



7

RIGHTS
RADAR

YEMEN: HAJOUR, BRUTALITY OF ABUSES

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON THE ABUSES IN HAJOUR DISTRICT

JUNE, 2019





**YEMEN: HAJOUR,
BRUTALITY OF ABUSES**

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON THE
ABUSES IN HAJOUR DISTRICT

JUNE, 2019

INTRODUCTION

HAJOUR DISTRICT, DIRECTORATE OF KASHER:

Hajour tribes are located in the Directorate of Kasher which is one of the directorates of Hajjah Governorate in the north-west of Yemen. It has a population of about 120,000 people. It is also 165 kilometers away from the capital of Hajjah Governorate and it is bordered by Suwayr and Al Madan directorates in Amran governorate from the east, the directorates of Khayran Al Muharraq and Mustaba from the west, Al Jamimah, Aflah Ash Shawm and Kuhlan Ash Sharaf directorates from the south and Washhah and Qarah directorates from the north. They depend on farming, grazing and trade for their livelihood.

The conflict between Hajour tribes based in the Directorate of Kasher in Hajjah Governorate and the Houthi armed group dates back to May, 2011 when the Houthi group attempted to attack the Directorate of Kasher with a number of armed groups during the events of the February, 2011 Revolution including the year-long armed confrontations that resulted in many dead and wounded on both sides. During these armed confrontations, Hajour tribes managed to repel the Houthi armed group and defend themselves and their villages.

After that, the Houthi group turned to mediation to reconcile with the Hajour tribes in the Directorate of Kasher. This reconciliation enabled the Houthi group to maintain their positions within the Directorate of Mustaba, and Hajour tribes remained in the entire Directorate of Kasher and they were committed to the terms of reconciliation and the agreements that they concluded with the Houthi group during the period from 2011 to September 21, 2014 which is the date of the coup carried out by the Houthi group and their former ally, president Ali Saleh, against the legitimate authority in Yemen. As a result, the Houthi group controlled the capital Sana'a and a number of the Yemeni governorates. However, the district of the Hajour tribes remained out of control of the Houthi group.

On January 20, 2019, violent confrontations broke out between the Houthi group and the tribes of Hajour. The Houthi gunmen besieged these areas from all directions by using various types of light, medium and heavy weapons. This war lasted for 51 days until the Houthi gunmen could invade and control the whole district on March 11, 2019. Then, the Houthis committed various kinds of human rights abuses against Hajour tribes, including killing, abduction, blowing up and burning of houses, looting and destruction of property, etc. They continued to practice these abuses hysterically and on a daily basis for.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in the preparation of this report is as follows:

- Maintaining professionalism, objectivity and neutrality.
- Relies on a field team monitoring human rights.
- Listening to the eyewitnesses.
- Interviewing the victims and their relatives.
- Photographic documentation (videos, photos).

REPORT OBJECTIVES:

1. Shed light on the extent of the abuses committed in Hajour district, Hajjah Governorate, in the west of Yemen.
2. Document the human rights abuses committed against Hajour people, in which some of these abuses are considered war crimes and crimes against humanity.
3. Inform the local and international public of the extent and severity of abuses committed against Hajour civilians.
4. Provide a human rights reference so that the perpetrators of such abuses do not escape punishment.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the Rights Radar field monitoring team, there were 20,561 documented violations against human rights in Hajour tribe, which is located in Kasher Directorate, Hajjah Governorate, north-west Yemen. These violations were committed by the Houthi armed group during the period from January 1, 2019 to April 20, 2019.

These violations included murder, physical assaults, arrests, abductions, enforced disappearances, enforced displacement, in addition to destruction of homes and private property, violations of women's and children's rights and their right to education, blowing up, shelling and looting of health facilities and attacking their staff, the explosion and occupation of historical sites and places of worship, restricting freedom of expression and thought, as well as torture and maltreatment.

The report documented 117 murders of civilians, 537 injuries, 22 cases of torture and maltreatment of detainees. The documentation team also monitored 337 cases of arbitrary detention. As for violations against private property, 740 cases were

monitored, including 25 cases of explosions, 67 cases of intrusion and search, 2 cases of burning with petrol, 202 break-in and looting, 174 cases of looting and occupation, 153 cases of partial destruction, 14 cases of shelling resulting in fire, 65 cases of shelling resulting in total destruction and 45 cases of shelling, looting and occupation.

The monitoring team documented 3,979 cases of looting of private property, including 713 cases of looting of furniture, 65 cases of looting of various types of vehicles, 45 cases of looting and confiscation of trucks, 15 cases of confiscation of motorcycles, 12 cases of looting of large shops, 19 cases of looting of small shops, 8 cases of looting medical dispensaries, 2 cases of looting of the gas distribution agency, 65 cases of looting electric generators of different sizes, 3,000 cases of destruction of farms, 23 cases of confiscation of water pumps and many cases of looting private libraries. The team also documented cases of forcibly displacement of more than 882 families and internally displacing of more than 1,250 families.

As for abuses of the right to education, the Rights Radar monitoring team documented the closure and cessation of 107 schools, the occupation of 18 schools to be used as military barracks by the Houthi militias, the use of 22 schools as shelters for displaced people, the deprivation of 10,000 students of education, the deprivation of 1,300 teachers of their salaries and forcing 75 teachers to attend the Houthi sectarian group's sessions in an attempt to brainwash these teachers.

Regarding the Houthi violations of children's rights, 270 cases of violations were monitored, including 15 cases of killing, 33 cases of injury, 110 cases of child recruitment and 5 cases of abduction. Concerning the violations against women's rights, 93 cases of abuses were documented, including 12 cases of killing, 15 cases of injury, 6 cases of abortion, 7 cases of unsafe delivery and 53 cases of looting of savings.

Regarding of abuses against historical places and sites, the monitoring team documented 6 cases, including one case of explosion, 5 cases of occupation to use them as military barracks and weapon

stores. As for the abuses against health facilities and their medical staff, the monitoring team documented 36 cases, including 2 cases of facility shelling, 8 cases of looting, one case of detention and enforced disappearance and 25 cases of enforced displacement of the medical staff.

Regarding abuses against freedom of thought and places of worship, the monitoring team documented 175 cases, including 2 cases of blowing up mosques and religious schools, 3 cases of arrests of preachers, 122 cases of imposing imams and preachers belonging to the Houthi group and displacement of 50 imams and preachers.

The team also documented cases of attacking currency exchange shops and confiscating money orders, including 9 cases of violation, 5 cases of closing currency exchange shops and 4 cases of looting of citizens' money orders. The monitoring team documented many cases of sieging and harassing the civilians by the Houthi militias that built about 45 military checkpoints.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Republic of Yemen is party to 53 international conventions, agreements and declarations, as well as 5 additional protocols, including 20 conventions, declarations and protocols relating to international humanitarian law, most notably the Geneva Convention relate to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Yemen is also bound by the rules of international humanitarian law. Because the Republic of Yemen ratified these conventions, it is committed to providing protection to its civilians and respecting the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, such as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which obliges all the parties of the armed conflict in Yemen, including the non-regular armed groups, to abide by the principles included in the conventions ratified by the Republic of Yemen, as well as the declaration of their commitment

and implementation of all the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, including the principle of distinction, proportionality and protection of civilians and civilian objects from any attack, including medical staff, activists, media professionals, cultural monuments and medical buildings.

The war in Yemen is described as a non-international armed conflict. The resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, including Resolution No. 2216, refer to this description. According to the agreements and conventions dealing with non-international armed conflict, as well as the applicable international rules, the Houthi group, as a group that has illegally taken over power in a large part of Yemen and taken control over some Yemeni governorates, including the capital Sana'a, holds the legal responsibility for the violations committed against the civilians.



MAJOR DOCUMENTED ABUSES

The Rights Radar field monitoring team documented a number of violations committed by the Houthi group's armed persons after the armed attack on Hajour tribes in the Directorate of Kasher during the first quarter of 2019. These violations are as follows:

SIEGE AND STARVATION:

The Houthi armed group imposed a comprehensive siege on Hajour civilians in the Directorate of Kasher from all sides. The measures included the followings:

1. Creating 45 military checkpoints for the purpose of preventing the entry and exit of citizens.
2. Preventing the entry of food, water, medicine and ambulance for patients.
3. Abducting people and confiscating private properties.
4. Cutting off the telephone and internet networks and this isolated Hajour district from the world.
5. Preventing humanitarian workers access from arriving to Hajour districts. The activities of humanitarian organizations are generally most evident in the areas that suffer from the effects of war and armed conflicts. However, there were no activities of these organizations in Hajour district and this indicates to one of two things: (a) its employees were prevented from entering these areas by the Houthi group that sieged these areas or (b) these organizations were biased and working to the Houthi group's agenda and they were distanced from the humanitarian mission for which they were founded.

KILLING CASES:

The Rights Radar field monitoring team documented some of deliberate killings of civilians committed by the Houthi armed group against Hajour tribes in various ways, including the indiscriminate shelling using heavy weapons such as mortar, howitzer, Katyusha and ballistic missiles, as well as cases of sniping and direct killing.

The number of killing cases reached 117, including women and children.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes that humans have the right to life, liberty, dignity and security. The rules of the international humanitarian law guarantee this right as an indisputable and inalienable right under any condition. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights issued in 1966 also confirms the right to life.

Children



14

Women



12

Men



91



**KILLING CASES
COMMITTED BY THE
HOUSHI ARMED
GROUP AGAINST
HAJOUR TRIBES:**



The field monitoring team documented a number of cases from the families of the victims and witnesses of some abuses:

Incident of Killing (A. A. A. N) and Mutilating and Hiding the Body:

The victim's son (M. A. A. A) said; "An armed group of the Houthis surrounded the house from all sides. Then they started shelling and breaking into the house. When my father tried to get out of the house, they shot and killed him in our presence; my brothers, mother, grandmother (victim's mother) and me. They not only killed him, but they also mutilated and chopped up his body and distorted the features of his face. When we tried to take the body to bury it, they stopped us and the body remained there for three days, and then they took it with them. We still don't know where it is".

The witness (G. H. A) stated that while he was in his house near the victim's house, he heard the sound of bullets and missile. When he went out, he saw a number of Houthi gunmen surrounding the victim's house from all sides and shooting at it.

He added, "I heard the cries of the victim's children and wife when their father was killed. I saw the Houthi gunmen who were mutilating the victim's body by shooting several bullets at various parts of his body".

The witness (A. M. N.) confirmed what the first witness reported and he added that he saw the incident from the roof of his house overlooking the victim's house. He reported that the Houthis did not allow his family to bury him and they left the body for three days under their control, and then they took it away.





INJURY CASES

All laws and the international conventions and treaties stress the principle of the person’s bodily integrity. They state that everyone has the right to respect for his or her life, dignity, bodily and moral integrity and all that cannot be separated from his or her personality. The right to bodily integrity is a human right that is not to be undermined under any circumstances.

Children



33

Women



15

Men



489



537

**CASES OF INJURIES
COMMITTED BY THE ARMED
HOUSHI GROUP AGAINST
HAJOUR TRIBES:**

Despite the importance of this principle, the Rights Radar field monitoring team documented 537 cases of violation of bodily integrity (injuries) in the district of Hajour tribes. Some of these injuries resulted in permanent disabilities that affected children and women. The following table shows the cases from each category:

CASES OF ABDUCTION AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

The Houthi group carried out a large number of abductions that reached 337, including the abduction of children and cases of serious injuries that included permanent injuries and disabilities. The Houthi armed group deployed military checkpoints on the roads, as well as attacking the villages and houses and arresting all those who were found there, including children, disabled people and wounded persons according to the identity. They abducted some of them from dispensaries and medical centers, as well as abducting travelers and residents of Hajour tribes in the governorates that were under the control of the Houthi group according to their identity.

Children



Men



CASES OF ABDUCTION COMMITTED BY THE HOUTHY GROUP AGAINST HAJOUR TRIBES

According to the witnesses of the victims' families and the people that reported what they witnessed to the monitoring team of Rights Radar, the victim (Y. Q. A. R), a relative of the victim (H. Q. R), the witness (A. A. S) and the witness (N. M. A. B) reported that on Monday March 11, 2019, the Houthi gunmen abducted the victim in question at one of their security checkpoints in the Directorate of Kasher and

they took him to an unknown destination and his family had no information about him.

As for the victim (Kh. M. A. B), one of his relatives (N. M. A. B) and the witness (A. Y. S. Q) reported that on Sunday March 17, 2019, the Houthi gunmen abducted the victim in question from one of their security checkpoints while he was traveling and there was no information about him.

SHELLING AND DESTROYING HOUSES:

The rules of international humanitarian law criminalize attacks on civil places and civilian property, including houses. According to these laws, the indiscriminate or directed missiles are prohibited in populated areas such as towns and villages. Article 46 of the Fourth Hague Convention states the need to respect the family honor and rights and the lives of persons and it affirms that private property must not be confiscated. The subsequent article stipulates that looting is completely prohibited and it orders the authorities to issue criminal regulations that prohibit looting and punish those who commit it, whether they are civilians or military persons. Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the destruction of fixed or movable

private property concerning the right of individuals or groups, state or public authorities and social or humanitarian organizations.

The Rights Radar field monitoring team documented 740 cases of abuses against civilian houses, including 27 houses that were blown up and destroyed directly using highly explosive dynamite. The crime of blowing up houses with dynamite is considered terrorist crimes because their obvious purpose is revenge, causing psychological harm and material losses to families, imposing homelessness and loss on those families (mostly made up of women and children) and depriving them of living in a place that preserves their dignity.

International humanitarian law criminalizes revenge against civilians under any circumstance. These crimes are classified as crimes against humanity and they are considered war crimes when they are committed during wars and armed conflicts.



A TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF HOUSES THAT WERE BLOWN UP DIRECTLY WITH DYNAMITE:

No.	Name of House Owner	Village	Uzlah (Sub-Division)	Description
1	Ahmed Mohammed Al-Za'keri	Al-Namgah	Anham Al-Gharb	Two floors
2	Ahmed Abdullah Al-Za'keri	Al-Namgah	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
3	Hussein Yahya Al-Za'keri	Al-Namgah	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
4	Mohamed Meshaal Al-Za'keri	Al-Namgah	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
5	Ali Ahmed Ali Hazam Falat	Al-Jahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	Two floors
6	Hazam Ahmed Ali Hazam Falat	Al-Jahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
7	Abdul Wahab Ali Ahmed Falat	Al-Jahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
8	Ismail Ahmed Ali Hazam Falat	Al-Jahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
9	Mohamed Ahmed Ali Hazam Falat	Al-Jahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
10	Abdo Ahmed Ali Hazam Falat	Al-Jahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
11	Mohammed Ali Abdullah Al Hadi	Bani Othman	Anham Al-Gharb	One floor
12	Ali Abdullah Al-Hadi	Bani Othman	Anham Al-Gharb	Two floors
13	Abdullah Ali Murshed Sharia	Bani Sharia	Anham ash Sharq	Two floors
14	Majed Abdullah Ali Murshed Sharia	Bani Sharia	Anham ash Sharq	One floor
15	Mansour Abdullah Murshed Sharia	Bani Sharia	Anham ash Sharq	One floor
16	Ali Abdullah Ali Sharia	Bani Sharia	Anham ash Sharq	One floor
17	Ahmed Hadi Abdullah Ali Sharia	Bani Sharia	Anham ash Sharq	One floor
18	Mohammed Ali Ali Salem Jabhan	Al-Namera	Alobeish	Two floors
19	Hussein Ali Ali Salem Jabhan	Al-Namera	Alobeish	Two floors
20	Zaid Ali Saleh Omair	Galh	Alobeish	One floor
21	Fahd Ahmed Ahmed Al-Namsha	Al-Haija	Alobeish	One floor
22	Ahmed Ahmed Ahmed Al-Namsha	Al-Haija	Alobeish	One floor
23	Ismail Ahmed Ahmed Al-Namsha	Al-Haija	Alobeish	One floor
24	Khaled Ahmed Ahmed Al-Namsha	Al-Haija	Al-Obeisah	One floor
25	Homair Ahmed Ahmed Al-Namsha	Al-Haija	Al-Obeisah	One floor



The field monitoring team also documented 713 cases of violations against houses belonging to Hajour tribes, including intrusion, search, looting, burning, shelling and occupation. This is shown in the following:



45

SHELLING,
LOOTING AND
OCCUPATION



56

SHELLING RESULTED IN
TOTAL DESTRUCTION

**THE NUMBER OF HOUSES
THAT WERE VIOLATED BY THE
ARMED HOUTHJI GROUP:**

740



14

SHELLING
RESULTED IN
FIRE



153

SHELLING RESULTED
IN PARTIAL
DESTRUCTION



174

LOOTING AND
OCCUPATION



202

INTRUSION
AND
LOOTING



02

BURNING WITH
PETROL



67

INTRUSION AND
SEARCH



25

EXPLOSION

According to the witness of victim (M,S,A,G), on February 26, 2019, the Houthi gunmen managed to enter his village and they planted explosives in different areas of his house, and then they exploded it. The witness (M.A.G.) said that the Houthi group planted explosives in different parts of the victim's house, and then they exploded it.

The son (H. M. A) of victim (M. A. A. H) said that on Saturday March 9, 2019 the Houthi gunmen managed to enter and control the village and they blew up his father's house and grandfather's house.



ABUSES AGAINST PRIVATE PROPERTY:

All the international legal systems, treaties, conventions and charters agree that the right to property is an inherent right of every person that cannot be confiscated, attacked or curtailed. However, this right was violated by the Houthi armed group. The field monitoring team documented 3,979 looting cases, especially the property of Hajour residents in the Directorate of Kasher. The following table shows the details of these violations:

الممتلكات الخاصة التي نهبتها جماعة الحوثيين المسلحة



12

LARGE SHOPS



15

MOTORCYCLES



45

LOOTING AND CONFISCATION OF TRUCKS



65

LOOTING OF CARS



713

LOOTING OF HOME FURNITURE



23

WATER GENERATORS AND PUMPS



12

STATIONARY SHOPS



3000

DESTRUCTION OF FARMS



65

ELECTRIC GENERATORS



02

GAS SALE AGENCY



08

DISPENSARIES, CLINICS AND PHARMACIES



04

CLOTHING SHOPS



15

GROCERY STORES



ENFORCED DISPLACEMENT

The forced displacement of civilians is one of the punishable crimes under national legislation and it is defined under international law as a crime against humanity. The field monitoring team was able to monitor and document certain cases of enforced displacement of 882 families belonging to Hajour people, with a total number of 5,083 persons. 47% of them were children and the percentage of women was 52%. In addition, the situation of persecution, intimidation and terrorism makes a person have to choose between forced departure or staying with the possibility of death or detention. The field monitoring team received a list of 70 cases for whom there were orders at the Houthi group's checkpoints for their

arrest. This makes those persons forced to leave and they legally become forcibly displaced.

Some of the displaced victims, including (N.M.A.) who was 40 and lived in Bani Qamas village, reported that the Houthi gunmen intruded his village on March 9, 2019 and broke into the houses and carried out a large-scale abduction campaign. As a result, he was forced to leave his house in order to save his life.

In Bani Sa'id village, the victim (Y.Q.S.) reported that his house was attacked several times by Houthi gunmen in search of him. He was also personally monitored for arrest, but he managed to escape and leave his village.

DISPLACEMENT: CASES

The deliberate indiscriminate shelling committed by the Houthi group by using medium and heavy weapons, including ballistic missiles, towards the homes of Hajour people left them with two difficult choices: they could either stay in their homes and face death or leave and be displaced to safe areas in order to save their lives and their children’s lives. The field monitoring team documented the displacement of 1,250 families with a total number of 10,862 persons, mostly women and children. They were displaced from their homes to other areas in Hajjah Governorate and other governorates. Regarding the method used by the Houthi sectarian group, it is clear that they adopt the policy of displacement as a means to change the demographics of the population in the areas that they control.

female



5574

male



5288

THE NUMBER OF THE DISPLACED FAMILIES:

1250 





ABUSES OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION:

The total number of schools in the Directorate of Kasher, where Hajour people live 107. The armed confrontations have disrupted education in all these schools for the second term of the school year 2018/2019. As a result, more than 10,000 students were deprived of their education when the Houthi group used 18 schools as military barracks to store their weapons and train their fighters. In addition, 22 schools were used as housing for the displaced people.

More than 1,300 teachers were deprived of their salaries and this forced them to spend most of their time searching for another source of income for their children. Seven teachers were killed by Houthi gunmen, 25 teachers were injured, 8 teachers were exposed to arrest and enforced disappearance and 350 teachers were subjected to the enforced displacement. As for the remaining teachers in the directorate, the field monitoring team confirmed that 75 teachers attended the Houthi group's sectarian courses. The monitoring team listened to the witnesses of 13 teachers who stated that the Houthi group forced them to attend these courses that were supervised by persons belonging to the Houthi group.

ABUSES ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS:

Children are considered to be among the categories most at risk of rights violations because of their weakness and lack of life experience. Therefore, the international laws provide them with special protection, as well as the general protection of civilians due to the increasing violations against children, especially during armed conflicts. The United Nations has appointed a High Commissioner for Children and Armed Conflict. This High Commissioner

annually issues a black list of violators of children's rights in the world. In his 2003 report, the UN Secretary-General presented a list of the most serious violations against children's rights during armed conflict. These violations are known as the six violations against children during armed conflicts. They are as follows:

1. Killing and maiming of children
2. Recruitment and use of children as soldiers
3. Rape or other sexual abuse against children
4. Attacks on schools or hospitals
5. Denial of humanitarian access to children
6. Abduction and detention of children

International law states that the recruitment of children under the age of 15 is considered a war crime and the persons who commit it must be punished.



Houthi violations against children

107 schools, including **18** schools that were used as military barracks and **22** schools that were used as shelters for the displaced people

Denial of Right to Education 1000 Children

ABDUCTION RECRUITMENT INJURIES KILLING



05



110



33



15

The Rights Radar field monitoring team monitored 270 cases of violations against children in Hajour tribe's areas, including killing, abduction, recruitment, depriving more than 10,000 students from continuing their education due to the bad security situation, turning a number of schools into military barracks, displacing and emigrating most families from their homes and villages as a result of the persecutions and harassment, in addition to the psychological effects suffered by children as a result of shelling on their homes and arresting their fathers. All these violations are classified within the framework of the six most serious violations referred to above.

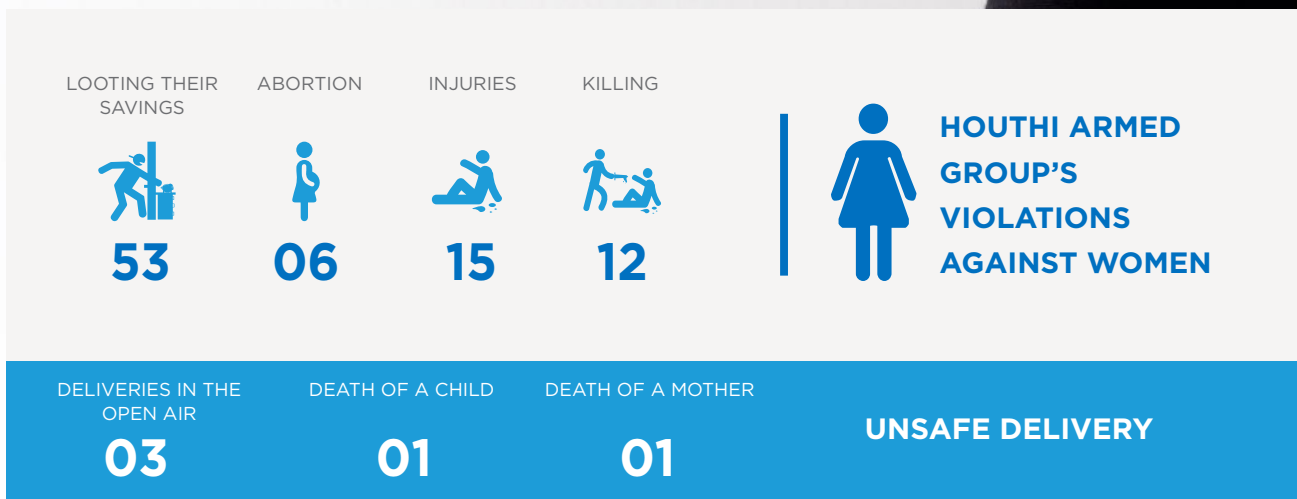
ABUSES OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS:

The areas of the Hajour tribes, which were targeted by the Houthis armed group, are among the rural areas where Yemeni women obtain the right to education, unlike many other rural areas in Hajjah Governorate. The improvement in the educational level of women was accompanied by women's access to some rights, including the adequate standard of living and housing, health, family planning, psychological and family stability, access to employment and participation in public life. However, the armed attack on these areas with various types of heavy weapons caused a significant decline in the education levels. As a result, the homes were destroyed and the women's savings were looted. In addition, women were killed, injured and deprived of education and health. They also faced homelessness with their families in

the displacement camps.

These violations affected women negatively in various humanitarian aspects. They suffered from great difficulties, including the use of firewood as an alternative fuel because of the lack of gas or money. This forced women to walk large distances to bring firewood carrying it on their head to cook meals for their children, in addition to the same suffering to get water. Moreover, the lack of clean drinking water led to the spread of many diseases and epidemics that resulted in the death of many children and women and increased the health and living problems for the displaced families.

The displaced women's suffering was similar to that of the women who remained in their besieged homes. The field monitoring team documented 93 cases of violations against women in Hajour tribes' areas.



TARGETING HISTORICAL SITES:

Monuments are considered a historical treasure and a cultural heritage of the Yemeni people. Attacking or damaging them is a crime in accordance with Yemeni legislation. It is also a

serious violation of the international conventions, including the Hague Convention ratified by the Republic of Yemen.

During the period of the Houthis armed attack on the Hajour areas, the field monitoring team documented 6 cases of abuses by Houthi gunmen against historical sites: 1 case of explosion and 5 places that were used as military barracks and weapon stores for Houthi fighters.

A TABLE SHOWS THE NAMES OF THE PLACES THAT WERE EXPLODED AND USED AS MILITARY BARRACKS:

No.	Site Name	Village	Uzlah (Sub-Division)	Case
1	Al-Namgah Fortress	Al-Namgah	Anham Al-Gharb	Explosion
2	Al-Mansoura Fortress	Al-Shanafi	Al-Obeisah	Military Site
3	Historic Madraa Castle	Al-Darb	Anham Al-Gharb	Military Site
4	Castle of Al-Qarr Fortress	Bani Othman	Anham Al-Gharb	Military Site
5	Al-Maqzah Fortress	Al-Gahasha	Anham Al-Gharb	Military Site
6	Al-Hatafa Fortress	Bani Qamas	Anham Al-Gharb	Military Site

TARGETING MEDICAL FACILITIES:

Medical facilities, clinics, field hospitals and mobile clinics are among the places that are prohibited from being attacked or targeted, as is harming their staff in accordance with the provisions of the national laws and legislation, which are confirming that the public funds and property are inviolable and the state and all its citizens must maintain and protect them and any tampering or aggression towards them is considered sabotage and aggression against the society and all those who violate this are punished according to the law. The texts and provisions of international humanitarian law and the other international conventions also affirm these rights. The field monitoring team documented the non-compliance by the Houthi

armed group with the international criteria relating to the protection of civilians and civil places, including medical facilities. They prevented the entry of medicines into the conflict areas throughout the period of the attack. Some of them were subjected to direct shelling, while a number of public and private medical facilities and pharmacies were intruded by them. They also looted and closed these facilities and abducted their staff. In addition, they used some of them as military barracks for their gunmen. They also abducted some of their employees and pursued another number of them. As a result, they were forced to leave their homes, move away from their villages and areas and leave their jobs and humanitarian work in these facilities.

The field monitoring team documented 36 cases of violation committed by the Houthi gunmen against the health facilities and their medical staff.

LOOTING OF MEDICAL FACILITIES



SHELLING OF MEDICAL FACILITIES



DISPLACEMENT OF MEDICAL STAFF



ARREST AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE



**VIOLATIONS OF THE HOUTH
GROUP AGAINST THE HEALTH
FACILITIES AND THEIR
MEDICAL STAFF:**



BAN OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:

Freedom of expression and thought is one of the rights associated with a person dignity, entity and conscience guaranteed by all the religious laws and the international laws.

Throughout the phases of formation and the emergence of the armed Houthi group in Sa'dah in 2004, it turned from being a religious group adopting a sectarian ideology based on the sectarian distinction of its leaders into an armed organization that adopts this ideology and fights for it. The Houthi group waged successive wars against the state, its opponents and opposers until they could control the capital Sana'a and the state's institutions and expand to the other Yemeni governorates.

They also fought and still wage sporadic wars in a number of Yemeni areas against all those who oppose them and support the internationally recognized legitimate government, whether they were from tribes, parties or others. The group's sectarian methodology is based on the belief in the "divine right" to power, its sectarian distinction and superiority to the rest of the humans which gives them distinction to have power and authority. They considered this belief as a religious doctrine that requires fighting for it in order to control those who oppose it. Accordingly, they violate all rights and freedoms, including freedom of belief, worship and expression, as well as violating and bombing places of worship.

They also shed the blood of their opponents, confiscate their money and cause physical and moral harm to all those who oppose them or hinder their sectarian project. In addition, they practice hate speech in its ugliest form and incite against their opponents.

The field monitoring team

documented 175 cases of violation of freedom of belief and worship in Hajour areas committed by the Houthi armed group. They blew up a mosque and a Quran memorization school and arrested 3 imams and preachers. They appointed 122 persons from the Houthis as imams and preachers in the mosques of Hajour. They sent 50 imams and preachers outside their residential areas. The sectarian speeches were imposed in these mosques which were used as places for their sectarian activities, in addition to collecting and burning books that opposed their ideology. They put their sectarian slogans on the walls of these mosques and forced the worshippers to repeat their slogan which is known as "Sarkha" or (scream) after the prayers.



ABUSES ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE SHOPS:

As a clear violation of the laws and regulations governing the banking sector, the Houthi group imposed control, inspection and continuous visits on the currency exchange shops. They checked the issued and received money orders and halted the money orders of those who opposed them. They also confiscated large amounts of money transferred to citizens by their relatives who were included in the list of

wanted persons. In addition, they made a list of targeted families and confiscated the money transferred to any of their members.

The field monitoring team documented 9 cases of violations, including 4 cases of closure of currency exchange shops because they received money orders and 5 cases of looting money orders. The witness (Y. Q. S) reported that the victim (M. A. H) disclosed that his money order was looted in Al-Jahasha in Hajour district by the Houthi gunmen who were responsible for supervising the currency exchange shop. They also ordered the currency exchange shops not to receive money orders of large amounts and prevented some families from receiving money orders.



TORTURE AND MALTREATMENT

HORRIFIC TORTURE:

Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. However, it is noted that torture and maltreatment of detainees is one of the crimes that is committed systematically by the Houthi group according to our field monitors' reports. This is also confirmed by the reliable human rights reports, most notably the reports of the Panel of Experts of the International Sanctions Committee and the reports of several international and local organizations.

The policy and methodology adopted by the Houthi group is based on concealing the detainees for a period of time and not allowing their families to know their places or visit them. The field monitoring team monitored and documented 22 cases of torture and maltreatment, including 2 death cases. They listened to one of the relatives of a detained victim. This person said that after arresting the victim (B. A. M. R), he remained disappeared for 15 days and his family was surprised when some Houthi gunmen brought him and there were clear traces of torture on his body, including burning with cigarettes and removing the nails of his hands and feet. Then they took some of his possessions from the house and took him back to the prison without allowing him to say good bye to his mother.

Moreover, they dealt with him in a brutal way and his family knew nothing about him.

(Z. H. Z), who is one of the relatives of victim (Zaid Ahmad Nasser Al-Namsheh), reported that he was arrested on 06/03/2019 when he was in the hospital because he was wounded. Then he was taken to the prison in Sana'a. On 03/05/2019, the Houthi group informed his family that he was dead and his body remained in Sana'a without burying.

A former detainee (Q. Gh. S), who belonged to Hajour tribes and he was recently released, said that the Houthis had taken the victim (Zaid Ahmed Nasser Al-Namsheh) from the prison to another place and he was in good health a week before announcing his death.

As for the victim (Yehya Hadi Al-Namsheh), one of his relatives (A. Gh. F.) reported that he had been arrested from one of the Houthi checkpoints in Raidah, Amran Governorate on 14/3/2019. Then he was taken to a secret detention center (an underground cellar) in Amran Governorate. He added that on 5/5/2019, they were informed of his death by the armed Houthi group. There were clear traces of torture on his body. In addition, it was noticed that his hand was almost cut and his head was swollen and there were traces of torture on it.



TRAGIC STORIES OF ABUSES

MOTHER'S TEARS MIXED WITH HER CHILD'S BLOOD:

After the Houthis group invaded Bani Malik Village, one of the villages of Hajour, and the Houthis shot at people hysterically, they went out with women and children to the mountain passes and valleys. There was a woman holding her baby who was only three months old and she was in a panic. She slipped on rough terrain and her baby fell down and his head was smashed open, and then she hugged him with tears streaming from her eyes and mixing with her child's blood.

MOTHER GIVES BIRTH AND DIES:

(F. G. M. G) was a woman in her 40's from Mazra'ah village and she was nine months pregnant. She was in a panic when the Houthi gunmen intruded her village without mercy or humanity. As a result, she suffered from severe bleeding and her husband (Y. Y. Q) could not help her. Her health situation became worse until on Friday, March 15, 2019 when she had an abortion and died.

CHILD BORN IN THE OPEN AIR AND DIED:

(A. A. Z) was a pregnant woman from Za'akrah village. She hurried to the open air escaping from the brutality of the Houthi group who invaded her village. She was forced to give birth in the open air and had to cut the umbilical cord using a stone because there was nothing else around. As a result, the newborn had severe bleeding and died and the mother was unable to save its life.

YOUNG MAN EXPOSED TO THE WORST TORTURE:

(B. A. M. R) was a young man aged 20 year old. He returned home after heard the Houthi's pardon decision for Hajour residents. His house was intruded and his family were frightened, then he was arrested and taken to an unknown destination for several weeks. After that, they brought him to his home and the effects of brutal torture were visible on different parts of his body. They removed the nails from his hands and feet so he would show them some of his possessions. After they found and took the possessions, they did not allow him to meet his mother. Instead, they took him back to their unknown prison and did not listen to his mother's pleas.

DIGGING UP A GRAVE AND TAKING THE BODY:

The man (Kh. H. S), aged 37, defended his family and district in and he was killed at the beginning of the confrontations. His body was buried by his relatives. After the Houthi gunmen invaded his village, they dug up his grave to search for weapons and took his body.

A TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY THE HOUTHJI GROUP IN HAJOUR DISTRICT:

Type of Violation	Number of Violations	Notes	Type of Violation	Number of Violations	Notes
Killing civilians	117	Including 14 children and 12 women	Farms	3000	
Injuring civilians	537	Including 33 children and 15 women	Stationery shops	12	
Abduction and enforced disappearance	337	Including 5 children	Checkpoints and patrols	45	
Enforced displacement	882	Family	Violation against places of worship	174	
Emigration	1250	Family	Stopping the study in schools	107	18 schools that were used as military barracks and 22 schools that were used as shelters for the displaced people
Blowing up houses	25		Depriving students of the study	10000	
Intrusion and search	76		Depriving teachers of their salaries	1300	
Burning houses with petrol	2		Historical places and sites	6	One site was blown up and 5 sites were used as military barracks
Intrusion and looting of houses	202		Health facilities	8	
Looting and occupation of houses	174		Displacement of medical staff	25	
Shelling houses that resulted in partial destruction	153		Abortion cases	6	
Shelling that resulted in fire	14		One case of delivery in the open air	3	
Shelling that resulted in total destruction	56		Unsafe delivery	3	
Shelling, looting and occupation of houses	45		Closing currency exchange shops	4	
Looting home furniture	713		Looting money orders	5	
Looting cars of different types	65		blowing up a mosque and a Quran memorization school	2	
Looting tippers	45		Recruiting its members as imams and preachers of mosques	122	
Looting motorcycles	15		Recruiting children	110	
Looting large stores	12		Forcing teachers to attend their sectarian courses	75	
Looting small shops (grocery shops)	15		Torture and maltreatment against detainees	22	
Looting clothes shops	4				
Looting of dispensaries, clinics and pharmacies	8				
Looting of gas sale agency	2				
Looting electric generators	65				
Looting water generators and pumps	23				
Total Violations				20561	

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Houthi armed group has deliberately committed large-scale of human rights abuses in the areas of Hajour district in the Directorate of Kasher which is located in Hajjah governorate. 20,561 cases have been monitored and documented.
2. Many of the abuse cases committed by the Houthi group militants can be classified as war crimes against humanity.
3. In accordance with the principle of leadership accountability and jurists of various branches of law, especially the international humanitarian law and the human rights law, the Houthi leaders are responsible for all these abuses committed in Hajour districts.
4. Women have exposed to widespread abuses, including cases of murder, injury, property looting, forcibly and internally displaced, and killing of their family members during their existence and their great suffering of being at risk.
5. Statistics showed that children have been affected gravely by the abuses in Hajour district, including the destruction of homes and public and private facilities. This is directly reflected in the children's health and psychological condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Rights Radar invites the international human rights organizations to visit Hajour district to become aware of the extent of human rights abuses committed by the Houthi militia against Hajour civilians.
2. We call on the United Nations and its Special Representative to Yemen to perform their legal and humanitarian duty towards the residents of Hajour district and accountability of the Houthi armed group for all their abuses.
3. We call on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to work hard to monitor and document the abuses committed by the Houthi armed group against Hajour civilians.
4. We call on the Panel of Experts of the Security Council Sanctions Committee, as well as the Group of Experts of the Human Rights Council, to pay attention to the abuses that committed in Hajour district and resulted in grave humanitarian tragedies.
5. We call on the local and international human rights organizations to do their part in documenting the violations committed in Hajour and play an active role in order to prevent the violations against Hajour civilians and provide them with compensations.
6. We call on the Yemeni Parliament to play its role in supporting Hajour people who have been subjected to violations in order to preserve their lost rights and provide them with compensations for the arbitrariness of the Houthi armed group.



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: HAJOUR,
BRUTALITY OF ABUSES**

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON THE
ABUSES IN HAJOUR DISTRICT

JUNE, 2019



RIGHTS RADAR

E-Mail: contact@RightsRadar.org , www.RightsRadar.org , Amsterdam, The Netherlands

RightsRadar |      

