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YEMEN: ASSASSINATION OF RIGHT TO LIFE

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2019





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INTRODUCTION

In this report, assassinations refer to killings that have a political nature and whose parties do not have personal rivalry. One of our biggest motives for issuing this report is our desire to remember the rights of the victims and their sacrifices and it is a contribution to supporting human rights work by monitoring and documenting the most prominent cases of assassinations that Rights Radar has managed to cover during the last few years. It is also a contribution to achieving justice for the victims and their families in the hope that, by providing crucial information, it can lead to the perpetrators being revealed and carrying out retribution against them so that they do not escape from punishment.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The wave of assassinations started from the capital Sana'a and the governorates of Dhamar, Ibb and Taizz and reached its peak in Aden since the coup of the Houthi armed group against the internationally recognized government in Yemen. The methods used in the assassinations are varied. They are sometimes carried out using cars with no license plates carrying armed gunmen who follow the victim and fire at him, then run away. They are also committed using motorcycles or explosive devices.

During the period covered by this report from September 2014 to July 2019, Rights Radar monitored the killings and injuries of 451 people who were exposed to assassination or field execution, including 118 civilians and 332 military and security personnel.

From among the total number of victims, Rights Radar monitored 409 victims of direct assassination by shooting, 34 victims of assassination using improvised explosive devices, 8 cases of assassination using different means, in addition to the injuries of 146 persons in failed assassination attempts.

Aden Governorate comes at the top of the list of Yemeni governorates in which 134 cases of assassination were recorded. It is followed by Taizz Governorate with 113 cases of assassination, Sana'a with 42 cases, Abyan and Lahij with 32 cases, Al Bayda with 29 cases, Hadhramaut with 27 cases, Shabwah with 17 cases, Dhala with 16 cases, Ibb with 14 cases, Dhamar with 10 cases, Al Hodeidah with 4 cases, Al Mahwit with 4 cases, Ma'rib with 4 cases, and finally the governorates of Hajjah, Saada and Amran with 5 cases of assassination in total.

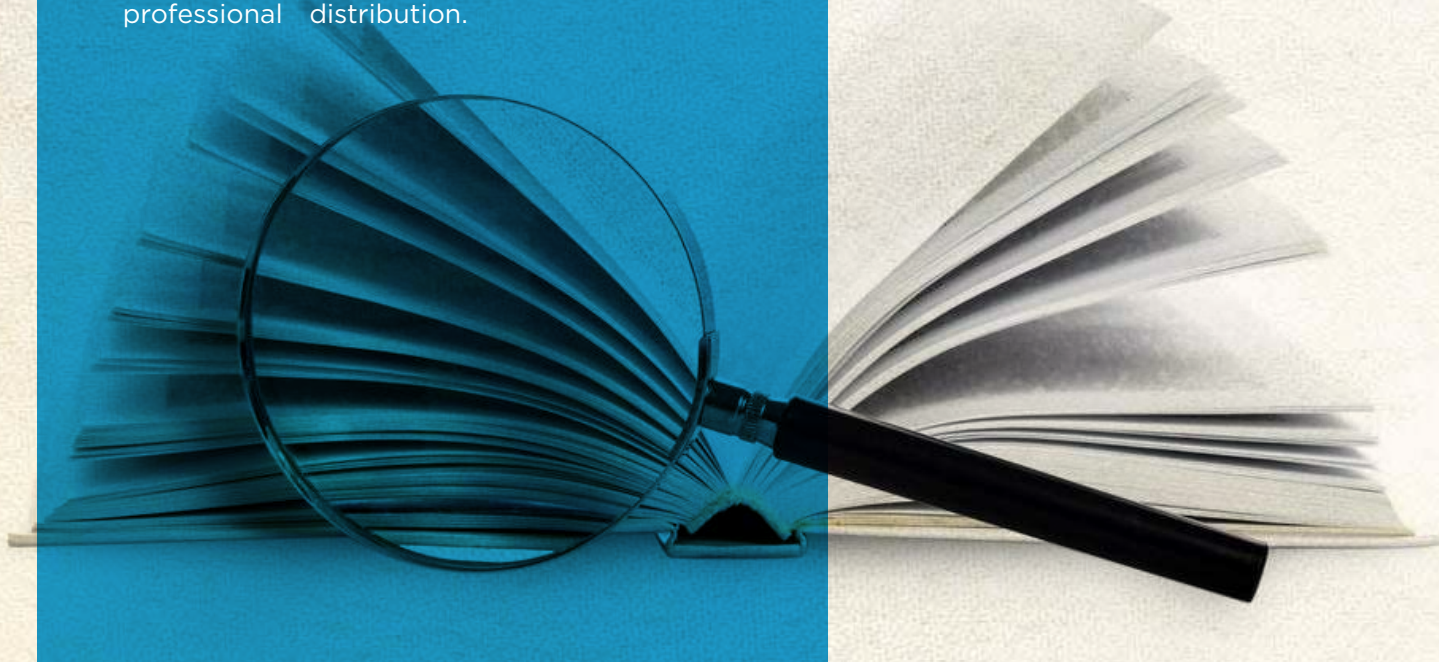
In addition to the regular follow-up carried out by our monitors in the past five years, Rights Radar has obtained general data containing thousands of names of war victims in general. It was provided by local collaborators and some of them represent civil society organizations and others represent the government and private health facilities. The Rights Radar team sorted the data in order to comply with the fact checking criteria to determine real assassinations.

Of course, this information does not represent all the facts and victims, but it is what the organization could verify given the available information. The reader may realize that the higher quantity of information that we could obtain in some governorates such as Aden, Taizz and Hadhramaut, is reflected in the total number of victims. However, we encountered a lack of information and difficulty gaining access to certain governorates that suffered from severe security measures carried out by the Houthi group. The lower number of victims recorded in some of these governorates for example, Saada, Al Mahwit and Amran, is therefore influenced by these limitations and not necessarily a reflection of the actual number of victims.



METHODOLOGY OF REPORT

As for the methodology, Rights Radar has relied on the daily monitoring carried out by our monitors in the field since the beginning of the war in Yemen. In addition, we have obtained general data containing thousands of names of war victims in general. It was provided by local collaborators and some of them represent civil society organizations and others represent the government and private health facilities. The Rights Radar team sorted the data according to criteria used to verify real assassinations and to comply with the definition of assassination used in this report. We excluded victims of military operations, any crimes of a personal criminal nature and accidental injuries when the circumstances show that the victim was not targeted, such as the victims of stray bullets. We try, as much as possible, to accurately identify the number of victims and their geographical and professional distribution.



DEFINITION OF ASSASSINATION

Assassination is an extrajudicial execution, but the term “assassination” is used to describe an organized and deliberate killing of a prominent person who has intellectual, political, military or leadership influence. Assassination is usually carried out based on political, ideological, intellectual or economic reasons and it targets a specific person whom the organizers of the assassination consider as an obstacle against the spread of their ideas or goals.



The term “assassination” is used to describe a political crime or physical killing based on a political conflict, and therefore some researchers define it as the “deliberate and insidious killing of a public figure due to political, intellectual, religious or sectarian reasons”. George Parkes, the head of the US Army’s Department of International Law and

International Affairs, defines it as the “killing of a targeted person for political purposes.” Although assassination generally refers to political figures, many of the victims do not have public, political or prestigious positions. Some assassinations are intended to inflame the public atmosphere and cause incitement and revolution.

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the Yemeni Criminal and Penal Law prohibit the extrajudicial killing of any person. In some cases, the law states that execution is a discretionary penalty against a person convicted of killing a protected person when the crime is committed in certain circumstances.

At the legislative level, the term “assassination” is rarely defined or discussed specifically in the international legal instruments except the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, the New York Convention and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Charter. There are no treaties or conventions that specifically discuss assassinations. As an extrajudicial killing, there are many international charters and norms that prohibit the conduct described as an assassination, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

and the Geneva Convention which explicitly prohibit the extrajudicial targeting and killing of individuals.

As an “extrajudicial killing”, assassinations are included in the context of the rules dealing with “deliberate killings”, in accordance with international law, including International Humanitarian Law which applies exclusively in the times of internal or external armed conflict and protects civilians and their equivalents, such as the wounded, the shipwrecked and captives, as well as the International Human Rights Law which protects the fundamental rights of all people at all times.

Political assassinations are considered a violation of the right to life according to Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Article 6, paragraph 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states 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.”

In accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, Article 1 obliges the High Contracting Parties to undertake to respect this Convention in all circumstances. Article 32 of the same Convention also states that “The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands.” Article 47 states that “Protected persons who are in occupied territory shall not be deprived, in any case or in any manner whatsoever, of the benefits of the present Convention...” Article 3 considers that “Acts of killing in all its forms are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place.” Article 147 of the same Convention states that willful killing is one of the grave breaches “which includes one of the following acts if they are committed against persons or property protected by the Convention... and it considers killing as a grave breach.”

The United Nations Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions state that “Governments shall prohibit by law all extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions and shall ensure that any such executions are recognized as offences under their criminal laws, and are punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account the seriousness of such offences. Exceptional circumstances including a state of war or threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency may not be invoked as a justification of such executions.”

The extrajudicial executions in Yemen over the past few years are a clear violation of the Fourth Convention signed on October 18, 1907

in The Hague on the Laws and Customs of War on Land. Article 23 of this Convention affirms that “it is especially forbidden to kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army, kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down his arms, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion or employ arms, projectiles, or material calculated to cause unnecessary suffering.”

One of the fundamental rules of Customary International Law is that civilians and civilian objects shall not be the object of attack. This rule applies in all circumstances, including in the midst of a comprehensive armed conflict. Because of their customary nature, they are binding on all parties. On defining crimes against humanity, Article 6, paragraph (c) of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal “Nuremberg Charter” of the London Convention of 6 August 1945 states that killing is a crime against humanity. The same article considers that “Leaders, organizers, instigators and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing crimes are responsible for all acts performed by any persons in execution of such plan.”

The International Criminal Court has the power to prosecute persons responsible for killing in accordance with Article 5 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998. Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that “Killing members of the group shall be considered as genocide”. According to Article 7, “deliberate killing is a crime against humanity.” Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field of 12 August 1949.



According to Article 7, “deliberate killing is a crime against humanity.”
The following international treaties and conventions prohibit political assassination:

- Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.
- Declaration of Principles on Tolerance of 16 December 1995.
- Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 9 December 1975.
- Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners of 14 December 1990.
- Tehran Declaration of 13 May 1968.
- The African Charter on Human Rights of 18 June 1981.
- The Arab Charter on Human Rights of 15 September 1997.

The spread of instances of assassination in the southern cities of Yemen, which are controlled by the UAE-supported local militia formations, appears to be behind the serial of assassinations cases. This is largely parallel to the Houthi armed group’s assassination scheme in the northern cities of Yemen as well.

OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF YEMENI ASSASSINATIONS

It can be said that the killing of Imam Yahya Hamid Al-Din by the rebel Ali Nasser Al-Qardaei, which was carried out according to a religious statement (Fatwa) obtained by Al-Qardaei from Abdullah Al-Wazir, the Imam of the Constitutional Revolution, gave his son Ahmed Yahya Hamid Al-Din the opportunity to assassinate a number of prominent Yemeni figures and remove them from the scene. The series of extrajudicial executions carried out after the death of the constitutional revolution of 1948 caused a lot of sorrow for Yemenis for decades. Each assassination left an open wound in the society's memory and spirit. In addition, the society lost its most important figures and leaders. The assassinations were

not limited to the public figures outside the ruling family in the middle of the last century, but they extended to include members of the ruling family itself. Some reports revealed that some of Ahmed Hamid Al-Din's brothers were assassinated with poison.

After the end of the Imamate regime, the wounds in the memory of the Yemeni people resulting from the assassinations did not heal, but rather they were afflicted with new wounds. It started with the eradication of the figures of the republican era. Mohamed Mahmoud Al-Zubairi, the revolutionary poet, was on top of the list of assassination victims in April 1965 and his assassination went unpunished.

The series of assassinations in Yemen have continued since that time. The Vice President Mohammed Al-Roaini was assassinated in 1966. In addition, a group of state leaders were tried in a mock trial and they were executed immediately after the sentence was issued. Abdul Raqib Abdul Wahab was assassinated in Sana'a in 1968 and there were many reports concerning his killing but they were not investigated judicially. This is a predominant feature of the cases of political assassination that remain ambiguous and some of them are not even seen as a political assassination crime.

Yemen was not the only arena for the assassinations of Yemeni figures. Two assassinations were carried out abroad against



two persons from among the most influential figures in Yemeni political life. They were Judge Abdullah Ahmad Al-Hajri, the former Prime Minister of North Yemen, and Muhammad Ahmed Al-Nu'man. The assassinations of Judge Al-Hajri, his wife and the minister plenipotentiary at the Yemeni Embassy in London were carried out near Hyde Park in the British capital London on April 10, 1977. As for Muhammad Al-Nu'man, he was assassinated in the Lebanese capital Beirut on June 28, 1974.

The assassinations in Yemen did not stop at this level, but included presidents in both North and South Yemen. In North Yemen, the two presidents Ibrahim Al-Hamdi and Ahmed Al-Ghashmi were assassinated. In South Yemen, President Qahtan Al-Shaabi died mysteriously ten years after his removal from office and house arrest was imposed on him. Presidents Salem Rabie Ali and Abdul Fatah Ismail were assassinated while they were still in power. In

South Yemen, some of the most prominent political, military and security figures were killed within a few bloody days in what was known as the "Events of January 1986". In addition, in South Yemen there was a mass assassination known as the "Plane of Diplomats", an airplane that exploded in April 1973 with 22 senior Yemeni diplomats, officials and intellectuals on board. The southern authority wanted to get rid of them because of the power struggle.



Although the individual assassinations in North Yemen were predominant, a group consisting of about 70 social and tribal persons from the sheikhs of Khawlan Tribe died at one time in 1972. The southern Yemeni regime hosted them in a booby-trapped camp in Beiham District. While they were having lunch, the camp was blown up and no one survived.

The assassination of these victims was the beginning of many assassinations that targeted hundreds of their fellow tribesmen who were assassinated by persons paid by the southern regime. They were trained by security and military experts belonging to the socialist camp's countries. They executed their victims after accusing them of reactionism and anti-unity. This series of assassinations was known as the "Central Regions Events". There were Arab mediations between both the southern and northern regimes aiming to alleviate the severity of the bloody conflict. Finally, the political efforts, diplomatic communication led to the Yemeni Unification Agreement in 1990.

After 1990, a series of assassinations began before the Yemeni unification and it targeted the leaders of the ruling Socialist Party of South Yemen. The assassination rate decreased with the end of the war in the summer of 1994, but it did not stop completely. There were occasional incidents that included the death of political and military figures and they were believed to be orchestrated assassinations but the required criminal investigation was not given due care, as usual. Seventeen officers, including five senior military commanders, were killed in 1999 in a helicopter crash over Al-Ebar Desert in Hadhramaut Governorate, most notably, Brigadier General Ahmad Faraj, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Brigadier General Muhammad Ahmed Ismail, the Military Commander in the Eastern Region, Brigadier General Awad Muhammad Al-Sunaidi, Director of Armament Department at the Ministry of Defense, Colonel Ahmed Ali Saifan and Colonel Ahmed Noaman Al-Mashreqi.

The journalist and human rights activist Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the editor-in-chief of the English-language newspaper "Yemen Times", died in June 1999 in a mysterious traffic accident on Haddah Street in the capital Sana'a. The same month, journalist Abdullah Saad, the editor in chief of Al-Wehda newspaper, was killed in a fatal and mysterious fall when he went with the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Shibam City in Hadhramaut as a media escort.

The intelligence leaders and officers were also among the most prominent figures targeted by the assassination crimes, such as Muhammad Khamis, the Head of the National Security Agency in North Yemen, in 1981. However, the fate of Colonel Sultan Amin Al-Qurashi has been unknown since his enforced disappearance in 1978. Al-Qurashi was one of the founders of the Yemeni Intelligence Service and its most prominent victim.

The period from 2005 to the date of publication of this report in 2019 can be described as the harvest season. Not one month passed without one or more officers of the Intelligence Service (Political Security) being targeted. This targeting included even those who retired or turned to civilian jobs.



Jarallah Omar, the Assistant Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, was mysteriously assassinated after delivering his speech at the Third General Conference of the Yemeni Rally for Reform Party on December 28, 2002. His killer, Ali Jarallah, was arrested, but the authorities did not disclose the contents of the investigation nor the parties that supported the killer in carrying out the assassination.

In May 2010, the Nasserist leader Abdel Raqib Al-Qurashi was assassinated by live bullets days after his return to the capital Sana'a at the invitation of the late President Ali Abdullah Saleh after thirty years in forced exile in Damascus for being accused of participating in the coup attempt carried out by the Nasserist Party against President Ali Saleh in his first year of presidency of Yemen in 1978.



ASSASSINATION METHODSS

Since the Houthi group invaded the capital Sana'a and several Yemeni cities in September 2014, a new wave of assassinations started from the capital Sana'a and the governorates of Dhamar, Ibb and Taizz and reached its peak in Aden. The methods used in the assassination crimes vary every time. They are sometimes carried out using cars without license plates carrying armed gunmen that follow the victims and fire at them, then drive away. They are also carried out using motorcycles or explosive devices.

Although there are large numbers of UAE-backed (Security Belt) forces at the

entrances and neighborhoods of Aden, the pace of assassinations targeting political, military, security and religious leaders has increased dramatically. Most of them were loyal to the internationally recognized government of President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi. The persons who carry out assassinations still move comfortably and safely without prosecutions in Aden and the other Yemeni cities. This partly explains the lack of serious investigations into assassinations and casts doubt on the fate of the cells that the security officials announced had been arrested and which had possibly been paid for these assassinations.

Methods of Assassination

	409	Direct assassination by shooting
	34	Assassination with explosive devices
	8	Other methods

Total of Assassination

451



FORENSIC MEDICINE IN YEMEN

According to Yemeni official sources, there is no specialized forensic authority in Yemen, but there is a small department in the Public Prosecutor's Office with only seven employees, including the assistants. This department lacks the adequate budget and resources which limits the investigation into the mysterious assassination crimes.

A group of forensic doctors previously demanded the Attorney General to improve the conditions of work in the Department of Forensic Medicine and provide the necessary technical equipment to do their work, but their demands were rejected. They continued to make demands to the extent that four forensic doctors out of five had to submit their resignation to the Attorney General in 2013 and

he did not hesitate in accepting it.

The low standards of forensic medicine in Yemen has helped perpetrators of many crimes to escape punishment, particularly in relation to assassinations. The absence of forensic medicine has played a role in the recurrence of crimes without the fear of consequences. For example, the Public Prosecution did not investigate the circumstances of the death of MP Mohammed Abdellah Al-Qadhi, the Chairman of the Oil and Gas Committee in the Parliament on January 9, 2015 despite the ambiguity surrounding his death. Yemeni Forensic Medicine failed to disclose the reasons for the death of the investigative journalist Mohammed Al-Absi on December 20, 2016 despite Jordanian Forensic Medicine stating that samples from his body proved that he died of poison. Al-Qadhi and Al-Absi worked together on the case combating corruption in the oil and gas sector, but Al-Qadhi's body was not autopsied to determine whether his death resulted from a criminal cause or not.

The forensic doctors in Yemen lack the truth detection equipment and safety tools that prevent infection to the extent that a forensic doctor died because of infection. In 2013, they demanded anatomy tools, means of infection control, morgues and laboratories for testing toxins and genetic acid.

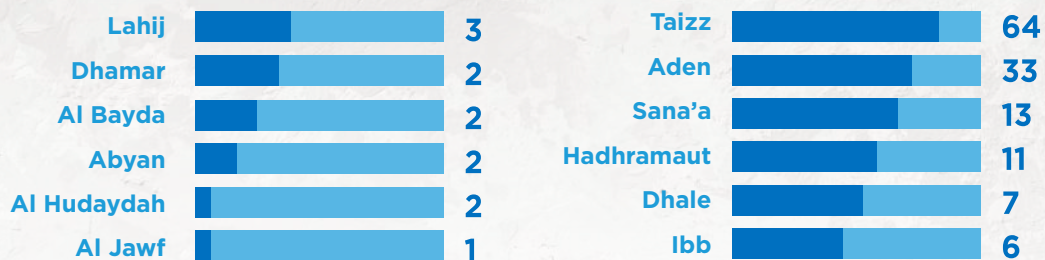
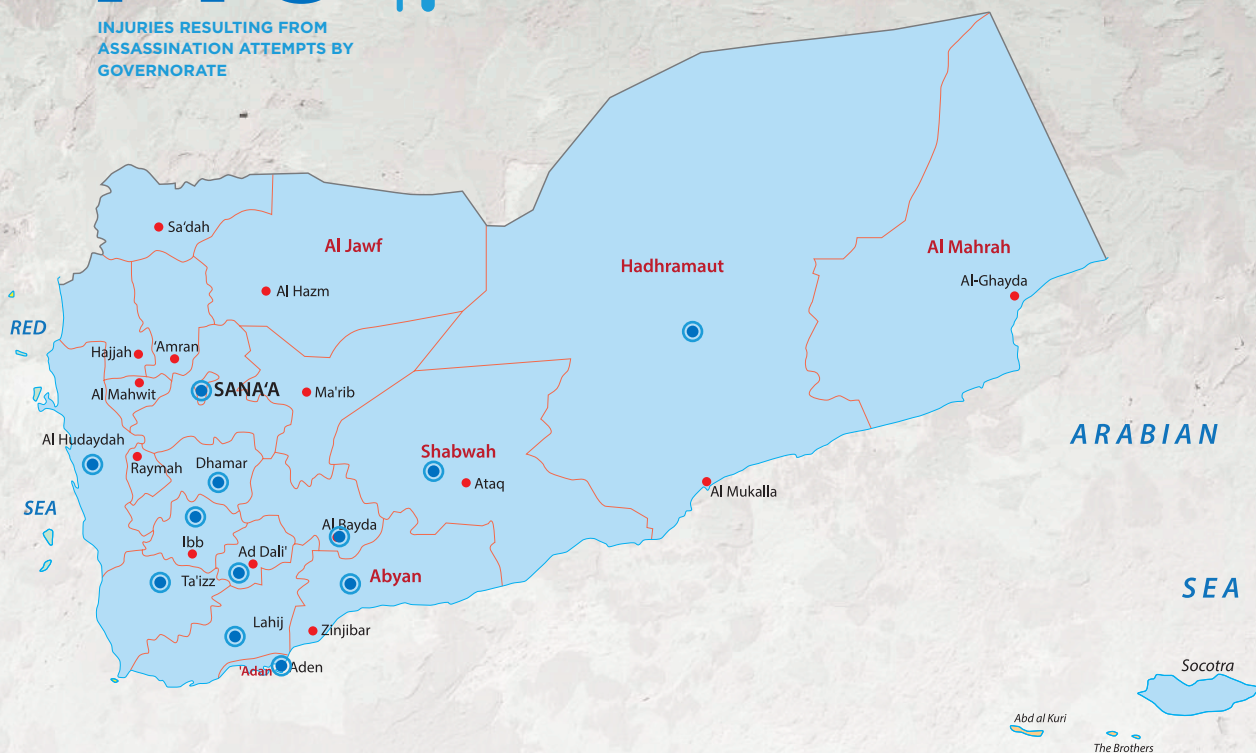


ASSASSINATIONS SPARK WARS

146



INJURIES RESULTING FROM
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS BY
GOVERNORATE



It is clear to those who examine the events in Yemen that the assassinations pave the way for the outbreak of wars. This happened before the war between North Yemen and South Yemen, the war of summer of 1994 and the current war from the end of 2014.

The individual and mass assassinations continued to take place in a frightening manner. The demonstrators against the regime of the late President Ali Abdullah Saleh on "Friday of Dignity" were collectively targeted in March 2011. Then, the late President Ali Saleh and his regime's leaders were targeted in the presidential mosque with a mysterious bombing in June 2011. The assassinations continued targeting officers of the Political Security Service (Intelligence Agency). Khalid Abdulwali Hassan, a Yemeni army officer, was shot dead with a sniper's bullet while he was leaving his home in September 2011 in the capital Sana'a because he joined the uprising against Saleh's regime.

Following the signing of the Gulf Initiative in November 2011 and the election of Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi as President of the Republic in February 2012, the assassinations were one of the most significant factors causing the transition process in Yemen to fail. Many military commanders and officers loyal to President Hadi were assassinated, most notably Major General Salim Cotn who was assassinated in a suicide bombing in Aden City in June 2012 when he was commander of the Southern Military District. Brigadier General Fadl Al-Radfani was also assassinated in front of the Ministry of Defense gate in Sana'a in December 2012 after reports saying that they were candidates for two senior military posts.

Brigadier General Yahya Al-Omeisy, the Commander of the Air Police in the Sayun City was assassinated in June 2013. Colonel Abdul Rahman Bashkil, the Director of the Criminal Investigation in Sayun City was also assassinated while he was investigating the assassination of Al-Omeisy.

During the National Dialogue Conference in Sana'a, Abdul Karim Jidban, MP and representative of Ansar Allah Movement (Houthi group) was assassinated at the conference in November 2013. Dr. Ahmed Sharaf Al-Din, Professor of Constitutional Law at Sana'a University and representative of Ansar Allah Movement (Houthi group) was also assassinated at the Dialogue Conference on January 21, 2014.

Among the most prominent mass assassinations that have paved the way for the current war are the assassination of more than 100 soldiers during their training in a military parade on the anniversary of the Yemeni Unification in May 2012, the assassination of technical staff and pilots of the Air Force in various incidents, including the downing of an aircraft and the bombing of an air force transport bus in December 2013, the assassination of doctors and some patients at the Ministry of Defense Hospital in December 2013 and the assassination of 14 soldiers who were traveling from Hadhramaut to their families' homes to spend the vacation in August 2014.

ASSASSINATIONS AFTER THE HOUTHI TAKEOVER OF SANA'A

Yemen has witnessed an unprecedented lack of rights and freedoms, especially the right to life since the armed Houthi group and its ally forces, former President Ali Saleh, invaded the capital Sana'a on September 21, 2014 and rebelled against the legitimate authority.

The phenomenon of the political assassinations spread in Yemen during the period that followed the coup of the Houthi group and its allies against the legitimate authority in the country. These assassinations extended to include the political leaders belonging to the Yemeni Rally for Reform Party (Islah), the anti-Houthi Salafi movement and the moderate branch in the Houthi group itself.



On November 2, 2014, two gunmen riding a motorcycle in the center of the capital Sana'a assassinated Dr. Muhammad Abdul Malik Al-Mutawakel (aged 72), the Assistant Secretary-General of the Popular Forces Union Party and one of the political references of the Houthi group.

On November 18, 2014, Sadiq Mansour Al-Haidari, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Yemeni Rally for Reform Party in Taizz, was assassinated when an improvised explosive device that was planted in his car exploded in Al-Masbah District in Taizz.

On March 18, 2015 in Sana'a, unidentified gunmen assassinated the Houthi leader Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani who was a member of the National Dialogue Conference representing the Houthi group. Two unknown gunmen riding a motorcycle shot him in Al-Raqqas Street in Sana'a and he died immediately.

On March 30, 2015, Houthi group militants assassinated Jamal Ayani, the leader of the Islah Party in Al Hudaydah, after the end of a

demonstration against them in the city which was suppressed by the Houthi and Saleh forces with live bullets.

On May 21, 2015, the Houthi militants assassinated Abdou Al Madumi, an activist in Islah Party in Sana'a. Witnesses confirmed that Houthi militants assassinated Al Madumi in Al Sunaynah district after he had received prior threats from them.

On August 28, 2015, Sheikh Mahdi bin Saleh Al-Rimi, a leader of the Yemeni Al-Rashad party in Taizz Governorate, was shot dead by snipers while he was leaving Fajr prayer. Al-Rimi was previously a director of Awqaf and Guidance in Amran Governorate before the Houthis displaced him from the city.

On April 23, 2016, two gunmen riding a motorcycle assassinated Hassan Al-Yari, the head of the Shura Council of the Yemeni Rally for Reform Party in Dhamar Governorate. They shot him in front of his house during his return at noon and he died immediately. Al-Yari was abducted earlier by the Houthi militants.



ASSASSINATIONS AFTER UAE FORCES TAKING CONTROL OF ADEN

For nearly four years, the assassinations have claimed the lives of dozens of political, military, social and religious persons in Aden Governorate, including, at least, thirty preachers and imams. The Yemeni government has remained silent regarding these assassinations, except for limited condemnations issued by the Yemeni Ministry of Endowments, following the increasing media and human rights pressures and the demands to the legitimate government to take responsibility for this unprecedented loss of the right to life.

As the series of assassinations continued, there were voices calling for the reform of the security system in Aden which is taken by the government as a temporary capital. This encouraged the Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to express his first condemnation of the assassination crimes at a meeting in the temporary capital of Aden in late July 2018, in the presence of the leader of the Saudi-led coalition forces in Yemen and the high-ranking Yemeni military leaders.

The temporary capital of Aden has been the city with the most assassinations in Yemen since the Houthi and Saleh forces were defeated, and then it was controlled by the UAE forces in July 2015. No more than a month passes without the occurrence of one or more assassinations in the city, despite the security deployment and the presence of thousands of the members of the local forces supported by the United Arab Emirates.

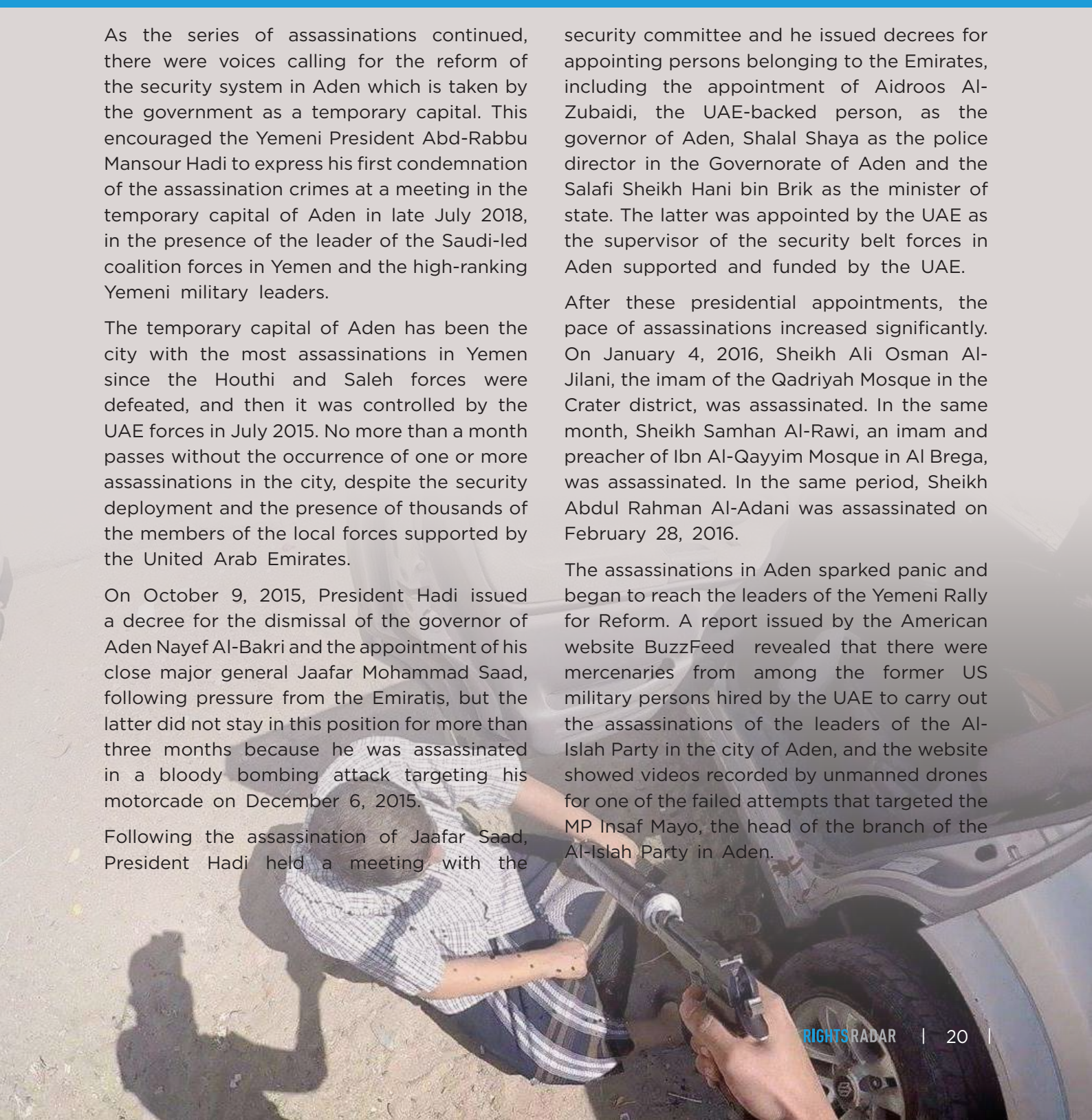
On October 9, 2015, President Hadi issued a decree for the dismissal of the governor of Aden Nayef Al-Bakri and the appointment of his close major general Jaafar Mohammad Saad, following pressure from the Emiratis, but the latter did not stay in this position for more than three months because he was assassinated in a bloody bombing attack targeting his motorcade on December 6, 2015.

Following the assassination of Jaafar Saad, President Hadi held a meeting with the

security committee and he issued decrees for appointing persons belonging to the Emirates, including the appointment of Aidroos Al-Zubaidi, the UAE-backed person, as the governor of Aden, Shalal Shaya as the police director in the Governorate of Aden and the Salafi Sheikh Hani bin Brik as the minister of state. The latter was appointed by the UAE as the supervisor of the security belt forces in Aden supported and funded by the UAE.

After these presidential appointments, the pace of assassinations increased significantly. On January 4, 2016, Sheikh Ali Osman Al-Jilani, the imam of the Qadriyah Mosque in the Crater district, was assassinated. In the same month, Sheikh Samhan Al-Rawi, an imam and preacher of Ibn Al-Qayyim Mosque in Al Brega, was assassinated. In the same period, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Adani was assassinated on February 28, 2016.

The assassinations in Aden sparked panic and began to reach the leaders of the Yemeni Rally for Reform. A report issued by the American website BuzzFeed revealed that there were mercenaries from among the former US military persons hired by the UAE to carry out the assassinations of the leaders of the Al-Islah Party in the city of Aden, and the website showed videos recorded by unmanned drones for one of the failed attempts that targeted the MP Insaf Mayo, the head of the branch of the Al-Islah Party in Aden.



Human rights sources suggested that some leaders of the Southern Transitional Council were involved in the assassination of the political and security leaders, imams, preachers, and anti-UAE symbols with influence in society, especially as it has emerged as a systematic campaign targeting the persons who are from outside the UAE-backed current that supports the secession in the south.

This was confirmed by the confessions of the perpetrators of the assassination of Sheikh Samhan Al-Rawi in the minutes of prosecution investigations and evidence collection. The investigations revealed by the Ministry of Interior recently confirmed that the Deputy Chairman of the Southern Transitional Council and former Minister of State salafi Sheikh Hani bin Brik was the person who asked the accused one of the perpetrators of the assassination of Al-Rawi, to form a

cell consisting of 30 people to carry out the assassinations to get rid of the unwanted persons in Aden. Ben Brik was responsible for financing these assassinations.

Dozens of imams and preachers were forced to leave Aden to save their lives, after some of them were abducted in the prisons of the UAE forces, and in addition many of them received threats of execution and others survived assassination attempts.



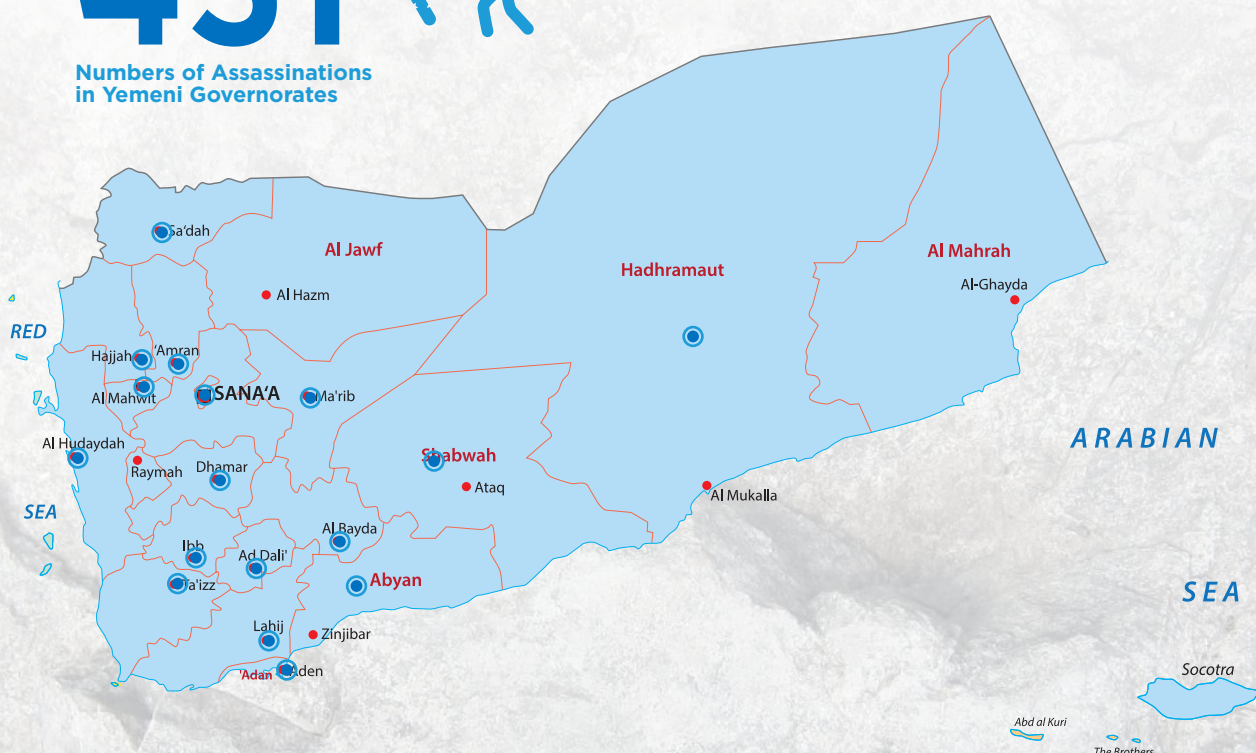
OVERVIEW OF VICTIMS

The crime of political assassination is one of the crimes resorted to by those who want to get rid of their opponents. The victims of assassinations in the Governorate of Aden were persons with political and social influence. It is noted that the victims are from among categories including: the security and army officers; the popular resistance against the Houthis; teachers and mosque preachers; party leaders; businessmen; and university professors. Assassinations in Taizz Governorate were concentrated on the army bases with the aim of emptying them of the persons who were influential on the battlefield.

451



Numbers of Assassinations
in Yemeni Governorates



BLEEDING OF AREAS CONTROLLED BY UAE FORCES

Aden was bled with the assassinations after the expulsion of the Houthi and Saleh forces, particularly against persons known to play a role in resisting the Houthis during their invasion of the southern governorates, including Aden.

On January 31, 2016, the body of the Salafi Sheikh Samhan Abdulaziz Al-Rawi was found near Suzuki District between Sheikh Othman and Khormaksar where gunmen lured and executed him on instructions from the pro-Emirates Sheikh Hani bin Brik.

Sheikh Al-Rawi was one of the first field leaders

to declare resistance to the Houthi militants during their invasion of Aden. He was the first person to receive the coalition forces at Al-Zayt Port in Al-Brega, the only outlet that was not being controlled by Houthi militants during the war. He also led, with others, voluntary and humanitarian initiatives to help people stranded in the areas of engagement at that time. In addition, he was a Salafi preacher and the imam and preacher of Ibn Al-Qayyim Mosque in Aden.

On February 28, 2016, unknown gunmen assassinated Salafi Sheikh Abd Al-Rahman Al-Adani by shooting him as he was leaving home going towards the mosque in Al-Fyoush District of Lahj Governorate that is adjacent to Aden Governorate.



332

Number of Civilians
and Military Personnel
Assassinated



119



EXAMPLES OF CASES OF ASSASSINATIONS

1. On January 2, 2014, Marwan Al-Muqbeli, the Colonel in the Political Security, was shot dead by gunmen riding in an Echo car in Aden City, Aden Governorate.

2. On January 4, 2014, Colonel Mubarak Lashram, the Deputy Director of Logistics at Al-Nasr Camp of the General Security, was shot dead by gunmen near 22 May Stadium, Sheikh Osman Directorate, Aden Governorate.

3. On January 16, 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Al-Qudaimi, Director of the Political Security in Al-Brega Directorate, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Al-Buraiqa District, Aden Governorate.

4. On October 8, 2015, Judge Abbas Al-Aqrabi, Secretary of the Criminal Court specialized in terrorism cases, was shot dead by gunmen in Al-Buraiqa District, Aden Governorate.

5. On November 18, 2014, Sadiq Mansour Al-Haidari, the Assistant Secretary General of Al Islah Party in Taizz, was assassinated by an explosive device that was detonated in his car in Al Masbah District in Taizz City, Taizz Governorate.

6. On March 5, 2016, Brigadier General Salem Malqat, Director of Al-Tawahi Police Department, was shot dead by unknown persons in Al Mansura Directorate, Aden Governorate.

7. On December 6, 2015, Major General Jaafar Mohammed Saad was assassinated by a car bomb that targeted his motorcade in Aden Governorate. He was the Governor of Aden Governorate and an Adviser to the President of the Republic for Military Affairs. He was the leader of the military operation (Aden's Anger) for liberating the Governorate from Houthi militants in 2015.

8. On January 5, 2016, Mahmoud Al-Saadi, the Member of the Local Council of Aden Governorate, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Sheikh Othman District, Aden Governorate.

9. On January 6, 2016, Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Jahouri Al-Radfani, the Director of the Division of Communication and Information in Criminal Investigation, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Al Mansura District, Aden Governorate.

10. On April 10, 2016, Ahmed Saleh Al-Haidari, Secretary General of Al Mansura Local Council, was shot dead by unknown persons in Aden Governorate.

11. On May 6, 2016, Sheikh Wahad Aoun, the Salafi Leader of the Resistance and the Director of Investigations in Al Mansura Prison, was shot dead by unknown persons in Aden Governorate.

12. On August 15, 2016, Saleh Salem Bin Halis, the Head of the Judicial Department in the office of the Yemeni Rally for Reform (Islah) in Aden Governorate, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Aden Governorate.

13. On August 16, 2016, Wahib Mansour Ahmed Al-Kamel, 30 years old, was shot dead in Dhamar Governorate by an unknown gunman who was waiting him on a motorcycle near his house. The killer fired several bullets at him and he was immediately killed, and then he escaped.

14. On December 12, 2016, Amin Shaif Haider, the Investigation Officer at Aden Airport, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Caltex District, Aden Governorate.

15. On January 17, 2017, Colonel Musaed Qasim Al-Shuaibi, was assassinated by being thrown from a balcony on the third floor in a hotel in Damt City, Dhale Governorate.

16. On January 25, 2017, the Soldier Arafat Abdul Raqib Ali Mahyoub (aged 25) was assassinated in Taizz city after being abducted by gunmen at a checkpoint in Al-Jahmaleya Neighborhood. According to his relatives' report, he was killed immediately after being abducted and there were signs of torture on his body that was found on a street in Al-Jahmaleya the following day.

17. On February 13, 2017, Mohammed Al-Hammadi, the leader in the Teachers' Union, was shot dead by unknown gunmen as he was passing through Ma'rib Street, north of the capital Sana'a.

18. On July 24, 2017, Emad Jamal Al-Shamiri, the son of the Head of the Military Police in Taizz Governorate and Sarhan Sultan Ali Abdullah (aged 35), the soldier in the military police, were shot dead by masked gunmen riding a motorcycle. This was after being exposed to heavy gunfire while they were in a military police car.

19. On August 10, 2017, Mohammed Nasser Al-Jahma, the Director of National Security at the Yemeni Ports, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in a Hilux car in Aden Governorate.

20. On January 17, 2018, Brigadier General Muhammad Qasim Abdul Rahman Al-Hariri, Aden Security Investigation Officer, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Dar Saad District, Aden Governorate.

21. On March 30, 2018, the youth activist and preacher Omar Dokum and Rafiq Al-Akh'ali were shot dead after they had finished the Friday prayer. They were exposed to heavy gunfire by two unknown gunmen riding a motorcycle. Al-Ak'hali died immediately, while Dukum died at the hospital a week after the shooting.

22. On April 28, 2018, the lawyer Walid Bajjash Haider Al-Asbahi (aged 48) was shot dead in Taizz city by two unknown gunmen in Al Masbah Neighborhood, and then they escaped on a motorcycle. There was a child near him and he died immediately, but Al-Asbahi died from his injury a few days later.

23. On April 16, 2018, the lawyer Hani Muhammad Abdo Ahmed Al-Azzani was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Al-Majaliah Neighborhood in Taizz City. He was a volunteer in the Committee of Rights and Freedoms of Taizz Bar Association from the beginning of 2011 and he joined the popular resistance against the Houthis in 2015.

24. On May 18, 2018, the two brothers Najm Al-Din Hazzaa Qaid Al-Tuwaiji, (aged 24), and Abdullah Hazzaa Al-Tuwaiji (aged 25) were shot dead. They were two soldiers in the 17th Air Defense Brigade, in addition to Mohammad Saif Sarhan (aged 19) who was a soldier in the 22nd Mika Brigade. It is believed that they were killed because of their participation in a security crackdown against the terrorist gangs inside Taizz where they were abducted and mass-executed with gunshots and their bodies were hidden. The forensic doctors were unable to ascertain torture before killing due to the decomposition of their bodies when they were found in a mass grave.

25. On October 6, 2018, Zaki Mohammed Shaif Al-Saqladi, deputy head of the political department in Al-Islah Party, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Al-Dhale Governorate.

26. On May 7, 2019, Rami Mohammad Al-Masabi, a leader of the Peaceful Southern Movement Council in Khor Maksar shot dead in Aden Governorate. He was lured to Caltex District to be killed there.

27. On 10 July 2019, Sheikh Ahmed Saif Al-Shaabi, a leader in the General People's Congress Party, in the village of Bani Shaab in Sharaab Al-Salam town where he was shot by unknown gunmen who ambushed him on the main road in Taizz Governorate. The victim's son was seriously injured.

28. On July 28, 2019, Jamil Musallam Batis was assassinated in Hadhramaut Governorate. He was shot dead by unknown gunmen riding a motorcycle. This was near Falhoum Station in the center of Seiyun City while he was preparing to drive his car and the attackers could escape. His brother is Salah Musallam Batis, the Member of the Shura Council (Senate) in Yemen and the leader of Islah Party.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. TO THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT

1. Reorganize the work of the security services in accordance with the Yemeni law to be under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior to ensure the immediate commencement of the prosecution and arrest of those who are involved in all assassinations.
2. Support the National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations to Human Rights to enable it to carry out its tasks on the investigation of the crimes of assassinations and allow it to access to the detailed information obtained by the security services.
3. Establish a specialized authority for forensic medicine and supply it with the resources required for uncovering the truth and training its staff in order to be able to cope with the development of forensic medicine and the means of detecting crimes, following the procedures in developed countries.
4. Not to cover up any violations that affect the fundamental rights of the Yemeni citizens and ensure that the perpetrators do not go unpunished.
5. Provide any information available to the Yemeni government regarding the crimes of assassinations to the UN mechanisms concerned with the Yemeni file, in particular the sanctions committee and the Independent Expert Group of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
6. Address the United States about the reports of the American media about the presence of former US soldiers working as mercenaries to carry out assassination crimes in Yemen.

2. TO THE SAUDI-LED COALITION IN YEMEN

1. Take a clear position on the series of assassinations of Yemenis in the areas that are under the control of the coalition forces, particularly the UAE forces or the local forces acting in favor of the UAE.
2. Investigate the allegation of the UAE hiring of foreign mercenaries for carrying out assassinations in Aden, and then punish those who are responsible for these crimes in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

3. TO THE UNITED NATIONS

1. Pay special attention to the phenomenon of assassinations in Yemen and take it seriously by considering them as a loss of the right to life and extrajudicial killings, in addition to establishing an atmosphere that encourages permanent chaos and violence.
2. Condemn all the parties involved in the assassinations and punish them accordingly with their level of involvement.





RIGHTS RADAR

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.

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.

OUR VISSION:

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

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.

OUR VALUES

- Responsibility

- Credibility.

- Independency.

- Transparency.



OUR PROGRAMS

MONITORING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



DISABILITY RIGHTS

Rights Radar promotes the empowerment of people with disabilities and supports their integration and participation in society. We want to see equality, where people with disabilities enjoy all their fundamental rights and opportunities, including education, jobs, health care, etc.

REFUGEE RIGHTS

We work to enhance refugee rights and support them to be smoothly integrated into society and granted their humanitarian rights with no discrimination. We believe that refugees should have access to basic rights, such as education, health care and job opportunities.

RIGHT TO JUSTICE

We promote the values of justice within society to grant fair prosecution for victims and prisoners. We believe that life will not be protected unless justice, law and order govern the behavior of all people from top to bottom, and the right to justice becomes a fundamental right for all.



**YEMEN: ASSASSINATION
OF RIGHT TO LIFE**

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON
POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS
SEPTEMBER 2019



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