



# Justice

## for Abductees



A Report monitoring and documenting the cases of abduction, detention, enforced disappearance and torture in the governorates of (Sana'a, Aden, Ma'rib, Taiz and Dhamar) between (2018-2022)





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## Know Us

### We are:

A Yemeni human rights organization established by the mothers, wives, and families of abductees and forcibly disappeared civilians, as well as by activists working in the field of freedoms and human rights. It is concerned with the issues of abductees, arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared civilians, taking into account the gender type.

### Principles and Values:

Humanity, independence, transparency, neutrality, participation.

### Vision:

A leading Association seeking for the abductees' freedom.

### Mission:

Association of the Abductees' Mothers seeks to provide support to the forcibly disappeared, abducted and arbitrarily detained individuals by collecting, analyzing and disseminating data on abductions, arrests, enforced disappearances, torture and related violations. It further maintains pressuring the responsible parties to ensure the safety and release of the abductees, and alleviating the suffering of their mothers and families as well.

### Strategic Goals:

1. Contributes to the release of abductees, forcibly disappeared and arbitrarily detained persons, and the attainment of their rights.
2. Contributes to strengthening the rule of law and levitating awareness of human rights and the implementation of justice.



## Activities and Interventions:

- Documents the cases of abduction and enforced disappearance beyond the law.
- Monitors and documents violations against abductees, arbitrarily detainees, forcibly disappeared persons and their families.
- Advocates and mobilizes the societal and official efforts; and demands disclosing the fate of the forcibly disappeared, and release of the kidnapped and forcibly disappeared internally and externally.
- Seeks and demands that perpetrators of violations related to abduction, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance and those responsible for them be brought to justice, and that victims and their families be justly compensated.
- Supports the families of abductees, forcibly disappeared and arbitrarily detained persons through legal awareness, psychological and material support.



## Introduction



**A**bduction and arbitrary detention accompanied with violations of enforced disappearance, physical and psychological tortures are among the most salient violations caused by the ongoing conflict in Yemen since 2014.

The situation has been exacerbated by the multiplicity of violators who have participated in creating this bitter reality, where thousands of Yemeni families are suffering from. These war parties are still rejecting any form of control over places of detention. They have been completely ignoring the role of the law or the judiciary in monitoring and supervising detention policies and practices as required by the Yemeni law.





This necessitates reminding the concerned authorities in the Republic of Yemen, led by the internationally recognized legitimate government, of its constitutional, legal and moral responsibilities towards its citizens, in preserving their dignity and protecting their rights, which are confirmed by international treaties and conventions signed by the Republic of Yemen as a member of the international community and is a party to (53) conventions and media international protocols, including those related to international human rights law, the most important of which is the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel and Inhuman Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Covenant of the Economic, Social and Cultural rights. The Yemeni government is also bound by international instruments, including the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, as well as the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Additionally, the legitimate government is also bound to the Yemeni Constitution, where its article (48/A) stipulates that «the State guarantees citizens their personal freedom and preserves their dignity and security.

While working seriously to monitor and document the violations to which abductees are subjected; and are related to abduction, detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other violations committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen, the Association of Abductees' Mothers hopes that its work will contribute to raising the awareness of human rights, preserving the rights of victims, seeking to combat impunity and improving the human rights status in Yemen in general.

The report before you is part of a series of reports issued by the Association of Abductees' Mothers in previous years in order to provide a comprehensive description based on the testimonies of victims that contribute to reading and clarifying the current conditions to the international human rights institutions leading the peace process, as well as to the local initiatives to pressure all conflict parties in Yemen to immediately release the abducted, detained and forcibly disappeared and their inherent right to life and liberty. It further aims to send a message to the international community to work seriously in order to save the Yemeni civilians, who are victims of abduction, detention and enforced disappearance, in all its humanitarian and political efforts.

The Association is also in a close contact with a number of human rights organizations operating in Yemen, and which adopt the call for accountability, justice and compensation for the victims of kidnapping, detention, enforced disappearance and torture in a manner that commensurate with the scale of violations practiced against them, including providing guarantees that such violations will not be repeated, and to call for the accountability of those involved in committing such violations and ensure that they do not escape punishment





## Terminology

### Victim:



A person whose rights are violated.

### Arbitrary Detention:



Deprivation of liberty by order of a state authority, or with the consent or acquiescence of the state, for reasons unrelated to a conviction for a crime.

### Abduction:



The detention and deprivation of liberty of a person without a legal basis by an unrecognized authority.

### Enforced disappearance:



Arrest, detention, abduction or any other forms of deprivation of liberty by state agents; persons or groups of individuals acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the state, and is followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, thereby depriving him of the protection of the law.

### Torture:



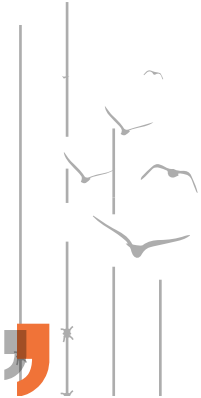
Any act by which severe physical or mental pain or suffering is intentionally inflicted on a person, with the intention of obtaining information from that person or a third person, or confessing or punishing him for an act committed or suspected of having committed by him or a third person, or intimidating or coercing him or any person.



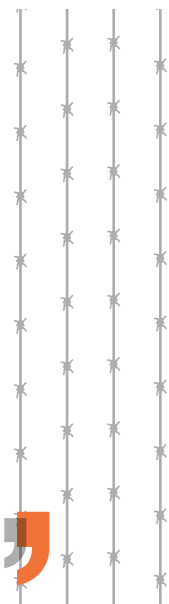
## Executive summary

Since the outbreak of the war in Yemen, the conflict parties have committed grave violations against civilians under their authority. Due to the lack of accountability, the perpetrators felt that the hand of justice would not reach them and therefore continued the practice of arbitrarily detaining civilians, disappearing and torturing them in secret places of detention and depriving them of their rights guaranteed by law.

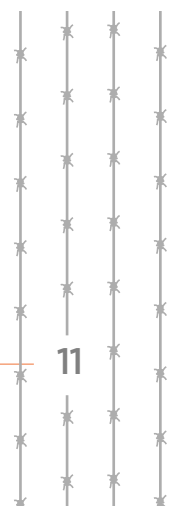




The Association urges the prosecution and accountability of the violation perpetrators and to ensure their non-escapement of punishment



Arab coalition warplanes killed (134) detainees in their air-bombing of the Dhamar Community College,



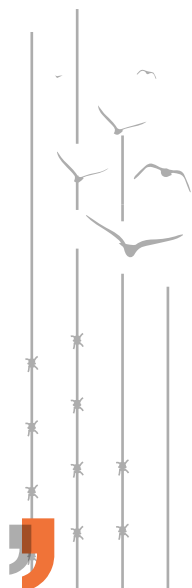
We, in the Association of Abductees' Mothers, have worked to monitor and document these violations and issue human right reports that include the testimonies we have heard from the victims or their families, in order to convey a message to the international community to work seriously for saving civilian victims of abduction, detention and enforced disappearance in all its humanitarian and political efforts.

The Association also adopts the defense of human rights with a number of human right organizations (HROs) working in Yemen. It also works to expose the practices of violators against civilians, calls for the prosecution and accountability of the perpetrators of violations and ensures that they do not escape punishment, and hopes to mobilize local and international community and official efforts for the issues of its abducted and arbitrarily detained children.

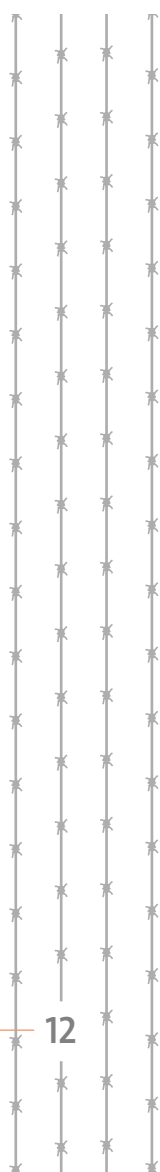


### Association of the Abductees' Mothers monitored the assaults that affected abductees, detainees and forcibly disappeared individuals in (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ma'rib, and Dhamar) during the years (2018-2022):

- In regard with the assault on the right to life, Association of the Abductees' Mothers monitored the death of (153) abductees and detainees, as the Arab coalition warplanes killed (134) detainees in their bombing of the Community College in Dhamar. The Association was able to document and verify (41) cases of killing, and (12) wounded and injured cases, who were released after the incident. Three abductees died under torture, two in Sana'a and another one in Dhamar. Houthi group said he was shot dead. However, (12) kidnapped died in their places of detention due to medical negligence, (10) of them died in the prisons of the Houthi group in Sana'a, Dhamar



The Association of Abductees' Mothers monitored (440) civilians subjected to enforced disappearance by all violating parties



and Taiz, one of the detainees died due to medical negligence in a prison belonging to the legitimate government in Ma'rib governorate and «one case» in the prisons of the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council in Aden.

- The Association also monitored (4) cases of abductees who died as a result of the torture they were subjected to in their places of detention, including (3) abductees in the prisons of the Houthi group in Taiz city and «a case» of a detainee died after he was released from the prisons of the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council in Aden.
- Regarding the attack on the right to freedom, the Association of Abductees' Mothers monitored the exposure of (1799) civilians to kidnapping and arrest during the period (2018-2022) in each of (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ma'rib, and Dhamar). The number includes (1427) civilians kidnapped by the Houthi group, among whom (117) are women. The monitoring teams of the association were able to document (70) cases, including (7) women who were kidnapped by the Houthi group. It also monitored (280) civilians arrested by the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council, including (3) women. (49) cases, including two women were verified and documented. (92) civilians were arrested by the security forces of the legitimate government, including a woman. The monitoring team verified and documented (18) cases of arbitrary detention in Ma'rib and Taiz.
- Regarding disappearance, the Abductees' Mothers Association monitored (440) civilians who were forcibly disappeared by all conflicting parties, including (294) civilians were disappeared by the Houthi group, including (6) women. (53) cases of disappearance by the Houthi group were documented and verified, and (112) civilians were forcibly disappeared by the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council. (43) cases of enforced disappearance were verified and documented, and (34) civilians were disappeared by the security forces of the legitimate government in Ma'rib and Taiz cities.
- Regarding the torture and ill-treatment, the Association of Abductees' Mothers monitored (865) cases of torture of abductees and detainees at all conflicting parties, including (673) cases of torture by the Houthi group, (33) cases of torture were verified, (150) cases were monitored by the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council, (25) cases of torture were verified and documented, and (42) cases were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by the security forces of the legitimate government, of which (3) cases of torture were verified in this regard.
- During the period (2018-2022), the Association of Abductees' Mothers issued four annual reports in which it monitored the violations that occurred in those years and contributed to forming a clear picture of the status of rights and freedoms in Yemen. The Association also issued a report on torture entitled «When Death Becomes a Wish» in 2018, a report on the bombing of the Community College entitled «The Giant Grave» in 2019, a report on Al-Saleh prison in Taiz entitled «The Odor of Death» in 2020, and one more report on the detained





women in the central prison in Sana'a, bearing the title «I Am Afraid to Die Unknown».

- During the period (2018-2022), the Association Abductees' Mothers listened to «203» testimonies from the victims and their families regarding the violations that affected them. Most of the victims we listened to explained that they were subjected to varying periods of enforced disappearance, which were the harshest during their detention. They added that they were subjected to harsh methods of physical torture and ill-treatment, and were unable to exercise their legal rights. The families of the victims reported that they were subjected to financial and psychological blackmail by the violators, in order to allow them know whereabouts their relatives.
- The Association of the Abductees' Mothers carried out (206) vigils distributed over (4) governorates (Sana'a, Taiz, Ma'rib, and Aden), and issued (242) press and human rights statements and press releases. The meetings of the Association with international and human rights figures at home and abroad have amounted to (318) meetings, and (154) official letters and legal memoranda were sent to a number of local and international figures.
- The Association of the Abductees' Mothers issued a weekly electronic leaflet to introduce the issue of abductees starting from 2019, with 160 publications, 65 films and flashes, and 30 press reports. During the period (2018-2022), the Association of the Abductees' Mothers held 48 events and seminars, and 6 hearings for those released. It also held «63» courses in the mental support for the abductees' families in (Sana'a, Aden, Ma'rib, and Taiz).







# Report Methodology

The monitoring team of the Association of Abductees' Mothers documented cases of violations suffered by citizens between the years (2018-2022) in (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ma'rib, and Dhamar). Writing this report is relied upon the testimonies of (203) released victims or their families from authentic sources of information or witnesses.





The team adhered to ensuring the safety, impartiality, objectivity and transparency of witnesses and victims

## The monitoring team has been keen to monitor and document violations committed by all conflict parties, and to stand neutral with all those parties.

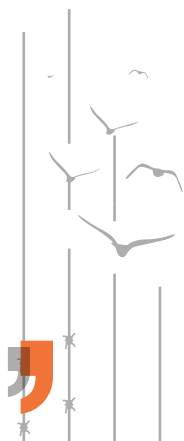
In this report, the violations mentioned were focused in (Sana'a, Aden, Ma'rib, Taiz, and Dhamar) because each governorate represents one of the violators. The power of the Houthis group is centered in the capital city of Sana'a, Dhamar and parts of Taiz Governorate, whereas the Transitional Council manages the city of Aden through its security forces known as the Security Belt, while the recognized government administers Ma'rib Governorate and parts of Taiz Governorate. Dhamar Governorate was included in order to highlight the incident of the bombing of the Community College by the airstrikes of Saudi-led Arab coalition forces.

However, since each conflicting group imposes its control over a specific area, it becomes easier for us to identify the perpetrators of violations and determine their affiliation as long as there is no overlap between the violators to cause any suspect leading to their identification. The team adhered to the principle of no harm, ensuring the safety of witnesses and victims, impartiality, objectivity and transparency

Despite the restrictions imposed on the free access to victims



or witnesses resulting from the fear caused by the threat of the violators to the victims and their families if they report violations against them to media or human rights bodies, the team worked hard to document these violations, by interviewing victims and witnesses face-to-face whenever possible and listening to the statements of informers through some of the mechanisms that we list here:

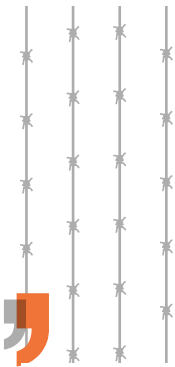


The Association of Abductees' Mothers adopted direct interviews as much as possible, and resorted to conduct e-interviews via flexible channels for remote participation through effective digital platforms that respect privacy, during the lockdown period of the Covid-19 pandemic

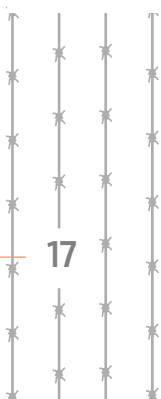
- Association of the Abductees' Mothers has designed a specific form to document the cases of abduction and detention. The form adopts the existence of a direct source of information that is relevant to the victim and is likely to be a first-degree relative. At least one witness is required to support him, after ascertaining the validity of the witnesses in terms of reaching the legal age, supported with copies of their personal identities, and taking into account the means by which the source and the witness obtained the information, and the reasons for providing the information. The team, then, took into account the possible biases, including political affiliations or personal interests.
- Another form is designed by the Association for documenting deaths in places of detention relies on a direct source; first degree close to the victim, the testimony of at least two witnesses, the death certificate, the forensic doctor's report, if available, and the burial permit.
- The Association also designed a special form for the bombing victims of the Community College in Dhamar. This form relies on a direct source; a first-degree relative to the victim, the testimony of two witnesses, death certificate of the victim with another statement that the victim communicated with his family. The Association team paid a visit to the bombing site and met with officials at Dhamar General Hospital, where all the victims were transferred to. The team also met with paramedics and some of the victims' family member. The team, then, attended the mass burial of the victims after three months of the incident.
- The Association also designed a special form for those released to document the violations they were subjected to during their abduction and detention in order to form a general view of the conditions of detention in all violating parties. Not only designed this form, but the Association also audio-visually documented the testimonies of dozens of the released abductees and detainees during this period from various prisons in the governorates of the Republic. In their testimonies, the released abductees talked about the violations they were subjected to during the period of enforced disappearance, including psychological and physical torture, ill-treatment, and depriving them of visits and communication with the outside world, and from health care. The Association ensured the confidentiality and safety of the interviewed victims and their recorded testimonies.
- Association of the Abductees' Mothers adopted direct interviews as much as possible. It resorted to conduct E-interviews during the lockdown period emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, through flexible channels for remote participation and dialogue through effective digital platforms that respect privacy
- The facts mentioned in the report were selected based on the consent of the victim or his relatives to publish, taking into account the



The Monitoring Team of the Abductees' Mothers Association worked in extremely complicated security conditions. Some of the monitors were exposed to risks and threats of arrest while carrying out their work of monitoring and documentation.



The numbers included in the report reflects the monitored and authenticated cases by the monitoring teams, but it does not reflect the comprehensive reality of violations on the ground. Yet, it contributes to forming a realistic picture of the violators and their inhumane practices against the victims



principle of not harming witnesses or victims. The varied cases and the violating party are all taken into account.

- Association of the Abductees' Mothers held regular meetings with a representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and human rights officials in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with protection officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In these meetings, the Association presented the violations related to abduction, arrest and other violations against abductees and detainees in places of detention.
- Association of the Abductees' Mothers met with the authorities in Aden, Ma'rib and Taiz, presented them with complaints of victims and violations related to kidnapping and arrest, provided them with legal memoranda demanding that they enable the victims in their custody to exercise their natural rights, and release them in the case that no crime against them is proven, according to the reports that the Association received from the families of the victims.
- The monitoring teams visited a number of prisons in Sana'a, Ma'rib and Aden and listened to the victimized kidnapped and detainees about their detention conditions and the violations they were subjected to. Since the Association was basically formed from the families of the abductees and detainees, this facilitated the visit of the detainees, listening to their testimonies about their detention conditions, examining their conditions, and the visible scars of torture on their bodies. Recently, some places of detention in Sana'a, the Security and Intelligence detention places, for example, have tightened and limited the visit procedures, allowing only first-degree relatives of the abductee.
- The monitoring team of the Abductees' Mothers Association worked in extremely complicated security conditions. Some of the monitors were exposed to risks and threats of arrest while carrying out their monitoring and documentation tasks.
- The Association issued annual reports in the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, in which the association included its monitoring and documentation data during the year in which the report was issued and a sample of the facts it documented to be an indicative sample of violations against civilian abductees by all conflict parties in Yemen.
- The numbers mentioned in the report are what the monitoring teams have been able to access, monitor and document, and do not reflect the realistic reality of violations on the ground. But it contributes in forming a realistic picture of the violators and their inhumane practices against the victims.

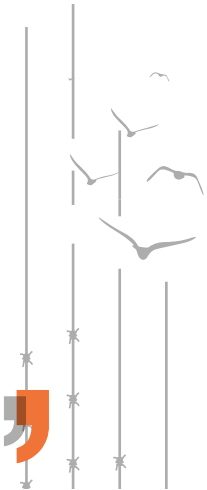




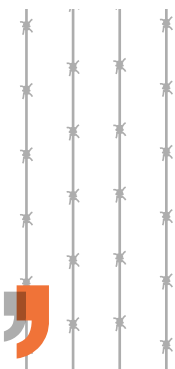
## A Background to the Nature of Violations Related to Arbitrary Detention in Yemen

- The monitoring team has documented patterns of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture practiced by the de facto authorities in Yemen, represented by the Houthi group in the governorates of Sana'a, Dhamar, and parts of Taiz governorate under its control, by the Security Belt Forces in Aden, and by the internationally recognized legitimate government in the cities of Ma'rib and parts of Taiz city.
- People are arbitrarily arrested, detained, disappeared, tortured and ill-treated, including sexual violence, without levelling any charge against them for long periods of time and without taking any legal action. Residents of these areas live in fear of arrest or of being targeted in any way for being opponents.
- The homes of opponents are stormed and raided late at night and physical violence is used during arrest. This may go to include assaulting the opponents' family members, and forcefully detaining them. Besides, they are often detained in unknown places of detention so that their families cannot find their locations. Some of them, however, are kidnapped from public streets or checkpoints, so their families resort to searching for them in hospitals, and mortuary refrigerators because they believe that they have been injured in accidents or the like. They are allowed to contact their families after several weeks or months have passed of their detention.
- Checkpoints are spread at the entrances to cities and districts, and people are kidnapped under the pretext of being opponents. They continue to be detained for years without considering any legal procedures against them. Such procedures and assaults caused restrictions on the population and diminished their right to freedom of movement between Yemeni cities. Article (57) of the Yemeni Constitution stipulates that: «Freedom of movement from one place to another in the Yemeni territory is guaranteed to every citizen, and may not be restricted except in cases specified by law for the requirements of the security and safety of the citizens. Freedom to in and out the Republic of Yemen shall be regulated by law. No citizen may be deported from the Yemeni territory or prevented from returning to it.»
- Security Belt forces in Aden have arrested some citizens simply because they belong to the northern areas of Yemen. The forces of internationally recognized government have arrested citizens in Ma'rib because of their surnames resemblance to those of families belonging to the Houthi group.
- Violators in Yemen have consistently violated the freedom of opinion and expression. Journalists and social media activists are at the top of

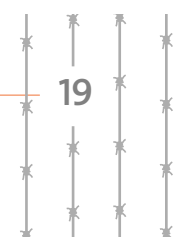




Violating parties in Yemen have consistently violated the freedom of opinion and expression. Journalists and social media activists rank the top of the violators' target list

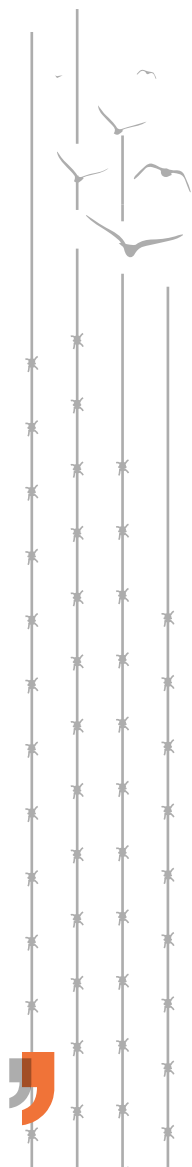


Enforced disappearance is widely practiced and the majority of those kidnapped or detained are almost subjected to varying periods of enforced disappearance



their list of targets.

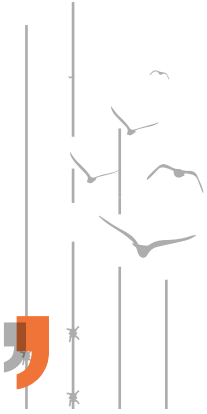
- The Houthis called their opponents «Dawa'ish (ISIS affiliates)- according to the testimonies of a number of those released. They are calling their opponents in such terms to justify their illegal practices against them and to incite their followers to deal with them harshly and with no mercy. The Houthi group also launched the term «soft war» to justify its campaign to kidnap dozens of women. It accuses them of practicing prostitution for political ends.
- Enforced disappearance is widely practiced and almost the majority of abductees or detainees are subjected to varying periods of enforced disappearance. The Houthi group used a large number of secret places of detention to hide the abductees, using the homes of opponents that it seized after they left the country or moved to live in other cities, mosques, Qur'an houses and basements for a number of civic facilities
- This, in turn, lead many of those in link with the leaders of the Houthi group to claim their ability to reveal the whereabouts of the disappeared in exchange for large sums of money obtained from the families of the disappeared abductees, but without a positive result. The abductee remains hidden for several months and the unknown destiny may last up to several years.
- The Security Belt Forces used the homes of some of their commanders to hide the detainees. A number of them were transferred to a detention center run by the forces affiliated with the United Arab Emirates, in the Assab city of Eritrea. Dozens of families are concerned as they lack communication with their sons who have been detained by the Security Belt forces for years. Their concern is doubled with the rumors which report that those disappeared under torture were killed and buried inside the places of detention.
- The conflict parties in Yemen have not acknowledged their responsibility for any violations. They refused to take any step to correct the status that have resulted in grave violations of the rights of civilians. The perpetrators are covered up, which encourages further disregard for the rights of the Yemeni civilians and incitement to impunity for crimes committed in Yemen. Urgent appeals for violations were reported to them, and annual and qualitative reports were delivered to all violators, as well as published in the media and social networking sites, but these parties responded only at the lowest levels to those calls.
- The assaulters do not inform the victims of the nature of their detention and the reasons for such detention. Detainees remain for years without being brought before the public prosecutor or investigation before any judicial authority, and without access to any form of legal assistance.
- One of the complex crimes committed against the disappeared detainees is that they were detained in places used for military ends



Civilian abductees have been subjected to cruel methods of physical and psychological torture, especially during periods of enforced disappearance that extend for months in most places of detention.

previously; and were bombed by the Saudi-led coalition forces. This made them vulnerable to bombing again. The killing of hundreds of detainees inside the detention places as is the case in the bombing of the Community College building in September 2019 which was used by the Houthi group to detain and hide its opponents.

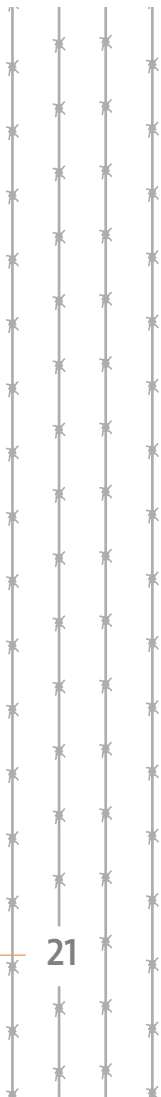
- Torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment are strictly prohibited under international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Yet, the abusers in Yemen systematically use torture to extract confessions and punish abductees and arbitrarily detained individuals who oppose the war parties in Yemen.
- Civilian abductees were subjected to harsh methods of physical and psychological torture, especially during the periods of enforced disappearance. That extended for months in most of the detention places. The Association has documented a number of cases of abductees who suffered chronic disabilities such as paralysis and loss of hearing or sight inside places of detention.
- Beginning with the interrogation method, detainees are subjected to prolonged interrogation while handcuffed, blindfolded and may be suspended either on the ceiling or on a grill-like, repeated beatings with metal cables, pulling out their nails, forced nudity, and threats of rape or rape of their wives in order to humiliate them and force them to confess.
- The detainee may be arbitrarily punished by solitary confinement in the so-called «pressure», which is a very small area of land, a square meter space, often underground, without ventilation holes, and in which the detainee or abductee is held hanged for several days.
- Abductees are beaten with electrical wires and electric shocks during the investigation.
- Detention conditions were and still are very poor in prisons and places of detention, with no medical care, and no good ventilation. Victims are deprived of exposure to the sun for long periods of up to a year, and are provided with a poor food in its hygiene and nutritional value..
- A number of abductees and detainees died days after their release from detention places of the Houthi group and the Security Belt in Aden. It is difficult to determine the exact circumstances that caused their deaths, because medical reports do not prove the cause and forensic reports are rarely available. Yet, it is believed that torture contributed at least to the death of these detainees.
- Human Rights Organizations (HROs) or bodies including the International Committee of the Red Cross are not allowed to visit the places of detention and see the conditions of the disappeared detainees
- The Houthi group forces detainees to sign statements warning them not to report detention or torture. Victims and witnesses fear being placed under surveillance.
- The Houthi group resorted to practices beyond the framework of the judicial system to release detainees, including obtaining a guarantee



Human rights organizations (HROs), including the International Committee of the Red Cross, are not allowed to visit the places of detention and see the conditions of the disappeared detainees.

signed by an individual who is the guarantor, and is, then, responsible for returning the detainee to the Houthi security authority in case the Houthi authorities requested to see him in the future. This has hindered the release of many of the abductees because people are reluctant to obtain such guarantees for fear of being detained if they fail to bring the guaranteed person by him to the Houthis.

- One of the practices beyond the framework of the judicial system is to force the detainee to pay a ransom of tens of millions of Yemeni riyals or to give up houses and real estate in order to release him, especially if he is a businessman or a property owner.
- The Houthi group has also used the exchange method as the only option in many cases of kidnapping, where the civilian kidnapped is released on the condition that he is exchanged for a detainee held by the legitimate government of a fighting detainees. This kidnapped person is forced to move to areas under the control of the legitimate government and is not entitled to return to his city.





## Violations Suffered by the Abductees and Detainees



01  
Assault of the Right to Life





## First: Assault of the Right to Life:

During the period 2018-2022, the Abductees' Mothers Association monitored the death of (153) abductees and detainees in the cities of (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Dhamar, and Ma'rib).

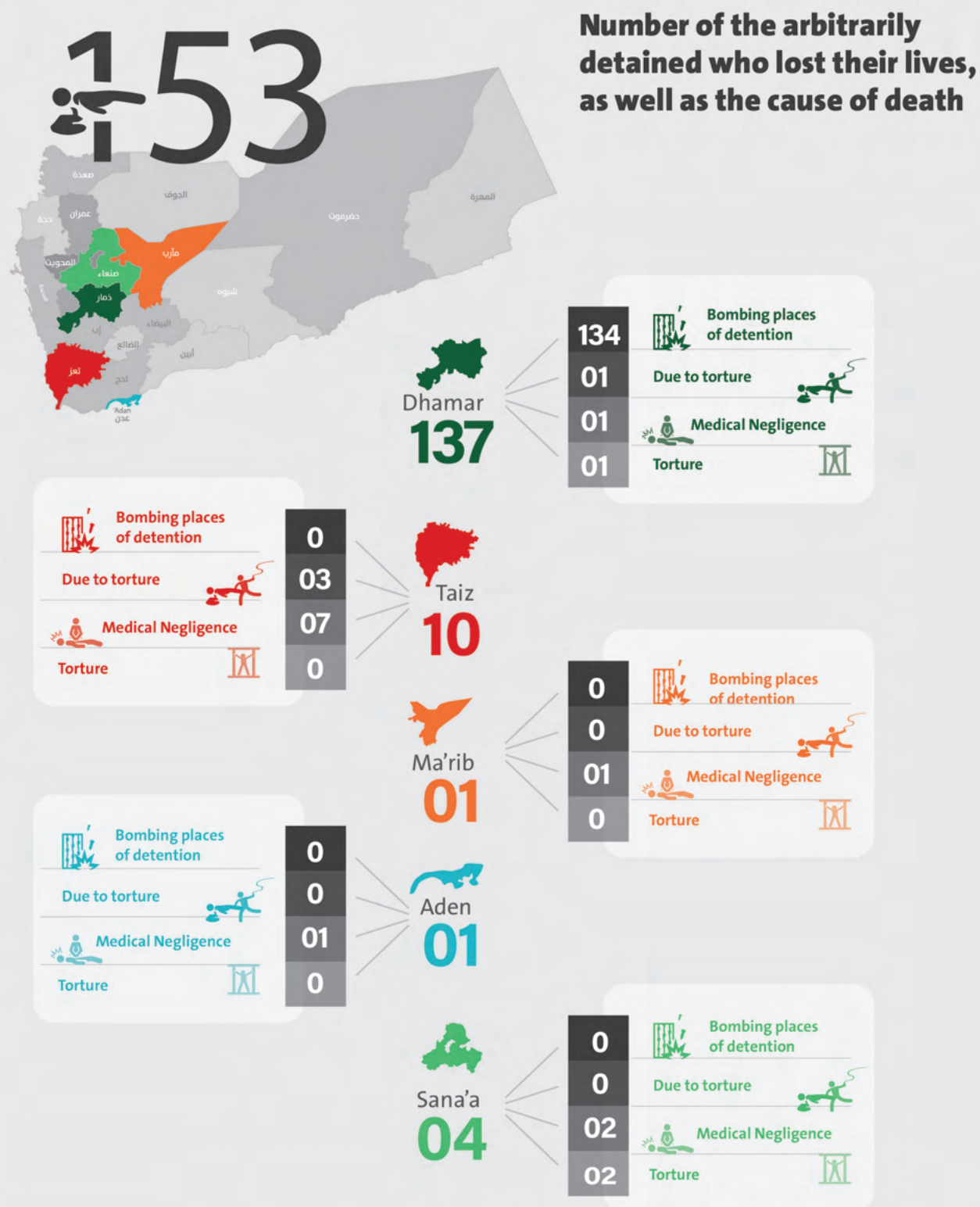
The causes of death are varied between death due to aerial bombardment of the place of detention, liquidation by gunshot, death under or because of torture, death as a result of medical negligence and denial of medical care as shown in the table:

No	Governorate	No	Cause of Death				Violators			
			Torture	Medical Negligence	Due to torture	Bombing places of detention	Arab Coalition Forces	Houthi group	Security belt forces	Yemeni Government
1	Sana'a	4	2	2				4		
2	Aden	1		1					1	
3	Ma'rib	1		1						1
4	Taiz	10		7	3			10		
5	Dhamar	137	1	1	1	134	134	2	1	
Total		153	3	12	4	134	134	16	2	1

Graph (1) showing the number of the arbitrarily detained persons, highlighting the cause of death







Number of the arbitrarily detained who lost their lives, along with the violating parties

134

Arab Coalition Forces

16

Houthi group

02

Security belt forces

01

Yemeni Government



## Incidents

### A-Death Under Torture

**On July 26, 2021, leaders affiliate with the Houthi group called the victim's family, informing them that their relative, (M. W. A 38y) was gunshot to death while trying to escape.**

M. W. A was kidnapped by gunmen affiliated with the Houthi group, including a relative of the victim, on 25/3/2020 from Dhamar city. (The Association keeps the names of the persons who came to take the victim from his home). When we listened to the witnesses, they reported that the gunmen raided the victim's house at three o'clock in the morning and told him that they wanted to take him for an urgent order and would return him home after it would be finished.

The victim's brother says about his brother:

"My brother was kidnapped from his home at 3:00 AM at dawn, on 25/3/2020. He was taken to an unknown destination. On the morning of the same day, we went to all the security authorities in the Dhamar city, and to the supervisors of the Houthi group in order to explain the reason for his arrest. But we were shocked by them denying his existence. We continued to search for him and follow up everywhere, even in Sana'a. We lost a lot of money in order to have any information about him. My elderly mother used to cry daily and her health condition worsened. His wife and children did not sleep or rest, waiting for any news about their forcibly disappeared father. On 26/7/2021, leaders affiliate with the Houthi group called my younger brother and told him that my brother (the victim) died in the prison with a gunshot while trying to escape and is now in the mortuary refrigerator at Dhamar General Hospital. They also informed him that my victim brother was innocent and no charge was levelled against him. His imprisonment was a suspicion of killing a person from the Alwareeth family", the Houthis added. They said: "Come, take him and bury him, on the condition that his case must not be leaked to public - although it has been known to public when he was arrested and disappeared. We searched for him everywhere and public interacted with him. They threatened that the body will not be delivered if we disclose it to the public. When we received the body, we were prevented from examining it and taking even a look at it until the burial took place on 30/7/2021 in Al-Amoudi cemetery in Dhamar. A number of sheikhs affiliated with the Houthi group, then, came and forced us to accept a sum of money as (blood money) for the dead man. When we objected, they pressured us and hinted that we had no choice but to acquiesce, agree and completely give up the case.

When we received the corpse, we were not allowed to examine it or even have a look at it till it was buried



## B-Death in Places of Detention Due to Medical Negligence

**On Tuesday, June 20, 2020 at around 10:00 AM, some of the detainees at Al-Saleh Detention Centre-Taiz, tried to wake Abdu Saleh Sweileh-(48) up, but he was found dead. Houthis refused to take him to a hospital because he belongs to the underrepresented marginalized class of Muhamasheen (Akhdam), less visible class in Yemen**

One of those released abductees from Al-Saleh prison, Abu Houria building, said: “The victim told me that he was kidnapped from a checkpoint in Taiz governorate, sixty Street, on 10/9/2017. He was tortured several times by the jailers during interrogation on charges of being a leader with the resistance. The victim appeared to suffer from a psychological disorder when he was admitted to the prison. Two months before his death, he was tortured and beaten up with electric cables all over his body.

Abdo Saleh was never allowed to communicate with his family throughout his imprisonment and no one from his family visited him, as is the case in Al-Saleh prison, in which visits were not allowed at all. After two years of his detention, the victim began to complain of pain in his chest, back and heart, although he did not complain of any organic disease before he was kidnapped. He was asking for first aid and treatment, but there was no response from prison supervisors to treat him. Once, he was taken out of the prison to take him to the hospital, but when the prison supervisor saw him, he said, «send him back to the prison, he is telling a lie, there is nothing wrong with him. The victim belongs to the less visible marginalized class called (Muhamasheen) or Akhdam, ranking the lowest class in Yemen».

Three days before his death, he developed a high fever and was screaming in pain, but they refused to take him to the hospital. On his death night, he was in pain and his scream was louder due to the intensity of the pain. He could not sleep, at 10:00 AM in the morning of 2/6/2020, his detained colleagues came to wake him up, but he found him dead. So, those in charge of the prison came and took him to the hospital and deluded us that he only fainted, but we were sure that he died. After that we came to know that his body remained in the mortuary for a whole month until it was delivered to his family after an intervention of societal mediations.

He was writhing in pain but the prison supervisor refused to allow him to be taken to the hospital because he belonged to the marginalized community (Muhamasheen). When his colleagues came to wake him up in the morning, they found him dead.



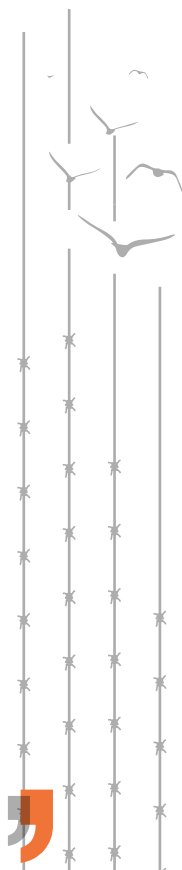
**On Saturday, November 12-2022, the abductee, Aziz Dabwan Mohammed Naji, (35 Y), passed away, at his detention place of Al-Salih Detention Centre-Taiz**

On 15/4/2022, at 10:00 AM, Aziz was travelling from his village, Mikhlaif (Al-Juhaim) heading to Taiz city. He was stopped at the Al-Aeyar checkpoint, which is located in Jabal Habashi District, Taiz Governorate. Someone called Aziz's father-in-law and told him that Aziz was kidnapped by the Houthi group. Aziz was riding a motorcycle along with his brother when he was stopped by Houthi armed men. They detained Aziz and his bike and let alone his brother. Aziz's family went to inquire about him; but the persons in charge of the detention place initially denied that he was there. The victim was forcibly disappeared for two and half months. After that the detention persons in charge admitted that Aziz was detained there, and they allowed only a member of his family to visit him. Aziz told his relative that he is subjected to torture and insults and begged him to do all the possible to set him off free.

On 06-08-2022, Aziz was admitted to Al-Rifa'i Hospital at al-Hawban area, Taiz. According to the medial report, the association has a copy of the report, that Azaz was admitted to hospital because of acute oxygen ischemia (oxygen supply deficiency to the brain). The report also states that Aziz will probably remain in a coma for a period of up to three months. The victim was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) and was treated with artificial ventilator.

Those in charge of Al-Saleh detention center contacted the victim's family and told them that Aziz was not feeling well so he was transferred to the hospital. His wife visited him while he was in a coma status at the hospital. She took the trouble to travel from Taiz city to al-Hawban area for nearly six hours on a bumpy road. Aziz's wife stated that he seemed to be sick and emaciated even though he was not complaining any disease prior to his abduction, so how did he get to enter into a coma! She exclaims.

Aziz continued in state of coma until November 12-2022, where he passed away. His death caused severe agony amongst the members of his family, especially his wife, who was in a very heartbreaking condition as a result of what happened to her husband. She demands fair accountability to those responsible for the medical negligence that her husband was subjected to, especially since he was in good health before his abduction.



The victim was discharged for a bile duct stent but was sent back to the jail on the same day, although he needed to stay in the hospital till his health condition improves

**On Wednesday, November 20-2019, Khaled Mohammed Al-Haeeth (45), passed away in one of the capital city hospitals two days after he was transferred from the Houthi-run Central Prison of Sana'a.**

The victim was working as an employee in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. On holidays, he works on a taxi. One Friday 22/2/2016, he was stopped by gunmen on motorcycles. They took him with his car to the fourth area and then he was transferred to the Revolution Reserve, a detention place in Sana'a. There, he was tortured by hanging and severe beatings. One day, he told his colleagues in detention that he was hanged in a high point. Then they pulled the chains that he was hanged with until he fell to the ground and got his back hit on the floor of the cell. He continued to suffer the pain of that fall throughout his detention. His family was not allowed to visit him until after he was transferred to Habra reserved Prison. He remained there for more than two years, during which he suffered from kidney stones and stomach germs and was not allowed to see a specialist physician.

Then he was transferred to the central prison in Sana'a. There he complained of hepatitis, but the prison administration refused to take him to the hospital for the necessary tests. They rather showed him to a doctor who works with modest capabilities in the prison. Despite the recommendations of the doctor in the prison to transfer the victim to a private hospital due to his critical health condition, the prison administration procrastinated and did not respond to that except after media and human rights pressure from the Abductees' Mothers Association and a number of organizations. So, he was released for a medical stent to be installed in the bile duct. He was returned to his jail on the same day, although he needed to stay in the hospital until his health condition stabilized.

His health condition did not improve after the operation and toxins began to spread in his body again only three days after the operation. So, the prison doctor warned them of the consequences of leaving the victim in the health unit because he was about to die. His family was allowed to transfer him to Azal Hospital, but doctors told his family that there was no hope for his recovery. Indeed, the victim died on 20/11/2019, two days after he was transferred from the medical care unit of the Central Prison. His family could not receive his body and bury it directly because the Houthi group required the family to bring the body of one of its fighters detained by the legitimate government in Ma'rib. When they realized that the family was unable to do so, they allowed them to receive the body and bury it after pressure exerted by some social figures and after paying a sum of money claiming that it was the cost of his treatment in prison





**In December, 2019, Tawfiq Alhmed Al-Lahji passed away while on the way to the hospital from his detention place at the Houthi-run Al-Salih Detention Centre, Taiz. Houthis repeatedly refused to refer him to a hospital**

Tawfeeq was born in Taiz, Mokha district, Al-Samaseh area.

He was kidnapped from Taiz Governorate, Mokha district from the street on 25/2/2016. He disappeared for six months with no idea of his family. He, then was allowed to phone his family. When the team of the Association listened to the released detainee, Abdul Hamid Jaafar from Al-Saleh prison, he told us about the physical torture that Tawfiq was subjected to, as he was interrogated using all means of violence and torture, including electric shocks and beatings with sticks all over his body. After a while, his health condition deteriorated, causing him to suffer from kidney failure. Then he suffered from a severe diarrhea, that he fainted and could not eat for two days.

The monitoring team also listened to two of the victim's colleagues. They stated that he had leukemia and that he was screaming in pain when he was beaten and tortured. He used to tell them "I have leukemia, but they continue to beat him without caring about his condition. In December 2019, his health condition deteriorated greatly, forcing the Houthis to transfer him to a hospital, but he died on the way to the hospital. One of the Houthi supervisors called his mother and told her to come to visit her son. The next day, they called her and told her that her son had died.

The victim's mother says: When I went to collect my son's body, they first took me to court and gave me papers to sign without knowing what these papers contained because I am illiterate and cannot read. I, then, went to take my son's body and found around his eyes a change in color and clots of blood on his mouth



## C) Death due to torture:

**On Friday June, 08, 2019, the activist, Anwar Mohammed Ahmed Al-Rukn passed away, only two days after his release from Al-Saleh detention place-Taiz, run by the Houthis group**

The Houthis group kidnapped the journalist and political activist, Anwar Al-Rukn in September 2017. His family did not know about his abduction. The victim's brother says:

“My brother's news was cut off from us and we did not know where he was for ten months. When my younger brother went to Al-Saleh prison to follow up on a case of one of our detained acquaintances, he surprisingly found Anwar. He hardly recognized him because of his severe emaciation. Anwar's condition was very bad, and was «skin and bone.» When we went to demand the release of my brother, Anwar, they released him because of his poor health, so my brother came out and was on the brink of death.”

We took him to a hospital and the doctors tried to compensate him with blood, nutrients, medicines and fluids because he was in a state of severe emaciation, but there was no response or progress on his health. After his release from the detention place, we asked him what torture did he subject to? He told us that he was subjected to sleep and food deprivation and the prisoners injected him with needles that he did not know what they include because they cause unbearable intensity of heat and burning as if they were «acid» (hydrofluoric acid). The doctor treating his case said that my brother's body does not respond to medicines and nutrients. As a result, he died on 8/6/2018, only two days after his release).

The journalist and political activist, Anwar Al-Rukn, died just two days after his release from prison as a result of torture he was subjected to in Al-Saleh detention center in Taiz



# Legal Framework





## Legal framework

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states “The right to life is inherent to every human being and the law shall protect this right. None shall be deprived of his life. Article 7 stipulates that “No one may subject anyone to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. No one may be subjected to medical or scientific experiments without his free consent, in particular. Article 10 stipulates that “All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated humanely and respectfully, respecting the inherent dignity of the human person.”

In the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Yemen has ratified, article 2 states that “Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war, a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for torture. Orders issued by higher-ranking officials or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification for torture.

Article 14 stipulates that “Each State party shall guarantee in its legal system that a person who has been subjected to an act of torture shall be redressed and shall enjoy an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, including the means of rehabilitation as fully as possible. In case of the death of the victim as a result of an act of torture, the dependent persons of the victim shall be entitled to compensation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen stipulates that “Every person whose freedom is restricted by any restriction must have his dignity preserved. Coercion to confess during interrogations is prohibited. A person whose liberty is restricted shall have the right to refrain from making any statement except in the presence of his lawyer. It is prohibited to detain or abduct any person in places other than those subject to the Prisons Organization Law. Torture and inhuman treatment at the time of arrest or during the period of detention or imprisonment are all prohibited.”



# BOMBING THE PLACES OF DETENTION

«I stayed for four consecutive days in search for his corpse among the corpses of the martyrs. I used to see him as if I did not see him due to the horrifying shock. I used to go and then come back. We could not even touch him. His body cannot even bear touching.» A victim's sister recollects.





## Bombing the Places of Detention

Saudi-led coalition warplanes bombed the building of the Community College in Dhamar Governorate, in which the Houthi group was holding a number of «182» detainees in the early minutes of Sunday morning on 1/9/2019. The victims who were killed in this massacre amounted «134» detainees and the wounded victims are «45». The Association was able to document and verify (41) killing cases and (12) wounded and injured cases, who were released after the incident.

The building was previously air-bombed by the Saudi-led coalition forces on 7/6/2015. Large parts of the building were destroyed. However, the Houthi group used it as a place of detention to detain and hide kidnapped and detained fighters.

### Location and Description of the Building

**Dhamar Community College:** The Community College is located three kilometers from the entrance to Dhamar city. It was established in accordance with Presidential Decree No. (7) of 2011 issued on 15/1/2011. Students first began studying in the college from the academic year 2012/2013. The college consists of five buildings equipped with classrooms and administrative offices. When the Houthi group took control of the city of Dhamar in 2014, it turned the building into a training center for its members. So, the Arab coalition aircraft targeted the place on 7/6/2015. These raids caused grave damage to the building, prompting the Houthi group to evacuate it. Later on, the Houthi group converted one of those buildings into a detention place where they held their opponents.

### Building Description

The building, which is used by the Houthi group to detain its opponents, consists of two floors, and each floor includes one ward with an approximate area of «16×8» meters. Approximately «100» detainees are crowded on average in the ward. Sometimes, the number goes up to «160» in a single ward. The number of detainees in this building often reached «200». In addition to the interrogation rooms and solitary confinement, where torture was practiced against the abductees.





## What happened?

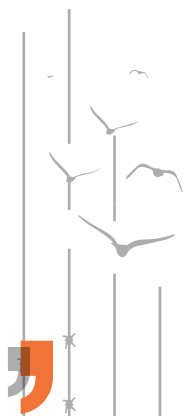
A survivor of the community college air-bombing incident says:

“At 12:00 AM, after the lights were turned off, and each of us was on his bed, the Saudi-led coalition aircraft air-bombed the college building with 3 missiles at the same time until the top building fell on the bottom. Ninety-five detainees were on the second floor. It is believed that they were all killed. I was on the first floor, close to the windows that opened due to pressure. So, I went out and fled the building. I had some escaped colleagues, and the air raids followed us in what seemed to be a clear intention to target the survivors. The aircrafts killed some of the fugitives in those raids. I kept running away with other two of the kidnappees, but they were arrested before we entered through the governorate gate. A gunman started chasing me while he was shooting. I miraculously escaped him by zigzag running and somersaults until I reached the streets of the city. So, I disappeared until I healed my wounds caused by shrapnel of explosive bullets. But I remained scared and could not sleep due to the intensity of the shock and the anxiety of being sent back to prison in case the Houthis knew about me till I read my name on the Houthi group's death list. I, then, was able to reach areas under the control of the legitimate government.

Coalition warplanes hit the college building with 3 missiles at the same time until the top floor fell downstairs. There were 95 of the detainees on the second floor, and it is believed that they were all killed



Families of most of the victims remained for days, knowing nothing about the fate of their children, whether they were survivors or among the victims. A number of them contacted the Red Cross, which in turn reported that it had not received lists of the victims' names from the Houthi group. After a week, an official memorandum was submitted from the National Committee for Prisoners' Affairs of the Houthi group to the Attorney General on 7/9/2019 including the names of the dead and wounded victims. The number of dead victims, according to the disclosed list reached 142 while wounded victims were 42 detainees. Yet, this disclosed list, although its release was delayed, was not an accurate. The list of the killed victims included names of some of the living ones, and caused a state of panic among their families



"I found the top half of my son's body only, and it had begun to decompose due to the delay in retrieving the bodies from the rubble." A father of one of the victims, recalls

**A wife of one of the abductees says,** «When the coalition forces air-bombed the Community College detention place, people came to offer me condolences on the death of my husband, as his name was among the dead list. So, I was terrified and was engaged in an intense crying. But, my husband, then, called and told me that he was transferred to the northern prison in Dhamar before the bombing incident. A month after the incident, I read in the official gazette of the Houthi group that my husband's name that he was among the missing under the rubble. As a result, I was worried again because we were prevented from visiting or calling him and could not check on him.»

The lack of documented information about those killed in the bombing also caused the practice of financial extortion of the victims' families by influential Houthi members.

### **Imad al-Din Abdun-Naser al-Wuhashi (17 years old) - Albayda Governorate**

The Houthi group kidnapped Emad Al-Din from his home in Albayda Governorate when he was seventeen years old on 1/10/2017. They took him to the central prison in Al-Bayda as his family came to know later on. They did not allow the victim to call his family. He was transferred to the Political Security prison and then again was returned to the central prison. His family did not know about his movements or the dates of those movements because they were not allowed to visit him or communicate with him. When he was transferred to the community college in Dhamar, he was allowed to call his father and tell him that there is a close exchange of prisoners and detainees sponsored by the Red Cross.

When Imad's father heard the news of the bombing of building of the community college, he went to Dhamar to search for his son, but he did not find his son among the survivors. His body was not found as well. So, a Houthi affiliate member called him and asked him for a sum of money and tried to delude him that his son Emad was in Sana'a having a cultural course. The father hoped so, but on the fifth day, he received confirmation from Emad's survivors' colleagues that he was among the victims of the bombing and one of his colleagues helped them identify his body; only the upper half of his body was left. The remaining part was totally changed because it remained under the rubble for four days. The body was then placed in the mortuary of Dhamar General Hospital. The mortuary did not work efficiently. As a result, it led to the decomposition and awful smell of decomposition of remaining corpse. His family took his remaining body and buried him in his hometown of Albayda .



### Zaid Ali Ahmed Mua'ti (33 years old) - Ibb Governorate

Zaid was on his way for shopping from the city of Yareem and was stopped at Al-Dhoureen checkpoint, (a checkpoint that belongs to the Houthis in Ibb Governorate). He was taken to the Political Security in Ibb Governorate with his friend, who was going for shopping with him. His friend remained detained in the Political Security for a month and then was released. As for Zaid, he was transferred to the central prison in Ibb city after spending two months in Political Security. He, then, was transferred to the Community College building in Dhamar. When his family knew the news of the bombing on the community college, they went to the Dhamar city. They searched for him but did not find him among the wounded or among the corpses. One of the Houthis tried to blackmail them and asked them for a sum of money in exchange for telling them where he was, deluding them that he was still alive. So, his family doubted about it and subjected handing over the money to bringing an audio-visual recording of Zaid, proving that he is still alive. On the fourth day, the family came to know of the arrival of new bodies. They identified Zaid's body and buried him.

**The rubble removal was carried out very slowly so that the bodies began to decompose**

### Abdo Yahya Mohsen Al-Faqih (22 years old) - Al-Mahwit Governorate

Abdo was kidnapped at Hawban check-point in Taiz Governorate (belonging to the Houthis group) on his way back to Al-Mahwit from Aden on 28/3/2018. He was detained in Al-Saleh city prison for three days. He was, then, transferred to the community college detention place in Dhamar. There, he was able to communicate secretly with his family, telling them where he was being held. His last call was one day before the air-bombing of the community college. He was asking his family to send him a sum of money. When his family learned about the bombing, his father went to the city of Dhamar and searched for his son's body. He found it after seven days of the incident, where his corpse was still under the rubble and had begun to decompose. He was buried on 8/9/2019.



Rule 115 of the Customary Rules of the International Humanitarian Law states that «The bodies of the dead shall be treated in a respectful manner, and their graves shall be respected and properly preserved.»

### The Association Team's Visit to the Bombing Site:

The team of the Association paid a visit to Dhamar Hospital. There, the team met with some ambulance attendants who participated in the rescue process of the victims, spoke to them, and inspected the refrigerated container that includes the remains of the victims and the unknown corpses of those killed in the bombing. Water was dripping from one of its corners and the smell of decomposition of the bodies pervades the place surrounding the container, which indicates that it remains for long periods without refrigeration. Many families have received the bodies and they have begun to decompose, as the families of the victims reported. The bodies were lying on top of each other without cooling or using means to preserve the bodies from decomposition.

The team saw the photos taken of the victims and the remains that arrived at the hospital and listened to some of the families who were present at the time to search for the bodies of their relatives. The Association's monitoring team visited (41) families of the victims and offered condolences to them in Taiz, Sana'a, Ibb, Dhamar and Al-Bayda.

The Association's team also attended the burial of unknown bodies on December 3, 2019, in the presence of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The number of the bodies buried at that time was 72. Most of which were incomplete or completely burned bodies, whose features are no longer clear. It was difficult for their families to distinguish the corpses



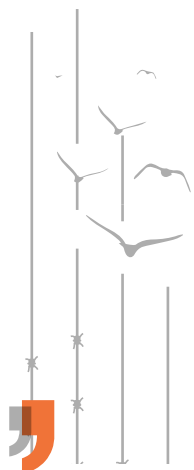
## Incidents:

### Anas Yasin al-Hammadi (25 years old), Suleiman Yasin al-Hammadi (23 years old) Sana'a

They were residing in the capital city of Sana'a. They decided to travel to Seiyun to look for job opportunities. While passing through Abu Hashim point of the Houthi group, they were arrested and disappeared in Rada'a prison. They were never allowed to communicate with their family, who started looking for them after communication with them was cut off. So, they submitted reports to the Ministry of Interior and published their pictures in the official newspaper as missing. The family was surprised by a call from them three months later. Anas told them that they had been transferred from Rada'a prison where they were detained for three months to a prison in Ibb city. The visit was never allowed to them. They were, then, transferred to the Dhamar Community College detention place. The family was not allowed to visit them as well. Their father tried in various ways to release them; he extracted guarantees from the quarter head, sheikhs and influential, but his attempts failed. So, he died of oppression and stagnation a year after the kidnapping of his two sons.

Their mother said "On 23/8/2019, we received the last call from Anas. He talked about his longing for food of my making, especially cakes, publicans - a kind of local pickles - and home-made ghee. I was shocked by the news of the bombing of the Community College a week after Anas' last call. We tried to communicate with Houthi leaders in Dhamar prison and with the Red Cross in Sana'a, but to no avail until the Houthis published the names of the victims in an official publication issued by the National Committee for Prisoners' Affairs of the Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Defense. It reported that 142 detainees were killed, including my two sons, Anas and Suleiman Yasin Al-Hammadi". When their bodies were claimed, the concerned parties stated that there were no bodies or even body parts of them. They said that they were buried among the remains and unknown bodies in the mass burial in early December 2019





Mohammed Al-Besbas' mother says: «I searched for my son a lot after his abduction. I sold everything I possessed, even the domestic gas cylinder, in order to pay money for mediations. I used to wait for him every day. Now they have returned with his feet part to me only. Even when he is dead, my eyes could not enjoy seeing his face and kiss him.»

### Abdul-Muttalib Mohammed Abdullah al-Idrisi (41 years old)- Taiz Governorate

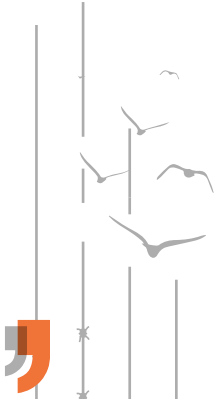
He was kidnapped by gunmen affiliated with the Houthis group in Hajjah Governorate, Al-Shahil District. He was there working as a medical assistant in one of its medical centers. On 31/6/2016, while he was in a mosque waiting for Iftar time one day in the month of Ramadan, he was taken to a prison in Hajjah Governorate. He, then, was transferred to an unknown prison and was allowed to call his family. He told his family in his call that he did not know where he was detained and remained hidden for three months. Later on, he was transferred to the Community College-Dhamar and was only allowed to communicate by phone with his family. He asked them to send him money. The families of the abductees were not allowed to visit their relative detainees in the Community College Prison. As the victim is an assistant physician by profession, he tried to help his kidnapped colleagues to diagnose the diseases they were suffering from. He was the first to detect pulmonary tuberculosis among detainees at the Community College. Due to his vocal and deep insight personality, the victim was a reference for his colleagues and was their mouthpiece in front of the security elements of Houthi group.

The victim's wife recounts: "following the Community College building air-bombing on 01/09/2019, my brother-in-law went to search for him in Dhamar General Hospital. He found his picture posted on the walls of the hospital among the pictures of the dead victims. So, he called his mother and aunt and asked them to come to identify the body, which had totally changed due to poor preservation of the bodies. His body was identified, received, and was buried in the cemetery opposite to Dhamar Hospital

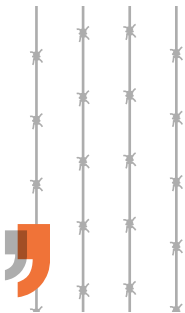
Al-Idrisi's wife says: (I received the news of my husband's martyrdom in the air-bombing of the Community College prison, but I could not believe it. My heart refused to accept this shocking news, and I remained sure that my husband was still alive. My son's success party in his elementary school coincided the same day, and I decided to go to my son's party and not let him alone without a mother and a father. «The absence of his kidnapped father is enough for him» I, at that moment, said to myself.

### Mohammed Ali Abdo al-Besbas (27 years old) – Taiz Governorate

He was kidnapped by gunmen affiliated with the Houthis group at the Al-Dhahi checkpoint in Taiz, while he was on his way to buy some of his family's living needs on 1/11/2015. He was detained at Al-Hayat School, the airport quarter in Taiz, then he was transferred to the house of Ali Mohsen, one of the secret prisons of the Houthi group in Sana'a. He remained forcibly disappeared for five months, then was transferred to the central prison in Sana'a. There, he remained for more than three years.



Upon my arrival at the hospital, I found only half of my sons' body, so I buried the remaining part and returned to my area. A victim's father recounts



"My parents went to Dhamar to look for my brother, but they found only his head. The remaining of his body was torn into pieces." A victim's brother recalls

Throughout his detention, he was subjected to a number of violations. His detention with the mentally-ill persons in the central prison for several months is the most notably one. The Houthi supervisors, then, told him that he was part of a collective exchange deal and was transferred to the city of Al-Saleh. But the exchange agreement was not completed, so the victim was transferred to the Dhamar Community College Prison. His last contact with his family was on 5/8/2019. He told them that he was in the Dhamar Community College Prison. He asked them to send him a sum of money.

His brother said: "When we received the news of the Community College air-bombing in Dhamar, I went to search for him, but I did not find him among the wounded. I did not find his picture among the pictures of the dead as well. I found some of my brother's remains, which I recognized a leg part of his bodies that had scars of surgery. So I buried that remaining leg in the cemetery of Dhamar

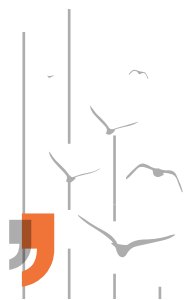
### Asa'ad Saeed Hakimi (21 years old) - Khanfar District, Abyan

The victim's father recounts: "Asaad was a student at the Faculty of Commerce. With the advent of the vacation, he decided to go to the city of Taiz in order to work there and save tuition fees for the next academic year. So, he worked as a porter in Al-Ba'dani agency. He used to sleep close to his workplace. At the midnight of 2-2-2018 Gunmen of the Houthi group came to him and took him to Al-Saleh city prison in Taiz. He remained there for four months, then he was transferred to the Community College prison in Dhamar. We did not know about his transfer except from one of the released detainees. We were not allowed to visit him throughout his detention. He called us only twice, begging me to find a solution to get him out of this place, especially when he saw pulmonary tuberculosis killing his colleagues.

After strenuous efforts, I was able to complete the guarantee procedures for the release of my son, but I was shocked by the news of the air-bombing of the community college detention building. So, I contacted the Red Cross on the hope that my son would be among the survivors, but the Red Cross asked me to come to Dhamar General Hospital in order to identify my son's body. Upon my arrival at the hospital, I found only half of my sons' body, so I buried the remaining part and returned to my area.

### Salah Abd ul-Muhsin Ali Abd ul-Aziz Al-Udaini (27 years old) - Ibb Governorate

The victim was kidnapped in April 2018 from the «Abu Hashim» checkpoint of the Houthi group in the city of Rada'a. He was taken to the central prison in Ibb governorate. A year later, he was transferred to the Community College prison in Dhamar governorate. Salah's family had



Yaser Al-Ja'shani's mother suffered acute psychological trauma; she cries every day, and every night she stands at the window of the house crying and calling him: «answer me, Yasser. Where are you, my son?» Yaser's mother agonizes. If anyone tries to calm her down, she shouts loudly: "My son is not dead. If Yaser is dead, where is his body? Bring me his body so I can believe you. No one could console her."



"After we knew the news of the bombing, my other son went to search for his brother, but he did not find his body. So, they told him that Ibrahim was on the second floor and that all those who were in the second floor were killed and most of them were torn into pieces." One of the victim's father recounts.



received promises to release him four days before the air-bombing of the community college. The victim's brother stated that when they learned the news of the bombing, my father and mother went to search for Salah. But they found only his head left from the whole body. The rest of the body was in pieces. They buried the left parts of their victim son's remaining body.

### Shamsan Ali Farea' Gharafa (36 years old) - Ibb Governorate

Shamsan was kidnapped by an armed group from his home and in front of his children on 11/12/2018. When his family asked the kidnappers about the reason for his detention, they told them that they wanted him to write a pledge not to join the legitimate government and will return him immediately after writing the pledge. Shamsan's family was surprised to know that he was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Prison in Ibb. His brother, who was able to visit him said: "I found traces of scratches and wounds on my brother, which indicates that he was tortured." He, then, was transferred to the central prison in Ibb. Thereafter, he was hidden and we did not know anything about him till we were surprised to find his name included among the list of the killed detainees of the community college air-bombing incident. We went to Thmar and did not find his body or even his body parts. They told us that he was among the remains of the victims that would be in-mass buried.»

### Yaser Ahmed Qaid Al-Ja'shani (43 years old) - Ibb Governorate

#### The victim's wife recounts:

"Houthi gunmen kidnapped my husband, Yasser, from nearby his house while he was heading to his school, of which he was working as a principal, on 19/3/2017 without any guilt he committed. The gunmen took him to the Political Security building in Ibb Governorate. He remained hidden there for two months. Thereafter, we were allowed us to visit him. After he spent a year and seven months in Political Security, he was transferred to Al-Saleh City Prison in Taiz, and then to the Community College in Dhamar. He called us from his detention place at the community college, asking us for a sum of money. When we got the news of the air-bombing, some of his family members went to Dhamar and found my husband's name among the deceased victims. They did not find his body. They stayed for ten days looking for his body or body parts, but they found nothing."

### Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Farhan Khalid (21 years old) - Taiz Governorate

The victim was kidnapped on 15/7/2017 from a checkpoint belonging to the Houthi group in the northern sixty Street in Taiz. The gunmen forced him to get out of the car he was traveling in. They took him to Al-Saleh city prison where he remained detained for seven months. Then they transferred him to a prison in Ibb Governorate where he remained for a whole year. Later, they transferred him to the Community College prison in Dhamar Governorate. His last contact with his family was through a call four days before the bombing. He was asking them to send him a sum



of money for his own expenses. The victim's father says: "After we knew the news of the bombing, my other son went to search for his brother, but he did not find his body. So, they told him that Ibrahim was on the second floor and that all those who were in the second floor were killed and most of them were torn into pieces." Ibrahim was buried in a mass burial in Dhamar.

### **Mohammed Ma'arouf Al-Nawab (25 years old) - Sana'a**

Mohammed was working as a street vendor selling ice cream. He went to work in Ma'rib because it is a hot governorate and ice cream will find popularity there. When he wanted to return to Sana'a, where his family resides, he was detained at Abu Hashem checkpoint in Rada'a on 5/1/2018. He remained detained in Rada'a prison for two months and then was transferred to the central prison in Dhamar. His father could be able to visit him twice. He also called his mother complaining to her the acute lack of food in the prison. His mother says: "A month after his transfer to the Central Prison in Dhamar, one of the security elements in the Central Prison called us and asked us to send the amount of «53,000» in exchange for his release. Indeed, we sent him the required amount despite our harsh living conditions. But we were stunned to know that he was transferred to the Community College Prison instead of releasing him. On top of that, visits were totally prohibited and communication was very rarely tolerated).

The victim was infected with pulmonary tuberculosis as a result of the infection that spread in the prison. His condition worsened thereof. He called his family two weeks before the bombing of the community college and told his mother about his suffering from the disease and about his emaciation of his body due to lack of healthy nutrition. After the bombing, his father went to search for him and found a portrait of his son among the posted pictures of the dead victims. Two months later, he received the body of his son and buried it.

Mohammed Al-Nawab's mother says: "He used to call me and tell me, I am sick, and hungry, Mammy. I used to collect and send for him whatever I can. It was not a large amount because I am a destitute. My son, Mohammed, is the one who was seeking to earn our bread and butter. My hope was that my son will grow and compensate me for the bitter days that I lived. I have endured lots of troubles throughout my life. Mohammed went and did not return and I will never see him again. He never departs my eye-sight and heart pulses"



## Regarding the conditions of the wounded victims in the bombing of the Community College

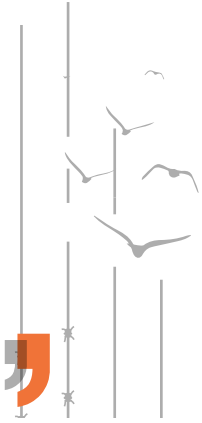
**(S.Q.) 25 years old - Ibb Governorate, talked to us:**

He was kidnapped on Thursday, 29/2/2016 , at the Shara'b junction checkpoint on his way from Taiz city heading towards Al-Qaeda city in Ibb Governorate. He was taken to the Taiziah Security Department. He remained there for two days, then was detained in Al-Saleh City prison for forty days. They then transferred him to the Community College prison in Dhamar, where he stayed detained there for about two years, until the day of the bombing of the prison by the Saudi-led coalition aircrafts. "I was waiting for death in an indescribable feeling as if I were in a dream. I felt that I would not come out alive. It hurts as I see people dying around me. I don't want to remember it because I'm tired and sick; I want to forget." he spoke about his feeling.

S.Q. was among the wounded persons who were taken to the hospital. He reported that he remained under the rubble for about three hours, as his leg was injured and swollen. In the hospital, he spent two and a half days for treatment, which, according to his testimony, was more formal than realistic. Hospital staff pretended to be interested in their treatment when there were cameras or organizations to see their conditions. When cameras, photography and organizations go away, we were neglected. The victim said: «After two days in the hospital, they transferred me to al-Gharbia prison in Dhamar, where I stayed for two weeks and received some health care.»

After that, I was transferred to the central prison in Sana'a. I remained for two weeks till the general amnesty decision was implemented. I was released along with all the survivors of the bombing of the Community College on 30/9/2019.





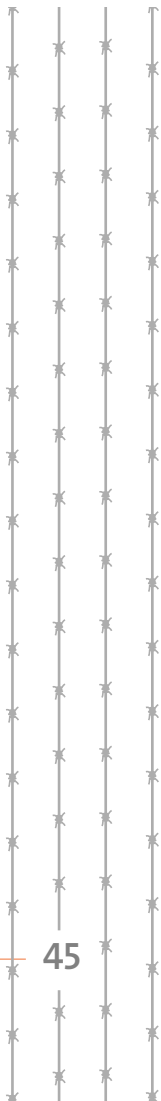
The Forces of Arab Coalition did not respond responsibly and seemed recklessly indifferent to dozens of victims, even though they have committed a crime that is considered a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law

### The Attitude of the Arab Coalition Forces on the Incident:

In a press conference by Turki Al-Maliki, the official spokesman of the Arab coalition forces, on 2/9/2019, he reviewed the aerial photography of the aircraft during the bombing and spoke that this was to target weapon stores and drones. In a call interview with Al-Hadath TV channel on 1/9/2019 with him, Al-Maliki said “The Houthi group is trying to trade in the Yemeni people and is trying to trade children and everything in Yemen. He further said that the misleading media of the Houthi group stated immediately after the targeting that the coalition targeted the community college in Dhamar. Today there is a new version that it was targeting a prison.

Despite the horror of the crime, especially that the Community College prison was known to the Red Cross and other international organizations interested in Yemeni affairs, the Saudi-led Coalition Forces did not deal with the incident responsibly and seemed so indifferent towards the dozens of victims. Even though, it committed a heinous crime that seriously violates the International Humanitarian Law, which is specified in the Additional Protocol of 1977 (Article 11 and Article 85), which specifies that: “Endangering persons in the hands of an adverse party, or the arrested, detained or deprived of their liberty as a result of armed conflict to a grave threat that threatens their health and physical or mental integrity...).” Whether or not committed intentionally and caused death or serious injury to body or health, or making the civilian population or individual civilian the object of attack, or launching an indiscriminate attack on the civilian population or civilian objects with the knowledge that such an attack would cause extensive loss of life, injury to civilian persons or damage to civilian objects, are all constitute a war crime.”

The Saudi-led Arab Coalition Forces have not yet announced any investigation into this crime. Even though the Customary Rules of International Humanitarian Law stipulate: «States must investigate war crimes allegedly committed by their citizens or armed forces on the territory of others or on their own territory and try suspects when necessary. It also must investigate other war crimes within their jurisdiction and prosecute suspects when necessary.»





# Legal Framework





## Legal Framework :

International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law are applicable to the armed conflict in Yemen. In such conflicts, the forces participating in the conflict are bound by the four Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols and the Applicable Customary Rules of International Humanitarian Law. Rule (121) of the Customary Rules of the International Humanitarian Law states: (Persons deprived of their liberty shall be placed in places far from the combat zone and shall be provided with care and sanitary conditions.)

Article 83 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates that: «The Detaining Power shall not place internees in areas particularly exposed to the dangers of war.»

Article 88 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states: «(In all internments exposed to air strikes and other dangers of war, appropriate bunkers shall be established in sufficient numbers to provide the necessary protection. In cases of warning of raids, detainees shall be allowed to take refuge in them as soon as possible)

Customary Rules of International Humanitarian Law stipulate that «States must investigate war crimes allegedly committed by their nationals or armed forces on the territory of others or on its own territory and, where appropriate, prosecute suspects. It must also investigate other war crimes within their jurisdiction and, where appropriate, prosecute suspects.»

Article 48 of the Additional Protocol (I), 1977 stated: “Parties to a conflict shall distinguish between the civilian population and combatants, between civilian objects and military objectives, and shall therefore direct their operations solely against military objectives, in order to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects.”

Among the grave violations the International Humanitarian Law, which was defined in the Additional Protocol of 1977 (Articles 11 and 85), is that: “Exposing persons in the hands of an adverse Party, arrested, detained or deprived of their liberty as a result of armed conflict, to a serious threat to their health and physical or mental integrity”.

“States should investigate war crimes allegedly committed by their nationals or armed forces on their territory or territory of others.”

International Humanitarian Law



# 02

## Second: Assault on the Right to Freedom



## Second: Assault on the Right to Freedom:

### A. Abduction and Arbitrary Detention:

The Abductees' Mothers Association monitored the abduction and arbitrary arrest of (1799) civilians during the period (2018-2022) in each of (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ma'rib, and Dhamar). The number includes «1427» civilians who were kidnapped by the Houthi group, including (117) women. The Association's monitoring teams were able to document (70) cases, including (7) women, were kidnapped by the Houthi group. It also monitored (280) civilians arrested by the Security Belt Forces of the Southern Transitional Council, including (3) women, (49) cases, including two women, were verified and documented, and (92) civilians were arrested by the security forces of the Legitimate Government, including a woman. The monitoring team verified and documented (18) cases of the arbitrary detention in each of (Ma'rib and Taiz).

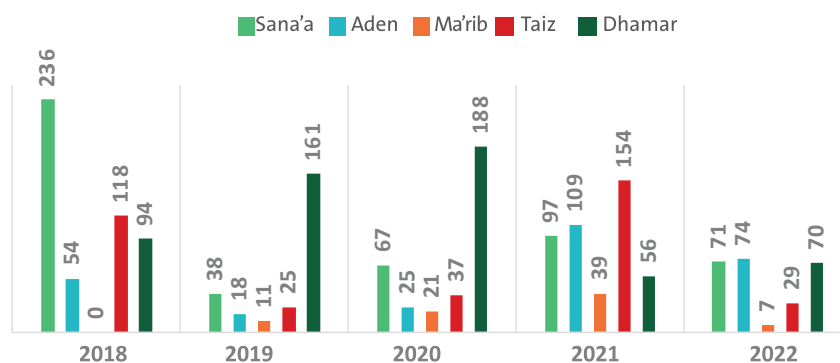
The table below indicates the cases of abduction and arbitrary detention monitored by the monitoring teams of the Association of Mothers of Abductees:

Abduction and arbitrary detention							
S	Governorate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
1	Sana'a	236	38	67	97	71	509
2	Aden	54	18	25	109	74	280
3	Ma'rib	0	11	21	39	7	78
4	Taiz	118	25	37	154	29	363
5	Dhamar	94	161	188	56	70	569
Total		502	253	338	455	251	1799





Graph (3) highlights the number of the arbitrarily detained during the years (2018-2022)

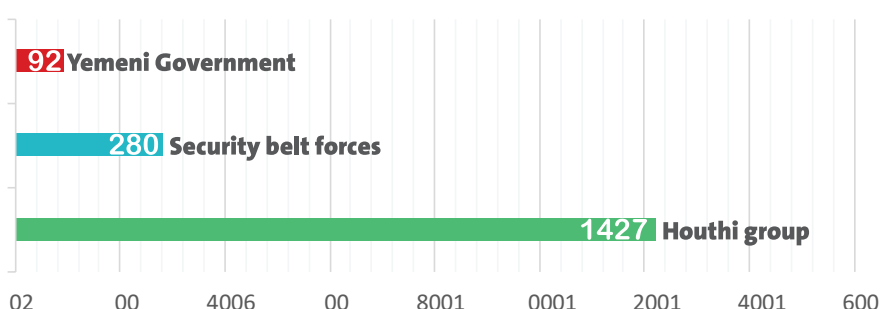


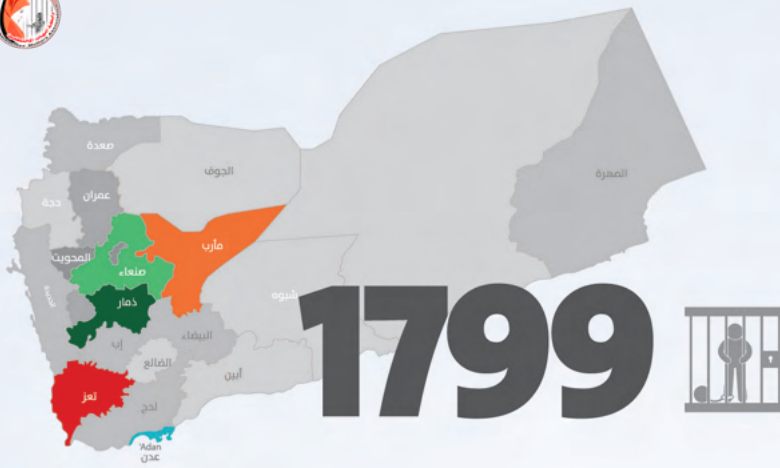
As for those involved in these violations, the Houthi group bears responsibility for (1427) cases of abduction, including (117) women, and the Security Belt Forces bear responsibility for (280) cases of arbitrary arrest in the city of Aden, and the security services of the legitimate government in the cities of Ma'rib and Taiz bear (92) cases of arbitrary arrest, as shown in the table below:

S. No	Violators	Abduction
1	Houthis	1427
2	Security Belt Forces	280
3	Legitimate Government	92
Total		1799

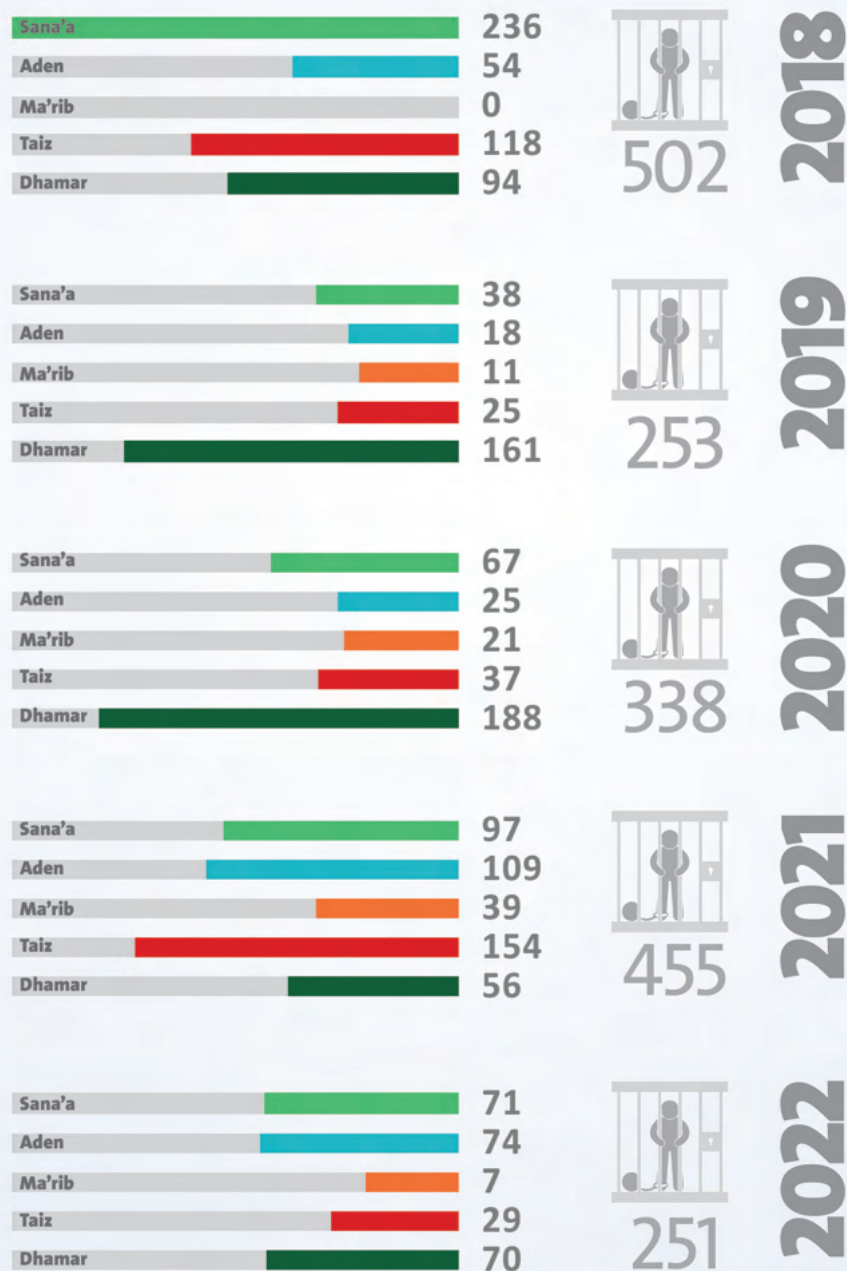
The abductions and arrests affected all sections of the Yemeni society, including journalists, academics, students, workers, political opponents and humanitarian activists, whether men or women. These violations were not limited to individuals only, but the violators represented by the Houthi group, the Security Belt Forces in Aden and the forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government, have carried out mass abductions of civilians, including the abduction and arrest of women, in addition to the poor detention conditions suffered by the abductees and detainees in all violating parties.

Graph (4) highlights the number of the arbitrarily detained during the years (2018-2022) along with the violation parties





## Figure of the arbitrarily detained during the years (2018-2022)



Total figure of the arbitrarily detained during the years (2018-2022) for each governorate



## Incidents:

### **On Saturday, August, 6th , 2022, Aden Security Belt Forces detained the journalist, Ahmed Maher and his sibling in Aden**

Ahmed Maher, journalist, was arrested on 6/8/2022 in front of his house in the city of Aden at Sheikh Othman locality. His brother, Mayas, was trapped out of the house and was detained by the gunmen who were in front of the house waiting for Ahmed to come out. When Ahmed went out to check on his brother, who was late to return back home, he was arrested by the gunmen who belong to the Security Belt. He was taken to the security administration in Aden. Maher and his brother were not allowed to visit or communicate by their families. Ahmed had posted on some social media criticism of the authorities in Aden. He once stated that he had received a threat to be assassinated because of his posts.

The family was shocked to see a video play displaying the detained journalist while confessing his committing of illegal acts. His family says that the victim seemed to have been coerced into these confessions and was visibly tired, which made them believe that these statements were extracted under torture and coercion. The victim, later, was transferred to Bir Ahmed Central Prison on 17/9/2022. The Public Prosecution visited him. He was interrogated in the presence of the director of the police station accused of arresting and torturing him. The prosecution decided to bring the victim to trial, but the sessions were postponed several times for flimsy reasons related to the financial allocations for guard personnel or their expenses.

### **On Saturday, October 6, 2018, tens of the ladies, gathered to held a stand, were detained. Female journalist (J.A. G), was one of the participants who were detained in Police stations by the Houthi group**

“«I agreed with my friends to call for a protest on October 6, 2018, to denounce the catastrophic situation that our country has been driven to. So I went to the university square, which is the place where we agreed to hold our stand in. There I was trapped by some girls that I thought were among those who went out with us. I later realized that those girls are affiliated with the Houthi group and their task was to trap any girl who comes to participate in the protest stand we planned for. They gathered around me, tied my hands behind my back and took me to a bus designated to detain the participants some of whom were crying. Despite my attempts to escape, which caused scratches in my hands, but the escape from their clench was almost impossible. Approximately (20) women of them were carrying batons and electric sticks. On our way to the police station, these women did not stop launching insults and profanity and accusing us of deception, treason and mercenary. Upon our arrival to the police station, we were detained in a narrow room; we were more than (35) girls in that room. They inspected us in humiliating ways for three times. They did not allow us to communicate with our families except after they



completed interrogating with us amid severe psychological pressure and anxiety, especially since I required the presence of a lawyer with me in the investigation, but my request was rejected.”

After interrogating with us, they allowed us to communicate with our families, returned our mobile phones that they had previously taken from us, and forced us to sign pledges not to go out in the future in any demonstration or protest against the living conditions. We went out that evening with our families, with the exception of some of our detainees who were not released until their relatives were detained in exchange of their release.».

**In May, 2019, Ma’rib security forces detained Hatem Ahmed Al-Swaidi, (20y), in charge of collaboration with the Houthi group.**

The victim was arrested on 10/5/2019 in front of the building of Special Forces. He was detained in the Special Security detention center for a week, then was transferred to Political Security and remained hidden there for a month and a half. He was interrogated from 4 to 5 hours per day and was beaten with an electric cable during the interrogation. The charge which was levelled against him was that he did not give them his real name and that he cooperates with the Houthis.

Hatem remained in jail for eight months without the security services proving the charge under which he was arrested and disappeared. The victim stated that he was deprived of sun exposure for four consecutive months. He was also deprived medical care and suffered from medical negligence and poor living services in the detention place.

After his mother learned of his whereabouts, she knocked all doors until he was released on 01/01/2020.

**In May, 2021, Security Belt Forces in Aden detained the Southern Movement Activist, Mohammed Ahmed Hirsi, known as Abu Mudram (54) because of his posts on social media**

On the midnight of the 03/05/2021, upon his return from a meeting with a visiting European envoy to the city of Aden, along with his colleague, his car was stopped at a security checkpoint belonging to the Commander of the Storm Forces of the Security Belt, «Awsan Al-Anshli» and others who follow Anti- terrorism Unit. They, then, arrested him with his friend. A day later, his friend was released, but he did not come out despite mediations and an attempt to send notes to the Anti-Terrorism Unit regarding his detention and his need for treatment. All attempts went in vain. The arresting party that arrested him denies his detention till date. The family says that the reason for his arrest was the posts he wrote on his Facebook account, in which he criticized the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and that he was participating in the what is known the demonstrations of starving. He was released on 17/7/2022



**In February, 2020, Security Forces affiliate with the Legitimate government arrested Mahmoud Shamsan - name changed, (50 y)**

The victim recounts: “I was kidnapped by the Houthi group and then was released in February 2020. Ten days after my release from the prisons of the Houthi group, a car (military vehicle) belonging to the 22nd Brigade affiliated with the Legitimate Forces in Taiz Governorate came. It was carrying a number of gunmen. They stormed my house located at Al-Shamasi area in Taiz at twelve o'clock at night. They broke the door of the house and I was threatened with death if I refuse to go with them. They arrested me, blindfolded me and took me to the previously known as the governorate building located in Al-Ashraf Basin area, where I was tortured, beaten and ill-treated under the pretext that I am a Houthi affiliate!

I was kept detained in the governorate building for seven days, after which I was transferred to a prison located in the Al-Saha area. The place was very dark and narrow, as the area of the cell is one × meters. I stayed there for a month. My family was not allowed to visit me throughout my detention in that cell. After that I was transferred to the National Security Prison in Taiz city and remained there for a whole month. Their treatment for me was improved and progressively changed to the best of care and attention till my release





After Six months of my abduction and forcible disappearance, my wife and child were able to visit me for the first time.

### On Saturday, October 6, 2018, Houthi group has detained the journalist Ahmed Hauthan (30 y) when he left home heading to Tahrir square for documenting a protest stand called by a group of social media activists

I was kidnapped on 6/10/2018 during a revolution that activists on social media sites call for. The revolution was called Revolution of the Hungry, I carried my camera on Saturday and went out to the Tahrir Square in the capital, Sana'a. Upon my arrival at the place of demonstration and sit-in, I was kidnapped and handcuffed with handcuffs and took me to Al-Olufi Police Station, where I stayed for three days there. I was, then, transferred to the Criminal Investigation Prison. There, I was forcibly disappeared for five months in a solitary cell, in which I was tortured and beaten on the face and back for three days. Handcuffed and interrogations are ongoing and I was threatened with being taken to a place where I would not see the sun.

I was threatened by interrogators while I was blindfolded and I was transferred on board an armored vehicle with nine of the kidnapped to the Political Security prison in Hadda area, currently called the Security and Intelligence Prison, where I remained for five months. Thereafter, I was transferred with hundreds of prisoners from all governorates of the Republic to a prison affiliated with the Political Security in the Shamlan quarter, Northern Sixty Street. In this prison, dozens of abductees are hidden for several months.

The nutrition in the prison was very bad, especially during the period of disappearance and torture. We were given inedible meals, and were allowed to use the toilet three times a day only. Pens, books, notebooks and reading, and shaving razors were strictly forbidden.

Six months after I was abducted and forcibly disappeared, my wife and child were able to visit me for the first time. My family was extorted with money in exchange for my release, all of which were false promises. My family was evicted from the house and all our belongings were sold out.

With the Stockholm Agreement, it was said that I would be released. Due to the unsuccess of the agreement, I was returned to the security and intelligence prison, and I was re-interrogated and tortured by beatings, suspension and threats.

I was released in an exchange deal on 27/9/2019 and was exiled from Sana'a to Ma'rib



# Legal Framework

Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: “No one shall be arbitrarily arrested, detained or exiled.”

Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states: “Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be arbitrarily arrested or detained. No one may be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds as are provided for by law and in accordance with the procedure established therein.”

Article 48 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen stipulates: «The State shall guarantee to citizens their personal freedom and preserve their dignity and security. The law shall determine the cases in which the liberty of a citizen is restricted and none's liberty may be restricted except by a ruling of a competent court.

In the Code of Criminal Procedures No. 13 of 1994, article (7) stipulates: “Arrests are not permitted except in connection with punishable acts by law and must be based on the law.



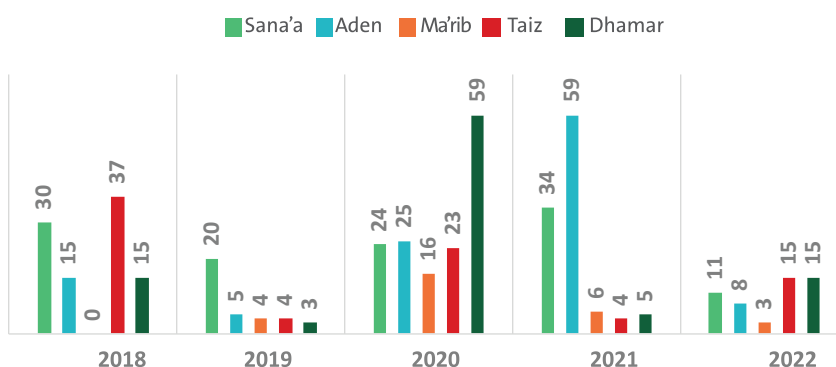
## B. Enforced Disappearance:

Association of the Abductees' Mothers monitored (440) civilians who were forcibly disappeared by all violating parties in (Sana'a, Aden, Ma'rib, Taiz, and Dhamar) during the period from 2018 to 2022, of which «294» civilians were disappeared by the Houthi group, including (6) women, (53) cases of disappearance were documented and verified by the Houthi group, and «112» civilians were forcibly disappeared by the Security Belt Forces of the Transitional Council, (43) cases of enforced disappearance were verified and documented, and «34» civilians were disappeared by The security services of the legitimate government in the cities of Ma'rib and Taiz.

The table below highlights cases of the enforced disappearance monitored by the Abductees' Mothers Association:

Enforced Disappearance							
S	Governorate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
1	Sana'a	30	20	24	34	11	119
2	Aden	15	5	25	59	8	112
3	Ma'rib	0	4	16	6	3	29
4	Taiz	37	4	23	4	15	83
5	Dhamar	15	3	59	5	15	97
Total		97	36	147	108	52	440

Graph (5) highlights the number of the forcibly disappeared during the years (2018-2022)



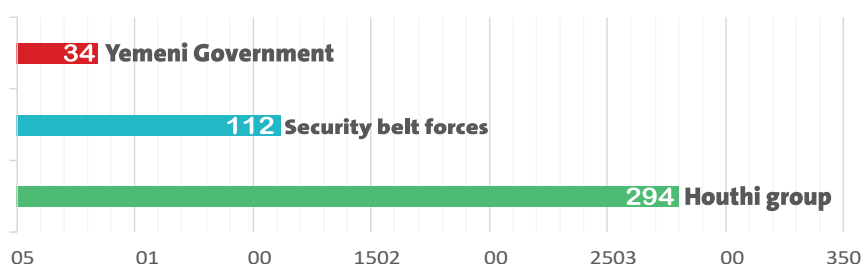


As for the parties involved in these violations, the Houthi group is responsible for (294) cases of enforced disappearance, including (6) women, the Security Belt Forces are responsible for (112) cases of enforced disappearance in the city of Aden, while the security forces of the legitimate government in the cities of Ma'rib and Taiz committed (34) cases of enforced disappearance, as shown in the table below::

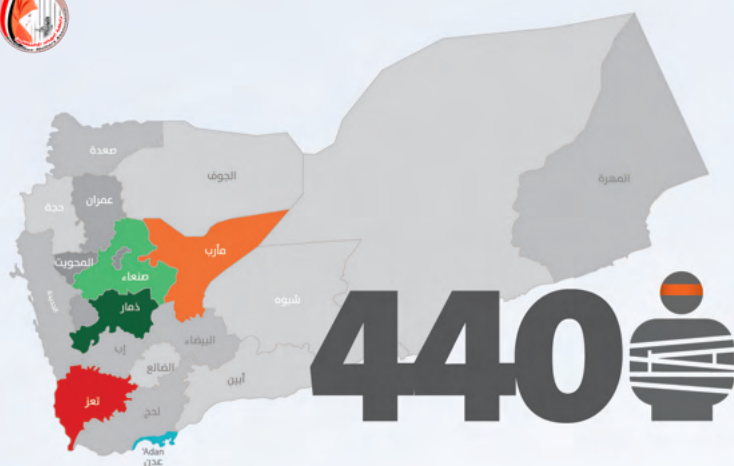
S. No	Violators	Abduction
1	Houthis	294
2	Security Belt Forces	112
3	Legitimate Government	34
Total		440

Enforced disappearance is one of the harshest violations of human rights. Enforced disappearance does not only affect victims who have been isolated from the outside world and subjected to human rights violations such as torture, physical violence and sometimes loss of life by killing. It extends to affect their families and friends, who often suffer material, psychological and social damage during the waiting period that may last for years before they know the fate of their relatives and friends..

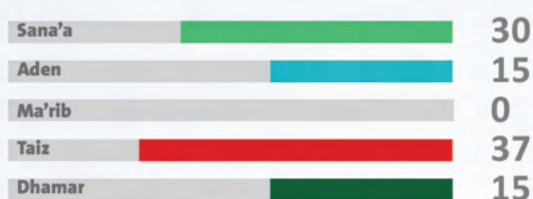
Graph (6) highlights the number of the forcibly disappeared during the years (2018-2022) along with the violation parties







## Number of the forcibly disappeared during the years (2018-2022)



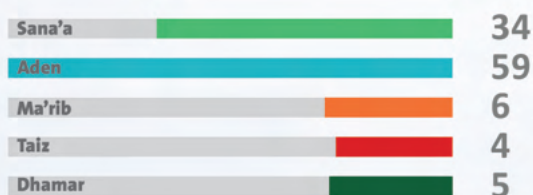
2018



2019



2020



2021



2022

Total number of the forcibly disappeared during the years (2018-2022) for each governorate





## Incidents:

### **On Saturday, January 27, 2018, Zakaria Ahmed Qasim disappeared in Aden after armed men abducted him forcibly into an unknown place**

Zakaria is still forcefully hidden since the date of his abduction on 27/1/2018. An armed and masked group affiliated with Aden security kidnapped him while he was going to perform Fajr prayer. He was forcefully taken after they shot bullets and terrorized people to an unknown destination on a Santa Fe type car. Zakaria's sister says: «We informed the security authorities at the moment. They did not do anything. So, we went to the Minister of Interior and the Attorney General. They gave us directions to Aden security, but those instructions faced deliberate negligence. We still know nothing till today. We didn't know where he was being held or even allowed to call us to know about him.».

### **In May, 2018, Houthi Armed men affiliated with the political security kidnapped Mrs. Khaleda Mohammed Al-Asbahi (52), an activist with the People's Public Congress party into an unknown destination**

The victim went on 11/5/2018 at 6:00 PM to receive a remittance sent to her from her son Ahmed. She was accompanied by her grandson, Mohammed Maher, in order to take him to the hospital after receiving the remittance. Maher's father called her at 8:00 PM in the evening. She told him that she was on her way home with her grandson, Mohammed. A full hour passed, so her son called her back to check on her, but her phone was switched off, as well as the driver's phone that dropped her. He, then, called the operations number 199 at the Ministry of Interior to ask them if there was a report of a traffic accident that reached them. They replied negatively.

At twelve o'clock (midnight), one of the kidnappers called Khalida's son, Maher, from the victim's phone, and asked him to come to receive his son. He set him a place to meet him (next to the British University). Maher asked him about his mother, but he replied: (Now is not your mother's time). So, he went to take his son and asked one of the gunmen: "Who are you? And where is my mother?" The gunman replied to him, "My name is Tawfiq." And your mother is with us, we have to investigate with her." Maher denounced it and said to them: "What did my mother do? She is an old and sick woman!" The gunman told him that they would interrogate her and if they were sure she was innocent they would call him to come and pick her up.

Two days later, the victim called from a strange number, and asked her son, Maher about his son Mohammed, who was with her, "Did he come home?" Maher replied that his son had returned, and asked her where she was. She replied that she was locked up in a place she did not know.

The next day, Tawfiq [the gunman] came dressed in civilian clothes with armed men in military uniforms (in the old Republican Guard uniform) accompanied by a woman. He asked to search the house, and presented to the victim's family an official paper from the prosecution to search the



house. In that letter, it was recorded that the control authority is Political Security and the charge is the espionage with a foreign party.

After they entered for inspection, they took a bag with papers. The victim's son asked them: "Where is my mother? They said, "Your mother is fine. Let us complete the interrogation with her and we will communicate with you. If you follow up after that we will lock you up, and you will never get out." He begged them that his mother was sick and needed an operation. He also showed them the medical reports to support his appeal. They told him, "Don't worry, we have a doctor" and they left the house.

The victim's son stated that he tried to mediate a number of characters, but they failed in releasing his mother. He was rather subject to threat with arrest. He also stated that she once called him and told him that all the women had been transferred from that prison and that only her and another woman were left. The victim was released on 18/2/2021.

### **On Wednesday, August 7, 2019, Ma'rib Security Forces affiliate with the Legitimate Government detained Mohammed Fuad Al-Salami (29y).**

The victim was on his way to Ma'rib city to obtain new passport in order to go to Jordan, where his uncle lives. Mohammed's uncles spoke about the victim: "I contacted the victim, who is my nephew, and told him to go to Aden or Ma'rib to get a passport, so he chose to go to Ma'rib. Because he was afraid that the Houthis would kidnap him on his way to Ma'rib, he filled his phone with pictures and popular Houthi songs (Zawamil). I kept in touch with him until he got out of the Houthi-controlled areas, but I lost contact with him when he arrived at the first checkpoint of the legitimate government in Ma'rib. I tried to communicate with friends and officers of mine in Ma'rib, but they assured me that there has no trace for him in Ma'rib.

The victim was arrested and detained in the Criminal Investigation Department in Ma'rib on 7/8/2019. His family did not know about his arrest until he was allowed to call on 26/8/2019. He was in the Criminal Investigation Prison when he called and then transferred to the Political Security Prison a month after his detention in the criminal investigation, according to one of the victims who communicated with Mohammed's family. His family tries to know about their son and the charge he was accused of, but they did not find satisfying responses. The family has obtained a permit from the criminal investigation to visit him, but the Political Security refused to allow them to visit him. This compounded their concern for him, as the victim suffers from cardio-rheumatism, deviation in the nose, and an old injury in his foot as a result of a past traffic accident. After the intervention of a number of mediations, his mother was allowed a single visit. It took his mother a two-month stay in the city of Ma'rib looking for mediations that would allow her to visit her son



**On Saturday, July 27-2019, Houthi armed men abducted the journalist, Abdul Hafeth Al-Samadi (38y) in front of his house, Sana'a**

The victim worked as an editor for the family page of Today's News (Akhbar Al-Youm) newspaper until 2018. With the deterioration of the living conditions due to the war, he turned to work as a taxi driver. His brother recounts: "My brother went out of his house on Saturday 27/7/2019 going to the grocery store to buy bread. It was 6:00 PM, in front of the grocery store he was surprised by a group of masked gunmen wearing civilian clothes pointing their weapons at him. One of the masked gunmen dragged him to one of the vehicles (bus). His children were eye-watching the moment of their father's kidnapping. They scarily scream, so I went out to see what happened to them. A neighbor of mine told me that the National Security kidnapped my brother Abdul Hafedh. When I asked him, how did you know that they belong to the National Security? He told me that they threatened him and forced him to show them Abdul-Hafedh because they didn't know him.

I started looking for my brother in the police stations but in vain. I, then, went to the hospital to help my brother's wife, who had a miscarriage due to the horror of the shock and tragedy. My brother remained hidden until 10/11/2019, where he called us and told us that he was detained in the security and intelligence building. We were allowed to visit him the next day of his call. We found him sitting on a chair and we hardly knew him because of the emaciation and extreme weakness that seemed on him. He tried to stand up to say goodbye to us, but he could not stay standing. We realized the amount of torture he had been subjected to in the prison.

On 29/12/2019, he was referred to the Public Prosecution for investigation on charges of collaborating with the aggression. According to the victim's lawyer, he spoke before the prosecution about being subjected to harsh methods of physical and psychological torture, including threats to kill him. The interrogators beat and kicked him. They also muffled his breath for several minutes, despite the fact that the victim suffers from shortness of breath, high blood pressure and irritable bowel syndrome.



# Legal Framework







## Legal Framework

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was issued by the United Nations General Assembly No. (133/47), adopted on 18/12/1992 and was considered effective on 20/12/2006, stipulates in article (1) that:

1. No one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance.
2. No exceptional circumstance, whether a state of war or the threat of war, internal political instability or any other exceptional situation, may be invoked to justify enforced disappearances.

Article 17 of the Convention stipulates that:

3. No one shall be confined in an unknown place.
4. Without prejudice to a State Party's other international obligations in the area of deprivation of liberty, each State Party shall, within the framework of its legislation:
  - (a)- Determine the conditions under which deprivation of liberty orders may be issued.
  - (b)- Designate the competent authorities to issue deprivation of liberty orders.
  - (c)- Ensure that a person deprived of liberty is placed only in an officially recognized and controlled place.
  - (d)- To ensure that every person deprived of liberty is allowed to communicate with and to receive visits from his/her family, lawyers or any other person of his choice, subject to the conditions laid down by law only. Alien is allowed to obtain permission to communicate with the consular authorities of his country in accordance with applicable international law.
  - (e) Ensure access to places of detention by any competent authority and institution authorized by law and, where necessary, with the prior authorization of a judicial authority.
  - (f) To guarantee the right of everyone deprived of liberty and, in the event of a suspected enforced disappearance, where the person deprived of liberty is no longer able to exercise this right himself, the right of everyone who has a legitimate interest, such as relatives, representatives or counsel of the person deprived of liberty, in all circumstances, to appeal to a court that shall decide as soon as possible on the lawfulness of the deprivation of liberty and order his release if the deprivation of liberty is found unlawful. Each State Party shall place one or more official records





and/or files of persons deprived of their liberty, keep it up-to-date information, and shall place them promptly, upon request, at the disposal of any judicial or other authority or institution competent under the legislation of the concerned State Party or under any relevant international legal instrument to which the concerned state is a party.

5. This information includes at least the following:

- (A)- The identity of the person deprived of liberty.
- (B) Date, time and place of deprivation of liberty and the authority that deprived the liberty of the person.
- (C) The authority that decided to deprive him of liberty and the grounds for deprivation.
- (D) The authority controlling the deprivation of liberty.
- (E) The place of deprivation of liberty, the date and time of entry into the place of deprivation of liberty, and the authority responsible for the deprivation of liberty.
- (F) Elements relevant to the state of health of a person deprived of liberty.
- (G) In the case of death during deprivation of liberty, the causes and circumstances of death and to whom the remains of the deceased were transferred.
- (H) Date and time of his release or transfer to another place of detention, the place to which he was transferred and the authority responsible for his transfer.

Although Yemen is not a party to the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, this does not exempt it from the obligation not to subject anyone to enforced disappearance, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable constitution. Article 48 (B) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen stipulates that: "It is prohibited to detain or arrest any person in places other than those subject to the Prisons Organization Law. It is also prohibited to torture and inhuman treatment upon arrest or during the period of detention or imprisonment.

- a. Article (48/D) also includes the need to notify the relatives of the detainee of his situation as soon as he is detained: «When any person is arrested for any reason, the person chosen by the arrested person must be immediately notified, and this must be done when every judicial order is issued to continue the detention».



- b. Article 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. (13) of 1994 grants prisoners, in addition to the rights granted to them under this Act, the following facilities:
  - Meet their family, relatives and friends.
  - Receive and respond to correspondence.
- c. Receive and re-transfer concrete transfers/ remittances.
- d. In accordance with Article (31), the pretrial detainee may also meet with his family and lawyer under written permission from the authority issuing the detention order.
- e. Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states: “Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one may be arrested or detained, and no one may be deprived of his liberty except for reasons provided for by law and in accordance with the Judicial functions. 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. The person arrested or detained shall be promptly brought before a judge or officer authorized by law to exercise judicial functions and shall have the right to be tried within a reasonable time or to be released.
- f. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court classified the enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity in its Article (7), section (1), unit (I).



# 03

## Third: Torture and ill-treatment



### Third: Torture and ill-treatment:

Torture, in international law, is prohibited even in times of war or emergency. It is one of the most heinous crimes that can be committed against a human being. In most cases, the violator aims to extract coerced statements and confessions from the victims. To this end, violators use methods in which the victims are deprived of their human dignity by committing deliberate cruel acts against them, including:

- Severe beating with power cables on all parts of the body, including sensitive areas.
- Sawing the nails with an electric saw.
- Electrocution in the chest, legs and navel.
- Hitting the head with a hard object, causing cerebral hemorrhage.
- Hammering nails into the hands or feet of the victims.
- Nail pull-off.
- Burning with fire.
- Making holes in the body with a sharp object.
- Hanging by grill method (tying hands to legs, inserting a water pipe below the knee and hanging it) and hitting in the same position. Inflicting cut wounds with sharp materials and leaving the victim to bleed.
- Stripping clothes on very cold days and spraying cold water on their deserted bodies.
- Stepping on the faces of the kidnapped with military boots and jump on their backs with those boots. Sprinkle salt and tobacco on blood-drooling wounds.
- Shooting next to the kidnapper while he is sleeping.
- Stripping the detainee and threatening them with rape.
- Beating the wife in front of the kidnapped and threatening to rape her.
- Spray the victim with hot water and then beat him.
- Association of the Abductees' Mothers monitored «865» cases of torture of abductees and detainees in the prisons of all violating parties in each of (Sana'a, Aden, Ma'rib, Taiz and Dhamar) during the period from 2018 to 2022. The list includes «673» cases of torture by the Houthis group, (33) cases of torture were verified. (150) cases of torture by the Security Belt Forces of the Southern Transitional Council, (25) cases which were verified and documented. (42) cases were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by the security forces of the legitimate government, and (3) cases of which have been verified.

The table below shows the number of cases of torture and ill-treatment monitored by the Association:

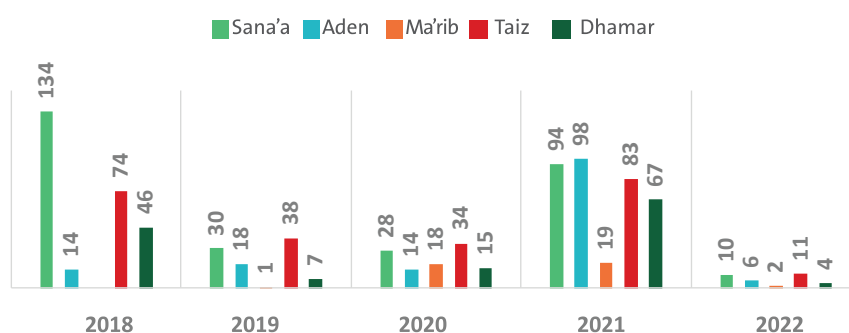


Torture and ill-treatment							
S	Governorate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
1	Sana'a	134	30	28	94	10	296
2	Aden	14	18	14	98	6	150
3	Ma'rib		1	18	19	2	40
4	Taiz	74	38	34	83	11	240
5	Dhamar	46	7	15	67	4	139
Total		268	94	109	361	33	865

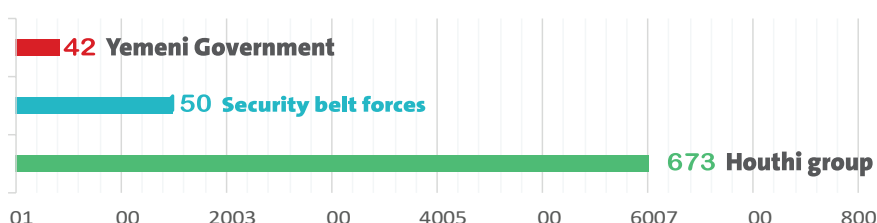
Those responsible for violations of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention are shown in the following table:

S	Violators	Abduction
1	Houthis	673
2	Security Belt Forces	150
3	Legitimate Government	42
Total		865

Graph (7) highlights the number of the forcibly disappeared who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the years (2018-2022)



Graph (8) highlights the number of the forcibly disappeared who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the years (2018-2022), along with the assaulters.







## Figure of the forcibly disappeared who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the years (2018-2022).

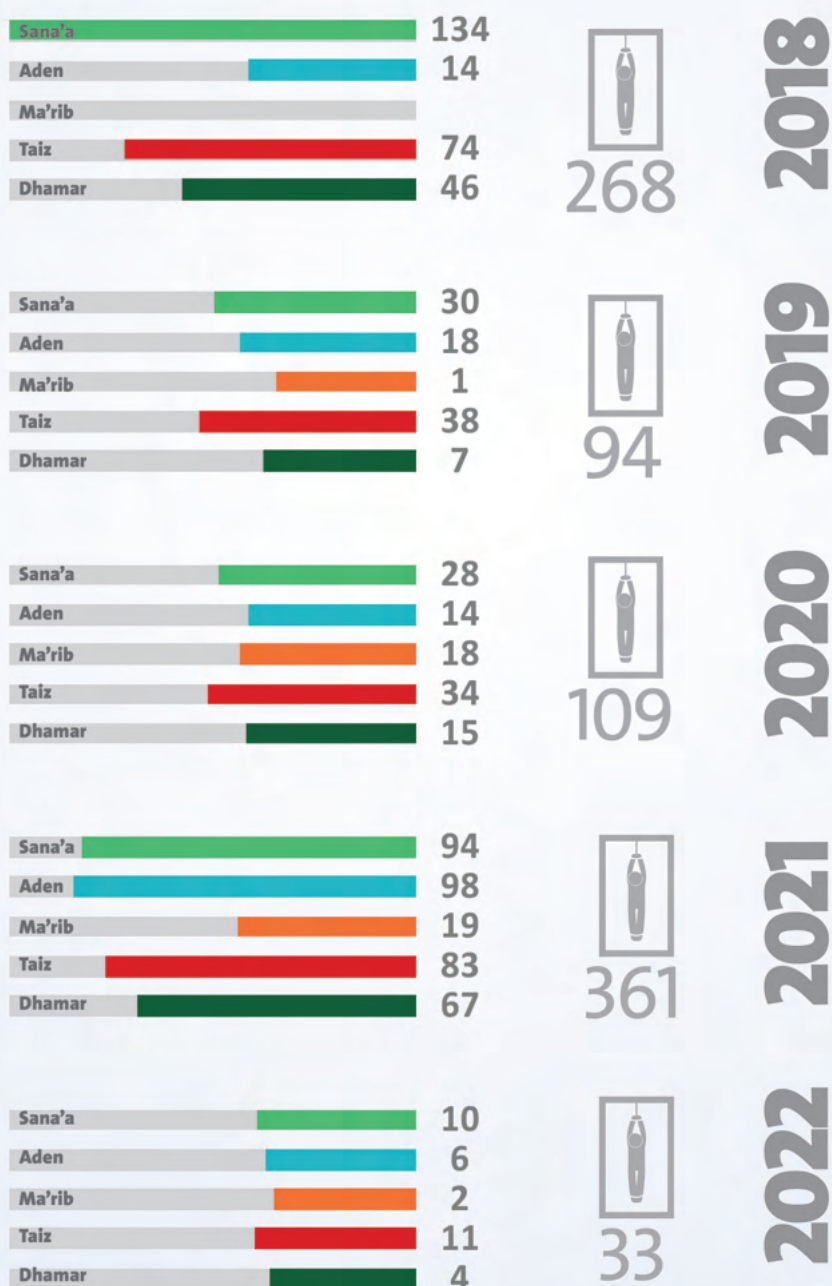
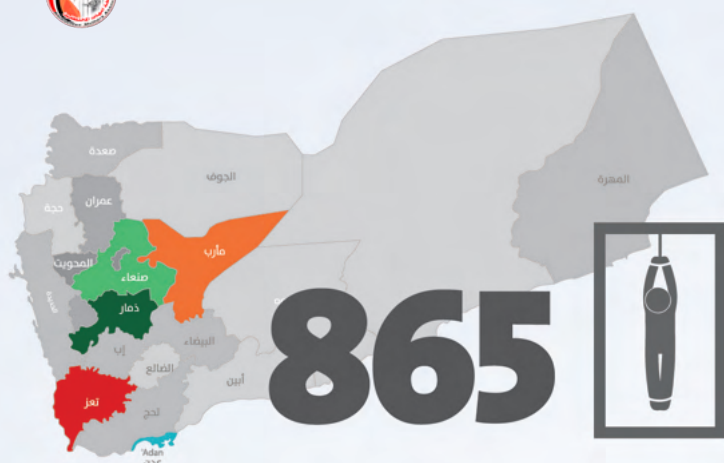


Figure of the forcibly disappeared who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the years (2018-2022) for each governorate



## Incidents:

**On Wednesday, March 6-2019, Houthi armed men kidnapped the female activist Sonia Saleh Ghobash (32 Y) in one of Sana'a streets**

Sonia was residing in the capital city of Sana'a. She went out to a petrol station to fill her car on 6/3/2019. She was shockingly surrounded by two cars surrounding her car. In addition to military vehicles and armored vehicles, masked gunmen belonging to the Preventive Security of the Houthi group came out of the cars, beat her with rifle butts and took her to the National Security building. She was detained in a small solitary room called the pressure cooker (althaghatah) for four months. During her interrogation, she learned that the reason for her abduction was her tweets in which she was criticizing the authorities in Sana'a.

The victim narrates: "During the interrogation, I was subjected to harsh methods of torture. They pour cold water on me and then electrocuted me, in addition to beating, kicking feet and firing obscene words to me. In the second stage of torture, they used the method of skinning me. They were using a sharp instrument with which they made holes in my abdomen and back. All this is documented by medical reports after I was released. In the third stage, they removed one of my toenails and caused me unimaginable severe pain. They threatened me that they would remove a nail every day. I collapsed and sank into dejection because of the nail removal. As a result, I was screaming and saying I will confess that I killed the entire Yemeni people, so kill me because death is more merciful than this torture".

In that grave-like prison, I could hear other women screaming under torture, which in itself was a kind of psychological torture I was subjected to.

Throughout my disappearance in the National Security, my sons and parents were looking for me everywhere. My son carried my picture and asked in police stations, prisons and detention centers, but to no avail.

My limbs were swollen due to torture and deprivation of water for long periods. So, they transferred me to the Central Prison in mid-May 2019. There, I remained in solitary confinement for two weeks, then I was allowed to move to the prisoners' ward. I was also allowed to communicate with my family and tell them where I was detained. After mediation intervention and payment of amounts amounting to twenty million Yemeni riyals paid by my brothers who work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I was released at 6:00 PM, on Monday 20/1/2020.



**On Thursday evening, October 15, 2020, Security Belt Forces in Aden detained Abdullah Ali Alhayyi (34 y) and seven of his family members; and arrested his wife and a wife of his friend. He was subjected to torture in front of his wife and kids**

The victim's wife says: "My husband works in selling qat in Aden. He brings qat for sale from Dhamar, our home city. One day, one of my husband's friends called Al-Jashmi, who works with him in selling qat was detained. So, Al-Jashmi's wife called me to tell me that she was afraid because her husband was detained in the police station and she has no relatives in Aden. My husband was next to me. He told me: "tell her not to be afraid and tomorrow you will be there with her. My husband and I were in Dhamar in a visit to my sick mother. We actually set off the next day to Aden. I, then, went to Al-Jashmi's house to stay overnight with his wife.

In Albasateen police station, they asked Al-Jashmi for someone to guarantee him in order to release him. So, he called my husband on Thursday evening, 15/10/2020. My husband said to him: "Do not worry, tomorrow I will come to your guarantee. I have sent my wife to your house so that your wife would not worry."

It was only hours after Al-Jashmi's call, the director of the Albasateen police station, Musleh Al-Dharhani, asked him to drive them to his house, so he went with them with two military vehicles and a civilian car at 3:00 AM on Friday. When they reached the house, they searched it. When they did not find anything, they took me, Al-Jashmi's wife and our children to the police station after they confiscated the phones from us. They, then, told Al-Jashmi: "drive us to the house of your friend whom you called to guarantee you." When they arrived at our house, they arrested all seven members of the house: my husband, brothers and relatives whom he hosts in his house, including children under 15 who work with him selling qat.

When they drove us all to the Albasateen police section, they started beating them, hanging them, and spraying them with hot water. We also heard their voices and screams of pain. We heard the interrogators threatening them: "Confess or we will torture your women." They took me into the room where my husband was detained and I was shocked to see him. His face was swollen due the beatings he was subjected to. Blood was flowing, too. They tortured him in front of me and in front of my little son until he fainted from the intensity of the torture. So, they brought water and poured it to wake him up. Then they slapped me on the face in front of him, beat me and threatened me. He begged the director of the department to leave me and he will confess to them what they want. They threaten him, "you confess or we will rape your wife." Then, they took me out of him and I hear the sound of his screams in pain. His brothers and the rest of the men say to them: "Let the women and children go and we will confess what you want."



We remained in the department until 10:00 AM, on Friday 16/10/2020. Then, they allowed us to return to our homes. We remained for six months knowing nothing about the detainees until they were transferred to Bir Ahmed prison after changing the Director of the Department, Musleh Al-Darhani. When we visited the police station for the first time, my husband was not among them. So, we asked them about him, they said that they did not know anything about him since that day. The director of the department took him out of the department by taxi and he looked like a lifeless body. So far, the Security Belt Forces have not shown my husband's whereabouts and whether he is still alive or not. His fault and those detained with him only fault was that they belong to northern areas of Yemen.

**On Tuesday, January 7th-2020, those in charge of the Central Security Prison-Sana'a assaulted and beaten up the detainees in the prison, whose number approximately reached 100 abductees.:**

**The Association team listened to a number of those released from the Central Security Camp. They talked about incidents of torture and ill-treatment in the Central Security Camp where they were being held. A number of these testimonies include:**

**Released abductee, (K -U):**

I was detained in one of the houses allocated by the Houthi group to hide the abductees. We were transferred to the Central Security camp on 3/10/2019. I was deprived of my family's visit for me for two whole years. I was only allowed to call for five minutes every twenty days in which we ask the parents to send us money. Then the period of deprivation was increased and was spammed up to three months in order to allow us five minutes to communicate with the parents. We were in dire need of money because the nutrition provided to us in the prison, was inedible in terms of cleanliness, quality and quantity.

One of the abductees was able to obtain a mobile phone through one of the Houthi security elements. So, we used it secretly. On Tuesday, 7/1/2020, they found out I the phone with one of the abductees at 9:00 PM. They began to take out a group of 12 detainees, I was among them. After a short time, a group of riot police came with tear gas bombs. They were heavily armed and they took out everyone in the hangar. We were about 100 detainees, and everyone was subjected to thorough inspection in a humiliating manner that did not exclude any area in the body. Then, they forced us to take off our clothes except for the underpants and took us out to the yard in the extreme cold. They poured cold water on us and beat us



with batons, iron bars, electricity wires and rifle butts on our backs, faces and heads until some of us suffered broken ribs. Blood bled from our heads and backs and they were not satisfied with that. They brought salt and burdqa (power made out of tobacco and salt and is used by the Yemeni people under their tongue, like tobacco, for some time and then spit it), and sprinkled it on our bleeding wounds. They hurled us with ill and obscene words hysterically. I was lying on my stomach with my hands tied to my legs. One of them was standing, he stepped on my face with his feet, with blood running from my head, eyes and back until I felt a loss of balance in my body.

Among the detainees were two old men who were unable to stand up. So, one of the security officers beat them severely and burned their beards with fire.

One of the abductees had a slipped spine, so he could not stand up. He fell to the ground. So, one of the security personnel called (Abu Jalmoud) came and beat him with electric cables and jumped on his back with his heavy military boots while shouting religious slogans belonging to the Houthi group.

We, the 12 kidnapped, were transferred to small cells without a mattress or cover. The cell could accommodate the detainees only when we were standing position. We, therefore, took turns sleeping in it even though there were no blankets or mattresses in it

The next day, we were beaten up by Abu Hussein and Abu Turab, who are officials in the Prisoners' Committee of the Houthi group. This was in the presence of Abdul Qader Al-Murtadha, Head of the Committee of Prisoners and Detainees in the Houthi group, whom we saw from the openings of the cells. He was witnessing the incidents of beating and torturing the abductees. The scars of torture are still visible on our bodies, especially my colleagues Hayez Hujail and Ibrahim Ghandari, despite the passage of these years, but the impact of the cruel torture we endured, are still visible.

We were kept for 45 days isolated from the rest of our colleagues in cells that lack the most basic elements of humanity. We were denied access to the bathroom for two days, then we were allowed to enter it for only several minutes throughout the day. We were not allowed to bath or wash our clothes, so insects, including lice, spread to our clothes and bodies. Our wounds that resulted from their brutal torture of us, have festered.





**On Friday, January 11th, 2019, Security Forces in Ma'rib, affiliate to the legitimate government detained Mohammed Ibrahim Sharaf Ad-Din (22y) because of his surname**

The victim recounts: "When I was at Bin Abboud market, in Ma'rib, the security forces arrested me on 11/1/2019. They took me to the Airport Police Station, which is close to the market. I stayed there for four days, then I was transferred to the Security Department in Ma'rib. I stayed there for five days, after which I was transferred to the Political Security prison and there I stayed (11) months. They confiscated my phone and interrogated me twice. At first, I thought that the reason for the arrest was not numbering my motorcycle, but during the investigation I learned that the reason for the arrest is my surname, which is considered one of the prominent Houthi families. I was hidden for two and a half months, after which I was allowed to visit once for five minutes every two months.

I was accused of being a member of a terrorist cell. I was further insulted, cursed, beaten with electric cable wires, forced to crawl in the middle of sand and gravel, and forced to do strenuous exercises. What I suffered most was the psychological torture, as they threatened to kill me, and not to release me, I could not sleep. I was haunted with sleeplessness and insomnia; and was feel afraid for my life. I got sick several times. They didn't help me and I wasn't seen by a specialist.

The cell was 6x6 square meters, accommodating 25 detainees, with one window, with neither cooler in summer nor heaters in the winter seasons. Our breakfast and dinner were beans. Rice and cooked vegetables were offered at lunch. Bathroom was without a door, there was no window. Water was not running in the water pipe but was supplied in water bottles.

The victim's father submitted a report to the Abductees' Mothers Association on Thursday 21/11/2019. The Association communicated with the concerned authorities in the Ma'rib governorate. After tireless efforts, his father received a consent to a visit to his son, who was later released on 12/12/2019.



# Legal Framework





## Legal Framework:

**Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment states that: “For the purposes of this Convention, torture is meant any act by which severe pain, physical or mental, intentionally inflicted on a person with the intention of obtaining information or a confession from that person or a third person, punishing him for an act committed or suspected of having been committed by him or a third person, intimidating or coercing him or anyone else”.**

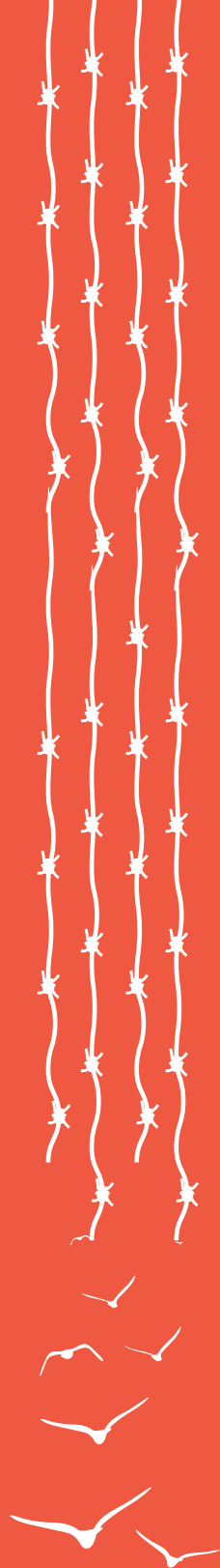
Article 2 stipulates that:

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

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article (5) states: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

In the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article (7) states: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. No one may be subjected to any medical or scientific experiment without his or her free consent, in particular. Article (10/1) states that “all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated humanely and respectfully with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person”.

Article (48/B) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen stipulates: «Every person whose liberty is restricted by any restriction must have his dignity preserved, and coercion to confess during interrogations is prohibited. A person whose liberty is restricted has the right to refrain from making any statement except in the presence of his lawyer. It is prohibited to torture the accused, treat him inhumanely, or harm him physically or morally to force him to confess. Any statement that proves that it was made by one of the accused or witnesses under any of the above shall be disregarded and considered unreliable.



## Findings



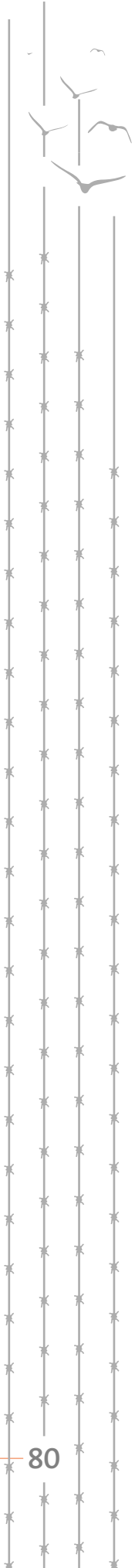
## Findings

- By studying the diagram of violations for the years (2018, 2022) (graph), the data analysis team observed that there is a significant improvement in the human rights situation. For instance, the cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture monitored in 2022 has decreased compared to the cases monitored in 2018, as shown in the following table:

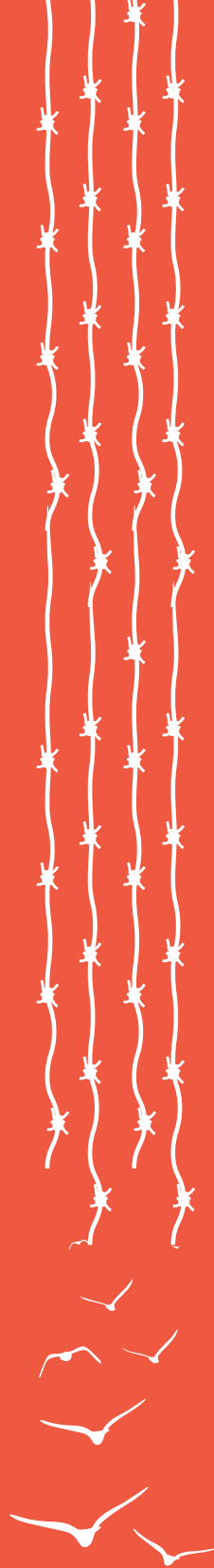
Violation	2018	2022
Arbitrary Detention	502	251
Enforced Disappearance	97	52
Torture and Ill-Treatment	268	33

- The violators represented by the Houthi group, Legitimate Government, and the Security Belt Forces in Aden have reduced detention periods. Most cases of arbitrary detention are released after several days or several months at most.
- The number of abductees and arbitrarily detained at checkpoints has increased, making roads between governorates unsafe. Cases of kidnapping the businessmen or property owners have spread, and they are often released only after paying a ransom, especially in areas under the control of the Houthi group.
- Violators have recently reduced the periods of enforced disappearance of abductees and detainees, as well as the use of cruel physical torture methods, which have long been systematically used to extract information or enforce abductees and detainees to say what is dictated to them.
- A number of arbitrarily veteran detainees have been brought to trial in both Sana'a and Aden – a step, though belated, in the right direction. Even though the trials were marred by many violations of Yemen's Code of Criminal Procedure, but something is better than absolute absence of legal proceedings that prevailed in the past.
- The Houthi group continues to sentence mass executions to those arbitrarily detained in trials that defendants' lawyers describe as non-observing any of the fair trial principles.
- Detention conditions in Bir Ahmed prison in Aden have improved since the beginning of 2019 after the Ministry of Interior in Aden took it over to be subject to the Prisons Organization Law. Yet, it worsened again due to political changes after mid-2019. Detainees held there announced their hunger-strike a number of times due to ill-treatment in prison.
- Detention conditions in Al-Saleh detention center in Taiz have improved. The prison administration somewhat reduced its use of torture methods, and allowed some families to visit their kidnapped relatives, which was remained permanently prohibited for years. Yet, cases of death due to medical negligence recorded the highest rate in this detention center compared to the rest of the detention centers in Yemen.

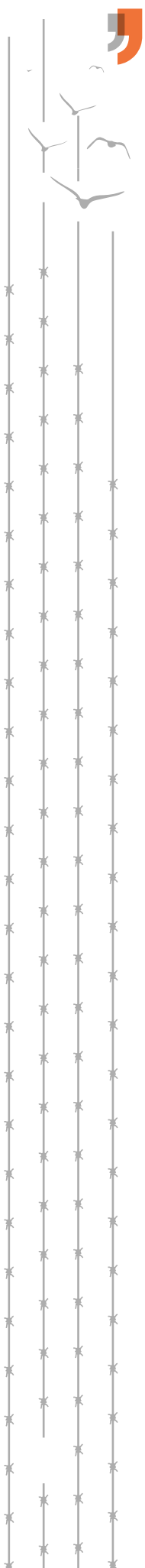




- The Security and Intelligence prison in Sana'a was inaugurated in 2020. The detainees were transferred from a number of former places of detention to the newly inaugurated center of detention. Detainees are mainly opposing political and human right activists from various parties, orientations and religious trends, who oppose the Houthi group.
- Detainees enjoy much better detention conditions than the rest of the prisons. They are allowed to visit, phone calls to their families and marital private retreats. The place is characterized by its cleanliness and the cleanliness of the food provided in it, unlike the rest of the prisons. The detainees are allowed to be exposed to the sun and play in equipped playgrounds. However, beatings, violence, solitary confinement, denial of visits, and forcing detainees to attend religious classes belonging to the Houthi group are still practiced there.



## Recommendations



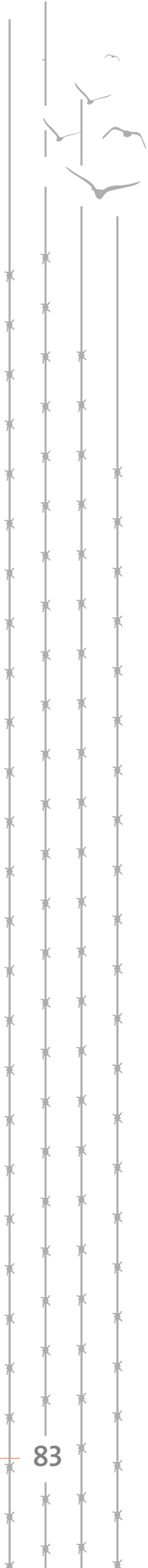
## Recommendations

### To the United Nations and the States Sponsoring Peace Process in Yemen:

1. Pressure on the Houthi group, the Security Belt Forces of the Southern Transitional Council, and the Legitimate Government to release the kidnapped, detained and forcibly disappeared individuals.
2. Pressure the signatories to the agreement on the exchange of prisoners, detainees, missing detainees, forcibly disappeared and under house arrest in Stockholm to implement it comprehensively and on a humanitarian basis without delay.
3. Oblige detention parties to enable victims to exercise their rights guaranteed to them in the constitution and humanitarian law.

### To the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Republic of Yemen:

1. Separate the file of abducted civilians from the combatant prisoners' file, and pressure the parties to release abducted civilians unconditionally.
2. Pressure for the immediate release of abducted women as a humanitarian obligation.
3. Pressure to halt the trials, sentences, and release of civilians abducted in connection with the war.
4. Enhancing the inclusion of women in the peace process, as their efforts are at the forefront of many humanitarian and human rights files



### To the Yemeni Government:

1. Immediate release all its detainees.
2. Allow human rights organizations to visit the prisons and play their role as monitors to the rights of abductees and detainees from violations they are subjected to.
3. Ratify and sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
4. Initiate the criminal proceedings by the Public Prosecutor and initiate it himself, including the cases of enforced disappearance, killing under torture, and air-bombing the detention places.
5. Hold accountable and punish the perpetrators of abduction, detention, enforced disappearance, and torture.
6. Fulfill their obligations to the local and international community under the Yemeni Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international humanitarian law.
7. Include the families of the kidnapped and disappeared to vulnerable cases and provide their needs within the relief programs.
8. Fair compensation for the victims of torture and those released.
9. Work to include the names of abductees and detainees in the Law for the Care of the Families of Martyrs and Fighters of the Yemeni Revolution.

### To the Houthi Group:

1. speedy and unconditional release of all abductees and detainees.
2. Reveal the fate of the forcibly disappeared, enable them to exercise their human and legal rights, and immediately release them.
3. Allow human rights organizations to visit the prisons and monitor the human right situation there.
4. Close all unofficial prisons and their secret places of detention.
5. Fair compensation for victims of torture and those released abductees.



### To the Transitional Council:

1. Reveal the fate of the forcibly disappeared civilians and instantly release them.
2. Enable arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared people to exercise their human and legal rights.
3. Close unofficial prisons and secret places of detention belonging to its Security Belt Forces.
4. Fair compensation for the victims of torture and released detainees.

### To the Arabic-Coalition Forces :

1. Commitment to the International Humanitarian Law.
2. Hold accountable those who bombed the Dhamar Community College prison.
3. Abide by the Geneva Convention and stop bombing prisons and places of detention, whatever the justifications are.
4. Compensate the victims of the bombing of the Dhamar Community College prison in a fair and appropriate compensation.





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