

On Human Rights Day: The Day Will Come When Yemenis Rise Against Injustice and Tyranny That Has Oppressed Them

Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition

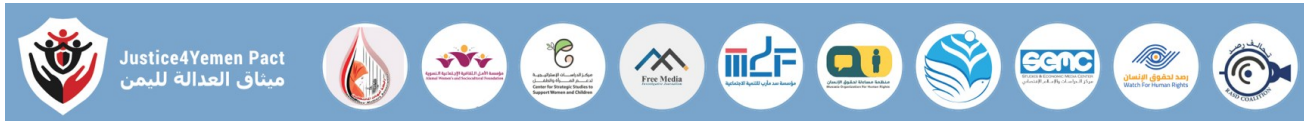
December 10, 2024

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the [Justice4Yemen Pact](#) and associated NGOs have issued a statement highlighting Yemen's dire need to overcome its prolonged crisis. A decade of conflict has eroded the fundamental human rights of Yemenis, fostering widespread suffering, instability, and injustice. The statement underscores a vision of eventual rebellion by Yemenis against oppression and tyranny that have marginalized their freedoms and dignity. It stresses that the Yemeni people will one day claim their rightful human rights and liberties.

A decade of conflict in Yemen has subjected Yemenis to severe suffering and widespread human rights violations, undermining their dignity and lives. The death toll has surpassed [377,000](#), with estimates of child casualties, including deaths and injuries, reaching at least [11,500](#) children.

Over [4.56 million](#) people have been displaced. Meanwhile, mines planted by *Ansar Allah* Houthi forces and others continue to claim civilian lives or maim them indiscriminately. For example, in March of the previous year, two homes in Rada'a, Al-Bayda, were bombed, [killing and injuring 25 residents](#).

Although the intensity of hostilities has decreased and airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition ceased in 2024, the human rights situation remains dire, with violations continuing. These include arbitrary detentions, severe restrictions on freedoms, the right to free expression, and movement. In recent months, both sides of the conflict have intensified their targeting of journalists, activists, and civil society organizations. [Houthi forces have detained dozens](#) of workers from international organizations, including at least 13 United Nations staff members and NGO workers. Additionally, over [500 civilians were detained](#) for celebrating the anniversary of the September Revolution, with many facing unfair trials, including 44 detainees from Dhamar, Amran, and Sana'a provinces who



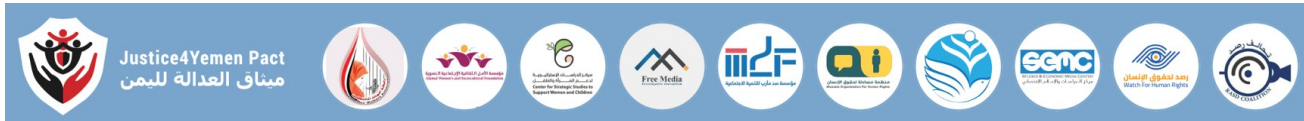
were sentenced to death following biased legal processes. According to the [Abductees' Mothers Association](#), a member of the Justice for Yemen Pact, the detainees have reportedly suffered forced disappearances and severe physical and psychological torture.

This pattern of abuse is not limited to the Houthis. The internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council have also engaged in similar violations. Journalists and activists have been detained in [Hadramout](#), and the [Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate](#) in Aden was raided and its activities shut down.

Yemen is facing a serious challenge in upholding human rights and basic freedoms amidst the ongoing conflict and the clear failure of all parties to meet their legal and ethical obligations. One of the most significant barriers is that Yemen is enduring one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. According to updates from the [UN Population Fund](#), more than half of Yemen's population—18.2 million people—require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2024, including [10 million children](#). The risks have escalated due to the recent regional conflict. Women and children represent 80% of the 4.56 million displaced individuals, with over 6.36 million women and girls facing increased risks of various forms of violence, including harmful practices.

While Yemenis urgently need all forms of aid, [Israeli airstrikes targeted the port of Hodeida](#) on July 20, 2024, which handles 70% of Yemen's commercial imports and 80% of its humanitarian aid. The presence of 4.5 million Yemeni children out of school has been described as a ticking time bomb by [UNICEF](#). Additionally, [6 million students](#) are facing disruptions in their education. Human rights protection and respect cannot be discussed without ensuring children's right to education.

Throughout the decade-long conflict, all human rights and freedoms in Yemen have suffered significant setbacks. [The World Health Organization](#) confirms that the right to access quality healthcare for everyone, everywhere in Yemen, has yet to be fulfilled. The war has worsened discrimination based on economic, social, and cultural factors, especially for [marginalized and disenfranchised groups](#). Ethnic minorities, particularly black Yemenis, face widespread



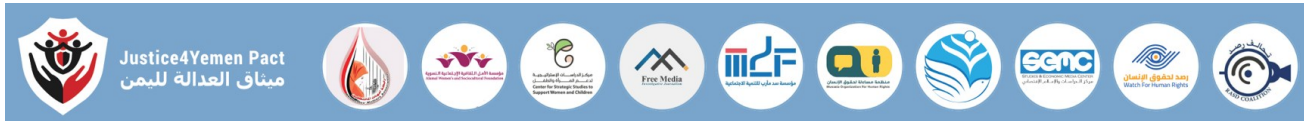
discrimination from society and official institutions. The Yemeni government has not yet adopted legislation to combat discrimination or integrate marginalized groups.

The human rights crisis in Yemen is intensifying amid political and military divisions, particularly in areas controlled by the Presidential Leadership Council. The Saudi-Emirati tensions in Yemen have deepened the fragmentation, [threatening the delivery of services to the population](#) and undermining human rights-focused development efforts. These tensions have also impacted the [peace process in Yemen](#).

The absence of justice has become one of the key challenges, further complicating the Yemeni crisis. The culture of impunity has become entrenched with every year the conflict continues, allowing parties to commit violations without fear of repercussions. Despite this, we remain deeply committed to the struggle for justice and the realization of human rights, confident that these efforts will yield results. For this reason, we will defend human rights principles and continue to confront violations within the complex Yemeni context, never wavering in our resolve.

Recommendations:

- All parties to the conflict in Yemen must immediately cease all forms of violations, including killing, detention, torture, child recruitment, and the use of schools as military sites, along with all other forms of abuse.
- All parties must engage earnestly and immediately in peace talks that lead to a comprehensive solution, ensuring the inclusion of civil society and the representation of all Yemeni groups, including marginalized, excluded, and victimized communities. The solution must guarantee accountability and justice.
- We affirm that the Yemeni government has the responsibility to protect human rights and freedoms in Yemen. It must translate all its international obligations into tangible actions across all institutions. Special attention should be given to education, reintegrating out-of-school children, and enhancing support for the educational process as a whole.
- A National Human Rights Commission should be established, with full authority to monitor human rights conditions and ensure the necessary measures are in place to protect them.



- We emphasize the importance of involving women in decision-making and all aspects of life. The Yemeni government and the international community must support women and protect them from all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence.
- The right to freedom of expression must be protected, as well as safeguarding marginalized, excluded, and vulnerable minorities from all forms of discrimination and violence.
- The international community must provide all forms of support to address the humanitarian crisis, including sufficient funding for development and economic recovery programs.
- We recommend the establishment of an international mechanism for accountability and justice for all cases of human rights violations.

Signatories:

1. [Musaala Organization for Human Rights](#)
2. Abductee's Mothers Association ([AMA](#))
3. The Al-Amal Women's and Socio-Cultural Foundation ([AWSF](#))
4. Strategic Studies Center for Supporting Women and Children ([CSWC](#))
5. [Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism](#)
6. Ma'rib Dam Foundation for Social Development ([MDF](#))
7. [SAM](#) for Rights and Freedoms
8. Studies and Economic Media Center ([SEMC](#))
9. Watch for Human Rights ([Watch4hr](#))
10. Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations ([YCMHRV](#))
11. Rassd
12. El-abda Assembly For Women Development
13. Together We Rise Foundation for Women Child Care
14. The National Coordination of Families of the Forcibly Disappeared in Algeria CNFD
15. Yemen Canter For Human rights Study
16. Yemen Center For Human Rights Study
17. Alhaq foundation for human rights
18. Alrowad Foundation for Development
19. Hafedat Bilqis
20. Kayan Foundation for Peace and Development
21. Tadaruk human rights and democracy
22. FOR Deer
23. To Be Foundation for Rights & Freedoms
24. American Center for Justice (ACJ)