

# Witness Memory



**A Human Rights Report  
Documenting Deaths  
in Detention Centers Due to  
Torture or Medical Negligence**



رابطة أمهات المختطفين  
Abductees' Mothers  
Association

2024



Justice4Yemen Pact  
ميثاق العدالة لليمن



20

**CASES**  
OF DEATHS IN  
DETENTION FACILITIES

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## Who We Are

The Abductees' Mothers Association is a Yemeni human rights organization established on April 18, 2016. Formed by the mothers, wives, and daughters of abductees, along with rights and freedoms activists, our mission is to defend the rights of abducted, detained, and forcibly disappeared individuals, promote peace, and raise human rights awareness in Yemeni society.



## Our Areas of Work

**Protecting**  
Civil Rights



02



**Providing** Legal  
& Psychological Support

**Offering** Training  
and Rehabilitation



04



**Monitoring** and  
Documenting Violations

05



**Empowering** Women to  
Contribute to Peacebuilding



### **About the Yemen Human Rights Forensics Lab Plus (YHRFL+)**

The goal of the Yemen Human Rights Forensics Lab Plus (YHRFL+) program is to increase recognition and protection of human rights in Yemen by empowering Yemeni civil society to champion justice and accountability through human rights

documentation, reporting, and advocacy efforts. The YHRFL+ program is working to systematically document, preserve, corroborate, analyze, and report on evidence, obtained from a variety of sources, of human rights violations committed by all parties involved in the Yemeni conflict. Results of this analysis are sum-

marized and presented in a series of investigative reports focusing on specific identified incidents of human rights violations. YHRFL+ also support efforts by Yemeni CSO partners to carry out strategic advocacy, community outreach, and victim and survivor engagement interventions locally and internationally

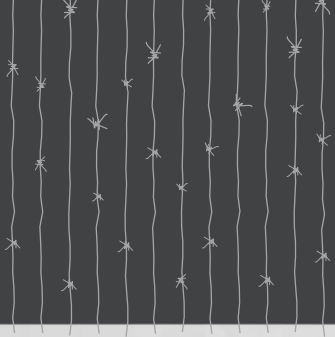
## **The association is a member of several networks and alliances, including:**

**The Justice for Yemen Pact:** This is a coalition of human rights organizations and civil society actors united to promote and protect human rights in Yemen. The pact's mission is to advocate for the rights of the Yemeni people, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. It is committed to addressing the systemic human rights violations that Yemen has endured through years of conflict and violence.

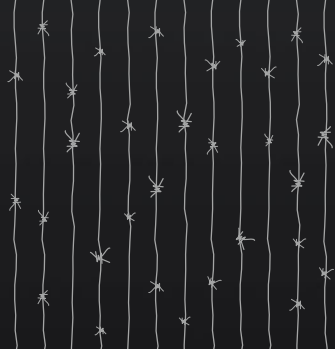
The pact works to empower the Yemeni people to claim their rights, raise awareness about violations, and advocate for justice and accountability at local, national, and international levels. It is guided by principles of respect for human dignity, equality, justice, and non-discrimination. The pact believes that through collaboration, its members can end impunity, provide essential support and compensation to victims, and contribute to a more peaceful, just, and prosperous future for Yemen.



WITNESS  
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# Executive Summary





**The** Abductees' Mothers Association documented 20 cases of deaths in detention facilities. Among these, 8 cases resulted from torture in Houthi prisons, and 11 cases were due to medical neglect. Of the latter, 10 occurred in Houthi prisons and one due to tuberculosis in the Political Security detention center in Ma'rib, controlled by the internationally recognized government.

Additionally, the association documented one case of a detainee in Houthi prisons who died of natural causes. However, anti-Houthi media sources accused the group of killing him under torture. Believing that the purpose of monitoring and documentation is to uncover the truth, not just to indict and establish criminal responsibility, we included this case in our report. Our goal is to build a human rights record based on the testimonies of survivors who witnessed the deaths of their peers during detention and the testimonies of the victims' families, to demand justice and redress for the victims and their families.

**In** all the cases addressed in this report, legal procedures were completely absent. This began with arrests made without presenting a warrant from the prosecutor's office or a judicial order, not explaining the reasons for detention to the targeted individuals, and not allowing them to inform their family or a lawyer. Out of the 20 cases in this report, 15 families were never able to visit their loved ones, making the day of abduction their last meeting with them.

The Houthi group practiced severe torture and violence during interrogation. In most cases, the Houthis required families to sign a waiver of any legal action regarding the victim's death in custody and not to present the body to a forensic doctor in order to receive the body. In two cases, they demanded an exchange of the victim's body for one of their fighters held by the internationally recognized government. In two other cases of death due to medical neglect, they demanded financial payment to release the body.



**The** motives behind the abductions varied. Eight civilians were abducted due to their political activity in the Islah Party, which opposes the Houthi group. Security forces in Ma'rib detained one victim on suspicion of being a Houthi supporter, and the Houthi group similarly abducted the remaining victims on suspicion of supporting the internationally recognized government.

The Houthis provided various explanations for the deaths of victims killed under torture, ranging from claiming that the victim committed suicide (two cases), later retracting this claim and offering financial compensation to the families, to alleging that the victim's peers killed them (two cases) or asserting that the death was natural and falsifying medical reports to that effect. Only four families received financial compensation from the Houthi group for the loss of their loved ones, which implicitly acknowledges their criminal responsibility for the deaths.

The Abductees' Mothers Association made significant efforts to advocate for the victims and their families by issuing statements and reports and holding protest vigils. These actions drew attention to the methods and practices of the violating entities in dealing with the victims, resulting in a general improvement in the conditions of detainees.



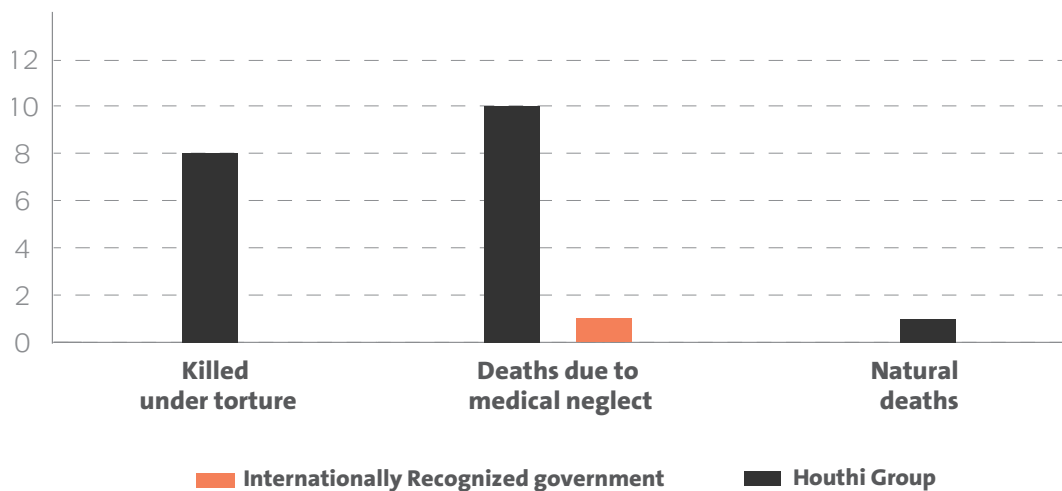


**Table (1)** shows the cause of death for the documented cases in the report and the party responsible for the violation:

Cause of Death	Houthi Group	Internationally Recognized government
Killed under torture	08	0
Deaths due to medical neglect	10	01
Natural deaths	01	0



**Chart (1)** shows the cause of death for the cases documented in the report and the responsible party for the violation.

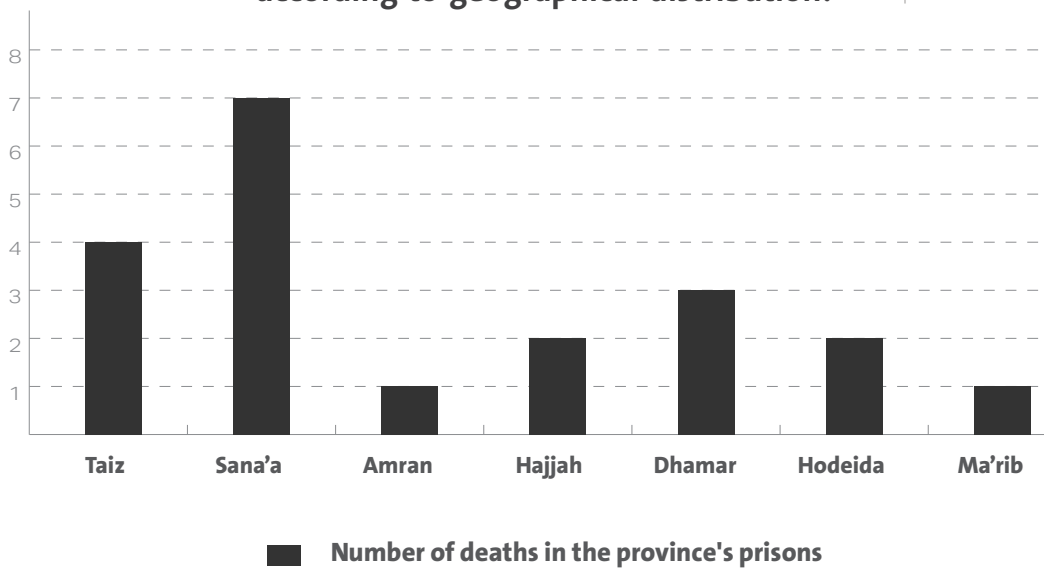




**Table (2)** shows the number of victims according to geographical distribution:

Province	Number of deaths in the province's prisons
Taiz	4
Sana'a	7
Amran	1
Hajjah	2
Dhamar	3
Hodeida	2
Ma'rib	1

**Chart (2)** shows the number of victims according to geographical distribution:



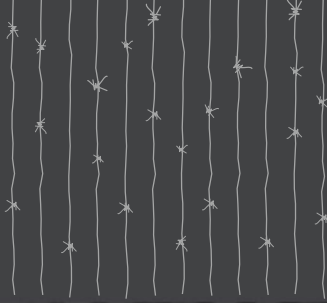


**Table (3)** shows the number of deaths, their causes, and the names of the prisons where the victims were held before their death

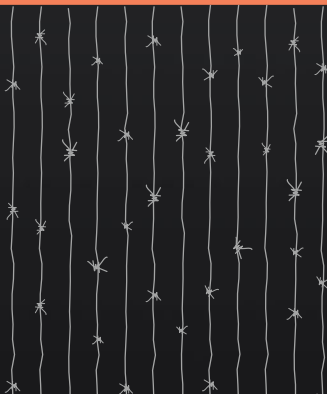
<b>Deaths by Prisons</b>				
<b>Prison Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Deaths</b>		
		<b>Torture</b>	<b>Medical Neglect</b>	<b>Natural Death</b>
Security and Intelligence Detention	Sana'a	2	2	---
Central Prison	Sana'a	---	1	1
Habarrah Detention Center	Sana'a	1	---	---
Al-Saleh Detention Center	Taiz	---	4	---
Unknown Secret Prison	Dhamar	1	---	---
Community College Detention Center	Dhamar	---	2	---
Political Security Detention Center	Ma'rib	---	1	---
Al-Ghaith Institution (Secret Prison)	Hodeida	---	1	---
Al-Majd Camp (Secret Prison)	Hodeida	1	---	---
Unknown Secret Prison	Amran	1	---	---
Mahdi Jaber's House (Secret Prison)	Hajjah	1	---	---
Kusher District Center Prison	Hajjah	1	---	---



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# Introduction





## Introduction



Since the Houthi group declared their control over the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, on September 21, 2014, Yemen has been entangled in a complex armed conflict involving multiple factions. Each party has sought to consolidate power and extend its influence over various regions by establishing prisons and detention centers, detaining opponents, and subjecting detainees to severe torture. This torture has resulted in the deaths of dozens of detainees. The conditions in these detention centers have been abysmal, with extreme neglect of necessary medical care, leading to further fatalities.



**In the final report** presented by the panel experts on Yemen to the Security Council Committee on November 2, 2023, it was noted:

**The panel investigated several cases involving men, women, and children who were detained or forcibly disappeared. These individuals have been and continue to be subjected to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.** Based on the evidence collected, including medical reports, prisoners held by the Houthis are systematically subjected to psychological and physical torture. This includes the denial of medical intervention for injuries resulting from the torture, leading to permanent disabilities and deaths among some prisoners.<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) <https://undocs.org/ar/s/2023/833>

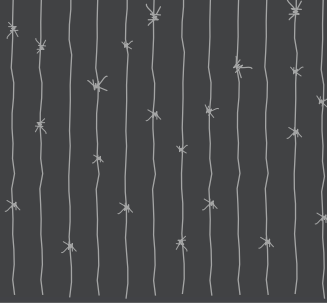


Since its establishment in April 2016, the Abductees' Mothers Association has been dedicated to monitoring and documenting violations against civilians, despite the challenges and security risks faced by human rights defenders in Yemen. The association believes in the importance of uncovering the truth and gathering evidence of human rights violations to achieve justice for the victims. Consequently, it has published reports that have helped form a clear picture of the violations endured by civilians, including abduction, detention, enforced disappearance, and torture. These efforts are part of the association's mission to achieve justice, accountability, redress for the victims, and to combat impunity.

Recognizing that survivor testimonies are among the most crucial sources of information on violations occurring during conflicts, the Abductees' Mothers Association has focused on collecting and documenting these testimonies. The goal is to build a human rights record that sends a clear message to all responsible for violations: human rights abuses do not expire with time and will not be overlooked. This report is one part of that record, presenting 20 cases of deaths in detention. We are confident that our efforts, along with those of all human rights defenders, will contribute to ensuring justice and accountability, preventing the recurrence of such violations in the future, and building a new Yemeni society where human dignity is respected, and peace and security prevail.

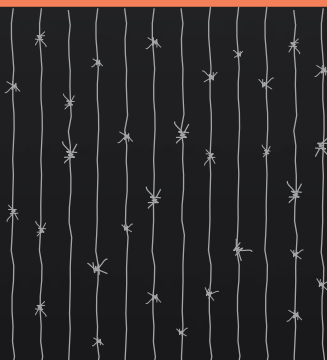


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# Report

## Methodology





## WITNESS MEMORY

This report by the Abductees' Mothers Association is part of an extensive human rights investigation program in Yemen. The aim is to increase recognition and protection of human rights in the country. The report sheds light on the nature and extent of violations affecting some detainees in Houthi prisons and one internationally recognized government prison, resulting in their deaths while in custody.

The report primarily relies on interviews conducted by the monitoring team at the Abductees' Mothers Association. They interviewed 57 individuals, including family members or friends of victims who died in detention, or survivors who witnessed the deaths of fellow detainees due to torture or medical negligence. Of these interviews, 36 were conducted face-to-face in the homes of witnesses or at the association's offices in Taiz and Ma'rib. The remaining 21 interviews were conducted via telephone and social media due to security risks and difficulties in reaching certain areas. All respondents were informed of the interview's purpose and the use of their information and testimonies. Consent was obtained from all participants, with most requesting anonymity. No participant received financial compensation for their participation.

To protect the witnesses and relatives of the victims from potential retaliation, their names were withheld, and pseudonyms were used to refer to them. The monitoring and documentation team took great care to avoid re-traumatizing the witnesses, survivors, and relatives of the victims during the interviews.

**The Abductees' Mothers Association developed a standardized form to document cases of death in detention. This form relied on direct testimony from primary sources close to the victim, verified by at least two witnesses, often survivors who witnessed the death of the victim in custody. Additionally, the form included death certificates and forensic reports where available. The association used this data, along with medical reports, complaint records, and investigations, to build some of the documented cases in this report.**





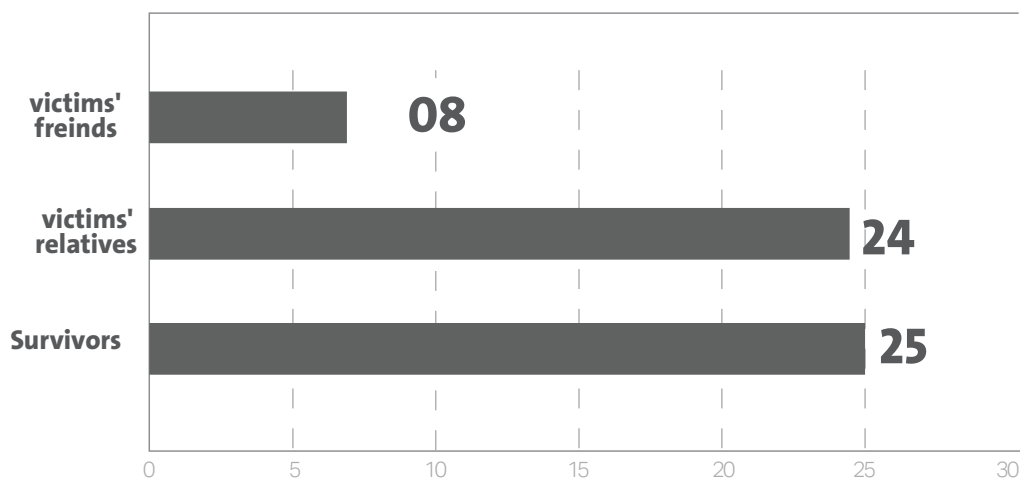
## WITNESS MEMORY

The research team reviewed nine medical reports, two forensic reports, and relevant legal documents, including death certificates for 12 victims, an investigation report into one victim's death, and two complaint letters submitted by relatives of the victims to official authorities regarding the death of their loved ones. The research team also reviewed 23 news sites that reported on the incidents mentioned in this report.

In compiling this report, the Abductees' Mothers Association referenced reports issued by the United Nations team of prominent international and regional experts on Yemen, as well as reports from Amnesty International and other Yemeni organizations concerned with violations of personal freedom and the arbitrary conditions of detainees.

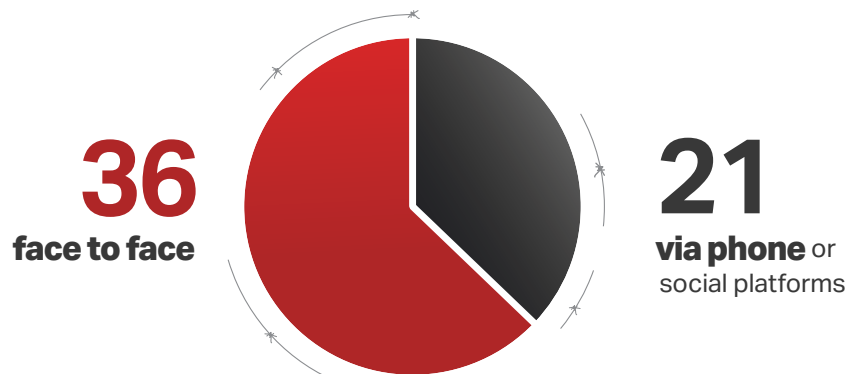
The monitoring team at the Abductees' Mothers Association operated under extremely complex security conditions, especially when dealing with cases of deaths in detention. One female monitor faced risks and threats of arrest while documenting a case of death due to medical neglect in detention.

**Graph (3)** shows the classification of the 57 interviews conducted with witnesses to prepare this report.

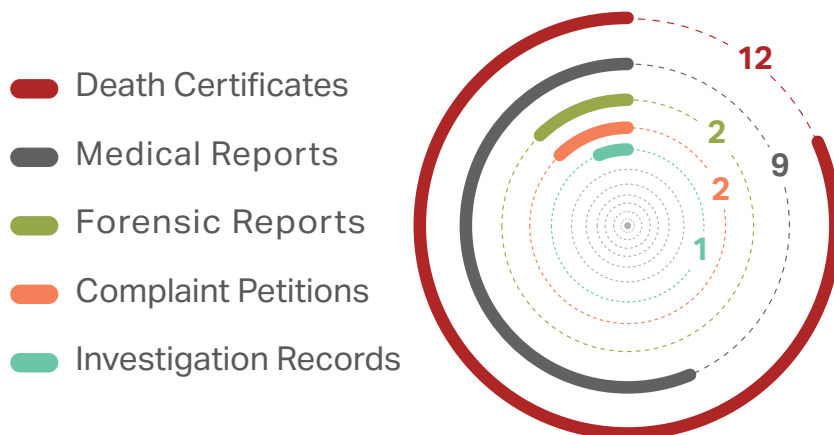




**Graph (4)** shows the methods of conducting interviews with survivors and the families of victims.

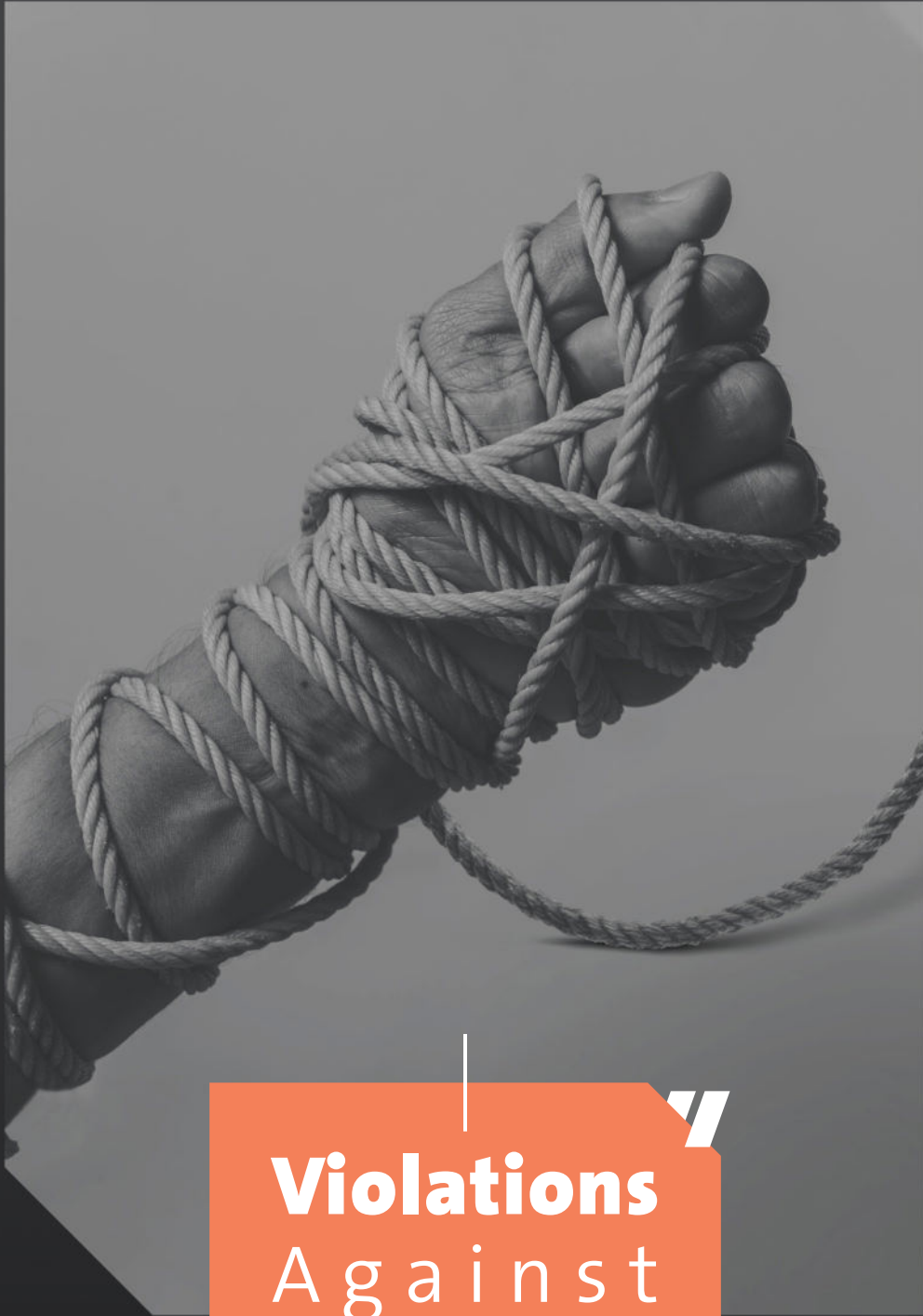
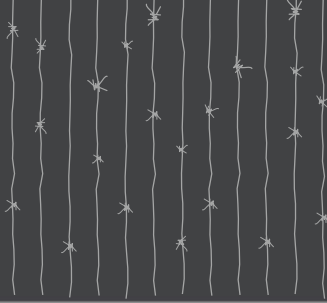


**Graph (5)** shows the types of attachments analyzed in this report

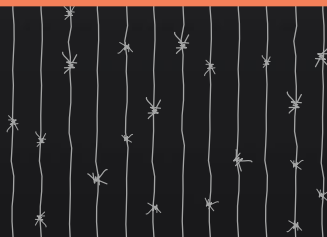




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**Violations**  
Against  
Deceased  
Detainees  
and Their Families





Arbitrarily detained individuals face various forms of violations due to the lack of adherence to legal procedures. These violations begin with their detention without legal cause or specific charges, and include solitary confinement, torture, physical and psychological abuse, deprivation of medical care, and failure of detention facilities to meet international and national standards for environment and services. Moreover, detainees are often denied access to lawyers and family visits, causing their families significant anxiety and fear for their loved ones' safety. This report highlights the main violations suffered by arbitrarily detained individuals discussed herein, aiming to expose these practices, hold perpetrators accountable, advocate for justice and fair compensation for the victims, and call for the reform of security agencies to ensure adherence to legal procedures stipulated by national and international laws regarding individual freedom. This will help build a more just society that respects human rights.



# 01

## Arrest Procedures

In all cases covered by this report, legal procedures were not followed during the arrests of detainees. The identity of the arresting officers was not disclosed, nor were warrants or judicial orders presented at the time of arrest. Additionally, the reasons for arrest were not explained, and detainees were not allowed to contact their families or a lawyer for defense. Below, we detail some of the violations that occurred during arrest procedures, including specific documented cases:





## 1.1. Home Raids in Late Night Hours, Terrorizing Children and Women

The Houthi group raided the homes of their opponents with the intention of abducting them during late-night hours, outside the official working hours of security agencies. This practice violates Article 52 of the constitution, which states: “Homes, places of worship, and educational institutions are inviolable and shall not be monitored or searched except in cases specified by law.”

For example, armed Houthi members stormed the home of Masoud Yahya Masoud, 33 years old, in the village of Bakil Al-Mir in Hajjah Governorate at 1:30 AM on Friday, July 21, 2016. This raid caused extreme fear and panic among his family members. Masoud was taken to the Political Security detention center in Hajjah City.

## 1.2. Abduction from Checkpoints

Checkpoints are widespread at city and district entrances, where individuals are abducted on the pretext of suspicion. This practice infringes on citizens’ right to freedom of movement, as stipulated in Article 57 of the Yemeni constitution, which guarantees every citizen’s freedom of movement.



### Aziz Dabwan Mohammed Naji

#### Arrest information



15 April  
2022



Al-Ayar checkpoint located  
in the Jabal Habashi district



10:00  
AM

Aziz Dabwan Mohammed Naji, 35 years old, was abducted by the Houthis at the Al-Ayar checkpoint located in the Jabal Habashi district of Taiz Governorate on April 15, 2022, at 10:00 AM while traveling from his village, Al-Mikhlaf (Al-Juhaim), to Taiz City. A person contacted Aziz’s father-in-law to inform him that Aziz had been captured by the Houthis. Aziz was on a motorcycle with his brother when armed Houthis stopped them. They took Aziz along with his motorcycle, leaving his brother behind



Aziz's family went to Al-Saleh Detention Center to inquire about him, but the authorities there initially denied his presence. Aziz remained forcibly disappeared for two and a half months before the authorities finally admitted to holding him and allowed one family member to visit him. During this visit, Aziz disclosed that he was being tortured and insulted, and he pleaded with his family to get him out by any means necessary.

On August 6, 2022, Aziz was taken to Al-Rifai Hospital in Al-Hawban. According to medical report No. 118 issued by the hospital, Aziz arrived suffering from severe hypoxic-ischemic brain injury and was likely to remain in a coma for up to three months. He was admitted to the intensive care unit and placed on a ventilator. The Al-Saleh Detention Center authorities contacted Aziz's family to inform them of his illness and transfer to the hospital. His wife visited him there, finding him in a coma. She had endured a six-hour journey over rough roads from Taiz City to Al-Hawban. She noted that Aziz appeared sick and emaciated, despite being healthy before his abduction.

**One of Aziz's relatives, identified as (J.M.), recounted:** "I was allowed to visit Aziz about two months after his abduction. I saw him from behind a fence with prison guards present, and although he couldn't say much, he looked visibly exhausted. I visited him again five days before he fell into a coma; he was extremely weak and tired and told me, 'Try to get me out of here by any means.' My final visit was at the hospital, where he lay in a coma under heavy guard, and the visit was very brief, just to see him. Aziz remained in a coma until November 12, 2022, when he passed away. His family received his body and conducted the burial."<sup>(2)</sup>

(2) From an interview conducted on October 29, 2023.



### 1.3. Hostage-taking

The Houthi group has consistently employed hostage-taking as a method to pressure wanted individuals into surrendering themselves. This practice violates the principle that criminal responsibility is personal and no one should be held accountable for actions they did not commit.

Victim Abdullah Hujla, 29 years old, was detained as a hostage due to his relation to individuals wanted by the Houthi group.



#### Abdullah Mohammed Saleh Hujla

#### Arrest information



25 March  
2016



Political Security  
building in Sana'a



29  
Years Old

Houthi gunmen raided his village and abducted his father and brother due to their relation to individuals wanted by the Houthi group. On March 25, 2016, Abdullah, accompanied by a village elder, went to the security authorities to seek the release of his father and brother. When they arrived at the Political Security building in Sana'a, the elder went inside while Abdullah waited at the gate. Within minutes, Abdullah was called in and thrown into solitary confinement, being held as a hostage in place of his father until his wanted cousins were captured.

Abdullah was detained in the basement, where he suffered from asthma and required medication during attacks. Due to poor ventilation and running out of medication, his health deteriorated. Despite his pleas, the Houthis ignored his requests for necessary medications.

**Survivor (S.D.) recounts:** "I was detained in Ward 6 when Abdullah Hujla was moved to my cell. He asked me for food, saying he hadn't eaten in a while<sup>(3)</sup>. I heard him once mentioning that the Houthis had blown up his house and looted his belongings. He asked me to speak to the prison authorities to get him asthma medication. I called out for them to bring the medicine for two weeks, but to no avail.

(3) From an interview conducted on October 25, 2023.





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One day, his condition worsened to the point where I thought he had stopped breathing. I took a piece of cardboard from the cell and fanned him, banging on the cell door and calling for the guards, but there was no response. After two hours, the guards finally came and took him away. I was then summoned for interrogation and threatened not to speak about the victim to anyone.”

**Another survivor (N.F.) states:** “I was detained in the same ward where Abdullah’s brother Ahmed was held, and our ward was opposite Abdullah’s ward. One day, we heard (S.D.) shouting for help to save Abdullah. That same day, a Houthi supervisor visited our ward and informed Ahmed of his brother’s death. Ahmed was released that day following a tribal settlement that required the Houthis to pay compensation and release his brother in exchange for the family dropping the case of his death.”<sup>(4)</sup>

The Houthis claimed they had taken Abdullah to the hospital and performed heart surgery, stating he died due to a heart condition. However, Abdullah showed no signs of heart disease and died from being deprived of his medication and not receiving timely medical assistance.

(4) From an interview conducted on October 10, 2023.



## 1.4 - Abduction from the Workplace



**Ali Abdullah Hasan Al-Ammar**

Arrest information



03 March  
2017



Education Compound in the  
Hays District of Hodeida Governorate



11:00  
AM

Ali Al-Ammar, 47 years old, was abducted from his workplace at the Education Compound in the Hays District of Hodeida Governorate at 11 a.m. on March 3, 2017. He was forcibly disappeared for two years, during which he was moved between several prisons. In 2019, he was transferred to the Central Prison in Sana'a, where he was allowed to contact his family and had one visit, but he maintained weekly phone calls with them while detained in the Central Prison.

**Survivor (A.H.), a fellow inmate, recounts:** “When I met Ali Al-Ammar in the Central Prison in Sana'a, he told me that he had been abducted from Hays District, Hodeida Governorate, by the Houthi group. He was taken to a prison in Zabid where he was subjected to various forms of torture, including being beaten all over his body, electrocuted, and having his hands tied behind his back and legs while lying on his stomach. He also told me that during one torture session, his shoulder was dislocated. Ali Al-Ammar was moved to the Preventive Security Prison in Hodeida, then to the Hunaish Prison, and finally to the Central Prison in Sana'a, where he died on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 6:30 a.m. He had been suffering from chest pain since the night before his death.”<sup>(5)</sup>

**Another survivor (M.S.) shared:** “Ali Al-Ammar was abducted while at work and placed in the Zabid Prison, where he underwent severe torture during interrogations, resulting in a hernia. He was then transferred to the Central Prison in Sana'a. Ali often said, ‘We will either leave here on foot or be carried out on shoulders.’ In the days leading up to his death, we noticed his face becoming emaciated and his skin changing color. He developed a fever the night before he passed away. Ali Al-Ammar died on the morning of Wednesday, September 4, 2019.”<sup>(6)</sup>

(5) From an interview conducted with him by phone on January 9, 2024.

(6) From an interview conducted with him by phone on January 10, 2024.



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His wife recounted: “On September 4, 2019, we received a call informing us that Ali had expired and that we needed to come to Sana’a to retrieve his body. We traveled there, collected his body, and buried him in Hays. The Central Prison authorities told us that he died as a result of heart attack.”<sup>(7)</sup>

### 1.5 - Violence against the Victims’ Families

The families of the victims were subjected to intimidation and fear during the abduction operations. They lived in constant worry about the fate of their loved ones, unable to visit or communicate with the detained victims. Some families of the detainees were arbitrarily subjected to violence and detention for the purpose of intimidation, spreading fear, and terrorizing the families of the victims.



#### Suleiman Ali Mohammed Al-Bura’i

##### Arrest information



09 January  
2016



From home in Bajil  
District, Hodeida Governorate



12:00  
PM

The Houthis stormed the home of the teacher and activist Suleiman Ali Al-Bura’i, 45 years old, on January 9, 2016, at 12:00 PM in the Bajil district of Hodeida province. They abducted him, along with his brother and his nephew, and looted the victim’s car. They blindfolded the three of them and took them to the government complex in the Marawia’h district. However, Suleiman was separated from his brother and nephew, and they could hear his voice as he was being beaten and tortured, which ignited a fire in their hearts. After being detained for 17 days, his brother and nephew were released. Upon their release, they inquired about Suleiman, but the Houthis threatened to re-arrest them if they asked or spoke about Suleiman.

(7) From an interview conducted with her by phone on December 31, 2023.



02

# Hiding Victims in Secret Detention Centers and Preventing Communication with the Outer World



Forcible disappearance is a crime against humanity, one of the most severe violations of human rights. The violating parties not only use official prisons to detain their opponents and forcibly disappear them but also resort to the use of secret detention centers inaccessible to families. The denial of their presence in known detention places leaves families in constant worry about their loved ones, while the forcibly disappeared individuals are unable to obtain any legal assistance.



## 2.1 - Denial of the Victims' Existence in Detention Facilities

Families exert significant efforts to locate their abducted loved ones, and their suffering is compounded by the denial of their existence in prisons and known detention locations.



### Sadiq Qaid Ali Al-Udaini

#### Arrest information



14 July  
2016



Abducted from his home  
in front of his children



08:00  
PM

Sadiq Qaid Al-Udaini, 41 years old, was abducted from his home in front of his children on July 14, 2016, at 8:00 PM in the Bajil district of Hodeida province. The abductors took his phone, closed it, and the family could not determine his whereabouts. The armed men returned the next day to take the victim's car but did not disclose his whereabouts.

The victim's brother went to inquire about him at the Saleh Detention Center, the prominent location used by the Houthi group to detain their opponents in Taiz province. However, they denied his presence there. After four months, the victim contacted his family and informed them that he had been detained at the Saleh Detention Center throughout the previous period.

He was then transferred to a prison in Dhamar province, but he did not know the name or exact location of the prison. The family tried to identify prisons in Dhamar province and inquire about them, but they did not reach any results. After eight months, one of the survivors contacted them and informed them that he had been detained with Sadiq Al-Udaini at the Community College Prison in Dhamar.

**One of the survivors, (A. A), who was detained with Sadiq, said:** "One evening, they summoned Sadiq Al-Udaini for interrogation at 8:00 PM. They blindfolded him and took him to the interrogation room. Shortly after his removal, we began to hear his screams and the sound of severe beatings on his body. The interrogation, accompanied by beatings and torture, lasted for two hours. Then they opened the door and threw the victim, wrapped in a blanket with signs of beatings from his head to the bottom of his feet.



We tried to alleviate his suffering, but he could not sleep due to the pain in his back, so he slept on his stomach.”<sup>(8)</sup>

**Another survivor, (H. S), who was detained with Sadiq, recounted:** “When I was transferred to the Community College Prison, I saw Sadiq, and his hand seemed to be broken. His shoulder was also injured due to torture, as well as the bottom of his feet appeared black. On April 29, 2018, Sadiq lost consciousness, and we tried to wake him up, but he was vomiting blood, and my clothes were stained with blood. We knocked on the cell door and called the guards for his rescue for almost two hours, but they refused to help him and responded with their usual reply in such situations, ‘let him die.’ However, we continued knocking on the door for two hours, and even tried to break it. Eventually, the guards responded and took him to the hospital.”<sup>(9)</sup>

The victim’s colleague mentioned that he asked the guards to contact Saadiq’s family to inform them of his illness, but they refused to seize the opportunity to make the call. Instead, he contacted Sadiq’s family himself and informed them that he had been transferred to the hospital and was in intensive care. When the Houthis learned of his contact with Saadiq’s family, they beat him with an electrical cable and suspended him for a whole day, depriving him of food, water, and access to the restroom.

Sadiq remained a week in the general hospital in Dhamar, and despite his critical condition, he did not receive the necessary care for his condition. Instead, it was reported in the hospital’s report that the doctors gave him medicine to lower his blood pressure while he was suffering from a brain hemorrhage, which widened the bleeding in his brain, leading to his death. Despite the proven negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of the prison administration in causing the death of the detainee, they refused to bear that responsibility. Instead, they refused to hand over the victim’s body, claiming the necessity of exchanging it with the body of one of their fighters detained by the recognized government. The body remained detained for a whole week until the Red Cross intervened and handed it over to the victim’s family, with some Houthi elements preventing the family from viewing the body or presenting it to a forensic doctor.

(8) From an interview conducted with him on September 27, 2023.

(9) From an interview conducted with him on September 27, 2023.



## 2.2 - Visit Restrictions

Most of the detainees covered in this report were deprived of visits by the violating authorities. Out of twenty detainees, only five were allowed visits, as indicated below:

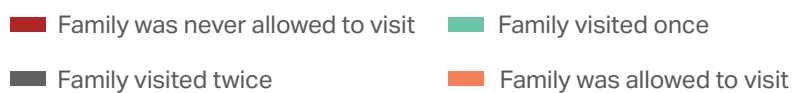
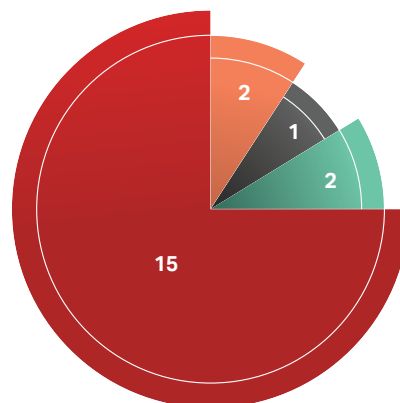


**Table (4)** illustrates the status of detainees with visits from their families.

Visit Permission	Number
Family was never allowed to visit	15
Family visited once	2
Family visited twice	1
Family was allowed to visit	2



**Chart (7)** illustrates the status of detainees with visits from their families





### 2.3 Secret Detention Locations

Some abductees were held in secret locations that their families couldn't find despite continuous efforts. These detainees were isolated from the outside world, leaving their families clueless about their whereabouts or if they were even alive.



#### Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Abu Zaid

Arrest information



01 January  
2016

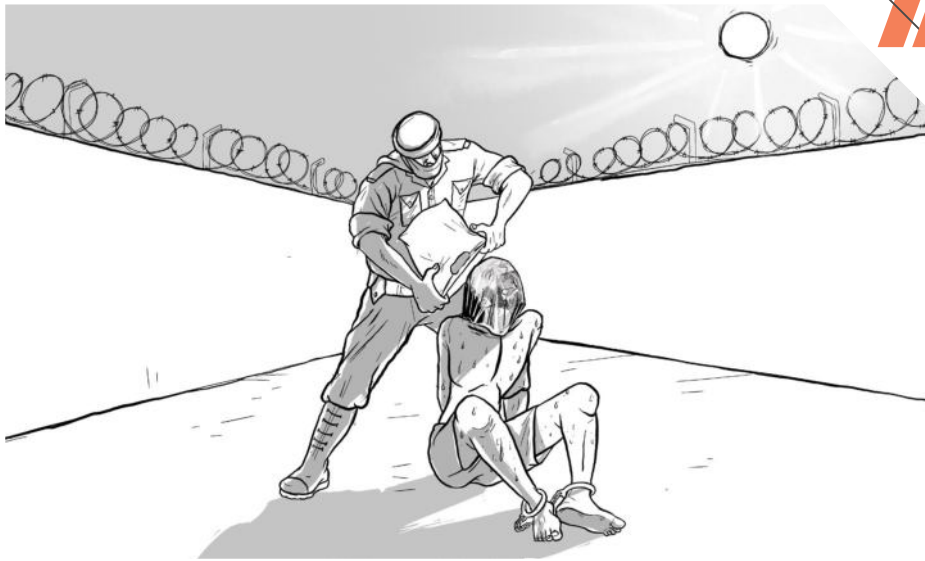


Al-Irshad School in Al-Zaydiyah  
District, Hodeida Governorate



AGE 46  
Years Old

Mohammed Abdullah Abu Zaid, 46, was abducted from his workplace at Al-Irshad School in Al-Zaydiyah District, Hodeida Governorate, on January 1, 2016, in front of his students. He was hidden, and his family learned nothing about his fate until they were informed of his death.



**A fellow detainee (H.J.) recounted:** “After Abu Zaid was kidnapped, he was taken to a farm used for hiding and torturing detainees. He told me they hit him with a stone on his kidney. After fifteen days, he was moved to our ward, urinating blood, begging for medical help, but the guards responded with, ‘Die, we won’t treat you.’”<sup>(10)</sup>

(10) From a phone interview conducted with him on November 29, 2023.





Abu Zaid described one torture method where they placed a plastic bag over his head, suffocating him, only to loosen it briefly before repeating the process for a whole day, along with beating him with cables.

**Another survivor (A.Q.) shared:** “I was in Al-Zaydiyah prison and heard about Mohammed Abu Zaid’s arrest in January 2016. A fellow inmate who witnessed his entry said he was taken for interrogation at dusk and returned at dawn, unconscious from torture. He was later transferred to Al-Dhahi prison, tortured, then brought back to Al-Zaydiyah prison. We were all moved to a secret prison, Al-Ghaith Foundation, in Al-Zaydiyah. There, Abu Zaid detailed the severe torture he endured, including beatings on his stomach with sticks and cables, having his legs chained, and hands cuffed. In April, he was taken to a farm near Al-Salif, Hodeida, tortured along with other detainees, and deprived of drinking water while given spicy food in extreme heat. They suffocated them with plastic bags, and Abu Zaid suffered over thirty torture sessions.”

Abu Zaid’s health deteriorated from kidney failure caused by untreated injuries. He begged for medical help, offering to pay, but was denied. His pain was so intense that when he cried out, the guards beat him. He was chained, even when using the bathroom, and couldn’t urinate for nearly twenty days. On May 15, 2016, Abu Zaid was taken to the bathroom, telling his friends he was going to die. He passed away while still chained. A guard came to beat him but found him already dead.

His family was not informed of his death immediately. They were only notified on August 25, 2016, over three months later, by a staff member from the military hospital in Hodeida. When they saw his body, it was covered in blue bruises, with swollen feet and bulging veins. The family had to sign a waiver claiming he died of natural causes due to kidney failure before they were allowed to take the body. Two military vehicles escorted them to the burial site to prevent the family from having the body examined by a forensic doctor.<sup>(11)</sup>

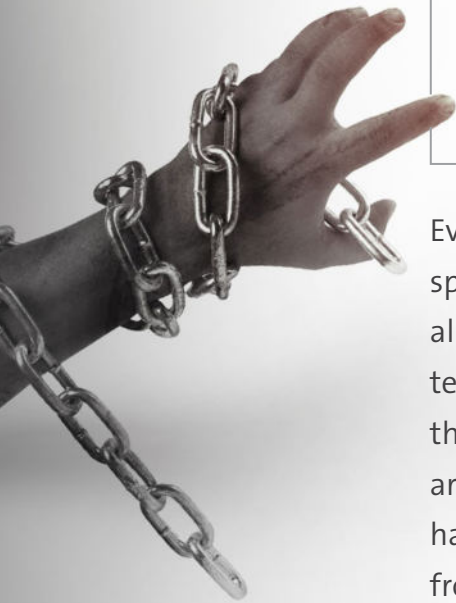
(11) From a phone interview conducted with him on December 4, 2023.



# 03

## Torture and Mistreatment

Every human being has the right to dignity and respectful treatment, regardless of the charges and allegations against them. In our analysis of the detention conditions addressed in this report, we found that torture is practiced on a wide scale. Detainees are subjected to prolonged interrogations while handcuffed and blindfolded. They may be suspended from the ceiling or a frame in a grill-like position, repeatedly beaten with metal cables, subjected to electric shocks, struck with heavy objects on the kidneys, pricked with sharp instruments, and inflicted with cuts on various parts of their bodies, among other methods of torture





### 3.1 - Torture during Interrogation

The abductees underwent lengthy interrogation sessions where they were subjected to horrific psychological and physical torture in the detention centers, which led to the death of many of them.



#### Masoud Yahya Masoud

#### Arrest information



21 July  
2016



Bakil Al-Mir District  
in Hajjah Governorate



01:30  
AM

On Friday, July 21, 2016, at 1:30 AM, Houthi gunmen stormed the home of Masoud Yahya Masoud, 33, in the District of Bakil Al-Mir in Hajjah Governorate, causing extreme fear and terror among his family members. He was taken to the Political Security Detention Center in Hajjah city, where he spent five months enduring torture and beatings until his hand was broken. No one was allowed to visit or communicate with him. He was then transferred to the Security and Intelligence Detention Center in Sana'a.

**A survivor from the Security and Intelligence Detention Center, (H. Y.), recounts:** «Masoud was called for interrogation every day. The interrogation room was adjacent to our cell, and we could hear the interrogators asking him about phone numbers they claimed were on his phone. He kept telling them that he didn't know those numbers and that they weren't on his phone. Then we would hear the sounds of him being beaten. One day, during an interrogation session, Masoud was in there for four hours. We heard his screams of pain as he was beaten and tortured. When they brought him back to the cell, he was carried on a blanket because he couldn't walk. He told us that one of the interrogators had kicked him in the kidneys, causing a renal hemorrhage, and he was urinating blood.”<sup>(12)</sup>

By 4 AM, his lips had turned blue. We started knocking on the cell door for help. When the guards finally opened the door, they took him out, provided some aid, and brought him back, still struggling to breathe. Less than fifteen minutes later, he took his last breath in front of us in the cell. We banged on the door again, and the guards came, wrapped him in a blanket,



and took him out. Later, we learned that his body was taken to the police hospital, where they issued a report stating he died of cholera.

**One of Masoud's friends, citing detainees who were with him at the time of his death, shared:**

«Masoud was taken out for interrogation in the «Shamasi» (an open area where detainees are exposed to sunlight). They beat him with a «zubrah,» a heavy cross-hammer used in construction weighing no less than 2 kilograms. He was brought back to us on a blanket, urinating blood and bleeding from his rectum. We took him to the bathroom and cleaned the blood off him, but he was in terrible condition. We started knocking on the cell door for help. Usually, any detainee who knocked on the door was punished, but when the guards opened the door and asked who knocked, we told them Masoud did. Then he fainted.»<sup>(13)</sup>

A Houthi official from the Political Security in Hajjah Governorate called Masoud's family and informed them of his death, threatening his father with imprisonment if he didn't sign a waiver stating that Masoud died a natural death. His cousin, who refused to sign and opposed the burial without knowing the cause of death, was pursued and had to hide in the mountains for two months. No one from Masoud's family was allowed to see the body, and he was buried on July 23, 2017.



### 3.2 - Signs of Torture and Forensic Reports

The visible signs of torture on the bodies of victims who were tortured to death were shocking to their families, in cases where families were able to view the body. Only two families managed to obtain forensic reports. The family of the victim Mohammed Abdullah Salbah obtained a forensic report confirming his death due to lacerations, as mentioned earlier. The family of the abducted Ali Oudhah faced significant difficulties in obtaining a forensic report on his cause of death.



#### Ali Mohammed Hamoud Oudhah

##### Arrest information



29 October  
2015



Security Directorate  
in Shibam Kawkaban



07:30  
AM

On October 29, 2015, at 7:30 AM, Houthi forces raided the home of Ali Mohammed Hamoud Oudhah, 30, in Al Mahwit Governorate in search of him. However, he was in Sana'a at the time. His family contacted him, advising him not to return, but he refused to flee as he believed he had nothing to fear. He decided to return from Sana'a the same day and went to the Security Directorate in Shibam Kawkaban district. Upon his arrival, he was detained and prevented from contacting his family. Later that night, he was transferred to an unknown location, which was later revealed to be a prison in the Jabal Yazid district of Amran Governorate.

**A relative of the victim, (M. H.), recounted:** "We did not know where Ali Oudhah had been taken until one day I met one of his fellow detainees. He told me that Ali had been subjected to various forms of torture and abuse to force him to confess to cooperating with the Arab coalition forces. The interrogators' voices and Ali's refusals could be heard, which intensified his torture."<sup>(14)</sup>

Two days after his abduction, a Houthi member contacted the victim's family, informing them of his death and that his body was at the Republican Hospital in Sana'a.

(14) From an interview conducted with him on December 4, 2023



**According to a relative of the victim:** “We went to Sana’a and saw the body, which bore signs of torture. We refused to take the body until we knew the cause of death and requested a forensic examination.

When we asked the Houthis about the cause of death, they told us that he had fought with a fellow inmate, resulting in his death.”<sup>(15)</sup>

The family rejected this explanation and refused to accept the body until an investigation was conducted and a forensic examination was performed. The Houthis refused, and the body remained in the hospital morgue for over a year. The family’s persistent pressure eventually forced the Houthis to agree to a forensic examination.

Forensic report number 566, issued by the Department of Forensic Medicine and Psychology of the Public Prosecutor’s Office on November 9, 2016, showed that the victim had been severely beaten and stabbed with a sharp object in multiple areas of his body. The report noted 63 bruises spread across the victim’s body and 22 stab or puncture wounds from a sharp object. The forensic report concluded that the cause of death was bruising of the left lung and hemorrhage on the left side, resulting from an impact with a solid, blunt object.

The victim’s family received the body and buried it in his hometown of Dhar Al-A’la village in the Shibam Kawkaban district of Al Mahwit Governorate.

(15) From a phone interview with him conducted on December 4, 2023.



# 04

## Medical Negligence

Medical neglect in prisons and detention centers endangers the lives and health of detainees, as they are deprived of necessary medical care and treatment. This threat is exacerbated by poor detention conditions that contribute to deteriorating health, including a lack of cleanliness, poor ventilation, unclean drinking water, and inadequate food. Overcrowding, lack of exposure to sunlight, and fresh air increase the risk of disease spread, particularly infectious diseases.

The Association documented the spread of pulmonary tuberculosis in three detention centers: Al-Saleh Detention Center in Taiz, the Community College Detention Center in Dhamar, and the Political Security Detention Center in Ma'rib, where necessary isolation measures were not implemented to limit infection and disease spread among detainees.



#### 4.1 - Lack of Healthcare

Detention facilities lack essential medical care provisions. There are no equipped clinics or necessary medications provided based on detainees' needs. Delays in medical assistance often result in detainees dying either in custody or en route to hospitals.



#### Tawfiq Ahmed Salem Al-Lahji

Arrest information



25 February  
2017



Central Market  
in Mocha City



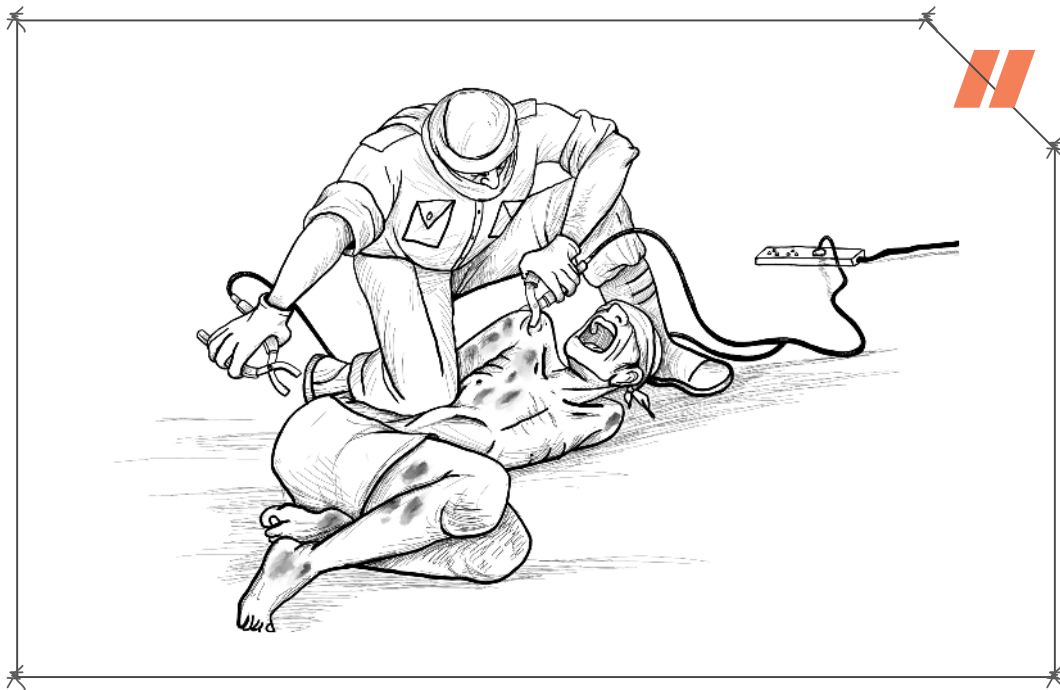
05:00  
PM

Tawfiq Ahmed Salem Lahji, 29, worked at a grocery store and regularly went to the central market in Mocha city to purchase supplies. On Saturday, February 25, 2017, at 5:00 PM, a Houthi member lured him outside the market. Tawfiq did not expect a military vehicle to be waiting to abduct him and take him to Al-Saleh Detention Center, specifically to the National Security Building supervised by an individual named Kameel.

**(Y. M.), a fellow detainee at Al-Saleh, recounted:** “Tawfiq told us that upon arriving at the detention center, he was handcuffed and blindfolded, and the guards immediately began beating and kicking him. Tawfiq informed them that he suffered from sickle cell anemia, thinking this would make them show mercy. Instead, Kameel instructed his men to ‘break him.’ Tawfiq was subjected to severe beatings and electric shocks on his fingers, and they even threatened to put the electric shock device on his tongue. The beatings left him unable to stand, and he was dragged to a solitary cell. He was called for interrogation and beaten multiple times before being moved to the general cell.

The prison conditions were extremely harsh. There were no mattresses, and the cold weather worsened Tawfiq’s condition. He became severely ill with diarrhea and couldn’t access the restroom. When I saw his state, I banged on the cell door, shouting for help. Abu Laith, the deputy director of the National Security Detention Center, responded by saying, ‘We won’t help him, and we will beat you if you keep banging on the door.’<sup>(16)</sup>





**(M. A.), another survivor of Al-Saleh, told us:** “Tawfiq suffered from sickle cell anemia and once cried out in pain. I asked the guards to help him, but one of them said, **“Let him die.”**”

Tawfiq continued to suffer without medication or hospital treatment. Eventually, he met another detainee named Sadiq Al-Batra, who had the same illness and shared his medication with Tawfiq. This temporarily relieved his pain, but when Sadiq was moved to another cell, Tawfiq’s health deteriorated again. He screamed in pain, but our pleas for help were met with threats of further beating.”<sup>(17)</sup>

Tawfiq was allowed one visit from his mother in December 2018 after 18 months of separation. She was shocked by his emaciated condition, and he was equally distressed by her weakened appearance. Two weeks after this visit, Tawfiq’s health took a turn for the worse. He had severe diarrhea and vomited black substances. His cellmates banged on the door, pleading for help.

He was taken to Al-Rafai Hospital, given a sedative injection, and returned to the cell. His condition deteriorated rapidly,



## WITNESS MEMORY

and he was taken out again on December 25, 2018. His cellmates never saw him again and speculated that he died either en route to the hospital or shortly after arriving there.

**One of Tawfiq's relatives narrated:** A Houthis member called his mother and informed her of his death, asking her to come to Sana'a to collect his body. The grieving mother traveled to Sana'a, where she was taken to court and made to sign documents she couldn't read, being illiterate. They handed her Tawfiq's body, which had been stored in the Republican Hospital's morgue. His mother said his neck and face were swollen, and blood was oozing from his mouth. She requested a death certificate, but the Houthis refused. Tawfiq was buried in Sana'a as his family couldn't afford to transport his body back to their hometown.



## 4.2 - Failure to Isolate Patients with Infectious Diseases

The security authorities have not responsibly managed the outbreak of infectious diseases in detention centers. This report documents the deaths of two victims from pulmonary tuberculosis. Sadiq Al-Qasimi died in the Political Security Detention Center in Ma'rib, which is under the internationally recognized government, and Hilal Ghalib Al-Jarfa died in the Community College Detention Center in Dhamar, controlled by the Houthi group (further details about him will be provided later). Both contracted tuberculosis due to the lack of medical isolation and the deprivation of necessary medical care.



### Sadiq Saleh Musleh Al-Qasimi

#### Arrest information



10 January  
2020



(Al-Falaj) checkpoint while  
he was on his way to Al-Mahra



07:30  
PM

The security apparatus in Ma'rib arrested Sadiq Saleh Musleh Al-Qasimi, 40, on January 10, 2020, at 7:30 PM at (Al-Falaj) checkpoint while he was on his way to Al-Mahra to buy a car. He was detained in the Political Security Detention Center in Ma'rib and was not allowed to communicate with his family for four months. His family was never allowed to visit him throughout his detention.

According to his family and fellow detainees, Sadiq was in good health before his arrest. Later, he contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, but he was neither isolated nor provided with the necessary medical care. His condition worsened, and he was eventually transferred to a hospital in Ma'rib (Al-Salam International Hospital) on October 4, 2021. He was admitted to the intensive care unit but passed away the same day. The medical report from the hospital indicated that he suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis with pleural effusion and anemia, and that his death resulted from cardiac and respiratory failure.

**(M. F.), a fellow detainee who survived, recounted:** "I was in the same prison where Sadiq was held. He arrived about seven months after me and was in prison for nearly a year. Initially,



he had a mild illness with fever and body aches, but his condition deteriorated. After a while, he showed symptoms of tuberculosis, which was already spreading in our section.

Another detainee had died from these symptoms. We learned about the tuberculosis outbreak from a nurse who used to come into the prison to give us sedatives. Sadiq's illness worsened, and he received neither treatment nor isolation. We were around 119 detainees in a poorly ventilated prison with very bad food. A few months later, Sadiq's condition became critical, and he was taken to the hospital where he died. We did not know what happened to his body afterward. This happened in 2021." <sup>(18)</sup>

**In his testimony, (M. J.), another survivor from the Political Security Detention Center, stated:** "Sadiq Al-Qasimi was moved to the section where I was held. He was extremely ill, suffering from fever, coughing, and occasionally coughing up blood. He would sometimes vomit blood as well. The prison administration ignored our pleas to provide him with medical assistance. For nine months, he endured this condition, and the infection spread to two other inmates. The prison lacked proper ventilation, the food was very poor, and there was no medical care. Sadiq became bedridden due to the severity of his illness. Eventually, he was taken to the hospital, but he did not survive. After his death, we lost track of what happened to his body." <sup>(19)</sup>

A local sheikh from Sadiq's area was contacted and received his body. He then informed Sadiq's family, who came to retrieve the body. They had it examined by a forensic doctor, who confirmed that Sadiq had died from pulmonary tuberculosis and pleural effusion. The body had already begun to decompose due to the long distance between Sana'a and Marib, and it had been two months since his death by the time the family received the body.

(18) From an interview conducted with him on September 28, 2023.

(19) From an interview conducted with him on October 4, 2023.



### 4.3 - Administration of Medication to Detainees without Consulting a Specialist Doctor

Due to the absence of specialized doctors in detention facilities and the reliance on nurses or medical assistants, there is a high risk of misdiagnosing medical conditions. Administering medication based on incorrect diagnoses can significantly deteriorate the health of the detained individuals.



#### Abdul Majeed Abdul Hameed Mohammed Allous



17 March  
2016



while leaving a mosque  
after the noon prayer



after the  
noon

Abdul Majeed Abdul Hameed Allous, 60 years old, was abducted by the Houthi group in Sana'a on March 17, 2016, while leaving a mosque after the noon prayer. He remained hidden for six months, during which his family knew nothing about his whereabouts. When his family was finally allowed to visit him, they observed burn marks and bruises on his body.

The detainee was referred for investigation by the prosecution, where he denied the allegations against him, stating that the confessions were extracted under torture and extreme coercion. He requested the prosecution to document the torture marks on his body, but the request was denied, and he was referred for trial. The primary court sentenced him to death on July 10, 2017. The verdict was appealed, but the appellate court upheld the initial death sentence on December 15, 2019.

In June 2020, his family learned that he had suffered a stroke and was transferred to the hospital. He continued to suffer from the effects of the stroke in addition to high blood pressure and diabetes.

**(A. H.), a survivor, recounted:** "I met Abdul Majeed Allous in prison after he was taken out of solitary confinement in the Political Security Prison in Sana'a, where he had spent two years. He was moved to the communal cell where I was held around 2018. His health and mental state were very poor due to his time in solitary confinement, and he was suffering from several illnesses, including high blood pressure and diabetes.



He was not treated in the hospital but was given insulin injections and blood pressure medication without consulting a doctor, which worsened his condition. I noticed that the prison administrators and officials treated him differently, calling him derogatory names, and rarely allowed him outside for sunlight. In 2020, he suffered a stroke, and the prison administration refused to take him to the hospital until three days after the incident. He was not given the necessary level of care, as if the prison administration was deliberately neglecting his condition. After we were transferred to Shamlan Prison, we shared the same room, and he continued to suffer from the effects of the stroke and chronic illnesses.”<sup>(20)</sup>

**(A. S.), another survivor who was with the victim, mentioned:** “I met Abdul Majeed Allous in 2018 in the outdoor area of the Political Security Prison. They were giving him a large dose of insulin, even though he was not diabetic before his imprisonment. One day, he was taken to a hospital where a doctor conducted a diabetes test and told him to stop using insulin. The doctor asked him: ‘Who gave you insulin?’ One day, due to the psychological pressure he was under, he had a stroke. I, along with another detainee, carried him to the upper floor and demanded medical treatment, but the response was that he was ‘pretending.’ They returned him to the cell. I helped him to stand and walk to the bathroom because he couldn’t do it on his own. He remained in this condition for three days before they transferred him to a hospital, only after they confirmed he had indeed suffered a stroke.”<sup>(21)</sup>

Abdul Majeed Allous suffered another stroke while in the Security and Intelligence Prison in Sana’a. He was then moved to the University of Science and Technology Hospital, where he died on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at the age of 60, five days after being admitted to the intensive care unit. His family received his body three days after his death and buried him.

(20) From an interview conducted with him on December 15, 2023.

(21) From an interview conducted with him on December 19, 2023.



#### 4.4 - Punishing Detainees Who Request Medical Assistance for Their Colleagues

Several survivors reported that they faced punishment if they knocked on the cell door or called out to prison guards to get medical assistance for a sick colleague, even if the colleague was on the verge of death.



#### Ibrahim Mahyoub Muqbil Al-Salehi

#### Arrest information



September  
2017



Summoned to the  
Houban Police Department



Time not  
specified

In September 2017, Ibrahim Mahyoub Al-Salehi was summoned to the Houban Police Department for interrogation regarding a dispute with another person. He was then transferred to Al-Saleh Detention Center, where he was informed that his charge was affiliation with the legitimate government.

**His fellow detainee (A. S.) recounted:** “When we were held in Al-Saleh Prison, Ibrahim was transferred to our apartment in the Abu Yahya building. Ibrahim did not suffer from any illness at first. After three months, he started complaining of urinary retention and inability to urinate. He developed a severe fever that lasted for nine days without any medical intervention or treatment. After we pressured the guards, they took him out and gave him an IV injection. After two days, Ibrahim’s condition worsened, and the prison guards refused to assist him. His condition deteriorated further.

On the morning of Sunday, August 5, 2018, Ibrahim’s body began to convulse due to the intense fever, and he appeared pale and discolored. I screamed and called for one of the guards, Abu Younis, who worked for Abu Yahya, the building supervisor. I begged him to help Ibrahim, but he responded with obscene words and said, ‘Let him die.’ I told him they were inhumane, so they dragged me and placed me in solitary confinement. Shortly after, I heard my friends screaming, ‘Ibrahim is dead.’ My friends later told me that Ibrahim had died, and they carried him away on a blanket. We never knew how his body was handed over to his family.”<sup>(22)</sup>

(22) From an interview conducted with him on December 27, 2023.



## WITNESS MEMORY

**(A. A.), another survivor, added:** “I was detained in Al-Saleh, in the Abu Yahya building. One day, Ibrahim Al-Salehi was transferred to our apartment. When he arrived, he was not suffering from any illness. After three months, Ibrahim started complaining of his inability to urinate and asked the guards for help, but they did not respond. His condition worsened significantly, and his urine retention and jaundice became severe. They finally took him to the pharmacy downstairs and gave him an IV injection, but returned him to our apartment. The next day, Ibrahim was screaming in pain, and we banged on the cell door to get him medical assistance, warning the guards that he would die if not helped. The guards refused and said, ‘Let him die.’<sup>(23)</sup>

Half an hour later, Ibrahim died in my arms. After our screams, the guards came and took him away.





# 05

## Houthi Handling of Victims' Deaths and Bodies



The Houthi group has failed to address the violations committed by its members against detainees, which have led to deaths under torture. Instead, they have covered up these crimes, blamed others, and concealed the facts from victims' families. They have imposed conditions for handing over victims' bodies and obstructed efforts to understand the circumstances of their deaths. Of the 20 cases in this report, only two families managed to obtain forensic reports after persistent pressure. The forensic reports revealed that, in addition to severe beatings, the Houthis used sharp instruments to inflict fatal wounds on the victims. This explains why the Houthis prevented families from showing the bodies to forensic experts or even viewing them, insisting on accompanying the bodies to the burial to avoid any exposure of the torture marks. This is part of their effort to evade accountability and protect those responsible for these violations.



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## 5.1 Claiming the Detainee Committed Suicide



### Mohammed Abdullah Mohsen Salbah

#### Arrest information



27 August  
2020



outside the government  
complex in Hajjah's Houra Square



38  
Years Old

Mohammed Abdullah Salbah, a 38-year-old teacher in one of Hajjah Governorate's schools in northern Yemen and father of six children, was abducted by Houthi militants on August 27, 2020, from outside the government complex in Hajjah's Houra Square. He was taken to the house of "Mehdi Jabir Al-Hatif," a known opponent of the Houthis, which they had seized and converted into a detention center for opponents. His family searched for him in the official prisons they were aware of but found no trace of him. Witnesses informed them that an individual named (E. F) had abducted Salbah and taken him in a military vehicle to an unknown location.

According to the victim's family, they learned from private sources that he had been tortured with electric shocks, deprived of food and water, and one of the Houthi militants had used a sharp object to inflict wounds on his hands and neck, causing severe bleeding. He was left to bleed to death and later transferred to the morgue at the Republican Hospital in Hajjah in the middle of the night on August 30, 2020.



The Houthis informed his family the following evening that he had committed suicide. However, his father refused to accept the body until the perpetrator was identified and held accountable, as it was known that detainees in that location were always handcuffed, according to previous detainees' testimonies. Additionally, detainees were thoroughly searched upon arrival and were not allowed to possess any personal items, let alone a sharp object to inflict such wounds on their hands, legs, and neck.

**According to the forensic report No. (749) issued on September 5, 2020, by the Attorney General's Office, the injuries on the victim's body were as follows:**

- A deep cut on the front of the right wrist.
- Two superficial cuts on the right forearm.
- A deep cut on the front of the left wrist.
- Three superficial cuts on the front of the neck.
- A superficial cut on the front of the left forearm.
- A superficial cut on the inner side of the left foot.

The report indicated that the victim had sustained deep cuts on the inner front of both wrists, inflicted by a sharp object, which resulted in the complete severing of the right and left radial arteries and veins, leading to severe blood loss and death. The report concluded that the cause of death was a result of the complications from the deep cuts on both wrists.

After the victim's family refused to bury him until the perpetrator was identified and held accountable, the Houthis admitted to the Salbah family that the victim was accidentally killed by one of their security personnel, who was subsequently imprisoned for two months as punishment. The Houthis offered the family 3 million riyals in exchange for burying the victim and closing the case, but the family refused. As a result, the body remained in the morgue for one year and eight months. Under continuous pressure, the family eventually accepted the compensation and signed a waiver to receive the body, which was buried on April 23, 2022.



## Ahmed Saleh Hassan Al-Wahashi

### Arrest information



15 Oct  
2017



From his home in the village of Owein  
Al-Sawma'ah, Al-Bayda' Governorate



32  
Years Old

The Houthis abducted Ahmed Saleh Al-Wahashi, 32, and his brother Saleh from their home in the village of Owein Al-Sawma'ah, Al-Bayda' Governorate, on October 15, 2017. They were forcibly disappeared to an unknown location and later transferred to the Habra Reserve Prison in Sana'a. According to testimonies from several survivors, Ahmed was subjected to brutal torture, with many recounting hearing his cries and pleas for help during the torture.

**(N. M), a survivor, said:** "I managed to convince one of the Houthis to let me go in the room where Ahmed was held, to give him some food. When I entered, I asked his name, and he answered fearfully. I reassured him that I was also a detainee, and he told me about the torture he endured. However, a Houthi member arrived and removed me from the room. Ahmed was then taken to a place known as 'the workshop,' a room on the roof used for interrogations involving torture. We continued to hear his cries of pain until 2 AM. The next day, we saw the Houthis carrying a body wrapped in a blanket. When we asked the guards, they told us it was Ahmed Al-Wahashi. Initially, they refused to talk about the cause of death, but after giving them some money, they revealed that (H. S) had tied Ahmed in a 'grill' position, binding his right hand to his left foot and his left hand to his right foot, then jumped on his back with heavy boots, which likely caused his death."<sup>(24)</sup>

This happened on October 28, 2017. His body was wrapped in a blanket and taken to the morgue at Kuwait Hospital. His family was not informed of his death until 20 days later, with the Houthis claiming he had committed suicide by hanging. However, when his family inspected his body before burial, they noticed signs of torture on his back and dark spots on parts of his body, with no marks on his neck, indicating the Houthis' claim of suicide was false.

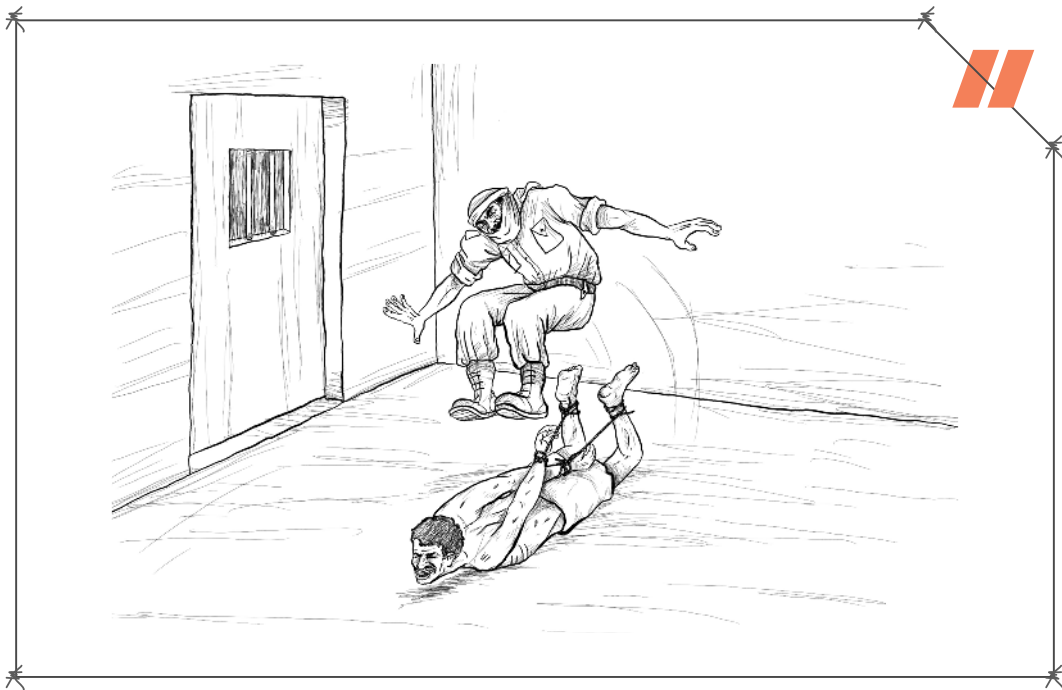
**(Z. J), another survivor, told us:** "In 2017, solitary confinement rooms were set up on the roof of the Habra Reserve Prison, known as 'the workshop.'

(24) From a phone interview conducted with him on December 23, 2023



## WITNESS MEMORY

We would hear the screams of a detainee coming from those rooms, along with the investigators' vulgar language, for three consecutive days. On the fourth day, while I was talking with my family during a visit, the Houthis appeared agitated, ended the visit abruptly, and returned us to the cells. We saw them carrying a body wrapped in a blanket. When we asked the guards, they said it was a detainee who died from torture. We heard two investigators blaming each other for Ahmed Al-Wahashi's death."<sup>(25)</sup>



The family obtained a copy of the investigation record conducted by the North Secretariat Appeal Prosecutor's Office with (H. S) and (Y. K), who claimed that Ahmed committed suicide by hanging in the solitary confinement room on the prison roof, called 'the workshop.' They alleged he locked the iron door from inside, tied a scarf to the window, and hanged himself, despite admitting that his feet were shackled.

The family also received directive No. (984) from the Appeal Prosecutor's Office to the Director-General of Prosecutions and Planning, requesting the appointment of a forensic doctor to examine Ahmed's body at Kuwait Hospital on the same day of his death, October 28, 2017. However, this examination never took place.



## 5.2 - Blaming Fellow Detainees



### Suleiman Ali Mohammed Al-Bura'i

#### Arrest information



09 January  
2017



From His Home - Bajil  
District, Hodeida Governorate



12:00  
PM

On January 9, 2016, at noon, Houthis stormed the home of teacher and activist Suleiman Ali Al-Bura'i, 45, in Bajil District, Hodeida Governorate. They abducted Suleiman, his brother, and his nephew, and seized his car. The three were blindfolded and taken to the government compound in Al-Mara-wia'h District, where Suleiman was separated from his brother and nephew. They could hear Suleiman being beaten and tortured, causing them great distress. After 17 days, his brother and nephew were released but were threatened with re-arrest if they asked about Suleiman or spoke of him. After 45 days, Suleiman was allowed to call his family, informing them he was held at Al-Majd Camp and requested a mattress to sleep on.

**(M. H.), one of Suleiman's fellow detainees, recounted:** "I met Suleiman in Al-Majd Camp prison in Bajil district in February 2016. One day, he was summoned for interrogation. They tied his hands and feet with rope, placed him on a spit-like stick, and beat him with a thick rod. Despite the interrogation room being 200 meters away, we could hear his screams. It was a terrifying day. They returned him to the cell, covered in blood and unable to stand. They forced him to stand, tied him to a pole, insulted him, and then took him to 'the crusher,' a tiny, unventilated space where a person couldn't sit. We heard his cries of pain and distress but knew nothing of his fate until our release when we learned of his death."<sup>(26)</sup>

**A relative of the victim said:** "On March 3, 2016, someone called us to inform us that Suleiman had died, allegedly poisoned by his fellow detainees. We were told his body was at Al-Ulufi Hospital in Hodeida. Some family members confirmed this and inspected the body, finding signs of torture on his face, marks from restraints on his hands, and blood on his nose and mouth, along with bruises all over his body. We demanded the Houthis hand over his body, prepared for the burial, but in the end, they refused to release it."<sup>(27)</sup>

(26) From a phone interview conducted with him on December 20, 2023

(27) From a phone interview conducted with him on December 14, 2023



### 5.3 Concealing Death from the Victim's Family



#### Mohsen Mohammed Ali Al-Qadhi

#### Arrest information



25 March  
2017



From His Home in the Azzan  
Neighborhood, South of Dhamar City



03:00  
AM

(In July 2021, the body of detainee Mohsen Mohammed Ali Al-Qadhi was buried after his death in a secret Houthi detention center in Dhamar Governorate.)

Mohsen Al-Qadhi, 37, was abducted from his home in the Azzan neighborhood, south of Dhamar city, at 3:00 AM on March 25, 2020, and taken to an unknown location. That morning, his family and neighbors searched for him at various security agencies and with Houthi supervisors, but the Houthis denied having him. His family continued to search and followed up with authorities, even in Sana'a, spending a significant amount of money to find any information about him.

On July 26, 2021, Houthi leaders contacted his brother, informing him that Mohsen had died in prison from a gunshot wound during an escape attempt and that his body was now in the morgue at Dhamar General Hospital. They instructed the family to retrieve and bury him under the condition that the case not be made public, or they would not release the body.

His brother went to the hospital on July 28, 2021, but was not allowed to view the body; he was only shown its location. It was discovered that Mohsen had died on April 2, 2021. The burial was scheduled for July 30, 2021, and the family was required to sign a burial authorization. Many of the victim's relatives and neighbors attended the burial, where the body was transported in an ambulance with armed personnel inside. Two of his brothers were allowed to accompany the ambulance, but they were forbidden to view the body.

After the burial, Houthi leaders visited the victim's home and offered the family 10 million Yemeni rials, demanding the victim's family to sign a waiver absolving the Houthis of responsibility for Mohsen's death. Under pressure and threats, the family accepted the money and signed the waiver.



### 5.4 - Burying the Body Without the Family's Knowledge

**According to Article 183 of Law No. 12 of 1994 concerning crimes and punishments:** anyone who conceals the body of a person who died as a result of an incident, or buries it without notifying the competent authorities before conducting an investigation, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years. This act is considered misleading to the judiciary. This is what happened with the family of the victim Suleiman Al-Bura'i, as the Houthis refused to hand over his body and buried it without their knowledge, as previously mentioned.

### 5.5 - Refusal to Allow the Body to be Examined by a Forensic Doctor



**Hasan Abdullah Mohammed Al-Zalil**

Arrest information



18 Sep  
2017



Taken to a Detention Center  
in the Kushar District



11:00  
AM

On September 18, 2023, at 11:00 AM, Houthi gunmen raided the home of Hasan Al-Zalil, a 73-year-old man, and abducted him. The reason given for his abduction was that he had sent a female relative to marry his grandson, who resides in Ma'rib Governorate, an area the Houthis label as a hub for "Daesh" ISIS and mercenaries," referring to individuals associated with the internationally recognized government. He was taken to a detention center in the Kushar district, Hajjah governorate.

Two days later, a Houthi member contacted Hassan's family to inform them of his death and that his body was at Abs Hospital in Hajjah Governorate. When the family went to collect the body, the Houthis claimed that he had fallen and hit his head, resulting in his death.

However, medical report No. 61 from Abs Hospital indicated that Hasan had arrived at the hospital deceased, with a laceration on the back of his head extending toward the forehead, two abrasions, and a blood clot around his left eye. The family requested to have the body examined by a forensic doctor, but the Houthis refused and demanded the family sign a waiver to relin-





## WITNESS MEMORY

quish any claims related to his death in exchange for the body. Under pressure, the family signed the waiver. Yet, instead of releasing the body to the family, the Houthis took it to the cemetery and insisted on immediate burial to prevent the family from having it examined by a forensic doctor.

### 5.6 Compromising Exchange for Body Release



#### Hilal Ghalib Mohammed Al-Jarfah

Arrest information



In May  
2018



From one of Houthis'  
checkpoints



28  
Years Old

In May 2018, Houthi militants abducted Hilal Ghalib Al-Jarfah, a 28-year-old who had recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Amran University, from one of their checkpoints while he was on his way to Ma'rib City to look for work.

The militants held him in a prison in Rada'a City before transferring him to Dhamar Correctional Facility, and then to the Community College Prison in Dhamar, where the prison was overcrowded and living and health conditions were extremely poor. Hilal contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, a disease that spread among the detainees, leading to his severe emaciation.

**(M. Kh.), a survivor, recounted:** "A month after I was transferred from Al-Saleh Prison in Taiz to the Community College Prison in Dhamar, Hilal was placed in the same cell as us. He told us he had previously been held at Dhamar Correctional Facility. Hilal contracted tuberculosis after a while and was not given any medical aid. He suffered from severe coughing and vomited blood. He wasn't the only one; over seven others also got tuberculosis, but Hilal couldn't withstand it and died."<sup>(28)</sup>

**(F. A.), another survivor from the Community College Prison, said:** "At the Community College Prison in Dhamar, Hilal began showing symptoms. He had a severe dry cough, extreme emaciation, a persistent fever, and heavy sweating.



## WITNESS MEMORY

My friend Abdul Muttalib Al-Idrisi (a medical assistant) and I realized that Hilal had tuberculosis. We feared the disease would spread, especially given the severe overcrowding, poor ventilation, and close contact among detainees. We tried to give him some painkillers, but Hilal's condition worsened. We told the guards that Hilal needed hospital care, but they refused. When his condition deteriorated further, we all started demanding he be taken to a hospital. Eventually, the prison administration took him out, but he was almost dead by then. We later heard of his death and that the Houthis initially refused to hand over his body to his family."<sup>(29)</sup>

The death certificate No. 188 issued from Dhamar General Hospital confirmed that Hilal Al-Jarfah arrived dead at the emergency department on February 21, 2019. A family member of Hilal said: "On February 24, 2019, we heard about Hilal's death on a TV channel. We went from our village to Dhamar General Hospital to confirm the news and found his body there. The Houthis refused to release the body and demanded a prisoner in exchange. His body remained with them for a month until village dignitaries intervened, after which they released the body under the condition that the burial take place quietly in Dhamar Governorate and away from media attention."<sup>(30)</sup>


(29) From a phone interview conducted with him on January 10, 2024

(30) From a phone interview conducted with him on February 1, 2024






## 5.7 Demanding Payment in Exchange for Body Release

In June 2020, Abdu Saleh Ahmed Suwaileh, 40 years old, died in Al-Saleh Prison in Taiz after the Houthis refused to take him to the hospital.



### Abdu Saleh Ahmed Suwaileh

Arrest information

 20 Sep 2017	 Abducted from the Sixty Road, Transferred to Al-Saleh Prison	 AGE 40 Years Old
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**(A. S.), a survivor, recounted:** “Abdu Saleh Suwaileh, 40, was abducted on September 20, 2017, from the Sixty Road. He was taken to the Houban Police Station, where he stayed for fifteen days before being transferred to Al-Saleh Prison. In prison, he was beaten with electric wires and cables, tortured, and placed in solitary confinement. When we were allowed to make calls, Abdu Saleh didn’t know any family numbers by heart and asked for his phone to contact them, but they refused. During one interrogation, they asked if he was a soldier and recorded him for Al-Masirah, the Houthi channel, promising him release if he claimed to be a military leader of the resistance.”<sup>(31)</sup>

**(M. H.), another survivor from Al-Saleh Prison, said:** “Abdu Saleh Suwaileh, from a marginalized community, was tortured and beaten in prison. He loved singing and imitating singers. One day, while singing, Abu Houriyah—the prison supervisor—called him a prostitute and ordered the guards to take him downstairs. They returned him severely beaten, bleeding from his head and back. It was heartbreaking to see him in that state, and we could do nothing to help.”<sup>(32)</sup>

In May 2020, he began showing signs of a cold and complained of chest pain. One night, I woke up to his screams of pain and called for Abu Houriyah, the prison director, and the security personnel, but they responded as usual: ‘Let him die.’ They refused to take him to the hospital. Fortunately, one of the inmates had a sedative, which calmed him down temporarily. This scenario recurred several times, with Abdu Saleh crying out in pain and the guards refusing to help. On June 2, 2020, early in the morning, his pain was worse than ever. We screamed for help, but there was no response.

(31) From an interview conducted with him on October 19, 2023

(32) From a phone interview conducted with him on October 12, 2023



## WITNESS MEMORY

We tried to comfort him, but when I checked on him, he was rigid and dead. We called the guards, and Abu Jalal saw him from a distance and told us to carry him downstairs in a blanket. We placed him on a military vehicle, but the militants refused to touch him or go near him, and we didn't know where they took him.

**A relative of the victim said:** “The Sheikh of Bahrou in Mawiyah called and informed us that Abdu’s body was at Al-Rifai Hospital in Houban. We went there, but couldn’t find it. They told us the body had been transferred to a hospital in Ibb. We went to Ibb, where they said the body had been moved to Dhamar General Hospital. When we got to Dhamar, we were able to see the body, and there were no signs of torture as we had feared. When we requested the body, the hospital demanded 60,000 riyals. We didn’t have that amount and explained our financial situation, but they insisted. We left, hoping they would contact us to collect the body, but that never happened.”<sup>(33)</sup>



### Khalid Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Haith

#### Arrest information

 **22 Feb**  
2016



**Stopped by Armed Men on Motorcycles,**  
Transferred to Al-Thawra Reserve in Sana'a

 **AGE 46**  
Years Old

On Friday, February 22, 2016, 46-year-old Khalid Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Haith was stopped by armed men on motorcycles. They took him and his car to the Fourth Area, then transferred him to Al-Thawra Reserve in Sana'a. He was tortured by hanging and severe beating. He told his cellmates that he was once hung from a high place and then dropped, causing his back to hit the cell floor hard. He suffered from this fall throughout his detention. His family was only allowed to visit him after he was moved to the Habrah Reserve Prison, where he stayed for over two years, suffering from kidney stones and a stomach infection, without being allowed to see a specialist.

He was later transferred to the Central Prison in Sana'a and complained of liver inflammation. The prison administration refused to take him to the hospital for necessary tests, instead, having him seen by a prison doctor with limited resources.

(33) From a phone interview with him on October 12, 2023



Despite the doctor's recommendation for an ultrasound and continuous treatment by a liver specialist for two to three years due to his critical condition (as stated in a medical report from the Central Prison Clinic dated October 27, 2019), the prison administration delayed action until media and human rights pressure from the Abductees' Mothers Association and other organizations forced them to act. He was eventually taken for a stent procedure in his bile duct but was returned to the prison the same day, even though he needed to stay in the hospital until his condition stabilized.

His health did not improve after the surgery, and toxins began spreading in his body again three days after the procedure. The prison doctor warned that leaving him in the prison clinic was dangerous as he was close to death. His family was finally allowed to transfer him to Azal Hospital, where doctors said it was too late to save him. He died on November 20, 2019, two days after being transferred from the Central Prison's medical unit to Azal Private Hospital.

**(M. R.), a survivor and former cellmate of the victim, said:** "My cellmate Khalid Al-Haith developed severe jaundice, and his eyes and entire body turned yellow quickly and frighteningly. He was transferred to the ward in the Central Prison Hospital where I was staying. The conditions there were far from hospital standards. The prison doctor said his condition was severe and critical, and made a report. I stayed with him in the ward for about 18 days before he was moved to the hospital. The prison's prisoner management delayed providing urgent medical care for Khalid despite his critical condition. After media pressure, he was taken to Al-Thawra Hospital and returned, claiming there were no specialized endoscopy devices. He was then taken to Azal Hospital and returned to prison, and later taken to Al-Mutawakkil Hospital for surgery. He was brought back to the prison ward the same day, despite the doctors insisting he needed to stay under their supervision due to the seriousness of his condition. The prison administration refused and even handcuffed him immediately after the surgery. He was taken to the doctor in handcuffs, which were only removed at the doctor's request."<sup>(34)</sup>

After his death, the Houthis refused to release his body until a payment was made, claiming it was for treatment costs, despite his family having already paid for the surgery and medical expenses.



## 5.8 - Preventing the Family from Viewing the Body

(In May 2019, the abductee Zaid Ahmed Naser Al-Namsha, 41 years old, died under torture in the custody of the Security and Intelligence in Sana'a. His body remains with the Houthi group.)



### Zaid Ahmed Naser Al-Namsha

#### Arrest information



10 March  
2019



Houthis Raided the Area where Zaid  
was Receiving Treatment, Abducted Him



AGE 41  
Years Old

**The victim's uncle recounts:** "My nephew, Zaid Ahmed Al-Namsha, 41 years old, went to the market on February 10, 2019, to buy some necessities for the family in the Al-Abbaisa area, which was experiencing clashes between the Houthis and the local residents. Zaid already had some psychological issues. A Houthi sniper shot him, and those nearby were prevented from helping him. He bled for two hours until some of his female relatives managed to get him to a clinic in the nearby area of Al-Mahabisha district. The doctor informed us that the victim had sustained fractures in his thigh and leg due to the gunshot. His family couldn't transfer him to Sana'a for the necessary medical care due to the security situation and numerous checkpoints that were abducting both the wounded and those helping them. On March 10, 2019, the Houthis raided the area where Zaid was receiving treatment, abducted him, and took him to an unknown location.

We didn't hear anything about him until his cousins, who were also detained, told us that Zaid had been killed under torture on May 3, 2019. The Houthis claimed he died of a stroke, although he was healthy and had started moving his injured leg. They told us he died of a stroke within half an hour of being taken out of his cell. However, we learned he was killed under torture, and his body remains in the military hospital's morgue in Sana'a. They conditioned the release of his body on his father signing a report stating he died of a stroke and refused to allow an autopsy by a forensic doctor. They also required that the coffin not be opened, which his family refused. Thus, his body remains with the Houthigroup."<sup>(35)</sup>

(35) From an interview conducted with him on February 2, 2024



## 5.9 - Subjecting Signing of Waivers in Exchange for Body Release

The Houthi group has demanded that several families of victims sign waivers relinquishing their cases of their loved ones' deaths in their prisons in order to receive the bodies. Through the incidents outlined in this report, this approach by the Houthi group becomes apparent. Here, we will highlight instances where the signing of waivers was required:

A Houthi affiliate from the Political Security in Hajjah province contacted the family of the victim Masoud Yahya Masoud, informing them of his death. His father was threatened with imprisonment if he didn't sign the waiver, stating that the victim died of natural causes.

The Houthis conditioned the release of Zaid Al-Namsha's body to his family on his father signing a report stating his death was due to a stroke, rejecting a forensic examination. They also stipulated that the coffin containing the body not be opened, which his family refused. His body remains with the Houthi group since 2019.

The Houthis demanded that Hasan Al-Zalil's family sign a waiver for the release of his body, and under pressure, the family reluctantly complied. Mohammed Abdullah Abu Zaid's family was only given his body after signing a waiver, declaring the victim died of natural causes due to kidney failure. The family was accompanied by two military vehicles until the burial to prevent them from presenting the body to a forensic doctor.

As for the victim Tawfeeq Al-Lahji's mother, the Houthis made her sign without her knowledge. One of the Houthis called Tawfeeq's mother, informed her of his death, and asked her to come to Sana'a to receive his body. She traveled from Taiz to Sana'a, where she was taken to court and made to sign papers she couldn't read or understand, being an illiterate woman. They handed her the body of her son, which had been held in the morgue at the Republican Hospital in Sana'a.



## 5.10 - Demanding Concealment of Cases from Media for Body Release

Prominent figures from the Houthis group contacted the victim Mohsen Al-Qadhi's brother and informed him that Mohsen had died in prison from a gunshot wound during an escape attempt. They stated his body was in the morgue of Dhamar General Hospital. They said, "Come and take him, but on the condition that his case is not made public; otherwise, the body will not be released."

**One of the victim's relatives, Hilal Al-Jarfa, stated:** "After negotiations between us and the Houthis, and with the intervention of village elders, they handed us the body on the condition that the burial be in Dhamar province, quietly away from the media."<sup>(36)</sup>

(36) From a phone interview with him on February 1, 2024





06

# Compensations





The Houthi group provided varying amounts of financial compensation to only four families of victims who died in the mentioned detention centers in this report. These compensations did not follow legal procedures but were rather mediated by social figures belonging to the same region as the deceased. Families of the victims were pressured to accept these amounts and sign waivers relinquishing their cases of the victims' deaths.

After burying the victim **Mohsen Al-Qadhi**, Houthi leaders visited the victim's house and offered them a sum of **10 million riyals**, requesting them to sign a waiver relinquishing the victim's blood money. With threats looming from these leaders, the family accepted the blood money and signed the waiver.

The Houthis offered the family of the victim **Mohammed Salbah** a sum of **3 million riyals** in exchange for burying the victim and closing the case file, which the victim's family refused. Consequently, his body remained in the morgue for a year and eight months until mounting pressure on the victim's family forced them to accept and receive his body for burial.

A tribal reconciliation between the family of the victim **Abdullah Hijla** and the Houthis resulted in the Houthis paying a sum of **money to the victim's family** and releasing his abducted brother. This was done on the condition that the family drops the case of the victim's death and receives his body for burial.





WITNESS  
MEMORY



**Media  
Coverage  
of Death Cases  
in Detention  
Centers among  
Conflict Parties**



Media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion about the conflict in Yemen, including issues of violations. Warring parties seek to use media outlets to promote their own agendas and tarnish the reputation of their opponents, distorting the true picture of human rights realities and hindering effective steps to address violations against victims and their families.

Media coverage of violations in Yemen faces many challenges, primarily political pressures. Journalists are subject to political pressure from warring parties, which may compel them to promote specific agendas or withhold sensitive information, such as the issue of deaths in detention centers.

**Here, we will discuss two cases to see how media sources affiliated with each party of the conflict dealt with them:**

01

In October 2021, detainee Sadeq Saleh Musleh Al-Quseemi, 40 years old, died from pulmonary tuberculosis in the Political Security detention center in Ma'rib governorate under the internationally recognized government's control. The victim was arrested at a checkpoint at the entrance to Ma'rib city on suspicion of belonging to the Houthi group.

However, media sources affiliated with the Houthis did not mention that the detainee was sick and died of tuberculosis in prison. Instead, news websites covered this incident as if the detainee was killed under torture. They fabricated the news that the victim endured severe physical and psychological torture, including beating with sticks and whips, burning with hot water, cigarette burns, hanging from ropes, deprivation of food and water, electric shocks, and psychological torture. All these barbaric practices melted his once healthy body, leaving him skeletal, as if devoured by wild beasts.

This is not a story from Guantanamo Bay nor did this crime occur in Abu Ghraib prison. Unfortunately, it happened in Yemen, specifically in the secret prisons of the Islah Party in Ma'rib governorate, against an innocent traveler, Sadeq Al-Quseemi, from the Bani Matar district in Sana'a province, on charges of being a Houthi, who was tortured to death in those prisons.



For a year and eight months, Sadeq Al-Quseemi endured the harshest and most severe forms of psychological and physical torture, leading to death, in Ma'rib prisons affiliated with the coalition forces, specifically the Islah Party.<sup>(37)</sup>

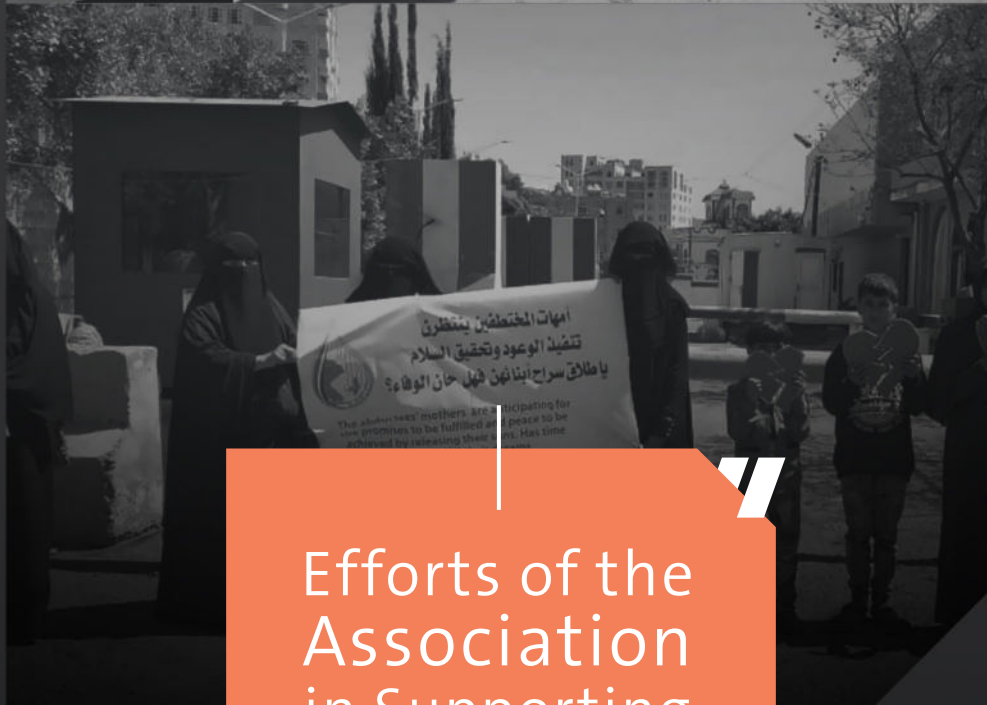
Another such an example is the case of Ali Abdullah Hasan Al-Ammar. In September 2019, Ali Abdullah Hasan Al-Ammar, 47 years old, died a natural death in the Central Prison in Sana'a under the control of the Houthi group. The victim was abducted from his workplace in Hodeida governorate due to his affiliation with the Islah party. According to testimonies of survivors who were with the Al-Ammar, he died a natural death, feeling some pain on that night and then passing away in the morning due to a heart attack.

However, media sources affiliated with the recognized government reported that the abductee died under torture. In a biased and non-objective media coverage, sources stated to Al Asima online that Ali Abdullah Hasan Al-Ammar, a leader in the Yemeni Congregation for Reform "Islah" in the Hayes district of Hodeida province, died under torture in the Central Security Prison in Sana'a, controlled by the Houthi militia. The sources clarified that "Al-Ammar" died yesterday morning in his prison, following brutal torture by the Houthi militia since his abduction in March 2017 from his home."<sup>(38)</sup>

This biased and non-objective media coverage often leads to the loss of credibility of these institutions. Local and international audiences no longer consider them as reliable sources of information, affecting the support supposed to be provided to human rights issues, including international efforts aimed at protecting and promoting human rights.

(37) <https://m.sa24.co/show14741959.html>

(38) <https://alasihonline.com/local/9422>



## Efforts of the Association in Supporting Victims of Deaths in Detention Centers



The Abductee's Mothers Association has worked tirelessly to bring the voices of victims and their families to both local and international communities. They have helped foster an understanding of the nature of the violations occurring in Yemen, particularly those faced by arbitrarily detained individuals. This has been achieved through the issuance of human rights reports, statements, and alerts about the violations endured by detainees from various perpetrators. To this end, the association has focused on documenting, verifying, and revealing the truths behind these violations, which perpetrators often attempt to hide or present in biased, non-objective ways. Among these violations are deaths occurring in detention centers. The association has stood by the victims, supporting them through all available means and methods. The team from the Abductee's Mothers Association has endured many hardships and faced security risks to uncover the truth and advocate for the victims.



**Habrah Reserve Prison in Sana'a**

**A female activist (N. A) from the Abductee's Mothers Association recounts:**

“One of my relatives called me on October 28, 2017, urgently requesting a meeting. Her husband was detained in Habrah Reserve Prison. When we met, she told me that during her visit to her husband that day, he informed her that one of the detainees had died under torture. He only knew that the detainee's name was Ahmed Al-Wahashi from Al-Bayda governorate.



They had heard his screams of pain throughout the night, which gradually faded. In the morning, they saw the Houthis carrying a body wrapped in a blanket to an ambulance. Upon hearing this information, I began searching for people from Al-Bayda to ask about this detainee, but the search yielded no results. Therefore, the association decided to issue a statement condemning this incident and drawing attention to the severe abuses faced by detainees in prisons and detention centers.

The Abductees' Mothers Association also held a protest in front of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to condemn the killings under torture committed by the Houthis.

We later learned that when the statement was published, the victim's family went to Habrah Reserve Prison to inquire about his death. The Houthis denied it, telling the family that he was still under investigation and that visits were not permitted. Twenty days later, the Houthis contacted the family to inform them that he had committed suicide and that his body was at Kuwait Hospital. When the family went to retrieve his body, they found that the date of death matched the date mentioned in the Abductees' Mothers Association's statement. There were no signs on his neck indicating suicide by hanging, as the Houthis claimed. Instead, there were clear signs of torture on his back, confirming that his death was due to torture.

### **Political Security Detention Center in Ma'rib**

After the monitoring team from the Abductees' Mothers Association listened to several survivors who confirmed the spread of pulmonary tuberculosis among detainees in the Political Security Detention Center in Ma'rib, and after hearing their testimonies regarding the victim Sadiq al-Quseemi, who died due to tuberculosis and medical neglect, the association dedicated a special section in its seventh annual report to discuss medical neglect in the detention center.

The association also held a workshop to discuss the results of the first draft of the seventh annual report. This workshop was attended by the Assistant Director of Security in Ma'rib,





the Director of the Central Security Prison, the Assistant Director of Criminal Investigation, as well as several judges, lawyers, and human rights advocates. During the workshop, the association's monitoring team presented their findings on medical neglect cases in the Political Security Detention Center in Ma'rib. The security authorities promised to provide medical care for detainees and improve the detention conditions.

### **Al-Saleh Detention Center in Taiz**

The Abductees' Mothers Association released a special report on Al-Saleh Detention Center in Taiz titled "The Odor of Death." The report addressed the extremely poor detention conditions, presenting testimonies from several survivors who spoke about the harsh torture methods they endured, which led some detainees to die either inside the detention center or shortly after their release.



In its seventh annual report, the association dedicated a special section to discuss medical neglect in Al-Saleh Detention Center, which resulted in the death of eight detainees, according to the association's documentation. Additionally, the association issued several statements and organized protests condemning the torture and mistreatment of detainees in Al-Saleh Detention Center. The efforts of the association, along with other human rights organizations, played a role in improving the detention conditions in Al-Saleh and allowing family visits, which had been prohibited for years.



WITNESS  
MEMORY



**Legal  
Analysis**



According to the Yemeni Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure, the incidents mentioned in this report constitute arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and physical and psychological torture under Article (48) of the Constitution. This article emphasizes the protection of citizens' freedom and dignity, prohibiting the restriction of their liberty except in cases defined by law and by a ruling from a competent court. It mandates that individuals whose freedom is restricted must be informed of the reasons for their detention, brought before a court within 24 hours, and that their relatives be notified immediately upon detention. Torture and inhumane treatment during arrest or detention are criminalized, and both physical and psychological torture are considered crimes that do not expire with time.

**This is further reinforced by Articles (71, 73, and 76) of the Code of Criminal Procedure**, which stipulate that arrests must be made under judicial orders from the public prosecution or the court. These incidents also blatantly violate human rights principles as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and

the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly Article (9), which affirms that everyone has the right to liberty and security of person and that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1992, and in effect since December 20, 2006, states that no person shall be subjected to enforced disappearance. Article (17) of the same convention stipulates that no one shall be held in a secret location and ensures that anyone deprived of liberty is allowed to communicate with their family or lawyer and receive visits. Article (73) of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires that anyone who is arrested must be immediately informed of the reasons for their arrest, have the right to see the arrest warrant, notify someone of their detention, and consult a lawyer.

Article (6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure prohibits the torture or inhumane treatment of the accused or causing physical or psychologi-



cal harm to force a confession. Any statement proven to be made under such conditions is considered void. Article (16) of the same law also states that criminal cases involving violations of citizens' freedom and dignity, including attacks on private life, do not expire.

International covenants reinforce these principles, with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, stating in Article 5 that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. Article (8) emphasizes the right of everyone to seek effective remedy by competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted by the constitution or law.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Yemen has ratified, reiterates in Article (7) that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Yemen has also ratified, obliges each state party to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial,

or other measures to prevent acts of torture within its jurisdiction. It requires that all acts of torture be criminal offenses under its criminal law and mandates that its competent authorities promptly and impartially investigate whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture has been committed within its jurisdiction. Each State Party to the Convention ensures that its competent authorities conduct a prompt and impartial investigation whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture has been committed in any territory under its jurisdiction. This includes ensuring that any victim of torture enjoys the right to fair and adequate compensation. Article (14) of this convention ensures that in the event of a victim's death due to torture, the dependents of the victim have the right to fair and adequate compensation.

Notably, medical neglect of detainees is considered systematic crime, given that healthcare is a right for all citizens of the state and a duty of the state to provide. Article (55) of the Yemeni Constitution affirms that healthcare is a right for all citizens and guarantees this right



through the establishment of various hospitals and health institutions. This right undoubtedly includes detainees whose freedom has been restricted, making them the responsibility of the security authorities. The law obliges these authorities to provide necessary healthcare and required medications to maintain the health of detainees.

Additionally, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly, states that every individual must enjoy their civil, political, social, and cultural rights, and the right to healthcare is a right that must be provided by the state to all its citizens.

The crimes of covering up for those who directly torture detainees to death in prisons, as well as those who order and oversee such actions, are compounded crimes, worse

than the act itself. This includes falsifying medical reports, preventing the victims' families from having the body examined by a forensic doctor, and refusing to investigate cases of death under torture. These actions are crimes of obstructing justice, allowing criminals to escape punishment and unjustly shedding the blood of victims. They obstruct the enforcement of constitutional and legal provisions that mandate criminal accountability for perpetrators of torture and inhumane treatment of detainees.

These cases also constitute crimes of tampering with evidence, altering facts, and concealing them, aiming to help the criminals evade punishment and hide the perpetrators. These are criminal offenses according to Articles (183) and (190) of Law No. (12) of 1994 concerning the Yemeni Penal Code.





## Recommendations



### **To the Houthis and the Internationally Recognized Government:**

1. End arbitrary detention of civilians based on their perceived affiliation with opposing factions, and ensure due legal processes in cases of arrest and suspicion.
2. Immediately halt the illegal practice of enforced disappearances and inform the families of detainees about their whereabouts and the reasons for their detention.
3. Cease torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and respect all the rights of detainees, including the right to life and physical integrity, ensuring they receive necessary medical care.
4. Allow human rights organizations and bodies to visit all detention sites for the purpose of investigation and monitoring.
5. Conduct serious and independent investigations into all allegations of torture and medical neglect, secure and protect complainants and witnesses, and prosecute those involved in violations.
6. Enable victims and their families to access remedies, including compensation, rehabilitation, and guarantees of non-repetition.
7. The recognized government should ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### **To the International Community**

1. Press the warring parties to release arbitrarily detained civilians and to stop abductions and arbitrary arrests of civilians.
2. Work diligently to enforce genuine monitoring of prisons and detention centers to reduce violations against arbitrarily detained persons, especially torture, ill-treatment, and medical neglect that have led to the deaths of dozens of detainees.



### **To the Survivors and Fellow Detainees of Victims Who Died in Prisons**

1. Fulfill their legal duty by reporting the violations they or their fellow detainees have endured in order to achieve justice for the victims.
2. Initiate documentation of the torture cases they or their fellow detainees experienced and establish proof through all possible legal means.

### **To the Families of the Victims**

Pursue justice through national courts, demanding investigations into the deaths of their loved ones and holding the perpetrators accountable. If the national judiciary fails to respond, they should turn to international courts.

### **To Journalists and Media Professionals Covering Human Rights Issues**

Ensure the verification of information from reliable sources and adhere to neutrality, accuracy, and professional and objective standards when reporting on human rights violations.





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