



Justice4Yemen Pact
ميثاق العدالة لليمن



Impunity Fuels Torture and Ill-Treatment in Yemen

A joint Statement of International and Local Organizations, Including Members of the Justice for Yemen Pact, on the International Day against Torture,

June 26, 2024

On this International Day Against Torture, we unite our voices to reaffirm our unwavering commitment against all forms of torture and inhumane treatment being perpetrated in Yemen.

Civilians in Yemen continue to be victims of inhumane treatment and torture by all warring parties. This egregious trend continues due to widespread impunity in Yemen. Torture and ill-treatment are used not only to inflict physical pain, but also to intimidate opponents, extort confessions and suppress freedoms. Politicians, journalists, feminists, influencers and human rights activists are among those targeted.

Despite several prisoner exchanges, including the release of over 887 prisoners [in April 2023](#), many people remain in detention. Based on testimonies from former prisoners, many of whom have reported horrific experiences of torture, it is likely that many of those who remain in detention also face torture and other forms of inhumane treatment.



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We draw attention to the dire situation of abductees, arbitrarily detained individuals, and forcibly disappeared persons in Yemen. From 2016 to 2022, the Association of Mothers of Abductees, a member of the [Justice for Yemen Pact](#), [documented](#) 2,643 cases of torture. This includes 2,446 cases of torture by Houthi groups, 150 cases by the Transitional Council, and 47 cases by the internationally recognized government.

The STC [continues to arbitrarily](#) arrest and forcibly disappear people and operates at least [two unofficial detention centers](#).

We also draw attention to the [persecution of Yemen's Baha'i community](#). During a peaceful gathering in May 2023, Houthi forces unlawfully arrested 17 Baha'is, including five women, pressuring them to renounce their religious beliefs — a clear case of religious persecution. Four of the 17 remain arbitrarily detained.

We are deeply concerned by [the Houthi authorities' escalating campaign of repression against civil society](#), which has led to the arbitrary arrest and inhumane treatment of numerous UN and NGO staff. [The UN Secretary-General has called](#) for the immediate and unconditional release of all the detainees and stressed that humanitarian workers must be protected.

The conflict has resulted in the Yemeni people being subjected to widespread abuses due to the lack of protection systems in place and the failure of the authorities to address violations and risks on the ground. Vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, muhamasheen (“the marginalized,” an ethnic group in Yemen that faces historical discrimination) and refugees, face heightened risks of abuse. [About 4.3 million](#) Yemenis are internally displaced. [60% of them are women and](#)



[children, who are at increased](#) risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and denial of basic healthcare.

Refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants also face major challenges. Migrants are exploited by smugglers and human traffickers across Yemen, and are abused by authorities. These abuses include sexual assault against women and boys [and the denial of basic rights](#) such as sanitary facilities, food and medical care. There are also [reports](#) that Saudi border guards have also killed at least hundreds of migrants on the Saudi-Yemen border.

There are serious concerns about the treatment of women in Yemen, who are systematically discriminated against due to gender norms and political motives. [Yemeni women's freedom of movement is restricted](#), preventing many families and unaccompanied women from traveling or working. [Reports of abuse and torture of Yemeni women in Houthi prisons](#), exemplified by cases such as [Intisar Al-Hamadi](#), are also alarming. The Houthi movement in Yemen justifies its repressive actions against women as a means to combat “[enemy propaganda](#).” As a result, women have become more vulnerable to social degradation and abuse.

We unequivocally condemn the ongoing use of torture and grave violations against detained civilians by all warring parties. We hold all warring parties in Yemen fully responsible for the lives and safety of detainees. Combating torture and all forms of ill-treatment is a collective responsibility that requires action by governments, human rights organizations and local and international media. There can be no tolerance or justification for such acts under any circumstances.



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We call on the United Nations and the Security Council to exert pressure and take action to hold perpetrators of torture in Yemen to account, and to end impunity and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. We call for accountability and justice to be an integral part of the ongoing peace negotiations mediated by the UN. Furthermore, we call for the establishment of an independent mechanism to investigate human rights violations and establish accountability to end all forms of impunity.

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June 26, 2024

Issued by:

1. Abductees' Mothers Association (AMA)
2. Al-Amal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation (AWSF)
3. Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children (CSWC)
4. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
5. Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF)
6. Musaala Organization
7. SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
8. Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)
9. Watch for Human Rights (Watch4HR)
10. Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)



11. Al-Haq Foundation for Human Rights
12. Building Foundation for Training and Development
13. Together We Rise Foundation for Women and Child Care
14. Rasd Center for Rights and Development
15. Sone menttes organization
16. Yemen center for Human rights studies
17. Lahj Human Rights Office and Lahj Women for Peace Initiative
18. Kayan Foundation
19. Corporación Conciudadanía - Colombia
20. Women for Justice Foundation- Canada
21. Defense Foundation for Rights and Freedoms.
22. American Center for Justice
23. Organisation Nationale des Droits l'Homme et du Developpement Durable
24. Need For Human Rights
25. Human Development Foundation
26. Women Relief Aid
27. Peace Track Initiative Foundation, Yemen Country Office - Aden
28. Yemeni Landmine Records
29. Committee Of the Families of Kidnapped and The Disappeared, Lebanon
30. International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
31. Association of War Affected Women
32. Former Lebanese political detainees in Syria
33. Alrowad foundation for development" RFD
34. Yemeni Network for Victims Associations (YNV)



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35. Siaz Organization for Youth and Development (SOYD)
36. Yemeni Media Freedom Observatory (YMFO)
37. Ruwwad the Development and Human Rights Foundation
38. Civil Commission for Houses Bombing Victims
39. Human Rights Watch
40. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
41. Messengers of Peace Organization