



# YEMEN: DEATH CHECKPOINTS!

**Human Rights Report on Abuses Committed at Checkpoints**  
During the Period of 2014 to 2021

**FEBRUARY 2023**



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# 721

Yemeni travelers died by bullets or explosive devices while passing through checkpoints

## INTRODUCTION

721 Yemeni travelers died by bullets or explosive devices while passing through checkpoints, which were supposed to be “security checkpoints” to innocent people safe, but instead they became traps and ambushes that spread fear and terror. These checkpoints became places for killing and permanent distortions based on identity and affiliations. In other words, they can be described as a group of storage steel containers that were distributed along the main and secondary roads, and their main target was to disturb people’s lives, control people’s movements, obstruct and stop traffic movement and collect money by illegal means. During the reporting period, this large number of killings revealed one type of criminal behavior committed by one of the groups that spread violence away from the cycle of existing conflict. Therefore, it must be viewed from another angle, away from the calculations of war and its effects on the aspects of normal life that should remain far from all calamities. In addition,





it is considered as an alarm bell for the current situation that prolongs the war, threatens security and social peace and imposes new restrictions on the broader civil groups and classes that are protected by the force of law.

While you are moving through the death checkpoints that are located along public and secondary roads and streets connecting all the districts of Yemen, you can read this phrase: "Wishes for you, not against you." This phrase has nothing to do with the actual reality experienced by travelers and passers-by through those security checkpoints and barriers.

In addition, the daily movement on the long lines, public roads, main and secondary streets connecting the areas controlled by the government or Houthis in Yemen takes one or two days, in most cases, although it took just hours in the past. This is due to several reasons, including the large number of newly established security checkpoints with only few meters between each, as well as the network of mines and explosive devices that are laid in the middle and sides of these roads and streets.

Since each of the conflicting parties in Yemen had its own fixed and newly established "checkpoints" and barriers that were set up during the days of peace and war within the areas of control and expansion, it was natural that these checkpoints and barriers were different, in terms of their performance of functions and even the nature of their members and elements' interaction with passers-by and travelers, as well as the damages and negative effects resulting from their existence. Those all depend on the policies and directions of the conflicting party and the extent of its commitment and

adherence to the laws of war, the national legislation and the international conventions, treaties and charters.

The evidences and documented incidents included in this report revealed the involvement of all conflicting parties in Yemen in deviating all the fixed and newly established security checkpoints and barriers from their true path for securing the life and safety of civilians existing in areas of each party's control separately and using them systematically as a means to tighten the screws on the population and commit war crimes and crimes against humanity against travelers, passers-by and drivers of various vehicles.

Abuses committed against the civilian population, passers-by and those traveling through these checkpoints and barriers varied, based on their identities or affiliations, including violating their right to life and physical safety and restricting their public and personal freedoms by detaining them for hours, abducting and forcibly disappearing them, treating them cruelly, violating their dignity and searching them humiliatingly, particularly women, in addition to looting and confiscating their property and personal belongings and imposing levies and royalties, all illegally.

In addition, these checkpoints controlled the entrances to many main cities, imposed forms of economic siege on their residents by preventing the humanitarian relief convoys, which are loaded with food and medical aid provided by local and international organizations and bodies, to go through, in addition to confiscating their items or stopping them for long periods until their expiry dates pass.

## BACKGROUND

All kinds and forms of checkpoints and barriers throughout Yemen were historically and mentally linked to the country's security and military agencies in coordination with some executive offices, such as Customs and Taxes. This was an integral part of their tasks and job performance related to providing security for passers-by and travelers, protecting their property, regulating traffic movement in all districts, in addition to collecting legal fees and revenues during the period of 1962 to 2014, except for some cutoff checkpoints used by some tribes, from time to time, as a form of pressure on the state when ignoring some of their demands.





## PREVIOUS WARS

After that, the regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh waged the six wars against the Houthi militia in Saada Governorate and parts of Amran Governorate during the period of June 2004 to February 2010. During this period, the two conflicting parties established hundreds of checkpoints that turned the lives of the population into hell. The passers-by, travelers and drivers along the lines connecting the areas of conflict suddenly found themselves in a great dilemma that made them lose the sense of security and safety for their lives, vehicles, property and money and just passing through these checkpoints became a form of huge risk.

The same thing was repeated, but to a lesser extent, in conjunction with the outbreak of the revolution in 2011 and the accompanying troubles that happened between the former regime and some tribes and military units that dissented from the former regime and supported the youth revolution. This led to armed confrontations, such as the confrontations that happened in Al-Haraba

Neighborhood in the north of the capital, Sana'a; Arhab District in the east; parts of Al-Jawf Governorate; and Taiz City. This was followed by the Houthi war on Dammaj District, Saada Governorate, north of Yemen, which ended with the enforced displacement of Salafi Dar Al-Hadith students in mid-January 2014.

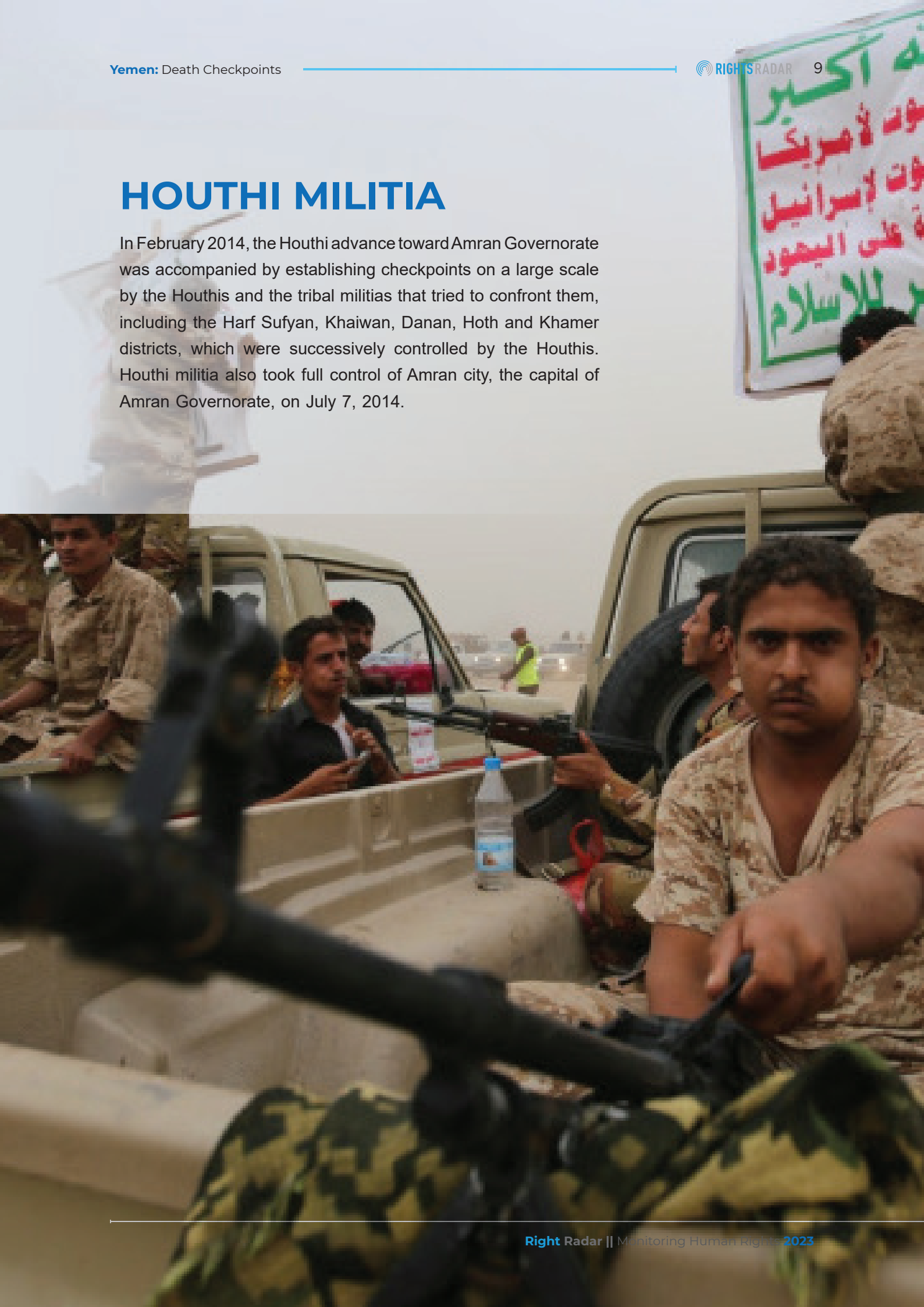
These armed confrontations also occurred in the southern Abyan Governorate after al-Qaeda controlled some of its districts and declared it an Islamic emirate in early June 2011 and during the war declared by the government against the al-Qaeda in Abyan and parts of Shabwa and Aden after President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi took over the reins of power in the country through consensual elections on February 21, 2012. During that war, there was a large spread of the newly established checkpoints and barriers on the parts of the two conflicting parties. This negatively affected the lives and livelihoods of the civilian population in the areas of armed confrontations.





## HOUTHİ MILITIA

In February 2014, the Houthi advance toward Amran Governorate was accompanied by establishing checkpoints on a large scale by the Houthis and the tribal militias that tried to confront them, including the Harf Sufyan, Khaiwan, Danan, Hoth and Khamer districts, which were successively controlled by the Houthis. Houthi militia also took full control of Amran city, the capital of Amran Governorate, on July 7, 2014.





The situation became worse after Houthi militia invaded the capital, Sana'a, which completely fell under its control due to the help of the forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh on September 21, 2014. At that time, its residents witnessed a wide spread of the newly established checkpoints, starting from its four main entrances to all its main and secondary streets, alleys and corridors of its residential neighborhoods. This was accompanied by restrictions imposed on the population, such as humiliating searches that did not even exclude women, children and elderly people.

The situation became more complicated after President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and members of the government were placed under house arrest, in addition to completely restricting their movement for nearly a month within some streets and neighborhoods of the capital to prevent protests expected to occur in these districts.

After that, Houthi militia deployed their checkpoints and barriers in the districts of Sana'a Governorate, surrounding Amanat Al-Asimah, including Arhab, Nehm, Khawlan, Sanhan, Bani Matar, Al-Himatin, Bani Hashish, Manakh and Saffan.

Houthi militia also extended toward the other Yemeni governorates, and they also established checkpoints and barriers along the asphalt line leading to Hodeidah Governorate (southwest of Yemen) as a first phase, and then the line leading to the governorates of Dhamar and Ibb (in the center of Yemen) as a second simultaneous phase. This was followed by the line connecting Sana'a and the governorates of Al-Bayda, Ma'rib and Hajja (east of Yemen) as a third phase. The militia proceeded its advance from Taiz Governorate toward the remaining southern governorates that they invaded in March 2015, except for Socotra, Hadhramaut and Al-Mahra.

The first precautionary measure taken by the Houthis in these governorates was to establish checkpoints and barriers to secure the lives of their fighters from the attacks that may be carried out by government supporters or the residents of those governorates who rejected their presence there. Then, they did not hesitate, not for a moment, to do anything help them achieve their goal, even if it resulted in harm and damage to the life, security, safety and property of the civilian population and other passers-by who traveled through their checkpoints.



## GOVERNMENT FORCES

On the other hand, some political and tribal forces, along with several leaders and security and military groups, which supported legitimacy, decided to confront the illegal militias and defend what remained of the state in their districts, which also witnessed some strict precautionary measures, starting with the formation of fighting factions and units under the name of “Popular Resistance”. Some precautionary measures were taken, including the establishment of some checkpoints and security barriers.

In conjunction with the departure of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his government from the Yemeni territories, Houthis invaded the city of Aden. This was followed by the beginning of the first operations of the Arab Coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, on March 26, 2015, under the name “Decisive Storm”, to restore the legitimate authority to the country.

In July 2015, the first military force of the Arab Coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, arrived under the name of “Golden Arrow”, in which trained Yemeni forces, backed by the Popular Resistance, participated with air and sea cover of the Arab Coalition. This operation ended in August after the complete liberation of the temporary capital, Aden, and large parts of the governorates of Lahj, Al-Dhale, Shabwa and Abyan. This coincided with other military operations in the governorates of Ma’rib and Taiz that were also able to restore most of their districts and defeat Houthi militia.

This great military advance of Yemeni government forces backed by Arab coalition forces and Popular Resistance in the south and north of Yemen was also accompanied by the intense and wide spread of checkpoints and barriers established by these forces inside the liberated districts for securing the districts and re-normalizing life inside them. These checkpoints and barriers were deviated from their path due to some practices of their militants, which broke all applicable laws and Yemeni traditions and customs. However, these violations could not be compared to what occurred in similar checkpoints within the areas controlled by the putschists. This was the case with the remaining areas that the government forces had restored during the eight years of war.



## NON-GOVERNMENT FORMATIONS

After the liberation of the capital, Aden, the Arab Coalition established non-government military forces, and these formations controlled the geographical area in which they were located, and thus new illegal checkpoints were established.

The most prominent of these formations were the forces of the Security Belt Brigades and other support units affiliated with them in Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale, Abyan, the Elite Brigades in Hadhramaut and Shabwa, as well as the Military Police and the Counter-Terrorism Forces. All these formations established checkpoints and barriers at the main entrances to these governorates and along the main and secondary lines, streets and intersections connecting them. They practiced the most heinous acts of killing, physical liquidation, assault, harassment and looting against residents, passers-by and travelers from both south and north of Yemen over the past period.

The other illegal military and security brigades and units followed the same way in the governorates of Taiz and Hodeidah, including the so-called forces of Republic's Guards led by Brigadier General Tariq Saleh in the city of Mocha and Abu al-Abbas Brigades in the center of Taiz and Al-Kadha District, in addition to Giants Brigades located in the western coastal areas in the south of Hodeidah. These military formations had their own checkpoints and barriers, and this resulted in several abuses committed against the residents and passers-by in these areas.

## METHODOLOGY

This report, entitled “Death Checkpoints”, is one of the specialized qualitative reports that unveils a series of complicated and interrelated abuses and crimes within a single temporal and spatial context. All parties to the conflict in Yemen were equal regarding the legal accountability for committing these abuses and crimes. They established checkpoints along the road and public transportation network that connected all parts of Yemen, and then these checkpoints quickly turned into traps and obstacles that caused disasters and tragedies that did not exclude anyone from among the passers-by, travelers and even those in need of humanitarian aid.

To prepare this report, Rights Radar also adopted the same methodology used in previous similar reports. It is based on combining a sequential narrative of events and facts and a graphic analysis of figures and statistics that reflect the extent of the effects and damages resulting from the hypothetical problem of the report’s main topic based on the data, information and daily observations that were collected by its field research team located in 20 Yemeni governorates.

During the first phase of preparing this report, the Rights Radar field-monitoring team, complaints department, hotline and previous archive collected data and information related to about 15,000 abuses committed against civilian victims at checkpoints and





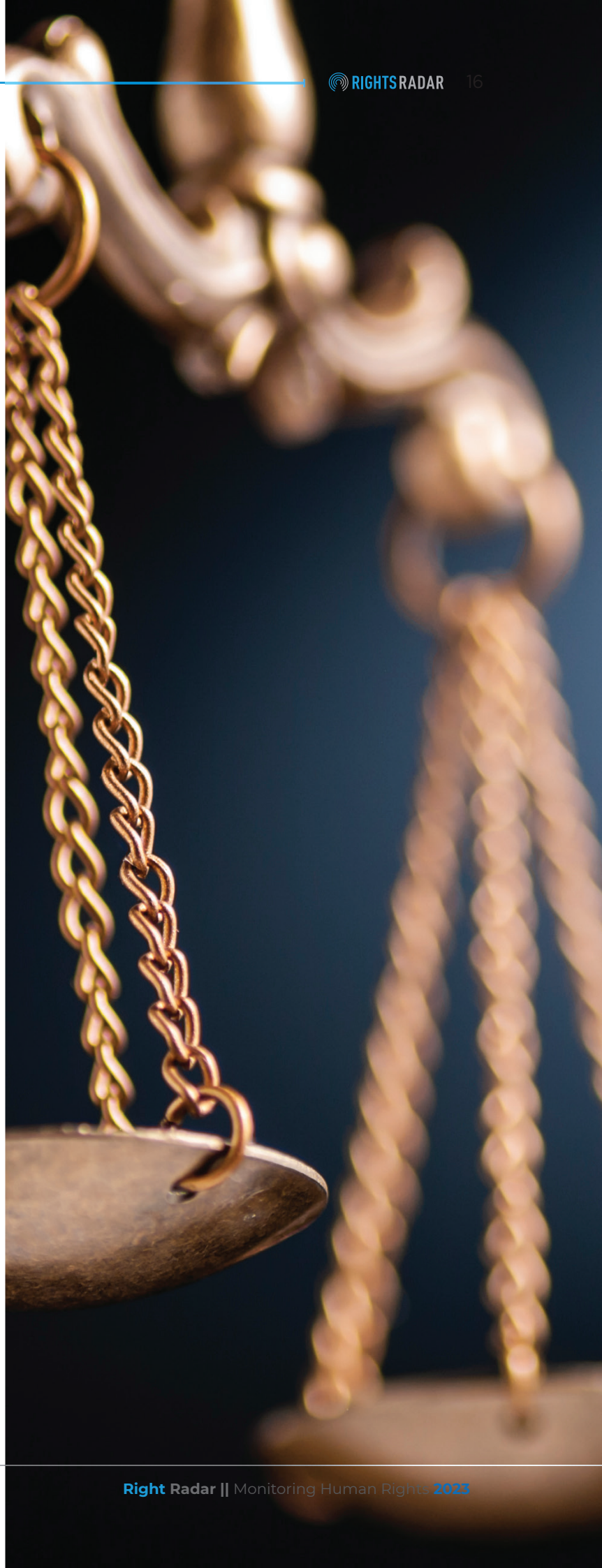
security barriers by all parties to the conflict in Yemen. These abuses included killing, injury, mutilation, physical assault, abduction, disappearance, torture, restriction of freedom of movement, looting and confiscation of property, prevention and obstruction of relief aids.

In the second phase, the Rights Radar research and investigation team carried out a series of field visits that included most of the targeted governorates during which it identified and verified about 1,200 incidents. This was done through meetings that brought together members of the teams with reliable sources that focused on those who provided information from the victims themselves, their families and relatives, in addition to witnesses with the assistance of experts working in government and private agencies related to the topic of the report.

In the third phase, the analysis and classification team sorted through 254 recorded interviews conducted by the research and investigation teams with the victims of abuses themselves, 195 interviews with the victims' families and relatives, 440 interviews with witnesses, 32 similar interviews that were recorded with experts and specialists in related fields, in addition to 889 supporting documents, including death certificates, criminal reports, medical reports, personal identification, inheritance documents and reports submitted to the concerned authorities. There were also 196 notes written down by team members and related to inspecting places of incidents, remains, damages and collateral losses.

## LEGAL ADAPTATION

The abuses tackled by this report are classified as complicated crimes because they include successive acts committed by the same party at the same time, including arbitrary detention and illegal and humiliating searches in most cases, abduction and enforced disappearance with physical and psychological torture that led to death through direct physical liquidation, torture or as a result of health negligence after looting and confiscating the victim's property, personal belongings and money. All these crimes are classified as crimes against humanity and war crimes, in accordance with the Yemeni constitution and national legislation, as well as international laws, agreements, charters and treaties that provide full protection for civilians during armed conflicts and prohibit violation of any of their guaranteed rights in all aspects.



## RIGHT TO LIFE AND BODILY INTEGRITY

Article 73 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen states, “Every person has the right to life, and the law protects this right”. According to the text of Article 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 13 of 1994, “The right of privacy of any citizen may not be violated, in other than the situations authorized by this Law.” According to Article 13 of the Crimes and Penalties Law No.

2 of 1994, “Crimes for which retribution [qisas] is mandatory are those stipulated by religious jurisdictional [hodoud] stipulations, and they are rights due to human beings.” Article 306 of the same law stipulates, “Whoever subjects people to any form of force, whatsoever, for any illegal purpose on a public road, desert or structure, at sea or on an airplane; thus scares them and frightens them for their lives or property or honor, whether the victim is an individual or a group whether by compulsion or by declaration shall be construed as being hostile.”

According to Article 167 of the Crimes and Penalties Law No. 2 of 1994, “Any public employee who orders or by himself carries out any punishment that is different from the punishment sentenced to a person, or a punishment that is more severe or if he refuses to implement the release order of the person to be released; he is as such responsible for this, or if he intentionally keeps the person in imprisonment beyond the sentence meted out to him, shall in all cases be dismissed from employment.” According to Article 168 of the same law, “Any public employee who uses brutality against people, relying on his public employment position

illicitly as such, whereby he violates their dignity or brings bodily harm to them shall be subject to imprisonment, this being without prejudice to the right of the victims thereof to retribution [qisas] or Blood Money or Liable Injuries Compensation, shall, in all cases be dismissed from position.”

Internationally, Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948 affirms, “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which entered into force on March 23, 1976, states, “Every human being has

the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.” According to Common Article 3-1 of the four Geneva Conventions, “In the case of armed conflict not of an international character occurring in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, each Party to the conflict shall provide special protection to women and all protected persons from violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; taking of hostages; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment.”



## DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY, DISAPPEARANCE AND TORTURE

Article 48, paragraph (a) of Yemeni Constitution states: “The state shall guarantee to its citizens their personal freedom, preserve their dignity and their security. The law shall define the cases in which citizens’ freedom may be restricted. Personal freedom cannot be restricted without the decision of a competent court of law.” According to Law No. 24 of 1998 regarding combating the crimes of abduction and amputation, Article 1 states: “Anyone who leads a gang of abduction and amputation shall be punished with death,” and anyone who abducts a person shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of no less than 12 years and not more than 15 years. If the abduction is committed against a female or a juvenile, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a period of 20 years. According to Article 2 of the same law, if the abduction is accompanied or followed by abuse or assault, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a period not exceeding 25 years without prejudice to retribution, blood money or indemnity depending on the situation.



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Personal freedom is guaranteed; no citizen may be accused of having committed a crime, nor may his freedom be restricted unless by orders from the concerned authorities in accordance with what is provided by this law



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No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment



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Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction

According to the text of Article 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 12 of 1994, “Personal freedom is guaranteed; no citizen may be accused of having committed a crime, nor may his freedom be restricted unless by orders from the concerned authorities in accordance with what is provided by this law.” Article 6 of the same law states: “The torture of any person convicted or charged is prohibited, as well as inhumane treatment, or cause of bodily harm or harm to morale.”

As for international treaties, Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” and Article 9 of the same declaration states that “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.” Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirms that “Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.”

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which entered into force on June 26, 1987, states, in the first paragraph of Article 2, “Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.” The second paragraph of the same article states that “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.”





## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Article 57 in the Yemeni Constitution states that “Freedom of movement from one place to another within the country is guaranteed for all citizens, and may not be restricted except by law and for reasons necessitated by the security and safety of the people. The law shall regulate entry and exit from Yemen. No citizen may be deported from or denied return to Yemen.” According to Article 138 of the Crimes and Penalties Law. No. 2 of 1994, “Anyone who intentionally exposes any land, sea or air transport vehicle to danger or who impairs its function by any means shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of 10 years.” Article 169 of the same law stipulates that “Any employee who knowingly carries out the search of a person, his home, or place of business, without the permission thereof or any other causes or without due consideration to the conditions stipulated by Law, shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of three years.”

According to Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state and Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirm that, “Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence and everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.”

Article 17 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates that, “The Parties to the conflict shall endeavor to conclude local agreements for the removal from besieged or encircled areas, of wounded, sick, infirm, and aged persons, children and maternity cases, and for the passage of ministers of all religions, medical personnel and medical equipment on their way to such areas.”



## TAX COLLECTION AND PROPERTY CONFISCATION

Article 7, paragraph (c) of the effective Yemeni Constitution guarantees, “protection and respect for private ownership, which cannot be confiscated unless necessary in the public interest, in lieu of fair consideration and in accordance with Law.” According to Article 12 of this constitution, “Taxes should be assessed with regard to the public interest in order to achieve social justice among citizens.” Article 13 of the same constitution states that, “The imposition, adjustment and Revocation of taxes shall only be authorized by Law. No one shall be partially or fully exempted from tax-payments unless the law stipulates so and no one shall be subject to taxes, or other charges unless so dictated by law.”

Moreover, Article 12 paragraph 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 12 of 1994 states that, “The freedom and confidentiality of postal, wire; wireless correspondences and of all means of communications are guaranteed according to the Constitution; these may not be controlled or monitored or inspected, or the release of any secret contents thereof, or impedance or confiscation, except in the cases which are laid out in the Law and then only under an order by the General Prosecution or the Court of competent jurisdiction.” Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that, “Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.”

# HUMANITARIAN AID

Article 19 of the Yemeni Constitution affirms that, “Public funds and properties are inviolable. The state and all members of society shall maintain and protect them. Any attack on or misuse of these, shall be considered sabotage and an aggression on society, and those who violate their sacrosanctity shall be punished in accordance with the law.” Humanitarian aid is considered as the state’s property because it is the supervisory authority responsible for its distribution and the coordinative body that cooperate with the donating organizations and bodies. Article 20 of the same Constitution states that, “General confiscation of property is prohibited; private confiscation is not allowed without a legal judgment.”



According to International Humanitarian Law, all the conflicting parties in Yemen are obligated to allow all humanitarian aid to quickly reach all civilians affected by the war and not to obstruct, interfere with, detain and confiscate it through arbitrarily established checkpoints. They are also obligated to guarantee the freedom of movement of relief and humanitarian workers, which can be restricted only temporarily for reasons of urgent military necessity, which results in real risks for this aid and those who oversee it.

The same law also prohibits the use of starvation and economic sanctions by preventing the arrival of relief convoys or food and water as a method of combat. It is even considered a war crime under International Criminal Law during international and non-international armed conflicts. The use of such a method is included in the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court under the 2019 amendment to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The total number of abuses monitored by Rights Radar reached 13,574 cases committed by the conflicting parties against travelers, vehicle drivers and civilian people at 1,352 checkpoints and barriers that were distributed to 20 Yemeni governorates during the reporting period of February 2014 to December 2021.

## 1,352

**Checkpoints and barriers** distributed to 20 Yemeni governorates during period of February 2014 to December 2021

## 13,574

**Total number of abuses monitored by Rights Radar** Against travelers, vehicle drivers and civilian people



### 6,253

Cases of movement restriction



### 310

Cases of obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid



### 1,401

Cases of looting, imposing levies and damage to private property



### 3,658

Cases of abduction, disappearance and torture of passengers and vehicle drivers



### 1,231

Cases of injury and physical assault



### 721

Cases of killing





These abuses included 721 cases of killing, 1,231 cases of injury and physical assault, 3,658 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture of passengers and vehicle drivers while passing through these checkpoints, in addition to 1,401 cases of looting, imposing levies and royalties and damage to private property, 6,253 cases of movement restriction and 310 cases of obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid.

Al-Bayda Governorate represented the greatest number of the Yemeni governorates that were affected by the checkpoints and barriers established by the conflicting parties with 2,521 cases of abuse, including 94 cases of killing, 119 cases of injury and physical assault, 915 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 180 cases of looting, illegal collection and damage to vehicles, 1,209 cases of restriction of freedom of movement and four cases of obstruction of aid access.

Taiz Governorate had the second-highest number with a total of 1,580 abuses, including 117 cases of killing, 186 cases of injury and physical assault, 377 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 154 cases of damage to vehicles, looting, confiscation of belongings and imposition of royalties, 715 cases of restriction of freedom of movement, 31 cases of obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid. It was followed by Sana'a Governorate that came third with 1,313 abuses, including 16 cases of killing, 40 cases of injury, 446 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 190 cases of looting, collection and damage and four cases of looting and obstruction of humanitarian aid.

Ibb Governorate came fourth with 1,288 abuses, including 102 cases of killing, 97 cases of injury and physical assault, 283 cases of abduction, enforced disappearance and torture of civilians while passing through newly established checkpoints and barriers, in addition to 603 cases of movement restriction and 58 cases of looting and confiscation of aid. The temporary capital of Aden that came fifth with 1,144 abuses, including 77 cases of killing, 168 cases of injury, 308 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 122 cases of looting, imposing royalties and destroying vehicles, 465 cases of movement restriction and four cases of looting and confiscation of aid.

Dhamar Governorate came sixth with 867 abuses, including 20 cases of killing, 42 cases of injury and physical assault, 296 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 86 cases of looting, imposing royalties and damage to means of transport, 413 cases of restriction of freedom of movement and 10 cases of obstruction and looting of aid. It was followed by Hodeidah Governorate, which came seventh with a total of 718 abuses, including 19 cases of killing, 86 cases of injury, 128 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 297 cases of restriction on freedom of movement, 121 cases of looting, illegal collection and destruction of vehicles and 67 cases of obstruction and confiscation of humanitarian aid.

Lahj Governorate came eighth with 585 abuses, including 53 cases of killing, 76 cases of injury, 154 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 52 cases of looting, imposing royalties and destroying various means of transport, 246 cases of



restricting freedom of movement and four cases of confiscation and obstruction of aid. It was followed by Amanat Al-Asimah that came ninth with 494 abuses, including 23 cases of killing, 24 cases of injury, 91 cases of abduction, disappearance, torture, 106 cases of looting, collection and damage to means of transport, 199 cases of restriction on freedom of movement and 54 cases of looting and obstruction of humanitarian aid.

Al-Dhalea Governorate was in tenth place with 412 abuses against travelers, passers-by and drivers of vehicles, including 37 killings, 55 injuries, 68 abductions, 35 cases of looting, collection and damage to means of transport, 215 cases of restricting freedom of movement, in addition to two cases of looting and obstruction of aid access. It was followed by Al-Jawf Governorate that came eleventh with 392 abuses, including 31 cases of killing, 69 cases of injury, 48 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 54 cases of looting, imposing royalties and damage to means of transport, 188 cases of restriction on freedom of movement and two cases of obstruction of relief aid.

Hadhramaut Governorate was in twelfth place with 369 abuses, including 11 cases of killing, 48 cases of injury, 127 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 13 cases of collection, looting and damage to various means of transport and 170 cases of restriction on freedom of movement. It was followed by Amran Governorate in thirteenth place with 331 abuses, including 29 cases of killing, 23 cases of injury, 71 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 27 cases of looting, imposing royalties and damage to means of transport, 174 cases

of restriction of freedom of movement and seven cases of obstruction and confiscation of humanitarian aid.

Shabwa Governorate was in fourteenth place with 326 abuses, including 13 cases of killing, 44 cases of injury, 87 cases of abduction, 14 cases of looting, collection and damage to means of transport and 168 cases of restriction of freedom of movement. It was followed by Hajjah Governorate in fifteenth place with 292 abuses, including six cases of killing, 27 cases of injury, 78 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 22 cases of looting, collection and destruction of vehicles and 18 cases of looting and obstruction of aid.

They are followed by the governorates of Ma'rib and Al Mahwit in sixteenth and seventeenth places, respectively. Ma'rib Governorate had 239 abuses, including 22 cases of killing, 57 cases of injury, 19 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 23 cases of looting, imposing royalties and damage to vehicles, 114 cases of restriction of freedom of movement, four cases of looting and obstruction of humanitarian aid. Al Mahwit Governorate witnessed 238 violations of the rights of travelers and passers-by through established checkpoints and barriers, including five cases of killing and the same number of injuries, 69 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 17 looting of money, belongings and vehicles and imposing royalties, 109 cases of restriction of freedom of movement, 33 cases of confiscation and obstruction of aid.

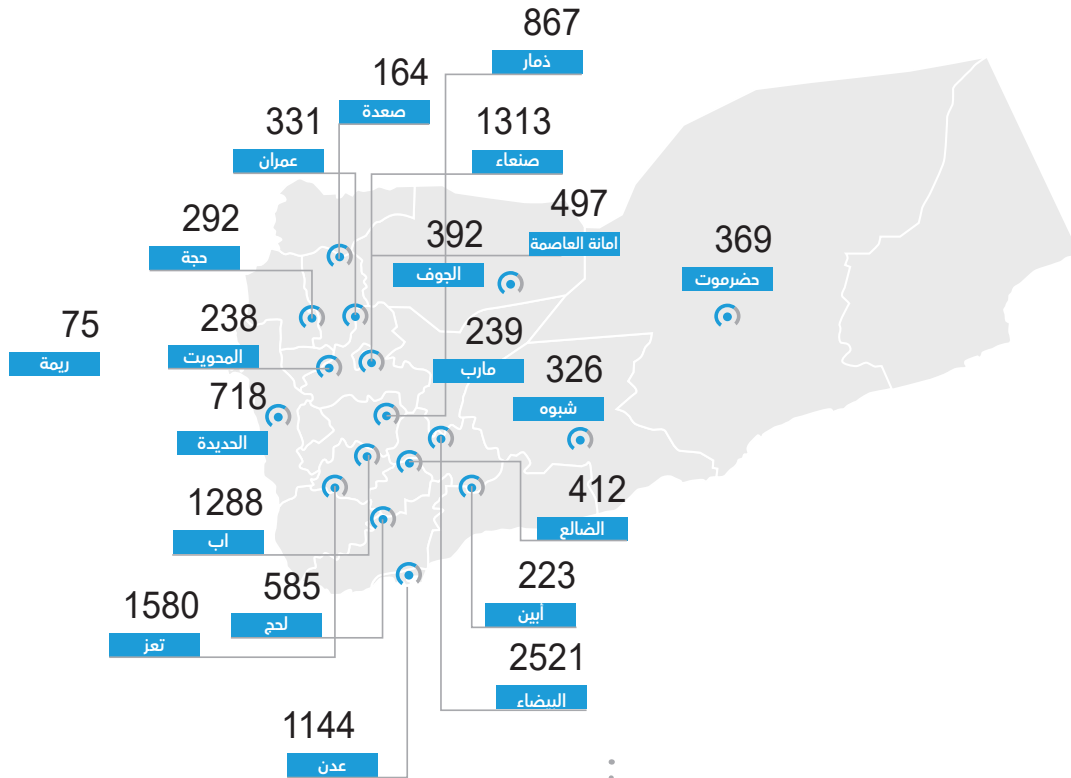
The remaining number of abuses were distributed to the governorates of Abyan,

Saada and Raymah. Abyan Governorate had 223 cases, including 20 cases of killing, 29 cases of injury, 49 cases of abduction, disappearance and torture, 12 cases of looting and damage to means of transport and 113 cases of restriction of freedom of movement. There were 164 abuses in Saada Governorate, including 23 cases of killing, 29 injuries, 29 cases of abduction, 13 cases of looting of money and belongings and damage to vehicles and 70 cases of restriction of freedom of movement. Raymah Governorate had 75 abuses, including three cases of killing, seven cases of injury, 15 cases of abduction, 15 cases of looting, imposing royalties and damage to vehicles and eight cases of obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid.

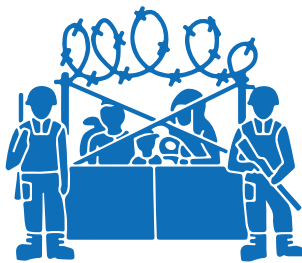
**Table No. 1: Geographical and Qualitative Distribution of Abuses**

Governorate	Killings	Injuries	Abductions	Property	Movement Restriction	Aid	Total
Al-Bayda	94	119	915	180	1,209	4	2521
Taiz	117	186	377	154	715	31	1580
Sana'a Govrt	16	40	446	190	617	4	1313
Ibb	102	97	283	145	603	58	1288
Aden	77	168	308	122	465	4	1144
Dhamar	20	42	296	86	413	10	867
Hodeidah	19	86	128	121	297	67	718
Lahj	53	76	154	52	246	4	585
Capital City	23	24	91	106	199	54	497
Al-Dhale	37	55	68	35	215	2	412
Al-Jawf	31	69	48	54	188	2	392
Hadhramaut	11	48	127	13	170	0	369
Amran	29	23	71	27	174	7	331
Shabwa	13	44	87	14	168	0	326
Hajjah	6	27	78	22	141	18	292
Ma'rib	22	57	19	23	114	4	239
Al-Mahwit	5	5	69	17	109	33	238
Abyan	20	29	49	12	113	0	223
Saada	23	29	29	13	70	0	164
Raymah	3	7	15	15	27	8	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>3,658</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>6253</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>13,574</b>





Geographical and Qualitative Distribution of Abuses



Al-Bayda	Al-Jawf
Taiz	Hadhramaut
Sana'a Govrt	Amran
Ibb	Shabwa
Aden	Hajjah
Dhamar	Ma'rib
Hodeidah	Al-Mahwit
Lahj	Abyan
Capital City	Saada
Al-Dhale	Raymah

01

Al-Bayda Governorate represented the greatest number of the Yemeni governorates that were affected by the checkpoints and barriers established by the conflicting parties with 2,521 cases of abuse

02

Taiz Governorate had the second-highest number with a total of 1,580 abuses, including 117 cases of killing, 186 cases of injury and physical assault

03

Ibb Governorate came fourth with 1,288 abuses, including 102 cases of killing, 97 cases of injury and physical assault



# FIRST: HOUTHJI MILITIA

Rights Radar verified that 553 persons were killed, including 59 children, 26 women and 42 elderly people. In addition, 904 persons were injured while passing through checkpoints and barriers established by Houthji militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, in 19 Yemeni governorates, including 119 children, 67 women and 40 elderly people. Houthji militia and its ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, had previously withdrawn from some of the southern governorates and parts of the northern governorates.



553  
killed Case



904  
Injured

10,896

Human rights violation committed against passengers while passing through checkpoints and barriers



# 385

persons were killed including 33 children, 16 women and 25 elderly people

# 479

persons were injured, including 59 children, 35 women and 21 elderly people

# 2,901

cases of abduction and detention of travelers, vehicle drivers and people passing through checkpoints and barriers

# 757

abductees were forcibly disappeared inside secret prisons

The figures indicated that 385 persons were killed, including 33 children, 16 women and 25 elderly people. In addition, 479 persons were injured, including 59 children, 35 women and 21 elderly people. All those victims were travelers, drivers of vehicles and passers-by who were exposed to direct fire by militants in checkpoints and barriers belonging to Houthi militia and its ally, Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. There were 149 persons killed, including 23 children, 10 women and 15 elderly people and 289 persons were injured, including 38 children, 26 women and 10 elderly people because of explosions from explosive devices, anti-armor and anti-personnel mines that were laid by the militia and its ally on both sides of those checkpoints and barriers or in their surrounding areas.

There were six other persons were killed, including a child because of being targeted by RBG missiles in the governorates of Amran and Ibb. In addition, 13 persons were killed, including two children and two elderly men, because they were run over by vehicles and used tools when they passed through checkpoints established by Houthi militia in governorates of Ibb Saada, Al-Dhalea, Al-Jawf, Amran and Taiz. One hundred and thirty-six civilians, including 22 children, six women and nine elderly people were exposed to physical abuse and being beaten with batons, rifle butts, sharp instruments and sometimes feet and hands, which resulted in various injuries.

Rights Radar documented 2,901 cases of abduction and detention of travelers, vehicle drivers and people passing through checkpoints and barriers established by the Houthi militia in all Yemeni governorates covered by the report, except for Hadhramaut. The abducted and detained people included 135 children, 86 women and 108 elderly people, most of whom were abducted from these checkpoints existing on Dhamar Al-Bayda Road leading to Ma'rib, specifically the Sanban Checkpoint, Abu Hashem Checkpoint, Idris Checkpoint, Tiyab Checkpoint, in addition to the Al-Hatrash Checkpoint at the northern entrance to the capital, Sana'a.

The team confirmed that 757 abductees were forcibly disappeared inside secret prisons established by Houthi militia at some checkpoints or nearby areas for periods of

# 198

abductees were subjected to the most severe forms of torture, including 18 children, 11 women and 13 elderly people.

# 5,013

cases of restricting freedom of movement

# 1,141

checkpoints and collection points

# 4,231

Travelers prevented, and most of them were workers exposed to severe conditions

time ranging from one to six months, including 15 children, 10 women and 23 elderly people. In addition, 198 abductees were subjected to the most severe forms of torture, including 18 children, 11 women and 13 elderly people.

Houthi militants in these checkpoints caused the full destruction of 130 means of transport, partial destruction of 218 vehicles and looting of 482 vehicles, in addition to confiscating 25 loads of goods belonging to traders, importers and businessmen. Rights Radar also monitored 65 cases of looting money and 203 lootings of travelers' belongings, including expensive mobile phones, daggers, personal weapons, identity and ownership documents, transactions, driver's licenses, clothes, furniture and household possessions, in addition to 104 cases of imposing levies on traders and drivers of trucks and various vehicles.

Rights Radar also monitored 5,013 cases of restricting freedom of movement committed by militants of Houthi militia and its ally at that time, the former president, against travelers at checkpoints and collection points, which reached 1,141, in addition to 766 checkpoints that the team could not reach. These checkpoints were located along the asphalt lines connecting the capital, Sana'a, and temporary capital, Aden, in the south, the governorates of Al-Hodeidah and Raymah in the southwest and the governorates of Amran, Al-Jawf and Saada in the north.

The Rights Radar team also monitored that Houthi militia prevented 4,231 travelers, and most of them were workers exposed to severe conditions within the militia's areas of control. They had to move to areas under the legitimate government's control in Ma'rib and the other southern governorates in search of job opportunities that would guarantee even the minimum of a decent life for them and their families. The number of people affected badly included even state officials and parliamentarians.

In addition, hundreds of families were stopped while they were on their way to visit their relatives in the government-



## 289

of relief and humanitarian aid prevented

## 260

relief convoys looted and confiscated by Houthi militia, through its checkpoints and barriers

## 15

relief convoys destroyed due to stopping them for long periods in unsuitable climatic and storage conditions or targeting them with firearms

controlled areas, or they wanted to reside in these places in which most of their relatives were forcibly displaced, or they had escaped from the oppression of Houthi militia. Houthi checkpoints and barriers, located on Dhamar-Al-Bayda Road, as well as Sana'a-Amran-Al-Jawf Road, set the record in this kind of abuse.

The travelers, who were stopped at Houthi checkpoints and forced to return to where they came from, included 306 children, 194 women and 142 elderly people, most of them were traveling with their families, intending to move to government areas to settle with their relatives and families who had not met for years because of the bad conditions, dispersion and displacement resulting from the ongoing war in Yemen.

Rights Radar proved, with conclusive evidence, the involvement of Houthi checkpoints and barriers in preventing 289 relief and humanitarian aid convoys in 16 Yemeni governorates, including Hodeidah, which is the only seaport for these kinds of aid, in addition to Ibb, the capital Sana'a and Mahwit, through which the main supply lines pass to reach the other areas affected by the ongoing war, such as Taiz, which has been under the Houthi siege for seven years now.

The figures and statistics documented by Rights Radar indicated that the Houthi militia, through its checkpoints and barriers, looted and confiscated 260 relief convoys, including 160 shipments of foodstuffs and 38 shipments containing medical aid, solutions, vaccines for kidney and cancer patients and combating epidemics in a number of Yemeni governorates, including cholera, dengue fever, COVID-19, as well as 24 shipments of shelter materials for the displaced people and 38 shipments of oil.

Houthi checkpoints, located in the main entrances and outlets to government-controlled areas, destroyed the contents of 15 relief convoys due to stopping them for long periods in unsuitable climatic and storage conditions or targeting them with firearms, including four medical shipments and 11 shipments of foodstuffs, in addition to tampering with the distribution of 23 convoys that included 21 shipments of foodstuffs, medical materials and shelter materials for the displaced people.

## SECOND: NON-GOVERNMENT FORMATIONS

Non-Government Formations are all the security and military formations in the liberated areas that were formed outside of the government, and they were not obligated to follow the orders and instructions of its competent bodies represented by the Ministries of Defense and Interior. These formations included the support and backing brigades affiliated with the Security Belt Forces affiliated with the so-called “Transitional Council” in the governorates of Aden, Abyan, Al-Dhalea and Lahj, in addition to the Elite Forces in the governorates of Hadhramaut and Shabwa, as well as the UAE-backed Forces in the areas of the western coast south of Hodeidah and the coast of Taiz.



78  
killed Case



121  
Injured

1,851

Human rights violation committed against passengers while passing through checkpoints and barriers



# 1,851

abuses against travelers,  
drivers of vehicles and  
passers

# 666

civilians were abducted  
and detained while passing  
through checkpoints and  
barriers

This also applies to the “Giant Brigades” and the so-called “Republic Guards” brigades, located on the western-coast fronts in Hodeidah, and they recently withdrew to Mokha city whom did not recognize the legitimacy of President Hadi, in addition to “Abu al-Abbas Brigades” that refused to integrate into the regular forces of the Taiz axis. As a result, the latter had to wage battles against it. This led to the expulsion of these battalions from the locations where they were stationed in the north and east areas of the city.

It was proven to Rights Radar that these formations were collectively involved in committing 1,851 abuses against travelers, drivers of vehicles and passers-by through 102 checkpoints and barriers established along roads and main lines leading to their areas of control, most notably the checkpoints stationed at the entrances to the temporary capital, Aden, in addition to some checkpoints spread on the asphalt line connecting between the governorates of Lahj and Taiz, as well as the main line that connects the north and south of Yemen through Al-Dhalea Governorate.

The abuses, which were committed by members of checkpoints and barriers affiliated with these formations, against travelers, drivers of vehicles and passers-by, mostly stationed in the governorates of Lahj and Aden. They committed 78 killings, including four children, six women and two elderly people. In addition, there were 121 injured persons, including four children, 17 women and three elderly people, as 73 people were killed and 71 were injured due to direct shootings, compared to three killings and 18 injuries in incidents due to explosive devices, in addition to two deaths and 30 injuries because of using sharp objects or beating with the butts of rifles, batons or hands.

Also, 666 civilians were abducted and detained while passing through checkpoints and barriers established by the UAE-backed security and military formations, including 20 children, five women and 19 elderly people. There was 177 abducted people who were subjected to enforced disappearance for periods ranging from a month to a year in secret prisons belonging to those formations, including a child and four elderly people. The members of these formations practiced the most severe types of psychological and physical torture against 25 abductees during the period of their detention, including two children and two elderly men.

# 72

incidents of looting and robbery suffered by travelers, drivers of vehicles and some passers-by while crossing from checkpoints and barriers of UAE-backed security

The checkpoints of the security and military units, which were formed outside of the government, destroyed three vehicles by laying mines and explosive devices. They partially destroyed 10 other vehicles, most of which were exposed to direct fire with light, medium and heavy weapons, as well as the looting and confiscating of 16 other vehicles, giving false justifications, including not following the instructions of members of those checkpoints concerning search and payment of illegal financial levies.

Rights Radar also monitored 72 incidents of looting and robbery suffered by travelers, drivers of vehicles and some passers-by while crossing from checkpoints and barriers of UAE-backed security and military formations in the southern governorates and parts of the northern governorates, including 29 cases of looting of money, 12 cases of looting of cargoes and goods, and 31 cases of looting and confiscation of personal belongings, including jewelry, mobile phones, identity documents, daggers, personal weapons, transaction papers, furniture and household necessities, in addition to 14 cases of imposing illegal levies and royalties.

# 866

cases of restricting freedom of movement committed by non-government formations against travelers and drivers of vehicles

In addition, Rights Radar monitored 866 cases of restricting freedom of movement committed by non-government formations against travelers and drivers of vehicles within government-controlled areas. One hundred and two checkpoints and security barriers were established, and 764 travelers were prevented from entering the southern governorates and some northern areas controlled by those formations, including 28 children, 28 women and 17 elderly people.

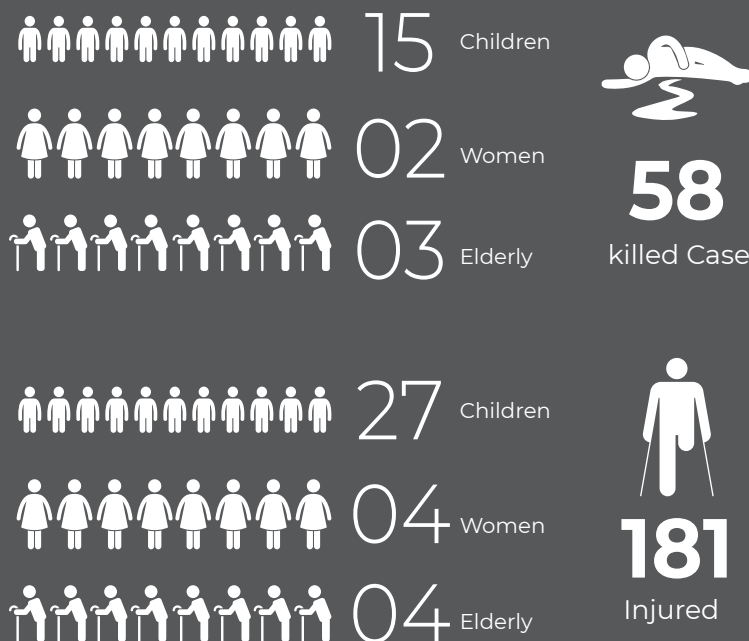
Rights Radar observed that elements of checkpoints and barriers belonging to the security and military components, that were formed outside of the government, stopped five relief convoys, including four shipments loaded with food aid and one shipment of fuel. They confiscated three convoys and allowed two convoys to pass after imposing large amounts of illegal levy, in addition to putting them under their full control and manipulating with their distribution, and this resulted in the deprivation of many people who were in need of them.





## THIRD: AL-QAEDA

The terrorist organizations affiliated with the so-called al-Qaeda Organization in the Arabian Peninsula, or the so-called Islamic State organization “ISIS”, also committed 458 violations against passengers and drivers while passing through checkpoints and barriers set up by these organizations along the main lines and roads under their control or through a series of attacks, carried out against some checkpoints and barriers belonging to the other parties to the ongoing conflict. This resulted in the killing and injury of innocent casualties while they were passing through them.



# 458

Human rights violation committed against passengers while passing through checkpoints and barriers

# 17

vehicles destroyed by The elements affiliated with both al-Qaeda and ISIS

According to the documented figures monitored by Rights Radar, 58 passengers and vehicle drivers were killed by al-Qaeda militants, including 15 children, two women and three elderly people. At the same time, 181 persons were injured, including 27 children, four women and four elderly people. There were 50 people who were killed, and 158 who were injured due to being shot with direct bullets and exposed to explosive devices and physical assaults while passing through checkpoints and barriers belonging to these terrorist organizations. There were also 8 people who were killed and 24 people who were injured during terrorist attacks carried out by al-Qaeda elements against security checkpoints and barriers belonging to some of their opponents in other parties to the conflict.

Rights Radar also monitored four cases of abduction. The travelers were abducted while passing through checkpoints and barriers belonging to both al-Qaeda and ISIS. There were two cases in Hadhramaut, and one case in Aden and Abyan. The two abductees, one of whom is an elderly person, were exposed to enforced disappearance for more than a year. One of the abductees was subjected to psychological and physical torture inside a secret prison of al-Qaeda in the Al-Abr District.

The elements affiliated with both al-Qaeda and ISIS destroyed 17 vehicles and partially damaged 11 vehicles while passing through the two organizations' checkpoints or other checkpoints and barriers that were attacked, in addition to looting four vehicles, three of them in Hadhramaut, and one vehicle was in Abyan.

Rights Radar monitored 183 cases of restrictions on freedom of movement in 51 checkpoints and barriers belonging to the terrorist organizations of al-Qaeda and ISIS, including 132 cases of travel bans through the areas controlled by the two terrorist organizations in the governorates of Hadhramaut, Shabwa, Ma'rib, Abyan and Al-Bayda. These cases included 27 children, four women and four elderly people.

# 183

cases of restrictions on freedom of movement in 51 checkpoints and barriers





# FOURTH: GOVERNMENT

The documented figures and statistics included in this report confirm that the security and military forces affiliated with the government in Yemen committed 369 violations against passengers and vehicle drivers while passing through checkpoints and barriers established during the reporting period in 11 Yemeni governorates, including Taiz, Al-Dhale, Hadhramaut, Aden, Shabwa and Ma'rib.



32  
killed Case



20  
Injured

369

Human rights violation committed against passengers while passing through checkpoints and barriers

## 87

passengers who were abducted from government forces' checkpoints and barriers, including three children, four women and three elderly people.

## 191

cases of imposing restrictions on freedom of movement committed by government forces against passengers and owners and drivers of vehicles

Rights Radar monitored 37 incidents of direct fire committed against passengers while passing through government forces' checkpoints and barriers by using Kalashnikovs, machine guns and medium weapons, resulting in 30 deaths, including two children and two elderly men, and 20 injuries, including five children and three women, in addition to detonating an explosive device in Al-Dhale, resulting in two deaths and five incidents of assault with fists and rifle butts in Taiz, Hadhramaut and Aden, resulting in five adult passengers getting injured.

There were also 87 passengers who were abducted from government forces' checkpoints and barriers, including three children, four women and three elderly people. Nine abductees, one of them who was very old, remained under enforced disappearance for varying periods of time, while four abductees were subjected to psychological and physical torture.

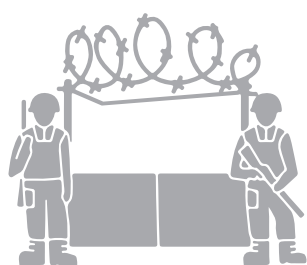
Rights Radar also monitored that five vehicles were completely destroyed and nine vehicles were partially damaged as a result of shooting and bombing incidents while passing through checkpoints and barriers controlled by government forces, while four vehicles were looted and confiscated, in addition to five incidents of looting and robbery of two cargo loads and belongings of one of the passengers and sums of money belonging to another passenger, as well as four cases of imposing illegal levies and royalties on drivers of some vehicles.

Rights Radar also monitored 191 cases of imposing restrictions on freedom of movement committed by government forces against passengers and owners and drivers of vehicles. This began by establishing 58 checkpoints that resulted in an obstacle for many of them. There were 133 travelers, who were prevented from reaching or leaving their areas of control, including 10 children, seven women and four elderly people, in addition to obstructing the arrival of seven relief convoys loaded with two shipments of medical and food aids, as well as confiscating five convoys and damaging two convoys.



Table No. 2: Distribution of Abuses, Sorted by Perpetrator(s)

Perpetrator(s)	Killings	Injuries	Abductions	Property	Movement Restriction	Aid	Total
Houthi Militia	553	904	2901	1,227	5,013	298	10,896
Non-Government Formations	78	121	666	115	866	5	1,851
Al-Qaida	58	181	4	32	183	0	458
Government	32	25	87	27	191	7	369
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>3,658</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>6253</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>13,574</b>



13,574

Total of Distribution of Abuses, Sorted by Perpetrator



10,896

Houthi Militia

553 Killings    904 Injuries    2,901 Abductions    1,227 Property    5,013 Movement Restriction    298 Aid



1,851

Non-Government Formations

78 Killings    121 Injuries    666 Abductions    115 Property    866 Movement Restriction    5 Aid



458

Al-Qaida

58 Killings    181 Injuries    4 Abductions    32 Property    183 Movement Restriction    0 Aid



369

Government

32 Killings    25 Injuries    87 Abductions    27 Property    191 Movement Restriction    7 Aid

# CHAPTER ONE:

## Notorious Checkpoints

During the ongoing war in Yemen, the civilians have become unable to move freely and smoothly within the most raging and even non-raging areas of conflict. In fact, there are less chances of survival for many travelers and passers-by through the checkpoints and barriers established by all the conflicting parties and dangers, which have expanded dramatically. This bad situation increases worry and threatens the security, safety, freedom and property of everyone, without exception. In addition, this dangerous situation may create a humanitarian catastrophe because of the suffocating economic blockade imposed by these checkpoints and barriers on the

residents of several Yemeni capitals, major cities and rural areas.

In this part, we will shed some light on examples of checkpoints and barriers that are considered the worst and most dangerous and harmful places, according to the real data and the horrific digital and statistical indicators of the extent of abuses, crimes and repressive practices committed by militants and supervisors of those checkpoints and barriers during eight years of war against travelers, passers-by and owners and drivers of means of transport of all sizes and models, as well as residents of the cities and villages surrounding them.





## ABU HASHEM CHECKPOINT (RADA'A – AL-BAYDA):

Starting from Al-Bayda Governorate (center of Yemen), which, until the date of preparing this report, is still an arena for armed confrontations between units of government forces, backed by the popular resistance and tribesmen, on one hand, and Houthi militia on the other hand. Documented information indicated that Houthi militia established several checkpoints and barriers since it invaded the governorate in late 2014, most notably the checkpoint that was set up in early December of the same year at one of the entrances to Rada'a City. It was known as Abu Hashem Checkpoint, or Idris Checkpoint, in reference to its first commander, Abdullah Ali Idris, nicknamed Abu Hashem al-Riyami. He is considered to be one of the former leaders of the Congress Party and belongs to the village of Riyam Al-Jarsha in Rada'a District.

Abu Hashem Checkpoint is located at the eastern entrance to Rada'a City in Al-Bayda Governorate, specifically on the road connecting their geographically related governorates. It forms a checkpoint of contact between the two conflicting parties in those governorates. It is about 118 kilometers away from the center of Al-Bayda governorate and away from the nearest similar checkpoint in the same district with about 2.6 kilometers.

The name of the so-called Abu Hashem al-Riyami was associated with that notorious checkpoint, and he was accused of committing killings, injuries, physical assaults, abductions, enforced disappearances, acts of torture and cruel treatment of hundreds of passers-by and travelers through the same checkpoint. In addition, he detained thousands of them for long hours, searched and abused them before forcing them to return to the areas from which they came in the northern governorates under the control of his militia.

Its victims included women, children, elderly people, patients and students who were on their way abroad to receive treatment, study or visit their relatives. Most of his victims were workers coming from the Houthi militia-controlled areas in the north, west and center of the country, heading to Ma'rib and some stable southern governorates in search of job opportunities or returning home.



In early January 2019, Houthi militia issued a decision for appointing the so-called Abu Harb as the new commander of Idris Checkpoint in Rada'a City, instead of Abu Hashem, who was transferred to Dhi Naem District and appointed as the commander of its combat front. Only a week after his arrival, he established another checkpoint and gave it his nickname. According to documented information obtained by Rights Radar, it was not less heinous or criminal than the previous one.



Rights Radar met some witnesses in Ma'rib who were traveling from the northern governorates. They stated that the so-called Abu Harb, the new commander of Abu Hashem Checkpoint located at the eastern entrance to Rada'a City, did the same as his predecessor al-Riyami. He obstructed passers-by and travelers through his checkpoint, violated their right to life and physical safety, confiscated their personal freedoms, money, property and belongings, as well as insulting, humiliating and forcing some of them to return to where they came from.

The so-called Abu Turab is currently in charge of the checkpoint, which is still under the control of Houthi militia up until writing this report. It is considered a black hole that swallows hundreds of travelers coming from or returning to the governorates in north, west and center of Yemen while passing through it. The checkpoint commander and militants continue the abusive and hostile practices against civilians based on their personal identities, political and regional affiliations and false accusations.

During the periods of its three commanders, the Houthi militia's notorious Abu Hashem Checkpoint in Rada'a City became a resource of money for the militia's war, and they practiced all kinds of financial extortion against travelers for looting their money and property, in addition to imposing royalties on trucks and fuel tankers belonging to private companies. It also gained a lot of money by abducting some travelers for several days and informing their families to provide a ransom for their release.

During the past seven years of war, the Rights Radar field-monitoring team recorded 1,313 abuses committed by the checkpoint commander and militants of the Houthi militia against travelers at Abu Hashem Checkpoint at the eastern entrance to Rada'a City, including 19 killings, 47 injuries, 579 abductions, enforced disappearance and physical and psychological torture, 648 cases of restriction of freedom of movement and 20 cases of looting and confiscation of private property and personal belongings.

### AL-FALAJ CHECKPOINT (SOUTH OF MA'RIB):

Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint is located at the main southern entrance to Ma'rib City, in eastern Yemen. Houthi militia were stationed there immediately after its armed invasion of the governorate in early 2015 after taking control of the capital, Sana'a. Through that checkpoint, Houthi militants tightened their siege on Ma'rib City and its residents. In addition, passers-by were subjected to torture, abuse and obstacles that impeded them from entering and exiting the city. This situation continued until the fighters of government and tribes, backed by Arab Coalition forces, arrived at this place and recaptured the checkpoint in mid-July 2016.

After that, Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint emerged as the most important strategic checkpoint with several main security and military checkpoints belonging to the government-affiliated Special Security Forces in Ma'rib Governorate, extending along the road leading to the center of the governorate. It is about 170 kilometers away from the capital, Sana'a. Due to a security necessity imposed by the war, passing through this checkpoint became inevitable for travelers coming from Houthi-controlled areas. The displaced people tried to escape from the brutality of Houthi militia, and there were also those people who were going to or returning from Seiyun Airport and Al-Wadiah land port in Hadhramaut Governorate.



Several government-affiliated Special Security Forces officers in Ma'rib Governorate succeeded in leading Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint, which was located about 14.5 kilometers away from the governorate's center. Those officers included First Lieutenant Moqbel al-Ramadi, who was

killed along with five checkpoint personnel at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, after clashes with an armed smuggling gang traveling in five cars belonging to one of the sheikhs of Saada after refusing to stop and be subjected to a search. This resulted in killing 12 people, including Sheikh Hamad Mohammed bin Shajia al-Waeli and arresting 11 others, and most of them were injured.

Despite the disciplined security measures that Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint has achieved since its return to the government forces, including arresting several shipments of weapons and large quantities of hashish and narcotic substances that were on their way to the Houthi militia's control areas, the checkpoint militants have committed, at the same time, some abuses against travelers and passers-by, including abductions, detentions and restrictions of freedom of movement.

Since the beginning of August 2016, the number of travelers on Sana'a-Ma'rib Road passing through or returning from Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint to reach Seiyun Airport and Al-Wadiyah land port in Hadhramaut Governorate has suddenly doubled, in addition to thousands of displaced people escaping from the brutality of Houthi militia and looking for shelter and job opportunities in Ma'rib and some southern governorates. This exposed some of them to some harassment while passing through checkpoints and barriers established along the road by both parties of the conflict, including the legitimate Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint at the southern entrance to Ma'rib City.

After the government's Security Forces announced that they had seized several sleeper cells belonging to Houthi militia that had previously infiltrated into Ma'rib City with explosive materials and assassination lists containing names of military, security and political leaders affiliated with the legitimacy at Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint increased its strict procedures that included searching travelers who entered Ma'rib, examining their personal identities and interrogating them.

During the period of December 2016 to February 2021, the Rights Radar field-monitoring team recorded 44 abuses committed by the government-affiliated Security Forces at Bab Al-Falaj Checkpoint in the south of Ma'rib Governorate against travelers, including one person getting killed, two people injured from bullets, 15 cases of abduction, two cases of enforced disappearance, one person being tortured and physical abused, 18 cases of restriction of freedom of movement, four cases of total and partial damage to vehicles and means of transport, in addition to one case of looting and confiscation of personal belongings.

According to the information obtained by the Rights Radar, the victims included women, children and elderly people who were on their way to Ma'rib City, the other government's districts and other countries outside Yemen. They were displaced persons searching for work or treatment, seeking knowledge or performing Hajj and Umrah. Some of them were subjected to harassment and routine search and interrogation procedures.



## STEEL FACTORY CHECKPOINT (AL-WAHT – LAHJ):

The Steel Factory Checkpoint is in Al-Rajaa, Al-Waht Subdistrict, Tur Al-Baha District, Lahj Governorate (south of Yemen), exactly at the northern entrance to the temporary capital, Aden, which is about 5.6 kilometers away from the first security checkpoint at the entrance to Bir Ahmed in Al-Buraiqah District, Aden Governorate. Its name was a reference to Bazara's Steel Factory, and one of its main gates was considered one of the notorious checkpoints and barriers in Yemen that emerged during the ongoing war.

Steel Factory Checkpoint emerged with several checkpoints and barriers that were established along the main asphalt line connecting the temporary capital, Aden, and the governorates of Lahj and Al-Dhale after the Arab Coalition forces and the government forces, backed by the southern resistance, launched a lightning military operation called Golden Arrow. It ended with the liberation of large parts of southern Yemen in mid-June 2015. After that, controlling these checkpoints was collectively assigned to security forces that included all elements supporting the legitimacy of President Hadi at that time.

In conjunction with the announcement of the formation of the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces in the south of Yemen, managing Steel Factory Checkpoint and the other security checkpoints spread along the road between the governorates of Aden and Lahj moved to security units affiliated with these forces that the recent events and the text of Riyadh Agreement proved its subordination to the Transitional Council. This absolved President Hadi and his government from all abuses and arbitrary practices committed by such formations and their checkpoints and barriers against travelers from the north to south Yemen, based on their identities and regional and political affiliations.



In the period of May 8 to 26, 2016, and in conjunction with the second phase of faltering Kuwait negotiations between the government and Houthi militia, some security forces in Aden Governorate, supported by the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces, began the first displacement operation that affected 1,246 people and their families from the northern governorates, including five women and six children, according to documented human rights statistic.

This was accompanied by imposing strict measures on the security outlets and barriers located between the south and north of Yemen, including Steel Factory Checkpoint, which was also closed for travelers coming from the north for about two weeks. This was done with no action on the part of the Yemeni security and military agencies in the governorates of Aden and Lahj, whose leaders were satisfied with announcing that they were not responsible for anything happening, and so they initiated an urgent investigation in implementation of higher directives that they had received from the Presidency of the Republic.

An official statement issued by the Supreme Security Committee in the temporary capital, Aden, on May 8, 2016, described what was happening at the time as a legal procedure and a security measure implemented by security units and checkpoints along main lines and roads, neighborhoods, streets and entrances to Aden to verify that all travelers or passers-by had a personal identity document, and they did not target people or militias belonging to a specific district or governorate. However, the report of “Displacement with Identity” issued by the “Youth Initiative to Break the Siege of Taiz” proved the opposite and showed, in documented statistics, that 717 of the displaced people had personal identity cards, and they represented 58% of the total displacement cases.

The displacement and its accompanying repressive and arbitrary measures in the temporary capital, Aden, and the security barriers located at its entrances temporarily stopped in response to external pressures exerted by some countries, organizations and bodies defending human rights, which considered those to be crimes against humanity based on ethnic and regional discrimination and threatened to impose penalties on the perpetrators and anyone who committed them.

In conjunction with the announcement of the formation of the so-called Transitional Council in early May 2017, these non-government UAE-backed security and military units resumed the second campaign of forced displacement against citizens from a northern governorates who are living in the temporary capital, Aden, and some districts adjacent to it in the two governorates of Lahj and Abyan. This was accompanied by strict procedures at the checkpoints at the entrances, including Steel Factory Checkpoint, which was again closed for travelers coming from northern Yemen, including injured and sick people who were supposed to travel abroad for treatment.

About seven months later, on Monday, December 18, 2017, Colonel Shukri Abdulaziz Nashir al-Subaihi, the checkpoint's commander, announced that they were not responsible for the decision for preventing the entry of northern governorates residents to Aden and confirmed that they had received higher instructions from unnamed parties. He expressed his regret for all the abuses and cruel and humiliating treatment that the northern travelers were exposed to at that checkpoint. He said that they were forced to do that against them.<sup>1</sup>

This situation resulted in the appearance of brokers, including taxi and private drivers, who had suspicious relationships with the leadership and personnel of Steel Factory Checkpoint and other checkpoints that were spread all over the entrances to Aden. They took advantage of the existing situation to smuggle northern travelers in exchange for huge sums of money, sometimes reaching 50,000 Yemeni riyals per passenger as a kind of illegal financial extortion for many patients, scholarship students, merchants, businessmen and some business owners, who were forced to enter the temporary capital.

By 2018, international pressures and interventions from Arab Coalition countries succeeded in opening the Steel Factory Checkpoint again and allowing the various means of transport to come in from northern Yemen to enter Aden. This situation lasted for more than a year with some harassment and extortion committed by checkpoint militants against travelers and passers-by through putting obstacles in their way on the pretext that they did not carry identity documents or accusing them with affiliations with the Houthi militia, government and resistance in Taiz Governorate, which had a tense relationship with the UAE, or that they were recruits coming from Ma'rib.

On August 1, 2019, there was a terrorist operation that targeted a military parade inside Al-Jalaa Camp, Al-Buriqa District, in the temporary capital, Aden, committed by Houthi militia, which resulted in killing 35 persons and injuring dozens of members of the Security Belt Brigades, including the commander of the First Brigade of Support, Munir al-Yafei, known as Abu al-Yamamah. This terrorist operation resulted in campaigns of displacement of residents of the northern governorates from southern Yemen. In addition, the Steel Factory Checkpoint also prevented any travelers from northern Yemen from entering Aden, practiced all methods of humiliation against them and subjected some of them to interrogation.

Documented information indicates that the violations, crimes and abuses committed against travelers and passers-by, who came from Ma'rib and the other northern and western governorates, reached maximum level during the coup of the Transitional Council against the legitimacy of President Hadi in the south of Yemen. There were also the accompanying violent battles among government forces, brigades and

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1 <https://,Adengad.net/posts/293160>

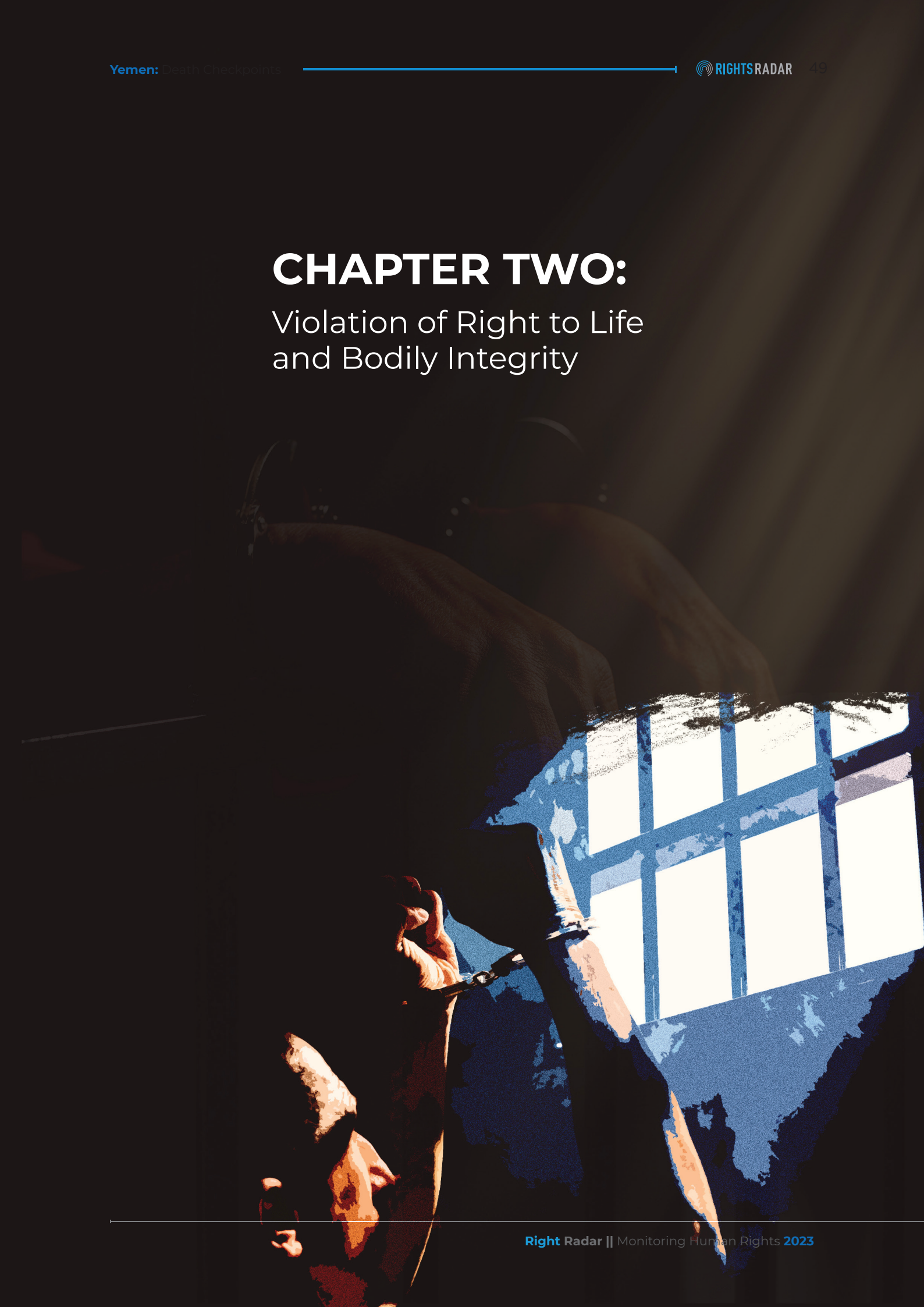


UAE-backed military and security formations that lasted for nearly two weeks. These battles ended with the control of UAE-backed military and security formations on all state institutions, expulsion of the prime minister and government members from their residence in Al-Ma'ashiq Palace and withdrawal of its military and security forces to the governorates of Shabwa, Ma'rib and the outskirts of Abyan Governorate.

The Rights Radar field-monitoring team recorded 530 abuses committed by personnel of the Transitional Council's Steel Factory Checkpoint and the main checkpoints at the entrances to the temporary capital, Aden, against travelers, including 36 people getting killed, 70 people getting injured, physically assaulted and abused, 130 cases of abduction, 34 cases of enforced disappearance, 11 people tortured, 259 cases of restriction of freedom of movement, in addition to 10 cases of total and partial destruction of vehicles, 21 cases of confiscation of private property, looting of money and imposition levies and four cases of obstruction and denial of access to humanitarian aid.

# CHAPTER TWO:

## Violation of Right to Life and Bodily Integrity



The human right to life and bodily integrity is considered a godsend and an inherent right. It is not a privilege granted by an authority or entity to individuals in any country. In addition, it is an ethical principle based on the absolute recognition of the right of every human being to live in peace and security without being killed or abused by another human being or group. The recognition and protection of this right is the basis on which the other rights are built. This human right includes security, survival, bodily integrity, full development, dignity, freedom of movement, autonomy and will.

Most legal experts agree on the definition of this human right as “not depriving every human being of life and dignity in any way”. Martha Nussbaum, an American Ph.D. in law, defines the right to bodily integrity as, “Being able to move freely from place to place; being able to be secure against violent assault.” Everything that contradicts these two definitions is considered criminal and prohibited in accordance with the Yemeni legislation in force and all international instruments and documents.





**FIRST:**

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

**HOUTHİ MILİTİA**



### 1. Protesters at Ring Line Checkpoint (Al-Mishnah, Ibb):

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 2014, five civilians were killed, and seven others were injured from an attack by militants affiliated with Houthi militia in two separate incidents. They attacked civilian cars carrying the victims who were on their way to participate in an anti-coup protest in front of the western gate of Ibb University in the Al-Mishnah District (central of Yemen).

The witnesses of the victims' families and eyewitnesses to the incident, including A. A. A. and A. M. A.,<sup>1</sup> said that militants affiliated with Houthi militia and its ally, at that time, the former president, were stationed at a newly established checkpoint on Ring Line Street at the end of the wall of Ibb University in Al-Mishnah District. At 11 a.m., they intercepted civilian cars carrying citizens who were on their way to participate in a protest of tribes of Ibb, expressing their rejection to the coup against the government represented by the elected President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and the Government of National Accord.

Witnesses told the Rights Radar team that Houthi and Saleh militants started firing a barrage of bullets at citizens' cars after some of those cars crossed the militants' checkpoint established at the end of the wall of Ibb University at Ring Line. This resulted in killing citizen Ali Hassan Mohammed Rashid and injuring seven others. Their personal data are listed below in the table of victims' names.

According to a written report submitted by W. M. S.,<sup>2</sup> one of the victims' relatives, at exactly 1 p.m. after Friday prayer, the militants of this checkpoint attacked another car carrying several protesters while they were returning from the anti-coup protest. They fired a barrage of bullets into the car that resulted in killing all four people inside. They were from Al-Rabadi Subdistrict, Jabla District, Ibb Governorate, and their personal data are included in the table below.

1 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.

2 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.



### Names of Dead and Injured Victims of the Incident:

No.	Name	Age	Case	No.	Name	Age	Case
1	Khaled Mohammed Ali Aslan	39	Killed	7	Fayez Ahmed Mohammed Ali al- Mosarah	31	Injured
2	Abdullah Hammoud Melhi Said	55	Killed	8	Qassem Abadi Mohammed al- Margami	42	Injured
3	Adnan Ahmed al- Hatar	37	Killed	9	Mohammed Thabet Ismail Shehab	18	Injured
4	Ali Hassan Mohammed Rashid	46	Killed	10	Mohammed Mohammed Hamid al-Shami	40	Injured
5	Taha Mohammed Ahmad Numan	28	Killed	11	Mukhtar Mohammed Hammoud Melhi	22	Injured
6	Ammar Abdul Raqeb Mansour al-Ahmadi	23	Injured	12	Nishtan Hammoud Ahmed al-Shabibi		Injured

## 2. A Family at the Ring Road Checkpoint (Bayhan, Shabwa):

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the first of April in 2015, a woman, her husband and their child were killed and one person from the same family was injured with bullets by militants at one of the checkpoints established by the Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, at the Ring Road Checkpoint in the Bayhan District, Shabwa Governorate (south of Yemen).

Rights Radar monitored witnesses of the victims' relatives and others. They stated that citizen Qaid Mohammed Ahmed Mubarak Hawat, aged 30, his wife Wasila Ahmed Abdullah al-Hawar, aged 27, and their child Ahmed, just three years old, were shot dead by Houthis and Saleh militants while their car was passing through a newly established checkpoint on ring road in the center of Bayhan District in Shabwa Governorate.

One of the witnesses to the incident, Hamdi Mohammed Ahmad, 25, said: "I was with my brother, Qaid, who was driving his car on the ring road in Bayhan District. He was returning to his home with his wife, their child, Ahmed, and my brother, Yasser. While we were chatting, militants of a checkpoint set up by Houthi and Saleh militia stopped us and searched the car. My brother, Qaid, refused to do this because it was against our values, customs and traditions as Yemenis, especially





with the presence of families. Once he started the car trying to pass through the checkpoint, its militants shot and killed him, his wife and their child, Ahmed, and injured my brother, Yasser.”

A Widow and Her Daughter at Musa Plateau Checkpoint (Al-Zaher, Al-Bayda):

On Tuesday morning, the first of September 2015, a 40-year-old widow was killed and her 20-year-old daughter was injured by bullets by militants at a checkpoint belonging to Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Musa Plateau on the highway between the villages of Al-Athoul and Muhsun Al Said in Al-Zaher District, Al-Bayda Governorate (center of Yemen).

A report submitted by A. N. M., one of the victims' relatives stated, “On Tuesday morning, the first of September 2015, Zakia Hussein Ghaleb Awad Al-Gohari, aged 45, went out with her eldest son, Ahmed Nasser al-Ramathi, and her daughter, Maryam, from their home in the village of Al-Samlan, Al-Radman Subdistrict, Al-Zaher District. They were driving a white two-cabin Hilux car and heading to Al-Bayda City (center of the governorate) to buy some items and needs for the wedding of one of her daughters. Once they arrived in Al-Jardi District, some travelers met them and told them that the road was cut off because some militants belonging to Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, blew up a ferry at the entrance to the center of Al-Zaher District, forcing them to take another, longer and more rugged road.

They continued driving until they reached the outskirts of a sloping mountainous area, called Hayd Al-Arqoub, which was located between the villages of Al-Athoul and Muhsun Al Said. At 10 a.m., militants of Houthi militia and its former ally, who were stationed at a checkpoint on Mousa Plateau on the opposite side, shot them with a barrage of bullets, one of which penetrated Zakia's chest, and another one injured her daughter's right foot.

The driver of the car continued to move forward to get away from the bullets but didn't know which direction to go until he reached the village of Muhsun Al Said, near the place of the incident. The village's people rescued them. In an uncalculated adventure, a young driver drove the car and went down the same road, trying to save Zakia, who was still alive. When they arrived there, the Houthi and Saleh militants fired at them, but the driver just sped until he escaped from them.

Zakia died when they passed near her village, but her son did not believe that, so he asked the driver to go to a rural hospital in Yafa District, which was about 60



kilometers away from their area. When they arrived, the doctors confirmed the death of his mother due to her serious injury. Then, they surgically extracted the bullet from the foot of his sister, Maryam.

### 3. A Citizen at Al-Dahi Crossing (Al-Mudhaffar, Taiz):

In Taiz Governorate (southwest of Yemen), where residents have been under the siege of the Houthi militia for seven years, a citizen was shot and killed by the militants of Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, while passing through a checkpoint set up at the western entrance of the city on Monday evening, December 4, 2015. This checkpoint was known as Al-Dahi Crossing, where Taiz's residents experienced the scourge of war and the bitterness of death and torture.

According to the statements of victims' families and witnesses to the incident documented by the Rights Radar team, Houthi militia and its former ally had deliberately and directly killed a 32-year-old man, Mahdi Mohammed Hassan Mohammed, when he was crossing a checkpoint established in Al-Dahi District, at the western entrance of Taiz. He was on his way home, which was in the center of the city, to spend some time with his wife and children, although the distance between them does not exceed 500 meters.

During a recorded interview conducted by Rights Radar, the victim's wife said that her husband, Mahdi Mohammed, worked as a qat seller in Abdo Seif market, Bir Basha, Al-Mudhaffar District, west of Taiz. After the end of his work, he decided to visit his family, who lived in Al-Manakh neighborhood in the same district. At 4 p.m. on Monday, he arrived at Al-Dahi Crossing, which was located between his workplace and home. After that, militants from a checkpoint belonging to the Houthi militia and its former ally intercepted him and prevented him from going to his wife and children.

The grieving wife said that her husband got into a verbal altercation with the checkpoint militants who were armed with all kinds of weapons. The situation worsened, and one of the militants pointed his Kalashnikov weapon at the face of her husband, and then he shot him from behind. The bullet penetrated his back and came out of his chest, and he collapsed right there. The perpetrators also took the victim's body to a mortuary in a hospital in Ibb City. They did not give the body to his family until after four days of mediation and strenuous follow-up.



#### 4. A Woman and Her Husband at Al-Dahi Crossing (Al-Mudhaffar, Taiz):

On Saturday, February 13, 2016, a crossing located in the middle of Al-Dahi neighborhood, Al-Mudhaffar District, west of Taiz, was witness to another killing crime. The victim was a 41-year-old housewife, who went out with her husband and their two children from their home in Al-Hareish neighborhood, located in the besieged districts inside the city. They were heading to Bir Pasha to bring some necessary items because it was impossible to get them elsewhere due to the siege imposed by Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, on the residents of Taiz at that time.

Rights Radar in Taiz met the victim's husband. The victim was named, Samira Ismail Mohammed Qasim, aged 41. Her husband said: "Me, my wife and two of our children, Khaled and Murad, were heading from Taiz University toward Bir Pasha District. When we arrived at Al-Tulqa Tree near the checkpoint of the Houthi militia and its former ally at Al-Dahi Crossing at 11 a.m., we asked the checkpoint militants to let us pass and they agreed. Before we crossed the checkpoint, we had been shot heavily for no reason.

According to the husband, Abdullah Hammoud Suleiman Zaher, the person who shot them was Fouad Ali Othman. He was one of the checkpoint militants, and he gave them permission to cross. Then, Abdullah Hammoud's wife, Samira, was shot by a bullet to her chest just above the heart. She was taken to Al-Barihi Hospital where she died hours after her arrival. He was also shot in his left hand, and their two children, Khaled and Murad, survived.

#### 5. Qat Seller at Al-Amjoud Checkpoint (Sharab Al-Salam, Taiz):

At 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, a 20-year-old qat seller from Al-Aqbeh Village was shot and killed by militants of Houthi militia and his former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, while he was passing through a checkpoint belonging to them in the Al-Amjoud area, Sharab Al-Salam District, Taiz Governorate (southwest of Yemen).

Rights Radar met two witnesses, A. M. K. and F. M. S.,<sup>3</sup> who were there when the incident occurred. They confirmed that militants of Houthi militia and its former ally led by tribal Sheikh Abdullah Mohammed Abdulaziz al-Kamel and his son, Abdulaziz,

<sup>3</sup> The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.





arrested the young man, Maher Saeed Ghaleb Hassan Ali, aged 20, at a checkpoint set up by the perpetrators of crime on the road between Al-Adeen Branch District and Al-Amjoud area while he was on his motorcycle.

Witnesses also reported that the commander of the checkpoint, Sheikh al-Kamel, asked the young man to give him some qat for free. When he refused to do this, one of the sheikh's guards, named Issa, fired several bullets with an automatic Kalashnikov weapon. Two bullets went into his head and a third one went in the middle of his neck, causing him to die.

In addition, the checkpoint militants prevented travelers and some residents in the area from approaching the victim or trying to rescue him. Then, they left him to bleed until he died. The Rights Radar monitoring team met his father, Saeed Ghaleb Hassan Ali, aged 45, and he said that he was following his son in another car on the same road that day. He was shocked when he saw his son's body at Al-Amjoud Checkpoint, which was established by one of the area's sheikhs and was supported by Houthi militia and the former president.

The victim's father also mentioned that his 20-year-old son, Maher, was coming on his motorcycle from Taiz Governorate to the market in the center of Al-Adeen Branch District, Ibb Governorate, to sell a load of qat to support his family, who had no other source of income.

#### **6. A Teacher at Admat Checkpoint (Al-Sabra, Ibb):**

Houthi militants killed a motorcyclist at a checkpoint on Admat Road at the entrance to Hajar Village, Al-Abroh Subdistrict, Al-Sabra District, in Ibb Governorate (center of Yemen), while he was going home on Sunday, November 19, 2017.

According to a report submitted by A. S. G.,<sup>4</sup> one of the victim's relatives, Houthi militants, led by the so-called Imad Saif Saeed al-Barihi, established several checkpoints and barriers at the entrances to Hajar Village, Al-Abroh Subdistrict, Al-Sabra District, in Ibb Governorate, including Admat Checkpoint. On Sunday, November 19, 2017, citizen Abdul-Raqib Saleh Ghalab al-Sharabi, aged 39, was heading home from Shisha Al-Bahr Market on his motorcycle. He had some needed items for his family, including his wife, three daughters and son. The checkpoint militants prevented him from reaching there and killed him in cold blood under the pretext of not stopping for being searched.

<sup>4</sup> The relative wishes to remain anonymous.



In their statement, the two witnesses to the incident, M.A.G. and Z.S.A.,<sup>5</sup> stated that the young man, Abdul-Raqib al-Sharabi, was coming from Shisha Al-Bahr Market in Al-Ta'iziyah District, located between the borders of the governorates of Taiz and Ibb. He was riding his motorcycle and heading to his home in Hajar Village. When he reached Al-Mahawi Checkpoint on Admat Road near the entrance to Hajar Village, Houthi militants' leader Imad al-Braihi pointed his Kalashnikov weapon at al-Sharabi. He fired several bullets from behind, hitting the victim's right hand. After that, Abdul-Raqib stopped, but the leader shot him three times in the middle of his head, and he died immediately.

According to the statements of the two witnesses, the crime perpetrators were not satisfied with that, and they attacked the victim's body and searched all his bags, which contained some household items. They also searched the victim's clothes to stealing any money he had or any other belongings. When they did not find anything, they ran off and escaped.

The statements and witnesses obtained by Rights Radar also included information confirming that the victim worked as a preacher at the mosque of Hajar Village, and he also was an Arabic teacher. He was characterized by his good manners, honesty, good dealings with his village residents and his love of doing charitable work. He had no political orientation or affiliation. He had previously objected to the Houthi militia setup of checkpoints and barriers inside and around his village, especially when the village had not previously witnessed any conflicts or armed confrontations.

The victim had previously received several threats of physical liquidation and abduction by the leaders and militants of Houthi militia until they killed him. The district's residents had moved immediately to the place of the incident and chased the crime perpetrator, Imad al-Braihi, after escaping with his gang. After searching and investigating, they were able to arrest some gang members, who confessed to all the details of crime and their participation in it, but the commander of the checkpoint and the one who is responsible for committing the crime is still free and is being protected by the leaders of Houthi militia in the district up until the time of writing this report.

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5 Both witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



### 7. Two Brothers at Idan Checkpoint (Al-Qafr, Ibb):

In two separate incidents, militants of a Houthi militia checkpoint at the western entrance to Rehab City, center of Al-Qafr District, Ibb Governorate (center of Yemen), committed two premeditated killings against two brothers after trespassing on their land located next to the checkpoint and building on it without any right or even notifying the real owner.

According to the statements and witnesses of the victims' families and some witnesses to the incident, including Y. S. M. and F. N. M.,<sup>6</sup> the so-called Khalil Ali Abdo Shuaib, nicknamed Abu Qafri, was the commander of the checkpoint set up by Houthi militia in Idan at the southern entrance to Rehab City, Al-Qafr District, Ibb Governorate. He built a housing room for the checkpoint militants and shops on an adjacent property owned by Murad Ghalib Abadi al-Muradi, aged 33. although Murad repeatedly tried to prevent the robbery of his property, the checkpoint commander did not care about his legal demands.

After that, at exactly 11 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2018, the owner, Murad Ghalib Abadi, returned home after participating in the wedding of one of his friends to see his property was looted. Before arriving at the same checkpoint, its militants led by the so-called Abu Qafri ambushed the victim and shot him until he died. To cover up their crime, they claimed that he intended to target and attack them.

The crime perpetrators went to the victim's father and brother who had been abducted by them for months and asked them to give up the blood of the victim in exchange for their release and not being pursued, but they rejected that offer. Then, Houthi militia released the victim's father and brother unconditionally to face the anger of people in the area.

Only 41 days after killing Murad, his older brother, who had been recently released, was killed when he was passing through the same checkpoint. The same perpetrators attacked him under the same pretext of attacking them and taking revenge on his brother. The witness A. G. A.,<sup>7</sup> one of the victim's relatives, said that the so-called Khalil Ali Abdo Shuaib, the commander of Idan Checkpoint of Houthi militia in the center of Al-Qafr District northwest of Ibb, fired several bullets with his Kalashnikov weapon at citizen Mohammed Ghalib Abadi al-Muradi, aged 36, while passing

6 The witness wishes to remain anonymous.

7 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.





through Idan Checkpoint on Thursday evening, March 22, 2018, claiming that the victim intended to attack them and avenge his brother Murad.

A Truck Driver at Ghorban Checkpoint (Khamer, Amran):

At 3 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2019, the checkpoint set up by Houthi militia in Ghorban, Khamer District, Amran Governorate (northern Yemen) was the scene of another crime of death committed by the checkpoint commander, Sultan Sabah al-Ghorbani, nicknamed Abu Ali al-Ghorbani, who was loyal to the Houthi militia. He killed a truck driver named Sultan Ali Zafran, aged 39, because he refused to pay illegal royalties. This is a clear example of the underestimation of the lives of citizens.

In a written complaint submitted to Rights Radar, one of the victim's relatives, called S. H. M.,<sup>8</sup> summarized the incident saying that Sultan al-Ghorbani, the commander of the checkpoint established on Gharban-Wadi Hittiyeh line, Khamer District, Amran Governorate, stopped citizen Sultan Ali Zafran on Tuesday afternoon while he was passing through in his Mitsubishi truck with his two children, Ali and Fadl, because he refused to pay illegal royalties to the checkpoint commander and militants who shot him and he died right in front of his two children.

According to the two witnesses, B. S. G. and A. H. S.,<sup>9</sup> the Houthi leader, Abu Ali al-Ghorbani, and the checkpoint militants chased Sultan Zafran while he was driving his truck to transport firewood from the valley to earn money for his family. They started shooting at the truck tires and damaged them to force the driver to get out and announce his surrender to the checkpoint commander and militants. He begged them not to shoot him in front of his two children so that they would not be terrified.

However, the so-called Abu Ali al-Ghorbani coldly used his Kalashnikov and fired three bullets at him, two of which penetrated the victim's chest, while the third bullet penetrated his head and killed him in front of his two young children who lost their father in a bloody, terrifying scene.

To avoid what the Houthi militia considered a personal mistake and to face the popular anger and discontent resulted from such a premeditated killing crime, the militia put the perpetrator in General Prison in Amran. Then, they tried to persuade the victim's family to bury his body as a step to close the entire case file.

8 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.

9 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



### 8. A Trader at Shuhatta Checkpoint (Ghamr, Saada):

At 10 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019, Houthi militants deliberately killed a trader while he was passing through their checkpoint in Shuhatta, Ghamr District, Saada Governorate (far north of Yemen), after being searched and allowed to cross.

According to a report submitted to Rights Radar by one of the victim's relatives (A. A. M.<sup>10</sup>), militants of the checkpoint set up by the Houthi militia on the road to Shuhatta, Ghamr District, Saada Governorate, stopped young man Yahya Ali Hamdan Bahis, aged 24, while he was passing through the checkpoint at 10 a.m. on Friday. He was charged for drug possession. Then, they searched him, and, when they did not find anything on him, they gave him permission to cross. But, when he turned away to go to and get in his vehicle, they shot him with machine guns, with some bullets penetrating the back of his head— he died instantly.

According to the witnesses interviewed by Rights Radar, including F. H. M. and A. M. G.,<sup>11</sup> the Houthi militants of the newly established checkpoint who killed the victim then dragged his body and kept it for days. After that, they bargained with his family to give up the case and blood of their son in exchange for handing over his body. The victim's family accused Abdullah al-Hayas and another one from al-Haffi's family, belonging to Abu Hashem tribe, in addition to a Houthi leader named Abu Hussein al-Shanifi, for the death of their son. These three men were not from Ghamr District. The tribesmen of Al Hussein, to which Bahis belonged, gathered after the crime. Then, they went to the place of the incident, but the perpetrators had escaped before they arrived.

According to statements of the victim's family and documented witnesses, the victim, Yahya Bahis, was a trader and one of the influential social figures in his district. During the period of the last war in Yemen, he was classified as being among the most prominent intellectual, sectarian and political opponents of the Houthi militia in Ghamr District and Saada Governorate. This was the cause of killing him physically at one of the newly established checkpoints.

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10 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.

11 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



### 9. A Student at Al-Zayla Checkpoint (Qataba, Al-Dhale):

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, 2020, at Al-Zayla checkpoint, which was established by Houthi militia, north of Maris, Qataba District, Al-Dhale Governorate (southern of Yemen), checkpoint militants fired several bullets from a 7/12 caliber machine gun at a student, from Al-Qafr District, Ibb Governorate, while he was passing through the checkpoint. He was killed for no apparent reason.

According to documented witnesses of victim's families, including M. S. A. and A. S. M.,<sup>12</sup> the 19-year-old young man, Moataz Mohammed Saleh Ali al-Wadayi, completed his secondary certificate exams and worked at Al-Muraisy Gas Station in Qataba District for nearly a year to pay for his studies and help his father.

On that Saturday afternoon, the victim was returning from his workplace to visit his family in Al-Qafr District, Ibb Governorate, through Al-Oud Road. While he was on his motorbike, passing through a Houthi militia's checkpoint in Al-Zayla, north of Maris, and led by one of its leaders in Damt City, named Abu Hussein al-Halabi, one of the checkpoint militants fired at the victim with a heavy machine gun. He was shot twice in his back, and he died instantly.

According to another witness, A. G. A.,<sup>13</sup> young man Moataz al-Wadee'i was on his way to visit his family in Qafar, Ibb, when he across a newly established checkpoint in Al-Zayla, near Maris District, and he did not even know who established it. He did not want to face the problem that he always found during his travels and movements at such checkpoints, so he started his motorcycle trying to ride away from it, but the bullets of checkpoint militants were faster than him. They shot him in his back, and he fell, covered in blood. When they reached him, he was dead.

<sup>12</sup> The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.

<sup>13</sup> The witness wishes to remain anonymous.





### 10. A Child at Abu Hashem Checkpoint (Rada'a, Al-Bayda):

At 2 p.m. of Tuesday, April 14, 2020, Houthi militants of Abu Hashem Checkpoint, located at the eastern entrance to Rada'a City, Al-Bayda Governorate, fired a barrage of bullets randomly at the crowds of travelers, who had been stopped to be searched, their reasons being that the travelers had not adhered to instructions and directions of the checkpoint militants.

Rights Radar met with two witnesses to the incident, called A. H. A. and A. A. J.14 They said that a 17-year-old, Handala Mohammed Mohsin al-Qashmari, was on his bike passing through the checkpoint when he was shot by a bullet on his right side. He was subsequently taken to a hospital in the capital, Sana'a, to receive treatment due to his critical condition. The victim was from Al-Shokiah Neighborhood in Rada'a City.

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14 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



**SECOND:**

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS COMMITTED BY

**NON-GOVERNMENT  
FORMATIONS**



### 1. A traveler at Dar Al-Haytham Checkpoint (Dar Saad, Aden):

At 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2017, a resident in Taiz Governorate, who came from Ma'rib City, was shot dead by militants affiliated with the Security Belt Forces while he was passing through one of the newly established checkpoints in Dar Saad District, the temporary capital, Aden (south of Yemen).

The victim's brother met with Rights Radar in Taiz, and he said that Omran Abdullah al-Sabri, aged 31, was with 18 young men who joined the Military Police in Ma'rib. They were on their way to visit their families in Taiz. While they were passing through Dar Al-Haytham Checkpoint, near the Green City, Dar Saad District, center of the temporary capital, Aden, which was affiliated with the Security Belt Forces, the checkpoint militants stopped the young men's bus. Then, the militants searched the young men and threw their belongings on the ground in a humiliating manner.

Moaz al-Sabri told Rights Radar that his brother, Omran, did not accept the insults of the checkpoint militants. When he objected to the way he was treated during the search, one of the checkpoint militants slapped his face, and Omran then slapped him the same way. Suddenly, another militant shot Omran in his stomach, and he went down.

After that, Omran al-Sabri was taken to Al-Fayoush Hospital, but, due to his critical condition resulting from his serious injury, he was taken to Doctors Without Borders Center in Sheikh Othman. He died there on the operating table, and then his body was moved to the mortuary in Al-Jumhuriya Hospital in Aden.

#### A Traveler at Abu Al-Abbas Brigades Checkpoint (Al-Ma'afer, Taiz):

On Monday, November 27, 2018, Saddam Mohammed Saddam was returning from Mocha City with seven of his colleagues who joined the ninth Giants Brigade on the West Coast front to visit their families in Taiz. They passed several checkpoints and security barriers until they reached a checkpoint that was established by Abu al-Abbas Brigades, that was split from the 35th Armored Brigade, in Al-Baireen Village, southwest of Taiz. The checkpoint militants stopped them and asked them to hand over their licensed weapons. After responding to their request, they shot Saddam from behind and killed him.





Rights Radar met with a witness to the incident, called A. S. Q.,<sup>1</sup> and he told them what happened at the checkpoint, saying: “At 11 p.m., we reached the security checkpoint of Abu al-Abbas Brigades in Al-Baireen Village. The checkpoint militants asked us some questions about our destination and from where we came. We answered them, and then they asked us to hand over our weapons, but we refused that because they were licensed weapons, and we belonged to one of the government’s Brigades.”

The witness added: “After that, they asked us to wait for a while until they contacted the Brigades’ leadership to allow us to pass. While waiting, our colleague, Saddam, got off the car, sat down and then lay on his back relaxing next to the checkpoint militants because he was exhausted. He remained there for nearly two hours while we were negotiating with the checkpoint militants in order to let us pass.”

He added: “At 1:30 a.m., the checkpoint militants asked our colleague, Saddam, to hand over his weapon and get into the car. He handed over the weapon and returned to the car. When he opened the car door, the militants shot him with two bullets from behind. One bullet hit his back, and the other hit his thigh. He fell dead instantly. Then, they took all our personal weapons.”

## 2. Two Truck Drivers at Al-Rabat Checkpoint (Al-Houta, Lahj):

On the first of September in 2019, the Criminal Investigation Department in Lahj Governorate revealed that two bodies had been found behind Al-Saidi Station, near Al-Rabat Security Checkpoint, Tuban District. An official statement circulated by local and foreign media confirmed that the initial information indicated that the two bodies were for two people from the northern governorates, and their identities were unknown. They were taken by the department staff to the mortuary of Ibn Khaldoun Hospital in Lahj. There was a picture of the two bodies, showing traces of bullets and blood on them.

This information made Rights Radar move to Lahj Governorate to investigate the facts, find out the details of the incident and document it. They met with M. A. W.,<sup>2</sup> one of the victims’ relatives, who came from northern Yemen. He confirmed that the two bodies were Aziz Ahmed Ali Al-Zawar, aged 38, and Majid Ahmed Mulatif al-Zawar, aged 40, from Beit Al-Zawar Village, Bani Suleiman Subdistrict, Al-Hima Al-Kharjia District, Sana’a Governorate. They were truck drivers transporting goods from the port of Aden to other Yemeni governorates, including Sana’a and Ma’rib.

1 The witness wishes to remain anonymous.

2 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.



After listening to several witnesses to the incident, including A. A. A. and A. S. K.,<sup>3</sup> it was proven to Rights Radar that militants from Security Belt Forces attacked Al-Salam Restaurant, Dar Saad District in the temporary capital, Aden at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. While Aziz al-Zawar and Majid Mulatif were there to eat lunch, the militants attacked them with rifle butts in front of all the people inside the restaurant. Then, they took them to Fifth Brigade of Security Belt Forces and confiscated their trucks that were parked in front of the restaurant.

The witnesses, who saw the whole thing, Aziz al-Zawar and his cousin, Majid Mulatif, said that the truck drivers were asking for help while the Security Belt soldiers were beating them. They were shouting: “We are Yemenis. We are your brothers. What have we done to be exposed to all this?!!” But the Houthis were unaffected by their words because their stony hearts were full of hate and violence toward everything related to northern Yemen.

Based on documented information obtained and verified by Rights Radar, the abductors were militants of the security checkpoint established in the middle of Al-Rabat Street, Tuban District, in the northern entrance to the temporary capital, Aden. The abduction of the two victims was carried out after monitoring their movements in conjunction with the coup led by Transitional Council Forces against the legitimacy of President Hadi in the temporary capital, Aden, and some of the southern governorates. In addition, there were accompanying clashes and confrontations with the presidential protection brigades and some security units affiliated with the government. This ended with the departure of the prime minister and the remaining government members, along with the withdrawal of its affiliated forces to the governorates of Ma’rib and Shabwa and the outskirts of Abyan Governorate.

This was preceded by a large-scale campaign against the people of the northern governorates who lived in the temporary capital, Aden, and the remaining southern governorates. This campaign quickly turned into hostile actions and practices represented in campaigns of abduction, displacement and hundreds were killed. The revenge motives were based on personal identity and regional affiliation. Aziz al-Zawar and his relative, Majid al-Zawar, were among the victims. The situation is still the same up to the writing of this report.

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3 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



There were pictures of the bodies of Aziz and Majid that were posted by activists on social media and Rights Radar obtained some of them. The pictures showed that they were shot at point-blank range and killed. In addition, their bodies were mutilated by several stab wounds, which were from sharp tools. They were also exposed to physical torture after their abduction, and its effects were evident on their bodies.

Rights Radar also obtained a leaked video clip taken with one of the surveillance cameras. It monitored three militants of the Fifth Brigade of Security Belt Forces assaulting the two victims before abducting and killing them in a brutal manner. This occurred behind Al-Saidi Station near the Brigades center and only 40 meters away from Al-Rabat Checkpoint affiliated with the same forces in Lahj Governorate.

### **3. A Citizen at Wadi Ma'aden Checkpoint (Tur Al-Baha, Lahj):**

At 9 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, a traveler was shot dead by a militant of the so-called Fourth Brigade of Security Belt Forces affiliated with UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council. They fired at the car carrying the victim under the pretext that the driver did not stop to be searched at the checkpoint in Tur Al-Baha District, Lahj Governorate (southern of Yemen).

Rights Radar listened to some witnesses to the incident, including A. M. S. and F. T. A.<sup>4</sup> They said that citizen Miteb Said Qaid, aged 30, was sitting in the front seat of Anif Said Thabet's car, coming from Tur Al-Baha District to Haifan District in Taiz Governorate. While the car was passing through Wadi Ma'aden, they found a checkpoint set up by the Fourth Brigade of Security Belt Forces.

Witnesses, who were passengers in the car, stated that the driver did not notice the checkpoint, and he passed through it. Therefore, its militants fired a barrage of indiscriminate bullets at the car. One of these bullets hit the victim, who was sitting in the front seat next to the driver, and killed him instantly. The perpetrators are so far still not arrested until the writing this report, and there was not even an investigation report regarding this case.

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4 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.





#### 4. An Expatriate at Al-Farsha Checkpoint (Tur Al-Baha, Lahj):

A 30-year-old young man, Abdul-Malik Anwar Ahmed al-Sanabani, was one of the victims of checkpoints and barriers established by the security and military formations of the Southern Transitional Council at the northern entrance to the temporary capital, Aden, and along the main lines and roads connecting southern and northern Yemen, passing through the governorates of Lahj and Al-Dhale. This incident is considered a complicated crime because the victim was subjected to three different crimes at the same time and place, including blocking his path, abduction, looting and stealing his belongings, and, on top of all that, he was killed.

The witnesses who talked to Rights Radar stated that the young man, Abdul-Malik al-Sanabani, from Sanban Village, Mayfa'a Ans District, Dhamar Governorate, northern Yemen, who was an American national, arrived at Aden International Airport at 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, from the United States via Dubai-Cairo Airport. He had spent seven years in the United States working and completing his studies. Then, he left the temporary capital at 8 a.m. that same day to head to Sana'a, where his family lived, through Lahj-Taiz road from Al-Sabiha side.

According to some witnesses, including K. M. H. and S. A. N.,<sup>5</sup> and some documents obtained by Rights Radar, militants of Ninth Thunderbolt Brigade, who were loyal to Southern Transitional Council, stopped a taxi carrying al-Sanabani at exactly 10 a.m. the same day of his arrival at their military checkpoint in Al-Farsha Village, Tur Al-Baha District, Lahj Governorate. They abducted him by force, with their reason being they wanted to interrogate him on charges of belonging to Houthi militia, even though he had left Yemen before its coup against the government.

From 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., the checkpoint militants kept beating al-Sanabani with the butts of their rifles and kicked him, all because he refused to obey their orders and comply with their instructions. After that, they handcuffed his hands and his legs and took him, along with the driver of the car he was traveling with, to a secret prison belonging to the leadership of the Ninth Brigade Saiqa in Ras Omran District on the outskirts of the temporary capital, Aden, which was 70 kilometers away from Al-Farsha Checkpoint.

<sup>5</sup> The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



Most of the witnesses obtained by Rights Radar stated that al-Sanabani died before sunset on the day he arrived at his homeland because of torture and bullets during his detention inside Ras Omran Prison of the Ninth Thunderbolt Brigade, which was no more than six hours from the moment of his abduction. At 6 p.m. the same day, his body was delivered to Al-Buraiqah Hospital from which it was moved to the mortuary at Al-Jumhuriya Hospital in Aden about an hour later, according to the body-receipt document and request for medical examination, which was issued by the hospital's criminal investigation officer.

One day later, specifically on Thursday, September 9, 2021, Al-Ayyam newspaper, issue No. 7208, published news about the arrest of al-Sanabani as a Houthi leader, while passing through a checkpoint on Lahj-Taiz road coming from the United States. He had a sum of money in American dollars, and its amount was unknown. This news was based on the statement of Jalal al-Souissi, the media advisor to the local authority in Tur Al-Baha District, which included information about the procedures taken for arresting the victim with his pictures while he was handcuffed in a vehicle belonging to the checkpoint militants.

This was reported by visual and printed media loyal to the so-called Southern Transitional Council, which presented the issue as a unique and qualitative security achievement of the checkpoint of the Ninth Thunderbolt Brigade, led by Brigadier General Farouk al-Kalouli and the checkpoint militants, whose photos were published. Otherwise, other Yemeni journalists considered it a proactive step on the path to misleading public opinion and distorting the facts related to the incident, which proved the involvement of the Transitional Council militants in killing a new Yemeni traveler based on identity and purely regional motives.

On their social media pages, Twitter and Facebook, Yemeni activists posted photos that were leaked by some of the abductors' families and taken of the victim since he left Aden Airport, including a photo that showed him standing in front of one of the transport buses. This confirmed that some of the Transitional Council militants had monitored the movements of the betrayed victim and sent them to the checkpoint militants, who blocked his path, like the previous victims who were killed the same way at checkpoints and barriers scattered along the main roads and lines connecting southern and northern Yemen.



Other activists also shared a video clip of witness of the driver of the car that al-Sanabani was traveling in during being interrogated by one of the investigators of the same checkpoint. According to the driver's witness, the victim was suffering from a psychological disorder. This was clear through the discussion and dialogue between them from the moment when he got into his car until they reached the military checkpoint. The victim believed that its militants were bandits who wanted to loot his money. He was very afraid that they would kill him as had happened to some travelers through those illegal checkpoints.

Both activists and the victim's legal team members stated that the driver's witness was a part of the confessions that the perpetrators extracted at gunpoint to divert the case from its course and falsify the truth. Rather, they demanded to include the driver of car, that was rented by the victim, in the list of defendants wanted for justice for this crime, which turned to be a public-opinion issue, due to the nature and circumstances of its perpetration and developments in legal investigation procedures that would impede access to justice and law enforcement towards its perpetrators.

The legal team assigned by the victim's family received a copy of the report from the forensic doctor who examined Abdul-Malik al-Sanabani's body. This report also revealed the presence of signs of torture and severe beating on different parts of his body, as well as two bullets, one that penetrated his stomach, and the other hit his left foot. In addition, he was subjected to a strong blow with a hard object down the spine, which partially paralyzed him.

According to the statement issued on November 4, 2021, the victim's legal team stated that during the investigation session on September 19, 2021, the head of the Criminal Prosecution Office in Aden refused to give them copies of the minutes of evidence, which was the report of the victim's body or the written technical report, due to the confidentiality of the case. They noted that the same thing was said during their meeting with the Governor of Lahj, Major General Ahmed Abdullah Turki, when they demanded to review the procedures of the committee formed by him to investigate the case. They did not receive any written document about the case.

In its statement, the victim's legal team stated that the Criminal Prosecution in Aden had previously issued a permit to hand over the victim's body to be buried on September 24, 2021, based on a request previously submitted by his family. But the team was informed that the permit was blocked by the Military Prosecution. When they contacted the Head of the Specialized Criminal Prosecution, he stated that he did not know anything about this issue.





About a week later, the team members went to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution, according to the appointment set for them, to obtain the photo report and the written report, submit their requests and find out the reasons for the intervention of the Military Prosecution and its refusal to release the victim's body. However, it was unusual for the Head of Prosecution to reject all their requests, saying that he had received a memorandum from the Military Prosecution asking him to refer the case papers to them, based on the referral from the President of the Transitional Council, according to the legal team's statement.

The statement mentioned the fact that a judicial body, represented by the Military Prosecution, had violated and disrupted the law and infringed upon the duties of another legally competent judicial body, the Specialized Criminal Prosecution, which investigated the case since it is under explicit directives and instructions from the Public Prosecutor.

The statement indicated that the memorandum of Head of the Military Prosecution was issued and sent to Head of the Criminal Prosecution on September 25, 2021, regarding the case investigation, based on the decision of committees formed by the Governor of Lahj and the President of the Transitional Council to refer the case to the Military Prosecution. It was found that there are five alleged perpetrators, according to the memorandum urging Head of Specialized Criminal Prosecution to issue a decision to refer the case papers to Military Prosecution to proceed with the investigation procedures.

According to the statement, the memorandum was signed by the investigating judge, Fadl Mohammed Qaid al-Jubani, and sealed by the Head of the Military Prosecution in Fourth Region. It also included a request to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution to consider that the defendants were legally performing a military duty. This was suspicious, and it was considered a false justification for those who committed the crime so that they could escape punishment and accountability. Thus, he defended the perpetrators, and he brought the case file, himself, according to the statement of Head of Specialized Criminal Prosecution, to the Military Prosecution.

# THIRD:

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

# GOVERNMENT FORCES





### 1. A Family at Al-Baireen Checkpoint (Al-Ma'afer, Taiz):

At 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, one person was killed, and six others were injured, when militants of a Central Security Forces military checkpoint in Jabal Habashi Junction, Al-Baireen Village, Al-Ma'afer District, southwest of Taiz, shot at the car they were traveling in.

While documenting the incident, Rights Radar met Suhaib Sadiq Naji al-Barakani, one of the victims' relatives who witnessed the crime. He stated that at dawn on Tuesday, he left with his father and their six family members, including women and children, from their village, Al-Athir, Al-Sharja Subdistrict, Jabal Habashi District. They were in their car heading toward Taiz City. After arriving in the Al-Baireen village at 5:30 a.m., they were attacked by Central Security Forces checkpoint militants. They began firing bullets with their automatic Kalashnikovs at the car full of innocent people. This was followed by gunfire from a 7/12 modified machine gun, which damaged one of the car's tires until it lost its balance and hit a loader.

According to Suhaib's witness, the shooting and the car's ensuing accident resulted in his father, Sadiq Naji Mohammed al-Barakani, aged 53, getting killed while he was driving. His mother, Nadia Naji Mohammed Abdo Hamid, aged 45, was injured with a fracture in the navicular bone and another fracture at one end of the radial bone of her left arm, in addition to a minor concussion in the head. His wife, Malaka Saleh Ahmed al-Sharabi, aged 30, had bruises in her left leg and spine.

Suhaib Sadiq Naji Mohammed al-Barakani, aged 34, was injured with open and bleeding wounds, with a diameter of 17 centimeters, in the right hand. His 15-year-old younger brother, Issam Sadiq Naji Mohammed al-Barakani, was injured with a fracture in his left hand and left knee. In addition, his cousins, Firas Anwar Mohammed Hashem, aged eight, and Nizar Anwar Mohammed Hashem, had bruises and abrasions all over their bodies.

According to statements from the victims' families and witnesses to the incident, including A. Y. H. and F. A. H.,<sup>1</sup> who were interviewed by the team, the checkpoint militants prevented the treatment of the injured persons who remained there for about 15 minutes. Some residents of the area gathered and urged the perpetrators to let them perform first aid on the injured until they were taken to Al-Rayyan Hospital in Al-Nashama District, but they did not.

<sup>1</sup> The witnesses and families wish to remain anonymous.





The party who was legally responsible for perpetrating this crime was primarily First Lieutenant Mufeed al-Sharabi, Commander of Central Security Checkpoint in Al-Baireen, and Colonel Tawfiq Mahyoub al-Waqar, Director of Jabal Habashi Police Department, who were accused of being involved and participating in the bloody attack on the al-Barakani family and preventing the injured persons from being treated.

## 2. A Truck Driver at Hayoshan Checkpoint (Al-Ruwaik, Ma'rib):

After midnight on Thursday, October 16, 2020, a truck driver from Amran Governorate was shot dead by soldiers in military uniforms while he was passing through one of the newly established checkpoints on Ramleh-Rweik line in Ma'rib Governorate. This checkpoint belonged to the forces of Sixth Military Region in Hyoshan, Al-Alam.

According to the evidence report obtained by Rights Radar, Shamsan Yahya Qassem Saad al-Abraqi, aged 20, from Jabal Eyal Yazid, Amran Governorate, was killed by a gunshot that entered from behind the right ear and exited from the front of the head on the left side. The shot penetrated the glass of his Volvo truck No. (2-4444) that he was driving, in Hayoshan area on the highway, linking Ramleh and Rweik, north of Ma'rib heading toward Sana'a.

The team met with one of the witnesses to the incident, called K. M. S.,<sup>2</sup> who said: "At 1 a.m. on Thursday, I arrived in my car at a checkpoint in Hayoshan area on Al-Alam line. The lighting was dim, and dust covered the place when a group of trucks arrived. After showing and checking my personal identity, I was allowed to pass through the checkpoint. I moved about 10 meters away from it and parked my car. Then, I turned back and saw one of the checkpoint soldiers climbing into the first truck while another truck was moving from the right and passing the checkpoint."

The witness stated that the soldier, who was busy searching the first truck, called to one of his colleagues and pointed to the other truck that crossed the checkpoint, saying: "Stop it...stop it!" After that, the witness heard a single gunshot but he did not know its source or destination. However, he saw blood on the door of the truck that passed the checkpoint. He also heard someone shouting that the soldier had slaughtered the truck driver, Shamsan al-Abraqi, and then he saw the checkpoint soldiers leaving the place stealthily and without lights.

Mabrouk Hussein Ali, the owner of a 2001 Volvo truck, was driving behind al-Abraqi's truck when he saw him passing through the checkpoint. He witnessed two soldiers, one

<sup>2</sup> The witness wishes to remain anonymous.



of whom had climbed over a vehicle that was 35 meters away from the victim's truck, and the other was running toward the vehicle with his weapon in his hand.

The technical report of the forensic evidence also clarified that the driver, Shamsan al-Abraqi, was shot with a bullet fired 36 meters away. This was the distance that separated the victim's truck from the checkpoint soldiers' military vehicle located to the right of the truck, and it was believed to be the source of the gunfire. He stressed that there were no signs or indications that there was a security checkpoint at this place, but there was a military vehicle with two soldiers belonging to the Sixth Military Region.

Soldier (S.H.A.Y.) was the first accused person in this crime, and he confessed to firing one bullet at the victim, Shamsan al-Abraqi, who died right away. He added that he did not intend to kill him, but to just frighten him, force him to stop, to not continue moving and to not bypass his colleague, who stopped the first truck to search it. He added that he called out to his colleague to stop the victim's truck when it moved.

The victim's brother, Yahya al-Abraqi, stated that, after sunset on Friday upon his arrival at the scene of incident, he was arrested with two weapons by the Commander of the Military Region of the Government's Forces, Major General Amin al-Waeli, and then he transferred his brother's body to the mortuary at Ma'rib General Hospital.

# **FOURTH:**

Examples of Incidents

Committed by

# **AL-QAEDA MILITANTS:**





### 1. Al-Khansaa School's Female Students at Idris Checkpoint (Rada'a, Al-Bayda):

Idris checkpoint located in the middle of a public street in Rada'a City, Al-Bayda Governorate, east of Yemen, witnessed one of the most heinous crimes committed against passers-by and travelers. The number of victims reached 16 killings and 21 injuries, most of them were children and female students at Al-Khansaa School. They were on a bus on their way to their homes in Al-Qadri area. While it was passing through the checkpoint, the bus hit a strange object that turned it into a wreck. The perpetrator of the crime was not officially announced, except for some government guesses and accusations against Houthi militia and al-Qaeda.

Rights Radar met some of the victims' families and witnesses, including A. A. M., A. M. A. and M. A. Q.<sup>1</sup> They stated that Houthi militants, who were at a checkpoint at the eastern entrance to Rada'a City at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, stopped a bus carrying students of the Al-Khansaa School for Girls when it was passing through the checkpoint on its way to take them home, and then they searched it. There were two Vitara cars next to the bus. Within seconds, everyone heard an explosion followed by a fire that burnt everything there, including the female student bus.

According to witnesses and hospital statements, the total number of victims who died in the incident reached 36 civilians, including 12 killings and 24 injuries, most of them were female students at Al-Khansaa Elementary School for Girls, aged from six to 11 years old. The numbers and statistics indicated that nine female students were killed, and 18 others had various injuries and burns. In addition, three civilians were killed and seven others injured in the explosion, as well as an unknown number of checkpoint militants, who were killed and injured.

According to the witnesses obtained by Rights Radar, Noha Mohammed Ahmad Qadri, aged eight, who was a third-grade student at Al-Khansaa School for Girls, was among the victims. She had shrapnel in her head and third-degree burns in the upper and lower limbs. As a result, she was taken to the International Hospital in Rada'a where she received treatment for more than a month, accompanied by her widowed mother who was suffering from her current life difficulties, grieving after her

1 The family members and witnesses wish to remain anonymous.





husband's death, and she was also quite upset that her daughter, Noha, had now been exposed to death.

As for the perpetrator, Rights Radar obtained two different witnesses. The first witnesses, supported by Houthi militia, stated that two car bombs belonging to al-Qaeda exploded at a checkpoint set up by the Houthi militia when it invaded the governorate. This coincided with the existence of the bus and the checkpoint militants were targeted. The second witness confirmed that Houthis, who were deployed near the checkpoint, fired two projectiles at two suspected cars that were close to the Al-Khansaa girls' bus. One of the projectiles missed its target and hit the bus.

According to a third witness, Ansar al-Sharia, affiliated with the al-Qaeda organization, the attack was targeting the house belonging to Houthi leader Abdullah Idris. Considering this, al-Qaeda members cut off the road of passers-by for the sake of their safety, and then the first car moved toward the Houthi checkpoint whose militants shot and blew it up before it arrived, killing some of their members due to the intensity of the explosion. After 50 seconds, the second car moved toward the targeted house, and it exploded in front of that house, causing deaths and injuries and destroying some parts of the house.

The reactions of Houthi militia and al-Qaeda, who were the two parties accused of committing this crime, were different. Each party issued an official statement, denying its relationship to the incident and supporting this with several justifications in a way that strengthened its position and cleared its name of any accusations. However, this cannot cover up the apparent and visible fact that it was the most heinous crime since the outbreak of the war in Yemen because it was committed against little girls and innocent travelers while passing through one of the newly established checkpoints, meant to keep innocent people safe.

Although this tragedy occurred seven years ago, most of the victims' families and the students of Al-Khansaa School still remember the details of this crime. They face difficult moments when they leave their homes every morning, head to their schools, jobs and workplaces until they return, especially because most of the streets and traffic lines are no longer safe. In addition, the checkpoints and barriers, which are supposed to be safe, have become a source of fear and anxiety.



As for the surviving students of the Al-Khansaa School, they try to not think about what happened that day and adapt to the situation by returning to their classrooms, but the effects of that terrorist act and the physical deformities and psychological trauma that it has left behind for most of them are still stuck in their memory. As a result, most of them refuse to return to their homes on the school bus fearing that this tragedy may be repeated, especially when they pass through the same ominous checkpoint that they now call the Death Checkpoint.

## **2. A Driver and A Child at Al-Dhahra Checkpoint (Rada'a, Al-Bayda):**

There was a new incident committed against innocent victims of checkpoints and barriers, which belonged to one of the terrorist organizations in Al-Qurayshiah District, Al-Bayda Governorate (central of Yemen). It resulted in three civilians, including a child and an elderly woman, getting killed and injuring four others, as a result of an armed attack carried out by the so-called Islamic State Organization against a civilian car that was carrying women and children in Bilad Al-Dhahra.

Rights Radar obtained the details of this incident through meeting with several families of the victims and witnesses, including M. M. A. and Y. M. A.<sup>2</sup> They stated that at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2020, militants belonging to Islamic State Organization fired at a taxi bus while it was passing through Bilad Al-Dhahra Checkpoint, Mahn Yazid Subdistrict, Al-Qurayshiah District.

According to the witnesses, shooting the bus resulted in the killing of its driver, Ali Abd Rabbo Ahmed al-Sarhani, aged 50, an elderly woman, Jalloul Nasser Diab, aged 61, and her seven-year-old grandson, Ahmed Nasser Ali al-Kharj. Witnesses also stated that there were four other injured people but knew nothing about them.

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<sup>2</sup> The family member and witness wish to remain anonymous.

## CHAPTER THREE:

### Violation of Freedoms at Checkpoints

The arrest and detention of persons at checkpoints is a form of deprivation of freedom, whether by governmental authorities, a group of individuals, or non-governmental groups and formations. This takes several forms, including arrest, detention, abduction and disappearance. These actions violate rights, such as the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to life, safety and bodily integrity, recognition of legal personality and the right to a fair trial.





**FIRST:**

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

**HOUTHİ MILİTİA**







### **1. Travelers at Wadi Al-Dour Junction Checkpoint (Al-Udayn, Ibb):**

In mid-January 2015, next to the first checkpoint set up by Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Al-Jabalin, Al-Udayn District, Ibb Governorate (central Yemen), people were surprised because, suddenly, a prison was there. This happened only a few hours after the checkpoint militants detained several residents in the area while passing through the checkpoint, and they put them in this prison. They refused to release them except after paying large sums of money and providing attendance guarantees without accusing them.

The Rights Radar research and investigation team met with some witnesses to the incident, including F. A. N. and A. A. A., and concluded that militants of Houthi militia's checkpoint in Wadi Al-Dour Junction, Al-Jabalin, Al-Udayn District, Ibb Governorate, set up a prison next to the newly established checkpoint. On January 1, 2015, they detained a group of people from Al-Dinwa Village and put them in the same prison, including citizen Mohammed Ahmed Abdo al-Dinwa, aged 37.

According to witnesses, militants of the newly established Houthi checkpoint refused to release the detainees despite the residents' repeated demands. They stipulated payment of sums of money amounting to five million riyals, in addition to providing guarantees.

### **2. A Passenger at Qa'a Al-Qadi Checkpoint (Haziz, Sana'a):**

At about 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, militants of the notorious Qa'a Al-Qadi Checkpoint, that was established by Houthi militia, south of the capital, Sana'a, intercepted a farmer while he was driving his car. They abducted and forcibly disappeared him after looting his car, money and personal belongings.

According to a written complaint received by Rights Radar, militants of Qa'a Al-Qadi checkpoint, which was established by Houthi militia at the southern entrance to Sana'a, intercepted the farmer, Ali Naji Ahmed al-Sufi, aged 45, while he was driving through the same checkpoint at exactly 2:40 p.m. on Tuesday. Then, they asked him to get out and hand over all his money and belongings before they took him to an unknown place.

The complaint submitted by N. A. N., one of the victim's relatives, stated that the victim had 100,000 Yemeni riyals, a mobile phone and his personal pistol, not to mention that the car he was driving, a Hilux, was a friend's car. He had borrowed it from him to go to the capital, Sana'a. All of this was confiscated by Houthi checkpoint militants.



The checkpoint militants also abducted the victim and took him to an unknown place. He was taken away from his family who didn't hear from him until six months went by, and that's when they received the first phone call from him. He told them that he was detained by Houthi militia without mentioning his place. This was his last call, and his family did not know anything about him after that.

### **3. A Yemeni Expatriate (Haradh Junction, Hajjah):**

On May 10, 2015, a Houthi checkpoint at Haradh Junction in Hajjah Governorate, intercepted a Yemeni expatriate coming from Saudi Arabia. The checkpoint militants detained and tortured him for two days, and then they released him after looting and confiscating all his belongings.

Rights Radar met with the witnesses to the incident, A. A. H. and A. T. G., who stated that, after three years of expatriation, Mohammed Abd Rabbo Abdullah al-Tayabi, aged 26, left the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at dawn on Sunday, May 10, 2015, heading to Yemen, and he was eager to see his family. When he arrived at Haradh Junction, separating the governorates of Hajjah and Hodeidah, at 3 p.m., he was stopped by checkpoint militants. He realized that it belonged to Houthi militia because there was a Death to America poster on the wall.

Without any introduction, the checkpoint militants began to ask him about his identity and regional affiliation. When they knew that he belonged to Tayyab District in Al-Bayda Governorate, they took him out of the car, and then confiscated all his luggage, in addition to the 6,000 Saudi riyals he was carrying. That was what he was able to save during his expatriation. Then, they beat him with the butts of the guns before taking him to an unknown place just a few meters away from this checkpoint.

After two days of arbitrary detention and continuous torture, which resulted in breaking his left leg and right hand, Houthi checkpoint militants released the expatriate, Mohammed al-Tayabi, after taking everything except his torn clothes. He found himself on the side of the road in an empty area between Amran and Sana'a governorates.

### **4. A Traveler at Al-Warqi Checkpoint (Eastern Entrance, Dhamar):**

Fayez Naji Ahmed al-Dhubayani, aged 40, was a teacher in Bani Dbayan area, Al-Hada District. He was also abducted from one of the checkpoints set up by the Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, at the eastern entrance to Dhamar City (south of the capital, Sana'a).



In an interview with Rights Radar, the victim said, “At 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2015, I was passing through Al-Warqi Checkpoint set up by the Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, at the eastern entrance to Dhamar City, and the checkpoint militants asked me and another person accompanying me to get out of the car. Then, they took us to Al-Wahda Police Station in the city near the checkpoint.”

According to al-Dhubayani, his companion was released the next morning, but he was taken blindfolded in a car to an unknown place, which took two hours to reach. He found himself inside a solitary cell in an underground basement, where there was no sunshine or even light. There were booklets written by the founder of Houthi militia, late Hussein Badr al-Din, and they told him to read them, with just a flashlight left for him in the prison where it was difficult to see its four walls or even his hands.

Al-Dhubayani stayed for four days inside his solitary cell, unable to distinguish night from day. During this period, he was subjected to various forms of physical and psychological torture, including the electric shock with high voltages. He managed to escape after an air raid carried out by coalition aircraft on his detention center on Thursday evening, May 21, 2015, after causing massive damage to the building.

According to his witness, the air raid caused a round hole in one of the walls of the cell. This enabled him to escape and save his life with minor wounds. The other prisoners died in that raid. Al-Dhubayani was certain that he was being held in a prison set up by Houthi militia inside the Military Police School building in the center of Dhamar City.

**A Colonel and An Imam of Mosque at Idris Checkpoint (Rada’a, Al-Bayda):**

Late on Saturday night, August 23, 2015, Colonel Abdul-Rab Ahmed Abdul-Rab Othman, aged 37, was abducted from Idris checkpoint set up by Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, at the eastern entrance to Rada’a City in Al-Bayda Governorate (central Yemen). He was coming from the capital, Sana’a, where he worked as director of the Passports Department, heading to his hometown in Al-Humiqan area to visit his family and relatives.

Colonel Abdul-Rab told Rights Radar the details of what happened, saying: “I was heading to Al-Bayda Governorate to visit my family. We passed all the checkpoints set up by Houthi militia and its former ally along the way until we reached Idris Checkpoint at the entrance to Rada’a City. The checkpoint militants stopped the Peugeot car that I was traveling in, and they asked for ID cards. When I handed them my ID, they pulled me out of the seat violently and inappropriately, and then they allowed the driver and



the other passengers to pass. After that, they took me directly to their center next to the historic Rada'a Castle building.

The detention of Abdul-Rab did not last for a long time at the Houthi command center, but, after just a month, they took him to their prison inside the Building of the Construction and Development Bank in the same city where he spent about two months before leaving to a secret prison in Dhamar. He stayed in this prison for half a year. Thus, the total period of his detention in the three prisons reached nine months.

Rights Radar also met the two witnesses, M. S. M. and A. M. A., who accompanied al-Humiqani during his detention in the prisons of Rada'a City, after releasing them. They talked about the brutal torture that he was subjected to almost daily by his jailers during interrogation sessions. They accused him of telling the locations of some of their facilities to the legitimate government and the Arab Coalition Forces.

During a press interview conducted with him immediately upon his release, the victim talked about a similar abduction incident that he witnessed. The victim was an imam of a mosque in Mukayras area, called Hamza al-Razhi. He was subjected to abduction while he was passing through the Houthi checkpoint at the entrance to Rada'a City when he was traveling with his wife and two of his children. They found a video clip on his phone for Abu Ishaq al-Shirazi, one of the Shia religious men opposed to Ali Khamenei.

According to Colonel Abdul-Rab, during his detention in the leadership prison, he witnessed a tragic scene. There was an imam of a mosque, named al-Razhi, and he arrived with his family in front of the prison gate. The militants violently dragged him inside without paying attention to his wife's crying or his two screaming children, who stayed in front of the gate, waiting for him to return. The victim asked the prison supervisor to allow him to call one of his colleagues to come and take his wife and two children to their family in the capital, Sana'a.

Al-Humiqani said: "We went crazy while we were silently watching that painful scene from the prison windows, especially when Houthi militants beat and insulted him, with the existence of his family, in a tragic and painful situation. I never imagined that values would disappear and people's morals would decline in this horrible way."





### 5. A Bus Driver at Mashora Checkpoint (Al-Udayn, Ibb):

On Monday, January 4, 2016, Houthi militants abducted four civilian travelers while they were passing through one of the checkpoints set up by Houthi militia at the entrance to Al-Bayda City (center of Al-Bayda Governorate), 7 kilometers away from Al-Malajim District. They were taken to the prison of Public Security Administration and interrogated for more than a week for fabricated accusations.

Abd Rabbo Ali Ahmad al-Sindi, aged 41, was an educational supervisor, and he was among the abducted victims. He told Rights Radar the details of what happened. He said; “On Monday morning, January 4, 2016, I went with three other people to Al-Malajim District in Al-Bayda Governorate to tackle a personal dispute between two of them at a sheikh’s house in the area. While we were returning in a red Camry car, specifically at 7 p.m., the checkpoint militants stopped us at the entrance to Al-Bayda City in front of the Construction and Development Bank building. Then, they took us to Public Security Administration prison after searching us and taking our cards and mobile phones.”

According to al-Sindi’s witness, he was accompanied with three young men, namely Mohammed Ahmed al-Marzouki, Omar Mohammed Jarallah al-Hashami, in addition to Abdullah Ahmed Ali al-Mallahi, the driver, who was interrogated during his detention that exceeded a week inside the prison of Al-Bayda Security Administration, and he was charged with being connected to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### 6. A Bus Driver at Mashora Checkpoint (Al-Udayn, Ibb):

At 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2016, a bus driver was abducted from a checkpoint set up by Houthi militia and its former ally, Ali Abdullah Saleh, in the Mashora area, Ibb District (center of Yemen). They confiscated his bus, which was taking passengers from Ibb City to Al-Udayn District. This bus was the only source of income for him and his family.

Rights Radar conducted a recorded interview with two witnesses, M. A. A. and B. A. S.<sup>1</sup> They said that Houthi militants intercepted a Hess bus, driven by Raouf Abdo Qaid Said al-Baani, aged 28, while he was passing through a checkpoint set up by the militia in Mashora area in Ibb countryside district. They confiscated the bus and took

1 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



its driver to the Criminal Investigation Department prison in the governorate, and then they took him to the central prison.

The Houthi militia justified the abduction of this victim and the confiscation of his bus by saying that they received reports that he had transported fighters to Hazm Al-Udayn District, which was a place of intermittent confrontations between Houthis and some of the district people supporting the legitimacy of President Hadi. It was a false accusation fabricated by some Houthis from his area, according to relatives of the victim, who was released three and a half months later without giving back his previously confiscated bus.

A relative of the victim, called M. Q. M.,<sup>2</sup> told Rights Radar that Raouf al-Baani bought this bus with all his savings for transporting civilian passengers from Ibb City to Al-Udayn District. This bus was the only source of income for his family, whose condition worsened after the checkpoint militants had confiscated their only income source.

### **7. A Traveler at Al-Sarm Checkpoint (Al-Aqrod, Taiz):**

Ibrahim Jalal Ibrahim al-Qubati, aged 29, lived in Al-Shammasi neighborhood, east of Taiz. In the early hours of Thursday morning, July 27, 2017, he left his home, heading to Al-Hawban area, through Al-Aqrod, which was the alternative road to the main outlet closed by Al-Houthi militia for passing through Al-Mushki-Gawlat Al-Qasr line. It would take only a few minutes to reach al-Qubati if it was open to the residents of the besieged city for the seventh year.

Ibrahim met the Rights Radar monitoring team in Taiz, and he said: “I moved from Farzah Deluxe in the center of Taiz at about 7 a.m. in a four-wheel-drive car. Then, we went on a tiring travel trip that took us about three hours until we arrived at the first Houthi checkpoint in Al-Sarm area, Al-Aqrod Subdistrict, Al-Misrakh District. The checkpoint militants stopped us and took us out of the car, and then they asked for our ID cards and my mobile phones.”

Ibrahim continued: “While searching my phone, they found a message from one of my friends who was known to them as one of the resistance members. Immediately, they took me into a small room near the checkpoint used as a temporary prison where they detained me for three days. On the fourth day morning, they took me to Al-Saleh City Prison located in Al-Hawban area.”

Ibrahim stated that one of the Houthi investigators in Al-Saleh City Prison ordered

<sup>2</sup> The relative wishes to remain anonymous.



him to be put in a solitary cell in which he spent three months. After that, he was taken to another cell in the same prison in which he spent an additional six months to complete the first year of his illegal detention. During this period, he conducted three interrogation sessions in which he was subjected to severe beating as a part of physical torture, in addition to threats, insults and cruel and humiliating treatment as part of psychological torture.

During his witness account to Rights Radar, al-Qubati also mentioned the nicknames of some of Houthi militants who interrogated and tortured him, including Abu Hussein, Abu Turab, Abu al-Laith and Abu Haider. The last three militants took him from his detention room on the fifth floor of one of the prison buildings blindfolded, handcuffed and, when they got there, his leg was cuffed to the interrogation room in the ground basement of the same building. The first militant beat him in the feet and back and electrocuted him during interrogation on charges of belonging to the legitimate government that they called ISIS.

What made it worse was that the Houthi investigators found traces of wounds on the victim's lower limbs resulting from his participation in the events of 2011. The investigators considered this as a clear and conclusive evidence of his participation in the fighting against them alongside the army and the popular resistance during the recent ongoing war there. As a result, they doubled and even exaggerated their torture of him.

Although the victim swore to Houthi investigators that the wounds resulted from his participation in the demonstrations of 2011 Revolution and Houthi militia was one of its components and it was repeatedly attacked by security and military forces affiliated with the former regime in Taiz City, but none of them believed him or were convinced by his words.

Ibrahim pointed out that he faced torture during the interrogation sessions that continued from the evening prayer until 2 a.m. On the days when he was not under interrogation, he could hear screaming and groaning of other abducted persons in the same building while they were being tortured, including Abdullah al-Sharabi, Muammar al-Sharabi and Ahmed al-Haidari.

During the period of his detention in Al-Saleh City Prison, which lasted nine months, Houthis did not allow him to communicate with his family. Also, they did not allow his family and relatives to visit him. In the last week, he was allowed to make a phone



call to his father telling him that he could visit him. Accordingly, his father visited him in Al-Saleh Prison, and he brought him some clothes and a sum of money. His father told him that he had sent him monthly expenses and some other purposes during the imprisonment, but some prison guards confiscated the money, according to what was stated in the victim's witness report.

During his father's first visit, Ibrahim learned that Abu Maher, the person in charge of Houthi militia prison in Al-Saleh City, contacted his father and asked for a sum of money in exchange for his son's release, but Abu Maher did not fulfill his promise even though the father gave him the amount of money. Then, other officials communicated with his father and asked him to send them money to release his son. Each time, he responded to their requests and the officials did not fulfill their promises. His father paid them two million riyals in just eight months.

By the tenth month, the victim was taken to Community College Prison in Dhamar City where the so-called Abu Abdul Rahman, who was the director of prison, negotiated with him to exchange him for one of Houthi captives in Taiz Resistance. Accordingly, the victim requested a mobile phone and communicated with his brother, who accepted the offer. He went to the leadership of the Taiz resistance and paid them a sum of money in exchange for liberating a Houthi captive to save his brother, who, at that point, had now been detained for a year in Houthi prisons.

According to Ibrahim, Abu Maher considered the initial approval to exchange him for a Houthi prisoner as an explicit recognition and a clear confirmation that he was a leader in the popular resistance in Taiz. Accordingly, the number of Houthi prisoners required to be released in exchange for his release increased to five captives. The exchange deal ended with the release of Ibrahim in exchange for two Houthi captives and a sum of money for one of the mediating sheikhs, as part of an exchange deal between Houthi militia and the Taiz Resistance, which included 40 abducted people from Taiz, mostly civilians, in exchange for 80 Houthi captives on June 24, 2018.





### **8. A Cafeteria Worker at Al-Khasbah Checkpoint (Al-Hawban, Taiz):**

Noaman Nasr Ahmed al-Zabidi, aged 45, from Zabid District, south of Hodeidah Governorate, works in Al-Numan Cafeteria located in the middle of Jamal Street in Taiz City. Each time he decided to visit his family during holidays or any other time, he was subjected to violations and inhuman treatment at the checkpoints and barriers established along the way he was taking. He was subjected to abduction and enforced disappearance twice within just one month.

According to identical witnesses of the victim's relatives and some witnesses to the incident, including M. S. M. and H. A. A.,<sup>3</sup> at the end of Ramadan 1439 AH, Nuaman al-Zabidi left the city of Taiz heading to Zabid District to spend Eid Al-Fitr vacation with his wife, children and other family members. It took a whole day to reach his destination due to the siege imposed on Taiz and the closure of the main line connecting it to Hodeidah Governorate passing through the northwestern gate of the city. Before imposing this siege on the city, it would take just two hours to reach his house.

On July 1, 2018, Nuaman decided to end his vacation and return to his workplace in Taiz. At 4 p.m., when he arrived at Al-Khasbah checkpoint that belonged to Houthi militia at the entrance to Al-Hawban area, the checkpoint militants stopped him. When they knew that he was from Zabid, they asked him to return to defend his city against what they called aggression. He told them that he had a family and worked in a cafeteria in Taiz City to earn money for his children, and he could not do what they wanted. Therefore, they arrested him and took him to Al-Saleh Prison.

Their only condition for his release was to bring a certified paper from the owner of Al-Nuaman Cafeteria in Taiz and the neighborhood head in which the cafeteria was located to prove that he told the truth. Accordingly, Nuaman communicated with his family and relatives who were in constant contact with him. But, even after obtaining the required document and sending it to the Al-Hawban area, the victim, who had spent 12 days in Al-Saleh Prison, Nuaman disappeared and the contact with him was completely cut off after the Houthis took him to another secret prison. According to a person assigned to follow up on his case, the Houthis denied that he was even there.

On July 17, 2018, Houthi militia released Nuaman Nasr al-Zabidi after he pledged to return to Zabid City and not to enter Taiz City. He did not give up, and he remained in

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3 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



Al-Hawban area for about five days trying to find an opportunity to enter the city and return to his work because it was his only source of income.

On Monday, July 23, 2018, Nuaman disguised himself and tried to reach the center of Taiz City through the same road because it was the only outlet open to all travelers. Once he reached Al-Khashba Checkpoint from which he was previously abducted, the checkpoint militants recognized him, took him out of the taxi and took him again to Al-Saleh Prison. When they were sure that he had previously pledged not to enter Taiz City, they took him directly to the Political Security Prison in Ibb Governorate where he was detained for a month.

Houthi militia released him for the second time after he signed another written pledge obligating him to return to Zabid City and not to enter Taiz for any reason. After that, he had no other choice but to return to his family in Zabid, where he spent some time there without work. According to information obtained by Rights Radar, Houthis forced him to join their battlefield and were paying him very little money, which was not enough to feed his children.

### **9. A Young Man at Al-Ghoula Checkpoint (Al-Ghoula, Amran):**

Alaa al-Din Issam Ali Dahan al-Ashbi, aged 19, was one of the new soldiers in the government's military forces in Ma'rib Governorate. He was unable to go see his mother and waited until the time for his annual vacation to travel to Amran Governorate and visit his mother after coordination with the representative of the Houthi militia, named Nabil Alous, who allowed him to go.

The victim's relative A. A. D. and two witnesses to the incident, N. A. A. and A. D. A.,<sup>4</sup> stated that at 8 a.m. on Monday, September 10, 2018, while Alaa al-Ashbi was passing through a Houthi checkpoint in Al-Ghoula, Raydah District, coming from Sana'a, the checkpoint militants stopped him and began to physically assault him by beating him and cursing at him. Then, they took him to one of their secret prisons in Haziz, south of the capital, Sana'a, where he was subjected to interrogation and continuous torture, forcing him to confess and give some information.

The victim's relative stated that one of the mediators, who visited Alaa al-Ashbi in Haziz prison, south of the capital, told them that he was detained in a solitary cell and lived in poor conditions because of the physical and psychological torture done to him by his jailers. His mother and all his family members were prevented from visiting him or even contacting him.

<sup>4</sup> The relative and the witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



### 10. A Student at Dhi Mujir Checkpoint (Dhi Na'im, Al-Bayda):

Dhi Mujir Checkpoint was established by Abdullah Ali Idris al-Riyami in Dhi Na'im District. He was also the founder of Idris Checkpoint. A young man and student, Ammar Ali Mohammed Ali al-Babki, aged 20, was intercepted and abducted by the commander and militants of Houthi checkpoint when he was on his way to the district's shopping center to buy some items for his family.

According to a report submitted by A. A. M. and statements of two witnesses, A. A. D. and N. A. A.,<sup>5</sup> on Monday morning, December 3, 2018, the victim, Ammar al-Babki, left his home heading to Dhi Na'im City in Al-Bayda Governorate to go to the market. When he arrived in the Dhi Mujir area at 10 a.m., Houthi checkpoint militants stopped him and took his mobile phone. Then, he was arrested and taken to the District Security Department Prison.

Witnesses stated that al-Babki was taken that day from Dhi Na'im Security Prison to the Central Prison in Al-Bayda Governorate, which was under the control of Houthi militia. He was detained for more than two months, during which he was subjected to all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Then, he was released, and no one knew the reason for his arrest and detention.

### 11. A Traveler at Al-Dhikra Junction Checkpoint (Mawiyah, Taiz):

Yunus Yahya Hammoud Mohammed, aged 29, from Al-Nour City, west of Taiz, which was controlled by the government. His wife went to visit her family in Ibb City, and, when she decided to return to her husband's home, there was no one to accompany her. So, he went to get her. While he was on his way to Ibb, he was intercepted by a Houthi checkpoint in the east of Taiz Governorate.

His younger brother, Yahya, said, "My brother, Yunus, left on Sunday morning, March 3, 2019, from Taiz City heading to Ibb to bring his wife who traveled earlier to visit her parents and did not find anyone to bring her back. During his arrival at Al-Dhikra Junction in Mawiyah District at 12 p.m., he was stopped by Houthi checkpoint militants. Then, they abducted him and took him to Al-Saleh City after looting 60,000 Yemeni riyals from him and confiscating two mobile phones, according to the latest news we got about him."

According to the victim's brother, Yunus' wife had been calling him from moment to moment since he left Taiz until she lost contact with him at noon. She kept calling his

5 All the witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



phone number many times, but this was in vain. Then, she tried to call him again in the afternoon of the same day and he answered and told her that Houthi militia abducted him. Suddenly, the call was cut off, and she did not know anything about him or where they took him.

About 20 days after Yunus was abducted, one of the abducted persons came out of Al-Saleh City Prison, east of Taiz, and then he contacted the victim's family and informed them that Yunus was in a Houthi National Security Agency prison located within the building of Al-Saleh City in Al-Hawban area. He told them that he was subjected to severe physical and psychological torture, including beatings with cables (electrical wires made of copper), and he was threatened with death by murder.

In early October 2019, Yunus' wife went with his father to the Houthi National Security Prison in Al-Saleh City, and the prison officials allowed them to meet with him after they told them that it was the first and last visit. Because of the presence of Houthi militants, the victim's wife and father were unable to ask about his health condition and how he was treated, but they could tell that his face was pale, and his body was thin.

## **12. Injured People in Newly Established Checkpoints (Mustaba, Hajja):**

The wounded and injured civilians due to the missile and artillery shelling launched by Houthi militia on various villages and areas in Kushar District, Hajjah Governorate, during the recent war, were also exposed to violations and abuses of checkpoints and barriers established at the district's entrances and exits. They prevented many of those wounded people from reaching hospitals and medical centers in and outside of the district so they could receive treatment. In addition, Rights Radar documented four cases of abduction that some of the wounded were subjected to while passing through those checkpoints.

Abdul-Wahed Mohsen Hussein al-Maliki, aged 22, was injured by several shrapnel in his body when a mortar shell fell on his house in Al-Abaisa Village, Hajour District, on Monday morning, February 25, 2019. While people were trying to rescue him, they were intercepted by a checkpoint set up by Houthi militia in Ahem Market and led by the so-called Abu Yahya al-Matari and prevented them from rescuing Abdul-Wahed. Then, one of the checkpoint militants took the victim to a general hospital in Amran City to bandage his wounds. When they confirmed that he belonged to Hajour tribes, they took him to the Political Security Prison in the capital, Sana'a, despite his bleeding wounds, according to two witnesses, N. M. R. and S. A. R.<sup>6</sup>

6 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.





Only a week later, specifically at dawn on Saturday, March 2, 2019, citizen Sultan Ahmed Abdullah Jabhan was injured by shrapnel from a mortar shell fired by Houthi militia on Al-Abaisa market. While some of his relatives tried to take him in a car to a nearby health unit to bandage his wounds, they were stopped by a newly established Houthi checkpoint on the outskirts of Kushar District at 10 a.m. and prevented them from reaching the health unit. Its militants even abducted the injured person and took him to an unknown place, according to N. N. R.,<sup>7</sup> one of the paramedics who tried to help the victim.

According to the witnesses, A. Y. H. and A. M. G.,<sup>8</sup> Abdullah Saleh Hussein Rayban, aged 24, was subjected to several injuries because of the indiscriminate Houthi shelling on the homes of citizens and Al-Abaisa market in of Kushar District on Tuesday morning, March 6, 2019. While some of his relatives were trying to take him to the nearest hospital or medical center via the Mustaba District line, they were intercepted by a new checkpoint in Bani Malik area on the outskirts of the Kushar District, led by Naif Abu Khurshefa. They prevented the victim from reaching the hospital, and its militants abducted him and took him to an unknown place without considering his serious injury.

On the same day, at exactly 8 p.m., militants of another Houthi checkpoint near Mastaba District Center Market intercepted Ahmed Sadiq Ahmed Rayban, aged 35, who was one of the injured victims of the Houthi shelling on the citizens' homes in the Al-Abaisa area. While some of his relatives tried to rescue him, the checkpoint militants took him to an unknown place, despite his serious injury, as stated in a written report submitted by one of the victim's relatives, called N. M. A.<sup>9</sup>

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7 The paramedic wishes to remain anonymous.

8 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.

9 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.



### 13. A Qat Seller at Monday Market Checkpoint (Al-Maton, Al-Jawf):

On Wednesday, April 17, 2019, a citizen selling qat was abducted from a checkpoint set up by Houthi militia at the entrance to Monday Market, Al-Matoun District, Al-Jawf Governorate, while he was on his way to visit his family in the capital, Sana'a.

According to a witness, A. A. Q.,<sup>10</sup> who is one of the victim's relatives, and another witness, A. Y. Y.,<sup>11</sup> citizen Mohammed Abdullah al-Qadi, aged 24, from the Al-Hazm District in Al-Jawf Governorate was a qat seller in Al-Jawf and Ma'rib governorates. After a long period of absence from his family residing in the capital, Sana'a, he decided to make a quick visit to them to see how they are all doing on Wednesday evening, April 17, 2019.

While he was passing through a Houthi checkpoint in front of Monday Market in Al-Maton District at 4 p.m., the checkpoint militants stopped him and got him out of his car. Then, they started beating and insulting him. After that, they took him to an unknown place due to his opposition to Houthi militia policy, as well as his commercial activity within the government areas. Since that time, his family has not heard anything from or about him and his fate is still unknown, according to the victim's relative and the witness to the incident.

### 14. A Worker at Al-Shola Checkpoint (Amad, Saada):

In Saada Governorate, in the far north, militants of a checkpoint, set up by Houthi militia in Amad District, abducted a passenger from the district while he was passing through the checkpoint at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020, and took him to an unknown place without any reason.

Rights Radar met with some witnesses to the incident, including A. S. R. and A. M. H.,<sup>12</sup> who said that Abdul-Majid Abdullah Abbas, aged 28, was returning from the center of Amad District, in Saada Governorate, heading to Ataq area in the same district. He was stopped by Houthi Shola Checkpoint militants without any reason. Then, they abducted him and took him to an unknown place.

The victim remained in enforced disappearance, and his family did not know anything about what happened to him, where he is or what his condition is until the incident was documented on July 8, 2020. After that, Rights Radar could not find any details related to the conditions of his detention, the nature of his treatment and whether he was subjected to torture or any other forms of cruel treatment.

10 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.

11 The witness wishes to remain anonymous.

12 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.

**SECOND:**

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS  
COMMITTED BY

**THE  
TRANSITIONAL  
COUNCIL**





### 1. A Worker at Sanah Checkpoint (Qataba, Al-Dhalea):

Saleh Jazem Saleh Mohammed, aged 34, from the Al-Musaymir District, Lahj Governorate, worked in the private sector in Al-Dhalea Governorate. Despite his ill health, he struggled to provide for his family. On Thursday, May 2, 2019, he was caught by Security Belt Forces' checkpoint in Qataba District, Al-Dhalea Governorate. He had a permanent disability that completely prevented him from work.

One of the witnesses was the victim's relative, F. G. S.,<sup>1</sup> and there were two other witnesses, M. A. H. and A. H. S.<sup>2</sup> According to all the witnesses, on Thursday, May 2, 2019, Saleh Jazem left his workplace in Al-Dhalea Governorate, early as usual. He was going to his village in Al-Musaymir District to spend Friday with his wife and children. He was stopped and arrested by militants from the Sanah Checkpoint of Security Belt Forces on accusation of suspicion.

The victim's relative and witnesses also stated that the checkpoint commander, Ahmed Qaid al-Qubba, interrogated him, and they performed the most heinous physical torture on Saleh Jazem, including cutting off fingers of his right hand after putting them near a motorcycle chain. Then, he was left bleeding without allowing any travelers or passers-by allowed to even approach or treat him.

After releasing him, Saleh Jazem left Sanah checkpoint and headed to the nearest clinic to get some first aid for his bloody wound. Then, he immediately headed toward his village in Al-Musaymir District, Lahj Governorate. After he had been the only breadwinner for his family, he then turned out to be permanently dependent on them.

The moment of crossing a checkpoint became the most severe thing because the passers-by and travelers were exposed to death and injury. The Security Belt Forces cut off some of the victim's fingers, insulted his dignity, forced him to leave his job, which was the only source of income for his family, and the psychological depression from the incident became a part of his daily life.

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1 The relative wishes to remain anonymous.

2 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.





## 2. Passengers at Steel Factory Checkpoint (Al-What, Al-Dhalea):

On the morning of Saturday, December 28, 2019, five passengers from Taiz Governorate were abducted from a checkpoint in Al-Waht, Lahj Governorate, established by Fifth Brigade Security Belt of Southern Transitional Council at the northern entrance to the temporary capital, Aden. Three of them remained in enforced disappearance for nearly a whole month during which they were subjected to the worst forms of physical and psychological torture before being released in exchange for large sums of money.

According to the victims and some witnesses to the incident, four persons from Taiz, who were Salah Mohammed Ali Ismail, aged 24, Rabea Mohammed Taha Ahmed, aged 29, Issa Abdul-Jalil al-Jaafari, aged 30, and Muhannad Abdul-Jabbar Abdul-Haj al-Yousifi, aged 28, left Taiz because they had not found suitable jobs. They went to the temporary capital, Aden, in search of job opportunities.

They wanted only to escape from the war and the siege that lasted for seven years. After they left, in the early morning, their dreams, ambitions and aspirations for achieving a decent life were destroyed due to a checkpoint that was set up by the Security Belt Forces in Al-What, Lahj Governorate (southern of Yemen), which was known as Steel Factory Checkpoint.

Salah Mohammed said, "At 2:30 a.m., we arrived at the Steel Factory Checkpoint in our colleague Ashraf Yassin al-Rabahi's taxi. The checkpoint militants, who were in civilian clothes and surrounded by two vehicles full of soldiers, stopped us, asked for our ID cards and searched our mobile phones. Then, they told us, 'You are ISIS... You are Hadi's followers.' After that, they started attacking us and hitting us with rifle butts, and then they took us directly to the Fifth Brigade Security Belt Prison, where we were detained for two days. On the third day, two of us were released, and I was transferred to the Counter-Terrorism Prison with Issa and Rabea."

Salah and his two colleagues Issa and Rabea spent twenty days in enforced disappearance inside the Counter-Terrorism Prison without allowing them to communicate with their families or allow their families to visit them or even know where they are. There, they were interrogated with no charges against them, except to say that they were followers of Hadi and ISIS. These were the same accusations assumed by Houthi militia against its opponents in the northern regions. During



the investigation, all of them were beaten with a cane, slapped with hands, kicked with feet and threatened with death. In many cases, they were not allowed to use the only three bathrooms in a prison that included 120 prisoners. In addition, these bathrooms were full of rubbish and dirt and stunk.

At midnight on Friday, January 18, 2020, Rabea Mohammed Taha was released, and he immediately called his mother telling her that he was released. Then, he told her the location of the prison and asked her to inform the families of his two friends, who were still in detention so that they could follow up on their release. His mother talked with him, but after only two hours, she was surprised to hear that his phone was switched off. Her anxiety and fear increased, and she kept calling him until the morning, but this was in vain.

After he was released from the Counter-Terrorism Prison in the temporary capital, Aden, Rabea Mohammed Taha waited for hours on Taiz line trying to search for a car passing through Haijat Al-Abed Road to reach Taiz City. He did not find any car, and he had to take a truck passing by Dimna Khadir to Al-Hawban.

While he was arriving at the first Houthi checkpoint in Al-Qubaita District, Lahj Governorate, at 4 a.m., the checkpoint militants stopped the truck and arrested Rabea. After four days of searching, Rabea's family received a phone call from a strange number that told them that their son was detained in Al-Saleh Prison of Houthi militia in Al-Hawban, east of Taiz Governorate.

# THIRD:

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

# GOVERNMENT





## 1. Two Travelers at Political Security Checkpoint (Al-Hazm Entrance, Al-Jawf):

At 6 p.m. on Friday, November 11, 2016, two young men were on their way to the center of Al-Hazm District, Al-Jawf Governorate, north of Yemen, in search of job opportunities. Then, they were abducted by militants of a security checkpoint affiliated with the government forces. This checkpoint was established at the entrance south of Al-Hazm.

According to documented witnesses, A. A. R. and A. A. Q.,<sup>1</sup> obtained by Rights Radar, the two students, Ali Ahmed Hussein Amer, aged 19, and Abdul Majid Rabasi, aged 18, were from Al-Jawf Governorate. On Friday morning, November 11, 2016, after they finished their high school certificate exams, they decided to go to the center of Al-Hazm District to join the government forces or search for any job opportunities.

The two witnesses to the incident stated that the first government security checkpoint at the entrance to Al-Jawf City stopped the two young men when they arrived there at 6 p.m. Then, they were arrested by the checkpoint militants who took them to Political Security Prison. They were forcibly disappeared for more than three months.

A witness to the incident, called S. A. S.,<sup>2</sup> told Rights Radar that his two peers were forcibly disappeared for a period of three months, during which their families did not know anything about their well-being or location. After that, the two families received a call from them confirming that the two students were being detained by the Political Security in Al-Hazm City. Then, after seven months of arbitrary detention, they were finally without any charges having ever been filed against them.

## 2. A Driver at Falaj Checkpoint (Al-Madina, Ma'rib):

In mid-December 2019, militants of Al-Falaj Checkpoint of the Special Forces in Ma'rib Governorate, located at the southern entrance to the governorate center, detained a truck driver and his assistant from Amran Governorate and took them to the Third Military District prison on suspicion of belonging to Houthi militia.

According to witnesses, including A. A. S. and A. S. S.,<sup>3</sup> who were interviewed by Rights Radar, Bassam Hizam Saleh Ahmed al-Amiri, aged 32, from Amran

1 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.

2 The witness wishes to remain anonymous.

3 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.





Governorate, went with his partner, Amin Ali al-Amiri, to the city of Mukalla in Hadhramaut Governorate to buy a truck. On their way back, they were intercepted by militants of Al-Falaj Checkpoint when they were passing through it at 8 a.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2019. Then, they searched them and took their mobile phones after they detained them with their truck.

Witnesses stated that the checkpoint militants took Bassam al-Amiri and his partner, Amin al-Amiri, to the prison of Third Military Region in Ma'rib City, while their truck was still at the checkpoint. Then, they were interrogated on suspicion of belonging to Houthi militia. They were released in the afternoon of the same day with the guarantee of the district's representative and some sheikhs who supported the Legitimate Government.

### **3. A Worker at Al-Falaj Checkpoint (Al-Madina, Ma'rib):**

Salah al-Din Bandar Ahmed Saleh al-Faqih, aged 18, was unemployed. He left his hometown in Amran Governorate on Saturday morning, December 21, 2019, heading to Ma'rib City in search of a job, accompanied by a truck driver from his area.

Rights Radar met with the two witnesses to the incident, Antar Naji and Shabib Yahya, who confirmed that militants of Special Forces Checkpoint located at the southern entrance to Ma'rib City stopped the young man, Salah al-Din al-Faqih, when he arrived at the checkpoint at 4 p.m. of the same day. Then, they searched him and his mobile phone in which they found photos of Houthi leaders and some materials related to war media of Houthi militia.

Witnesses also mentioned that the checkpoint militants arrested Salah and put him in the city's Security Administration Prison on suspicion of belonging to Houthi militia based on the photos they found in his mobile phone. He was interrogated and then taken to the Political Security Prison. Rights Radar could not find out any more details about the conditions of his detention or whether he was still in detention or had been released.

## CHAPTER FOUR: Restriction of Movement

Freedom of movement in Yemen is one of the most important rights of citizens, and it is guaranteed by the constitution and law and protected by the international laws, conventions, treaties and charters ratified by successive governments. It may not be restricted except in cases specified by law for the requirements of the security and safety of citizens. In addition, it represents a basic condition for human development in countries, and it is related to several other rights, including the right to life, bodily integrity, personal and public freedoms, cultural, political and economic rights, ownership, etc.).



**FIRST:**

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

**HOUTHİ MILİTİA**





### 1. A Family at Daia'a Checkpoint (Bajil, Hodeidah):

When a family decided to move to live with their breadwinner after a long period of absence and separation imposed by the war, Houthi militia considers it a crime, which requires a series of penalties, including preventing from travelling, reporting their names to all checkpoints and barriers, and arresting and detaining them with the driver. In addition, they impose a fine that varied from one family to another and from one driver to another, according to their financial condition.

F. A. M.,<sup>1</sup> aged 29, a woman from Malhan District, Al-Mahwit Governorate (west of Yemen), had been married for two years, but not living with her husband. Her husband left his home and went to Ma'rib, escaping from Houthi militia that had been chasing him everywhere because he rejected and opposed its coup against the legal and constitutional government in Yemen.

His wife could not bear the absence of her husband and persuaded him to move to Ma'rib so that they could live together and have family stability, even if temporarily until the end of the war. When she decided to travel, Houthi militants prevented them and made the family spend their life divided between two governorates, like other families separated by the Yemeni war.

The witnesses interviewed by Rights Radar stated that on Saturday morning, May 5, 2018, F. A. M. left Malhan District in Al-Mahwit Governorate to go to Ma'rib City, where her husband lived and worked. She was supposed to go live with him there. While she was on her way, the checkpoint militants stopped the bus she was traveling on. This was specifically after passing through Daia'a Checkpoint that Houthi militia had established between the cities of Bajil and Al-Kadan in Hodeidah Governorate.

Minutes later, the bus driver received a phone call from the so-called Abu Abd al-Salam, the security supervisor of Houthi militia in Melhan District, who asked him to quickly return with this family as they were under arrest because the husband was a member of the army, fighting against the militia in Ma'rib City. The driver was confused because he did not know the mistake made by the family that was necessary for them to face this arbitrary measure, but he was forced to carry out the Houthi supervisor's instructions.

<sup>1</sup> This woman wishes to remain anonymous.





The wife returned to Malhan District in Al-Mahwit Governorate where she was detained in a house owned by Sheikh Ali Abdullah al-Rawda, loyal to Houthi militia, for two days after taking her mobile phone so that she could not communicate with her husband. Then, she returned to her family after signing a written document obligating her brother to take her to his home and pay 50 million riyals as a fine if she tried to travel to Ma'rib again.

The bus driver was also exposed to violations and the arrogance of Houthi militia. They confiscated his car when he arrived in Al-Mahwit Governorate. Then, they abducted him and put him in the Al-Walaja prison. They did not release him until he had paid a fine of 150,000 riyals as a form of punishment so that he would not think again of transferring any family to the government areas.

## **2. A Family at Matti Checkpoint (Harf Sufyan, Amran):**

In a similar incident, on the seventh day of Eid Al-Fitr in 1440 AH, Houthi militia arrested another Yemeni family and detained its members for hours while they were passing through a checkpoint set up by Houthi militia in Matti area, Harf Sufyan District, Amran Governorate (north of Yemen), when they were on their way to their only breadwinner who lived in Ma'rib City and worked as a director of a private school there.

Witnesses to the incident and some family members, including A. Z. A., A. N. S. and F. S. A.,<sup>2</sup> told Rights Radar that, on Monday morning, June 10, 2019, Mr. Khaled Saleh Sinan's family, including his wife, Dawlat al-Khudri, aged 39, his son Amr, aged 10, and his two daughters, Bariq, aged 14, and Nasiba, aged 12, from their hometown in Bir Ayedh, Jabal Eyal Yazid District, Amran Governorate, decided to go to Ma'rib City in order to live with their only breadwinner who worked as a director of a private school there.

At 12 p.m. they arrived at a checkpoint set up by Houthi militia in Matti area, Harf Sufyan District, on the road linking the governorates of Amran and Al-Jawf, the checkpoint militants stopped the car that was carrying the family and asked them whether they were Khaled Sinan's family. When they answered yes, the Houthis told them that they had received a report from higher authorities to prevent them from traveling to Ma'rib.

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2 All the witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



The checkpoint militants detained Khaled Sinan's family under the pretext that the head of the family worked with the government in Ma'rib City. This was not true because the accused person worked in the private sector and had no affiliation with the government and its security, military or even civilian authorities. They were detained for six hours, and then they were forced to return to Amran City, from which they traveled again through another road passing through the governorates of Dhamar and Al-Bayda to Ma'rib City.

During their journey, which lasted more than 14 hours through Dhamar-Al-Bayda line, Khaled Sinan's family faced difficult and severe moments, especially his wife, who suffered from heart disease, because of being frequently stopped at the Houthi militia's checkpoints and barriers, which were only a few meters away from each other.

### **3. Two Families at Abu Hashem Checkpoint (Rada'a, Al-Bayda):**

The same incident was repeated with two Yemeni families, who were on their way to Ma'rib City, but Houthi militia intercepted them at the newly established checkpoint known as Abu Hashem Checkpoint at the eastern entrance to the Rada'a City, Al-Bayda Governorate (center of Yemen). More than 10 members of two families were detained for hours by the checkpoint militants before they prevented them from traveling and forced them to return to their hometown in Al-Makarib Village, Arhab District, east of the capital, Sana'a.

According to statements given by the victims' families and witnesses, including M. H. S. and S. A. L.,<sup>3</sup> to the incident to Rights Radar, on Saturday morning, September 22, 2018, Salman Mohammed al-Adadah's family, including his wife, Ummat Al-Razzaq Qasila, aged 30, and four children (Al-Baraa, Bara'a, Aye and Aisha) and Mohammed al-Makroub's family, including his wife, Raja' Ali Mohammed, aged 38, and six children (Aisha, Asmaa, al-Qassam, Houria, Abdullah and Rofaida) left Al-Makarib Village, Arhab District, Sana'a Governorate, heading toward Ma'rib City through Dhamar-Al-Bayda line to live with their breadwinners.

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3 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.



The witnesses added, “On Saturday, at 1:30 p.m., during the arrival of the families of al-Adadah and al-Makroub to Abu Hashem Checkpoint, which was located at the eastern entrance to Rada’a City, the checkpoint militants stopped the car carrying the two families and then detained them for several hours under investigation. After that, they forced them to return to Al-Makarib Village in Arhab District.”

The witnesses also said that the two families and even the car driver were subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment by militants of Abu Hashem Checkpoint in Rada’a City. In addition, they pointed their personal Kalashnikov weapons at the driver’s face and threatened him with death if he did not return the two families to their hometown in Arhab District, Sana’a Governorate.

## CHAPTER FIVE:

### Levying Taxes, Looting and Damaging to Property

By exploiting the established checkpoints and barriers, the conflicting parties, including Houthi militia, government and non-government formations, imposed royalties and complicated bureaucratic measures that impeded the trade flows and humanitarian aid. They also contributed to prices increasing, reducing the availability of basic needs, such as fuel and imposing severe restrictions on the workers of humanitarian organizations that prevented smooth movement in the various areas of the country.

The situation was not limited to imposing illegal levies and royalties, even on humanitarian aid that passed through those checkpoints and barriers, but there was also looting of vehicle loads, travelers and drivers' money and their personal belongings, including their mobile phones, which were confiscated by the militants of checkpoints and barriers, as well as targeting various means of transport with their light and medium weapons and causing total and partial damage to them without any justification.







**FIRST:**

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

**HOUTHİ MILİTİA**





### **1. A Driver at Northern Entrance Checkpoint (Al-Madina, Al-Bayda):**

At 5 p.m., on Thursday, February 25, 2016, a driver was subjected to looting and financial blackmail while driving his car through a newly established checkpoint belonging to Houthi militia at the entrance to the Al-Bayda City (center of Yemen).

According to the victim and some witnesses, including A. M. S. and J. A. S.,<sup>1</sup> met by Rights Radar, Saleh Abdullah Hussein al-Hashami, aged 44, was subjected to looting, financial blackmail and some humiliating practices by militants of a checkpoint established by Houthi militia at the entrance to Al-Bayda City.

According to the witnesses, the checkpoint militants stopped Saleh al-Hashami's car and took his ID card and mobile phone. Then, they searched it and looked through all its contents. It was clear that they were looking for something by which they could convict the victim, but they did not find anything.

Instead of allowing al-Hashami to cross, the Houthi checkpoint members blackmailed and bargained with him. They wanted him to pay 25,000 riyals in exchange for returning his mobile phone and ID card. They also threatened to fabricate an accusation against him if he informed anyone of what he had faced there.

### **2. A Family at Al-Hulaila Checkpoint (Al-Hima Al-Kharjia, Sana'a):**

At 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, Mohammed Ahmed Haider Hammadi al-Ali, aged 36, left Dar Saad Village, Beit Al-Ali, Al-Hima Al-Kharjia District, Sana'a Governorate, in an ambulance on a humanitarian mission to take his brother's wife and her children who suffered from cholera to a private hospital in the capital, Sana'a.

According to one of the witnesses, named S. A. M.,<sup>2</sup> to the incident, while Mohammed Hammadi was driving an ambulance on the asphalt road (Al-Hodeidah-Sana'a) heading to the capital secretariat, he was astonished to find two motorcycles driven by Houthi militants from the same village behind his car, caught up to him and then stayed in front of him.

1 The witnesses wish to remain anonymous.

2 The witness wishes to remain anonymous.



The witness said; “The two motorcyclists continued to run in front of the ambulance driven by Mohammed al-Ali, who kept a distance between them, until the car reached Al-Hulaila Checkpoint behind Bani Mansour market. There, the checkpoint militants stopped it and began their brutal assault on its driver. They pulled him out of his car in front of his brother’s family, and then threw him to the ground, beat him with rifle butts, kicked him with feet and slapped him in the face, as well as insulting him, without knowing the reason for their acts.

The newly established Houthi checkpoint militants looted all the victim’s money, including 130,000 riyals, which was slated to be used to treat his brother’s wife and her children, in addition to his private dagger ,which was valued at 400,000 riyals. After that, they took him to the District Administration Prison in Mofhaq area. They left the sick family in the middle of Bani Mansour market, and then they were sent to one of the medical clinics that lacked equipment to diagnose a dangerous epidemic like cholera and treat it, according to the witness.



## CHAPTER SIX: Obstruction and Prevention of Aid Access

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen has been worsened due to the additional restrictions imposed by the conflicting parties on land, sea and air outlets and passages by closing some of them completely to relief flows, including food, medical aid and awareness programs and preventing them from reaching all areas affected by the current conflict, and ultimately causing all or most outlets and passages to be quite unsafe for innocent civilians just trying to carry on living.

The imposed restrictions include the checkpoints and barriers that impede the rapid passage of humanitarian aid to the civilians in need, restrict the freedom of movement of relief workers within the various conflict areas, block the civilian people and increase their suffering, especially within cities and areas under economic and military siege.





**FIRST:**

Examples of Incidents  
Committed by

**HOUTHİ MILİTİA**





### **1. Aids at Al-Dimna and Al-Dahi Checkpoints (Khadir, Al-Muzaffar, Taiz):**

On Thursday, December 10, 2015, a source in the government's High Committee for Relief revealed that the Houthi militia had seized 31 trucks while passing through one of its checkpoints in Al-Dimna area, Khadir District, north of Taiz Governorate. These trucks were loaded with foodstuffs provided as humanitarian relief from the World Food Program for the residents of Taiz City, who were badly affected by the war and the siege imposed on them. Houthi militia used these relief aids for the benefit of their war. As a result, the Taiz City residents received no aid.

During a press conference held at the Yemeni embassy in Riyadh regarding this incident, the government's Minister of Planning said, "Such actions committed by Houthi militia are considered the systemic war and the use of policy of starvation as a military weapon against civilians who reject their presence and coup against the constitutional government, the outcomes of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, Riyadh Conference and UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. 2216." He pointed out that Houthi militia imposed a suffocating siege on the residents of Taiz for more than six months and prevented the arrival of relief and humanitarian aid, water, medicine and medical supplies.

In his press conference, Minister of Local Administration and Chairman of the Higher Relief Committee, Abdul Raqeeb Fateh, also revealed the presence of 100 trucks loaded with foodstuffs provided from World Food Program and the International Organization for Migration that were still seized at similar checkpoints and barriers belonging to Houthi militia in Al-Hawban and Al-Dahi ports in the east and west of Taiz. Militants of these checkpoints refused to let them go through to be delivered to the concerned authorities for distributing them to those in need.

### **2. Relief Aids at Eastern Entrance (Al-Zahhar, Ibb):**

On Tuesday, February 19, 2019, the government accused Houthi militia of seizing 28 other trucks loaded of foodstuffs and medical supplies provided as humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people while passing through a checkpoint set up by the Houthi militia at the eastern entrance to Ibb Governorate, central Yemen, coming from the temporary capital, Aden.

Through an official statement issued by the Higher Relief Committee, the government stated that among those seized trucks, there were 13 trucks carrying humanitarian



aid for the governorates of (Hodeidah, Hajjah, Al-Mahwit, Raymah, Saada and Taiz). It called on United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Lisa Grandi, to urgently and quickly intervene and put the necessary pressure to release those trucks and condemn the daily obstacles that the Houthi militia imposed on relief and humanitarian aid by preventing them to access to areas badly affected by the war in Yemen.

### **3. Relief Aids at Customs Warehouse (Al-Zahhar, Ibb):**

On Monday, April 29, 2019, United Nations World Food Program revealed that Houthi militia had seized 189 trucks loaded with foodstuffs and other aid provided by the Program in Ibb City, center of Yemen, in coordination and partnership with other international humanitarian organizations for the Yemeni people.

Through a tweet on its official page on Twitter, the World Food Program stated that the trucks contained tons of wheat and flour, which had to be distributed to those badly affected by the war in most of the Yemeni governorates, according to the data of relief organizations.

### **4. Relief Aids at Customs Warehouse (Al-Madina, Dhamar):**

On Monday, May 20, 2019, the Minister of Local Administration and Chairman of the Higher Relief Committee, Abdul Raqeeb Fateh, said that the Houthi militia seized and detained about 80 relief trucks belonging to the World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for nearly more than two months inside a customs yard in Ibb Governorate.

The minister, Fatah, stated that the total seized quantity was estimated at 14,290 metric tons of comprehensive relief materials provided by World Food Program, 300 tons of agricultural materials provided by the FAO and five trucks loaded with fuel for hospitals in some affected Yemeni governorates.

He considered that the Houthi militia aimed, through such systematic practices, to starve the Yemeni people and deprive them of their most basic rights, represented in the stopping of delivery of relief aids to the needy, and Fatah put the full responsibility on the militia for any food shortage or potential humanitarian disasters that residents of the affected areas may be exposed to, in addition to any damage to the seized relief materials.



### **5. Medical Aid (Hospitals in Dhamar):**

On Sunday, April 21, 2019, Higher Relief Committee accused Houthi militia of seizing shipments of medicines for cancer patients in Ibb Governorate, central Yemen, and attacking a relief organization team.

According to a statement issued by the committee, Houthi militants seized medicines allocated for more than 3,000 cancer patients in the Oncology Treatment Center in Ibb Governorate, because current supplies were running low. The committee said that Houthis also attacked the team of the International Organization (CARE) in Ibb Governorate and seized 279 food baskets.

The committee's statement indicated that Houthi militia had seized more than 25 trucks and locomotives loaded with food provided by World Food Program as relief and humanitarian aid for those affected by the war in Yemen a month ago.

### **6. Medical Aid for Kidney Patients (Al-Thawra Hospital, Taiz):**

On Thursday, April 20, 2017, Houthi militia confiscated quantities of medicines and medical supplies for the Dialysis Center of Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz.

In a statement issued by the hospital authority, they said that the continuation of such irresponsible practices warned of a health disaster and might cause the hospital's dialysis center to grind to a halt.

The statement called on international organizations and human rights organizations to put more pressure on Houthi militia to restore these medical aids for patients with kidney failure and obligate them not to repeat such practices that were criminalized by all applicable national legislation and applicable international laws, charters and treaties.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## TO CONFLICTING PARTIES:

- Committing to international conventions, laws, treaties and charters regulating war, sparing civilians from the scourge of conflict, creating safe passages for humanitarian access and not using siege and starvation as a weapon in armed conflict.
- Neutralizing the road network, main and subsidiary lines and air, land ports and seaports and not interrupting or obstructing movement through them as they are considered public facilities and means that serve the civilian population of all categories and segments and affect their natural needs.
- Rapidly removing illegal checkpoints and barriers, including tax-levy checkpoints and customs outlets from all roads, main and secondary streets and entrances to capitals, cities and residential neighborhoods without restriction or conditions.
- Reconsidering the performance of legal checkpoints and barriers to ensure that they adhere to their basic and legal tasks and functions of regulating traffic, providing security and safety for travelers, protecting their property, combating smuggling and reducing crime.
- Referring all legal and illegal commanders and militants of security and military checkpoints and barriers, who have been proven to have committed violations against travelers, to the judiciary and providing fair compensation for all damages and losses affecting the victims and their families.



# **YEMEN: DEATH CHECKPOINTS**

**Human Rights Report on Abuses  
Committed at Checkpoints**  
During the Period of 2014 to 2021

**FEBRUARY 2023**



# RIGHTS RADAR

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## WHO WE ARE?

Rights Radar foundation is a civil society organization for Human Rights, Non-Profit and Non-Governmental organization for monitoring, promoting and defending Human rights in the Arab world.

Founded by some Arab human rights defenders, and activists. Allocated for monitoring, documenting, and reporting violations against Human Rights, as well as providing advocacy, and legal support for victims and capacity building for human rights activists. It is focusing on all topics and areas of human rights, including freedom of expression, media and press freedom, women's rights, children's rights, disability rights, refugee rights, rights to justice.

Rights Radar working through a wide and professional network of reporters and monitors in the ground in most of the areas covered by its activities, using up-to-date techniques of monitoring and documenting human rights cases.

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## OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Monitoring and documenting violations against human rights in the Arab World.

- Providing advocacy and legal support for victims of human rights' violations.

- Networking and partnership with human rights organizations.

- Capacity building and leadership developing for human rights activists.

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## OUR VISSION:

Excellence in monitoring, documenting, and advocacy of human rights in the Arab world.

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## OUR MISSION:

A non-profit human rights foundation to defend Arab human rights and advocate their essential rights through monitoring and documenting violations, issuing statements and reports, networking and partnership with regional and international human rights organizations, as well as creating training and capacity building opportunities for human rights activists and leaders.

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## OUR VALUES

- Responsibility

- Credibility.

- Independency.

- Transparency.



# OUR PROGRAMS

## MONITORING

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Rights Radar regularly monitors the human rights status and abuses in the Arab world, through local qualified monitors and reporters working to world-class standards and using cutting-edge techniques, as well as through collaborations with local human rights organizations that work in the same field with the same quality of work.

## DOCUMENTING

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Rights Radar documents human rights abuses committed by various parties, individual or collective, across the Arab world. Through a variety of approaches, we obtain material proof and documented evidence of the abuses of human rights to be used to bring the perpetrators to justice.

## ADVOCACY

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As part of our mission, Rights Radar provides advocacy and legal support, both material and moral support, for victims of human rights abuses in the Arab world, thanks to our capacity and expertise, and in collaboration with international organizations with complementary programs and aims.

## NETWORKING

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We achieve our objectives and goals through collaborating with a wide network of local, regional and international human rights organizations. Sharing experiences and working together, we drive outcomes and defend human rights through collective action and large-scale campaigns.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

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As well as defending human rights, Rights Radar is committed to training the human rights activists working as internal staff members as well as external organizations that share the same goal of defending human rights. Capacity building is a major part of our program and mission to improve human rights.





# FIELDS OF FOCUS

**Rights Radar believes the right to freedom of expression and justice, rights for women, children, people with disabilities and refugees are fundamental issues and represent the core topics of our work and activities.**

## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

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We advocate for freedom of expression to advance media freedom and public liberties, and promote its potential to play a vital role in developing democracy and protecting the public interest. We believe that democracy will not be fully achieved unless freedom of expression is guaranteed as a basic right.

## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

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Rights Radar promotes women's empowerment and supports their vital role and participation in society. We believe that society cannot reach its full potential unless women enjoy the same equal rights and opportunities as men, including education, health care, jobs, etc.

## **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

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We are working to enhance children's basic rights and assist them to fully enjoy their rights, including education, health care and protection. We look to children as our bright future, and this dream will not come true unless children are integrated fully into social development and public policies.

# YEMEN: DEATH CHECKPOINTS

Human Rights Report on Abuses  
Committed at Checkpoints  
During the Period of 2014 to 2021

**FEBRUARY 2023**





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**RIGHTSRADAR** |      