



YEMEN: VICTIMS BEHIND BARS

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ABOUT DETENTION CASES IN YEMEN

APRIL 2017



GENERAL CONTEXT

Yemen suffered for decades from consecutive political crises and armed conflicts instigated by the geo-political situation, and the national, regional and international policies. These factors have negatively affected the livelihoods of people which were worsened by the corruption of the ruling regime, exclusion of all parties, and monopoly of power and wealth. The little margin of existing democracy did not temper the increased national resentment running counter to the oppressive political regime. National resentment was first noticed through limited protests in the southern governorates mid 2007 decrying the exclusion and marginalization of the South of Yemen. In 2001, these protests have turned into a massive popular uprising in the entire country. Yemen was one of the countries that joined the so-called 'Arab Spring'. The 2011 uprising continued for a year, faced by unprecedented violent oppression by the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The uprising reached an end by the GCC-brokered initiative signed by all political parties and sponsored by the UN. The GCC initiative put a deal in place that involved transferring Saleh's powers to his Vice President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi and launching the National Dialogue Conference (NDC). It was agreed that the NDC would include all social and political fractions in Yemen to lead to the transition period laying the foundation for a federal state of six regions and drafting the new constitution. The NDC marked the beginning of the transitional period where all fractions, movements and entities joined, including the Ansar Allah Movement (the Houthi Group). The Houthis had a greater share of participation in proportion to its size according to some analysts. All the political movements that joined the NDC agreed on the draft of the new constitution. However, the GCC deal and the NDC pro-

cess ignored two major issues - the arms possessed by the Houthi group and the amnesty provision granted to the former President Saleh from all major human rights violations committed during the three-decade ruling. Such situations added more challenges to the already fragile context of Yemen. This was worsened by the vivid loyalty and affiliation to the powerful dominant international powers which happened after the 2011 uprising and leading to the complete failure of the transitional period and the political agreements. Taking advantage of the political unrest and the absence of transitional justice, the Houthis were encouraged to expand their territorial hold considerably in the northern governorates starting from Amran and eventually leading to the takeover of the capital city of Sana'a in September 2014. The Houthis territorial advance was supported by the former president Saleh's forces. The political interface was completely changed as the Houthi groups with Saleh forces forced President Hadi, politicians, and the government to flee outside the country and then continued their territorial expansion. This marked a new political scene marked by the threat of violence. The human rights situation in Yemen was not perfect, and the grip of the Houthis over the capital in 2014 made it worse. Not only human rights, but the entire political domain was negatively affected as a result. The Houthis along with their patron Saleh and his loyalist forces attacked the state's structure, getting hold of most of the army's weapons and military apparatuses and continued their territorial advance. Their vicious attacks also reached those human rights activists and political opponents, who are opposing their coup. They also attacked all political, civil and media freedoms which were deteriorating the humanitarian situation and made the country a battle ground for an open proxy conflict.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The armed Houthi group launched the worst massive detention campaign in the two and half years since its takeover of Sana'a, the Yemeni capital, along with other governorates. The campaign was fought against their opponents from politics, academia, human rights organizations, and the media. According to human rights organizations, the core values of the national legislation including the constitution, laws, and the rights granted by international treaties and agreements ratified by Yemen were all violated by practices of the Houthi militia and its ally the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Credible human rights sources informed Rights Radar that the Houthi group and former president Ali Saleh created 484 new detention centers, as well as using the dozens of official prisons of the security authorities in the capital Sana'a and in the provinces which are under its controlling in Yemen. The amount of people abducted and detained by the Huthis group is estimated in 16,804 detainees since Houthi rebels' takeover the capital, Sana'a, on 21 September 2014 until the end of March 2017. It transferred 484 of government and private buildings into detention camps for its opponents, including 227 government buildings, 27 medical clinics, 49 university buildings, 99 public and private schools, 25 sport clubs, 47 judicial buildings and 10 private houses of citizens. After its control over Sana'a on September 21, 2014, the Houthi militia immediately enforced an oppressive policy against its opponents in order to silence the voices critical

of its armed and violent approaches to take over power. They carried out massive raids on headquarters of political parties, media institutions and houses of their opponents. They launched a large scale detention operation targeting hundreds of politicians, ministers, people working in the media, university academics and youth activists. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV) in Yemen, which consisted of ten Yemeni human rights non-governmental organizations, issued reports of various cases of arrest since September 21, 2014. The Houthi-Saleh militia kidnapped 9,949 people during the period from September 21, 2014 until April 30, 2016. According to Rights Radar sources and other human rights organizations, the Houthis and Saleh arrested more than ten thousand people in over two years. The kidnapping and arrest operations are still targeting their political opponents and people critical to their movement, according to human rights sources. According to government sources, the number of detainees who are still in Houthi prisons in Sana'a alone reached 4,414 detainees by the end of 2016. The detainees include politicians, people working in the media, youth activists, and laborers, according to Khaled Hussein al-Yamani, Yemen's permanent representative to the United Nations. He added that on the top of the list is General Mahmoud al-Subaihi, former Defense Minister, Major General Nasser Mansour Hadi, President Hadi's



Houthi-Saleh militants
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cities controlled by their
militia

brother, Brigadier Faisal Rajab, a military leader, and the prominent political leader in the Joint Meeting Parties Mohammed Qahtan Al-Yamani added in a letter he sent to the former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on December 22, 2016 that the total number of children arrested reached 204, in addition to 91 registered cases of detention of academics and university professors. He added that Sana'a, the capital, topped the list regarding the number of missing people and detainees to reach 2,973 people, followed by Hodeida city with 1,035

circumstances after he published precise information of the Houthi leadership's engagement in the oil and fuel derivatives trade and how they are making money at the expense of the Yemeni people's suffering. The Houthis are cracking down on politicians and civil and human rights activists to an unprecedented extent. Their oppressive approach is systematic and accompanied by incitement against those critical of the movement. The targets were accused of being spies for trying to uncover the truth and for criticizing the oppressive politics of the de



Photo By: Ahmed AlBasha

people, followed by Ibb city with 871 cases. The biggest number of missing people and detainees originally come from Taizz city. He added that more than 15 journalists are still in Houthi prisons in Sana'a where they are tortured and abused, including the journalist Abdul Khaliq Amran. Amran is held in Political Security Prison where his health and psychological state are deteriorating as a result of the constant torture and his spinal injury. The investigative journalist Mohammed al-Absi died in ambiguous

facto authorities of the Houthis in the areas they controlled. As a result, civil and peaceful resistance seems difficult and dangerous and like walking on a field full of mines. Leaders from the General People's Congress (GPC), the former President's ruling party, and the ally of the Houthis in their coup against the government, have said that there are thousands of detainees in secret and illegal prisons established in Sana'a away from the security apparatus and the judiciary authority. The capital city has a large number of de-

tainees in illegal prisons and most of them have no charges or judiciary rulings against them, according to Abdul-Rahman al-Akawa, one of the GPC leaders and one of Saleh's in-laws and one of his closest people. He stated this during a parliamentary session held by the GPC bloc on December 6, 2016 and told the parliament that the Houthi group should immediately release them. He also stated that he headed a committee to investigate the prisons' situation and he discovered the miserable situation where some houses were transformed to prisons without the knowledge or permission of the judiciary system. He called upon the judiciary system to manage this issue as it is at the core of its responsibility. There are thousands of innocent prisoners held in the Houthi prisons and they should be immediately released, said Ahmed al-Zuhairi, a GPC leader (Saleh's party) and the head of the organizational unit in the party. According to trusted sources said to Rights Radar, more than 70 per cent of the detainees are forced into giving confessions recorded on video cameras and must sign papers stating that they will not speak about their torture, the detention's locations, the identity of their captors, and will not talk to the media or human rights organizations, or their relatives' lives may be jeopardized. The Abductees' Mothers Association organized weekly sit-in protests in front of the Houthi prisons in the capital Sana'a. However, these peaceful sit-ins were met with aggression by the Houthi armed members. They held many sessions, where they were assaulted by the militia in front of the UN office in Sana'a, and in front of the Houthi-appointed Attorney General's office where the mothers of the abductees were physically attacked at the gate. The detainees being held by the Houthi-Saleh militants are suffering from poor prison conditions where they are imprisoned in solitary confinement and in prisons that do not meet the standards of human rights law, according to trusted sources. They said that the prisoners are subject to starvation and

prevented from using the toilet. The number of prisons reached 484 including 227 that are established in governmental buildings while 27 are established in hospital and medical institutions. In addition, some prisons are inside public and private universities, such as in the school buildings and stadiums, while the number of secret prisons reached 10. Human Rights Watch accused al-Houthi in its report issued in mid-November 2016 of the arbitrary arrest of hundreds of people in Yemen. It called upon the Houthi group to stop these violations, protect the rights of prisoners, and immediately release all the prisoners. It also called for granting the prisoners' families, observers and lawyers access to their detention locations in order to minimize the danger of the mistreatment of the prisoners inside the Houthi prisons. The Houthi-Saleh militia refused the orders of the judicial prosecutions to release the prisoners. They don't respect these judicial orders to the extent that according to some human rights activists one of the Houthi leaders wrote on of the orders - sent by a prosecutor in Sana'a to release one of the prisoners - saying literally, "Your order - dip it in water and drink it". According to Rights Radar's field reporters, the Houthi has a history of detention since their control of Sa'adah, in the north of Yemen. During their religious rituals, they arrested tens of people from various sects, including those from Islah (an opponent party), and regular citizens under "security regulations". These regulations included kidnapping arbitrarily the citizens of the governorates, holding them in a private prison before releasing them after finishing their rituals. The Houthis hold annual celebrations in the areas they control in Yemen, such as the birthday of Prophet Mohammed, and the celebration of the International Day of Quds. During these celebrations, these areas are under a state of emergency imposed by the Houthi, justifying that the security measures protect the massive crowds gathered to attend these celebrations.

FORCEABLY DISAPPEARANCES

On April 4, 2015, Houthi-Saleh militants kidnapped Muhammad Qahtan, a strong opponent of Saleh and the Houthis and a prominent political leader in the Joint Meeting Party and the Islah party. He was forcibly arrested and has been detained for more than two years and still there is no information about his situation or where he is being detained. A group of around 15 armed individuals” came at noon on April 4, 2015 to my father’s house in al-Nahadha neighborhood in al-Siteen Street in the capital Sana’a. They took him by force to an unknown place and he is still being detained to this moment,” Abdul-Rahman Qahtan told Rights Radar. They took my father with no clear reason or” any judicial order. They also threatened to destroy the whole house on

al-Qubaisi to an unknown location. His arrest was illegal and they deprived him and his family of their basic human rights,” he added. He also mentioned that there were more than five people who witnessed this incident. Since his arbitrary detention, his family has not been able to visit him or know his whereabouts. They suffered a lot from his absence for more than two years and they have no idea if he is still alive or not. He added that Qahtan’s family have been trying all means to have him released. They participated in many events campaigning for his release. They contacted influential political figures in Yemen and they also contacted local and international human rights NGOs. These efforts have not brought any results and reached to dead end.

Qahtan’s arbitrary detention is a striking testimonial of the oppression in Yemen before the war escalated and the deterioration of human rights afterwards could be considered at its worst level in the modern history of Yemen. The arbitrary arrest cases are still being carried out by the Houthi – Saleh militants inside secret prisons. Their secret prisons are usually schools taken over by the Houthi militants by force and turned

into military sites for their armed militia. The existence of secret prisons was revealed by some tribal leaders, parliamentarians, and well-known society personnel from Sa’adah and Amran cities. Those people who are against the Houthis are held

if he refused to get out. Then he left the house and asked them to give him some time to pray the Midday Prayer and collect some personal clothes. They refused, and insisted on him going with them immediately. He was illegally taken along with his son-in-law Jameel



Mohammed Qahtan

Forcibly disappeared by
Houthi-Saleh militia
Since 4 April 2015

in these prisons without being presented to court or being charged, they added. The Houthis expanded the secret prisons following their takeover of Sana'a and the other cities in the north, center and west of Yemen. Some human rights activists insisted that the health conditions of certain prisoners are unknown because of the ban on visits or access. Certain newspapers and media outlets reported news about Sagheer Aziz, a parliamentary member of the GMP who broke his alliance with Saleh. He had been with Saleh and then he quit. For eight years, Houthis have been arresting people based on their sectarian affiliations in Sa'adah and Sufian and some of the Hajjah and Jawf's districts. They terminate those against them. In Sufain district alone,

there are 17 abductees that have been taken by the Houthis and we have no information about them. They are kept as hostages by the Houthis in prisons where no one can visit or reach." He added, "these prisons are in remote areas in mountains and caves far away from residential areas in Sufian and Sa'adah, and they have unbelievable means of torture. Some of those who escaped their prisons spoke about a severe agony inflicted on the prisoners in these secret prisons where the Houthis don't allow access to the Yemeni people or the international human rights organizations. The Houthi group has turned Sa'adah into one big prison



MASSIVE ARREST CAMPAIGNS

Since the takeover of Sana'a by the Houthi-Saleh militants, thousands of activists, journalists and people working in the media were arrested by the Houthi-Saleh militants campaigns. They were imprisoned in detention centers belong to the government where Houthi become the de facto authority, and they were also put into an illegal detention center. Some of them were released while thousands are still enduring arbitrary arrest or kidnap. Amongst them are 17 journalists and media professionals who were kidnapped on June 9, 2015

unit in the Criminal Investigation Unit, which was under the Ministry of Interior and is now controlled by the Houthis. They were kept isolated from the outside world before being taken to another unknown location, and then being shown to Habrah Jail. Some of them were taken to the Political Security detention center (the Yemen intelligence agency). The Houthi-Saleh militia kidnapped the journalists from the Ahlam hotel in Sana'a and led them to an unknown location where they disappeared for months until their families tracked them down and found out their detention location. They then struggled to find a way to visit them. Later, the Houthi-Saleh militia arrested the 29-old journalist Salah Mohammed Ahmed al-Qa'aidi, in August 2015 while he was in a real estate office belonging to one of his relatives located in al-Steen street. Six other people who were with him at the same place were arrested but they were later released. Al-Qa'aidi was then taken to the Haidari Police Office in Sana'a and was moved to more than one prison. His family said that he was tortured and mistreated including aggressive beating, being deprived of food and water and then deprived of visits after news was published in the media reporting his torture. Those journalists then declared a hunger strike to protest to the torture and the maltreatment they were subjected to inside the prison. The Yemeni Journalists Union issued



Various human rights sources told to Rights Radar that the Houthi-Saleh militants arbitrarily arrested on June 9, 2015 Abdu-Khaleq Amran, Akram al-Walidi, Hareth Humaid, Hassan Annab, Hisham al-Yousifi, Hisham Tarmom, Haitham al-Shihab, Isam Balghaith, and Twaifiq al-Monsori. They took them to Al-Ahmar police station in al-Hasabah to be transferred on July 3 to the counterterrorism

on. His family said that he was tortured and mistreated including aggressive beating, being deprived of food and water and then deprived of visits after news was published in the media reporting his torture. Those journalists then declared a hunger strike to protest to the torture and the maltreatment they were subjected to inside the prison. The Yemeni Journalists Union issued

many appeals to the Houthi authorities to release the detained journalists. Their families also sent numerous complaints to many international human rights organizations calling for their release but nothing has happened. On October 12, 2015, armed militants of the Houthi-Saleh forces kidnapped 28 civil activists including journalists and human rights activists. They were planning to organize a peaceful protest carrying drinking water to Taizz city (in the center of Yemen) to break the siege imposed on the city. The activists were publicly organizing a meeting in one of the hotels in Ibb city (in the center of the country)

while others stayed under detention for various periods of time. They were later released on eight different occasions except the activists from Islah Ameen al-Shafaq, who are still under enforced disappearance with no legal procedures or permitted visits. A. T., one of the victims and the released activists, revealed how he was brutally tortured in the Houthi's prisons. Some online news websites disclosed photos showing the physical traces of the torture triggering a wide wave of criticism. However, no investigation or legal action has taken place to investigate the crime or prosecute the perpetrators



when tens of armed Houthi militants dressed in civilian clothing raided the meeting and kidnapped them, confiscated their phones. They were taken to a place later disclosed to be the building of the Political Security Organization (the Yemen intelligence agency). Some of them were later released, after being subjected to torture and enforced disappear-

S.S, one of the released activists, said that the detainees are living under very poor prison conditions: "The situation of the prison is extremely difficult; the food is poor and the sick detainees are deprived from their medications. The prison is very crowded with the detainees. The use of the toilet is permitted only three times a day at 10 am, 4 pm, and

the last one at 2 am for a short period, and the prisoners urinate into bottles inside their rooms. The families of the detainees spoke of great violations and insults by the Houthi de facto authorities against the prisoners, especially those detained as a result of their opinion or political or intellectual activity .which criticized the Houthi group”, he added The youth activist A. A. H, 26, said in a report obtained by Rights Radar that in the early hours of May 10, 2016, he went from Ibb city to Sana’a to attend the funeral of one of his relatives. When he passed by one of the checkpoints of the Houthi-Saleh militants in the al-Sahol area outside Ibb city, where the Houthis were searching everyone’s phones, his phone battery died and thus they did not search his .phone, and he continued his trip to Sana’a A.H. described the incident: “Before I arrived to Dar Salm street the car stopped for a while for some of the passengers to leave. I found a Houthi vehicle full of militants passing by and the driver looked at me and we both recognized each other. I have met him before in some events in Ibb where I escaped from him during some of the protests and



the sit-ins. He was an armed militant and climbed the wall of the Khaleej Al-Hurriah square when we started our protest and aimed his gun at us. I took a photo of him that day. When I saw him today, I tried to cover my face but he recognized me and I knew that I would be kidnapped. I tried to escape but one of them aimed his gun at me .“telling me to stop or he would shoot me He added: “they took me in, in an abusive and arrogant way, immediately confiscated my phone and a few minutes later blindfolded me and took me to their center. While we were on the way, they searched me and took everything in my pockets, including the money. One hour passed and we were still in their vehicle and I didn’t know where we were heading to. When we reached the destination, I was forced to get out in a very abusive way by hitting me on my face and chest and squeezing my two hands. They threw me into a small room and closed the door. They did not tie my hands and I took off the tie around my eyes to find myself in a room with four walls and a small door. There was a small and rectangular window and a grate around the other walls. I “then realized that I was in the basement He continued: “They came after a while and covered my eyes with the tie I took off. They started to beat me until I fainted. They beat me on my chest, back and abdomen while insulting me with rude words. On the other days in the morning they came with an investigator and prisoners with tools. Before asking any questions, they beat me up until I fainted. They woke me up by putting burning tools on my back - a burning metal tool - until I was shocked. The investigator asked me about my relationship with the Reject Movement, a youth movement established against the Houthi group, and asked me about the activities we did and the leaders. They also accused me of trying to get money from the outside to fund the movement’s activities and of supporting the Popular Resistance and working for them. During the investigation, I heard sounds of knives being sharpened, apparently as part

“of the terrifying methods used against me. The day next, the investigators continued the investigation in the same manner and questioned A.H. in different ways, accompanied with physical abuse and insults: “They then decided to transfer me to the Political Security detention center. But before that my health conditions deteriorated because of the physical assault, being without food or drink for two consecutive days, and deprived of medication. On the third day before taken to the Political Security center, I had a nervous breakdown and fainted, leading them to throw me on one of the side roads next to the Khamseen Street

er on that her husband had been abducted. The Houthi leader Abdul-Qader al-Sha-” mi was hitting and attacking us during my attempt to escape from home. I knew later that our house had been monitored for a few days by different Houthi people in many different cars carrying the logo of the Houthi militia. They attacked me by raiding my house and searching and looting its contents such as my husband’s personal documents and those of my family as well. They searched the house 3 times and it is still under supervision until this moment,” she said. She added “On the second day of my husband’s abduction and the raid of our house,



“after confiscating all of my belongings. On September 27, 2016, the Houthi - Saleh forces detained N. M. S., a University professor. Entisar, his wife, said to Rights Radar that her husband called her around 2 o'clock in the afternoon on September 27, 2016, then his call cut suddenly and she knew lat-

my husband was calling and was also breathing heavily, it was clear from his voice that he was under severe torture and to this moment we still don't know where he is. The Saleh - Houthi militia in control of Sana'a capital have not disclosed his detention place. On October 5, 2016, Houthi - Saleh mili-

tia detained the child M. A. M. Q., 17, in a way that is violating all laws and principles. He was abducted at 12 noon on Wednesday October 5, 2016 in Sana'a, the capital, from al-Ribat Street and no one knows what has happened to him. M.Q.'s friend (A.N.) was with him on their way home from school and witnessed what happened: "I ran towards the car to open the door to ask them who they were. The same man who took M.Q. raised a card in pink and black saying that they were from the National Security (Intelligence) and they drove off in a hurry. On May 29, 2016, government security forces detained Salem Abdullah Bakarshoom al-Deeni, 43, from his house in al-Dees area in Almukala city in Hadhramout government, east Yemen. His relative Dhaif Allah Mansour al-Haddad said that while al-Deeni was in his house, armed forces following the orders of security authorities in Hadhramout raided his house at midnight and took him away from his family. His family did not know where he was being detained. On June 9, 2016, government armed forces detained Awadh Ahmed al-Dugail, aged 45.

The security men raided his house on Thursday June 9, 2016 in al-Ghulailah, in al-Mukala city, in Hadhramout government, east Yemen. He was then taken to an unknown location. Ahmed Omar Bamahroos said that some individuals of the security authorities in Hadhramout raided the house of al-Dugail and took him away from his family to the Republican Palace in Almukala and was later moved to another unknown location. On February 8, 2016, the Houthi-Saleh militia abducted S. A., 40, the human rights activist in Amran governorate. He was abducted on his way back from Ma'rib governorate, where

he was attending a human rights workshop. Sources close to S.A. said that he was arrested while passing through a checkpoint called Edris Rada'a in al-Baidha governorate by Houthi - Saleh armed militants in control of the checkpoint. He was arrested for two weeks on claims of carrying out intelligence work with Saudi Arabia. His family knew after his release that he was detained in a castle of Rada' area in al-Baidha governorate, a castle used as a detention center by the Houthi and Saleh militia for their opponents. On February 22, 2016, Houthi and Saleh militia abducted S. S. H. A. from his family house in Sana'a, the capital. His wife, Amat al-Aleem, 36, said that she went to the hospital with her husband at 10a.m. in

the car of her husband's friend. Along the way, I noticed that there was a car following us and there were some people inside looking at us in a strange way. My husband stopped the car to find 4 cars full of Houthi-Saleh militants surrounding us and they took my husband out by force. Some of them took away the Janbiah [Yemeni traditional dagger worn by men]. My husband was asking them to let him

to take me to the hospital but they refused. She added that a man, Abu Mohammed (father of Mohammed), told her husband, "We have been looking for you for a year". "My husband asked them if he could at least take me back but they refused and then tied him up and put him in a pickup Hilux car. My husband threw his phone to my lap and one of the armed people came to grab the phone and I refused. One of them decided to shut the door on my leg, aimed the gun at my chest and told me "You, dog's daughter" and continued to insult me. Then they searched the car and took all the documents, my hus-

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band's phone and searched my handbag. She continued, "I was trying to step out of the car but one of them was pressing on my leg with the car door and I was shouting but nobody came to my rescue. Then they took me in the car to the al-Saiyaghi police station. As we reached the police station, they wanted me to get out of the car. While they were distracted, I took the chance and ran away and one of the armed people followed me and threatened me, saying that if I did not stop he would kill me. I disappeared amongst the cars and took a taxi and the armed man on a motorcycle was unable to follow me. I reached my sister's school where she teaches. One of the neighbors called me and told me my house was being stormed and searched by Houthi militias. I asked my sister to take my daughters to her house. When I returned to my house, it had been looted by the

armed Houthis. I am still psychologically and physically drained after what happened to me and my husband. I still take medicine to treat myself for the psychological and physical trauma, especially with my husband. "Still in prison in Sana'a until this moment. On July 28, 2016, the armed Houthis arrested M. A. H. A. in al-Talh in Sa'dah governorate, north Yemen, the stronghold of the Houthi group. He was arrested on his way to his work at the Yemeni-Saudi border and was put in prison for no valid reason, according to one of his relatives. On September 3, 2016, the Houthi-Saleh militia arrested the children A. M. D. Z., 12

years, and his cousin S. Z. D. Z., 13, from al-Zoob village in Qaifah Rada'a, al-Baidha governorate, in central Yemen. Sources from their families told Rights Radar that the Houthi-Saleh militants abducted them on Saturday September 3, 2016 while they were working on some of the Qat farms belonging to their families in al-Zoob village. Their relative, H.S.Z., said that the Houthi - Saleh armed forces raided the Qat farms

of the Da'aoor clan in al-Zoob village after shooting them with weapons and entering. They kidnapped the two children A. & S. with no charges and kept them in arbitrary detention in an unknown place without notifying their families. The family searched for them during their abduction times with no success and they were unaware of their



situation until they were released after 34 days. On August 10, 2016, the Houthi-Saleh militia arrested the female activists' R.T. and M.Y. and N. S., a group of activists from the Baha'i community. They were detained on Wednesday August 10, 2016 with 12 other women and 45 other people - men and children - with no judicial note from the capital Sana'a and were put in the national security prison (Intelligence). An eye witness from the Baha'i community said that some individuals following the national security apparatus (controlled by the Houthi - Saleh forces) raided a cultural event conducted by Nida Foundation for Human Development and held at the Jud

Foundation building in Sana'a city and were led to the National Security Prison. They were not allowed contact with their families or with their lawyers while in prison and they were released after a month and a half of detention. On July 6, 2016, the Houthi-Saleh militia abducted the child K. H. M., 14, on Wednes-

day July 6, 2016 in Abs area, in Hajjah city, west of Yemen. An eye witness told Rights Radar's monitors that the Houthi-Saleh militia abducted the child from al-Badah souk in Bani Hassan village in Abs area in Hajjah governorate for no reason. On May 29, 2015, the security forces of the government detained Omar Mubarak Abdullah Bahabri, 35, in the Fwah area of Mukala city in Hadhramout, east of Yemen. Eye witnesses said that Bahabri was detained on Sunday May 29, 2016, while driving home with his children. He was removed from his car at a checkpoint by the security authorities in Mukala Hadhramout. He was taken from his children who were left alone in the car. On May 11, 2016, the government security forces detained Ali Mansour Hassan al-Haddad, 24, in al-Dees area in Mukala city in Hadhramout. Some sources close to al-Haddad



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car at a checkpoint by the security authorities in Mukala Hadhramout. He was taken from his children who were left alone in the car. On May 11, 2016, the government security forces detained Ali Mansour Hassan al-Haddad, 24, in al-Dees area in Mukala city in Hadhramout. Some sources close to al-Haddad

HORRIFIC CASES OF ARREST

On September 1, 2016, the Houthi-Saleh militia kidnapped A. H. S., 43, a housewife, along with her husband, from their house in Sana'a, the capital, after they detained her father-in-law and tortured him in the prison until he died. Amani said that on September 1, 2016, "A group of Houthi-Saleh militants came in their car and they started shooting live bullets on our houses and then they raided our house without having any order from any judicial entity entitling them to do this." She added, "They kidnapped my old father-in-law A. A. H. and took him

by force out of his house and we don't know where they took him to. The same group returned later and raided the house and abducted me and my injured husband who cannot leave the bed and they took us to the Shamlan police station. As soon as we arrived, they separated us. They put me in a room and my husband in another room.

They searched my personal handbag and took my phone. I begged them to notify my family and my relatives but they refused and they interrogated me and accused me of being an agent to the Saudis, the US and Israel and of sending them information. I am a woman who has nothing at all to do with that. She continued, "The investigation continued until almost 8:30pm, when they threatened to kill my husband who was in another room

and I didn't know how he was. After that, they took me and my husband to the Shamlan police station in a car belonging to them. They took us towards al-Khamseen Street and they were calling some other people. I understood from their calls that they were talking with Houthi officials in Bani Matar. They asked my husband to give them a number of my relatives to hand me over to them. My husband gave them my brother's phone number and they called him. The car returned nearby Hamdan court, at one of the checkpoints following them. It was 2 a.m. My brother came and they took me out of the car and let my brother take



Dr. Abdulkader Alguneid

Detained by Houthi-Saleh militia
from 5 August 2015 until 21 May 2016

me while keeping my husband with them". and I didn't know where they would take him. She added, "I returned with my brother and later on I went from prison to a prison and from one place to another looking for my husband and his father. We begged all the field leaderships of the Houthi - Saleh to direct us to where my husband and father-in-law were being detained. But all the people in charge of the prisons said they

didn't have them. This situation continued for around 3 months and on November 23, 2016 we met a former detainee who told us that they were arrested him in the prison next to the First Brigade Camp that formerly was a center for teaching the Quran. He told us that my father-in-law was killed inside the prison after he was tortured to death. It sad that we met him as a dead body and they asked us to give up his case but we refused. Later, they released my husband after "the intervention of senior social personnel On August 5, 2015, the medical doctor and the human rights activist Dr. Abdulkader Alguneid was abducted by the Houthi and Saleh militias from his house in Taiz, central Yemen, and stayed in the detention until they released him on May 21, 2016 He was transferred to many detention facilities until they shifted him to the Political Security Prison (Intelligence) at the capital city of Sana'a, where the militia shifted him between 15 cells of the prison during the 9 months of his detention with no clear charges except their upset from his human rights activities opposing them I was in my house on August 5, 2015 and" surprised by the Houthi militants raiding my house, attacking me and kidnapping me from my house after they had tied my arms. At that moment the journey of suffering started and lasted for 300 days where I went through bad situations and circumstances, moving from a place to a place and from a prison cell to another. The prison's life

was extremely awful," Alguneid described his conditions of kidnapping and detention The cell was very very narrow, like a sar-dine can with no mattress. The prisoners have been locked up in these painfully narrow cells for days, months and years which by itself is a torture. Poisoners have not toilets except small half-covered a meter by a meter area at the corner of the cell where there is a tap water and a hole in the ground, the only place available and used for toilet, water, washing and so on," He added Alguneid also gave his account of the situations of the other prisoners in these prison cells under the control of the Houthi and Saleh forces. "The cell is very dark and there is no light or fresh air, and detainees are not exposed to sun. The guards are continually spying over the detainees by suddenly opening the small windows on the cell's door. The detainees are not allowed to talk to each other. The cell's temperature is very cold and the detainees are not given blankets to resist the cold weather. They are given only a little food to keep them alive through the small windows in the cell door. Many of the detainees are subjected to severe and horrific torture. The case of Gamal Al-Ma'amary is one of the horrific cases I witnessed in prison In March 13, 2015, Houthi and Saleh militants arrested the tribal sheikh Gamal Alma'amary in capital Sana'a, they severely tortured



Gamal Alma'amary

Detained by Houthi-Saleh militia
since 5 August 2015

him until he paralyzed and he became flaccid. The human rights activist and former detainee by the Houthi-Saleh militia, Dr. Abdulkader Alguneid, published his testimony on the torture of one of the detainees in the Houthi and Saleh prisons in Sana'a, the case of detained tribal Sheik Gamal Alma'amary. Al-Guneid said: I was with him in the same cell in the same jail for three months, starting on August 12, 2015. Houthi men kidnapped him in the #Sanaa capital of #Yemen while he was with his wife and three daughters in a hotel, on March 13, 2015 and forcibly disappeared him in a house. They burned him with cigarettes and electrocuted him on skin and inside mouth. How did they get him paralyzed? They put a Shawl between his armpits, and dragged him on the floor by a torturer standing at his head while another one pulled at his ankles then they kept going down and upstairs. A third one kept kicking at his buttocks all the time. In this way his left Brachial Plexus in the left axilla (armpit), was injured and he had Lower Motor Neuron Lesion Paralysis of The Left Upper Limb. His Left Sciatica Nerve, was injured, at left buttock and he had Lower Motor Neuron Nerve Paralysis of the left lower limb. Final outcome he became flaccid and paralyzed on the left side of his body. Three days later, they castrated him. A torturer, pressed on his left Spermatic Cord against his Pubic Symphysis bone of the pelvis. Pain was so great that he lost consciousness. Weeks later, he couldn't feel his left testis. The pressure on the Spermatic Cord, occluded the Arterial Blood Supply and caused Testicular Infarction and subsequent atrophy. Later, the complete lack of movement, poor nutrition, Vitamin deficiencies and



Over
16,800 civil-
ians were abducted,
forcibly disappeared and
detained by Houthi-Saleh
militias during 2,5 years with
deprive them from all fun-
damental rights.

nil exposure to fresh air let alone sun rays (like all of us) had resulted in more weakness and atrophy of the rest of his musculature and certainly a degree of Osteomalacia and Osteoporosis. All these, caused complete paralysis of his whole body. He became incontinent and needed Pampers napkins. He needs other inmates to feed him, move him and carry out endless errands. Inmates, get completely exhausted in no time and the jailers struggled to persuade them to stay. His mood is so labile and volatile, as one just would expect. The last time I saw him, was months later when I was asked to move from my new cell to examine him. He was a pile of flesh that ached and cried. Alma'amary is still in jail, until now. These are some examples of the arbitrary detention and the enforced disappearance faced by the opponents of the Houthi and Saleh forces in Sana'a and other cities and villages. These are not statistics for all the violations committed by the Houthis. There are hundreds of cases and the human rights organizations could not monitor or document all of them because of the situation of its people who preferred to stay silent to avoid any more oppressions considering the absence of justice, judiciary and state institutions. Also, cases of arbitrary arrests were reported by the armed forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government. Other cases were committed by the al-Qaida which had a strong presence during the war in some of the remote areas east of Yemen. In al-Makala, where the AQAP controlled the city for a whole year, some members of the AQAP were arrested on April 11, 2015 - the local council member, the head of the Hygiene

Fund in Hadhramout city, and the manager of the GPC branch for the 141 unit in al-Makala city Tala Bin Haidarah, Shafikah Majed Bin Haidarah, and the businessman Arf al-Attas. They were accused of working for the interests of national security and were released on August 20, 2015 by a tribal mediation. The AQAP militants detained five activists in al-Makala on October 12, 2015, including three journalists: Ameer Baowaidhan, Azal Channel correspondent, Mohammed al-Mokkari, the correspondent of the Yemen Today Channel (owned by the previous President Saleh) and the cameraman Akram al-Dama-

lease of the three journalists and for the protection of their lives. AQAP admitted the arrest of two only - Baiwaidhan and al-Mokkari. During late April 2016, the legislative government declared that they released Almu-kala from the grip of the AQAP in a military operation supported by the Arab coalition. The government said that it expelled the members of the AQAP after it controlled the city for a whole year. Some sources said that after the departure of the AQAP, human rights reports by local organizations documented many cases of arbitrary arrest and torture in the state prisons. Some



ni. They were taken to an unknown location where they were prohibited from making any contact with their families or visiting them. The kidnapping took place following a protest witnessed by the city calling for the departure of the AQAP members and regaining state control. The sources stated that two of the kidnapped people were released while the others are still under detention. The Yemeni Journalist Union called for the immediate re-

.of these cases of torture lead to death. Sam organization for human rights and freedom, based in Geneva, said in a statement on July 11, 2016 that it has documented 75 cases of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance during the months of May and June 2016 in Hadhramout city alone. It added that it is following with great concern the arbitrary arrest and the enforced disappearance targeting political and social activists

in Almukala city in Hadhramout by military troops affiliated with the local authorities. Tens of activists were detained and disappeared and some of them were subjected to torture resulting in death. It added that “the monitors team of the organization in Hadhramout documented during this period more than 75 cases of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance. Some of them were tortured to death, mostly in Almukala. The detention targeted different ages including elderly people imprisoned illegally, which will have a negative impact on their health in the future. It also mentioned that on May 7, a military force of the government troops detained the head of the Alihsan Charity Association Abdullah al-Yazidi. He was led to an unknown location and is still missing to this day. On May 9, Ahmed Ali Barood and Abdul-Hakim al-Sa’di were arrested and taken to an unknown place. Barood is still missing while al-Sa’di has been released. In the temporary capital for Hadi’s government, Aden, the security forces, especially the Security Belt financed by EUA, launched wide random arrest campaigns. Hundreds of civilians were arrested in Aden and the nearby areas, and none of the victims were presented to court. According to human rights reports, the Security Belt forces launched massive random arrests targeting hundreds of civilians with no clear accusation, including civilians favoring the internationally-recognized government. According to Rights Radar monitors, the number of detainees in the Central Prison in al-Mansoura area and other state-affiliated prisons in Aden

reached 470 prisoners while the numbers of the arbitrary arrests reached 100 cases. Human Rights sources in Aden have stated that the Security Belt Forces transferred more than 50 detainees from the Central Prison in Al-Mansoura in Aden to the camp of the United Arab Emirates forces in the al-Burayqah area, at the edges of Aden city, in early 2017. The detainees’ transfer has come after a visit by the general prosecution to count the detainees and register them in the official registration forms. The sources confirmed that the transferred detainees from the United Arab Emirates camp disappeared because no news had reached their family since they were moved from al-Mansoura Central Prison where the families were allowed to have weekly visits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We call upon the international community to step up to its ethical and legal responsibilities for what is taking place in Yemen regarding the violation of human rights. The international community should make a greater effort to provide immediate support to civilians according to the international treaties and agreements especially Geneva agreement.

- The international community needs to put pressure on the Houthi group to stop its detention's campaigns for its opponents and to release all the detainees in its detentions and stop the torture them and abide by the international human rights laws that protect human lives and preserve their dignity.
- We call on the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh to stop participating in the violation of human rights and he should cease using his loyal military troops and his party insurgents as an armed militia, in committing human rights violations.
- The international community needs to ensure the security forces loyal to the government of President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi to abide by the law and the humanitarian and international treaties. They should avoid violating human rights during its practice of authority or inside the prison and detention centers.

RIGHTS RADAR

WHO WE ARE?

Rights Radar is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that monitors, promotes and defends human rights in the Arab world. It was founded by a group of Arab human rights defenders and activists. We monitor, document and report violations against human rights, as well as provide advocacy and legal support for victims and capacity building for human rights activists. We cover all topics and areas of human rights, including public liberties and freedom of expression, women's rights, children's rights, disability rights, prisoner rights, right to justice, refugee rights and fundamental rights.

Rights Radar works through a wide network of professional reporters and monitors on the ground, using the latest techniques in monitoring and documenting human rights cases.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- 1- Monitoring and documenting violations against human rights in the Arab World.
- 2- Providing advocacy and legal support for Arab victims of human rights.
- 3- Capacity building and leadership developing for Arab human rights activists.
- 4- Networking and communicating with international human rights organizations.

OUR VISION:

To provide excellence in monitoring and documenting the status of human rights in the Arab world.

OUR MISSION:

Rights Radar monitors and documents human rights abuses in the Arab world in order to reduce violations against human rights and track the perpetrators, advancing the principle of no-impunity. We do this using professional and proven method, providing advocacy and legal support for Arab victims of human rights violations, creating training opportunities for human rights' capacity building and leadership, as well as networking and communicating with international human rights organizations.

OUR VALUES:

- 1- Independency and balance.
- 2- Credibility and excellence.
- 3- Professionalism and responsibility.



RIGHTS RADAR

YEMEN: VICTIMS BEHIND BARS

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