

August 7, 2024

Justice4Yemen Pact

The Second Anniversary of Ahmed Maher's Arrest and the Crisis of Enforced Disappearance in Aden: Strengthening the Demand for Justice

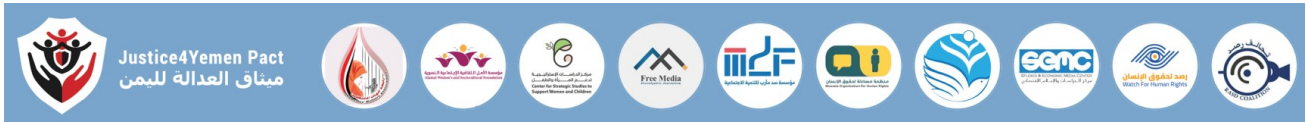
The issue of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance has taken center stage in Aden with the recent case of Lieutenant Colonel Ali Ashal Al-Jaadani, who was kidnapped by forces affiliated with the Security Belt, leading to widespread demonstrations demanding information on his whereabouts.

Recent cases of enforced disappearance demonstrate that the authorities responsible for these violations are clearly and explicitly contravening Yemeni law. Aden Police have issued arrest orders for Yasran Al-Maqtari, the commander of the Counterterrorism Forces, and his deputy, Samer Al-Jundab, who are implicated in the disappearance of Ashal and numerous other citizens in the southern governorates.

These events coincide with the second anniversary of journalist Ahmed Maher's arrest on August 6, 2022. Maher was subjected to enforced disappearance and torture due to his journalistic work and coerced into making false confessions. Despite the serious legal violations associated with his case, Maher was sentenced to four years in prison. His case represents a severe threat to freedom of expression and a troubling trend towards the security-driven repression of journalists, and it marks a significant perversion of justice.

Recent developments in Aden have exposed the weakness of the ruling against Maher. A dispute has erupted between the Criminal Prosecutor and the President of the Specialized Criminal Court, with the former accusing the latter of bias and lack of professionalism. This dispute involves the same officials who prosecuted and ruled on Ahmed Maher's case.

We, the undersigned organizations, condemn the ongoing arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances in Aden. We express our full solidarity with the families of the kidnapped, including Lieutenant Colonel Ali Ashal. We call for prompt



investigations into the cases of the disappeared, demand that their fates be revealed and urge an end to these inhumane practices.

We reiterate our call for the legitimate government in Aden to expedite the referral of Ahmed Maher's case to the Court of Appeal to address the evident legal violations and ensure his unconditional release.

August 7, 2024

Signatory Organizations:

1. Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)
2. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS)
3. Al-Amal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation (AWSF)
4. Defense Foundation for Rights and Freedom
5. Free Media Foundation
6. Mansa Foundation for Media and Development Studies
7. Ma'rib Dam Foundation
8. Yemen Future Organization for Cultural and Media Development
9. SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
10. Musawah Organization For Rights and Freedoms
11. Musaala Organization for Human Rights
12. Siaq Organization for Youth and Development
13. Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children (CSWC)
14. Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)
15. Media Freedoms Observatory - Yemen
16. Electronic Organization for Human rights
17. Abductees' Mothers Association (AMA)
18. Watch for Human Rights
19. Media Village for Development and Information
20. Media Center for person with disabilities
21. The National Organization of Yemeni Reporters "SADA"
22. Peace Environment for Development