#), who was the editor-in-chief of the local anti- Southern Transitional Council, Aden Observatory website, mentioned that

1- An interview with the journalist on September 10, 2022

on August 6, 2022, gunmen with the security services in Aden broke into the family home and arrested him and his brother Ahmed and took them to Dar Saad police station, without a warrant. Ahmed was charged with terrorism-related and transferred two weeks later to Bir Ahmed prison in Buraiqah, north of Aden, a prison used to run by Emirati intelligence and currently run by the STC's Security Belt Forces.

Maher was subjected to severe torture, the bleeding from his navel did not stop, and he is still in prison and being tried before the Specialized Criminal Court. In January 2023, **Maher announced a hunger strike until they achieve his two main demands: First: To investigate all the violations he has been subjected to since his arrest. Second: His right to a fair trial and to transfer from his prison to attend his trial sessions, which were postponed six times** due to the refusal of Bir Ahmed prison administration to transfer him to the court.

Sports journalist Ammar Makhshaf, was arrested on October 7, 2021, from his home in Creeter area in Aden by members of the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council, without a warrant. The sports journalist was not charged, nor was he investigated, and ten days after the arrest, the Security Belt released Makhshaf.

Raafat Rashad, a journalist who runs two local radio stations, was arrested by the Security Belt Forces in Aden on Monday, September 27, 2021 without a warrant. He has not been charged, and continued to be detained without trial until his release on December 28, 2021.

Taiz

In Taiz governorate, in the part under the control of the internationally recognized government, nine journalists were arbitrarily arrested by various military formations in the governorate after adopting campaigns to discourage “anti-army and anti-security” speech. Journalists were detained for 20 to 30 days, with an exception of one case which detained for four years.

Jameel Al-Samet, a journalist activist on social media, said that forces affiliated with the Taiz Military Axis broke into his home in March 2019 and forcibly took him to prison without any warrants. He added: “I was interrogated and accused of insulting the former Vice President of the Republic, Lieutenant General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, and insulting the commander of the Taiz axis and high-level military leaders by criticizing them in my posts on my Facebook page,” **adding, “And again on**

March 5, 2020, my house was attacked at night by military crews affiliated with the Taiz axis, and I was arbitrarily detained for about a month”^[2].

Media activist Jameel Al-Shuja’a stated that military crews broke into his house on March 17, 2020, and took him to the military police headquarters, confirming: “I remained forcibly disappeared in the military police prison for two days. My family didn’t know the place of my detention. My detention there lasted for 16 days, before I was transferred to the Political Security Agency prison in Taiz (intelligence). I was interrogated and they refused the presence of a lawyer, and the investigations revolved around the charge of defaming the army, national leaders and the legitimate government”^[3].

Journalist Moneer Talal, who was arrested, along with two of his colleagues (Mahfouz Al-Ba’aithi and Yahya Al-Ba’aithi) pointed out that 10 armed men in civilian clothes broke into the hotel where they were staying on August 19, 2019, and that he and his colleagues were arrested in a humiliating way “without allowing us to wear clothes, and took us to an unknown destination, which turned out to be a prison belonging to Military Intelligence”^[4].

Talal added that the arrest was “on the accusation that we are members of the media wing of Major General Tariq Saleh - forces operating in Mokha, the western coast of Yemen.

On March 17, 2020, unknown gunmen arrested journalist Abdullah Farhan in the city of Taiz, which later turned out to be linked to military intelligence. Journalist Ibrahim Fadhl Muqbel al-Hussaini was arrested on August 8, 2021. And on July 23, 2021, soldiers affiliated with the 22nd Mika Brigade arrested media activist Jalal al-Khawlani and remained in detention for more than fifty days. On May 28, 2017, the author Abdul Sattar al-Shamiri was arrested by soldiers affiliated with the 22nd Mika Brigade, a military brigade affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

2- An interview with journalist Jameel Al-Samet in October 2022

3- An interview with journalist Jameel Al-Shuja’a in October 2022

4- An interview with Moneer Talal in October 2022

Chapter 2:

Conditions of detention

Nature of prisons

Throughout detention, detained journalists moved around in different detention centers and prisons, varying from place to place. But in general, there is a prevailing pattern of inadequate health care, overcrowded cells, inadequate food and clean water, and lack of adequate sanitation facilities.

With the continuation of the war, since 2015 until today, human rights violations have become worse and the frequency of arrests has increased, making the official places of detention represented by the central prisons that were available before the war unable to accommodate the huge numbers of detainees. So, the conflict parties have created informal places that do not meet the standards of places of detention stipulated in local laws and international conventions.

Health problems

According to former detainees' testimonies, most of them were not allowed to be exposed to sunlight or open air, so they developed serious psychological and physical problems. With a lack of health care, as the places of detention do not have a medical clinic, doctors on duty, or first aid kits, and detention officials often refuse to transfer detainees to hospitals.

Three journalists from the former detainees in Sana'a reported that they were in urgent need of treatment, but they were transferred to the hospital late. While seven other journalists confirmed that those responsible for the detention places did not provide them with the adequate medicine recommended by the doctors.

One journalist confirmed that he had been suffering from chest pain for two years after his arrest and was only hospitalized twice despite his critical health condition. When he was released, he was suffering from weak heart valves and respiratory health problems.

Journalist Tawfiq Al-Mansouri, who was arrested in Sana'a on June 9, 2015, is still in detention at the time of writing this report. He is one of the four journalists sentenced to death by the Houthis. Al-Mansouri suffers from multiple health problems, which have worsened seriously during the year 2022, and have become a real threat to his life, as he suffers from heart problems, shortness of breath, diabetes, high blood pressure, prostate

hyperplasia, and other health problems such as swelling of the face and limbs, which may worsen in Any moment reaches the stage of kidney failure, especially with poor conditions of detention, which include denial of medical care”^[1].

One of the females detained humanitarian activists, who has been detained in Sana’a since October 7, 2016, until the writing of this report. Her health condition has deteriorated, as she suffers from repeated bleeding and a drop in blood rate, and she needs follow-up and treatment at a specialized center for obstetrics and gynecology and follow-up of her condition periodically to avoid any complications, as confirmed by an official report issued on July 28, 2020 by the Central Prison Clinic in Sana’a. However, she has not been treated until the date of documenting her condition in September 2022, according to the lawyer defending her before the judicial authorities under the control of the Houthi group (Ansar Allah)^[2]. **As one journalist from the former detainees** said: “I had many diseases during my detention, most notably: rheumatism and osteoarthritis, as a result of not being exposed to sunlight”^[3].

Nutrition and cleanliness

Former detainees in various detention centers – who were interviewed for this report say that they were prevented to get enough food. What was offered to them lacked nutritional value. According to 11 journalists, the authorities in charge of the places of detention provided them with food only twice a day. **The food portions consisted of a mixture of rice, half-cooked lentils and dry bread. The food was poorly cooked, and sometimes the food was too salty to eat even if you were starving**^[4].

As for drinking water, the detainees confirmed that some of them forcibly drank from bad toilet taps, or they were forced to use their cotton clothes to drip a sip of water from the contaminated water. Therefore, many of them developed urological diseases^[5].

All journalists - who were previously detained or still in detention - faced difficulty maintaining personal hygiene due to limited access to bathrooms, as well as the lack of soap in their cells. Prison guards rarely allowed detainees to shower, on average of once

1- An interview with lawyer Abdulmajeed Sabra in September 2022

2- An interview with lawyer Abdulmajeed Sabra in September 2022

3- An Interview on September 15, 2022

4- An Interview on September 11, 2022

5- An Interview on September 20, 2022

a month, and because of overcrowding the cells were always dirty. The toilets were never clean^[6].

According to the testimony of a former female human rights activist when she was detained by the Intelligence and Security Service (in Sana'a), those in charge of the detention center only allowed her to use the bathroom or shower facilities three times a day for two minutes only, and she was forced to clean the bathroom with her hands without using any tools^[7].

The conditions in which the journalists were detained violated the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

(The Nelson Mandela Rules) with regard to adequate subsistence supplies, windows and light, sanitation facilities, personal hygiene and clothing, food and exercise outside and medical services^[8]. **These rules stipulate that** “the rooms intended for the use of prisoners, especially the bedrooms, shall meet all health requirements, taking into account climatic conditions, especially in terms of air volume, the minimum area allocated to each prisoner, lighting, heating and ventilation”^[9].

Lack of access to health care and adequate food, clean water and sanitation facilities are cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment prohibited by the Convention against Torture. The inhumane conditions such as torture and other ill-treatment have led to physical and psychological hardship for detainees, which they are still suffering until the time of writing this report.

International humanitarian law also stipulates the need for humane treatment of those deprived of their liberty^[10]. Its rules include the absolute prohibition of torture, cruel or inhuman treatment and outrages upon personal dignity. The violation of these rules considered as a war crime^[11].

6-An Interview on September 22, 2022

7-Houthi Prison Survivor Tells Her Horror Story Apr 25, 2020: <https://sahafatak.net/show2053080.html>

8-Rules No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

9-Rule No. 13 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

10- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) , Study on customary international law, rules 87 and 90

11-International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) , Study on Customary International Law, rule 156

Chapter 3:

Torture

All the targeted journalists in this report in Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz were tortured after their arrest or subjected to some form of ill-treatment, cruel and degrading treatment throughout their detention.

Sana'a ..Forms of torture

In areas controlled by the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”, the group’s agencies forced journalists to stand in painful positions, tortured other detainees in front of them in order to intimidate them, sprayed them with water hoses, and placed them in solitary confinement cells for periods ranging from 20 days to several months.

Some ways of torture the journalists were subjected to in Sana’a are what is known as the “**shabah**” method, which means standing or sitting for long periods in painful positions, as well as “**falaka**”, which means beating on the soles of the feet, in addition to beating, punching, kicking, hanging by the wrists, death threats, blindfolding, interrogation for days in a row, and sleep deprivation.

Beating is considered the most common method of torture used by the security services run by the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”, especially during the interrogation, and the tools used in the beating varied, including: steel bars, wooden sticks, belts, guns or pistols, and in some cases those in charge of detention places forced detainees to lie on the ground and kicked them with their shoes.

As a result of torture, a journalist died two days after his release from the prisons of the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” northeast of Taiz. While most detainees are still suffering from the repercussions of torture such as back pain and other health problems, as a result of cruel treatment and lack of access to adequate health care during their detention.

It is worth noting that the judge did not direct an investigation into the claims of the 16 journalists who were referred to the court. They spoke about the torture they were subjected to, whose effects are still on them physically and psychologically.

Journalist Mohammed Al-Qadri, arrested by the Houthis on May 13, 2021, said: “I was subjected to all kinds of torture, and they beat me on the neck while I was handcuffed until this caused me to have a herniated disc between the sixth and seventh vertebrae of the neck”. **He added: «They sat me on the electric chair, forced me to stand with one foot and raise my handcuffed hands for long periods, and in the case, I got tired and lower my feet, they start beating me severely on it”^[1].**

Journalist Hisham Tarmoom reported that throughout his detention “five years”, he was

1- An interview with a journalist in September 2022

threatened to put him in weapons storage places to be a target for bombing by Arab coalition aircraft, and this threat was enough to make him live in continuous terror.

Tarmoom mentioned that the Houthi authorities “Ansar Allah” also did the same with his colleagues. Interrogations and torture continued “from midday until the end of the night”.

Tarmoom still remembers the night he and his colleague journalists were transferred to “Habra” prison, where he said they faced “the most severe forms of torture and cruel treatment” that forced them to go on hunger strike to protest the cruelty of torture. They were then transferred to the Political Security prison, where the interrogation continued at the same pace.

Tarmoom said: «They beat me during the investigations while I was on hunger strike, and I fainted at that time and did not wake up until I was in the cell». **He revealed that he was infected** with many diseases during his detention, most notably: «rheumatism and osteoarthritis» as a result of not being exposed to sunlight, and he was also infected with bacterial contamination in the eye until he lost vision. He was presented to the doctor after three days, and began to use the drug until he gradually regained his sight. Tarmoom stated that his family was blackmailed during his detention “by Houthi supervisors” as they promised to release him in exchange for money, and that his family paid them but they didn’t keep their promises^[2].

A journalists said: «I was severely tortured in prison; I am not able to describe my pain and suffering. The torture varied between punching and kicking with the foot and beating with sticks in addition to torture with electricity. I did not know when they will finish torturing me, and once I was tortured for a week continuously because I refused to give them the code of one of my phones. The torture accompanying the investigation was very harsh, and when I left prison I only felt when I was in a hospital in Sana’a»^[3].

Another journalist confirmed that he was forced to remain hanging by his wrists to the ceiling with his feet raised from the ground for a long time. They kicked him several kicks in the testicles, after which the guards had to drag him to his cell because he was unable to walk.

2- An interview with journalist Hisham Tarmoom on Khoyot site <https://www.khuyut.com/blog/war-on-press>

3- An interview on September 14, 2022

Aden - Taiz

In areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, the report documented violations against journalists in the targeted governorates of Aden and Taiz. In Aden, detained journalists were tortured by the security services of the Southern Transitional Council, while in Taiz they were tortured by military intelligence or groups affiliated with the Taiz military axis.

The details of the torture of journalist Ahmed Maher are one of the harshest cases suffered by journalists in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government.

Mayas Maher, the brother of journalist Ahmed Maher, confirmed that his brother was severely tortured after being taken to Dar Saad police station in Aden on August 6, 2022. At the beginning he was not allowed to sleep for nearly 30 hours, and “the policemen forced him to stand, and did not even allow him to lean against the wall”^[4]

After that, for two weeks, Ahmed Maher stood for about 16 hours a day, Mayas confirms that the interrogation process lasted from 10 a.m. to 2 and a half at night, during which the soldiers periodically attacked him: **“They beat him around his genitals and on his stomach with sticks and iron wires wrapped in plastic. His navel was injured and still bleeding until today.”** Mayas mentioned that his journalist brother was electrocuted and his head was drowned in the water for a long time. The soldiers brought a piece of cotton clothing, wet it with water then placed it on Ahmed’s mouth and nose, and pressed by one of the soldiers for a few minutes.

Maher was also subjected to a fake execution. Where they cover his eyes then shoot him near the head in order to force him to confess his connection with terrorism and participating in planning the assassination of General Muthanna Jawas. A police officer threatened to kill his daughter, his father and brother, as well as to kidnap and rape his wife.

In Taiz, activist and media professional Jalal Al-Din al-Khawlani, who was arrested by an armed group from the 22nd Mika Brigade of the Taiz Military Axis, stated that the gunmen tortured him with all forms of psychological and physical torture. He said: “They closed my eyes with a bandage and carried out fake executions by firing shots next to my head,

4- An interview with the brother of journalist Ahmed Maher in December 2022

and also they prevented me from changing my clothes as well as preventing me from going to the bathroom except at specific times. I was given only one meal every 30 hours”^[5].

*The testimonies contained in this chapter are examples of what happened to all journalists and detainees included in the report. Their inhumane detention details were mentioned in previous headlines.

Factors of torture

At least three related factors encourage the torture of detainees:

First: Depriving detainees of the getting lawyers during interrogation because they are prevented from communicating with the outside world and benefiting from the right to protection.

Second: prosecutors in different courts rely to a large extent on signed and unsubstantiated confessions as the only or main evidence. So, there is intense pressure on investigators to extract information from suspects by any means.

Third: prosecutors and courts usually treat allegations of torture within any security system as an internal and confidential disciplinary matter, enabling perpetrators of such abuses to go unpunished.

Hence it should be mentioned that whatever the motives of torture, beating detainees, forcing them to stand in painful positions, throwing them in solitary confinement for a long time, subjecting them to fake executions to force them to confess, cause panic or other forms of degrading treatment, **is torture and a violation of article 2** of the Convention against Torture, which was approved by Yemen in 1991, and **Article 5** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, all individuals should always be protected from torture and other ill-treatment. There is no justification for deliberately subjecting anyone to pain, as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or inhuman treatment or punishment” and that “all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated a human treatment that respects the inherent dignity of the human person”.

Chapter 4: Enforced Disappearance

The report tracked 48 cases of forcibly disappearance of journalists in the three governorates targeted by this report “Sana’a, Aden, Taiz” during the period from 2015 to 2022.

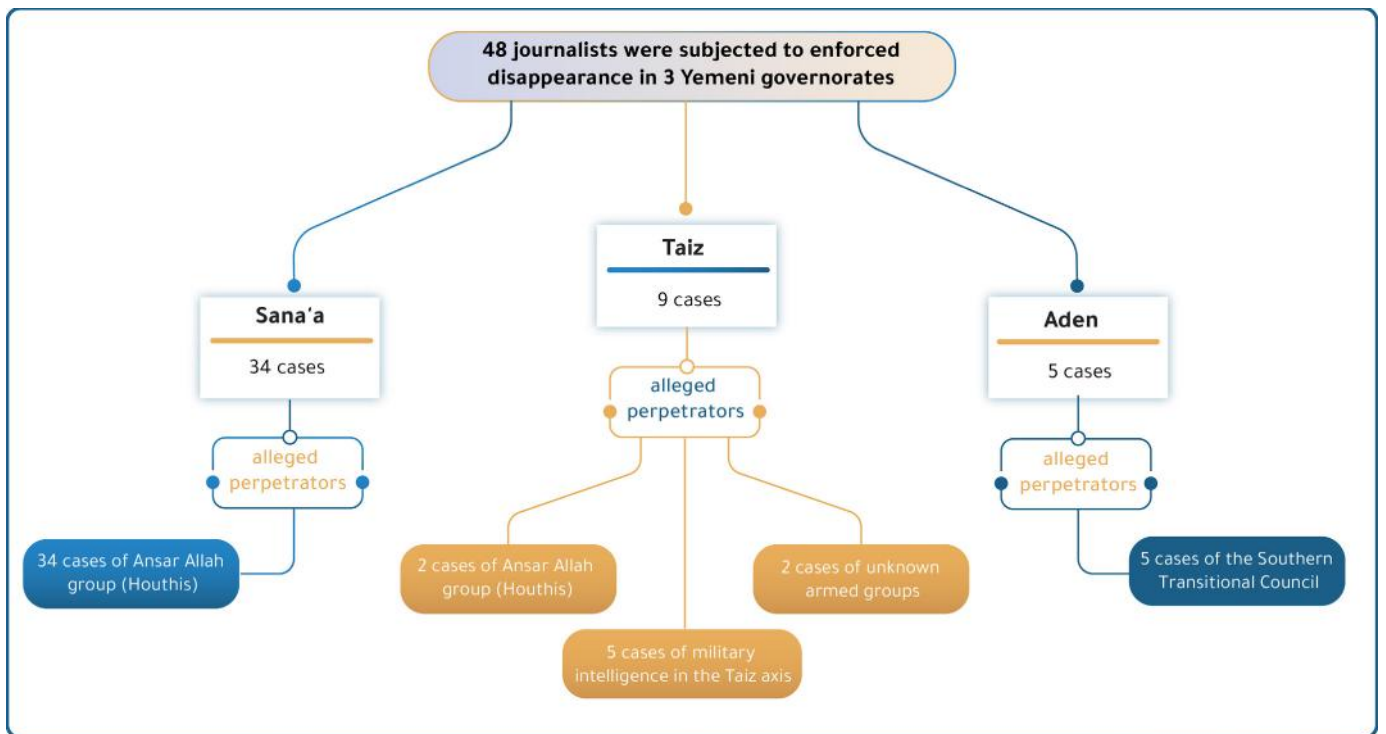


Figure (2): shows the number of victims of journalists who were subjected to enforced disappearance in the targeted governorates during the period from 2015 to 2022

The areas under the control of the Houthi group (Ansar Allah) topped the disappearance of 36 journalists, including 34 cases in the capital, Sana'a, and 2 others in the group-controlled areas northeast of Taiz. In the areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, in the governorates of Taiz and Aden in southern Yemen, the number of forcibly disappearances examined in the report reached 12 cases, distributed as follows: 5 cases in Aden governorate, by the Southern Transitional Council forces, 5 cases by military intelligence services and military axis forces in Taiz governorate, and two cases by unknown gunmen.

Sanaa

The families of 34 journalists in Sana'a did not find the places where their children were being held. Because the Houthi group "Ansar Allah" isolated 34 of the cases documented in the report, from the outside world for periods ranging from one month to a year.

One case of a journalist, Waheed Al-Sufi, has been hidden since his arrest by the intelligence services of the Houthi group from 2016 until the writing of this report in January 2023.

According to testimonies documented directly through social media applications or through defense lawyers, the Houthi authorities forcibly hid the journalists, locked them in secret locations, refused to notify their families of their places of detention, and they weren't allowed to make any contact at the beginning of detention. Also refused to give them any information about the reasons or legal basis for their imprisonment, in addition to preventing them from getting lawyers.

During the period of forcibly disappearance, the journalists were transferred to various places of detention: "Criminal Investigation Building" in Sana'a, "Shamlan" prison in Hodeidah in addition to the "Political Security Agency" branches in Sana'a and Hodeidah, as well as unofficial detention centers in residential buildings near the main building of the Political Security office in Sana'a.

After eight years...Where is Waheed?

Waheed Al-Sufi, 45, a father of two daughters, was the editor-in-chief of Al-Arabiya newspaper and Al-Arabiya Online news website. On April 6, 2015, while Al-Sufi was standing in line in front of a post office in Sana'a Tahreer area to pay his phone bill, gunmen in civilian clothes surprised him and forcibly took him to a white Land Cruiser without a license plate,

and without presenting an arrest warrant. The gunmen took him to an unknown destination, according to an eyewitness, to Mwatana organization. Since then, Waheed has not been seen.

The family of journalist Waheed Al-Sufi confirms that his two daughters are living in a difficult psychological situation, as a result of the forcibly disappearance of their father seven years ago. The family also confirmed that they were looking for him in all known places of detention and in hospitals, but in vain. Two years after his kidnap, his family heard from a friend that he was being held in a center that was later bombed by an airstrike, so family members went to the place of detention controlled by the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” and asked about him. **The detention guards told them that:” all the journalists had been transferred to the Political Security Agency”. The detention center responsible refused to tell Al-Sufi’s family whether the journalist was actually at the center or had been injured in the airstrike^[1].**

Testimonies of journalists and their relatives

Journalist Nabil Mohammed Al-Saddawi was arrested on September 21, 2015, in Sana’a. Al-Saddawi works for the official Saba news agency. The journalist told the defense lawyer Abdulmajid Sabra, who was present to defend him at the prosecution investigation session, that he remained forcibly disappeared for five months, and was not allowed to call his family for the first time until five months after his arrest, and in that call, he was not allowed to tell his family anything except that he was “fine” without disclosing his place of detention.

Journalist (A.A.) was arrested by Houthi forces “Ansar Allah” from his home in Sana’a on November 9, 2018. For eight months he was absent from his family, after this period they allowed him to inform his relatives of the place of his detention.

Journalist (A.A.) spoke to his family after three months of forcibly disappearance. After his arrest from his home in the center of the capital, Sana’a. He told Free Media: “My mother was allowed to see me, for the first time, three months after my arrest. She had searched for me so much that she went more than once to the prison gate asking to see me. After my release, she told me that security forces denied that they were holding

1- Urgent Appeal: Mwatana on October 13, 2020 <https://mwatana.org/urgent-appeal/>

me. Once she refused to leave until she sees me. She remained in front of the prison gate until five in the evening. Then they let her in”^[2].

Mohammed Al-Qadri, arrested by forces affiliated with the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” for the second time on May 13, 2021. Al-Qadri told Free Media: “I was taken to a secret prison that I could not identify, and I was tortured there by people affiliated with the security and intelligence services. Then I was transferred to a cell, they did not allow me to communicate with anyone. I was isolated from the outside world, I stayed for six months in a solitary cell. They allowed me to go out for only ten minutes every two weeks to be exposed to the sun,” he said, adding: “I was arrested earlier in 2015, and I remained forcibly disappeared for three months in a prison where I do not know until today, I did not recognize when is night or day”^[3].

Journalist Mohammed Al-Salahi: forces affiliated with the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” broke into his workplace in the city of Hodeidah, western Yemen, and arrested him on October 21, 2018, on charges of “helping the enemy”. Then they transferred him to the Security and Intelligence Prison in Sana’a, and he remained forcibly disappeared. His family did not have any information about him, until November 24, 2019, when he was referred to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution in Sana’a. There, the defense lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra attended the investigation session. During this session, Al-Salahi revealed to the Public Prosecution that until the date of this session, his family does not know he is being held by the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”.

Journalist Mohammed Ali Salem Al-Junaid works for Al-Thawra newspaper, issued by the foundation in Sana’a, was arrested on November 13, 2018, in the city of Hodeidah, by the Houthis on charges of “helping the enemy”.

Al-Junaid was subjected to forcible disappearance for five months, before being transferred to a prison affiliated with the Political Security Agency in Sana’a. On November 23, 2019, he was referred to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution and interrogated in the presence of defense lawyer Abdulmajeed Sabra. After that his case file was referred to the Specialized Criminal Court in Hodeidah in the Security and Intelligence Building in Sana’a, which in turn held secret sessions that were not announced to the public in Al-Junaid case and without

2- An interview on September 20, 2022

3- An interview on September 14, 2022

allowing his lawyer to attend.

Akram al-Qadmi, a television director, was arrested on June 26, 2016 in Sana'a, where armed men took him to a car and took him to a police station, before he was placed in a cell until night. Then transferred to an unknown location, blindfolded and handcuffed, and for two months in a state of forcibly disappearance. He did not know where he was being held, and his family did not know anything about him^[4].

Taiz .. Al, Saleh Detention Center

In Taiz governorate, specifically in the eastern part under the control of the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”, the report documented two cases of forcibly disappearance of two journalists, one of whom died two days after his family was informed and he was taken to the hospital.

Al-Saleh City Detention Center, an unfinished residential city east of Taiz city, is one of the largest detention sites created by the Houthis during the conflict. It was found that the Houthis detained a number of journalists in this detention center before transferring them to other places of detention.

Journalist Tayseer al-Same'e was arrested in January 2017, when the Houthis took him from his area to “Al-Saleh City” detention center and held him there for two months, before transferring him to a detention center in Dhamar governorate, where no one has known anything about him ever since^[5] until his release after six months of detention.

Forcibly disappearance until two days before death

Journalist Anwar Al-Rokn.:no one knows the exact date of his disappearance, but the exact date of his death is on June 2, 2018. He died two days after Al-Rokn's family learned his location and was transferred to the hospital, as they were informed by the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”, according to a statement issued by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

According to Jamil Al-Rokn, the journalist's brother, Anwar disappeared months before his death, and some believed that he was in Sana'a as usual. Until the Houthis called them and told them that he was being held in a center called “Al-Saleh”. The family was surprised

4- “Dangerous Profession” report September 2020 (SAM Org.)

5- Yemen's press faces the threat of eradication” Report issued by Mwatana and the Gulf Centre for Human Rights 2017

by Anwar's detention and by his poor condition after he was transferred to the hospital: "The doctors tried to save his life, but death was faster."

Before his death, journalist Anwar Al-Rokn spoke to his brother and the attending physician about being tortured and abused in detention. According to his brother's testimony, Anwar revealed that the Houthi group was injecting him with substances whose type and source are unknown, and whose heat and pain he feels more than their benefit, and that they strongly resemble acid^[6].

Aden

In areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, in the governorates of Taiz and Aden in southern Yemen, the report examines 12 cases of forcibly disappearance of journalists, 5 cases of arbitrary detention in Aden governorate by Southern Transitional Council forces, 5 cases by military intelligence services and military axis forces in Taiz governorate, and two cases by unknown armed groups.

Journalist Adel Al-Hasani, arrested on September 17, 2020 by the Security Belt Forces Pro-Southern Transitional Council. He was stopped by a checkpoint at the entrance to Aden governorate, before Security Belt gunmen took him blindfolded to multiple detention centers. His family did not know what happened to him and he was not allowed to communicate with the outside world until days later, al-Hasani said: **"I was allowed to see my wife and father after 25 days of forcibly disappearance"**^[7].

Raafat Rashad, a Yemeni journalist who runs two local radio stations in the southern city of Aden, **was arrested on the evening of Monday, September 27, 2021** by the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council. Rashad remained in detention in Mansoura sector camp before he was transferred on September 29, 2021, to the headquarters of the STC's Storm Forces in Tawahi city. **His family said in a statement: "When we went to visit Raafat in the Storm Forces camp, they prevented us from entering and denied his existence, and since then we have been cut off from communication with him and we no longer know anything about him. We confirm that Raafat Rashad has become forcibly disappeared"**

6- Committee to Protect Journalists June 2, 2018 <https://cpj.org/data/people/anwar-al-rakan/>

7- Half Post https://www.huffpost.com/entry/yemen-uae-adel-al-hasani_n_601dd8ffc5b-6c56a89a0f58b

and we do not know which party took him”^[8].

And on December 28, 2021, the Security Belt Forces released journalist Raafat Rashad about three months after the arrest and the closing of the two local radio stations he run.

On May 30, 2020, Osama Mustafa Swaid announced the release of his brother, journalist Aseel Mustafa Swaid. He attached to the post he wrote on his Facebook page, four pictures in which Aseel appears with signs of torture, and Osama stated that Aseel suffers from “a state of silence and lack of speech, and his physical and psychological health is bad and he has signs of torture...”

Aseel Swaid was arrested on 1 May 2020, while he was heading from Taiz city to Aden, and remained forcibly disappeared and his family was unable to locate him until the date of his release. Osama told Free Media that Aseel “was arbitrarily detained on the command of the Fifth Support and Support Brigade in Aden governorate, which is affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council.” Aseel had participated in the filming of an investigative film entitled “Death on the Border” about Saudi Arabia’s random recruitment of groups of Yemeni citizens to participate in the fighting on the Saudi-Yemeni borders. The film was shown by Qatar’s Al Jazeera TV Channel.

Taiz

In the city of Taiz, which is under the control of the internationally recognized government, the report monitors 7 cases of forcibly disappearance, including 5 cases by the security, military and intelligence services, and two cases “Al-Jazeera reporter Hamdi Al-Bokari and the channel’s cameraman Abdulaziz Al-Sabri” by unknown gunmen on January 18, 2018, before releasing them 10 days after the kidnap.

Journalist and human rights activist Jalal al-Khawlani was arrested on July 23, 2021, by an armed group affiliated with the 22nd Mika Brigade of the Taiz Military Axis. Al-Khawlani remained hidden for more than fifty days, according to him: “I was severely beaten with rifle butts in my head and back until one of my back nerves was torn.” **“I was prevented from communicating with my family by phone, and once one of them asked me for one million Rials (equal to \$1,000) in exchange for allowing me to talk to my mother for**

8- Statement issued by the family of journalist Raafat Rashad <https://www.facebook.com/100027621012279/posts/pfbid02xSNq7CrGfKR9dzYrodGWtaRqbBAfAwYy1MKV2P1GZ3NPMc-276L3dzsRUFyqfufCrl/>

half a minute,^[9]” he added.

Moneer Talal, a journalist writer, was arrested by the Military Intelligence Service in Taiz governorate on August 19, 2019, along with two of his colleagues: “Yahya al-Baithi and Mahfoudh al-Baithi”. Moneer said that the intelligence service refused to notify their families of their location, and confiscated his personal phone. When his mother was sending him audio recordings via WhatsApp to know about his conditions, the intelligence soldiers played those recordings and deliberately not respond, this was repeated throughout his detention, which made his mother fall into a coma, as he said^[10].

Journalist Mohsen Ayedh Al-Sairafi was arrested by the Yemeni government’s Military Intelligence in Taiz governorate in 2018. He continued to be forcibly disappeared for four years, during this time there were no reports about him, and his family did not know where he disappeared, until his release on January 8, 2022.

9- An interview with journalist Jalal Al-Khawlani in October 2022

10- An interview with the journalist in October 2022.

Chapter 5: Violations of the right to life “killing”

Testimonies and details contained in this report show that 25 Yemeni journalists were deliberately killed in the three targeted governorates” Sana’a, Aden and Taiz” during the period from 2015 to 2022

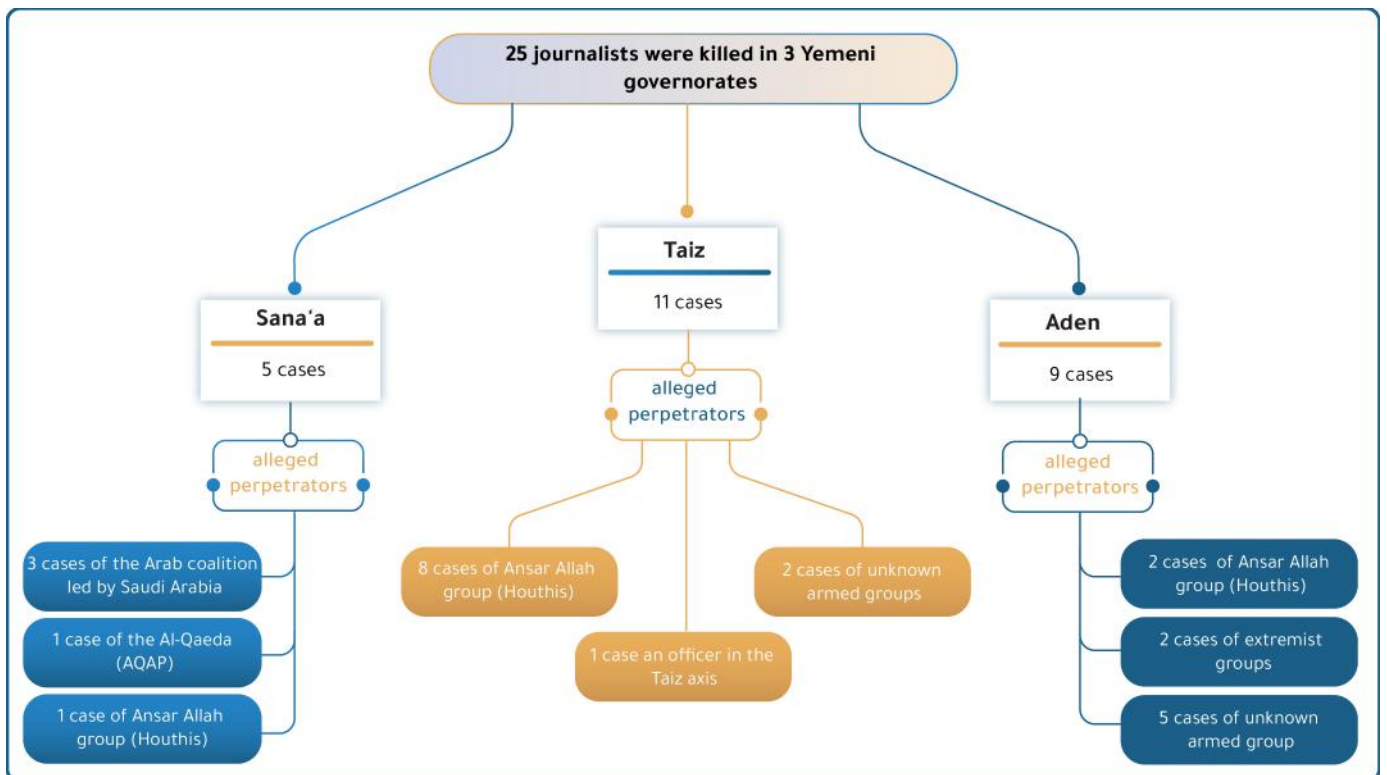
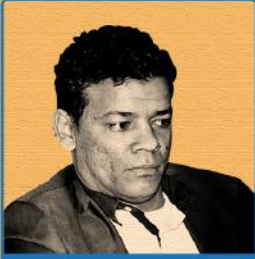


Figure (3): shows the number of victims of journalists who were killed in the targeted governorates during The period from 2015 to 2022



Mohammed Al-Absi



Mohammed Shamsan



AbdulKarim Al-Khaiwani



Bilal Sharaf Al-din



Almekdad Mojali



Osama Al-Maqtari



Awab Al-Zubairi



Mohammad al-Qudsi



Ziad Al-Sharabi



Mohammed Al-Yemeni



Wael Al-Absi



Mohammad Al-Taheri



Taqi Al-Din Al-Hudhaifi



Ahmed Al Shaibani



Fawaz Al-Wafi



Omar Bataweel



Amjad AbdulRahman



Adib Al-Janani



Saber Al-Haidari



Tarek Mustafa



Nabil Al-Quaiti



Ahmed Bu saleh



Ahmed Baras

Why were they killed..?

The means of taking the lives of journalists varied, as information indicates that a journalist was killed by « carboxyhemoglobin », and 6 journalists, including one female journalist, were killed by explosive devices, 2 journalists by sniper bullets, 7 journalists by targeting public sites with missiles, 3 journalists by air strikes, and 6 journalists were assassinated by gunmen. While the murder rate of journalists is on the rise, investigations into these crimes are almost non-existent, slow and ineffective, or procedures to hold the killers accountable are stalled.

Alleged perpetrators

The Houthi group “Ansar Allah” is at the top of those responsible for killing journalists, and evidence obtained by the Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism indicates that the Houthi group was involved in killing 10 journalists in the three targeted governorates, 2 in Aden governorate, and 8 in Taiz governorate, in addition to being behind an assassination in Sana’a.

This does not absolve the parties of the armed conflict of responsibility for violating the lives of journalists. As the Arab coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, is responsible for the killing of 3 journalists in air strikes in Sana’a.

In Aden, a governorate under the control of the internationally recognized government run by the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC), seven journalists were killed by unidentified parties, but the STC component appears to be complicit with the killers of at least two activists shot by extremists.

In Taiz, which is under the control of the internationally recognized legitimacy, 3 journalists were killed. The identity of the perpetrators was not identified in two of the mentioned murders, and in the third crime, investigations indicated that a journalist was killed as a result of a dispute and an officer belonging to the military axis was accused of the killing.

Sana'a

Assassination

On Tuesday evening, December 20, 2016, journalist Mohammed Abdo Al-Absi went to a snack shop in Sana'a for dinner. When he returned home, he began to suffer from shortness of breath, and died shortly thereafter.

The report of the forensic doctor who examined blood samples in the Jordanian capital Amman on February 2, 2017, indicated that Al-Absi's death was caused by inhaling a dose of «carboxyhemoglobin», which amounted to about 67%, in his body, it is sufficient quantity to cause death^[1].

In mid-February 2019, the UN Security Council's Panel of Experts on Yemen reported that it had noted the murder of journalist Mohammed Abdo Al-Absi, who was investigating the financial activity of Houthi leaders «Ansar Allah».

Another report of the Panel of Experts, submitted to the President of the UN Security Council on January 25, 2019, stated that Mohammed Al-Absi was working on an investigation on the Houthi leaders' ownership of giant oil companies through which oil is imported. And that the resulting funds represent a huge resource for them and for individuals named on the international sanctions list.

According to the testimony of colleagues close to Al-Absi, the journalist received threats through social media and through direct calls.

According to an investigation published by Daraj Site, Al-Absi was asking the son of Tawfiq Abdul Rahim, a well-known oil trader in Yemen, for documents revealing the Houthis' interference in the oil trade and their relationship with it. When he sent the messages, Al-Absi did not know that these messages go to the Houthis and that Abdul Rahim's son is detained with them. So, the Houthis became familiar of what Al-Absi wanted, what he planned and what his next investigation was. The Houthis have not commented on al-Absi's death, although fingers are pointing at them^[2].

1- statement of the Journalists Syndicate on February 6, 2017 <https://www.aman-palestine.org/media-center/6473.html>

2- An investigative report published on Daraj site on September 9, 2021 <https://daraj.com/79117>

Al-Qaeda (AQAP)

Journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani was killed on March 18, 2015, when unknown gunmen shot him on a motorcycle after he left his home in Sana'a. The Journalists Syndicate attributed his death to his “bold and courageous writings”.

According to lawyer Abdul Basit Ghazi, a group of seven people allegedly affiliated with Al-Qaeda have been put on trial for carrying out the murder (assassination) of journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani in Sana'a. The leader of this group, Suhaib Al-Taj, confessed before the Specialized Criminal Court (Court of First Instance) that he carried out the assassination of Al-Khaiwani, and also threatened to kill the judge. The court convicted the defendants and sentenced them to death in 2020. But the defendants filed an appeal before the Court of Appeal in Sana'a (Court of Second Instance), which is still holding its sessions in the case.^[3]

Al-Khaiwani was a member of the National Dialogue Conference for Ansar Allah (Houthis) and a goodwill ambassador for the International Council for Human Rights in Yemen. He was an editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper Al-Shura and “Al-Shura Net” news website. He is best known for his bold journalistic writings criticizing the ruling regime in Yemen and its policies. After assuming the editor-in-chief of “Al-Shura” newspaper in early 2004, he published files that are highly sensitive to the Yemeni government. They contributed to raise the freedom of critical press. The most famous of these files were the succession of governance and job positions in the country, and corruption in the oil sector. So, he was bothered for his peaceful and legitimate work in the field of human rights for more than ten years. In 2004, he was sentenced to one year in prison for supporting Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, a Zaidi cult. In August 2007, armed men kidnapped him in Sana'a and subjected him to torture and physical abuse. In June 2008, the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a sentenced Abd Al-Karim Al-Khaiwani six years in prison on charges of conspiring with anti-government rebels, insulting the president and “weakening the morale of the army.” The sentence was eventually suspended after a pardon in March 2009, and since then, the human rights defender has faced regular threats as a result of his writings, and was killed on 18 March 2015.

3- Interview with lawyer Abdel Basit Ghazi in December 2022

Airstrikes

After the Houthi movement raided the capital, Sana'a, and took control of it in late 2014, the Yemeni president at the time, Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, requested the intervention of Saudi Arabia, which formed the "Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen". Subsequently, the coalition launched military operations against the Houthis and their ally at that time, former President Ali Saleh. The military intervention mainly relied on airstrikes.

Journalist Mohammed Rajeh Shamsan was at his workplace, Yemen Today channel, when the Arab coalition launched an air strike targeting a missile warehouse on April 20, 2015, but the effects of the bombing were not limited to the warehouse, the shrapnel resulting from the huge explosion reached the channel's headquarters, and Mohammad Shamsan was killed^[4].

Almost nine months after Shamsan's death, journalist Al- Mekdad Mogally, a reporter for Integrated Regional Information Network, «IRIN», was killed after the Saudi-led Arab coalition launched an airstrike on Al-Jeraf area south of the capital Sana'a **on January 17, 2016**.

Journalist Bilal Sharaf Al-Din, the cameraman of Ansar Allah's channel, Al-Masirah , was killed on July 27, 2019. After being targeted by an air strike of Arab coalition fighter jets, while documenting the effects of the destruction in one of the houses that were bombed in the airstrike that targeted Al-Jeraf neighborhood, north of Sana'a^[5].

Aden

Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

The report documents the killing of 5 Yemeni journalists in the temporary capital of Aden, through targeting them with explosive devices, including a "female journalist" who was going to the hospital to give birth to her fetus «details of her targeting in the chapter dedicated to the violations suffered by women journalists and activists in the Yemeni governorates targeted by the report».

On the tenth of October 2021, a car bomb explosion in Aden governorate killed a number

4- killed and 10 wounded of the crew of Yemen channel by the airstrike of the Saudi-led coalition airplanes at its headquarter in Aden <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCeORk8IXI>

"Killing of Journalist Mohammed Shamsan " International Committee to Protect Journalists website April 20, 2015 <https://cpj.org/data/people/mohamed-shamsan/>

5- Committee to Protect Journalists <https://cpj.org/data/people/bilal-sharaf-al-deen>

of government officials' companions, including three journalists.

The three journalists were accompanying the convoy of Minister of Fisheries Salem Al-Socatri and Aden Governor Ahmed Lamlas, before they were targeted by a car bomb as they passed through the Hajif area of Al-Tawahi district.

In the explosion, the press secretary of the governor, **Ahmed Bou Saleh**, and the media photographer **Tarek Mustafa**, died instantly. Journalist **Ahmed Hadij Barras** was seriously injured. He remained three weeks in the hospital but died after that^[6].

Journalist Saber Al-Haidari was also killed by an explosive device. While the Japanese radio reporter was driving his car in a street in Aden governorate, an explosive device exploded, killing him, on June 15, 2022.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but security services have managed to arrest a person suspected of involvement in the assassination. This person was the last person to accompany the journalist Al-Haidari a few hours before the explosion, and the suspect (M.A.) was interrogated by the Criminal Investigation Department in Aden. Through his testimony, they found out that he was present in several places close to the explosion site. He also had pictures of the residences of government officials, and journalists (including Al-Haidari), and the detectives described him as a dangerous person.

An investigation officer told “Free Media” that there is great pressure from parties« he didn't mention their names » to release the detained person. Under the pretext that the charge is not proven against him, despite the fact that the suspect had photos of the residences of government officials, journalists and activists, in addition to evidence proving his presence in places close to the explosion scene where journalist Saber Al-Haidari was killed. Pressure is still continuing to release the suspect, according to the officer's statement.

Rocket

Journalist Adeeb Al-Jenani, a reporter for Balqees TV, was killed on December 30, 2020, after being hit by shrapnel in the stomach, while he was at the southern gate of Aden airport to cover the arrival of the internationally recognized government.

A video clip showed the station's TV presenter hearing the reporter's coverage from the airport, on air, and during Al-Jenani's conversation with the presenter, the first

6-“Yemeni media a bleeding of lives and facts” Report issued by the Media Freedoms Observatory 2021 <https://economicmedia.net/?cat=11>

explosion occurred and communication between them was cut off ^[7]. **Adeeb was killed. The” ICAD” platform**, specializes in checking and verifying information, **said** that it had reached the identity of the party that bombed Aden International Airport, and confirmed that the Houthis were involved in the attack. The platform stated that the launch of the missiles that targeted Aden International Airport was from Taiz and Dhamar governorates which are under the control of the Houthi group^[8].

Gunmen

Unknown gunmen fired journalist Nabil Al-Quaiti near his home in Dar Saad city in Aden governorate. His neighbors took him to the hospital but he died before he got there. The date of Al-Quaiti’s assassination was **June 2, 2020, and according to eyewitnesses, a car carrying men in military uniforms tried to run over the journalist with their car as he left his house, but Al-Quaiti ran away so they fired him with their weapons and hit him in the head, chest, and hand.**

According to a report broadcast by AFP, Al-Quaiti had been working with the Agence France Presse (AFP) since 2015. The report also mentioned that the killers fled the crime scene after the assassination^[9].

It is worth mentioning that the security services in Aden arrested two people suspected of assassinating journalist Nabil Al-Quaiti, but they have not yet been proven guilty, according to an officer related to the investigations of the journalist murder.

Extremism

Information obtained by the team indicates that activists and bloggers Omar Batawil and Amjad Abdulrahman were killed by religious militants in Aden governorate.

Tracing the details of Omar and Amjad’s murders, it appears that there is complicity by the «STC» that provides a kind of safety for the killers of activists, by influencing the accountability process for Omar’s killers, or through harming Amjad’s family after his death.

Before his assassination, Omar Mohamed Batawil received death threats on Facebook and directly, too^[10], **on the background of his critical views of religious extremism. A**

7-A Statement on the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) website on January 4, 2021

8-An open source Investigation published on ICAD’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Eekadfacts/videos/887397665340129>

9- GCHR website on June3, 2020 <https://www.gc4hr.org/news/view/2405>

10-“from the digital platform to the grave”ARIJ Network https://arij.net/Digital_Platform_Trap/omar.

group called itself “Religion Knights” accused him of atheism, and on April 24, 2016, the blogger was killed.

Six years after the assassination of Omar Batawil, specifically on December 19, 2022, the Sira Court of First Instance in Aden convicted one of the defendants of killing Batawil, under Article (234) of the Penal Code, and sentenced the convict to eight years in prison. Saleh Al-Ameri, the lawyer of the victim’s relatives, said that what we want is to get the masterminds of the assassination^[11].

Amjad

Cultural activist and human rights defender Amjad Abdulrahman has not bowed to the threats he has received from extremists since 2013.

In 2016, gunmen arrested Amjad from his home and detained him inside the “June 20 Camp” of the Security Belt, “one of the Southern Transitional Formations”, and he was tortured by gunmen after accusing him of atheism, before releasing him after 24 hours of arrest.

On Sunday, May 14, 2017, extremists assassinated Amjad, when a masked gunman entered Amjad’s internet café and fired four shots at him from a pistol, and the killer fled. No one has claimed responsibility for the operation^[12].

According to “Amjed A Living Cause”, a book published by a group of his friends, Amjad’s assassination is linked to his role in political and cultural activities and his calls for secularism, which angered the local extremist groups who are behind the murder, as the book recounts.

Amjad’s father said that **military vehicles belonging to the “June 20” camp of the Transitional Council prevented Amjad’s body from getting his family home in Creeter City, and prevented people from getting to the family home to offer condolences. In addition to launching a wide incitement campaign through mosques and social media against their son, accusing him of disbelief and atheism.**

Military vehicles prevented Amjed’s family from praying for him and walking in his funeral in the city of Creeter. The family managed, with great difficulty, to pray for the body in a mosque in Enma’a city.

html

11-An interview with the victim’s lawyer on November 10, 2022

12-“from the digital platform to the grave” ARIJ Network https://arij.net/Digital_Platform_Trap/omar.html

It's worth mentioning that gunmen affiliated with the June 20 Camp arrested three of Amjed's colleague journalists, Hossam Radman, Hani Al-Junaid, and Majed Al-Shuaibi, on May 16, 2017, as they came to support Amjed's family.

Taiz

From October 2015 to 2022, 11 journalists lost their lives due to their journalistic work in Taiz governorate, including a female activist “details of her murder are in the chapter dedicated to the violations against journalists and activists in the Yemeni governorates targeted by the report”, 8 journalists killed in attacks while covering the armed conflict. Evidence indicates that the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” is behind these attacks, and 3 journalists whose motives for killing are not known yet.

Journalist Ahmed Al-Shaibani, killed by a Houthi sniper in the city of Taiz, on February 16, 2016. Al-Shaibani works for the state-run Yemen TV, who was covering armed confrontations when he was shot.

Afaq Al-Hajj, a journalist at “Orient News”, who was accompanying Al-Shaibani, told “Free Media”: “When I arrived with my colleagues Na’ayim Khalid and Nabil Al-Khudairi to Al-Haseb area, we met our colleague Ahmed Al-Shaibani, he was accompanied by our colleague Abdul Aziz Al-Dhubhani. We were all on missions to cover the news of the plastic factory fire there. We were unable to film the fire or cover the news, because of the heavy shelling and direct and continuous sniping on everything that moves in the area. So, we had to return from the place using a road exposed to the eyes of snipers stationed in the opposite hill, which is controlled by the Houthis and overlooks Al-Haseb area. **Ahmed Al-Shaibani was encouraging us to move quickly. We crossed the street to the other bank, and our colleague Ahmed was the last of us. I turned back and found him falling to the ground covered in blood**”^[13].

The six journalists « Osama al-Maqtari, Mohammed Al-Qadsi, Mohammed Al-Yamani, Awab Al-Zubairi, Taqi Al-Din Al-Huthaifi, and Wael Al-Absi» were killed by the forces of the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”, according to an investigation by the Free Media Center. They were subjected to either mortar shelling or rockets, while covering military confrontations on various areas in Taiz governorate.

On September 3, 2018, at half past one in the afternoon, journalist Mohammed Al-Taheri, nicknamed the “sniper”, arrived in front of Al-Mudhaffar Hospital downtown Taiz taking a patient to the hospital. As he got out of the car, a gunshot hit him in the head. According to an eyewitness, he was killed instantly.

That day, armed confrontations were taking place in front of Al-Mudhaffar Hospital between the forces of the Taiz military axis, which is affiliated with the internationally recognized government, and Abu Al-Abbas Brigades, led by the Salafi Adel Abdo Farea, known as Abu Al-Abbas.

A person close to Mohammed told “Free Media” that his family requested an autopsy by a forensic doctor. So, a forensic doctor from Aden went down to examine the body in the presence of journalist Fadhl Al-Bukhari, a representative of criminal investigation, and officer Adel Al-Omda, But the family didn’t get a copy of the report for unknown reasons. After that the body was buried with a permission from the hospital and the police, who confirmed that they had a copy of the forensic report. **He added**, but the criminal investigation refused to explain why Mohammed’s family, public opinion, colleagues and friends were not able to get the forensic results^[14].

Journalist Ziad Al-Sharabi, who was working for an Emirati channel, was killed on January 28, 2019 when an explosive device planted on a motorcycle exploded remotely while it was parked in the middle of a popular market in the Red Sea city of Mokha, which is under the control of forces loyal to the internationally recognized government.

Journalist Fawaz Al-Wafi, citizens discovered his body dead in the middle of his car in Wadi Al-Qadi Street in the center of Taiz on March 23, 2022. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism got an indictment issued by the Public Prosecution in Taiz Governorate, accusing an officer in the Taiz Military Axis of killing the cameraman, Al-Wafi with a Kalashnikov on March 22, 2022. The killer placed the weapon on Al-Wafi’s chest and fired, resulting his death^[15]. The case was referred to court.

14- An interview with an eyewitness in October 2022

15- An indictment issued by the Public Prosecution in Taiz.

Chapter 6: Violations against women journalists and activists

Women journalists and activists in Yemen were subjected to numerous violations against the press between 2015 and 2022. In the governorates of Sana'a, Aden and Taiz, the report documented examples of violations against women journalists.

Women Journalists and activists in Yemen were subjected to many violations against the press between 2015 and 2022. In the governorates of Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz, which are the governorates targeted in the report, the team documented examples of what women journalists were subjected to in the country throughout this period.

directed attack

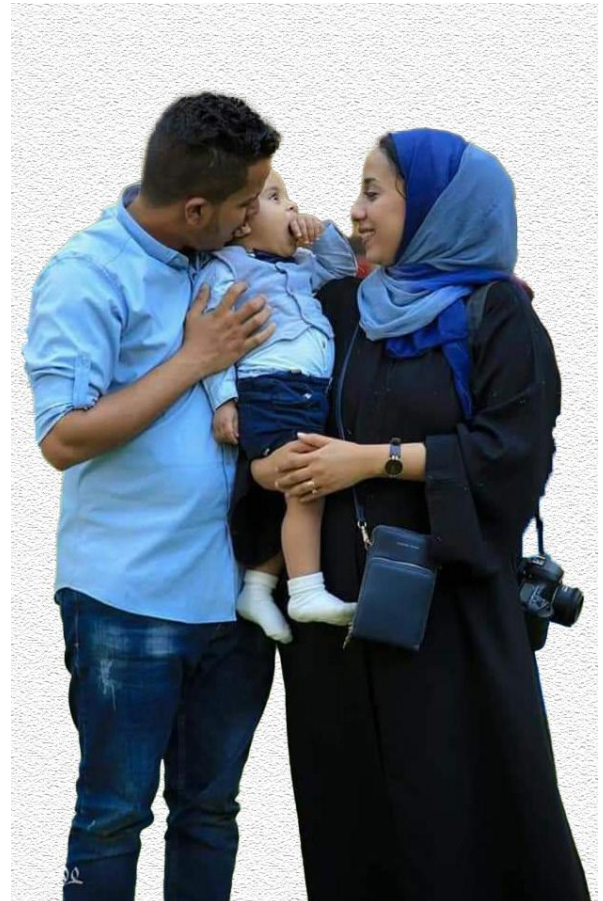
Journalist Rasha Khalid Abdullah Al-Harazi was killed on November 9, 2021, while on her way to the hospital with her husband, journalist Mahmoud Al-Otmi.

The time for Rasha to give birth to her fetus had come, so she was heading to a hospital in the southern governorate of Aden, but she did not arrive, as an explosive device planted in the car of her husband, journalist Mahmoud Al-Otmi, exploded. The journalist was torn to shreds because of the force of the explosion, and her husband was seriously injured.

The assassination of Rasha and the targeting of Mahmoud are one of the most heinous violations against journalists in Yemen over the past seven years.

Rasha Al-Harazi was working with a number of local and international organizations and a journalist for My Platform 30. And Mahmoud Al-Otmi was working as a collaborator for Al-Arabiya and Al-Hadath channels.

Less than a month before the bombing, Al-Otmi received threats via WhatsApp from an unknown number. The Houthi group also arrested his brother in Hodeidah governorate and forced his father to disown him, according to what Al-Otmi stated to “Free Media”, confirming that he informed his journalist colleague Bassam Al-Janani a few days before the incident that he had received threats from Houthi leaders in the city of Hodeidah, where he belongs, unless he did not stop his media activity against the Houthi group.



Journalist Rasha Al-Harazi and her husband, Mahmoud Al-Otmi

Al-Otmi submitted an official report to the security services in Aden governorate, confirming that a security source in the governorate's security department told him that a number of suspects were arrested and that one of the accused tried to commit suicide. Al-Otmi asked the security department for a copy of the case file, but the latter refused^[1].

One of the investigating officers told “Free Media” that the police station authorized to carry out the targeting case did not carry out the investigation process as required due to a defect in following up and investigation procedures. But after strengthening the investigation team with a number of professional officers, they found evidence confirming that the Houthi groups “Ansar Allah” are behind the targeting of journalist Rasha and her husband Mahmoud.

The investigations found that the Houthis had collected information on Mahmoud Al-Otmi's locations, car number, home address, times of his movements and the markets he visits through colleagues in the western city of Hodeidah, as part of collecting information on a number of journalists.

According to the investigating officer, the main suspect in the case fled Aden to areas under the control of the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”. **He explained** that a person was present at the scene of the explosion. Hours after the explosion, that person submitted a request to the Criminal Investigation Department in Aden to hand over the victim's body and claimed to be a member of the victim, Rasha Al-Harazi's family. That was before carrying out legal procedures, and when his identity was discovered, he fled to areas controlled by the Houthi group.

Sniper bullets

Civil and human rights activist Riham Al-Badr was killed in Taiz governorate by a sniper of the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” forces on February 8, 2018, while she was performing her civilian role in providing aids to civilians east of the city.

Abdul Fattah Al-Samit, one of the young people who were part of the volunteer team led by Riham, said: “Riham Al-Badr, Momen and I were heading to the area of Al-Kreifat east of the city, and when we reached the area of Al-Najd Al-Ahmar, heavy shooting began on us, so we went to one of the floods passages and hid for about half an hour, then we distributed aid to the besieged families

1- An interview with Mahmoud Al-Otmi November 5, 2022

there”.

According to Al-Samit testimony : “We decided to return to the city and on our way back we decided to get out of the car in the Najd area – the place where we were shelled and sniped when we came” **he confirms** that the shooting was renewed, and then stopped so the convoy continued its way towards the city, but “when we reached in front of a container belonging to the military police, we heard the shooting, the shots passed through the head of Momen, and when he raised his hands to hold his head, a shot came directly to pass through his hand”^[2]. ”Riham pushed me to the ground, and immediately after that came the third bullet that hit Riham, hitting her right hand and passed through her stomach”.



Civil activist Reham Al-Badr

Riham was bleeding and calling for an ambulance, but the sniper fired bullets whenever he saw movement, according to Al-Samit assertions: “We did not have any treatment materials to stop the bleeding. We were surrounded and prevented from being treated for an hour and a half, and unfortunately Riham died”.

Excution

Activist Asma’a Al -Omaisi was on her way to Sana’a to visit her father, when she was arrested on October 7, 2016. Asmaa was tortured and deprived of her right to treatment and visit her children as well. The charge was cooperating with terrorism, but the investigator of the specialized criminal prosecution issued a decision on December 13. /December 2016, that «there is no reason to file a lawsuit for the lack of crime». However, the Appeals Prosecution canceled the decision and issued a decision that includes the charge of «helping the enemy», that is, cooperation with the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia to confront the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”.

On January 30, 2018, **the Court of First Instance began the trial of Asma’a Al -Omaisi**

2- » Dangerous profession” a report issued by SAM Org. 2020 adopted

without allowing the defense lawyer to attend. In this session the judge issued the «execution» sentence on Asma'a. The defense lawyer submitted a petition in which he clarified the essential errors in which the primary sentence was issued, **and the most important of them, which was the main reason for her conviction:** is not to join the ranks of the Emirates forces, as there is no evidence in the case file. As a result, the Appeal Division confirmed the correctness of what the lawyer mentioned in the petition, and instead of the issuing the innocence verdict of Al -Omais , she was convinced and punished with fifteen years in prison.

On June 27, 2022, the last decision was issued for the second time of the appeal on charges other than the charge stated in the accusation decision. The new charge is the claim that she guided the Emirati aggressor – according to what the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” – named her husband. This charge has no evidence, and the Yemeni legislator as well as, regional and international legislations contain no punishment for it^[3].

Torture and harassment

Human rights activist Samira Al -Hour, «32 », was asked by the director of the visa department at the Passport Office in Sanaa, to present on the 14th of July 2019. The next day she went to the passport building, and she was taken to a basement in the building and confiscated her phone and her laptop. She was investigated for a period of 14 hours continuously. **In the investigations attended a person called « Abu Al -Karar », he said, «this is the file of the intelligence with the enemy, this is the spying file, this is the coordination file, this is the drug file and this is the prostitution file, and the final sentence on you will be execution».**

Al-Houri added «In exchange for canceling these files, I was asked to lure influential figures and implicate them in sexual issues, I was shocked by this request, and then they asked me to sign papers that I do not know what they contain, and they allowed me to return to my home».

Al-Houri felt threatened: «I started arranging to escape from Sana'a, but unfortunately my movements and phones were under tight observation, as on the scheduled date of escape on July 27, 2019, at four o'clock in the morning, forces affiliated with the Houthis led by

3- An interview with Asma's defense lawyer in September 2022

the Director of Intelligence in the so-called Preventive Security Sultan Zabin, and Ahmed Matar, broke into my house, along with what is called Zainabiyat- female soldiers affiliated with the Houthis- **they tied my hands behind and blindfolded me, they tied my 14-year-old daughter, she was screaming, they destroyed everything in the house and confiscated all my belongings. Then my face was covered and I was taken to a secret prison, I entered a room with 14 women inside, all of them were tied and dirty, and there I stayed until the next day. I was interrogated for 12 hours, then I was transferred to another prison and placed inside a solitary underground cell measuring one meter by one meter. I was tied up and they gave me a piece of bread a day and we drank from same water used to bathe. After that, a new interrogation phase began, for 12 hours a day for two weeks, and between each interrogation and another, I was tortured, starting with cutting hair, beating and electrocution, passing through hanging, chaining and solitary confinement for 3 months. Then starvation and intimidation, in addition to harassment, drinking from dirty water from bathrooms and cleaning the toilet of the bathrooms with my hands. Whenever I heard a girl screaming in the cell, I thought it was my daughter, so I entered a state of nervous and psychological breakdown and tried to commit suicide several times. During the investigations I told them everything even details about my personal life».**

Al-Houry said that her release was only after recording videos, under coercion, torture and terrible pressure. She confirmed «they forced me to sign a pledge to do everything they ask me to do without objection whatever was it. I also pledged not to travel or communicate with any media body», clarifying that she was handed over to her family, who met the decision to release her in a state of extreme fear and terror.

Breaking into

Bardis Mohammed Ali Al-Sayaghi, media officer at the Association for the Protection of Abused and Survivor Women of Houthi Prisons “Ansar Allah”. **The house of Bardis Al-Sayaghi was raided in mid-August 2018**, and gunmen affiliated with the Houthi services searched Bardis’ house under the pretext of storing weapons.

Bardis **resorted** to the judiciary and requested the trial of police officers and supervisor Ahmed al-Saqqaf, who was leading the gunmen who broke into her home, but the court froze the case due to pressure from influential members of the group.

After that, Bardis Al-Sayaghi left Sana’a and settled in Marib, which is under the

control of the internationally recognized government. She stayed in Marib with her children for five months, before « Khalil Al-Qirashi » Undersecretary of the Ministry of Local Administration in the government formed by the Houthi group, contacted her. Bardis says that Al-Qurashi told her that her husband was alive and detained by the Houthi group, (her husband, who is close to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, was subjected to forcibly disappearance after Saleh was killed on December 4, 2017, She did not know about his fate), She returned to Sana'a, but was surprised by the breaking into her house on August 2, 2019, at four o'clock in the morning with five military crews and two buses carrying armed women «Zainabiyat » who are female soldiers affiliated with the Houthi «Ansar Allah», «They **shot me, I was shot in the shoulder, they tied my eyes and took me to an unknown place and beat me everywhere in my body. After a day, they transferred me to solitary confinement and I was interrogated daily and beaten and handcuffed from ten o'clock at night to four in the morning to force me to confess to many charges, including espionage with the Arab coalition. They gave me a meal a day that is not enough to satisfy my hunger and force me to drink drugs that make me not feel my body, and after two months of solitary confinement they took me out to a prison full of female prisoners».**

« **I was subjected to all kinds of torture, starting with beatings, then being stabbed with a dagger in the neck, breaking my nose, and being electrocuted», she said.**

Bardis al-Sayaghi's release came three months after her arrest after tribal mediation, and she left Yemen to the Egyptian capital, Cairo. Her story appeared in the film that won many awards «Prisoners Under Houthi Control»^[4].

Prosecution

Arwa Al-Shamiri, an activist in the media on Facebook, criticizes the events taking place in the areas controlled by the internationally recognized government. Al-Shamiri said: “The Islah Party filed a complaint against me on July 27, 2021, and I was summoned by the Criminal Investigation Department, to investigate me because of a political case. Before the complaint of the Islah Party, the military axis in Taiz filed a complaint against me on January 20, 2021, on charges of defaming the army and exposing military sites”^[5].

4-Activist Bardis al-Sayaghi's Facebook page [صفحة الشخصية للنشطة برديس السياغي على موقع فيسبوك](#)

5- An interview with the journalist in October 2022

The Public Prosecution in Taiz decided that there was no reason to file a case against Arwa.

Al-Shamiri stated that she had received threats of physical extermination on February 15, 2018, by a member of the 22nd Mika Brigade, and filed a complaint for criminal investigation at the time, but they only investigated the perpetrator without taking any punishment against him because he was supported by influential political and military figures, as she claimed.

Arwa also stated that she received a threat to take her out of the house, on August 4, 2020, by gunmen affiliated with the leadership of the Taiz Military Axis, “and through the phone number they found out that the person who threatened me was a well-known person, and I filed a complaint against him to the prosecution on August 9, 2020. The Public Prosecutor in Taiz directed the Security Department to investigate the case, and he was summoned to the criminal investigation and came and promised to hand over the gunmen affiliated with him, but so far, he has not handed them over”^[6].

Cracking down

Journalist and human rights activist Sumaya Ali was criticizing the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” on her Facebook page, before moving on to criticize the popular resistance that was formed after the Houthi group’s invasion of the city of Taiz. After that threatening messages began to come to Sumaya, according to what she said, but Somaya ignored the threatening messages and continued digital criticism. Days later, the family’s home was bombed, and she moved to Taiz.

Sumaya was displaced inside the country she displaced from Taiz governorate to the al-Qaeda area north of Taiz, then to Ibb governorate and then to Sana’a. **“I moved from house to house, threats were chasing me, I couldn’t sleep,” she says,** adding, “I had to run away from home. I traveled to Sudan, fleeing for my life.” Sumaya then attended a conference on violence against women human rights defenders in Amman and sought asylum with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and she settled in Canada^[7].

Assault

6- An interview with the journalist in October 2022 in addition to a collection of official documents issued by law enforcement institutions

7- An interview with journalist Somaya Ali in October 2022

Journalist Abeer Abdullah with three of her colleagues were assaulted in the Salah area downtown Taiz on May 28, 2022. As Abeer reported, gunmen shot and uttered insults while she was working on a video material for a media outlet, despite she made prior coordination with the concerned authorities and social figures in the region to work on filming. Abeer told” Free Media”: “I submitted a report and an official complaint to the specialized security authorities and demanded that the perpetrators of violations against us be arrested, and the case was followed up with the Salah Security Department of the Taiz Governorate Police, but so far the defendants have not been arrested, and legal measures have not been taken against the defendants. There is a failure of the security authorities to protect journalists and preserve the right to freedom of opinion and expression”^[8].

It is worth mentioning that gunmen had assaulted Abeer Abdullah on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, while she was practicing her journalistic work. The gunmen were affiliated with Madin Al-Masoudi, who was working as the head of operations of the 145th Brigade of the Taiz axis. Abeer submitted a report to the official authorities demanding that measures be taken against these practices in suppressing press freedoms.

Threat

Ahlam Al-Askari used to work as a reporter for Sana’a TV from Taiz.

Ahlam has been subjected to more than one death threat by gunmen in the city of Taiz, which is under the control of military forces affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

On April 1, 2017, Ahlam said: “I went to Jabal al-Jahuri, overlooking the center of Taiz, to film a humanitarian case, then I returned to the city center to complete filming the TV episode. During filming we were intercepted by gunmen on board a motorcycle, they prevented us from filming, so I had to stop it to avoid problems”.

Ahlam added: «The next day, the camera crew and I resumed our work mission, so my colleagues and I were also threatened and prevented from filming. In a barbaric way they started insulting and cursing the crew, and death threats» and explained that she sent an email to the director of security but did not receive any response.

Ahlam confirms that she was subjected to another threat while she was covering armed

8- An interview with journalist Abeer Abdullah on October 5, 2022

confrontations in the Thaabat area, east of Taiz: «**One of the gunmen appeared to us and prevented us from filming under the pretext that I am a girl and I have no right to cover events from the lines of fire. He raised the weapon and said that he would kill me if I did not leave the place,** I was then accompanied by photographers Hossam Al-Qulaya and Mohammed Al-Twaiji and we had to stop filming”.

part 2:

Law Enforcement Institutions

Chapter 7



**Security and military agencies,
prosecution offices and courts**

Chapter 7:

Security and military agencies, prosecution offices and courts

The security and military services, whether those affiliated with the internationally recognized legitimate government or affiliated with the Ansar Allah group “Houthis”, have turned into tools to suppress journalists, according to information and testimonies documented in this report, which targets three governorates: Sana’a, Aden, and Taiz.

The security and military services, whether those affiliated with the internationally recognized government or those affiliated with the Houthi Ansar Allah group, have turned into tools to suppress journalists, according to the information and testimonies documented in this report, which targets three governorates: «Sana'a, Aden and Taiz».

First: Security and Military Institutions

In all cases of violation examined in this report, the conflicted parties have not adhered to the legal and legislative procedures that preserve the rights of journalists and activists. The security and military services have carried out arbitrary measures against journalists during detention, in addition to not respecting their right to know the charges against them and the reasons for their arrest, not allowing them to communicate with their families and having the assistance of lawyers. As well as dealing with detained journalists with forms of degrading and ill-treatment such as torturing, forcing victims to confess to alleged charges, and signing statements they do not know the content. Also, not to refer their cases to complete the litigation procedures within the period stipulated by law.

Sana'a

In areas controlled by the Houthi group “Ansar Allah”, the group’s services arrested 38 journalists in Sana’a, whose detention periods extended from 8 months to 5 years. The Houthi group “Ansar Allah” referred 2 journalists to the judiciary after 8 months of arrest, 14 journalists after 3, 4 and 5 years, while it released 22 journalists after detaining them for periods between 5 months and four years without referring them to the judiciary.

The report reveals that the Houthi agencies in Sana’a forcibly hid 32 journalists for periods of at least two weeks and a maximum of 8 months.

In murder cases, three out of five murders of journalists in Sana’a were not investigated, and the murder of journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani was the only murder case referred to court. Whereas, the case of journalist Mohammed Abdo Al-Absi was referred to the Public Prosecution Office with an incomplete file after three years.

Aden

In Aden, which is under the control of the internationally recognized government, the security and military services arbitrarily arrested four journalists, depriving them from knowing the charges against them, the reasons for their arrest, communicating with their families and getting lawyers. They also arbitrarily detaining two journalists for three months, one journalist for six months, and another journalist for 10 days.

The security and military services, run by the Southern Transitional Council, practiced torture, forced victims to confess to alleged charges, and did not refer journalists' cases to complete litigation procedures within the period stipulated in the law. As they referred only one case after 4 months from the date of arrest, and forcibly hid 3 journalists for periods of at least 3 days and most 25 days.

In cases of killing journalists, the security services in Aden investigated 9 cases of murder of journalists in the governorate, but the procedures stopped at the stage of collecting evidence for not completing evidence, and one case was referred to complete the litigation procedures.

Taiz

In Taiz governorate, the security and military services carried out arbitrary procedures during the arrest of 8 journalists, and didn't respect the rights of victims to know the charges against them, the reasons for their arrest, and to get lawyers.

The security and military agencies in Taiz did not submit the cases of journalists to complete the litigation procedures within the period stipulated in the law. They referred only 3 cases after 3 months, and practiced forcibly disappearance against 5 journalists for periods of at least 3 days against 3 journalists, 50 days against another journalist, and 4 years in one case.

In murder cases, nine cases involving journalists were not investigated, except in two cases, in the first procedures stopped in the Criminal Investigation Department, and the second was referred to complete the litigation procedures.

Constitutional Breach

Law enforcement institutions « security and military agencies » did not follow the arrest procedures stipulated in Yemeni legislation. The procedures were contrary to the law and constituted a great violation of the rights of victims which guarantee their dignity, the sanctity of their homes, and their right to know the reasons for arrest.^[1]

Detained journalists were repeatedly beaten by security forces during interrogation sessions, which increased when they did not answer interrogators' questions, denied accusations, or refused to confess to the alleged charges. Their interrogation periods ranged from several days to a whole month, lawyers were not allowed to attend interrogation sessions, and **interrogation reports did not include the names of the investigators, indicating the interrogators' unwillingness to reveal their identities to avoid prosecution.**

In all the cases examined in this report, it is clear that journalists have been arbitrarily arrested without warrants. They were detained for long periods without charges or trial, which is contrary to the Yemeni constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Yemeni Constitution prohibits any arrest made without a warrant issued by a judge or the Public Prosecutor. Article 47-b states: "No person may be arrested, searched or detained except in flagrante delicto or by an order necessitated by the necessity of investigation and protecting of security and issued by the judge or the Public Prosecution in accordance with the provisions of the law. No one may be monitored or investigated except in accordance with the law«.

Paragraph" c" stipulates: "Anyone who is temporarily arrested on suspicion of committing a crime must be brought to justice within 24 hours from the date of his arrest at the latest, and the judge and the prosecution must inform him of the reasons for his arrest, interrogate him and enable him to present his defense and objections." Paragraph "e" states: "Physical or psychological torture upon arrest, detention or imprisonment shall be considered a crime without statute of limitations and anyone who practices, orders or participates in it, shall be punished«.

Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “

1- Article (48) of the Yemeni Constitution, and Articles (6, 7, 11, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 164, 77, 173, 185) of the Code of Criminal Procedures

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 arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgement.
4. Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful.
5. Anyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

In some cases, arbitrary detention can be considered a war crime under article 8 of the Rome Statute, or a crime against humanity under article 7 of the [Rome Statute](#).

Second: Judicial Authorities

Prosecutions

By tracking the role of prosecutions in achieving justice and redress for victims in cases of violations against journalists by the conflicted parties in Yemen. In the governorates targeted by the report, it became clear that the role of ordinary public prosecutions forced to be absent, in order to weaken the independence of the judiciary and disrupt accountability mechanisms for perpetrators of human rights violations, and specialized criminal prosecutions have been replaced as an alternative, to become a tool of repression of opponents, especially journalists, who have become the targeted group by the conflicted parties in Yemen.

The legal texts and testimonies obtained by the team from lawyers and detained journalists or their families show the following:

- The absence of the role of prosecutors in supervising and inspecting detention centers and prisons, checking the integrity of procedures and the legality of detention, and referring detainees to the Public Prosecution within the period specified by law. Which has made detainees vulnerable to torture and forcibly disappearance. In Sana'a, 38 journalists were subjected to prolonged arbitrary detention for a period of time ranging from 8 months to 5 years. In Aden 5 journalists were subjected to prolonged arbitrary detention, up to 6 months in some cases. In Taiz, the Yemeni government arbitrarily detained 8 journalists for periods up to a month in 3 cases, 4 years in one case, 3 days in 3 cases, and 50 days in one case.
- The obstruction of the integrity of fair trial procedures, in the case of journalist Younis Abdul Salam, where the request of the defense lawyer to set a date for Younes' trial due to health conditions he suffers, **was rejected**. Although the Chief Prosecutor in Sana'a submitted the request to the Public Prosecutor, the Public Prosecutor refused to set a date for the trial.
- Not to respect the obligations imposed by law on the Attorney-General and the heads of public prosecutions through not responding to complaints filed by victims or their lawyers appealing arbitrary detention, requesting an investigation of ill-treatment and torture and confirming their allegations. The Specialized Prosecution in Sana'a refused to respond to requests appealing the lawfulness of the detention of 17 journalists and ignored requests for the release of arbitrarily detained. The Specialized Criminal Prosecution also issued malicious indictments against 16 journalists, based on confessions included in the evidence collection reports taken under torture and during the period of forcibly disappearance, despite the denial of these charges by the victim journalists before the prosecution, confirming that the confessions were taken from them under torture. But the Specialized Criminal Prosecution ignored these clarifications and insisted on the integrity of the procedures and brought them to trial.
- In Aden, the Specialized Criminal Prosecution rejected the request of the defense lawyer in the case of journalist Ahmed Maher to re-investigate him, and adhered to the integrity of the procedures and tried to present Maher among 18 individuals on charges of participating in the implementation of terrorist operations. The prosecution claimed that Maher "confessed" when in fact he was tortured during the

investigation and forced to make “confessions”. So the lawyer filed another appeal before the Public Prosecution, which in turn accepted the appeal and ordered the Specialized Criminal Prosecution to re-investigate Maher, but the Criminal Prosecution refused to prove his allegations in being subjected to torture, Maher was brought to trial before the Specialized Criminal Court on another charge of “dismantling social cohesion and disturbing public peace through his press posts on social media,” and according to the lawyer, this is a legal violation as the Press Court is the competent court for publishing cases^[2].

- Depriving victims of redress, in the murder case of investigative journalist Mohammed Abdo Al-Absi, according to the defense lawyer, the authorities in Sana’a dealt with the case with a kind of indifference. As the stage of collecting evidence lasted for 3 years before the case file was submitted to the West Sana’a Prosecution, which refused to proceed with the investigation procedures in the case, and to summon the defendants to appear before it despite submitting requests to complete some shortcomings, to prosecutor Abdul Salam Al-Dhaheri, who left the case file at his home because it contains names of people close to The Houthi group “Ansar Allah” as being involved in the crime. They were not reached because of their influence. In November 2022, the lawyer unofficially learned that the prosecution had issued a decision to close the case for lack of evidence, and the prosecution refused to give him a copy of the decision. He also learned from officials in the prosecution that the case file had disappeared in the prosecution^[3]. Al-Absi’s family is still asking to expose those who are involved and brought them to trial.
- The failure of the prosecution to investigate the killings of 25 journalists, including a female journalist and human rights activist, in the three targeted governorates. Despite the fact that these cases are considered serious crimes that Yemeni law requires the prosecution itself to investigate because they are related to public order, except for one case in Sana’a, one case in Aden and another in Taiz.

Courts

2- -An interview with defense lawyer in December 2022

3- An interview with defense lawyer in December 2022

The Specialized Criminal Courts, which were established by Presidential Decree No. 391 of 1999, replaced the ordinary courts in hearing the cases of journalists who were subjected to violations by the conflicted parties in Yemen in the governorates targeted by the report (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz), although all the alleged charges against journalists do not fall within the jurisdiction of the specialized criminal courts, which have jurisdiction according to Decree No. (131) of 2009 “to consider crimes affecting state security and crimes of kidnapping, piracy and drug trafficking”. However, these courts have been used as a tool to prosecute individuals who criticize or oppose the conflicted parties.

Criminal courts follow the procedures and rules related to summary trial. But a number of lawyers believe that these courts do not respect international standards set for a fair trial, and note several imbalances, through rapid and reductive verdicts that do not enable lawyers to defend their clients effectively, and therefore the right to defense is sometimes not respected. Lawyers also complain that they are unable to visit their clients or have access to their files during their temporary detention, the defendants' right to legal aid, as guaranteed by Article 10 of the UNDHR and Article 14(3)(b) of the ICCPR.

Further Yemen is bound by the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1990, that specifically states: “lawyers shall be free to communicate with their clients and to take all necessary steps to prepare the clients' defense.” The Principles further require that lawyers be able to access their clients “without delay” and that such access should be “unrestricted.”

Through 17 cases of journalists who appeared before the courts, and through the testimony of lawyers, **it was found that the courts violated the defendants' right to a fair trial through the following procedures:**

- In all cases, the courts have not considered constitutional and legal offences such as confessions extracted under torture. Most defendants who deny the charges against them are convicted on the basis of their signed and unsubstantiated confessions, as the only or main evidence, knowing that these confessions are obtained during incommunicado detention and that they often retract them in court, but prosecutors and the court appeared complicit in these abuses. Prosecution and the court repeatedly failed to observe obligations in the international and national law which state that courts must ensure integrity

investigations of any allegations of arbitrary detention, forcibly disappearances, torture or ill-treatment, and that a confession can only be accepted as case evidence after a serious investigation found the allegations of torture were false.

- Holding mock trial sessions in which pleading was not conducted and the defendants were not allowed to get lawyers. In 16 cases of arresting journalists, defense lawyers were prevented to attend most of the sessions. The court refused to allow lawyers to access case files and only had a few minutes to prepare pleadings, 24 hours in some cases, which means that they were unable to appeal the lawfulness of the detention or prepare the defense adequately before and during the trial.
- In the case of journalist Abdul Raqib Al-Jubaihi, a former detainee who was arbitrarily arrested from his home in Sana'a on September 7, 2016, the court held two sessions, the first session lasted only for 12 minutes, in which the defendant's data was recorded. Then the session was dismissed. And in the second session, the head of the Specialized Criminal Prosecution asked the court to sentence the defendant with death penalty. The judge, who attends the sessions carrying a Kalashnikov weapon with the logo of the Houthi group "Ansar Allah", sentenced death penalty to the journalist Al-Jubaihi. But after international pressure Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi issued an order to release me"^[4].
- Issuing malicious sentences of a political nature, which reduces the right of the accused to be considered innocent until proven guilty. In 6 cases, the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a issued death sentences for 6 journalists, including civil activist "Abdul Raqib Al-Jubaihi, Abdul Khaliq Omran, Akram Al-Walidi, Al-Harith Hamid, Tawfiq Al-Mansouri, Asma Al-Omeisy" .After appealing and it was replaced with a 10-year prison sentence. In six cases the court sentenced the defendants to prison periods ranging from 3 to 8 years, but in the end the accused journalists were released in a prisoner exchange deal between the Houthi group « Ansar Allah» and the Yemeni government under the auspices of the United Nations in October 2020.
- Holding secret and unannounced trials at the Political Security headquarters in Sana'a against 2 journalists «Mohammed Al-Salahi, who was arrested on October

4- An interview with journalist Yahya Al-Jubaihi on the program "Without Mercy" on Yemen Today Channel 15/06/2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdS0gAmRaow*feature=share*si=ELPmzJkDCLju2KnD5oyZMQ

21, 2018, and Mohammed Al-Junaid, who was arrested on November 13, 2018 in the city of Hodeidah, western Yemen », and defense lawyers were not allowed to attend the sessions. After a flawed trial that based its verdicts on confessions taken under torture and coercion, the court ignored clear evidence confirming that Al-Salahi and Al-Junaid were tortured, and issued a sentence to imprison the journalists for a period of 3 years and 8 months. Although they were imprisoned for longer than this period, but the Houthi group refused to release them^[5], which confirm that the Houthis are using journalists' cases politically.

- The “accused” Journalists have not been notified of the trial in advance except within narrow limits, usually one day before the trial date. Sometimes, defense lawyer has only a few minutes to prepare his defense; in some cases, 24 hours. Courts obstruct the attempt to challenge evidence by defense lawyer and, in any case, reject any request to postpone for the purpose of preparing a defense.
- In Taiz governorate, on May 17, 2022, the Sabr Al-Mawadim Court sentenced journalist Jamil Al-Samit, a one-year suspended prison and a fine of 217,000 Yemeni riyals « equivalent to \$ 210 », based on a complaint submitted by the leadership of the Taiz Military Axis, on charges of insulting the former Vice President of the Republic, Lieutenant General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, insulting the leader of the Taiz Axis and senior military leaders, and attributing hurtful facts to them in posts on his Facebook page. During the stages of the pleading, the court violated his right to defense through rejecting 23 requests pleading that it lacked jurisdiction in press and publishing cases. However, the court ignored all legal requests and issued a verdict against him.
- In Aden governorate, journalist Ahmed Maher began a hunger strike in January 2023 until his two main demands were achieved: the first: to investigate all the violations he has been subjected to since his arrest on the sixth of August 2022, and the second: his right to a fair trial and to transfer him from prison to attend his trial sessions, which were postponed eight times until January, due to the refusal of the Bir Ahmed prison administration in Aden city to transfer him to the court.

5- An interview with Al-Daqa'a lawyer in September 2022

Fundamental defects

The right to a fair trial is guaranteed by Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is affirmed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As Article (3) 9 of the Covenant stipulates that “a person arrested or detained on a criminal charge has the right to be tried within a reasonable period of time or to be released pending trial.” The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirms in article (2) 14 that “everyone accused of a crime has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by law.” According to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, a trial that does not meet international fair trial standards in whole or in part may result in deprivation of liberty being considered “arbitrary”. All persons deprived of their liberty “have the right to a lawyer since the beginning of their detention and throughout the period of detention, including the investigation period; and they must be brought promptly before a judge to challenge the lawfulness of the detention.«

In all the cases examined in this report, conflicted parties have violated international fair trial standards, in particular minimum guarantees stipulated in article (3)14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Detainees have not been informed immediately of the reason for their arrest, their rights such as the right to legal counsel, or of the charges against them, preventing them the ability to challenge the lawfulness of detention. In all cases, detainees were held for several years before trial without getting a lawyer, and even after detainees were informed of the charges against them, they remained prevented to get adequate legal counsel.

Article (3) 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “**one shall not be compelled to testify against oneself or to confess guilt.**” In its General Comment No. 32 on the right to a fair trial, the Human Rights Committee explains that “**the absence of unjustified psychological or physical pressure, directly or indirectly, by the investigating authorities in order to extract a guilty plea is a condition for the proper exercise of the right to a fair trial stipulated in article (3)14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**”^[6].

The Human Rights Committee adds that confessions obtained under duress, consid-

6- General comment No. 32 on article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to a fair trial, CCPR/C/GC/32, para. 41.

ered a violation of article 7 of the Covenant, must be excluded from evidence^[7] .

International humanitarian law also states that “no one may be convicted or sentenced except on the basis of a fair trial that meets all judicial guarantees”^[8] and therefore denying a person the right to a fair trial in situations of armed conflict amounts to a war crime^[9].

Finally:

The procedures of the journalists’ trial in Sana’a, which is under the control of the Ansar Allah group “Houthi”, or those taking place in Aden and Taiz, which are under the control of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, illustrate the existence of fundamental flaws in the Yemeni judicial system. Which undermine the fundamental pillars of any country that effectively exercises its functions and respects human rights, including the rule of law, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, and the legal accountability of those involved in violating the law.

The failure of courts to investigate human rights violations contributes to a climate of impunity, perpetuates human rights violations, and undermines the important role of the press in holding governments and other powerful actors accountable for their actions. Without accountability for these crimes, journalists may be deterred from covering important issues, and the public may be denied vital information, further eroding transparency, accountability, and ultimately democracy.

7- General comment No. 32 on article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to a fair trial, CCPR/C/GC/32, para. 41.

8- ICRC, Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law, rule 100.

9- ICRC, Study on customary international humanitarian law, rule 156

Recommendations

To the conflicted parties:

- Immediately and unconditionally release all arbitrarily detained journalists and fairly compensate them for the physical, psychological, and moral harm they suffered.
- Close unofficial detention places, transfer all detainees to official detention places, rehabilitate such detention centers in accordance with the standards set in national and international legislation, activate their monitoring, and allow international organizations and agencies to visit them to check the detention conditions.
- A commitment not to politicize cases of violations against journalists and to respect their right to live in dignity without prejudice to their freedom.
- Ansar Allah (Houthis) should cancel all sentences against journalists and activists who were convicted according to coerced confessions and/or serious violations of legal procedures and to get fair trials. And they should be released immediately.
- Ansar Allah should respond to demands to reveal the facts in the case of the murder of journalist Mohammed Abdo Al-Absi, disclose the identity of the perpetrators and bring them to justice, and not interfere in the progress of the litigation process.
- Ansar Allah should reveal the fate of journalist Wahid Al-Sufi, who has been forcibly disappeared in Sana'a for seven years.
- The Yemeni government should reveal the circumstances of the killing (assassination) of journalists by unidentified parties - 2 journalists in Taiz and 6 journalists in Aden.
- The Yemeni government should immediately ratify the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- All conflicted parties must respect the independence of the judiciary and not interfere in its affairs to ensure justice and to ensure the integrity of judicial procedures.
- All conflicted parties must ensure accountability and achieve justice for survivors, released persons, families and relatives of deceased victims, and bring perpetrators to a fair trial.

- All conflicted parties must conduct effective, prompt, thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and real investigations into all cases of killing, torture, forcibly disappearances and arbitrary detention of journalists or activists, regardless of whether the victim has filed a complaint or not, and refer those involved in these violations to a fair trial.
- All conflicted parties must ensure that criminal investigations and prosecutions (in murder cases) cover the full chain of responsibility for the crime, including those who may have planned or ordered the killing(s), rather than just those who committed the final act of murder.
- Officials, members of the security services, and paramilitary groups implicated in abuses against journalists must be investigated and prosecuted promptly, thoroughly, and impartially in accordance with international fair trial standards.
- Conflicted parties must commit to implementing the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Status of Enforced Disappearances (2015-2020), as well as opening comprehensive investigations to end impunity.
- All conflicted parties should accept requests for visits and investigations presented by the UN Committee and the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances.
- All conflicted parties must respect international obligations under human rights conventions and harmonize them with national legislation.
- All conflicted parties must activate the police services and do not allow any party or group to carry out seizure, detention and investigation other than the legally authorized agencies.

To the United Nations:

- The United Nations should conduct an independent international investigation into violations against journalists in Yemen.
- Urging the conflicted parties to stop prosecuting journalists and to respect freedom of opinion and expression.
- Demanding the conflicted parties in Yemen (the Yemeni government, Ansar Allah group) to keep records containing data and information for each detainee as stipulated by law. These records must be available to the families of detainees, their legal representatives, and other interested parties.

- Compelling Yemen to immediately ratify the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- Urging conflicted parties to immediately ensure that all detained journalists are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that they have access to their families and lawyers.
- The United Nations should urge conflicted parties to respect international humanitarian law, international human rights law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to stop targeting journalists.

To the European Union and the Government of the United States of America:

- Urging the conflicted parties through public channels to respect freedom of opinion and expression, stop prosecuting journalists, and seriously investigate the violations they have been subjected to, including allegations of torture, forcibly disappearance and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
- Supporting the establishment of an international investigative mechanism into violations against journalists in Yemen with adequate resources that would: collect, consolidate, preserve, and analyze evidence; prepare case files; identify victims and document the extent and types of harm they suffered in light of compensation demands in each case investigated.

Article (19):

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart news and ideas through any media without limitation of geographical frontiers"

**International Covenant on Civil and Political
Universal Declaration of Human Rights**



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