



YEMEN: THE ASSASSINATION OF GREAT MINDS

A Human Rights Report About
Violations Against Academics
2014–2024

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HUMAN REPORT

YEMEN: The Assassinations of Great Minds

A Human Rights Report About Violations Against
Academics
2014-2024

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



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INTRODUCTION

In the ongoing quest for societies grounded in progress, justice and equity, academics serve as the custodians of knowledge and the moral conscience of their societies. They are not only sources of specialized knowledge but also witnesses to truth, critical analysts of authority and advocates for positive change. However, over more than a decade of war that began in the summer of 2014, the conflict in Yemen has made the country's intellectual elite targets of the warring parties — to varying degrees — while hostilities persist under a fragile UN-brokered ceasefire and largely ineffective peace negotiations. Consequently, what was once accessible has gradually faded

into mere illusion.

This specialized Human Rights Report highlights the severe violations against Yemeni academics, emphasizing that these violations are not isolated incidents but rather alarming indicators of deteriorating freedoms and suppression of critical thought. Protecting academics and enabling them to perform their roles freely and safely is a defense of the rights to knowledge and truth and an essential condition for building a fairer and more prosperous future for all.

Yemeni academics, like other segments of society, have paid a heavy price due to the ongoing and bloody conflict. Professors, from public and private universities, continued to be targeted, beaten and murdered, right up to the end of this reporting period. Those who were not killed by bullets or bombardment have died from hunger, oppression or chronic illnesses, unable to afford medication that should be free or provided by their employers, the universities.

Arbitrary abduction and detention campaigns have thrown dozens into solitary confinement with criminals without charges or legal justifications. They have faced brutal torture and cruel treatment, causing some to die and humiliation for others, especially in Houthi prisons and detention centers.

Some conflicting parties, notably the Houthis, have intentionally discredited this elite segment of society and continue to tarnish the reputations of academics opposed to their similar, oppressive policies. Some have undergone mock trials after being forced, under torture, to confess to fabricated charges.

On a humanitarian level, professors at public universities under Houthi control are struggling with hunger and enduring extremely difficult living, health and psychological conditions, all worsened by unpaid salaries for the past nine years. Hundreds of families have been evicted from government or private housing due to retroactive and unlawful amendments or eviction rulings for unpaid rent.

Despite the war forcing hundreds of Yemeni academics to seek safety and dignity abroad, it has also sparked resilience among others who overcome forced marginalization and harsh living conditions by taking on marginal and difficult jobs unrelated to their specializations so they can support their families.

In contrast, areas under the control of the internationally recognized government, and factions outside its jurisdiction, experience relative job stability for university professors. Nonetheless, they do face challenges, such as irregular salary payments, rampant corruption within educational institutions and salaries that are insufficient compared to the rising cost of living amid the ongoing currency collapse.

It is worth noting that presenting certain aspects of Yemeni academics' suffering in this report is part of an ongoing series of specialized reports, each highlighting violations and damages experienced by different social groups while emphasizing their shared and common difficulties.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

This, “Yemen: The Assassinations of Great Minds,” is a specialized report that documents violations perpetrated against Yemeni academics and university professors — across both public and private institutions — by various local parties in conflict. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the extent of harm and suffering endured, and it offers an in-depth assessment of the resulting impact on the educational process and its outcomes within the country’s highest academic institutions.

This report employs objective and investigative methodologies to examine and analyze evidence, arguments and testimonials obtained through both direct and indirect means — ranging from initial reports to recorded interviews with victims, their families, witnesses and other relevant stakeholders.

With regard to statistical analysis and digital data, the report adopts quantitative and analytical methodologies to examine measurable indicators and categorize them in accordance with the report's indexing framework. It identifies relevant variables and correlates them with current realities, therefore establishing a proportional relationship that leads to well-founded conclusions accurately diagnosing and portraying the true extent of the issue.

The report strictly adheres to a methodology established by the Rights Radar Foundation's team, consisting of several systematic stages. It begins with field monitoring and documentation conducted in accordance with internationally recognized standards. This includes the collection of initial information from reliable sources — whether through telephone or written reports — or via the organization's field monitoring network spread across 20 Yemeni governorates.

This stage is followed by field investigation and verification of the collected data, supported by physical evidence, eyewitness testimonies, medical reports, death certificates and other official documents.

Subsequently, a specialized team undertakes a thorough review and analysis of the data collected through surveys and recorded interviews. The information is then integrated into a comprehensive database and systematically categorized based on victim typologies, geographic and temporal distribution as well as the identities of alleged perpetrators. This process culminates in the drafting and technical finalization of the human rights report.

Throughout all phases, the report addresses all parties in conflict and those who are involved in committing these violations, reinforcing impartiality and objectivity. Statistical indicators are derived from comprehensive databases that document the number of verified victims who were subjected to extrajudicial killings in Yemen over the course of the ongoing decade-long conflict, based on transparent and verifiable audit mechanisms.

LEGAL CHARACTERIZATION

For the purposes of this report, the term “academics” refers specifically to university professors and their academic assistants affiliated with Yemeni higher education institutions. This designation is limited to individuals who have been subjected to violations perpetrated by the conflicting parties over the past decade.

Similar to other civilians who neither bore arms nor took part in hostilities on behalf of or against any party, Yemeni academics are afforded comprehensive protection under Yemeni legislation, as well as international treaties, conventions and charters. These legal instruments collectively safeguard their

rights to life and physical integrity — rights that constitute the foundation for having all other fundamental rights — and criminalize any violations thereof.

Article 47 of the amended Yemen Constitution (1991) affirms the principle of individual criminal responsibility, stating: “Criminal responsibility is personal, and no crime or punishment may be established except pursuant to an explicit legal or legitimate provision. Every accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a final judicial decision. No law may impose punishment retroactively.”

This constitutional guarantee is further reinforced by Articles 3 and 4 of Criminal Procedure Law No. 13 of 1994, which uphold the principles of legality and due process. Additionally, Article 2 of Penal Law No. 12 of 1994 references and supports the same foundational legal protections.

Articles 231 and 234 of the Yemeni Penal Law (Law No. 12 of 1994) criminalize the intentional killing of a protected person. Article 231 prescribes the death penalty as a form of qisas (retribution) for cases of intentional murder. Article 234 provides for discretionary capital punishment (ta'zir) in instances where retribution is either waived by the victim's family or deemed legally impossible. These provisions reflect the seriousness with which Yemeni law addresses the unlawful deprivation of life, particularly in the context of individuals entitled to legal protection. Additionally, Article 254 of the Penal Law imposes imprisonment up to one year or a fine for threatening others through any means to commit a crime or harmful action against themselves, their spouse or their relatives up to the fourth generation, if such threats instill fear in the victim.

The right to life is universally recognized and protected under international human rights law. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted on December 10, 1948, affirms, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." This fundamental right is further codified in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966.

The subjection of academics to acts of torture constitutes a clear violation of international human rights standards. Article 5 of the UDHR unequivocally states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." This fundamental principle is restated, reaffirmed and given binding legal force in Article 7 of the ICCPR, which provides, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Common Article 3 of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention provides minimum humanitarian standards applicable in non-international armed conflicts. It expressly prohibits, "at any time and in any place whatsoever," violence to life and person; in particular, murder, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture. It also forbids the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without a prior judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all essential judicial guarantees. These prohibitions are reinforced by Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which classifies those acts as grave breaches.

Paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 48 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen enshrine the right of citizens to personal freedom and human dignity. These provisions stipulate that personal liberty may not be restricted except pursuant to a judicial ruling in accordance with the law. They further criminalize any arrest, search or detention unless the individual is apprehended in flagrante delicto or pursuant to a lawful order issued by a competent judicial or prosecutorial authority. Moreover,

the Constitution explicitly prohibits all forms of torture and the use of coercion to extract confessions during investigations.

Similarly, Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the right to liberty, while Article 9 specifically prohibits arbitrary detention, as reinforced by Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Articles 249 and 250 of the Yemeni Penal Law (Law No. 12 of 1994) both criminalize the act of abduction and prescribe graduated penalties based on the severity and circumstances of the offense. A basic act of abduction is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years. The penalty increases to seven years if the abduction is carried out through force, threats, or deceit, and then it will be 10 years if the act is accompanied by or followed with abuse, physical assault or torture. In cases where the abduction results in the death of the victim, the punishment escalates to death penalty. These provisions also extend to all accomplices involved in the commission of the abduction, the infliction of torture or the concealment of the victim, subjecting them to the same penalties as the principal offender.

Article 5 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) stipulates that when enforced disappearance is practiced in a widespread or systematic manner, it constitutes a crime against humanity as defined under applicable international law. Such acts are not only grave breaches of human rights but also violations of the rules of International Humanitarian Law. Specifically, Rule 90 prohibits all forms of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, while Rule 99 prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

Article 42 of Yemen's Constitution guarantees freedom of thought, speech, writing and expression within legal boundaries. Likewise, Article 3 of Law No. 29 of 2003 on organizing demonstrations and marches guarantees university professors and their unions the right to peaceful protest demanding their lawful rights.

Paragraph (c) of Article 12 of the Civil Service Law No. 19 of 1991 affirms the principle of equality in public employment, mandating that all citizens shall enjoy equal opportunity and rights in accessing and maintaining public sector positions, without discrimination of any kind. This provision reflects Yemen's legal commitment to fairness, merit-based appointment and the prohibition of discriminatory practices in the civil service sector.

Under the provisions of Chapter Two, Section Three of Civil Service Law No. (19) of 1991 — which governs wages and financial entitlements — monthly basic salaries and annual increments are established as legal rights for all public employees who duly perform their official duties. The law affirms that any delay, suspension or denial of these entitlements is unlawful, except when executed in accordance with a final judicial ruling or a legally grounded disciplinary decision issued by a competent authority.

Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 affirms the right of everyone, including academics, to the enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work. This includes equitable remuneration, ensuring a fair wage and equal pay for work of equal value, a decent standard of living for workers and their families, as well as safe and healthy working conditions.

Article 82, paragraphs (a) and (b), of the Yemeni Universities Law stipulates that university professors undertaking research sabbaticals — whether domestically or abroad — are entitled to receive their full salaries and allowances, equivalent to those granted under secondment status. This provision ensures that academic staff retain their financial entitlements and institutional support while engaging in approved research activities.

Article 111 of the Yemeni Universities Law prohibits the dismissal of university professors without the completion of a formal investigation. It mandates the application of sequential disciplinary measures, which may include: a warning, salary deduction of up to 20%, suspension of annual increments, postponement of promotion, demotion in salary grade, and, as a last resort, dismissal — while preserving the individual's pension rights and other legal entitlements.

Law No. (13) of 2010 on Higher Education, in Paragraph 3 of Article 4, affirms the principle of academic freedom and the promotion of scientific research, provided that such activities are conducted in accordance with the Constitution, applicable laws and prevailing societal norms.

Article 91 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen affirms the inviolability of housing, prohibiting any unauthorized entry, monitoring, search, surveillance or closure of residences. Such actions are permissible only pursuant to a judicial order that clearly specifies the duration and scope of the measure and must be executed in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of the occupants. The law further requires that the judicial order be presented to the residents and a copy formally handed over prior to the execution of any such action.

FIRST: VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

This includes the Yemeni academics' murders during military operations, including shelling, sniper fire and crossfire between warring parties — often in violation of customary International Humanitarian Law (IHL). IHL imposes a binding obligation on all parties to an armed conflict to distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and to refrain from launching attacks in which the expected error margin or anticipated incidental harm to civilians or civilian objects would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

It also encompasses deaths resulting from torture, targeted assassinations and politically motivated executions, which frequently target members of the intellectual elite, particularly academics. As individuals with the capacity to influence public opinion, mobilize communities and promote critical thought, academics are often perceived as threats by extremist or authoritarian actors seeking to consolidate or maintain total control over society.

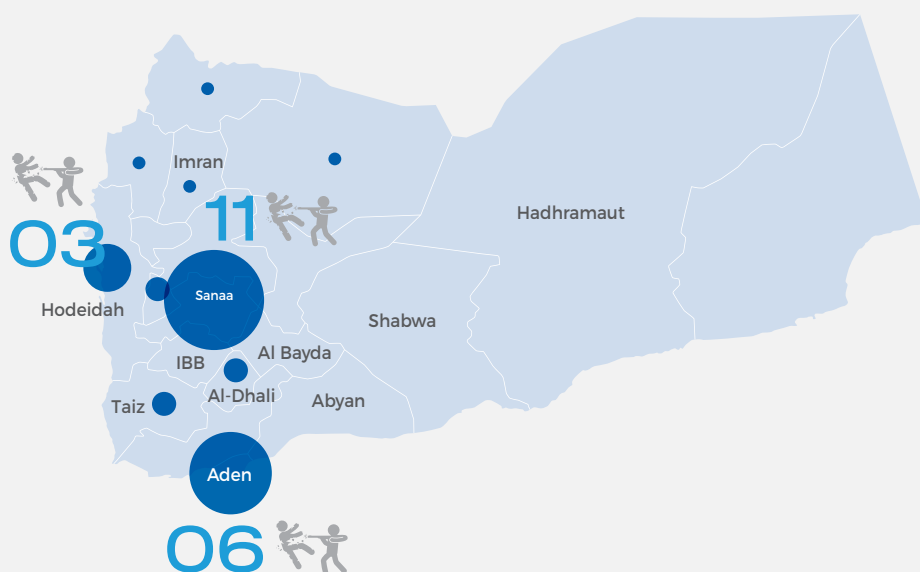
VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND PERPETRATING PARTIES

The Rights Radar team documented the murders of 33 academics, including professors from public and private universities, their assistants and holders of advanced academic degrees, across 12 Yemeni governorates. The capital, Sana'a, recorded the highest number, with 11 murders — of which the Houthi militia is responsible for six incidents, while the Coalition air forces are accountable for three others. Two murders remain unattributed to any party (unknown perpetrators).

The second-highest number of murders occurred in the interim government capital, Aden, with a total of six incidents involving Yemeni academics. Houthi snipers were responsible for the deaths of two female university professors following the Houthi militia's incursion into southern Yemen. Two additional incidents were attributed to security and military formations not affiliated with the internationally recognized government, while the remaining two murders were recorded as perpetrated by unknown attackers.

Hodeidah Governorate ranked third, with three documented academics murdered. The Houthi militia was responsible for two of these, while the third remained unattributed. Following that were the governorates of Dhamar, Sana'a, Taiz and Dhale, each with two deaths. The Houthi militia was responsible for four incidents in Dhamar and Sana'a and one incident in Taiz, while in Dhale, two incidents were attributed to armed formations and the other to unknown perpetrators.

The remaining murders of Yemeni academics documented during the reporting period occurred in five other governorates: Al-Jawf, Al-Mahwit, Hajjah, Saada and Amran, with one death reported in each. In all these incidents, the Houthi militia bears sole responsibility. Additionally, a Palestinian academic at Saada University was reportedly killed, with the Houthis claiming he died from the coronavirus (COVID-19).



Killing of (33) academics from public and private universities

VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY METHOD OF MURDER AND PERPETRATING PARTIES

The documented deaths varied by method, including 19 incidents of assassination and targeted murders, with the Houthi militia responsible for nine of these across five governorates. Three additional incidents were attributed to armed formations not affiliated with the internationally recognized government, occurring in the governorates of Aden and Dhale. Meanwhile, seven murders remained unattributed, and they were documented in Sana'a (the capital), Aden, Hodeidah, Dhale and Taiz.

In addition, as a result of aerial and artillery bombardment, eight academics died. The Houthi militia was responsible for five of those, which occurred as one death in each of the following governorates: Aden, Taiz, Amran, Hajjah and Al-Jawf. Meanwhile, three academics were killed by air strikes conducted by the Arab Coalition, which targeted a funeral hall in Sana'a.



08

By air and artillery bombardment



19

Assassination and physical liquidation incident



02

Killed by sniper fire



04

Affected by acts of torture

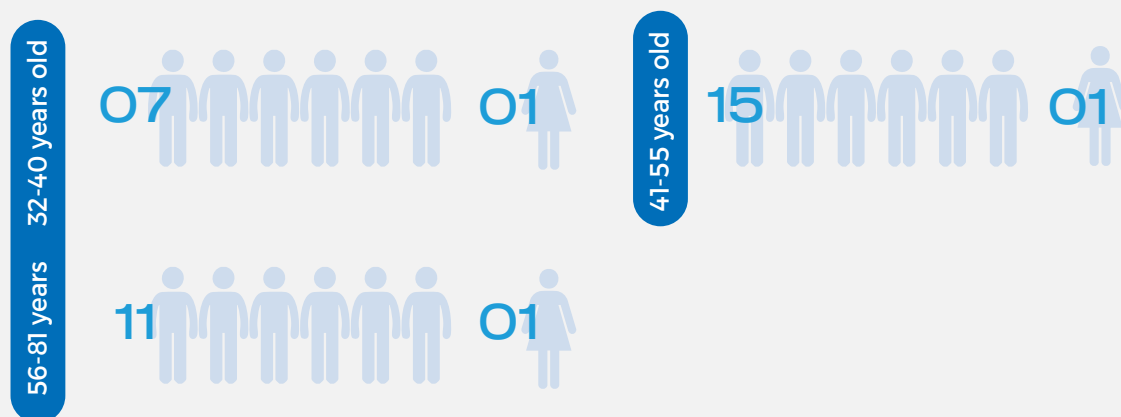
The Rights Radar team also verified the deaths of four Yemeni academics as a result of severe torture inflicted in Houthi-run detention facilities. Among them were a professor and an associate professor at Sana'a University, both of whom died just weeks after their release from extremely poor health conditions. The other two victims were teaching assistants pursuing postgraduate studies; their bodies were handed over to their families in Al-Mahwit and Al Haymah Ad Dakhiliyah, in Sana'a Governorate.

Furthermore, the monitoring team documented the murders, by Houthi snipers, of two academics affiliated with the University of Aden. One was shot in the Crater District of the temporary capital, Aden, in early 2015, one month after the city's occupation, and the other was killed during a humanitarian mission in Hays, south of Hodeidah, in February 2023.

VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP

The monitoring team of Rights Radar documented three murders involving female academics, all employed at the University of Aden. The first woman was an associate professor at the university's Faculty of Arts, and she was killed by a Houthi sniper. The second was an associate professor at the Faculty of Engineering, who died from Houthi artillery shelling. The third was Dr. Najat Ali Muqbil, the university's dean of the Faculty of Sciences and was assassinated by unknown perpetrators.

The academic victims in Yemen during the reporting period were also categorized into three age groups. The first group, aged 32–40 years, included seven victims, among them one woman. The second group, aged 41–55 years, accounted for 15 victims, including one woman. The final group, aged 56–81 years, comprised 11 victims, also including one woman.



VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY ACADEMIC RANK AND TITLE

The Yemeni academics killed, as documented in this report, are distributed as follows:

Three academics held the rank of professor, two of whom were killed by unknown attackers, while the third was killed in air strikes carried out by the Arab Coalition.

There were also five faculty deans among the victims — three were killed by armed formations not affiliated with the internationally recognized government, while the remaining two were killed by the Houthi militia.

While the Houthi militia was confirmed to be responsible for killing a university department head in Saada, another department head at the University of Aden was killed by an unknown perpetrator. A total of 15 associate and assistant professors were also killed, with the Houthis responsible for 12 of them. In addition, the Houthi militia was responsible for the deaths of three out of four teaching assistants and two out of three administrative staff members holding doctoral degrees. The remaining two murders — a teaching assistant and an administrative staff member — were recorded as committed by unknown perpetrators.

(I was with Nevin in our bedroom, standing by the door, trembling with fear from the sounds of bullets and explosions amidst the most violent clashes in the city of Crater. Suddenly, a Houthi sniper bullet coming from one of the hills opposite penetrated the room window, hitting my wife's arm and lodged in her chest. We left the room, and blood covered her entire clothes and continued to flow profusely.)

I took her to the nearest clinic, where the medical staff confirmed their inability to do anything to save my wife's life due to the lack of equipment and specialists to deal with critical cases and deep wounds. I decided to transfer her to a Doctors Without Borders hospital about ten kilometers away, but our attempt failed due to the ongoing clashes and the newly established checkpoints along the road.



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE HOUTHI MILITIA

Dr. Neveen Jameel Qassem Mohammed Al-Tayeb, 42, an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Aden, is among the most prominent victims who were targeted by the Houthi campaign of murders and assassinations of southern academics, about a month following the armed Houthi invasion of Aden Governorate in late March 2015.

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 18, 2015, a Houthi sniper, positioned atop Al-Bardi Mountain, fatally shot Dr. Neveen Al-Tayeb while she was standing on the balcony of her second-floor apartment, located next to the National Library in central Aden's Huraish neighborhood in the town of Crater.

Neveen's husband, Muhannad Abdulwase' Al-Tayeb, recounted: "Neeven and I were in our bedroom, trembling with fear as heavy gunfire and explosions echoed around us during the fierce fighting in Crater. Suddenly, a sniper's bullet pierced our window, struck Neveen in the arm and lodged in her chest. We fled the room as she bled profusely."

He continued: "I rushed her to the nearest clinic, but the medical staff couldn't help because there was no equipment or specialists to treat such a critical injury. I then decided to take her to the MSF hospital, about 10 kilometers away, but we couldn't make it. Ongoing battles and numerous checkpoints blocked the way."

Muhannad Al-Tayeb was forced to turn back after a sniper's bullet shattered his car window, narrowly missing his brother-in-law, who was sitting in the back. Upon returning to the Huraish neighborhood, he sought help at a clinic near Al-Suleimani Mosque, but his efforts were unsuccessful.

At around five o'clock that evening, Dr. Neveen passed away in the arms of her husband, in the clinic next to Al-Suleimani Mosque. Her death was witnessed by her five children — including the eldest, Hanin, and the youngest, Ayman — as well as her mother and siblings, who had sought refuge with her, only to be met with unimaginable fear and grief.

The victim's brother said:
 "Dr. Amin drove his car on Saturday afternoon with some of his colleagues on the pardon committee, of which he was a member, heading to the grand hall to offer his condolences to the Al-Ruwaishan family. About an hour later, his wife received news that the funeral hall had been bombed. She tried to call him, but he did not answer. Then she called me, very worried, asking if I had any news of him.



I contacted some colleagues and asked them for help. Then we spread out to the hospitals in the capital. After a long search that lasted two hours, I suddenly received a call from the military hospital where my brother Saif was staying. The caller confirmed that our brother, Dr. Amin, had died in the bombing and that his body had been transferred to the hospital morgue. The news came as a shock to me.

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE ARAB COALITION

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 8, 2016, three Yemeni academics were killed in a series of four air strikes carried out by Arab coalition fighter jets. The strikes targeted the Grand Hall on 20th Street in the south of Sana'a, which was packed with hundreds of civilians attending the funeral of the father of Interior Minister Jalal Al-Rowaishan, a member of the Houthi-controlled government.

Among the victims was Dr. Amin Mohammed Muhyiddin Abdulwali Al-Dhafir (65 years old). He was a professor of Economics at Sana'a University and the former head of the Central Statistical Organization. He was also the initiator of the "Statistical Atlas" project, which won the award for Best Arab Statistical Work in 2007, from the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, based in Amman, Jordan.

His brother, lawyer Mohammed Al-Dhafir, recounted: "Dr. Amin drove his car that Saturday afternoon, accompanied by colleagues from the Amnesty Committee, of which he was a member, heading to the Grand Hall to offer condolences to Al-Rowaishan family. About an hour later, his wife received news that the funeral hall had been bombed. She tried calling him, but there was no answer. Then, in a state of anxiety, she called me, desperately asking if I had any news of him."

He continued: "I contacted colleagues for help, and we spread out across hospitals throughout the capital. After two hours of searching, I received an unexpected call from the military hospital, where my brother, Saif, was present, confirming that our brother, Dr. Amin, had been killed in the bombing and that his body had been moved to the morgue. The news hit me like a thunderbolt."

Witnesses among his colleagues inside the Grand Hall reported that Dr. Amin was unharmed during the initial air strike and could have evacuated safely.

However, he chose to stay behind to assist the injured. Tragically, a second air strike struck the hall, killing several survivors and first responders, including Professor Amin Al-Dhafir himself.

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO ARMED FORMATIONS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Saleh Al-Salahi



Dr. Al-Salahi drove past one of the gates of the coalition camp, the road open, unobstructed. There were no barriers, checkpoints, or other signs indicating this. After driving a few dozen meters, he heard the sound of two gunshots fired into the air.

In the southern governorates, the murder of Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Saleh Al-Salahi, 61, dean of the Language Institute and former dean of the Faculty of Languages at Aden University, stands as a clear example of violations committed against Yemeni academics. Responsibility for the incident lies with the Aden police forces tasked with securing the Arab Coalition camp located in the Al-Buraiqeh District, west of the temporary capital, Aden.

At approximately 6 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018, Dr. Al-Salahi left his home in the Al-Sha'ab city of Al-Buraiqeh District, and was heading toward the Taybah fuel station, situated just beyond the gate of the Arab Coalition camp. According to eyewitnesses, he was driving at his usual moderate speed of 60–80 km/h.

According to the evidence-collection minutes and the report of the field follow-up committee, comprising academics, tribal sheikhs and prominent community figures, Dr. Al-Salahi passed through one of the camp's gates without incident, as no checkpoints, barriers or warning signs were present. Moments later, two warning shots were fired into the air. Dr. Al-Salahi stopped his car, unaware of where the shots had come from. Before he could exit the vehicle, security forces affiliated with the Arab Coalition's military police opened direct fire, hitting him with two bullets, one of which fatally struck his heart, killing him instantly.

Dr. Khaled Abdo Ali Al-Humaidi



In a separate incident in the city of Dhale, on the morning of Saturday, December 5, 2020, Dr. Khaled Abdo Ali Al-Humaidi, 47, dean of the Faculty of Education — appointed by Aden University Decree No. 561 in 2016 — was assassinated while riding his motorcycle to work. The attack took place as he passed through the Al-Arashi District, in the center of the city of Dhale.

A person named (A. A. H.) monitored Dr. Al-Hamidi's movements, while another person named (N. A. Kh.) fired bullets from a motorcycle driven by a third person named (M. A. A.).



Eyewitnesses reported that two masked gunmen on a motorcycle had been monitoring Dr. Al-Humaidi's movements. At approximately 8 a.m., as he approached the educational complex, one of the attackers opened fire, critically wounding him. Dr. Al-Humaidi fell from his motorcycle, covered in blood, and took his final breath near Al-Tadhamun Hospital.

According to the defendants' confessions before the Criminal Court during its ninth session, held on October 21, 2024, they admitted their involvement in the assassination. Defendant A.A.H. was assigned to monitor Dr. Al-Humaidi's movements, while the defendant, N.A.Kh., executed the shooting while riding on a motorcycle driven by a third defendant, M.A.A.

During their confessions, the defendants implicated a fourth individual, M.H., who was the head of Dhale's security operations at the time. He was identified as the person who supervised the assassination plot. This defendant was reportedly killed a year later in what appeared to be an attempt to eliminate key links and prevent the identification of the true mastermind — an individual to whom some of the accused admitted having ties.

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN PARTIES

Professor Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakkil

Dr. Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakkil, 77, a Political Science professor at Sana'a University's Faculty of Commerce and Economics and Secretary-General of the Union of Popular Forces Party — one of the political wings affiliated with the Houthis — was among the first Yemeni academics targeted in a series of politically motivated assassinations.

At approximately 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, November 2, 2014, while Dr. Al-Mutawakkil was walking near the intersection of Al-Adl and Al-Zira'h streets, close to his residence in the Al-Tahrir District of central Sana'a, he was intercepted by two masked assailants on a motorcycle. One of them fired several shots from a pistol, striking Dr. Al-Mutawakkil, then both fled the scene.

Dr. Al-Mutawakkil fell covered in blood, in front of the eyes and ears of passers-by, residents of the neighborhood and owners of shops near the crime scene, including the two witnesses, Ali Muhammad Al-Nahmi, owner of a bookstore, and Nabil Yahya Al-Afari, one of the residents.

But the strange thing is that the assassination of Dr. Al-Mutawakkil occurred one month and nine days after the fall of the capital, Sana'a, under the control of the Houthi group, of which he is one of the most prominent political and intellectual authorities, and within a geographical area completely under the control of the group. Yet, the latter did not even consider opening a serious investigation into the case and bringing it before the competent authorities.

Dr. Al-Mutawakkil fell covered in blood in front of shocked pedestrians and nearby shopkeepers. Witnesses — Ali Mohammed Al-Nahmi, the owner of a nearby bookstore, and Nabil Yahya Al-Afari, a local resident — rushed to assist him. Finding him struggling to breathe, they transported him to Al-Jumhuri Hospital, where he died on arrival.

Both Al-Nahmi and Al-Afari told the Criminal Investigation Department that they had seen a suspicious black car parked near the crime scene, with its rear door slightly open. Immediately after the shooting, the vehicle sped away recklessly, nearly colliding with other cars on the street.

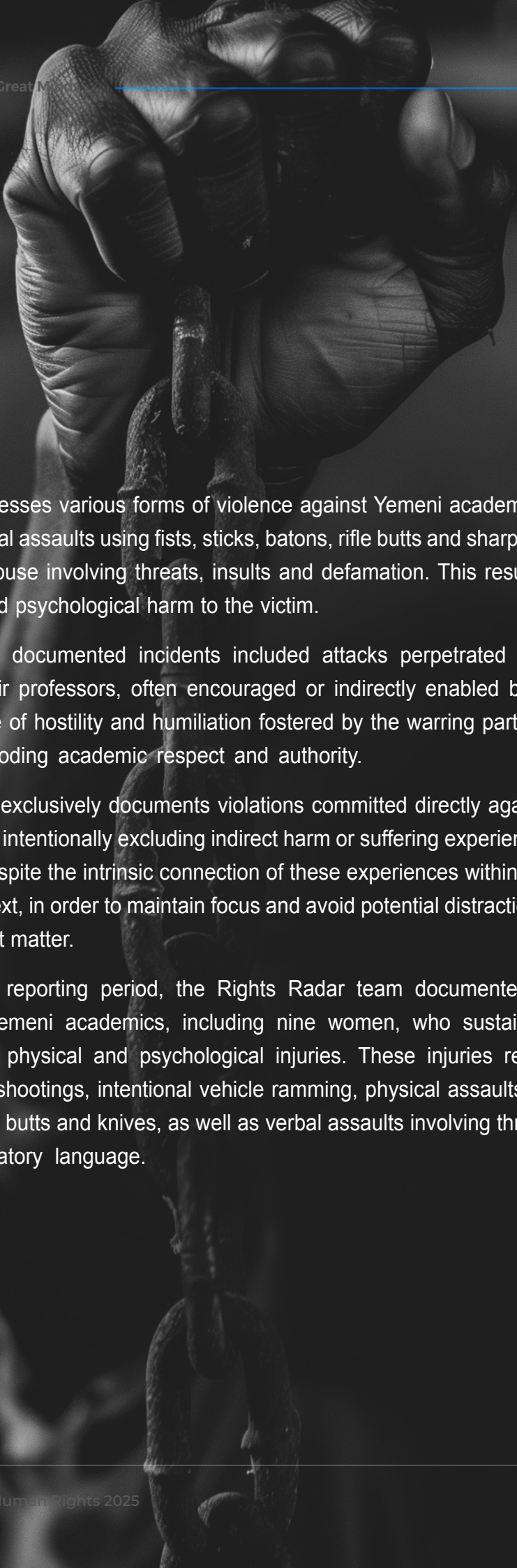
According to the testimony of the first hospital doctor who received the case, medical examinations revealed that Dr. Al-Mutawakkil had been shot four times, all in the upper torso. The first bullet entered the right side of his neck and exited from the left. Two others struck his chest, and the fourth lodged in his right shoulder.

We reviewed the range of mutual accusations, opinions and analyses regarding the motives behind the assassination of Dr. Al-Mutawakkil in an attempt to identify clues that might lead to the perpetrator. We found that the majority agreed that the crime was committed by enemies of the civil state and opponents of reason and moderation — an implicit accusation directed at the Houthi militia and its allies and the extremist organizations.

What is particularly strange is that Dr. Al-Mutawakkil's assassination took place just one month and nine days after the capital, Sana'a, fell into the hands of the Houthi militia — of which he was considered one of the most prominent political and ideological figures. The incident occurred within a geographic area entirely under the militia's control. Despite this, the Houthis did not initiate a serious investigation into the case or refer it to the relevant authorities. Later, some sources claimed that the militia had, in fact, arrested the perpetrators, who were allegedly being held in its own prisons.

SECOND: VIOLATIONS OF PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

This category includes violations and criminal acts resulting in injuries, deformities and permanent disabilities sustained by some Yemeni academics due to the military escalation by conflicting parties over a decade of war. These violations resulted from artillery shelling, sniper attacks, armed clashes, failed assassination attempts and acts aimed at undermining psychological well-being.



It also addresses various forms of violence against Yemeni academics, ranging from physical assaults using fists, sticks, batons, rifle butts and sharp instruments to verbal abuse involving threats, insults and defamation. This resulted in both physical and psychological harm to the victim.

In addition, documented incidents included attacks perpetrated by students against their professors, often encouraged or indirectly enabled by a general atmosphere of hostility and humiliation fostered by the warring parties, with the intent of eroding academic respect and authority.

This report exclusively documents violations committed directly against Yemeni academics, intentionally excluding indirect harm or suffering experienced by their families, despite the intrinsic connection of these experiences within the broader social context, in order to maintain focus and avoid potential distractions from the core subject matter.

During the reporting period, the Rights Radar team documented 98 cases involving Yemeni academics, including nine women, who sustained varying degrees of physical and psychological injuries. These injuries resulted from bombings, shootings, intentional vehicle ramming, physical assaults using fists, batons, rifle butts and knives, as well as verbal assaults involving threats, insults and defamatory language.

VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA:

These injuries were distributed across 11 Yemeni governorates, with the capital, Sana'a, recording the highest number — 35 injuries among Yemeni academics, including six women. Taiz Governorate followed with 13 injuries, then Ibb Governorate with 12 cases, and the temporary capital, Aden, with 11 injured academics, including one woman. Sana'a Governorate reported eight injured academics, including two women.

Dhamar Governorate ranked sixth, with seven injury cases involving university professors. It was followed by the governorates of Hodeidah, Dhale and Lahj, each recording three injuries among Yemeni academics. Hadhramaut Governorate reported two injuries, and finally, Amran Governorate recorded one case.



VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY TYPE OF INJURY AND ASSAULT:

Based on a statistical analysis of the victim database and related information, 22 Yemeni academics, including one woman, sustained gunshot wounds from personal firearms, typically light weapons, such as Kalashnikov rifles. Additionally, three university professors were injured in air strikes.

Meanwhile, 55 Yemeni academics, including five women, suffered varying degrees of physical harm due to beatings involving hands, batons, rifle butts, stabbings with bladed weapons and other sharp instruments. Furthermore, 13 academics, including three women, were subjected to psychological and emotional abuse resulting from such verbal assaults as threats, insults, defamation and organized defamation campaigns.

According to the verified statistics included in this report, three Yemeni academics sustained moderate to severe injuries from deliberate vehicle-ramming incidents involving military vehicles and armored cars. In addition, two other academics were injured in targeted attacks involving incendiary materials and high explosives.



03

By air and artillery bombardment



22

Live bullet injury



13

psychological and physical harm



55

Affected by acts of torture

VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY PERPETRATING PARTIES:

The Houthi militia topped the list of parties most responsible for violating the physical safety and bodily integrity of Yemeni academics. The Houthi militia alone bears legal responsibility for injuring and harming 62 academics, including eight women, across six Yemeni governorates. They are listed in descending order, of the number of incidents, as follows: the capital Sana'a, Ibb, Dhamar, Sana'a, Hodeidah and Amran governorates.

They are followed by security and military formations established outside the framework of the internationally recognized government, which are responsible for physically assaulting 17 Yemeni academics, including one woman. These assaults resulted in six academics being shot with live ammunition, while 11 others sustained various forms of physical harm, including one who was stabbed with a sharp instrument. These incidents were recorded across four governorates: Aden, Dhale, Lahj and Taiz.

The internationally recognized government ranked third with 13 physical assault cases against Yemeni academics. These assaults involved the use of hands and rifle butts resulting in bodily harm to victims across three governorates: Taiz, Lahj and Hadhramaut. Additionally, three cases were recorded and attributed to unknown perpetrators in the governorates of Ibb, Hadhramaut and Aden. Three more cases were attributed to the Coalition's air strikes in Sana'a and Hodeidah.

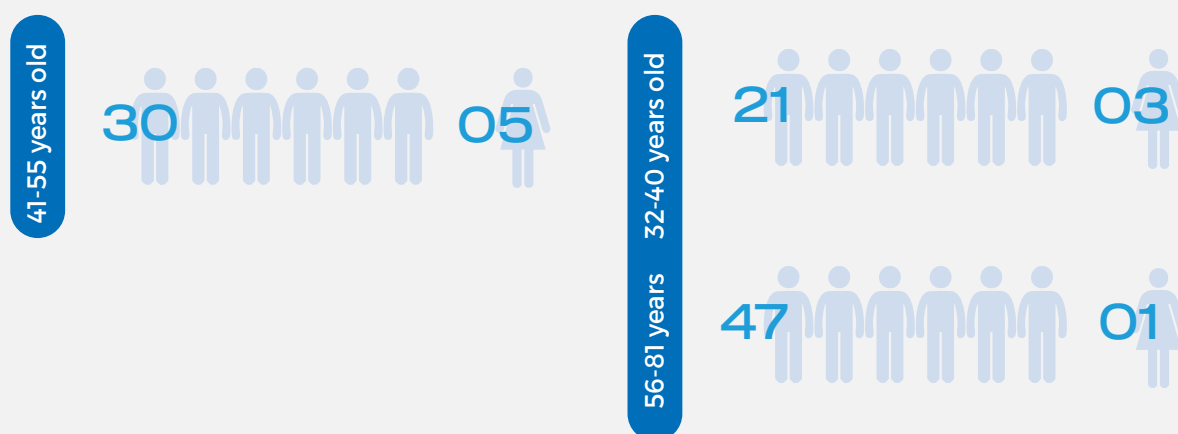
VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY AGE GROUP:

Assault victims, who all have a right to physical integrity, were categorized by age into three groups. The first age group (35–45 years) included 21 academics, among them were three women. According to verified data and statistics, 11 of these individuals sustained physical injuries, four experienced psychological harm, five were shot with live ammunition, and one was injured in an air strike.

The second age group (46–55 years) included 30 victims, among them were five women. Their injuries varied as follows: 16 were physically harmed due to getting beaten with hands and sharp objects; five cases of psychological harm due to verbal assaults; six gunshot injuries; two victims of deliberate vehicle-ramming incidents; and one injury caused by an air strike.

The third age group, consisting of older individuals over the age of 56, recorded the highest number of victims — 47 Yemeni academics, including one woman. Among them, 28 sustained physical injuries from beatings with hands, batons, rifle butts and stabbings with sharp instruments. Additionally, four others suffered psychological harm as a result of verbal abuse.

The remaining cases included 11 gunshot injuries across Aden, Amanat al Asimah (Sana'a), and Taiz; one injury from an air strike; one case of vehicle ramming in Al-Turba, located in Al-Shamaytayn District of Taiz Governorate; and two injuries caused by explosions — one in Sana'a and the other in the temporary capital of Aden.



The matter did not stop there, but other surprises appeared, the most prominent of which was the entry of Dr. Muhammad Al-Makhadi with a large number of young men and women whose faces were unfamiliar to the hall in a suspicious manner, in addition to the crowding of others at the main gate of the hall and outside it as if they were assigned tasks and were only waiting for directions.

I picked up the microphone in the middle of the noise to open the meeting that was no longer consultative, and before I could speak, I was surprised by a muscular young man who wanted to forcefully pull the microphone away from me, so my colleagues pushed him away from me, but he turned the platform table on everyone and raised a small dagger in my face, trying to stab me, had it not been for the intervention of some of those present.

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HOUTHI MILITIA

The first incident took place on the morning of Tuesday, November 12, 2016, in Sana'a University's Al-Mutanabbi Hall of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, where the Academic Staff Union & Assistants held a consultative meeting to discuss the deteriorating living conditions faced by university professors since the suspension of their monthly salary payments earlier that year. The invitation was limited to include only members of Sana'a University's Academic Staff Union & Assistants and a few other academics.

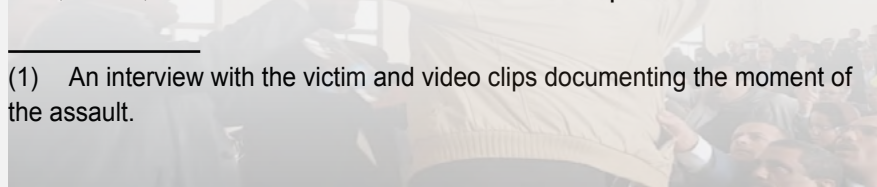
Unexpectedly, the event was disrupted by two uninvited individuals: Houthi-appointed university president Dr. Fawzi Al-Sagheer and Houthi operative Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi, with his companions. Their presence shocked the attendees, as both were widely perceived as key contributors to the suffering of the academics at Sana'a University.

Dr. Mohammed Mohsen Naji Al-Zaheri, head of Academic Staff Union & Assistants of Sana'a University, said, "The matter did not stop there. Other surprises arose, most notably the suspicious entry of Dr. Mohammed Al-Makhadi into the hall with a large group of young men and women whose faces were unfamiliar. Others gathered around the hall's main gate and outside, as if they had been assigned tasks and were simply awaiting instructions."

Al-Zaheri explained, "I took the microphone to open the meeting amid growing noise. A muscular young man tried to snatch it from me. My colleagues intervened, but he flipped over the podium table and pulled out a dagger, attempting to stab me. Thankfully, others stopped him."⁽¹⁾

Among the victims of the same incident was Dr. Ebtisam Faisal Saeed Shamsan, aged 54, an associate professor of Biological and Marine Sciences at the Faculty of Science at Sana'a University. She had over 25 years of teaching experience and held several academic leadership roles, including head of the Zoology Division and, later, head of the Life Sciences Department. She also

(1) An interview with the victim and video clips documenting the moment of the assault.



I was present in one of the halls of the Faculty of Arts among the participants in a consultative meeting to discuss the deteriorating living conditions of faculty members at Sana'a University since the Houthi group took control of it and turned it into a military barracks. Then suddenly the Houthi group stormed the hall, brandishing their weapons in our faces before they began their assaults by beating some of the attendees.



I tried to leave the hall, but crowds of students loyal to the group gathered in front of the gate and prevented me from doing so. I took out my phone to take photographs of these unjustified practices. Immediately, one of the female Houthi members began assaulting me, causing bruises and scratches on my hands and face. Then she kicked me in the stomach and suddenly disappeared among the crowds of students.

participated in numerous scientific conferences and had a series of published research papers in her field of specialization.

Despite her distinguished academic record, Dr. Ebtisam was assaulted by a female Houthi security agent affiliated with the “Al Zainabiyat” militia, who attacked her with complete disregard for the sanctity of the campus or prevailing social norms. The assailant showed no respect for the dignity of the place or the status of those present, violating not only laws that criminalize such acts but also tribal customs, which consider even the mere act of touching a woman a serious offense.

Dr. Ebtisam recounted: “I was in one of the halls of the Faculty of Arts, attending a consultative meeting to discuss the deteriorating living conditions of university professors at Sana'a University since the Houthi militia took control, and it turned into a military barracks. Suddenly, Houthi gunmen stormed the hall, brandishing their weapons in our faces before beginning to assault some of the attendees.”

She added: “I tried to leave the hall, but crowds of students loyal to the Houthis gathered in front of the gate and prevented me from doing so. I took out my phone to take photographs of these unjustified practices, and immediately one of the female Houthi elements began assaulting me, causing bruises and scratches on my hands and face, and then she kicked me in the stomach and suddenly disappeared among the crowds of students.”⁽²⁾

Dr. Faten Abdo Mohammed, 67, a professor of Mental Health in the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Sana'a University, was also subjected to a more violent and aggressive assault during the same incident. The personal bodyguard of Dr. Mohammed Al-Makhadhi — one of the Houthi regime's repressive operatives — brandished a traditional dagger (janbiya) in her face and attempted to stab her.

According to Dr. Faten's testimony, she was struck twice by Dr. Al-Makhadhi himself — once on the head and once on the right hand — as he attempted to knock the phone from her hand while

(2) Documented interview with the victim.



The presidency of Sana'a University, appointed by the Houthi group, issued a decision to suspend Dr. Ba'alawi in an attempt to marginalize him and confiscate his employment rights, as it had done with other academics before him. However, in early March 2023, the Houthi Public Funds Court also decided to reinstate Ba'alawi to his position. This was not a victory for justice, but rather an attempt to cover up a larger scandal: the decision to appoint a new dean for the Faculty of Arts, which violated all applicable laws and regulations.

she was recording his brutal assault. He feared she might possess evidence that could lead to an investigation and legal accountability if she chose to file a complaint with the relevant authorities.⁽³⁾

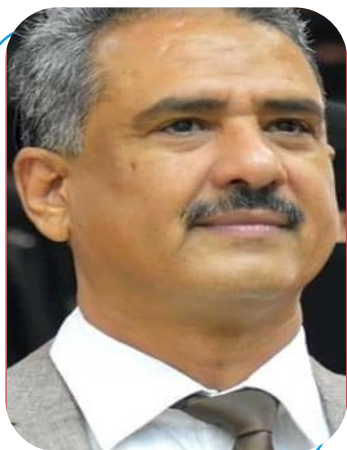
Dr. Faten had previously been subjected to multiple physical and verbal assaults, as well as various forms of intimidation, including threats from former university president Dr. Fawzi Al-Sagheer, who was appointed by the Houthi militia. He vowed to file fabricated charges against her with the public prosecution, including accusations of treason, in retaliation for her outspoken opposition to the Houthis' starvation policies and other violations committed against university faculty.

The second incident occurred at exactly 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2020, when armed individuals affiliated with the Houthi militia stormed the campus of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the old Sana'a University building, located in the Al-Tahrir District in central Sana'a. They carried out a series of assaults targeting several academics who opposed an unlawful decision to appoint an unqualified individual — someone who lacked any advanced academic degree — as dean of the faculty.

Among the victims of these attacks was Dr. Ali Mohammed Hussein Baalawi, aged 54, a professor of epistemology in the Department of Sociology. Houthi militants stormed the lecture hall while he was delivering a lecture, dragged him out by his clothes in a humiliating manner in front of his students and expelled him from the university campus. They then instructed university security personnel to ban him from reentering the faculty until further notice.

Instead of investigating the perpetrators or holding them accountable for their assault on a faculty member who enjoys full academic immunity both within and outside the university, the administration of Sana'a University summoned Dr. Baalawi and compelled him to appear before a special committee formed specifically to investigate him on false charges. He was accused of insulting the dean of the Faculty of Arts and the head of the Sociology Department, where he had served as an associate professor for several years.

(3) An interview with the victim and video clips documenting the moment of the assault.



Initial investigations revealed that members of the legitimate government forces carried out an armed robbery of a building inhabited by Taiz University professors in Wadi al-Qadi, west of the city. The professors were allowed to remain in their apartments on the condition that they pay the rent owed to the squatters. After more than two years of accumulated rent, the squatters then proceeded to attack the university leadership, including its president, Dr. al-Shaibi.

The Houthi-appointed university administration subsequently issued a decision to suspend Dr. Baalawi in an attempt to sideline him and strip him of his professional rights, as they had done with other academics before him. However, in early March 2023, the Houthi-controlled Public Funds Court ordered his reinstatement — not as an act of justice, but as an attempt to deflect attention from a larger scandal: the unlawful appointment of the new dean of the Faculty of Arts, in clear violation of all applicable laws and regulations.

AN EXAMPLE OF AN INCIDENT ATTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT

Dr. Mohammed Al-Shoaibi, 59, the president of Taiz University and an expert in international law, survived an assassination attempt on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 20, 2018, when his vehicle came under a hail of live bullets fired by unidentified gunmen. The attack resulted in his injury and the immediate death of his personal bodyguard, Muwafaq Bajash Ali Othman Al-Shamiri, 36.

According to medical reports issued by Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz where University President Dr. Al-Shoaibi was transferred following the attack, he sustained multiple gunshot wounds. One bullet lodged in his right leg, another in his left thigh, while a third bullet struck his personal bodyguard in the head. The bodyguard, who was seated beside him in the middle seat, died instantly.

Hours later, members of Taiz University's council announced the suspension of academic activities as an initial escalation step intended to pressure local authorities, including the governorate's security, military and judicial bodies, to fulfill their legal responsibilities by apprehending the perpetrators and providing protection for all university leaders and staff. They also demanded the securing of the university's residential complex, which had fallen under the control of an armed gang.

On the evening of Saturday, November 24, 2018, Taiz police announced the arrest of two soldiers affiliated with government forces, charging them with the attempted assassination of University President Dr. Al-Shoaibi. The accused persons were placed in military police prison, and the case was referred to the

public prosecutor. Authorities confirmed their intention to pursue the remaining accused persons and bring them to justice.

Initial investigations revealed that individuals affiliated with the internationally recognized government forces had carried out an armed seizure of an apartment building in the Wadi Al-Qadi neighborhood of western Taiz. The building housed university professors from Taiz University, who were permitted to remain in their apartments on the condition that they pay rent to the armed gang. After more than two years of accumulated unpaid rent, the armed men began launching attacks against university leaders, culminating in the assassination attempt on Dr. Al-Shoaibi.

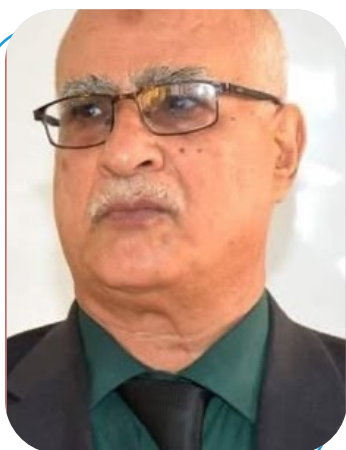
On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, coinciding with the first anniversary of the assassination attempt of Dr. Al-Shoaibi, the university council held a protest on campus. During the demonstration, they renewed their strong condemnation of the crime and called for the swift arrest and prosecution of all remaining accused persons so that justice could be served.⁽⁴⁾

On the morning of Thursday, April 23, 2020, the Taiz University Council held an emergency meeting to address alarming developments in the case, including the release of one of the accused, even though there were judicial orders calling for the arrest and transfer of all suspects to the Specialized Criminal Court in Aden and subsequently to the central prison for prosecution.

An Example of an Incident Attributed to Armed Formations Outside the Control of the Internationally Recognized Government

Professor Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Aqlan Al-Maqrami, 72, vice president of the University of Aden for Postgraduate Studies and Scientific Research, narrowly survived an assassination attempt later recorded by security forces in Aden as the work of “unknown militants.”

According to the case file compiled by the Rights Radar field research team, which includes witness statements, such as that of R.H.D.Q., Dr. Mohammed Aqlan left his house in the Kabota



(4) A statement issued by the participants in the vigil, a copy of which we have.

After crossing about (200) meters towards the 50th Street roundabout, near the (Technology) neighborhood of Inmaa City, two masked gunmen riding a motorcycle blocked the road of Dr. (Aqlan) and one of them started shooting from a Kalashnikov at the front of the car, which led to his injury. The perpetrators thought he was dead and fled, while the first citizens who arrived at the scene took care of him.

Three years have passed and the Aden security forces are still silent about this incident, as their role has been limited to closing the case file and registering it as an unknown person.

neighborhood of Al-Mansoura District, in the temporary capital Aden, early on the morning of Thursday, November 4, 2021, as usual, heading alone to the university in his personal vehicle.

Roughly 200 meters into his drive, near the Attaqaneya District roundabout in Aden's Inmaa City, Dr. Mohammed Aqlan was intercepted by two masked gunmen on a motorcycle. One of the attackers fired several bullets from a Kalashnikov rifle at the front of his vehicle, believing they had killed him before fleeing the scene. Dr. Aqlan was rescued by the first civilians to arrive at the site.

Medical reports issued by Doctors Without Borders Hospital in the temporary capital of Aden, where the targeted Dr. Aqlan was transferred, revealed that he underwent several surgical procedures, during which doctors successfully removed a bullet that had lodged in his left shoulder after penetrating the vehicle's front side window on the driver's side. Additional fragments were also extracted from the upper part of his jaw on the same side.

The incident sparked strong reactions from official, political and public circles, expressed through statements of condemnation issued by the internationally recognized government, political parties, universities and unions. These statements continued for nearly two weeks. The field research team documented over 30 such statements, and we have retained copies of them. All condemned the assassination attempt and called on the security authorities in Aden to swiftly arrest the perpetrators and conduct a transparent investigation into the case.

More than three years have passed, yet Aden Governorate's security forces remain silent regarding the incident. Their involvement was limited to closing the case and recording it against an unknown perpetrator, disregarding the widespread demands, appeals and public outcry expressed in the numerous statements of condemnation issued following the attack.

Following a fact-finding mission, the Rights Radar team concluded that the incident was both preceded and followed by incitement campaigns and hate speech targeting Dr. Aqlan. These campaigns were likely intended to remove him from his position as vice president of the University of Aden and appeared to be driven by political, ethnic and regional motives.

THIRD: VIOLATIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FREEDOMS

For nearly a decade, academic freedoms in Yemen have been systematically targeted through widespread campaigns of abduction and arbitrary arrest. These campaigns have affected hundreds of professors and their assistants at both public and private universities, often involving enforced disappearance, torture, inhumane treatment or politicized trials. Such actions constitute collective or individual punishment for exercising rights that are constitutionally and legally guaranteed.

These violations were driven by various motives, including opposition to the policies and practices of the detaining and abducting authorities, whether expressed through dissenting ideas in lectures or critical views shared on social media. Other motivations included political, intellectual, ideological or sectarian affiliations, as well as a systematic effort to suppress rights-based or union-related movements, or to facilitate the looting and confiscation of property.

The targeting did not stop at the mere confiscation of academic freedoms upon detention, or even with enforced disappearances lasting for short or long periods. It often extended beyond their release, taking the form of surveillance, economic retaliation, such as preventing them from returning to their previous jobs, revoking certain privileges or even prohibiting them from entering into contracts with private institutions.

Some academics released from detention were placed under house arrest by the Houthi militia, while others had their freedom of movement restricted and were banned from traveling within or outside Yemen. In certain cases, their assets and properties, either in whole or in part, were seized or frozen. Others faced fabricated charges and smear campaigns aimed at tarnishing their reputations.

Moreover, some academics were released from the prisons and detention centers of the conflicting parties in severely deteriorated health conditions, suffering from chronic illnesses and life-threatening diseases. These conditions were worsened by the torture, harsh treatment and medical neglect they endured, including the denial of their right to adequate healthcare and to be transferred to hospitals when necessary.

ABDUCTION AND ARBITRARY ARREST

Yemenis have long suffered from the practice of abduction — an unlawful act that undermines the principles of state authority in resolving disputes and achieving justice and peace. Individuals with influence, whether aligned with the regime or opposed to it, have used abduction as a tool of extortion, either to obtain financial gain through ransoms or to pressure the state into fulfilling specific political demands.

Abduction was not limited to financial or political motives; it was also used as a weapon to settle disputes and as a tool for revenge, whether within families, communities or tribal hierarchies. Over time, it evolved into a source of income, including the abduction of foreign tourists to extort large sums of money from the state or as part of human trafficking operations.

At the time, the state was largely powerless to stop such violations of life, safety and individual freedoms, affecting both locals and foreigners, due to the absence of national legislation capable of establishing effective deterrents and addressing the issue at its root. In response, Law No. 24 of 1998 was enacted to combat the crimes of abduction and banditry.

Although the state and judicial authorities initially faced challenges in enforcing the law, they gradually overcame them. As abduction increasingly came to be recognized and treated as a criminal offense punishable by law, the country began to recover from its harmful effects. However, this progress was undone with the rise of the Houthi militia, which effectively returned the situation to square one by re-legitimizing the very same crime.

The situation became even more dangerous after the Houthis seized control of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, and overthrew the internationally recognized government. They began using abduction systematically as a tool of retaliation against opponents, dissenters and critics, expanding the scope of victims to include members of society's elite: scholars, intellectuals and university academics.

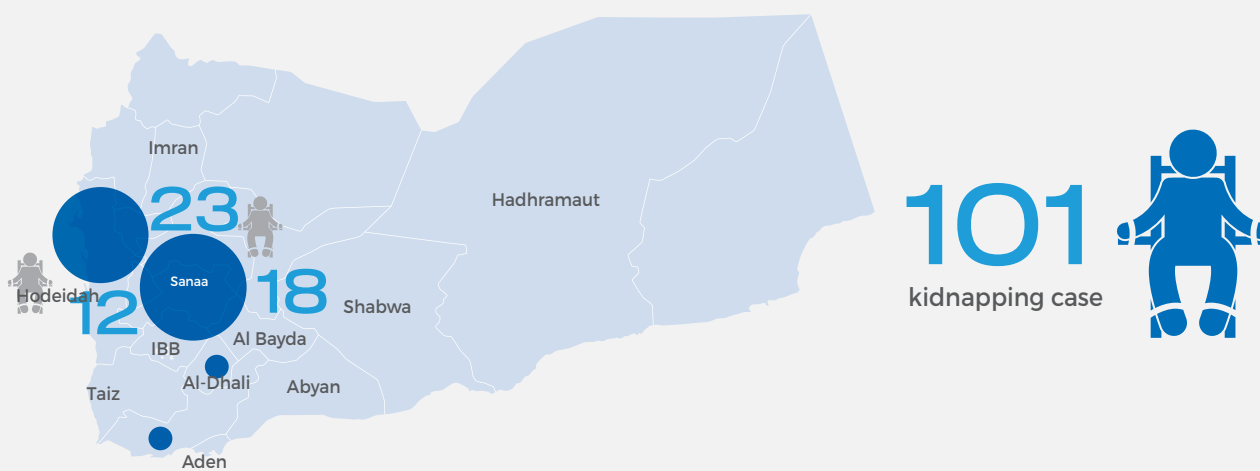
According to Houthi practices documented in this report, abduction can be defined as: "The capture, detention, and deprivation of an individual's liberty, either by force through excessive violence or by deceit through enticement, motivated by revenge, defamation, the imposition of ideology or financial gain, such as demanding a ransom or exchanging the victim for a detainee held by an opposing party."

Abduction overlaps with the concept of arbitrary detention in that both lack a legal basis and involve unlawful procedures. However, they differ in the status of the perpetrator: Abduction can be carried out by any individual or group without legal authority, whereas arbitrary detention is committed by a public official with judicial powers, acting under the guise of legal authority, but operating outside the bounds of legality.

The Rights Radar team documented 161 abduction cases carried out by the Houthi militia and other armed formations not under the control of the internationally recognized government, all targeting Yemeni academics. Additionally, there were four abductions committed by unknown perpetrators. In contrast, five cases of arbitrary detention, involving victims from the same academic community, were carried out by security and military personnel affiliated with the internationally recognized government.

VICTIM DISTRIBUTION, BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The documented cases of abduction and arbitrary detention were recorded across 18 Yemeni governorates. The capital, Sana'a, topped the list with 67 abduction cases, all attributed exclusively to the Houthi militia. It was followed by Ibb Governorate with 18 cases and then Hajjah Governorate with 16 cases, all targeting university professors and all committed by the Houthis.

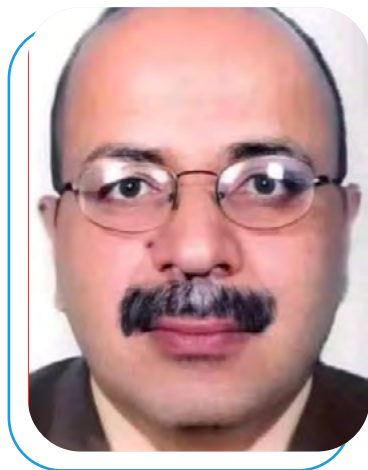


Next were Hodeidah and Dhamar governorates, where a combined total of 24 abductions of Yemeni academics were documented. The Houthi militia was responsible for 23 of these cases, while one case in Dhamar was recorded involving an unknown perpetrator. Sana'a Governorate followed with eight additional cases of abduction, all allegedly committed by the Houthis.

Taiz Governorate ranked seventh, with five abductions, three attributed to the Houthis and two recorded against unknown perpetrators. Additionally, two academics were arbitrarily detained by the internationally recognized government in this governorate. The temporary capital, Aden, followed with one person who was arbitrarily detained also by the internationally recognized government, along with another four abductions perpetrated by armed formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, which operates outside the authority of the internationally recognized government. The remaining cases in Aden were attributed to both the Houthis and unidentified actors.

Shabwah and Al-Mahwit governorates ranked ninth and tenth, each with four cases of abduction. The Houthis were responsible for five of those, while three were attributed to armed formations not under the control of the internationally recognized government. They were followed by Al-Bayda, Amran and Lahj governorates, each with three cases of abduction. The Houthis carried out six of them, and three were committed by other non-government-affiliated armed groups.

Raymah, Hadhramaut and Ma'rib held the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth ranks, respectively. Raymah and Hadhramaut each recorded two abductions, with responsibility shared between the Houthis and armed formations outside government control. In Ma'rib, documents show that two academics were arbitrarily detained, both attributed to the internationally recognized government. Finally, both Saada and Socotra governorates each reported one case of abduction, attributed respectively to the Houthis and to armed formations unaffiliated with the internationally recognized government.



PROFESSOR MOHAMMED HATEM MOHAMMED OTHMAN AL-MEKHLAFI

a native of the Al-Mekhlaf area in Taiz Governorate, was sent to Indiana University (in the U.S.) via a scholarship in 1982, where he earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Language Education. Between 1989 and 1997, he held several academic and administrative positions, beginning as head of the Computer Unit, then head of the English Department, and then he was vice dean at the Faculty of Education, Sana'a University. He later served as dean of the Faculty of Education in Al-Nadirah in Ibb Governorate, dean of the Faculty of Education in Hajjah, the Basic Education Project's technical assistance advisor and finally, dean of the Faculty of Education in Khawlan.

In late 2014, the Houthis began targeting Yemen's intellectuals and educational leaders, viewing them as a threat to their sectarian project, based on their own ignorance and manipulation. Instead of honoring curriculum experts, like Professor Al-Mekhlafi, they chose to punish them through imprisonment, defamation and abuse.

The ordeal began on Thursday, October 12, 2023, when armed Houthi militants raided Professor Al-Mekhlafi's home in the Shamlan neighborhood of Maeen District, northwest of the capital Sana'a. He was abducted at gunpoint in front of his wife and children and taken to an undisclosed location, leaving his family and neighbors in shock.

Houthi militants detained the strategic expert on public education and literacy systems in Yemen and held him in the recently established Intelligence and Security Service prison in Sana'a without charge or legal justification. He was forcibly disappeared for nearly five months, with no communication allowed with his family, who were also forbidden from visiting him.

By early March 2024, Dr. Al-Mekhlafi's family grew increasingly concerned about his deteriorating health. His condition worsened significantly during his enforced disappearance due to deliberate medical neglect by his jailers, who refused to provide him with medications necessary for chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, asthma and diabetes.

Houthi gunmen raided the home of Yemen's genius, Al-Mikhlafi, in the Shamlan neighborhood of the Ma'in district, northwest of the capital, Sana'a. They then kidnapped him at gunpoint from his wife and children and took him to an unknown location, to the astonishment of his family and neighbors, who knew nothing about him except his good character and good reputation.

Houthi militants took the strategic expert on public education and literacy systems in Yemen to the prison of the Security and Intelligence Service, which the Houthi group established in the occupied capital, Sana'a, without any charge or legal justification.

Al-Masirah TV, affiliated with the Houthi group, broadcast recorded clips of Professor Al-Mekhlafi, including confessions extracted from him under torture, nearly a year after his forced disappearance in solitary confinement. This is part of a systematic plan to defame him and present him as a spy and agent of the Americans.

On June 10, 2024, the Houthi militia announced the arrest of what they described as a “spy network” allegedly working for the United States. Yemenis and the international community were shocked to see Professor Mohammed Hatem Al-Mekhlafi, a linguist and curriculum expert, listed among the top accused, with no additional details provided.

On Sunday, September 1, 2024, the Houthi-affiliated Al-Masirah TV channel broadcast footage of Professor Al-Mekhlafi making confessions that were extracted under torture. This occurred nearly a year after his enforced disappearance and was part of a systematic defamation campaign aimed at portraying him as a spy and U.S. agent.

It became evident that the Houthis' portrayal of Professor Al-Mekhlafi as part of an alleged American plot targeting religion and education was merely a cover for a more sinister motive, likely related to his pioneering role in launching the Yemen Early Grade Reading Approach (YEGRA) project. This national initiative has revolutionized education in Yemen over the past 35 years and is still in use to this day.

The Houthi militia presented what it claimed to be damning evidence against the renowned education expert Al-Mekhlafi. Among the so-called “proof” was the fact that he had studied in the United States and specialized in Arabic language instruction, an area the Houthis, based on their narrow interpretation, believe should be taught exclusively within Arab and Islamic countries.

Further claims included a drawing in a second-grade reading textbook depicting a short red dress without a hijab, which the Houthis cited as evidence of promoting immorality. They also pointed to the phrase “Rain is a gift from the sky” as proof of atheism, and they even objected to the depiction of the four cardinal directions (north, east, south and west) in the book, interpreting it as a “Christian cross symbol.”

The contradictions between the Houthis' accusations and the content of Professor Al-Mekhlafi's so-called confessions are clear. None of the charges align with the standard definition of espionage, which typically involves gathering intelligence for hostile foreign powers, something the professor neither explicitly nor implicitly admitted to.

Legally, any confession must be given voluntarily before a court or during an investigation, free from psychological or physical compulsion, and, in the presence of legal counsel. Confessions extracted under torture, following enforced disappearance, prolonged unlawful detention, or through arbitrary and invalid procedures, have no legal validity.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Enforced disappearance refers to the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty carried out by state officials, or by individuals, groups or organizations acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the state. It is typically followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, thereby placing them outside the protection of the law.



On May 26, 2013, the National Reconciliation Government of Yemen approved the country's accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, with a reservation to paragraph 1 of Article 42. Just two weeks later, the Cabinet instructed the relevant ministries to complete the legal procedures required for ratification.

The Cabinet also approved the drafting of a law called "Law on Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons," and established a ministerial committee led by the then-Minister of Human Rights, with members including undersecretaries from the Ministries of Legal Affairs, Justice, Interior and Defense. The committee was authorized to form a specialized team comprising legal experts and representatives of victims' families to prepare the draft law.



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A case of enforced disappearance of Yemeni academics

In this context, Rights Radar team documented 55 cases of enforced disappearance targeting Yemeni academics during the reporting period, across 11 governorates. The capital, Sana'a, recorded the highest number, with 14 academics forcibly disappeared, all solely attributed to the Houthi militia. Hajjah Governorate recorded eight academics who were forcibly disappeared in Houthi-run prisons.

Next, were Hodeidah and Ibb governorates, each reporting six cases of enforced disappearance involving university professors, all reportedly perpetrated by the Houthi militia. Taiz Governorate followed with five cases, where both the internationally recognized government and the Houthi militia were each responsible for two cases, and the fifth forced disappearance was attributed to an unknown perpetrator.

Dhamar and Sana'a governorates each had four cases, all attributed to the Houthis. Amran reported three academics forcibly disappeared in Houthi prisons. Al-Bayda and Aden governorates each had two cases: One pair was attributed to the Houthis, one to armed formations not under the control of the internationally recognized government, and one recorded against an unknown perpetrator. Finally, Ma'rib Governorate recorded one case of enforced disappearance attributed to the internationally recognized government.



Eid al-Fitr came in the middle of the following month, and joy and happiness did not find their way to the hearts of the family of the veteran academic (Atta Ibrahim), despite the leaked news of his being kidnapped by gunmen affiliated with the supervisor of the Houthi group called (Ali Al-Kahlani) on charges of traveling to the temporary capital, Aden, to demand his salary from the legitimate government, along with his colleagues.

EXAMPLES OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE CASES

Dr. Atta Ibrahim Atta, an associate professor and vice dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Hodeidah University, holds a Master's degree in Organic Chemistry from Al-Mustansiriyah University in Iraq and a Ph.D., with honors, in the same field from Alexandria University in Egypt. Despite all his academic achievements, he was imprisoned and held in isolation from the outside world in Houthi-run prisons.

At around 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, Professor Atta Ibrahim left his home on Arwa Street in Al-Hali District, central Hodeidah city, to buy necessities for his family. When he failed to return, something highly unusual for him, his family waited anxiously until 10 p.m. before launching a desperate search. They checked every hospital and police station in the city, but to no avail.

The month of Ramadan began on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, and passed while his family struggled with hunger and fear throughout its days and nights due to their deteriorating living conditions and growing anxiety over the fate of their only provider, who had been forcibly disappeared. Eid al-Fitr arrived in the middle of the following month, but joy and celebration never reached the hearts of Professor Atta Ibrahim's family. This was despite circulating reports that he had been abducted by armed men affiliated with a Houthi official, named Ali Al-Kahlani, allegedly because he had traveled to the temporary capital, Aden, with colleagues to demand their salaries from the internationally recognized government.

After 80 days of silence, the National Academic Forum issued a statement in early July 2018 strongly condemning the Houthi abduction of Atta Ibrahim. It called on the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Yemen, as well as human rights and humanitarian organizations, to pressure the Houthi militia for his immediate and unconditional release.

On Thursday, July 26, 2018, the teaching staff of the Faculty of Medicine at Hodeidah University announced a full strike until their colleague, Dr. Atta, was released. Persistent efforts to secure his freedom followed, but these efforts were met with intransigence from the Houthi militia. Initially, the Houthis demanded a guarantee

According to documented statements and testimony from witnesses to the incident, more than twenty armed men, some wearing civilian clothes and others in special forces uniforms, arrived in front of the Islah Party headquarters on Al-Raqqas Street in the center of the capital, Sana'a, in a military vehicle and a second taxi. They surrounded the building before raiding it and kidnapping everyone inside, without any judicial or parliamentary orders.



that he would not return to Aden in exchange for his release. After receiving that guarantee, they reneged and instead leveled new accusations against him, including allegedly providing coordinates to the aircraft of the aggression forces.

On the evening of Sunday, December 22, 2019, after two years of enforced disappearance and deliberate detention in the depths of secret Houthi prisons, during which he was deprived of his most basic constitutional and legal rights, such as contacting his family or informing them of his whereabouts, Dr. Atta was finally released through tribal mediation. However, his release came only after he signed a written pledge to not share any information with the media or organizations about his abduction.

Three Academics in One Incident

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 9, 2015, the Houthi militia abducted three academics in a premeditated and deliberate act coinciding with signs of student anger, supported by academic union activism rejecting any armed presence on the campus of Sana'a University and efforts to turn it into a military barracks as part of a plan to gain full control over the university, its policies, decisions and revenues.

The abductees were Dr. Abdul Razzaq Yahya Al-Ashwal, professor of Curricula and Teaching Methods at the Faculty of Education, Sana'a University, and then minister of Vocational Education; Professor Abdullah Saleh Al-Samawi, head of the Pathology Department at the Faculty of Medicine; and Dr. Mohammed Mohammed Hizam Al-Adil, head of the Arabic Language Department at Amran University at the time and currently deputy minister of Foreign Affairs for Expatriate Affairs.

The Houthi abduction also targeted six other individuals who were attending a meeting, in addition to three women who were released before sunset on the same day under pressure from dozens of female media activists and human rights defenders. These women had come from various districts and neighborhoods of the capital, Sana'a, to protest in front of the detention site where the women were being held. Meanwhile, the remaining six detainees, including the three academics, remained in custody.



According to statements made by the three academics immediately after their release, their kidnappers practiced all kinds of torture and psychological intimidation against them throughout a period of enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention that lasted (154) days and nights, equivalent to five and a half months, during which no clear charges were brought against them, until it seemed as if they were merely hostages used by the Houthis as a means of pressure to carry out suspicious deals.



According to documented statements and witness testimonies, more than 20 armed men, some in civilian clothes and others in special forces uniforms, arrived in front of Al-Islah Party headquarters on Al-Raqas Street in central Sana'a, using a military vehicle and a rented car. They then surrounded the building, stormed it and abducted everyone inside without any judicial or prosecutorial orders.

Some of the victims reported many violations and abuses committed by Houthi militants during their abduction and detention, including physical and verbal assaults, confiscation of personal belongings, violations of privacy, and other harsh, humiliating treatments that demeaned their dignity and violated their humanity.

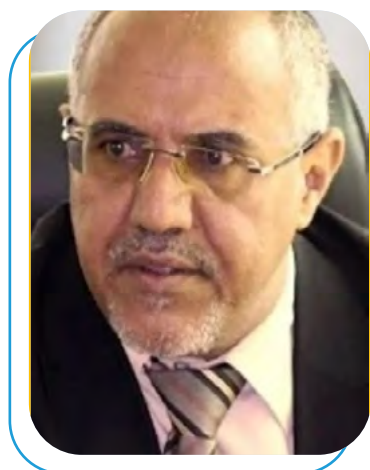
Al-Jadiri Police Station, located between the old and new campuses of Sana'a University, was the first place to which the three academics were taken. They were then transferred to the Capital Security Investigation Department, where they were held for several weeks in isolation, cut off from the outside world and prevented from contacting their families or hiring a defense lawyer. Afterward, they were blindfolded and handcuffed, then moved to a secret prison whose location they were unable to determine.

According to statements made by the three academics immediately after their release, they endured various forms of torture and psychological intimidation throughout their forced disappearance and arbitrary detention, which lasted 154 days, about five and a half months. During this time, no clear charges were brought against them, suggesting that the Houthis used them as "hostages" to exert pressure and achieve certain goals.

Ironically, Professor Abdullah Al-Samawi received his promotion to the rank of Professor, which was issued by the presidency of Sana'a University under Decision No. 459 for 2015, during his detention. This served as clear evidence that those held in Houthi prisons were among the most highly qualified academics, excelling both scientifically and professionally.

On the afternoon of Saturday, January 16, 2016, the three academics were released, along with their companions abducted in the same

Dr. Abdul-Mughni was going to the Al-Sawad area, south of the capital, Sana'a, to correct the name of a plot of land he had purchased during his tenure as director of the 48 Medical Complex. Before his arrival, he was intercepted by Houthi gunmen riding in a Houthi chassis vehicle bearing license plate number 8532 Army. They removed his personal escort and took him to an unknown location.



Dr. Yasser Abdel-Mughni spent a full week in detention, moving between the Air Force headquarters prison, to which he was first taken, and then the notorious Intelligence Building prison, to which he was later transferred. He was then released.

incident, as part of mediation efforts led by the UN's second envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. No further details were disclosed regarding what the Houthis gained in return, particularly since they rarely miss such opportunities without securing some benefits.

Professor Yasser Abdulmughni

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, militants affiliated with the Houthi militia abducted Professor Yasser Ahmed Mohsen Abdulmughni, Professor of Surgery at Sana'a University's Faculty of Medicine and Fellow of the Royal Faculty of Surgeons of Britain, from a street in Sana'a and took him to one of the Houthis' notorious secret prisons.

Witnesses to the incident reported: "Dr. Abdulmughni was heading to Al-Sawad District, south of the capital, Sana'a, to correct the name of a plot of land he purchased when he worked as Director of the 48 Medical Complex. Before he arrived, Houthi militants traveling in a Toyota pickup truck, bearing the false military license plate 8532 Army, intercepted him, removed his personal companion and took him to an unknown location."

Witness accounts differed on the motives behind the Houthis' abduction of Professor Yasser Abdulmughni. Some linked it to old disputes concerning the land, while others attributed it to a continued series of reprisals against followers of their former ally Ali Saleh and his son, Ahmed Ali, specifically those opposed to accepting the new alliance with the Houthis, which the latter imposed through forceful intimidation and coercion, making it an irreversible reality.

According to witnesses, Dr. Yasser Abdulmughni, the current director of Yashfin Consulting Hospital in Sana'a, was held in custody for a full week, transported between the Air Force headquarters prison, where he was initially taken, and the notorious Intelligence Building prison, before being released on Saturday, November 30, 2022, following local mediation efforts.

(Al-Mutawakkil) was on his way back to Sana'a from the Maghreb country via Sayoun Airport when security forces affiliated with the legitimate government stopped him at a checkpoint in the Al-Falaj area at the eastern entrance to the city of Marib. They then took him off the passenger bus he was riding in and placed him in precautionary detention.



Marib security authorities stated that the arrest of Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel was part of a monitoring and tracking operation of his movements, and in his capacity as a Houthi leader and impersonating the head of the General Investment Authority in Sana'a, not as a university professor, and on charges of tampering with the funds and property of the Investment, Land and Urban Planning Authority.

Previously, the Central Agency for Control and Auditing (CACA), controlled by the Houthis, referred Professor Yasser Abdulmughni to be under investigation and to stand trial on corruption charges in early September 2018, following his dismissal from the position of president of 21 September University. This coincided with a Houthi-led media campaign aimed at defaming one of Yemen's leading surgeons, who had previously refused to mobilize support for their sectarian activities.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER VIOLATION INCIDENTS

Dr. Mustafa Hussein Al-Mutawakel, a father of five, professor of economics and public finance at Sana'a University, and head of the General Investment Authority appointed by the Houthi authorities, was arrested by security forces affiliated with the internationally recognized government.

On the morning of Saturday, April 27, 2017, Dr. Al-Mutawakel was on his way back to Sana'a from the Kingdom of Morocco via Seiyun Hadhramaut Airport, which is under the administration of the internationally recognized government. He was stopped at a checkpoint in Al-Falaj District, at the eastern entrance of Ma'rib City, by government security forces. Then, he was removed from the passenger bus and placed under preventive detention.

Three days later, on Tuesday, April 30, 2017, the Academic Staff Union & Assistants of Sana'a University issued a statement condemning the arrest of Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel upon his return from the Annual Conference of Arab Investment Authorities held in Morocco. The union called for his immediate release and urged university professors to not be drawn into the political conflict between the warring parties.

In contrast, the official security authorities in Ma'rib Governorate said that Dr. Al-Mutawakel's arrest was part of a tracking and surveillance operation, due to his role as a Houthi leader and for impersonating the position of head of the General Investment Authority in Sana'a. He was also accused of misusing the funds and properties of the Investment and Urban Planning Authorities to finance the Houthi war against the Yemeni people.

The family of Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel received promises from the Houthi group to include his name in the prisoner exchange deal scheduled to be concluded with the legitimate government on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. However, that deal was not destined to succeed.

On Sunday, May 7, 2017, a tense 10 days after the arrest, his wife, Dr. Elham Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakel, and one of their two sons, Al-Baqir, began speaking publicly about his enforced disappearance in the prisons of the internationally recognized government in Ma'rib City. This followed more than a week of complete silence regarding his whereabouts, amid reports suggesting he had been transferred to an unknown location, according to posts on their Facebook pages.

On Monday, May 15, 2017, his wife, Dr. Elham Al-Mutawakel, traveled to Ma'rib to visit him, check on his condition, and follow up on efforts to secure his release. She was accompanied by a legal team and three members of the Academic Staff Union & Assistants of Sana'a University, including the union's head, Dr. Mohammed Mohsen Naji Al-Dhahiri, who all stood in solidarity with their colleague, Mustafa Al-Mutawakel. After two weeks and an unsuccessful visit, Dr. Elham left Ma'rib empty-handed.

On Thursday, November 9, 2017, Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel experienced his first major heartbreak in detention with the death of his son, Al-Hussein, a scholarship student in Malaysia, who passed away due to a medical error at a hospital where he was receiving treatment following a traffic accident. According to one of his daughters, this tragic event caused significant emotional trauma to Dr. Al-Mutawakel, who was forcibly disappeared at the time.

On Sunday, March 26, 2023, Dr. Al-Mutawakel suffered another devastating loss with the passing of his wife, Dr. Elham Al-Mutawakel, following six years of tireless advocacy for the release of her disappeared husband.

The family of Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel had received assurances from the Houthi militia that his name would be included in a prisoner exchange deal with the internationally recognized government, scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2023. However, that deal ultimately fell through. Efforts by the Houthis to secure his release as part of a future exchange agreement with the internationally recognized government are reportedly ongoing.

TORTURE AND CRUEL TREATMENT

According to Article 1 of the Convention Against Torture, which came into force in 1987, torture is defined as: “Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. This definition excludes pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or incidental to lawful sanctions.”

Torture and other forms of cruel treatment appear to be systematic practices that are almost inescapable in prisons across Yemen, particularly those under the control and administration of the Houthis. Over the past decade of war, these facilities have become execution grounds and death chambers, inflicting lasting physical disabilities or serving as mass graves where torturers show no regard for age, academic standing or social status.

Based on the facts documented in this report, the Rights Radar team identified horrific forms of physical torture, including solitary confinement in dark, unventilated cells; electrocution; burning with cigarette butts; beatings with wooden and metal rods and copper wires; slapping and kicking; shackling of limbs; blindfolding; and suspension of hands and feet from elevated positions.

Additional forms of abuse included: repeated interrogations; prolonged standing; deprivation of medication, food, water, sunlight and sleep; denial of visits and access to clothing; prohibition from using the bathroom for days; threats of execution and rape; threats to the lives of relatives; inhumane, degrading and humiliating treatment; mock executions; intimidation tactics; poor hygiene; and medical neglect.

DOCUMENTED STATISTICS OF TORTURE VICTIMS

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Academics and university professors were subjected to all kinds of physical and psychological torture.

In this context, the Rights Radar team documented 18 academics and university professors who were subjected to various forms of physical and psychological torture, as well as other types of inhumane, degrading and cruel treatment, at different times in prisons run by the Houthi militia and other armed formations not under the authority of the internationally recognized government. The team found no evidence of physical or psychological torture in prisons run by the internationally recognized government during the reporting period.

The documented cases of torture occurred across nine Yemeni governorates, with the capital, Sana'a, accounting for the highest number. It had nine cases of academics tortured in Houthi-run prisons. Hadhramaut followed with two cases, for which the Hadhrami Elite Forces were found to be responsible.

The remaining documented cases occurred in the governorates of Sana'a, Dhamar, Al-Mahwit, Ibb, Hajjah, Aden and Lahj, totaling seven incidents of torture, one per governorate. The Houthi militia was responsible for five of these, while the remaining two cases, in Aden and Lahj, were attributed to security and military formations that were not under the authority of the internationally recognized government.

Brutal torture by the Houthis also resulted in the deaths of four Yemeni academics, including two associate professors, who died

shortly after being released from Houthi-run preventive security and intelligence prisons in Sana'a. Their deaths were caused by severe health complications stemming from the physical and psychological torture and cruel treatment they endured during detention. They were denied medical care despite suffering from chronic illnesses.

The other two deceased victims were teaching assistants. One was affiliated with the Faculty of Education and Applied Sciences in Al-Mahwit, which, at the time, was administratively and financially linked to Sana'a University. He had earned his Master's degree with distinction and had begun preparing for a Ph.D. His colleague was on the verge of completing a doctoral degree in Islamic jurisprudence.

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE HOUTHI MILITIA

Al-Sharjabi's kidnapping came after he caught a master's student cheating on her mobile phone inside the penultimate exam hall. Out of revenge, the student succeeded in convincing some of her colleagues to file a complaint against the professor, including malicious accusations, including his support for aggression and the use of obscene and vulgar language during lectures, with deficiencies in explanation.



Sana'a University security directors and guards arrived in front of Al-Sharjabi's apartment, accompanied by the director of the university housing and three armed men, one of whom was a woman. Without legal justification or prior warning, they raided the apartment and began searching it. They then confiscated some of the doctor's belongings, including his personal computer with a flash drive.

Professor Adnan Abdulkader Al-Sharjabi, an assistant professor of psychoanalysis with the Department of Psychology at Sana'a University's Faculty of Arts and Humanities and a prominent supporter of the February 11, 2011, Revolution. Also, he was a notable member of the National Academic Forum and a leader in the Socialist Party. These affiliations made him a direct target for the Houthis' systematic retaliation.

On the morning of Wednesday, September 9, 2020, Dr. Adnan Al-Sharjabi left his home in the Maeen District of central Sana'a, heading to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities to administer the final exam for his Master's degree students for the second semester. Before entering the university gates, armed Houthi militants intercepted and abducted him, and then they took him to an unknown location.

According to reports, Al-Sharjabi's abduction was prompted by an incident during which he caught a female Master's student cheating on an exam using her mobile phone. Seeking revenge, the student managed to persuade some of her peers to file a complaint against him, containing false accusations, including "supporting the aggression" and "using profane and offensive language" during lectures.

The Academic Staff Union & Assistants of Sana'a University issued a statement condemning the abduction of Professor Al-Sharjabi and called on the Houthi authorities in Sana'a to immediately release him, holding the university administration accountable for any deterioration in his health, especially since he already suffered from chronic illnesses requiring regular medication and specialized medical care to remain stable.

At sunset on Saturday, September 12, 2020, the security and guards of Sana'a University, accompanied by the dormitory director and three armed individuals, one of them a woman, arrived at Dr. Al-Sharjabi's apartment. Without legal justification or prior notice, they raided the apartment, conducted a search, and confiscated some of his personal belongings, including his laptop and data storage devices.

The thing that worried Dr. Adnan Al-Sharjabi's family, his colleagues, the Faculty Members' Union, and even the solidarity human rights organizations was his health condition, as he suffers from chronic diseases, including cardiomyopathy and pulmonary edema. After the Houthis tried to pin the latest accusation on him, everyone's fears increased that he might suffer a stroke, as a result of the shock.

After (25) days of disappearance and torture inside the corridors of the Houthi prisons and dungeons, political and tribal mediation succeeded in releasing Dr. Adnan Al-Sharjabi, who is in critical health condition, after his innocence was proven of all the accusations attributed to him, which were described according to the minutes of closing the case file at the Houthi group's investigations as malicious.

For three consecutive weeks, Professor Al-Sharjabi was subjected to enforced disappearance in one of the Houthi militia's secret prisons in Sana'a, cut off from the outside world. Meanwhile, his two sons, Abdelnasser and Haitham, along with some of his colleagues, launched an extensive search, but were unable to obtain any information about his whereabouts — only speculations that he was being held by the Houthi intelligence and security service.

As students began organizing campaigns demanding his release and exoneration, the Houthis escalated the situation by adding another malicious, false charge, which was that Dr. Al-Sharjabi had conducted same-sex marriages, an accusation that not only smeared his reputation but also insulted the academic community and Yemeni society at large.

The primary concern for Dr. Al-Sharjabi's family, colleagues, the Academic Staff Union & Assistants and supporting human rights organizations was his health condition. He suffered from chronic illnesses, including cardiomyopathy and respiratory diseases. The last fabricated charge against him further heightened fears that the trauma could cause him to suffer a stroke.

His jailers ignored all warnings about his health. Rather than responding appropriately, they subjected him to the most brutal forms of physical torture, psychological pressure, and inhumane, degrading treatment, which cumulatively led to life-threatening complications.

On Monday, October 5, 2020, after 25 days of enforced disappearance and torture in Houthi detention facilities, a political and tribal mediation succeeded in securing the release of Dr. Adnan Al-Sharjabi, but he was in critical condition. He was cleared of all the fabricated charges, as confirmed by the official closure of the case by the Houthi intelligence service.

Yet, the Houthi militia did not even offer a simple apology to this respected psychology expert for the accusations, especially the final one that demeaned his dignity, academic status, personal integrity and the ethics of his profession. It was, as many described, the final blow — the last nail in his coffin.

(The last charge they tried to pin on the doctor was the most painful and had the greatest impact on his physical and mental health, to the point that it caused him to have a stroke, which led to him being transferred to the University of Science and Technology Hospital. He was also denied his medication for heart and lung conditions during his time in prison.)

According to a relative of the victim, M.A.R., Dr. Al-Sharjabi spoke to his family upon his release and described the brutal torture and inhumane treatment he endured in the Houthi-run Political Security prison, which severely deteriorated his health. Due to his financial situation, he was unable to afford the medication he urgently needed.

The relative added: “The last accusation they tried to pin on Dr. Al-Sharjabi was the most painful and damaging to his physical and mental health. It was what ultimately caused the stroke that led to his transfer to the University of Science and Technology Hospital. He was also denied his essential medications for heart and lung conditions during his imprisonment.

On the morning of Sunday, November 1, 2020, just 25 days after his release, the Yemeni academic community was shocked by the death of Dr. Adnan Al-Sharjabi. He passed away at the University of Science and Technology Hospital in Sana’a, only one day after admission, due to severe health complications resulting from the torture, mistreatment and the deprivation of essential medications during his detention.

EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY ARMED FORMATIONS

The abduction of Dr. Taher Abdullah Abduljabbar Al-Qubati, assistant professor of Analytical Chemistry, faculty member at Saber Faculty, affiliated with the University of Aden, and head of the Chemistry Department, is one of the most tragic stories. He spent about six months forcibly disappeared and subjected to brutal torture in secret prisons run by armed formations.

On Monday, July 20, 2020, armed formations not under the control of the internationally recognized government abducted Dr. Taher Al-Qubati from the Al-Alam checkpoint at the eastern entrance of the temporary capital, Aden, while he was returning with his wife from the city of Sayun in Hadhramaut, heading back to their home in Aden. He was then taken to an unknown location after being falsely accused of “planning a coup.”

These raids on the homes of Al-Qabati, his relatives and colleagues, by the Transitional Council-affiliated formations, included acts of looting and confiscation of four new model cars, huge sums of money, important documents and papers, and light and expensive jewelry and furniture, not to mention causing partial damage to the windows and doors of those homes and tampering with the rest of their contents.

Prior to this, starting from August 21, 2020, there were several armed raids conducted by patrols affiliated with armed formations targeting Dr. Al-Qubati's house as well as the houses of some of his relatives and friends under the pretext of having a coercive arrest warrant for his wife and son. These raids resulted in the abduction of eight individuals whose only crime was being related to or associated with him.

These raids, carried out by formations affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council (STC), also included looting and confiscation of four modern vehicles, large sums of money, important documents, and valuable items such as jewelry and furniture. In addition, they caused partial damage to windows and doors and tampered the contents of the houses.

During his detention in the Al-Tawahi prison, which is under the control of the STC, laboratory scientist Dr. Taher Al-Qubati was subjected to the most severe forms of torture in a solitary confinement cell, known as "Al-Dhaggata," which measured no more than one meter by half a meter. He was also deprived of his necessary medication, and his fate remained undisclosed. His family was not allowed to visit him or even inquire about his health.

According to the victim's relatives, Dr. Al-Qubati was transferred outside of Yemen, specifically to the United Arab Emirates, for further interrogation. This constituted a blatant and serious violation of national sovereignty, and the Yemeni authorities bear a constitutional and legal responsibility to verify his whereabouts.

On Tuesday, November 24, 2020, the notables and tribal leaders of the Al-Qubaita District in Lahj Governorate issued a statement that threatened to escalate their protests regarding the abduction of Dr. Taher Al-Qubati, a resident of the governorate. They confirmed that the central prison administration in Aden handed him over to a battalion from the armed formations not under the control of the internationally recognized government, despite directives, from the Attorney General and the Criminal Prosecution, to immediately release him.

POLITICAL TRIALS

A fair trial is a fundamental right for all litigants, regardless of their religion, nationality, affiliation, orientation or even their academic qualifications. Everyone is equal before the judiciary, regardless of their status or circumstances. The right to legal defense, either personally or through an attorney, is guaranteed at all stages of investigation and trial, according to the provisions of Chapter One of Law No. 1 of 1991, concerning the Judicial Authority in Yemen.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 also affirms the individual's right to a fair trial before the judiciary. Article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, stipulate the right of every person to liberty and personal security, prohibiting arbitrary arrest or detention, and requiring that any person arrested be informed promptly of the reasons for their arrest and the charges against them.

Evidence confirms that the judicial reality in Yemen, particularly after the Houthi militia's takeover of the capital Sana'a and the country's descent into civil war, has seen a breakdown in the balance of justice. The judiciary, once a semi-independent authority, has been usurped and turned into a tool of revenge used by most parties in the conflict to settle scores with opponents, including academics.

Since then, the Yemeni judiciary has become divided and part of the ongoing conflict. It is now classified as one of the deadly weapons demonstrably used excessively by the Houthi militia. As a result, many victims were sentenced to execution through politicized courts, while others, including six academics, still await their turn. The Houthi militia has worked to dismiss respected and independent judicial figures and replace them with loyalists, even going as far as to amend the Judicial Authority Law as a gateway to a full restructuring that would eliminate the remaining independent members.

Public prosecutions & courts throughout the Yemeni Republic

Article 2: An addition is made to Law No. 1 of 1991 regarding the Judicial Authority, Article No. 57 (repeated), as follows:

Article 57: (Repeated) The President of the Republic may, based on considerations of public interest, issue a decision to appoint individuals from outside the judiciary to judicial positions and ranks within three years from the issuance of this law. These individuals shall be selected from professors of Sharia and Law faculties at Yemeni universities or from Islamic Sharia scholars who hold recognized academic degrees in jurisprudence, possess a reputation for integrity, competence, and mediation skills, and are known for commendable conduct and character.

Article 3: The phrase "Judicial Inspection Authority," mentioned in Articles 65, 90, and 98 of Law No. 1 of 1991 concerning the Judicial Authority and its amendments, shall be replaced by the phrase "Judicial Inspection Authority and members of the Public Inspection Department," as applicable.

Article 4: This law shall be considered an integral part of Law No. 1 of 1991 regarding the Judicial Authority.

The Houthi group has insisted since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen on using the Criminal Court in the capital, Sana'a, which is specialized in examining cases of kidnapping, terrorism, and state security, to settle scores with its opponents and adversaries, including academics, six of whom have been sentenced to death.



Late that night, armed Houthi groups, including female elements known as the Zainabiyat, raided the home of Dr. Al-Bawwab, terrorizing his wife and five children, before searching it, ransacking its contents, and looting and confiscating some of his personal belongings, including a personal computer and important documents related to his scientific and academic career.

EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

There is abundant evidence and numerous testimonies confirming the Houthis' exploitation of the judiciary system, using it as a tool of revenge against their political and ideological opponents, or even those who merely disagree with their opinions or positions, including academics, whether independent or previously affiliated with political factions opposing the Houthis. Many were subjected to political trials that lacked the most basic foundations and standards of justice.

Field research conducted by the Rights Radar team confirmed the Houthis' consistent use, since the start of the conflict, of the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, originally designated for handling abduction, terrorism and state security cases, as a mechanism for settling scores with their opponents. Among those targeted were six academics against whom death sentences were issued by this politicized court up to the time of writing this report.

One of the most notable cases is that of Dr. Yousef Saleh Ali Mohammed Al-Bawab, a professor of linguistics at Sana'a University's Faculty of Languages and author of 11 books and supervisor of over 30 academic studies. He is regarded as the first Yemeni academic to undergo a politically unjust trial full of serious legal violations, starting from his enforced disappearance to forced confessions under torture and ending with the denial of a fair trial under both national and international law.

The case dates back to Thursday, October 20, 2016, at approximately 7 p.m., when armed Houthi militants intercepted Dr. Al-Bawab after he left Al-Durra Mosque on his way home in the Suwad Hanash neighborhood, located in central Sana'a. The Houthis abducted and initially detained him at the Criminal Investigation Department prison before he was transferred to an unknown location.

During the late hours of the same night, a group of armed Houthi militia, including female militants, known as Al Zainabiyat, attacked Dr. Al-Bawab's house, terrifying his wife and five children. They searched the home, tampered with its contents and looted personal belongings, including a personal computer and important documents related to his academic career.

Dr. Al-Bawab was forcibly disappeared for nearly three months, completely cut off from the outside world, before being transferred to the Political Security Prison, controlled by the Houthis in Al-A'nab neighborhood in the northwest of the capital, Sana'a. There, he was granted a single and brief visit with his devastated family. So far, it has been the first and only meeting.

In early March 2017, the Houthis referred Dr. Al-Bawab and 35 other detainees, including three more academics, to the prosecution. They faced fabricated and malicious charges, including plotting assassinations, collaborating with the Saudi-led Arab Coalition and supplying intelligence, such as military coordinates.

According to the investigation records of the Public Prosecution during the interrogation sessions (March 26–30, 2017), Dr. Al-Bawab was subjected to harsh torture and inhumane treatment, including solitary confinement in cramped dark cells, interrogations lasting days, deprivation of sleep, food and water, shackling, blindfolding, severe beatings and being forced to stand for hours during questioning.

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, the Houthi-controlled Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a held the first hearing for Al-Bawab and his co-defendants, followed by a second hearing two days later and a third six days after that. These sessions were headed by the presiding judge and a defense team, led by lawyer Abdul Majid Sabrah.

During these hearings, Al-Bawab had only one opportunity to meet with his lawyer, who then summarized six months of abuse and raised legal concerns regarding the arrest, detention and interrogation procedures, all of which were ignored by the court.

Defense lawyer Sabrah noted visible signs of torture on Al-Bawab's body, including swelling in his right kidney and tearing of stitches from a previous surgery. He emphasized that the trial was purely political, based solely on confessions extracted under torture, which were later used for public defamation by Houthi media.

Sabrah also revealed that Judge Abdu Ismail Hassan Rajeh, a known Houthi loyalist, refused to provide a copy of the indictment, ignored

Dr. Al-Bawab was subjected to harsh torture and inhumane treatment, including solitary confinement in cramped dark cells, interrogations lasting days, deprivation of sleep, food and water, shackling, blindfolding, severe beatings and being forced to stand for hours during questioning.

Signs of torture were evident on Dr. Al-Bawab's body during his first court hearing, including swelling of his right kidney and a torn suture from a surgical operation he underwent before his kidnapping.

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The attempts of the court, the prosecution, and the prosecutor to silence Dr. Al-Bawwab's voice and curb his desperate self-defense proved unsuccessful. They resorted to excluding him from the penultimate sessions, starting in early April 2019, and subjecting him once again to enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention, amidst the concerns of his family and even local and international human rights organizations.

a request to refer Al-Bawwab for forensic medical examination and denied him treatment, despite existing court orders to get treatment for him.

The Rights Radar team continued to monitor Dr. Al-Bawwab's trial sessions, in which he was listed among 36 defendants. Proceedings began at the first level of litigation before the Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance, spanning from April 8, 2017, to July 9, 2019. The case then moved to the second level of litigation before the Specialized Criminal Court of Appeal, which started in early March 2021 and, as of the time of reporting, remains unresolved.

Dr. Al-Bawwab lodged numerous complaints, none of which were recorded in the official session minutes, detailing over 30 repeated violations he and his fellow detainees endured in Political Security detention, in courtrooms and during transport to and from court.

These violations included denial of contact with family and defense lawyer, exposure to 21 types of physical and psychological torture, humiliating and degrading treatment, deprivation of food, water and medicine, death and rape threats, threats against his family, exclusion of lawyers from most sessions and ejecting their families from court.

Dr. Al-Bawwab also complained about the court judge's disregard for his and his co-defendants' complaints and demands, as well as the intransigence of the Specialized Criminal Prosecution. He stated that the prosecution refused to let him be examined by a forensic doctor or transferred to a hospital, despite suffering from health complications and lingering effects of torture sustained during his detention, despite the judge's directives permitting such medical care.

Judge Abdu Ismail Hasan Rajeh, Prosecutor Rajeh Zayed and private prosecutor Abdul Wahab Al-Khail grew exasperated with Dr. Yousef Al-Bawwab's repeated complaints at the end of each session, which exposed the falsity of their accusations and the farcical nature of the trial. As a result, they verbally attacked and insulted him, as well as attempted to discredit him during the session held on October 15, 2017.

The attempts by the court, the prosecution and the private prosecutor

What happened is the issuance of an (invalid) ruling by a court whose term has expired, within a (farfetched) political trial that is not based on any tangible, actual evidence other than confessions extracted under torture, and based on arrest and detention procedures that have no connection to the law, and a list of worn-out, ready-made accusations that the Houthi group sticks on every free Yemeni who opposes it.

to silence Dr. Al-Bawab and suppress his vigorous self-defense were unsuccessful. Consequently, beginning in early April 2019, they resorted to excluding him from the penultimate sessions and subjected him once again to enforced disappearance and solitary detention, raising concerns among his family as well as local and international human rights organizations.

On Tuesday, July 9, 2019, the court handed down a death sentence to Dr. Al-Bawab and 31 others, convicting them of forming an armed group to attack government personnel, carrying out bombings in Sana'a that led to the death of a person and aiding the enemy.

Regarding civil compensation, the ruling, which lacks legal legitimacy, ordered Al-Bawab and the co-defendants to pay three million Yemeni riyals to the heirs of "Abdullah Musleh Haidar Al-Rassas" (the alleged victim), divided as 100,000 riyals per defendant. This was despite the court's lack of jurisdiction, as noted in defense arguments.

Legal experts described the ruling as null and void, as it was issued by a court that lacked judicial authority. This was based on the Yemeni Supreme Judicial Council's 2018 decision (No. 22) to revoke the court's legitimacy and transfer its jurisdiction to the city of Ma'rib. Additionally, the ruling violated several core principles of fair trial standards.

In conclusion, the verdict against Dr. Al-Bawab is unlawful, issued by a defunct court as part of a politically motivated trial based solely on torture-induced confessions, fabricated charges and illegal arrest and detention procedures. It reflects the broader Houthi pattern of targeting any Yemeni who opposed them.

Now, as we approach the end of a decade of conflict, Dr. Yousef Al-Bawab, a resident of Al-Jaafariyah District in Raymah Governorate, remains imprisoned by the Houthis in Sana'a, still facing the threat of execution at any moment. In addition, his academic credentials, integrity and standing among colleagues and students have been entirely disregarded.

FOURTH: VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS

These rights are essential to ensuring a dignified and decent life for Yemeni academics, just as they are for academics in other parts of the world. Among the most fundamental of these rights are the following:

THE RIGHT TO SALARIES AND WAGES

“Salary is life” has been the slogan repeatedly raised by Yemeni academics during their peaceful protest movements demanding this fundamental right. These two words encapsulate a decade marked by suffering, deprivation, injustice, humiliation, hunger and displacement, as well as a profound sense of helplessness in the face of overwhelming and compounding challenges that have burdened them since the Houthi militia’s takeover of the capital, Sana’a, in late 2014.

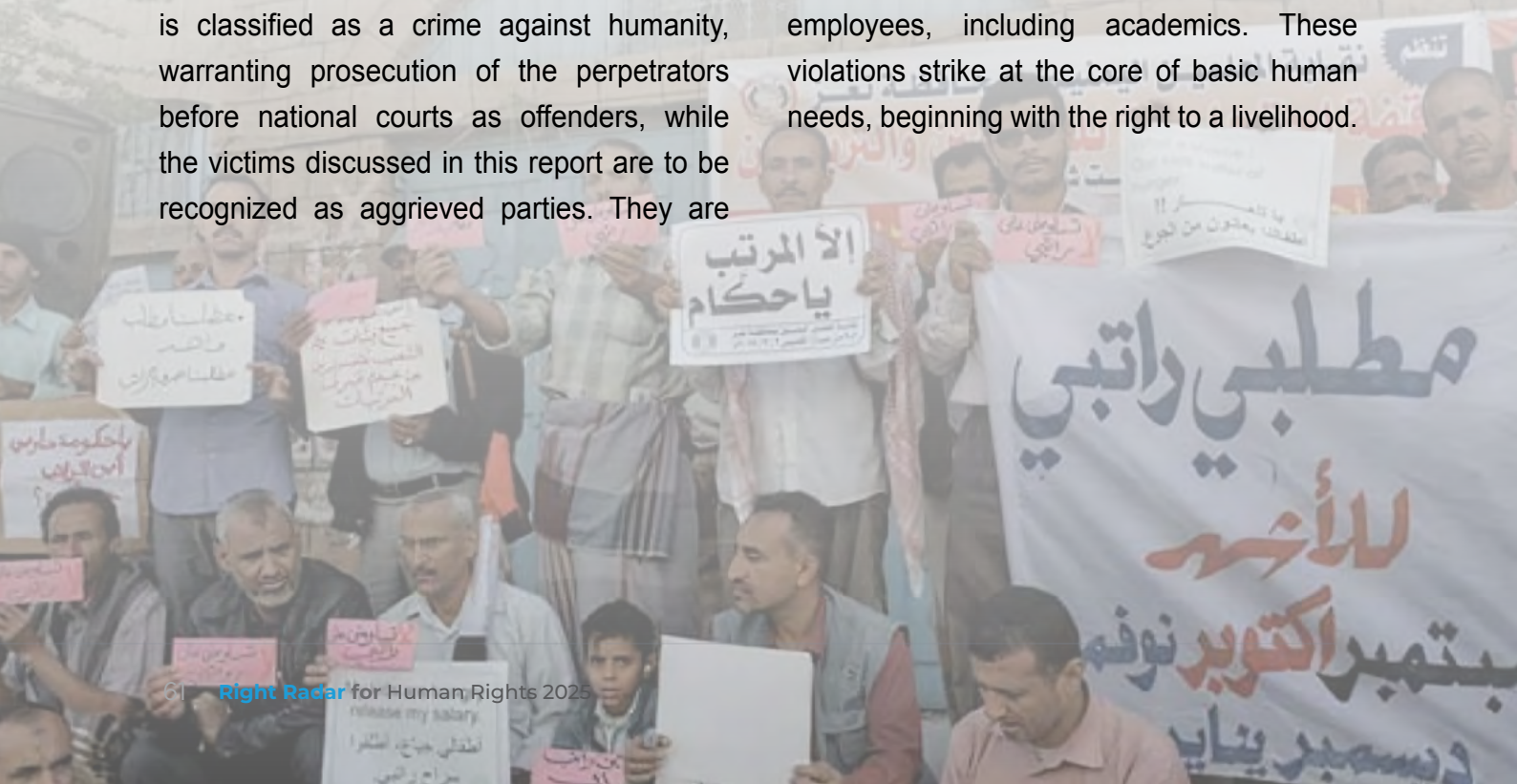
A monthly salary is a legally guaranteed right that may be forfeited only if an employee voluntarily abandons their position. Even in cases of dismissal, the individual retains the right to a pension. No internationally recognized government or de facto authority has the legal right to confiscate or suspend these personal entitlements, as they are enshrined in the Yemeni Constitution and applicable national laws, whether in times of war or peace, and under any circumstances.

Any attempt to deny or circumvent this right is classified as a crime against humanity, warranting prosecution of the perpetrators before national courts as offenders, while the victims discussed in this report are to be recognized as aggrieved parties. They are

entitled to file criminal lawsuits, before local courts, to seek justice and the punishment of those responsible for cutting off their salaries, along with being fairly compensated.

Compensation should include both material and moral damages resulting from the crime of salary suspension and related violations. This compensation encompasses full payment of all outstanding financial entitlements, including salaries, bonuses and incentives, retroactively covering the entire period of interruption, in addition to reparations for inflicted material and psychological harm, in accordance with the Yemeni Constitution and relevant national legislation.

Based on the above, it can be said that the cutoff of salaries in areas under Houthi control, combined with the declining wages and the continuous devaluation of the Yemeni rial against foreign currencies in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, represent one of the most severe and harmful forms of violations suffered by public sector employees, including academics. These violations strike at the core of basic human needs, beginning with the right to a livelihood.



EARLY STAGES OF THE SALARY SUSPENSION CRISIS

The beginning of the crisis dates back to early September 2016, when salaries for academics working in public universities, located in Houthi-controlled areas were suspended, with the exception of half a salary paid every three months to a small, selective group, as if it were a “grant” rather than a legally guaranteed right under Law No. 43 of 2005, concerning employment, wages and salaries.

Since then, university professors at public universities under Houthi control, including those in Sana’a, Dhamar, Ibb, Hodeidah, Amran, Al-Bayda, Hajjah and Saada, have endured one of the most severe humanitarian crises, resulting from the Houthi militia’s abandonment of its responsibilities toward them. This neglect is rooted in the Houthi militia’s belief that the educational and awareness-raising roles of academics pose a threat to its ideological indoctrination project.

A similar situation exists in areas under the control of the internationally recognized government and some armed formations outside its authority, though academic staff in those regions face less terrible living conditions, mainly because they receive their monthly salaries somewhat more regularly. However, they still struggle due to rising living costs and the ongoing collapse of the Yemeni riyal, which has significantly eroded the real value of wages and salaries.

While the Houthi militia continues to impose financial restrictions on academics and suspend their salaries as part of a deliberate starvation policy, a tactic considered internationally prohibited, especially when used against one of the most educated and influential segments of Yemeni society, the internationally recognized government and other de facto authorities remain unjustifiably silent in the face of economic collapse that now threatens everything, including the future of higher education and its pioneers.

RESPONSIBILITY IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT REALITY

According to the Yemeni Constitution and national laws, the responsibility for paying public sector salaries, including those of academics and other civil servants across all Yemeni territories, falls on the Central Bank, which is managed and supervised by the internationally recognized government, provided that all the conflicting parties, starting with the Houthis and other non-governmental factions, deposit their revenues in full into this same bank without manipulation or deception. Currently, the Central Bank of Yemen in Aden is responsible for paying salaries to academics in areas not controlled by the Houthis.

This logic can easily be extended to the Houthi-controlled northern Yemen if the Houthis were to deposit even a minimum portion of their revenues into the Aden-based Central Bank. These revenues, according to estimates, far exceed those of any other conflicting party, reportedly reaching 3.39 trillion Yemeni riyals in 2023, excluding illegal levies and taxes the Houthis forcibly impose.⁽¹⁾

However, given the current situation — where both main conflicting parties cling tightly to their respective shares of revenues and resources, and a financial and banking division exists between Sana'a and Aden, due to the circulation of two unequal currency editions — each party bears the responsibility for paying the salaries of public employees, including academics, within the areas it controls. This responsibility must be fulfilled in a manner that ensures a dignified life for these individuals and their families, free from hardship and humiliation.

(1) An investigative report, written by Dr. Ali Ahmed Sinan Al-Kamali with the assistance of a field research team (we retained a copy of the report).

POINTS OF DISPUTE AND MUTUAL JUSTIFICATIONS

The Houthi militia and its de facto government in Sana'a continue to evade responsibility as an authority on the ground, repeatedly attempting to shift blame onto the internationally recognized government, which they overthrew. They argue that this government is legally obligated to pay public sector salaries, using weak justifications that have no grounding in the current reality and contradict all available documented data.

There are several contentious issues between the two main conflicting parties that have prevented an agreement on salary disbursement in Houthi-controlled areas. The most important of them is the Houthi claim that the internationally recognized government, upon relocating the Central Bank to Aden, pledged to continue paying salaries across Yemen. However, it is widely known that the bank was moved empty, after the Houthis seized all reserves and monetary assets.

Despite refusing to deposit any revenue into the Central Bank in Aden, the Houthi militia continues to demand that the internationally recognized government and the coalition countries cover public salaries, both military and civilian, through the Central Bank in Sana'a. The internationally recognized government, in contrast, insists that any payment should be made through a neutral mechanism that ensures funds reach only civilian employees, including academics, based on 2014 payroll records.

The Houthis have refused for six consecutive years to implement the Stockholm Agreement regarding Hodeidah, which explicitly requires depositing all revenues from Hodeidah Port and the ports of Ras Issa and Al-Salif into a special

account at the local branch of the Central Bank to be used for civil servant salaries in Houthi-controlled areas, under the supervision of a UN monitoring team.

The Ministry of Finance of the internationally recognized government claims it has continued monthly salary payments to over 400 university professors in Houthi areas since early 2017 under the classification of "internally displaced persons" (IDPs). However, it ceased salary payments to other academics and employees in three civil sectors by the end of 2019, following the Houthis' rejection of the newly printed currency and their imposition of transfer commissions exceeding 50%, a rate widely regarded as unstable and exorbitant.

The Rights Radar team have obtained records showing 131 university professors affiliated with Sana'a University who are still receiving their salaries through the internationally recognized government's Ministry of Finance in Aden under the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) category, despite working for the Houthis, including professors, department heads and faculty deans.

The internationally recognized government, for its part, frequently expresses concerns that any salaries sent to Houthi-controlled areas without proper safeguards will be seized by the Houthis and redirected for military purposes, such as coercing rightful recipients, particularly those in the security and military institutions, into joining the ranks of the Houthi fighters.

DOCUMENTED FIGURES AND STATISTICS

The current minimum salary for a university professor in Yemen is estimated at 200,000 Yemeni riyals per month. This is equivalent to about \$377 at the exchange rate in Houthi-controlled areas and less than \$100 in government-controlled areas. Meanwhile, an assistant lecturer earns 111,000 riyals, equal to \$45 in Aden and about \$200 in Sana'a.

In gross terms, it is equivalent to half the salary received by a university professor in Houthi-controlled regions every three months—totaling 100,000 Yemeni riyals (in the old currency), which is approximately \$194 at the Sana'a exchange rate. By comparison, a professor in government-controlled areas earns 600,000 Yemeni riyals (in the new currency) over the same period, which is equivalent to about \$284 at Aden's exchange rate.

When these figures are considered in light of the current economic and living conditions caused by the war, it becomes clear that the amount received by public university professors every three months, whether in Houthi- or government-controlled areas, is insufficient to cover even just half a month's rent, let alone have enough for food, utilities (electricity, water, internet) or transportation expenses.

ACADEMICS' FINANCIAL DEFICIT IN HOUTHI-CONTROLLED AREAS, AMOUNT FOR EACH PAYROLL CYCLE⁽¹⁾

Statement	A Statement of the Financial Status of Each Academic, Every Three Months		
	Actual Need	Amount of Available Funds	Deficit
Essential Expenses	486,000	48,600	437,400
House Rent	383,940	38,394	345,546
Emergency Expenses	162,000	0	162,000
Service Fees	54,000	0	54,000
Transportation Expenses	45,000	0	45,000
Mandatory Deductions	30,000	30,000	0
Total	116,0940	116,994	1,043,946

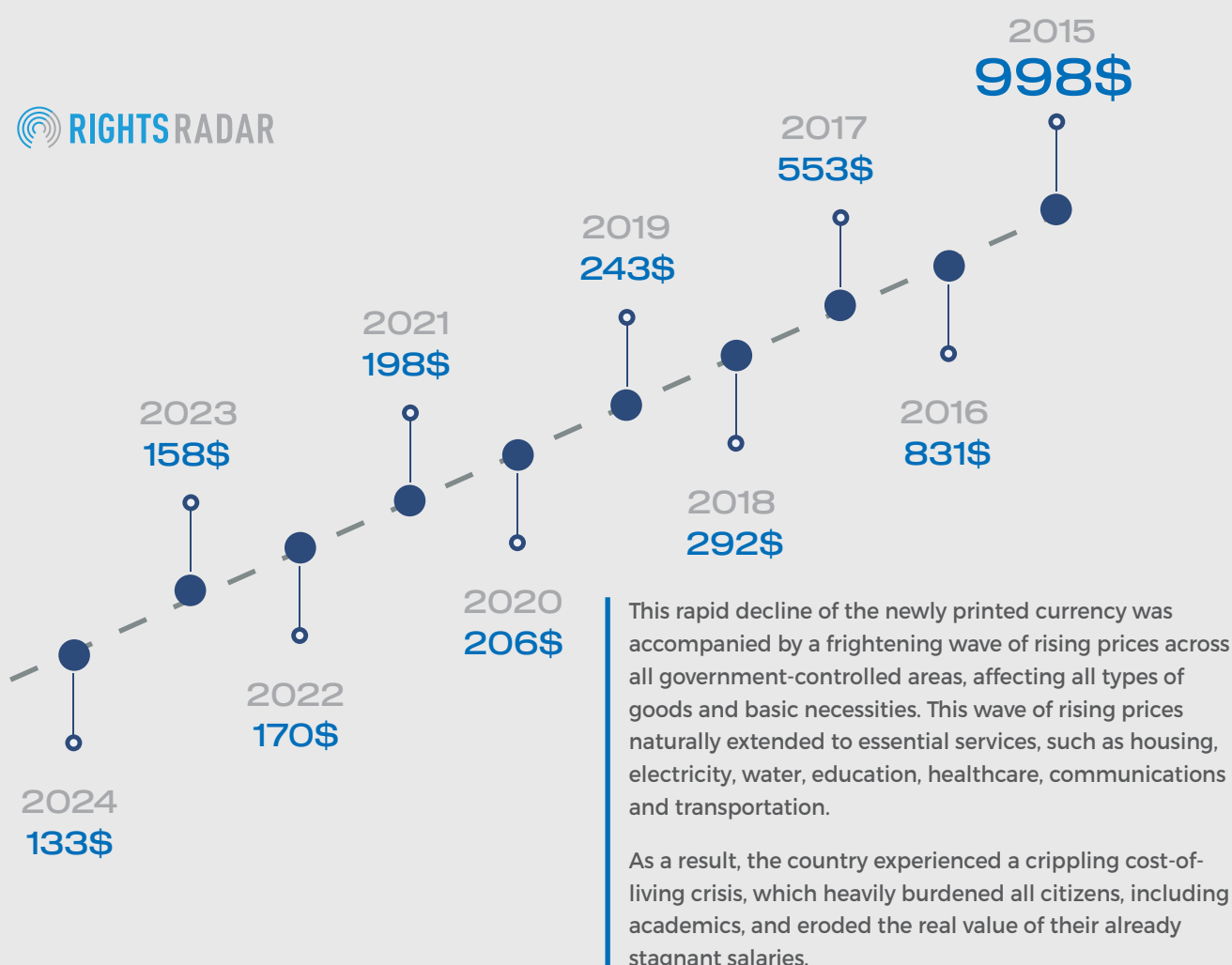
Assistant lecturers at public universities, as well as university professors at private universities and faculties, whether in Houthi-controlled areas or under the internationally recognized government, face the same terrible circumstances. It is as if all parties have conspired against Yemeni academics, deliberately deepening their humiliation, suffering and impoverishment to the point of depriving their children of the most basic necessities. This neglect shows a disturbing disregard for the devastating impact on the quality of higher education, which is considered the very cornerstone of national development.

(1) Summary of a calculation based on estimates drawn from a survey of a sample of academics working at public universities in Houthi-controlled areas, matching the prices of goods and services there until the end of 2024.

Academic salaries have declined drastically during the war years in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government and armed formations outside its authority. This is primarily due to the continuous collapse of the local currency against foreign currencies. In 2015, when the salary was equivalent to \$998 USD before the dollar exceeded the threshold of 214.69 Yemeni riyals, the university professor's salary dropped to \$831 at the beginning of 2016.

The decline continued until it reached \$553 in 2017, and then it collapsed at once to \$292 by 2018. It declined even more to \$243 in 2019, then down to \$206 in 2020, and it went down again to \$198 in 2021. Then, by 2022, it was down to \$170 and down again to \$158 in 2023. Then, the professor salary, at its lowest and most recent price, went down more to \$133 in 2024, when the dollar price exceeded the barrier of 2500 Yemeni riyals.⁽²⁾

(2) A field survey covering 20 samples at universities (Taiz, Saba, Hadhramaut, Shabwa, Aden), with a calculation of exchange rate differences.



WASTED CAPABILITIES AND POTENTIALS

All available financial data indicates that both main conflicting parties in Yemen, including the Houthi militia and the internationally recognized government, possess sufficient capacity to resolve the crisis of unpaid salaries for professors and staff at public universities. These salaries could be regularly paid in full simply by utilizing university-generated revenues, without the need for any external support, including the annual allocations in the national budget.

This calls for both parties to urgently reassess their financial policies related to public and institutional management, on which the lives and futures of many societal groups, particularly those not involved in the conflict, critically depend. It also necessitates a restructuring of public spending priorities toward sustainable development, insulating education from the ongoing war and implementing strong fiscal oversight and accountability.

If we examine the actions of the Houthi militia in this context, we find that, over the past nine years, it has exploited public universities under its control as major revenue sources to finance its war efforts, employing illegitimate practices without ever addressing the issues of academic staff, whose existence is essential for these universities to function.

By the end of the first year of Houthi control over Sana'a University, the annual revenue doubled, exceeding three billion Yemeni riyals, with a surplus of 430 million riyals. This came after the Houthi militia imposed

new levies and increased the cost of existing services by 500%, including housing fees for students and faculty as well as tuition fees for both the regular and parallel study systems.

Dhamar University recorded the highest increase in tuition fees for the Faculty of Medicine, reaching \$27,000 for the six-year program under the parallel system, with a single installment required in advance. Similarly, the president of Ibb University mandated a 400% increase in registration and tuition fees across all faculties, along with the imposition of a fixed financial levy per student to support the university's budget.

In Hajjah University, students in 2018 were met with a 50% increase in registration and graduation fees. Meanwhile, students in the Faculty of Medicine at Amran University were forced to pay a new fee, labeled the "clinical training fee," supposedly for improving hospital-based training, imposed by Houthi-appointed university and faculty administrators.

The same applies to universities in Al-Bayda, Saada and Hodeidah, which generate tens of billions of riyals annually from registration fees alone. Yet, the Houthi militia devours all those revenues with greed, tying them to centralized postal accounts under university presidencies, facilitating their misappropriation through deceptive spending lines, while academics go unpaid for the ninth consecutive year.

It didn't stop there; in fact, the very large figures reflect what is only officially reported as annual revenue. According to a detailed investigative financial report by researcher Dr. Ali Ahmed Sanan Al-Kamali and a team of monitors, revenue reached 3.390 trillion Yemeni riyals in 2023 alone — an increase of 146 billion riyals higher than the 2022 figure.

Dr. Al-Kamali's report revealed that all of the revenues either ended up in the pockets of the Houthi leadership or were used to fund its private projects, rather than being allocated for salaries and wages — which, according to the 2014 national payroll records, did not

exceed 977 billion Yemeni riyals.

In addition to the Houthi militia wasting numerous opportunities, which could have improved conditions for public university employees, the spending and revenue collection mechanisms adopted by university administrations are in direct violation of Republican Decree No. 32 of 2007. This decree, which outlines the Executive Regulations of the Yemeni Universities Law, assigns authority of these matters to the Higher Council for Higher Education — not to university or faculty councils and not even to the minister.

OBSTACLES AND BARRIERS HINDERING SOLUTIONS

Financial and administrative corruption, which is widespread among all warring parties, remains a major obstacle to resolving the crisis of unpaid salaries for public university academics in Yemen — particularly in areas under Houthi control, where the majority of revenues and the operational budget are diverted to what the Houthis call the “war effort”.

The Rights Radar team tracked multiple corruption cases that have directly contributed to depriving Yemeni academics of their most basic financial rights. Among the most striking examples was Sana'a University's administration, headed by Qasim Al-Abbas, which reportedly paid 300 million Yemeni riyals for 100 chairs, at a rate of 3 million riyals per chair. The same administration disbursed over 1.14 billion

riyals from university revenues outside the approved budget framework.

The team also obtained an official document dated September 24, 2016, signed by former university president Dr. Fawzi Al-Sagheer. The document instructed the Secretary General and the Director of Financial Affairs to deduct contributions from the salaries of both academic and administrative staff in support of the Central Bank in Sana'a. This directive was issued in response to a fundraising appeal by Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, under the pretext of supporting the “war effort.”

By late October 2016, Sana'a University's finance department had transferred 150 million Yemeni riyals from its annual revenue to a designated “war effort” bank account, as per the instructions of the same

Houthi-appointed university president. This transfer occurred at a time when university professors and employees were in urgent need of their funds, having gone over six months without pay.

At Ibb University, a December 2016 official statement from the Houthi-aligned administration reported the sudden disappearance of 220 million riyals from the university treasury. This happened while university professors and assistants endured terrible living conditions, having not received salaries for three consecutive months. Nevertheless, the case file of the

largest looting incident the university has ever witnessed was closed before it was even opened.

The Rights Radar team also confirmed the Houthi militia's involvement in diverting large portions of Hajjah University's revenues to sectarian indoctrination initiatives, including the Student Forum, which actively recruits fighters for the frontlines. Additionally, free scholarships covering tuition, housing and meals were allocated to Houthi loyalists. All this was at the expense of academics who continued their teaching duties without pay.

HOUTHI-BACKED ALTERNATIVES AND SOLUTIONS

The temporary measures adopted by university administrations under Houthi control to mitigate the impact of salary suspension included allocating 3,000 Yemeni riyals (approximately \$6 USD) per teaching hour for professors in humanities faculties, and 5,000 riyals (about \$10 USD) for those in revenue-generating science faculties. Contract lecturers were paid 2,500 riyals (around \$5 USD) per hour.

However, this solution became part of a new problem, creating financial difficulties for most university professors due to the uneven distribution of teaching opportunities, especially for those whose weekly schedules are nearly empty, with only one or two lectures. In the best-case scenario, their financial incentives barely cover the transportation costs to and from the university.

In addition to the above, academics working at government universities under Houthi control receive small and irregular cash allowances, amounting to no more than 13,000 riyals (approximately \$24) per faculty member per month, paid intermittently. However, these allowances have been reserved exclusively for a specific group affiliated with or loyal to the Houthi militia.

As part of their alternative measures, the Houthi militia sought to calm down the anger of public university professors and their assistants in areas under their control by quietly providing each with a "food basket" taken from the rations meant for other war-starved populations. This deliberate act served to humiliate and degrade Yemen's educated elite, equating them with the struggling classes who had submitted to the militia and resorted to begging to survive.

However, those stolen and poor-quality food baskets, which were deficient in both quantity and quality, suddenly vanished from the list of so-called alternatives to addressing the salary interruption issue. This occurred amid severe disputes that nearly fractured the Houthis' inner ranks, as they — accustomed to monopolizing resources — begrudgingly gave academic families their rightful share just like other war-affected groups.

At the beginning of 2017, as part of a new scheme to manipulate the half-salary scheduled for payment every three months, the Houthi militia introduced the so-called “commodity card”. This left academics and other employees with only one option: to purchase basic food items from limited sales points controlled by Houthi leaders without the need for cash payments. However, these items were often expired and overpriced.

A document uncovered by the Rights Radar team, Memo No. 134, dated November 20, 2021, was signed by the president of Sana'a University, Dr. Qasim Mohammed Al-Tayyib, and addressed to the General Authority for Endowments in the capital Sana'a (chaired

by Abdul-Majid al-Houthi). It requested that academic and administrative staff whose salaries had been suspended for six years be classified as eligible for Zakat under the category of “scholars and learners.”

The memo also proposed that the Endowment Authority pay 100,000 riyals per month to each professor, 60,000 riyals for lecturers, 50,000 riyals for assistant lecturers and 40,000 riyals for administrative staff. This was promoted by the Houthis as part of their so-called “alternative compensation plan” to replace salaries that once reached up to 400,000 riyals per month, including bonuses and allowances.

This move sparked a wave of outrage among academics, who saw the act of begging on their behalf as the ultimate humiliation. They condemned the Houthis for portraying them as poor and needy, burdening society with a fabricated image of “dependence,” despite being rightful salary earners. Their stolen salaries alone would be enough to ensure a dignified livelihood for themselves and their families without charity.

ALTERNATIVES WITHIN ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION

The Houthi militia did not stop at depriving and degrading university professors and their assistants through salary cuts across all public universities under their control. They also blocked any alternative opportunities for these professionals within their fields of specialization. One significant blow came with the closure of their only viable income source: teaching at private universities and faculties.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, the Houthi-appointed minister of Higher Education in Sana'a, Hussein Ali Hazeb, prohibited academics from working at any private institutions within Houthi-held areas without prior approval from the president of the public university with which they are affiliated. This was considered a deliberately obstructive condition.

University administrations, including that of Sana'a University, welcomed this decree and used it as justification to not only prevent academics from working in the private sector, but to also dismiss those who violated it, despite the absence of any legal or regulatory basis for such actions.

Yemeni higher education legislation contains no provision for prohibiting a public employee from holding a private job outside of official working hours, in accordance with Article 27 of the Civil Service Law, which

bans dual employment only during official hours.

Another blocked alternative was relocating to Aden, the temporary capital, where some academics had successfully registered as "displaced academics" to receive regular salaries from the internationally recognized government. However, this option was later cut off for the majority after the Houthis tightened restrictions.

The Rights Radar team documented numerous cases of Houthi forces preventing university professors from traveling to Aden to process salary payments. In one mid-2018 incident, seven professors from Sana'a University were detained by a Houthi checkpoint at the northern entrance of Dhamar City and subsequently forcibly disappeared.

Yemeni academics were faced with four options, each of which was extremely bitter: either remain in semi-volunteer work at public universities, give up their public employment in exchange for a private position at a private university or faculty with a little salary due to increased demand and limited supply, join the popular labor market or emigrate abroad and face an uncertain fate elsewhere.

CHALLENGING ALTERNATIVES OUTSIDE THE ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION

Since the early days of salary suspensions, many Yemeni academics have considered turning to traditional freelance or manual labor to support their families and preserve their dignity. However, the social stigma attached to such work has created a psychological barrier, as society continues to look down on these roles when they are undertaken by individuals with advanced degrees.

However, the worsening situation and mounting pressures compelled some to rebel against both harsh realities and societal expectations, ultimately embracing the most logical path: self-reliance and earning a living through the sweat of their brow — even if it meant taking on arduous jobs that neither aligned with their qualifications nor reflected the high cost of their academic degrees, due to all other opportunities being closed to them.

The Rights Radar team confirmed the cases of six academics, including a professor, a teaching assistant and a researcher, who resorted to street vending in local markets. Three university lecturers turned to selling qat, two became bakers, two others worked as taxi drivers, another became a porter, one a construction worker and another became a farmer, all after losing their salaries or being dismissed from their posts under Houthi control.

Even in areas under internationally recognized government control, three academics were documented working as street vendors, including a Ph.D. holder in International Humanitarian Law. Countless others turned to personal projects and small businesses, having lost all hope from receiving a salary that was both meager and irregular.

EXAMPLES OF ACADEMICS TURNING TO HUMBLE JOBS

From Academic to Street Vendor

(Al-Ezzi) continued to work as an architecture teacher at Dhamar University for (18) years without any problems, until the Houthi group came and spread corruption in the land and forced him to work without a salary, so he suddenly disappeared from the academic community during the free periods of his study schedule, which he allocated to freelance work outside his official working hours in order to improve the living conditions of his family.

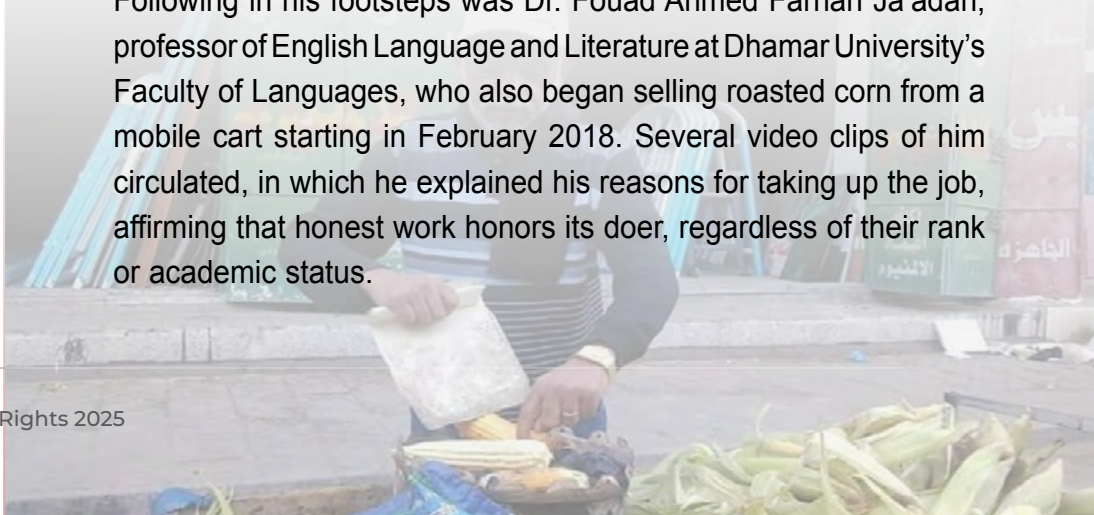
Rights Radar documented the case of Dr. Abdul Jabbar Qassem Al-Ezzi, head of the Civil Engineering Department at Dhamar University, who resorted to freelance work as a street vendor, selling roasted corn from a mobile cart in one of the city's markets. His decision came after nearly five years of unpaid salaries, during which he struggled to meet the basic needs of his family following the collapse of state institutions.

Dr. Al-Ezzi had taught Architectural Engineering at Dhamar University for 18 years without any issues until the Houthi militia took control, driving the academic sector into crisis. Forced to work without pay, he began disappearing from campus during breaks in his teaching schedule to engage in freelance work, trying to provide for his household.

On the morning of Thursday, December 8, 2016, three months after his salary had stopped, Dr. Al-Ezzi set up his cart on the eastern side of Al-Ma'arid Street. He deliberately positioned himself 7.6 kilometers away from Dhamar University to avoid being recognized by his students or colleagues, ashamed of being seen in a role that society might deem degrading for someone like him — someone who had chosen to be a candle burning to light the path for successive generations of Yemenis.

On Friday, January 27, 2017, someone happened to spot Dr. Al-Ezzi behind his corn cart, and without permission, took a photo of the unexpected scene. Although not the first such case since the Houthi takeover, this particular image struck a painful chord and quickly spread across media platforms, both locally and internationally.

Following in his footsteps was Dr. Fouad Ahmed Farhan Ja'adan, professor of English Language and Literature at Dhamar University's Faculty of Languages, who also began selling roasted corn from a mobile cart starting in February 2018. Several video clips of him circulated, in which he explained his reasons for taking up the job, affirming that honest work honors its doer, regardless of their rank or academic status.



Houthi militants took the strategic expert on public education and literacy systems in Yemen to the prison of the Security and Intelligence Service, which the Houthi group established in the occupied capital, Sana'a, without any charge or legal justification.



The Houthi group has practiced all forms of harassment and provocation against most of the academics of Hodeidah University and its other branches distributed across the districts of Zabid, Bajil, and Raymah. Dr. Al-Qalisi had his share of these practices, which he bore with open hearts, blocking any attempts to dissuade him from performing his duties at the same pace as before.

Academic (Al-Qulaisi) and the Fatal Alternative

Dr. Abdul Noor Abdul Khaliq Ahmed Al-Qulaisi stands as another symbolic victim. He is considered one of the most persistent and determined people. After ranking fifth nationwide in Yemen's General Secondary Exams, he earned his Ph.D. with honors from the Faculty of Dar Al-Uloom at Cairo University. He later joined the academic staff at Hodeidah University, but the war brought his salary to a halt, eventually forcing him to work as a baker in a local restaurant. The job slowly wore down his health and dignity, and then it ultimately claimed his life.

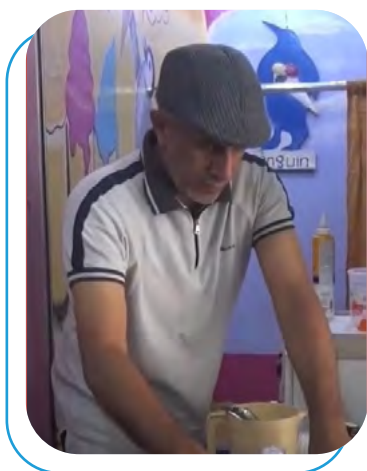
In early 2013, Dr. Al-Qulaisi returned from Egypt to his hometown in Jabal Raas, in the southern part of Hodeidah Governorate, proudly holding his doctoral degree. Despite the political and social upheaval in Yemen following the revolution and the resulting turbulent transition, he managed to secure an academic position and enjoyed a modest level of professional stability for about two years — having earned a degree that many of his peers had not.

He steadily advanced in his academic career, starting as a lecturer and later becoming deputy dean of the Continuing Education Center at the Faculty of Education in Zabid. He produced a number of research papers in his field and supervised several Master's and Ph.D. theses.

Since their takeover of the city of Hodeidah in mid-October 2014, the Houthi militia has employed all forms of harassment and provocation against most of the academics at Hodeidah University and its branches located in the districts of Zabid, Bajil and Raymah. Dr. Al-Qulaisi was no exception; he endured these practices with patience and resilience, firmly rejecting any attempts to dissuade him from carrying out his duties with the same dedication as before.

Determined to retain his academic position, which was the sole source of income for his family, Dr. Al-Qulaisi even went so far as to engage in Houthi-run religious and sectarian activities, adapting to the new reality they had imposed. Yet, none of this spared him the indignity and hardship that followed his final salary payment in September 2016. With no means left to feed his family, he endured five months of poverty and hunger before finally seeking an alternative for survival. By late February 2017, photographs began

After being exhausted by fatigue, burdened with worries, and his body exhausted by pain and illness, Dr. Abdul Nour Abdul Khaliq's strength failed him, and he surrendered his soul to its Creator on the morning of Tuesday, September 29, 2020, affected by (cerebral malaria), as a result of which he was transferred to Tihama Hospital in the Zabid area, where he remained for only two days before he breathed his last in its intensive care center.



circulating of the professor of Qur'anic Interpretation working as a baker in a small restaurant in central Hodeidah.

For nearly five years, Al-Qulaisi split his time between delivering unpaid lectures at the Faculty of Education in Zabid in the mornings and baking bread for 11 hours each evening, with no rest and barely any time left for his family.

Eventually, overwhelmed by stress, illness and exhaustion, his body gave out. On Tuesday, September 29, 2020, Dr. Al-Qulaisi passed away after contracting a severe case of cerebral malaria. Admitted to Tehama Hospital in Zabid, he held on for only two days in intensive care before taking his last breath.

An Academic Turned Ice Cream Vendor

Dr. Abdullah Ali Abdullah al-Asimi, a historian, is yet another example of the many academics whose lives were upended by Yemen's turmoil. He earned his master's degree from the Faculty of Arts at the University of Baghdad and his Ph.D. from the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Damascus. Returning to Yemen during the February 11, 2011, Revolution, he faced significant obstacles in securing an academic position. Instead, he accepted an administrative role at a research center in late 2013.

Barely a year later, war erupted, and the Houthis took control of the capital, Sana'a, leading to the suspension of government salaries. Unable to cover even basic living expenses, Al-Asimi was forced, in early 2017, to flee with his family to his hometown of Al-Asabeh in Ash-Shamayatayn District of Taiz Governorate — an area under the control of the internationally recognized government.

After two more years of displacement without a job or income, Al-Asimi managed to have his name registered among the displaced persons in Aden. However, the little salary of just 200,000 Yemeni riyals (around \$100 USD monthly) was far from enough to support his family.

This hardship was worsened by the financial fragmentation that followed the emergence of two banking systems and two currencies of differing values, part of the ongoing economic conflict between the Houthi authorities in Sana'a and the internationally recognized government in Aden. This resulted in the rapid economic collapse

Dr. Abdullah decided to leave his unprofitable public job, giving up all the titles and descriptions associated with it, as part of measures he deemed necessary to devote himself to his own project, which he started as a street ice cream seller in the city of Taraba, before borrowing \$1,500 and opening a small, modest shop that would spare him the daily hassle of running.

There are those who have publicly offered their books for sale at a low price despite their high moral value in their hearts, as they represent their scientific and professional honor and the essence of their intellectual and literary output.

in government-held areas, further aggravated by irregular salary payments and the declining value of the Yemeni rial. These conditions drove Al-Asimi to seek an alternative livelihood.

Dr. Al-Asimi made the difficult decision to leave his job, which could no longer support him, setting aside his titles and academic prestige. Seeing it as a necessary step for survival, he turned to a private venture, starting out as a mobile ice cream vendor in the city of Al-Turba. Eventually, he borrowed \$1,500 to open a small, modest shop, which spared him the daily hardship of selling on the streets.

In addition to struggling with limited funding and the burden of high operating costs, such as rent and electricity, Al-Asimi faced a deeper, more personal challenge: the social stigma of being a highly educated man working in a field unrelated to his academic background. Yet, as he shared, over time and with unwavering determination, he managed to rise above the criticism and keep moving forward.

Academics Who Sold Their Writings and Savings

Other academics, whether living under Houthi control or in areas governed by the internationally recognized government, have also been deeply affected by the ongoing hardship caused by the deliberate starvation policies enforced since their monthly salaries were cut off nine years ago. Under mounting financial pressure, many were forced to sell all or part of their savings and personal belongings. They also had to mortgage them to meet their families' most basic needs.

Some even went so far as to publicly offer their authored works for sale at a fraction of their value, despite the deep personal and symbolic meaning these works held. These publications represented not only their intellectual and professional pride, but also the culmination of years of academic and literary effort, chronicling long and arduous struggles in service to the nation, to knowledge and to the enlightenment of future generations entrusted with driving development forward.



THE RIGHT TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Public employment is a constitutional and legal right guaranteed to every qualified Yemeni who meets the legal requirements for holding a government post and fulfilling the responsibilities assigned to it within a state institution. This employment serves the public interest and, in return, entitles the employee to material and moral benefits outlined in a contractual framework, whether permanent or fixed-term, starting from the date of appointment and continuing until the legal retirement age.

According to the current Yemeni Constitution and Article 111 of the Civil Service Law, it is strictly prohibited to dismiss an employee, revoke their job title or strip them of their position before the end of their employment term — unless the employee commits a clear violation of duties as defined in Article 13, which must be substantiated by an official investigation. Furthermore, Article 112 of the same law states that no individual may be penalized twice for the same offense. These protections are further reinforced in Article 84 of the Executive Regulations of the Yemeni Universities Law, which specifically applies to academics.

Any disciplinary action loses its legal validity if due process is not followed during the investigation or if it is proven that the charges were malicious or based on false or misleading information. Any suspension or dismissal decision is deemed arbitrary and invalid if motivated by personal revenge or part of a broader, systematic campaign aimed at settling scores or achieving political or ideological gains.

Unfortunately, all of these legal safeguards have become purely theoretical and are no longer in practice or enforced within the financial and administrative systems operating in universities under Houthi control. The Houthi militia has pursued a deliberate strategy to dismantle job security, beginning with the collapse of financial systems and culminating in the manipulation of civil service records.

All available evidence and documented reports indicate that, since seizing control of state

institutions, including public universities, the Houthis have focused on establishing absolute dominance and retaliating against perceived opponents without necessarily resorting to physical violence.

To implement this strategy, the Houthis began tampering with academic records and employment files in public universities. Their first step was to classify academic and administrative staff based on sectarian, political, regional, ideological and religious affiliations. This process, often driven by malicious or false reports, formed the basis for identifying “supporters” and “opponents”.

Next, they systematically excluded dissenting academics, stripping them of their posts and leadership roles through dismissals and service terminations. These actions were framed as administrative reforms but were, in reality, acts of political and sectarian revenge. This created vacancies for Houthi loyalists, many of whom lacked the necessary qualifications or familiarity with academic environments, to take over.

These actions were especially concentrated in faculties associated with religious, educational, intellectual, social and political sciences, such as education, arts and humanities, Islamic law and legal studies, languages and commerce. Revenue-generating scientific faculties were not spared either; departments, such as medicine, dentistry, engineering and computer science, were also targeted, particularly when their teaching methods or curricular content were deemed ideologically incompatible with Houthi doctrine.

JOB EXCLUSION

As part of this ongoing pattern of violations infringing on one of the most fundamental and prominent social rights, the Rights Radar team documented the exclusion of 1,158 academics from their positions during the reporting period. These exclusions took place across three public universities under Houthi control, with Sana'a University alone accounting for 1,137 cases, representing 98% of the total.





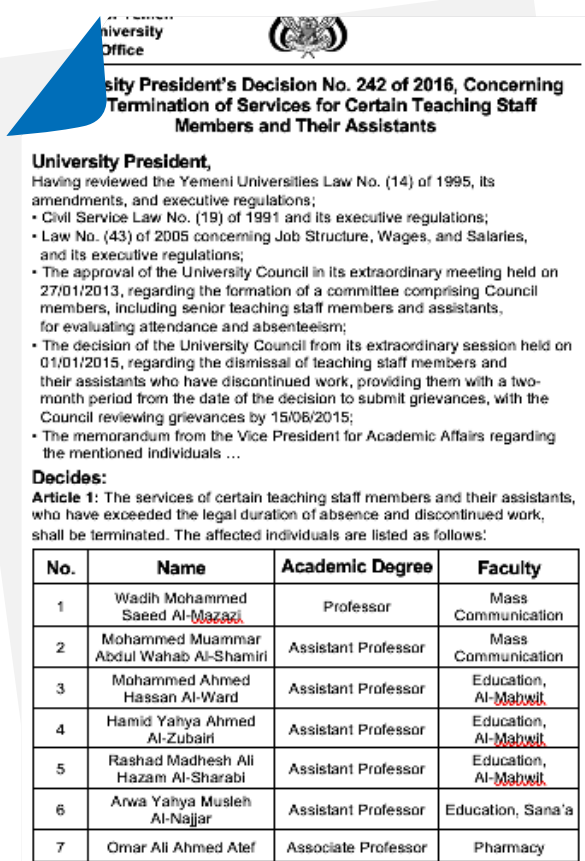
SANA'A UNIVERSITY

The first wave of exclusions at Sana'a University began in late April 2016, following the conclusion of a staff classification process that had lasted approximately a year and a half. This process had culminated in the Houthi militia arbitrarily dismissing 119 academics, a move widely seen as a clear reflection of the militia's exclusionary nature, its rejection of power-sharing and its disregard for institutional legal frameworks.

FIRST WAVE: 119 ACADEMICS DISMISSED

The University Council of Sana'a, chaired by the Houthi-appointed Dr. Fawzi Hamoud Al-Sagheer, issued Decision No. 242 of 2016, which terminated the employment of 66 professors and 53 teaching assistants. The decision cited unconvincing reasons, such as absenteeism and missing documentation. The Rights Radar team has obtained a copy of the official decision (see inset at right).

According to the attached lists documenting those affected, the dismissals were spread across 11 faculties in Sana'a University. The Faculty of Education recorded the



highest number of arbitrary dismissals, with 26 cases, including 12 from the main campus, seven from the Al-Mahweet location, four from the Arhab campus and three from the Khawlan area.

The Faculty of Medicine ranked second, with 19 dismissals, followed by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities with 14. The Faculty of Engineering lost 12 academics, while both the Faculty of Languages and Faculty of Pharmacy had 10 dismissals each. The Faculty of Commerce and Economics experienced eight, and the Faculty of Media recorded seven dismissals.

The faculties of Science and Agriculture ranked ninth and tenth, respectively, with a combined total of 10 arbitrary dismissals, five from each faculty. The Faculty of Dentistry had the fewest, with three cases.

The dismissed academics were distributed across various positions and academic ranks: one professor, one dean, three department heads, seven full-time professors, 15 associate professors, 38 assistant professors, 23 lecturers and 30 teaching assistants.

In terms of gender, the decision affected 23 female academics. Among them were three assistant professors, 11 lecturers and nine teaching assistants. These dismissals were spread across nine faculties, led by the faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy and Education, each with

five cases. The Faculty of Arts followed with three, while the faculties of Media, Languages, Commerce, Engineering and Dentistry each had one dismissal.

Male academics accounted for 96 of the dismissals. This included one professor, seven full-time professors, 15 associate professors and 35 assistant professors. Also, among those dismissed were two deans, from the faculties of Media and Education, and three department heads in the Education (Al-Mahweet branch), Pharmacy and Media faculties. In addition, 12 lecturers and 21 teaching assistants were dismissed from their posts, with the Faculty of Education and its branches recording the highest concentration.

Upon review, the Rights Radar team found that the Houthi-controlled University Board of Directors had exploited previous administrative efforts to justify their dismissals. Specifically, they took advantage of a staff census initiative launched in January 2013 by the former university administration, which had identified over 60 professors and scholarship students, who had been absent for extended periods. That initiative had recommended dismissals, but also granted the individuals six months to appeal.

The new university leadership, however, circumvented the draft decision and repurposed it to serve the Houthi militia's sectarian and political agenda. Under the guise of reform, they used it to eliminate academic opponents, replacing them with politically loyal individuals, often without regard for established legal requirements, such as qualifications, competence or experience.

The Rights Radar team also found that the dismissal list included active academics, individuals officially on unpaid leave but still entitled to resume full-time academic duties, and it included a number of scholarship students and delegates who had begun correcting their status after receiving formal warnings in early 2013. The outbreak of war then abruptly halted their efforts, leaving them vulnerable to unjustified termination.

Those targeted in the dismissal decision were primarily opponents of the Houthi militia, classified along political and sectarian lines. Some continued to carry out their academic duties until the decision was issued, while others had already left the capital, Sana'a, either relocating to areas under the internationally recognized government or seeking refuge in Arab and European countries. Many of them were victims of forced displacement or fled to escape the militia's repression, which had previously abducted some and later released them on guarantees, while continuing to pursue others.

This is not to suggest that every case in the dismissal decision was unjustified. However, the instances that may have warranted disciplinary action were few and appeared to have been included merely to provide a superficial sense of credibility to a decision issued by individuals lacking the legal authority to do so.

SECOND WAVE: DISMISSAL OF 35 ACADEMICS

Many believed that the collective dismissal of more than 100 academics at Sana'a University was driven primarily by financial motives. Through these mass terminations, it certainly appeared as if the Houthis were attempting to evade salary obligations. These obligations were still being met through the state treasury until late September 2019, prior to President Hadi's decision to relocate the Central Bank to Aden. Following that relocation, all decisions that were made by the Houthi became even more devastating and punitive.

Teaching Staff Members and Their Assistants Dismissed by the University Council on October 4, 2017, Despite Being Eligible for Renewal Due to Scientific Vacancies

	Name	Faculty	Notes
1	Abdul-Faqi Bahrwan Qaid Ahmad	Arts	First salary for the 2014/15 academic year
2	Saleh Mohammed Muharik Mazhar	Arts	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
3	Ahmed Mohammed Qasim Atiq	Arts	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
4	Rachwan Mohammed Ahmad Al-Sahry	Arts	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
5	Yahya Abdullah Awwad Harschal	Arts	First and second salary for the 2014-2016 academic years
6	Ahmed Saleh Mohammed Qutran	Education	2015/16 academic year
7	Saleh Abdullah Al-Sabuti	Education	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
8	Haider Ahmad Al-Safah	Education	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
9	Abdul-Ghani Ali Ali Al-Abdari	Education	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
10	Abdul-Rahman Nasser Hassan Al-Wali	Education	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
11	Mustafa Yahya Mohammed Bahran	Education	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
12	Nabil Mohammed Muqbil Al-Bakili	Education	First salary for the 2014/15 academic year
13	Khaled Hilal Abbas Al-Kaboudi	Education	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
14	Ali Shuaib Naji Arjaah	Education	First salary for the 2013/14 academic year
15	Al-Mahdi Mohammed Yusef Al-Harazi	Sharia	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
16	Saleh Hussein Sami	Sharia	First salary for the 2014/15 academic year
17	Mai Saleem A/Al Al-Sheikh	Sharia	First and second salary for the 2014-2016 academic years
18	Abdul-Karim Mohammed Al-Zuhairi	Medicine	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
19	Najib Saeed Ghannem Al-Dabbas	Medicine	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
20	Mohammed Fares Al-Azari	Medicine	First and second salary for the 2014-2016 academic years
21	Nour Saleh Mohammed Awwad	Medicine	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
22	Nadim Mohammed Saeed Naji	Medicine	First salary for the 2015/16 academic year
23	Mona Al-Sayyid Abdul-Hafiz	Medicine	First salary for the

On Wednesday, October 4, 2017, the president of Sana'a University, Dr. Fawzi Al-Sagheer, acting on directives from the Houthi militia, issued Decision No. 349, arbitrarily dismissing 35 academics. The decision cited familiar and unconvincing pretexts, most notably "absence from work," despite the fact that many of those affected were unable to return due to the ongoing war. Hundreds of delegates and scholarship students pursuing Master's and Doctoral degrees in various Arab and European countries had been stranded abroad by the conflict.

According to the attached list of affected individuals, the dismissals were distributed across seven faculties at Sana'a University and its branches. The Faculty of Education recorded the highest number, with 12 dismissals. There were two at the Khawlan branch and one in Arhab. This was followed by the Faculty of Medicine with nine dismissals. The faculties of Arts and Dentistry each recorded four dismissals, while the Faculty of Sharia and Law reported three, the Faculty of Engineering two and the Faculty of Commerce had one.

By academic rank, the dismissals included one professor, three full-time professors, eight associate professors, 14 assistant professors and six lecturers. Most of these individuals were either on authorized leave for scientific research, undergoing medical treatment abroad at their own expense or had fled the country to escape the Houthi militia's persecution.

In terms of gender, six female academics were affected, including three with the rank of assistant professor and three lecturers. These dismissals were spread across four faculties: Medicine; Dentistry; Education at Khawlan; and Sharia and Law. The remaining 29 were male academics, including one professor, six full-time professors, eight associate professors, 11 assistant professors and three lecturers.

In response, the Academic Staff Union & Assistants of Sana'a University issued a statement on October 10, 2017, describing both the first and second waves of dismissals as arbitrary. The statement emphasized that these decisions had not followed any of the legal procedures required by university regulations, which govern how the university council and presidency may execute such measures. The union affirmed its legal and professional commitment to defending the rights of all affected members and pledged to take all necessary actions in their defense.



THIRD WAVE: DISMISSAL OF 160 ACADEMICS

On Monday, October 1, 2018, the Sana'a University Council, chaired by Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Daghar, issued a decision to dismiss a third group of academics, in clear violation of the legal procedures outlined in Article 84 of the Executive Regulations of the Yemeni Universities Law. This article grants the Disciplinary Council the authority to impose penalties on university professors or their assistants who violate their job duties. It specifies seven progressively severe penalties, beginning with a reprimand, then a warning, a written warning, denial of bonus for up to one year, postponement of promotion for a maximum of two years, deduction of up to 20% of the employee's salary at any one time, and finally, termination of service while retaining insurance rights.

The second paragraph of the same article further details the cases and conditions for imposing each of these disciplinary measures. However, according to the Academic Staff Union & Assistants, the Sana'a University Council disregarded the provisions of both paragraphs when issuing the dismissals. In a statement released two days later, the union condemned the dismissal decision as unlawful and part of ongoing efforts to systematically purge Sana'a University of its qualified academic staff across various scientific disciplines.

The academic union accused the university leadership, affiliated with the Houthi militia, of orchestrating these dismissals to replace qualified staff with unqualified personnel who lack the necessary academic credentials and legal standing. The union highlighted the fact that many of the dismissed professors and assistants continued to fulfill their duties with dedication and commitment, despite enduring severe financial hardship due to unpaid salaries. While affirming that it does not oppose lawful disciplinary action against genuine violations, the Academic Staff Union & Assistants stressed that any measures taken must comply strictly with the law.

The data sheets of those affected by the decision included 160 academics working at Sana'a University and its branches, among them 22 female academics. Of these women, three held the title of professor, two were associate professors, seven assistant professors, four lecturers and six teaching assistants. They were distributed across faculties in descending order as follows: Arts, Education, Medicine, Dentistry, Media, Commerce, Engineering and Physical Education.

The decision also encompassed a total of 83 male and female academics at Sana'a University, including 20 full-time professors, 23 associate professors and 40 assistant professors. Additionally, it affected four department heads, three vice deans from the Faculty of Sharia and Law and the Faculty of Dentistry and, as well as one dean from the Faculty of Dentistry.

The decision also affected 69 assistant professors, including 41 teaching assistants and 28 lecturers.

In total, the dismissals impacted 15 faculties. The Faculty of Medicine was the most affected, with 27 cases of arbitrary dismissal. The Faculty of Education followed with 24 cases, which included four cases from the Faculty of Education and Applied Sciences (Al-Mahwit Branch), two cases from the Khawlan branch and one from the Arhab location.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities ranked third with 19 dismissals, followed by the Faculty of Engineering with 18 cases, the Faculty of Commerce and Economics with 16, as well as the Faculty of Sharia and Law with 15. The Faculty of Dentistry recorded 13 dismissals, while the faculties of Mass Communication and Agriculture each had 12 cases. The Faculty of Science reported five dismissals.

The Faculty of Pharmacy ranked eleventh, with four dismissals affecting three professors and one teaching assistant. This was followed by the Faculty of Languages with three dismissals (one professor and two teaching assistants), the Faculty of Petroleum with two teaching assistants dismissed, and finally, the Faculty of Physical Education and Computer Science, each with one arbitrary dismissal.

FOURTH WAVE: DISMISSAL OF 117 ACADEMICS

On Sunday, December 2, 2018, the Sana'a University Council, chaired by Dr. Ahmed Al-Daghar, who was appointed by the Houthi militia, issued Decision No. 303, which ordered the termination of service of 117 academics at Sana'a University. The attached list of affected individuals begins with the late historian Professor Yusuf Mohammed Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shaibani and ends with Assistant Professor Samir Abdulrahman Farhan Al-Shamiri.

The dismissal decision included 18 female academics: two professors, four associate professors, eight assistant professors, one instructor and three teaching assistants. They were distributed across seven faculties, led by the faculties of Arts and Education, each with eight dismissals. The Faculty of Languages followed with three dismissals, then the faculties of Medicine, Media and Sciences with two cases each and, finally, the Faculty of Sharia and Law had one dismissal.


The decision affected 99 male academics, including 20 professors, 34 associate professors, 32 assistant

professors, five lecturers and eight teaching assistants. These individuals were distributed among 12 faculties, with the Faculty of Medicine leading at 18 dismissals, followed by the Faculty of Education with 16 dismissals, including four at the Khawlan branch and one at the Arhab branch. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities ranked third with 15 dismissals, followed by the faculties of Languages, as well as Sharia and Law with nine each. The faculties of Science and Engineering each experienced seven dismissals; the Faculty of Media, six; Agriculture, five; Computer Science, four; Dentistry, two; and Pharmacy, one dismissal.

The decision, issued by the Presidency of Sana'a University and sealed with the executive formula, cited legal frameworks including the Yemeni Universities Law No. 18 of 1995, the Civil Service Law No. 19 of 1991 and Law No. 43 of 2005 concerning job systems, wages and salaries along with its executive regulations. However, in practice, the decision violated these laws in their entirety.

Upon thorough review, the Rights Radar team found that most affected academics were entitled to academic sabbaticals and had formally requested extensions as guaranteed under the Yemeni Universities Law and its executive regulations. Although department councils had approved these sabbaticals, some faculty councils rejected the requests, thus facilitating the arbitrary dismissals.

A second category targeted by the decision included academics sent abroad for studies, whose return was prevented by war and security threats. This particularly affected those who were opposed to, had sectarian tensions with or were politically and ideologically at odds with the Houthi militia. Their potential return posed a real danger to their lives, security and safety in Houthi-controlled areas.



University President's Decision No. (303) of 2018
Regarding Termination of Membership of Academic Staff and Assistants in the University

University President,
Having reviewed the Yemeni Universities Law No. (18) of 1995, its amendments, and executive regulations;
The Civil Service Law No. (19) of 1991 and its executive regulations;
The Law No. (43) of 2005 regarding the System of Jobs, Wages, Salaries, and its executive regulations;
The decision of the University Council from the minutes of its (first) meeting held on 30/09/2018, concerning the termination of services for certain academic staff members and their assistants totaling (117) individuals, starting from Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shaibani and ending with Samir Abdulrahman Al-Shamiri, allowing them a grievance period of three months.

Decides:

Article 1: Termination of the services of some academic staff members and their assistants at the university due to the interruption of work at the university. They are as follows:

No.	Name	Academic Degree	Faculty
1	Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shaibani	Professor	Arts & Humanities
2	Abdul Hakim Ahmed Salam Al-Sharjabi	Professor	Arts & Humanities
3	Fouad Abdul Jalil Al-Salahi	Professor	Arts & Humanities
4	Fadi Ali Abu Ghanem	Professor	Arts & Humanities
5	Riyadh Abdul Habih Al-Qurashi	Professor	Arts & Humanities
6	Ahmed Ali Mazhar Al-Makhadi	Professor	Arts & Humanities
7	Salch Yahya Sawah	Professor	Arts & Humanities
8	Balgis Mohammed Ali Jahari	Associate Professor	Arts & Humanities



DHAMAR UNIVERSITY

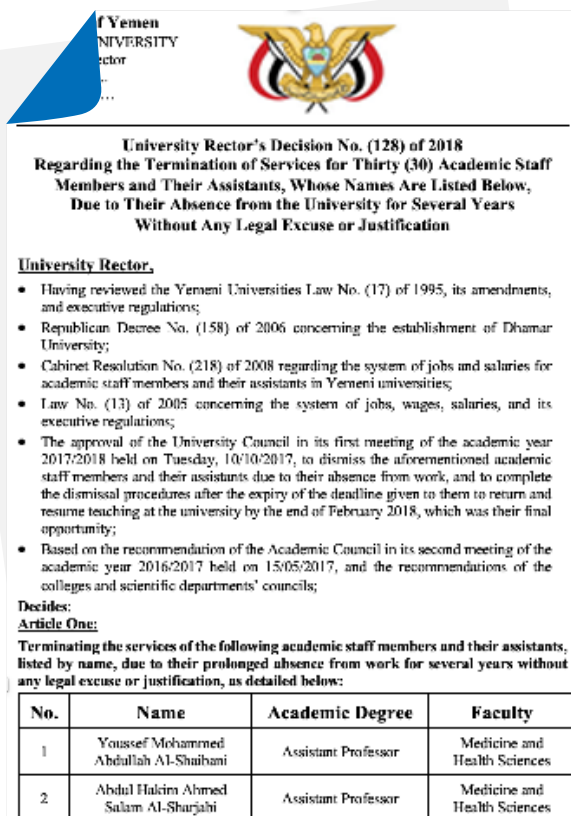
The Supreme Council of Dhamar University followed the example set by the Leadership Council of Sana'a University, adopting the same Houthi strategy aimed at “Houthi-izing” all government higher-education institutions. This approach involved arbitrarily removing qualified academic staff and replacing them with affiliates of the militia or less-qualified individuals, all outside the bounds of existing laws, regulations and systems, without regard for the disastrous consequences of these actions.

This was evident in the following two consecutive decisions — No. 128 and No. 129 — issued on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, signed by Dr. Taleb Taher Al-Nahari, who was president of Dhamar University and appointed by the Houthi militia. The decisions ordered the termination of the

services of 51 academics, including four female academics, one teacher and three female teaching assistants, distributed across the faculties of Medicine, Applied Sciences, Arts and Education.

The first decision affected 30 academics: nine associate professors, 14 assistant professors, one male lecturer and six teaching assistants, two of whom were women, spread across nine faculties. Engineering led with eight dismissals, followed by Faculties of Arts, Education and Medicine with five cases each, then the faculties of Agriculture and Applied Sciences had four cases each, and finally, the faculties of Computer Science, Dentistry and Administrative Sciences with one dismissal each.

The second decision targeted 21 academics, all teaching assistants, including a lecturer from the Faculty of Medicine; a teaching assistant from the Faculty of Education; and nine teachers, including six from the Faculty of Engineering and one each from the Faculty of Commerce, Faculty of Computer Science and Faculty of Dentistry. Additionally, 10 teaching assistants were dismissed, including three in the Faculty of Engineering, while the remainder were distributed among the faculties of Arts, Education, Media, Computer Science, Agriculture, Medicine and Applied Sciences.



Both decisions were justified using the same legal references as those used by Sana'a University's presidency, with "absence from work" cited as the primary pretext. This is unsurprising given that the planner, designer and executor of these decisions are the same, all pursuing identical goals. Their method follows the principle of "killing two birds with one stone," where every exclusion decision is immediately followed by a replacement decision.

One notable name on the dismissal list is Professor Sakhr Ahmed Hatem from Dhoran, Dhamar Governorate. Despite being included, Rights Radar verified that, at the time the decision was issued, he was imprisoned by the internationally recognized government in southern Shabwah Governorate. He

had been detained, along with others who fought alongside the Houthi militia on the Bayhan front in late 2017, before their first invasion of the governorate ended.

In mid-November of 2020, Sakhr Hatem was released and arrived in the city of Dhamar alone as part of a prisoner-exchange deal between government forces and the Houthis. At the time, the Houthi-appointed deputy governor, Sheikh Mohammed Abdul Razzaq, headed an official delegation to receive him, even though Hatem had been included in dismissal decision No. 129.

After a thorough investigation, the Rights Radar team uncovered reliable information revealing that Houthi leaders had exerted extreme pressure on Professor Hatem, who taught at the Faculty of Engineering at Dhamar University, forcing him to join their ranks. When he disappeared and lost contact, they promptly dismissed him from his position, just as they had done with others in their relentless search for new victims.



HAJJAH UNIVERSITY

On Thursday, May 17, 2018, the Hajjah University Council, led by Dr. Radwan Ali Al-Rubai, who was appointed by the Houthi militia, issued a decision dismissing up to 60 academics. This move was part of a broader Houthi campaign that saw over 2,000 employees removed from the payrolls of various state institutions in Hajjah Governorate, with their income cut off, in preparation for replacing them with personnel affiliated with the Houthi militia.

Although the Rights Radar team did not obtain a copy of this specific dismissal decision, it was consistent with previous ones in three key aspects: reliance on illegal legal references, use of arbitrary procedures and the pursuit of illegitimate hidden objectives. However, it differed in its stated justifications, which focused on alleged deficiencies in employment files and failure to complete fingerprinting and photo identification procedures.

According to reliable sources, Houthi leaders deliberately obstructed the academics classified as opponents, imposing obstacles to prevent them from complying with procedural requirements. Notably, the central committee responsible for the fingerprint system was blocked from accessing the governorate center and the university headquarters, effectively preventing these academics from completing the necessary procedures and thereby subjecting them to the mass dismissal order.

Moreover, the Houthi militia forcibly disappeared some of the academics targeted by the dismissal, detaining them in prisons across the governorate for periods ranging from one to three years. This cruel tactic denied them any chance to rectify their employment status or complete missing documentation, ensuring that their files remained incomplete, unverified and uncertified. As a result, their exclusion appears to be justified.



IBB UNIVERSITY:

At Ibb University, the situation was markedly different but no less troubling. The dismissal decisions not only violated applicable laws and executive regulations but also bypassed established decision-making hierarchies. Instead of progressing through the relevant lower-level departments, the decisions were escalated directly to bodies outside their mandate, reflecting a centralized and arbitrary administrative approach.

This was evident in the decision issued by the Supreme Political Council (SPC) on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, signed by Houthi leader Saleh al-Samad, the then-president of the council. The decision dismissed 26 academics from various faculties at Ibb University without any legal justification and was issued by an entity lacking both legitimacy and authority. Legal experts have described this decision as arbitrary and in clear violation of all applicable laws and regulations. The primary aim was to replace qualified staff with Houthi-affiliated academics, most notably Dr. Fouad Abdulrahman Hassan, an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Faculty of Agriculture. At the same time, the SPC appointed Hassan — despite lacking the qualifications required for the position aside from his political affiliation with the Houthi militia — to


be vice president of Ibb University.

About six weeks prior to this decision, academic sources at Ibb University uncovered a systematic, coordinated plan between the Houthi militia and the university's appointed presidency. This plan targeted the removal of 341 professors and staff across academic and administrative roles, all identified and classified as opponents of the Houthi militia.

The pattern continued on Monday, September 9, 2024, when the Houthis dismissed professors teaching Islamic thought at Ibb University, despite these professors having no political or ideological ties to the Houthi militia. This action was part of a deliberate, systematic effort to sectarianize the curriculum across the university and to shut down any dissent or intellectual risk to the Houthi militia's agenda. Reliable sources indicate that Abdul Fattah Ghallab, the Houthi-appointed academic supervisor for public and private universities in Ibb Governorate, ordered the university presidency to remove three professors teaching the "Islamic Culture" course. Their roles were reassigned to Houthi-affiliated members of the "Student Forum," who had previously been recruited to teach a completely different course called "Faith Culture."

FIFTH: VIOLATIONS OF HEALTH RIGHTS

Health constitutes one of the most important social, economic and fundamental rights. It plays a vital role in ensuring the preservation and implementation of other human rights, specifically the right to life and physical and mental integrity. The survival and enjoyment of this right depend on the level of health enjoyed by Yemenis, including university professors, and the extent to which relevant authorities respect this right as an inherent right and commit to providing it to all without discrimination.



This right does not stop at mere health care. It includes access to up-to-date information, the provision of clean drinking water, safe and adequate food, appropriate environmental sanitation and healthy working conditions. This should be done with consideration for the application of the principle of equal opportunity among beneficiaries without discrimination, the activation of the principles of participation and accountability, and the promotion of the values of freedom to ensure the cessation of all forms of physical harm in the name of medicine.

The current Yemeni Constitution guarantees the right to health care, as Article 55 stipulates: “Health care is a right for all citizens, and the State guarantees this right ... etc.” The new 2015 draft constitution further expanded on this aspect, with the fourth paragraph of Article 109 explicitly affirming the inclusion of health insurance within this right guaranteed to all employees in both the public and private sectors.

Yemen ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights early in the day on February 29, 1987, after its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on

December 16, 1966, and its entry into force on January 3, 1976. This covenant requires state parties to recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

However, successive governments’ steps toward implementing Yemen’s obligations as a party to this multilateral treaty have proceeded very slowly, without extending beyond the offices of the executive authority, which is not concerned with legislation and codification. The first step for universities was the issuance of Prime Ministerial Decree No. 238 of 1998, regarding the system of employment and salaries for university staff, which described health insurance as a privilege, not a right.

Based on Article 26 of the decree in question, each Yemeni university shall, at its own expense, provide full medical care for its teaching staff and their family members. This shall be done from its own revenues, not from the annual allocation provided within the state budget. Article 27, meanwhile, obliges the university to bear the full cost of treatment outside Yemen for any member of the working academic staff, should this be required.

After nearly a decade and a half, the Yemeni legislature passed Law No. 9 of 2011 on health and social insurance. However, it remained in government drawers until the issuance of Republican Decree No. 165 of 2012 regarding the law's executive regulations. These regulations, too, were not implemented for three consecutive years before the war came and disrupted not only the laws and their executive regulations, but all aspects of life.

The Sana'a University Council is credited with taking the first practical step in this regard by forming a committee to prepare a draft health-insurance regulation for university professors during its extraordinary meeting that was held on Thursday, August 23, 2012. This coincided with the issuance of the law's executive regulations, with an emphasis on the need to quickly develop initial proposals and submit them within two weeks to allow for a swift decision.

At the last meeting of the faculty unions, led by the Ministry of Higher Education, in late 2012, it was agreed that the latter would undertake the task of obligating Yemeni university presidents to provide health insurance for all professors and their assistants, in accordance with the law. The total amounts to cover annual costs should be included in the operating budgets submitted to the government at the beginning of each academic year, with the Ministry of Finance then communicating with the Ministry of Finance to release the insurance.

The Houthi militia arrived immediately after invading the capital, Sana'a, and took control of Sana'a University and other state institutions. Not only did they freeze all previous measures taken in this regard, but they also suspended the salaries of the university's academic and administrative staff and confiscated any remaining entitlements that had been disbursed under the name of bonuses, health insurance or internal and external medical aid and grants.

While all university professors and their assistants are starving, and dozens of them are silently leaving their harsh lives every year, unable to afford the medical supplies they need to alleviate their pain, the Houthi militia-appointed presidency of Sana'a University has approved health insurance for students enrolled at the university in exchange for a registration fee of 1,000 riyals, in addition to an annual subscription amounting to 10% of the total cost of medical services provided.

Literally, but to a lesser extent, the same systematic Houthi policies and practices to circumvent and confiscate academics' health rights have been repeated in other public universities located within the areas controlled by the Houthi militia. These violations and practices have centered around the deprivation of health insurance rights, as well as the refusal to approve any grants or medical assistance, putting the lives of dozens of university professors and their assistants at risk.

The situation does not appear to be any better for Yemeni universities located within the internationally recognized government's control. Given that some financial allowances for academics in particular and state employees in general, including health insurance, have not yet been included in the annual state budget there, what is being disbursed is the basic salary along with necessary allowances related to performance and job duties, such as incentives, transportation, appearance and others.

The basic salaries paid semi-regularly to government university professors and their assistants in these areas have also become ineffective and do not cover the most basic living expenses, including housing and livelihood. This is not to mention the exorbitant medical costs, given the horrific and accelerating collapse of the local currency — the new version — against hard currencies. This has exacerbated the health conditions of the majority.

Even the approved medical grants and aid disbursed in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government since early 2017 have been insufficient. These are very limited and do not cover the bare minimum compared to the actual needs of public universities. Furthermore, they are subject to double standards, while most academics working there are paying out-of-pocket for any treatment, and dozens of them have passed away simply because they couldn't afford to purchase the necessary painkillers.

Sudden deaths have increased among Yemeni academics in areas controlled by the Houthi militia and the internationally recognized government, for several reasons, most notably: occupational stress, excessive life pressures and the accompanying fear, anxiety and constant tension, followed by psychological distress regarding future matters related to money, health, family and work, which inevitably lead to death due to cardiac or neurological issues.

Conversely, the chances of survival have diminished for Yemeni academics suffering from chronic illnesses, whether in areas controlled by the Houthi militia or the internationally recognized government, for two main reasons:

- The first reason is related to the living and economic conditions and crises caused by the war, and
- The second is the result of some warring parties confiscating the academics' most basic financial and health rights, making them easy prey for these diseases.

The matter did not stop there. Even the COVID-19 pandemic and other epidemics and fevers that spread throughout most parts of Yemen, alongside the country having a war within its borders, did not spare most Yemeni academics. Those men and women suddenly found themselves facing an unequal battle, due to their salaries being interrupted and their health rights being taken away, on top of the fragmentation of official local and international efforts and the total collapse of the health system.

DEPRIVATION OF RIGHT TO MEDICAL CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Everything related to health insurance for university professors and their assistants at all Yemeni public universities quickly disappeared, starting with the fall of the capital, Sana'a, to the Houthi militia's overthrow of constitutional legitimacy. This continued until the Houthis seized control of most state institutions, including universities, between late 2014 and early 2015.

The situation worsened after the state employees' salaries were cut off in late September 2016, including academics, particularly those afflicted with chronic illnesses. They were completely unable to purchase medications to relieve their pain and suffering after being let down by

the conflicting war parties, who were only concerned with their own interests and funding their war, even at the expense of the health and safety of the populace.

All of this coincided with a near-total collapse of the country's health system due to the escalation of military operations by the warring parties, particularly during the early years of the war. The Houthis directly targeted most health facilities, some of which were completely destroyed, while others remained out of service, all while dealing with the terrifying spread of deadly diseases, epidemics and global pandemics.



In this context, the Rights Radar team verified the deaths of 141 Yemeni academics during the reporting period. They died from several causes directly related to health complications, diseases and epidemics prevalent in various Yemeni regions. Since the victims' salaries and other income sources no longer existed, and they could not pay for treatment, painkillers or specific medications, they then endured quite difficult financial and living conditions.

These deaths were distributed across 14 Yemeni universities, nine of which were governmental and four private. Sana'a University, under the control of the Houthi militia, led the list with 88 deaths, followed by Aden University, affiliated with the internationally recognized government, with a total of 34 deaths. All the victims at the two universities were academics who had been deprived of their most basic legitimate rights, such as salaries and health insurance, and were easy prey for all contracted diseases and epidemics.

Taiz University ranked third with four deaths, followed by Abyan University with three deaths, followed by Dhamar University and Al-Iman University with two deaths at each. The remaining deaths were distributed across the governmental universities of Hodeidah, Hajjah, Hadhramaut, Shabwah and Lahj, in addition to the private and community-based universities of Science and Technology, Dar Al-Salam and Dr. Amin Nasher Higher Institute for Health Science, with one death from each.

According to gender, academic degree and positions held by the victims of chronic diseases, seven Yemeni female academics died, two of whom were professors. The same number of them were assistant professors, one academic with the rank of associate professor, in addition to a department head at the Faculty of Administrative Sciences at the University of Aden and a contracted teacher at the Faculty of Education at the same university.

A total of 134 academics also died as a result of exposure to several deadly diseases and epidemics. Their right to health insurance was subsequently revoked, and their salaries and other financial entitlements were unlawfully seized, on which they relied heavily to cover the costs of treatment, medications and drugs necessary to protect themselves and strengthen their immunity to confront any health risks that threaten their lives, security and physical safety.

The academic victims varied, including 18 professors, 35 holding the title of professor, 16 academics with the rank of associate professor, 32 academics with the rank of assistant professor, two lecturers and four teaching assistants. A total of 27 academics holding administrative positions were also killed, including five university presidents, one vice president, five faculty deans, four faculty deputies and 12 department heads.



SUDDEN ATTACK DEATHS

Sudden fatal attacks, including heart attacks, strokes, blood clots in the heart and brain, as well as angina, have topped the list of diseases and epidemics that have claimed most of the Yemeni academics' lives during the war years and to date. These deaths are a result of the stresses of life and work, which have weighed heavily on everyone, amid a complete lack of conscience and a complete lack of responsibility on the part of the conflicting parties, particularly the Houthi militia.

The victims were public university professors and their assistants, whom some of the warring parties humiliated, plundered and confiscated all their financial entitlements and other benefits, including health insurance, which everyone relied on to alleviate some of the material and living

burdens of life. Their health conditions had been monitored through semi-regular checkups to avoid sudden death as much as possible. Within this pattern of violations based on deliberate deprivation and neglect, leading to death, the Rights Radar team monitored a total of 80 sudden deaths of Yemeni academics distributed according to their job affiliation across 12 public universities. Sana'a University, under the control of the Houthi militia, led the list with 46 deaths, followed by Aden University, affiliated with the internationally recognized government, with six deaths, then Hodeidah University with five deaths.

Three other public universities—Ibb, Dhamar and Taiz — followed with an average of four sudden deaths at each university. They were followed by the universities of Abyan and

Lahj, which were under the control of the internationally recognized government, with three deaths each. Hadhramaut University followed with two deaths, then Hajjah, Saada and Shabwah universities, with one sudden death each. The Houthi militia was responsible for the first two.

According to documented figures and statistics, strokes and heart attacks recorded the highest percentage, with 42 deaths affecting seven academics with the rank of professor. Eight others held the title of professor, the same number held the rank of associate professor, the same number held the rank of assistant professor, five lecturers, three teaching assistants, which are all in addition to four academics who held administrative positions distributed equally between the deans of faculties and the heads of departments.

Strokes occupied the second place, as they took the lives of 23 Yemeni academics, including seven with the rank of professor, two associate professors, five assistant professors, two lecturers and only one teaching assistant, in addition to three academics holding the positions of deans of faculties, one vice dean and two heads of departments at the universities of Sana'a and Dhamar.

Then came the deaths resulting from angina pectoris in the third and last place on the list of sudden attacks, as they also took the lives of 14 academics, including one professor at the Faculty of Education of the University of Aden, in addition to five holding the rank of professor, one associate professor, three assistant professors and one lecturer at the University of Ibb. In addition, there were two heads of departments at the universities of Ibb and Taiz, and a dean of a faculty at the University of Sana'a.

The Houthi militia was legally and morally responsible for 61 deaths, accounting for 76% of the total deaths reported across six universities under its control. Sana'a University recorded the highest number with 46 deaths, followed by Hodeidah University with five. Ibb and Dhamar Universities each reported four deaths, while Saada and Hajjah Universities each reported one death.

The internationally recognized government bore legal and moral responsibility for 19 sudden deaths of Yemeni academics, representing 24% of the total deaths across six universities under its administration. The University of Aden reported the highest number with six deaths, followed by Taiz University with four. Lahj and Abyan Universities each recorded three deaths, Hadhramaut University reported two, and Shabwah University reported one.

DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES LED TO AL-RAZIHI'S SUDDEN DEATH

Dr. Khaldoun Hazzaa Abdo Noman Al-Razihi, a Yemeni archaeologist and associate professor of Semitic Languages at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, Dhamar University, has recorded more than 200 Arabic texts related to the inscriptions of Southern Arabian Peninsula. He received the 2022 General Union of Arab Archaeologists Award and is a founding member of the Digital Archive for the Study of Pre-Islamic Arabian Inscriptions (DASI) electronic blog team at the University of Pisa, Italy.

Dr. Al-Razihi, originally from the Al-A'bus District in Taiz Governorate, returned to Yemen in 2014 after earning a doctorate from the University of Pisa in Italy. He had traveled there in 2007 on a mission to oversee the restoration of artifacts belonging to the Penon Museum. In late 2014, he settled into his role as head of the Department of Archaeology at Dhamar University, where he had previously been appointed as a teaching assistant a decade earlier.

For four consecutive years, Dr. Al-Razihi carried out his professional duties and academic responsibilities with unwavering dedication and commitment. He adapted to the difficult realities forcibly imposed on him, despite their many challenges. These included failed policies, arbitrary procedures, poor treatment, selective standards and harsh living conditions caused by salary cuts, all of which negatively affected the performance, health and mental well-being of employees.

By 2018, Dr. Al-Razihi had assumed the position of vice dean for Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Arts, Dhamar University. However, this promotion came at a time when such advancements had lost much of their meaning, given the absence of salaries and bonuses. It marked the beginning of a difficult new chapter for him and his family, who endured illness and hunger while living in a modest, poorly maintained home with just two cramped rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom.



Professor Khaldoun Al-Razihi continued to suppress his worries and pains and to fight the battle of life alone, deprived of the tools of defense and protection represented by financial entitlements and other privileges such as housing insurance and health care, which are rights guaranteed by law to ensure stability.

However, the contributions and achievements of the academic Al-Razihi, especially those that raised the name of Yemen high during several international forums, were met with constant (Houthi) ingratitude, to the point of begrudge even a symbolic honor for a scientific and archaeological figure of his stature, which doubled the man's feeling of injustice, marginalization, and cancellation, after which despair and frustration crept into his soul, and with them all his health and physical strength collapsed.

Al-Razihi continued to suppress his worries and pain, facing life alone and isolated, without the means of defense and protection typically provided by financial entitlements and other legally guaranteed benefits, such as housing insurance and health care, meant to ensure stability and help overcome the anticipated challenges of working in a high-risk environment.

However, the contributions and achievements of Dr. Al-Razihi, particularly those that elevated Yemen's standing in numerous international forums, were persistently met with ingratitude by the Houthi authorities. Even a symbolic gesture of recognition was denied to a scholarly and archaeological figure of his stature. This deepened his sense of injustice and marginalization, leading to growing despair and frustration, as well as a gradual decline in both his physical and mental health.

Consistent statements contained in documented testimonies from his colleagues and relatives indicate that throughout his academic and research career, Dr. Al-Razihi used public transportation at his own expense during his exploratory trips to various Yemeni regions in search of historical and archaeological landmarks and ancient Yemeni inscriptions. He even walked the distance between his home and his workplace because he could not afford the daily transportation costs.

On Monday, August 19, 2024, Yemeni archaeologist and epigrapher Dr. Khaldoun Al-Razihi passed away following a sudden heart attack. His death came after more than 15 years of continuous service, marked by a relentless struggle with life and livelihood that left him physically and psychologically exhausted. Despite his dedication, he received no humanitarian support, nor was he ever granted a comprehensive medical evaluation at the expense of the institution he so dedicatedly served.

DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO CHRONIC DISEASES

Yemeni academics suffering from chronic diseases endure a double burden: First, the personal pain and suffering that few others can truly understand; and second, the difficulty of accessing treatment and the inability to afford its exorbitant costs amid the harsh financial and living conditions imposed by the war. Meanwhile, some conflicting parties have grown accustomed to profiting at the expense of others.

The health of academics suffering from non-communicable diseases deteriorated rapidly following the suspension of salaries and other financial benefits, such as incentives and bonuses. These benefits had been their sole means of coping with pain and suffering, especially after the sudden disappearance of health insurance and the reversal of all prior regulations and measures governing it.

The Rights Radar team documented 78 deaths of Yemeni academics suffering from chronic illnesses. Their difficult financial circumstances, due to the interruption of their salaries and the deprivation of their health insurance, prevented them from receiving the necessary medical care. Most of them were unable to purchase medication. These deaths were distributed across 11 public universities, led by Sana'a University with 44 deaths, followed by Aden and Hodeidah Universities with six deaths each.

Taiz University came in fourth place with a total of five deaths of academics suffering from chronic illnesses, followed by Ibb University with four deaths, followed by the universities of Abyan, Hadhramaut and Dhamar, each with

three deaths. Lahj University followed with two deaths, followed by Hajjah and Shabwah universities with one death each, resulting from complications resulting from the deprivation of both financial and health rights.

Among the victims were 12 full professors, 28 academics with the title of professor, eight associate professors, 16 assistant professors and two teaching assistants. Additionally, 12 academics holding senior administrative positions, including three deans, two vice deans and seven department heads also suffered from chronic diseases and ultimately collapsed as a result of these difficult conditions.

Diabetes, often called the "silent killer," accounted for the highest death rate among Yemeni academics suffering from chronic diseases. During the period monitored, from 2017, when monthly salaries were suspended, until the end of 2024, 24 academics lost their lives due to diabetes. This was followed by high blood pressure, which claimed 15 lives, and hepatitis, responsible for 13 deaths.

Leukemia and malignant tumors ranked fourth, with 11 deaths, followed by irritable bowel syndrome symptoms, which caused seven deaths among Yemeni academics. Kidney failure and osteoporosis each accounted for four deaths. Among these, three occurred at Sana'a University, two at Taiz University and one each at the universities of Dhamar, Hodeidah and Aden.

Dr. Abdul Ghani was unable to purchase his diabetes and cholesterol medications on a regular basis due to his difficult financial situation, especially after his salary was cut off in early 2016 and the concerned authorities did not pay attention to his condition. He then completely stopped taking these painkillers and regulating medications for nearly two consecutive weeks, until his death, which was a tragedy for all his family and loved ones.



Al-Shara'bi: Facing the Absence of Medicine and the Lack of a Burial Site

Dr. Abdul Ghani Al-Shara'bi, one of the founders of the Department of Archaeology and Tourism at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Sana'a University, also served as head of the department. While others were busy chasing illicit gains from the smuggling and trafficking of Yemeni antiquities, he remained an example of dedication and devotion to all the tasks assigned to him in the areas of research and exploration within his specialty.

Al-Shara'bi suffered from chronic diabetes and high blood pressure, in addition to other chronic illnesses that suddenly struck him during the first year of the Houthi militia's control. His monthly salary was cut off at the end of the second year, causing a horrific, simultaneous collapse in his living and health conditions, equating him with the poor and destitute, until he found himself completely unable to purchase anything to alleviate some of his pain and suffering.

A. A. Sh., one of Al-Shara'bi's relatives, said: "Dr. Abdul Ghani was unable to purchase his diabetes and cholesterol medications on a regular basis due to his difficult financial situation, especially after his salary was cut off in early 2016, and the concerned authorities did not pay attention to his condition. He then completely stopped taking these painkillers and medications for nearly two consecutive weeks, until his death, which was a tragedy for all his family and loved ones."

The presidency of Sana'a University and the deanship of the Faculty of Arts, appointed by the Houthi militia, did not pay attention to Dr. Al-Shara'bi's health condition, which was rapidly collapsing in front of everyone. This was despite the pleas and calls of his family, as well as the cries of most academics who flooded social media platforms directed to both the internationally recognized government and the Houthi militia, in multiple attempts to save their colleague's life.

With every day that passes without him taking any of his prescribed medications, which remain mere ink on medical prescriptions without financial support or health insurance.

With each passing day without his prescribed medications — medications that remained nothing more than ink on paper due to the lack of financial support and health insurance — Dr. Al-Shara'bi's health steadily deteriorated. His pain deepened, and his illnesses worsened, eventually forcing him to retreat behind the walls of his home, isolating himself from the colleagues and students at the Faculty of Arts, whom he had bid farewell to just a week before his final departure.

In a post on his personal Facebook page, Dr. Adel Al-Sharjabi spoke about his last meeting with his colleague, Dr. Abdul Ghani Al-Shara'bi, at one of the faculty entrances. He noticed the signs of illness evident in the atrophy and withering of his pale face. He asked him about the reason. The answer was: "I have been experiencing a severe health collapse since I stopped taking my diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol medications because I couldn't afford them."

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, Dr. Abdul Ghani Al-Shara'bi passed away. He was poor and unable to even afford a proper burial site. He left behind a heavy burden of debt, accumulated over three years of war, during which he moved endlessly between hospital corridors and outpatient clinics. His long and exhausting treatment journey drained him both financially and physically, ultimately isolating him from his family, colleagues and loved ones.

DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

At the forefront of the widespread epidemics and viral fevers was the global coronavirus pandemic, also known as COVID-19, which resulted in the deaths of 72 Yemeni academics distributed across 11 Yemeni public universities. The University of Aden, located within the internationally recognized government, had the most and was first with 29 deaths. Sana'a University, under the control of the Houthi militia, followed with a total of 25 deaths. Taiz University, affiliated with the internationally recognized government, ranked third with four deaths. It was followed by the universities of Ibb and Hodeidah, located within the Houthi militia's control, with three deaths each. They were followed by the universities of Abyan and Lahj, located within the internationally recognized government's areas, with two deaths each. Then came the universities of Hajjah, Dhamar, Saada and Hadhramaut, all under the control of the Houthi militia, except for the latter, with one death per university.

According to gender, five Yemeni female academics died after contracting the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The first was a professor, the second was an associate professor, the third was an assistant professor, the fourth was a department head, and the fifth was a history teacher. They were distributed among the universities of Aden and Sana'a, with the former leading the list with four deaths, followed by the latter with one death.

A total of 71 Yemeni academics died as a result of being infected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which swept around the globe. Among them were 28 professors affiliated with three major universities: Sana'a University (13 deaths), Aden University (12 deaths), and Ibb University (2 deaths). Additionally, one death was recorded at each of the universities of Abyan and Hadhramaut.

Eight associate professors also died, with six of them equally divided between Sana'a and Aden universities. The remaining two were affiliated with the universities of Hodeidah and Lahj. Additionally, 17 assistant professors lost their lives — eight at the University of Aden, and four from the University of Sana'a. The remaining five cases were distributed among the universities of Abyan, Taiz, Shabwah, Hajjah and Ibb, with one death at each. Furthermore, the fatalities included one academic at the University of Taiz and one teaching assistant at the University of Aden.

In addition, 16 other Yemeni academics holding administrative positions died. Among them were two former university presidents, one from Sana'a University and the other from Taiz University and a vice president of Dhamar University. The deaths also included two former deans: one from the Faculty of Medicine at Taiz University and the other from the Faculty of Dentistry at Hodeidah University. Two vice deans from the Faculties of Agriculture

and Applied Sciences at Sana'a and Aden universities, respectively, also passed away. Furthermore, seven department heads were among the deceased, three from Sana'a University, and the remaining four were from the universities of Aden, Lahj, Dhamar and Saada.

Following two thorough rounds of sorting and analysis of the database of Yemeni academics who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was confirmed that within less than one month, specifically between May 12 and June 10, 2020, the number of pandemic-related deaths reached 31 cases at the universities of Aden and Sana'a. Of these, 22 occurred at the University of Aden and nine at the University of Sana'a, marking the peak of the pandemic's spread among academic institutions in Yemen.

The actual number of academic deaths during that period is likely higher than the officially recorded figures. Many of these unrecorded deaths closely matched the symptoms of COVID-19 but were not officially documented, either because the cases were never reported to authorized monitoring centers or because they were misdiagnosed as other common viral illnesses, such as influenza or malaria. These misdiagnoses often stemmed from misleading information provided by patients or their companions, influenced by widespread rumors and unfounded fears surrounding the pandemic.

According to consistent testimonies documented by doctors, colleagues and relatives of the victims, most of the academics who died were living in difficult financial circumstances that prevented them from purchasing protective equipment. This was despite the fact that the governing boards of the universities and faculties where they worked were legally responsible for providing such equipment and covering the treatment costs of each infected individual, either through health insurance or occupational hazard compensation.

The failure to take necessary measures to combat and confront the pandemic, followed by laxity in properly and promptly addressing its consequences, constitutes a violation of the right of academics, and Yemenis in general, to receive comprehensive medical care that could protect them from the scourge of the pandemic. Responsibility for this failure lies jointly with the conflicting parties and with the World Health Organization, whose role in providing international support is vital in such crises.

Between April 30, 2020, and August 24, 2021, the universities of Sana'a and Aden tragically became two mass graves due to COVID-19. This devastating outcome resulted from the complete absence of preventative measures and official preparations by the authorities responsible for confronting and combating the pandemic at both universities and, indeed, throughout the two capitals.

RIGHT TO MENTAL HEALTH

Amid successive war crises, compounded by the neglect and indifference stemming from the politicized nature of university council leadership, Yemeni academics endured one of their most difficult ordeals. They faced terrible and worsening health conditions, particularly those gripped by despair, haunted by the horrors of the past, intimidated by the present and fearful of a perilous future.

The situation was particularly terrible for university professors who had suffered significant losses or experienced severe, sudden shocks, such as the death of loved ones or the confiscation of their livelihoods. These traumatic events had a profoundly negative impact on their psychological well-being, with alarming signs of deterioration appearing rapidly. In some cases, even individuals known for their exceptional intellectual and mental resilience were driven into states of unconsciousness or into episodes of delirium and hallucination.

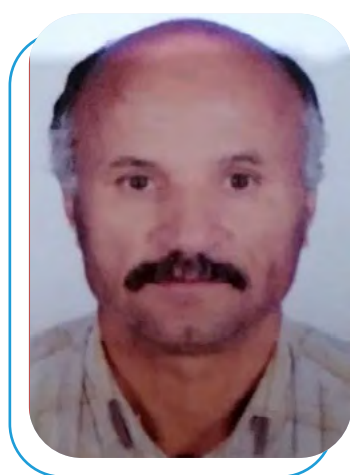
A similar scenario unfolded for teaching staff assistants, including lecturers and teaching assistants, whose dreams were shattered by the war and received no support or incentive to continue their graduate studies. This neglect had adverse effects that cast a long shadow over their academic and personal lives. What began as frustration — extinguishing the spark of hope and eroding their motivation — gradually progressed into anxiety and depression, ultimately paving the way toward psychological breakdown and, in some cases, states of unconsciousness.

Even more alarming are the policies of systematic humiliation and degradation employed by some of the conflicting parties in Yemen and their affiliates against Yemeni academics working in public and private universities. These policies aim to erode both their academic and social standing by coercing them into behaviors that violate professional ethics.

This includes the blackmail tactics employed — past and present — by the Houthi militia against university professors and their assistants at public universities under its control. Public positions and employment were used as tools of pressure and bargaining, coercing academics either to mobilize support for the militia's battlefronts by sending their children and students, or to participate in its sectarian activities, as well as its educational and military training programs.

Ultimately, this has caused some academics to lose their self-confidence — or, at the very least, to have it severely shaken. It has also led to a kind of psychological fragmentation, stemming from the internal conflict between two irreconcilable forces: the incitement to violence imposed upon them and their commitment to peace, an ideal that lies at the heart of the mission and mandate of higher-education institutions at all levels.

Dr. Saleh Abdul Rab Al-Ansi, the most skilled internal medicine doctor and prominent academic, is sitting on the sidewalk of one of the streets of the capital, Sana'a, which is under the control of the Houthis group, after the latter destroyed his professional and personal life, and exposed him to a huge and irreparable loss, robbed him of his mind, his only capital, and forced him to leave his lived reality with all its luxury and replace it with a virtual one called (the unconscious



He chose the Faculty of Sharia and Law at the same university, hoping to graduate as a lawyer whose mission would be to combat human rights violations to which he and his brother had fallen victim before realizing their dream.

EXAMPLES OF PAINFUL ACADEMIC CASES

Dr. Saleh Abdulrab Abdul Rahim Al-Ansi began his academic journey at University of Aden's the Faculty of Medicine, where he earned a bachelor's degree with a specialization in internal medicine. He went on to pursue postgraduate studies at Sana'a University, obtaining a Master's degree with distinction, followed by a doctorate in the same specialty, graduating with honors. His academic excellence earned him a position as a distinguished professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a University. In addition to his academic role, he gained extensive experience working in several public and private hospitals before establishing his own specialized clinic in the capital, Sana'a.

In early July of 2024, Yemeni activists circulated a video on social media showing Dr. Saleh Abdulrab Al-Ansi, one of the most skilled internal medicine physicians and a prominent academic, sitting alone on a sidewalk in Sana'a, which remains under Houthi militia control. The militia had systematically destroyed both his professional and personal life, subjecting him to a devastating and irreversible loss. They stripped him of his greatest asset, his mind, forcing him to retreat from everyday life and its basic comforts into a tragic, altered state of existence: a virtual reality defined only by unconsciousness.

The video showed Dr. Saleh Al-Ansi roaming the streets of Sana'a, gazing intently at passersby, searching for his two beloved sons. The Houthis lured them from their studies at the faculties of Medicine and Sharia and Law at Sana'a University to attend an educational course. His two sons were then returned as corpses from one of their battlefronts, leaving the bereaved father traumatized to this day.

Consistent accounts from colleagues and relatives of the victim confirm that Dr. Saleh Al-Ansi had two sons. The eldest, Nasser, 23, was a student at the Faculty of Medicine at Sana'a University, with a singular dream of becoming one of Yemen's most skilled surgeons. His younger brother, Diaa, 21, enrolled in the Faculty of Sharia and Law at the same university, aspiring to become a lawyer dedicated to fighting the very human rights violations that he and his brother had suffered. But, both sons never had the chance to fulfill their dreams.

SIXTH: VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO HOUSING AND SHELTER

The right to housing close to one's workplace is one of the most important privileges guaranteed to every Yemeni academic and university professor, according to Prime Ministerial Decree No. 238 of 1998 regarding the system of jobs and salaries for university professors and their assistants at Yemeni universities. Article 13 of the Decree explicitly states that "every teaching staff member has the right to reside in one of the furnished university residences."

In addition, an amount of 17,000 Yemeni riyals is paid monthly to each academic who is unable to obtain a furnished apartment within university housing, pursuant to Article 14 of the same decree. This is in addition to a lump sum of 300,000 Yemeni riyals for each academic who does not reside within university housing, to be paid upon appointment and for a one-time payment only, pursuant to Article 15 of the same decree.

The decision also took into account Yemeni university professors who may become totally disabled early in their academic careers. Paragraph (a) of Article 16 of the same decision stipulates that: “A teaching staff member who has been totally disabled shall remain in university housing or be paid a housing allowance until his death,” as the minimum obligation that can be afforded to someone who has given their all to serving their country and their profession. The same applies to the families of academic staff, whose status was regulated by the decision following the death of their breadwinner, who worked at a Yemeni public university. Paragraph (b) of the same article stipulates: “The family of a deceased academic shall remain in university housing until his youngest son reaches the age of 24 and until his youngest daughter marries. His widow shall remain in university housing until her death unless she marries someone else.”

It appears from the preamble that the decision was based on three main legal references. The first is the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen currently in force. The second is Republican Decree Law No. 17 of 1995 concerning Yemeni universities and its subsequent amendments. The third is Republican Decree No. 72 of 1998 regarding the formation of the government and the appointment of its members. The decision also cites the recommendation of the Supreme Council of Yemeni Universities and the approval of no less than two-thirds of the appointed members.

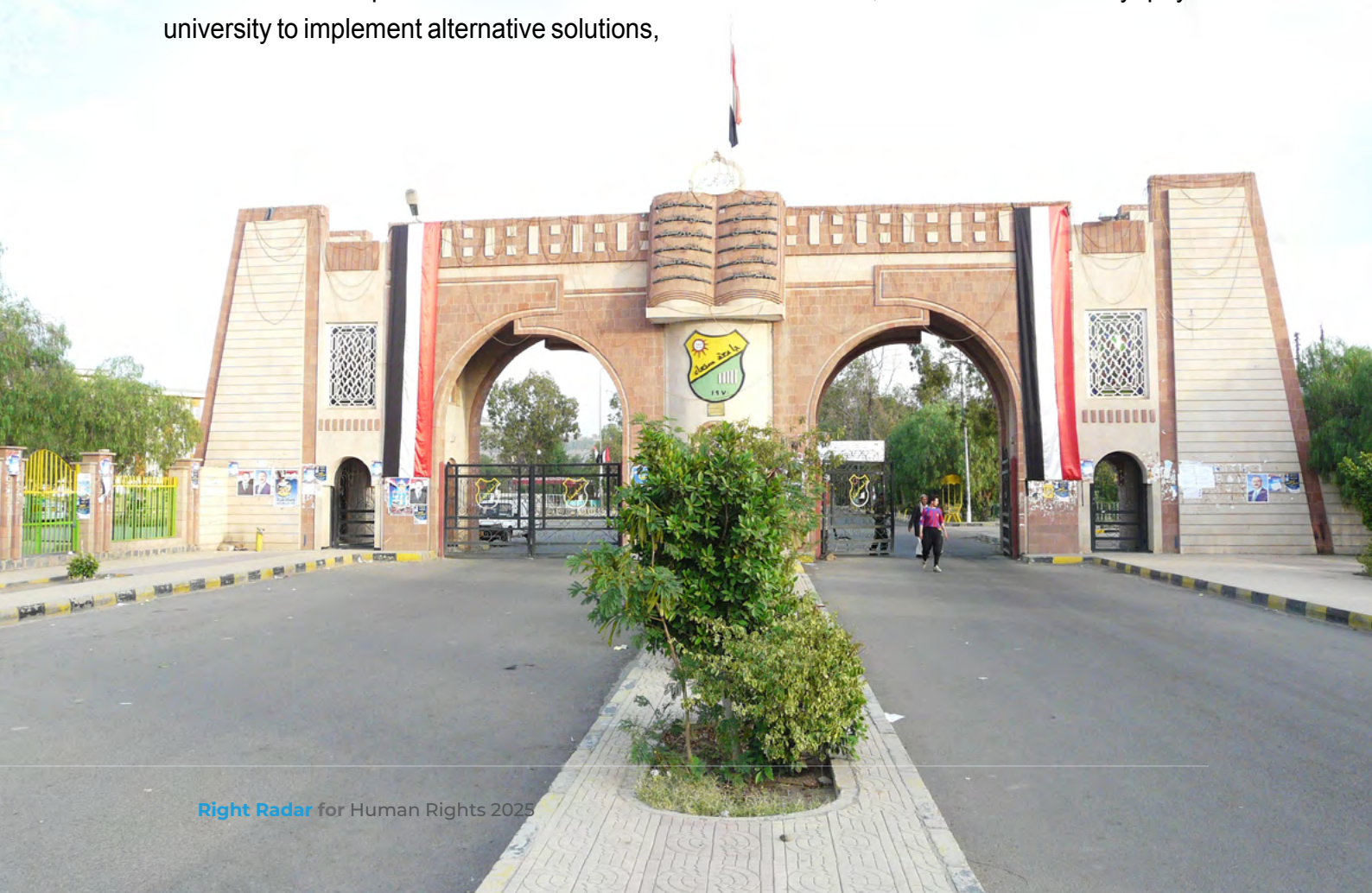
SANA'A UNIVERSITY

Concurrently with the issuance of the Prime Ministerial Decree, the relevant authorities took their first practical steps toward implementing the provisions related to this right, starting with Sana'a University, which began, in early 1999, to house a total of 200 university professors in furnished apartments in the center of the new building and its surroundings, as part of an investment project owned by the Ministry of Endowments. This was preceded by official efforts in the same direction since 1991.

The furnished apartments were very limited compared to the number of university professors who met the criteria and conditions of Sana'a University's executive housing regulations, which are free of any unfair restrictions or complications. This forced the university to implement alternative solutions,

such as paying a housing allowance to some eligible individuals who were not fortunate enough to be accommodated on campus, and then contracting with owners of houses and buildings surrounding the university to house others.

Things continued smoothly and easily for nearly half a decade before the number of academic staff at Sana'a University increased, along with increased requests for on-campus apartments. This was followed by signs of a severe housing crisis extending to the residential neighborhoods surrounding the university. This was then accompanied by a rise in the value of apartment and house rental contracts there and a subsequent doubling of the housing allowance bill, which the university pays.



The Academic Staff Union & Assistants did not remain passive in the face of this catastrophe. It escalated its protests against the Sana'a University presidency and pressured for the fulfillment of a list of legitimate demands, spearheaded by a call for urgent and radical solutions to end the university housing crisis. After a series of meetings between the two parties, an agreement was reached to contact the highest state authorities to provide land for a new housing project.

In mid-June 2005, a new agreement was announced between Sana'a University, headed by the late Dr. Saleh Basura, and Minister of Endowments Hamoud Abbad. The agreement stipulated the implementation of a project to build 500 residential apartments as a first phase for university professors on a plot of land designated by the former within the university campus. The project cost was estimated at 2 billion Yemeni riyals, to be paid in installments from university revenues and the salaries of beneficiaries.

Work on the project began in early January 2007, and by 2008, the structural framework of eight eight-story buildings had been completed, each containing eight residential apartments. However, this was a clear violation of the original agreement, which stipulated the construction of five five-story buildings, each with only four residential units. The intent behind these specifications was to prevent overburdening the structures and to minimize the risk of future collapse that could endanger the lives of residents.

During the same period, a dispute escalated between the Academic Staff Union & Assistants of Sana'a University and the Ministry of Finance about the housing allowance, which had been set at 30,000 riyals per month, according to the latest agreement. The Ministry stipulated that recipient of the allowance must vacate university housing in order to be eligible.

In late 2008, the Administrative Board of the Academic Staff Union reached an agreement with former University President Dr. Khaled Tamim, which included the latter's commitment to disburse a housing allowance to retirees and include it in the university's operating budget starting in 2009. Additionally, the issue of housing allowances for families of deceased professors was also submitted to the Minister of Finance for implementation.

In early 2009, work on the residential complex project was halted following sharp disagreements between the university presidency, the Academic Staff Union as the beneficiary and the Investment Authority, affiliated with the Ministry of Endowments, as the implementing body. This was due to the latter's failure to adhere to the plan submitted to it immediately upon signing the agreement and its insistence on building markets and shops within the residential complex and using the proceeds for the benefit of endowments.

Consistent and well-documented statements from academics who had benefited from this privilege indicate that, particularly after 2010, university housing began to lose many of the free services it had previously provided — such as electricity, water and telephone access. In addition, the Housing Administration, operating under the authority of the university presidency, imposed a series of arbitrary measures, including the introduction of monthly rental fees of up to 40,000 Yemeni riyals per apartment, depending on the number of rooms.

In mid-January of 2012, approximately one month after the announcement of the formation of the National Reconciliation Government headed by Professor Mohammed Salem Basindawa, work on the residential complex project for university professors at Sana'a University resumed. The previous dispute was resolved through an official agreement, under which the university presidency and the Teaching Staff Housing Association were jointly responsible for covering the construction costs. These expenses were to be paid from project revenues and subsequently deducted from the salaries of the beneficiaries.

In 2014, the new Government of National Accord continued its official efforts to address the housing crisis facing academic staff at Sana'a University through a two-pronged approach. The first focused on completing the construction and finishing work of the long-stalled eight buildings within the housing complex project. The second involved the distribution of free plots of state-owned land, located to the north and south of Sana'a through the Teaching Staff Housing Association.

On Thursday, September 13, 2012, the Sana'a University Housing Association announced the allocation of 75 new apartments to faculty members as part of the so-called "stalled housing project" within the new university campus. The distribution was carried out through a lottery among academic staff who had applied for housing in the buildings, which had remained inactive for nearly six years up to that point.

In early 2016, coinciding with the appointment of a new leadership at Sana'a University, loyal to the Houthi militia and headed by Dr. Fawzi Hamoud Mohammed El-Sagheer, the teaching staff housing crisis, along with both long-standing and newly fabricated problems, began to resurface. This followed a meeting between the Ministry of Endowments and the new university council to discuss previously resolved disputes concerning what had recently been renamed the Endowments Residential Complex.

The pre-planned meeting excluded the Academic Staff Union, a key stakeholder representing the project's beneficiaries. It concluded with a series of unilateral decisions, most notably the formation of an evaluation committee charged with assessing the eight buildings whose structural frameworks had been completed and estimating their total cost. This committee was tasked with overseeing an unfair sale and purchase agreement that favored the Houthi-controlled Ministry of Endowments, which operates under complete Houthi control.

The Houthi-appointed leadership of Sana'a University remained silent on the demands and proposals concerning both the old and new university housing projects. This silence appeared to be part of a systematic plan to seize the university's land and redirect its resources to support the war effort. Nevertheless, the Academic Staff Union & Assistants, as always, rose to defend the rights of its members by actively confronting all attempts to bypass or undermine them.

In an attempt to undermine the union's efforts and disrupt its resistance, Houthi leaders encouraged several residents of the Madhbah District, located west of the capital, Sana'a, who claim partial ownership of the land designated for the university housing project, to file a case with the West

Amanat Al Asimah Court. This move came despite the existence of official documents confirming that these residents had already received compensation. In all lawsuits filed, the claimants argued that the compensation amounts previously paid to them were insufficient.

With the sudden suspension of salaries for state employees, including academics, the housing crisis at Sana'a University worsened significantly, especially in light of the sharp rise in apartment rents outside the university campus. In response, the Houthi-affiliated Housing Administration implemented hasty and inappropriate measures that only deepened the crisis. Chief among these was the relocation of off-campus residents into on-campus university housing, ostensibly to absolve the administration of responsibility for accumulated rent payments. This action led to the displacement of many long-standing senior housing beneficiaries, who were replaced by newly appointed individuals or others with no affiliation to the academic staff. Moreover, this measure effectively shut the door on professors who had long awaited university housing, many of whom had borne heavy financial burdens for years, paying private rent without receiving the housing allowance to which they were entitled.

FIRST EVICTION CAMPAIGN

There were indeed real and documented violations that clearly contradicted the eligibility criteria outlined in the executive regulations governing university housing at Sana'a University. Among the most notable was the practice by some former beneficiaries, who had traveled abroad, of handing over their apartments to relatives or renting them out to individuals outside the academic community. This practice deprived more deserving university professors and their assistants of access to much-needed housing.

Despite the limited scope of these violations, the new Houthi-aligned leadership of Sana'a University, headed by Dr. Fawzi Hamoud Al-Sagheer, seized the opportunity to exploit the situation for the benefit of the Houthi militia. Using these infractions as a pretext, they launched the first eviction campaign, targeting 45 apartments. The majority of these units were occupied by the families of opposition-affiliated teaching staff members who had been unable to return to living in the capital city of Sana'a, due to legitimate fears of political revenge.

SECOND EVICTION CAMPAIGN

Beginning in early June 2016, and, coinciding with the issuance of its first arbitrary decision, No. 242, which ordered the dismissal of 119 academics, the Houthi-aligned leadership of Sana'a University, under Dr. Fawzi Al-Sagheer, launched a second eviction campaign. This campaign targeted 83 apartments, many of which were occupied by individuals affected by the dismissal order. While a small number of these academics had traveled abroad, the majority remained in Sana'a and had continued working in their academic roles up until the time of their dismissal.

The justification provided by the Houthi leadership for both the dismissals and the evictions was "interruption of work." However, evidence on the ground, as well as a detailed analysis of official databases and firsthand information obtained by the Rights Radar field research team, clearly demonstrated otherwise. Findings revealed that 71% of the affected academics were actively fulfilling their professional duties and residing in university housing with their families prior to their forced eviction.

THIRD EVICTION CAMPAIGN

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2017, armed men affiliated with the so-called Sana'a University Security Forces stormed the on-campus faculty housing complex. Acting on orders from University President Dr. Fawzi Hamoud Al-Sagheer, they forcibly evicted three university professors' families, throwing them into the street.

This incident marked the beginning of a third eviction campaign targeting 40 families, most of whom were relatives of deceased or retired academics. The affected families were issued notices requiring them to vacate their apartments within one week, without any regard for

their dire living conditions or recognition of the lifetime contributions their loved ones had made to the university's educational mission.

Like the previous campaigns, this eviction drive was marked by selective enforcement. It disproportionately targeted professors and their families known to be opposed to the Houthi militia, and was driven by political, regional and sectarian motives. While some individuals may have violated housing regulations, enforcement was arbitrary and exclusionary: no action was taken against those with connections to or affiliations with the Houthi militia.

EVICTED OF AN ELDERLY, DISABLED MOTHER

According to documented reports and eyewitness testimonies, including that of M.M.A., university security forces forcibly raided the apartment of Dr. Abdul Razzaq Al-Maamari, an associate professor of archaeology. During the raid, they evicted his family, including his elderly and disabled mother, who was over 90 years old. This incident formed part of a broader campaign by the Houthi militia to clear university housing of existing academic residents in order to reallocate the apartments to Houthi-affiliated individuals and leaders.

FAMILY OF THE LATE DR. BA ABBAD

One day after the previous eviction incident, the acting Director General of University Housing, accompanied by armed men, forcibly entered the apartment of the late Dr. Ahmed Arif Ba Abbad, a professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Arts at Sana'a University. His family members were expelled from the apartment, and several personal belongings, including mobile phones and laptops, were confiscated. This action was carried out in accordance with Memorandum No. 785, signed by Hussein Hazebe, the Houthi-appointed Minister of Higher Education, and addressed to the university presidency.

Two days later, a second memorandum, No. 32/2173, was issued by Dr. Abdul-Aziz bin Habtour, the first prime minister of the Houthi-led government. Addressed to the presidency of Sana'a University, the memorandum responded to a formal complaint filed by Dr. Ba Abbad's family. It demanded the immediate release of his eldest son, Jarrah, who had been arrested during the raid and detained in a private prison located on the university campus.

During the same period, the Houthi militia continued its campaign of forced evictions, targeting academics who opposed the militia. Many were expelled, along with their families, from furnished apartments within the teaching staff residential complex on the Sana'a University campus. These individuals were replaced by newly appointed Houthi loyalists who were granted supervisory and senior administrative positions despite lacking the academic credentials typically required for such roles.

These three eviction campaigns provoked widespread condemnation from multiple parties, as they lacked any legal basis and clearly violated Prime Ministerial Resolution No. 238 of 1998. This resolution governs the positions and salaries of university teaching staff and explicitly grants retirees and the families of deceased professors the right to remain in university housing until the children reach adulthood or the widowed spouse passes away.

On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, in what appeared to be a desperate attempt to retroactively legitimize previous violations, the Houthi-appointed President of Sana'a University, Dr. Al-Qasim Mohammad Abbas, issued Administrative Resolution No. 79 of 2020. This resolution amended the internal regulations governing university housing by abolishing the long-standing provision of free accommodation for teaching staff. Instead, it authorized the rental of teaching staff housing units to their current occupants in exchange for monthly lump-sum payments, which were to be paid directly to the university president. This move effectively formalized a practice widely viewed as unlawful, unethical and in direct conflict with national regulations protecting academic staff rights.

The amendment also included the retroactive calculation of monthly rental fees, starting from 2017, and specified the amounts owed by faculty members. In addition, it imposed further charges equivalent to the cost of university housing services. These amounts were to be deducted from the salaries of professors benefiting from the housing project, despite the ongoing suspension of salary payments, requiring prepayment. These burdensome and arbitrary measures prompted several teaching staff members to file formal complaints with the head of the Houthi government, the Minister of Higher Education and the House of Representatives.

In response, the Administrative Court of First Instance in Sana'a, presided over by Judge Zaid Mohammed bin Mohammed Al-Ghafari, issued a judicial ruling nullifying the administrative decision issued by the university president. The court also ordered Sana'a University, as the defendant, to pay litigation costs amounting to 15,000 Yemeni riyals in favor of the plaintiffs, a group of university teaching staff members. These plaintiffs subsequently appealed to the House of Representatives to exert pressure for the enforcement of the ruling.

The court's decision was based on the finding that the administrative decision violated Prime Ministerial Decision No. 238 of 1998, which governs the employment and salary system for university professors and their assistants in Yemeni universities. The university administration argued that the decision could be overturned only by a decision from the same issuing authority. In due course, and without resistance, the Houthi-aligned government issued Prime Ministerial Decision No. 32 of 2021, effectively amending the 1998 resolution.

This new decision, issued by the Prime Minister of the Houthi-controlled Sana'a government, introduced amendments to Decision No. 238 of 1998, which had originally been enacted by the internationally recognized Yemeni government. The amendments granted the Sana'a University presidency sweeping authority over the eligibility criteria for university housing, consolidating control in a manner that served the interests of the Houthi militia.

Notably, the Houthi revisions also empowered the university presidency to evict retired professors, the families of deceased teaching staff members and even academics on official study missions abroad or engaged in full-time academic duties. The new rules extended to those with any off-campus property ownership, regardless of whether that property was inherited or not fully under their control.

FOURTH EVICTION CAMPAIGN

Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Muta'a, chairman of the Housing Committee at Sana'a University, through official memoranda, copies of which Rights Radar have, notified several families of deceased academics and full-time teaching staff members residing in university housing that they must vacate their apartments within a period not exceeding 15 days. The justification given for these eviction notices is that one of the conditions for retaining the apartment is the continued presence of the faculty member and their active service at the university.

Al-Muta'a, who also serves as the university's vice president for Academic Affairs, based these notices on Resolution No. 32 of 2021, issued by the Houthi-affiliated Sana'a government. This resolution amended a previous one, Resolution No. 238 of 1998, regarding the system of employment and wages for university professors in Yemeni universities. The original resolution was issued by the Council of Ministers, which, at the time, represented the internationally recognized government.

Many of the affected families either lost their primary breadwinners, leaving only the spouse and children behind, or the academic in question retired. The government did not provide these families or retired professors with any alternative housing. Meanwhile, the supervisors of the residential buildings continued to demand monthly rent payments, despite the fact that the university administration already deducted housing costs from their salaries and benefits.

FAMILY OF PROFESSOR YUSUF AL-SHAIBANI

The late Professor Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shaibani, a well-known archaeologist and professor of history at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Sana'a University, was among the most prominent victims of the arbitrary eviction orders, even before his death. Despite having dedicated much of his life to uncovering Yemen's ancient heritage, including artifacts and Semitic inscriptions, and also being one of the few Yemeni scholars who was proficient in this specialized field, he was served an eviction notice.

According to a memorandum dated November 5, 2020, Dr. Al-Muta'a gave Professor Al-Shaibani just five days to vacate his university apartment, warning that failure to comply would result in a forced eviction. This threat caused severe psychological distress and negatively impacted his already fragile health, which rapidly declined, leading to his death approximately five months later.

Despite this, the university leadership, appointed by the Houthi-affiliated authorities, proceeded with the eviction of Al-Shaibani family from their campus residence. The eviction memoranda also included the names of numerous other academics at Sana'a University, particularly faculty members in the Department of Archaeology, such as Dr. Mohammed Ba Salama, a professor of ancient historical art.

FIFTH EVICTION CAMPAIGN

On March 15, 2021, the presidency of Sana'a University, under the control of the Houthi militia, ordered 38 academics and their families to vacate university housing designated for professors and their assistants within one week. The stated reason was their alleged violation of housing standards and conditions, including new regulations introduced by the Houthis under Decision No. 32 of 2021.

This directive coincided with an announcement by the committee tasked with removing violations in university-owned and rented buildings. The committee reported that it had completed the settlement of 124 apartments out of a total of 162, while 38 apartments were still being vacated and would be reallocated to teaching staff members who meet the revised housing criteria, in accordance with Decision No. 32 of 2021.

As usual, the Houthis' actions appeared to contravene existing laws and regulations governing housing for the teaching staff. The newly introduced amendments gave the Houthi-appointed university leadership broad authority to evict teaching staff members and their families under various pretexts, including death, emigration, prolonged absence or retirement, without due legal process.

In the same context, Houthi-issued statistics claimed that 45 retired academics were occupying university apartments rent-free, while 26 families of deceased academics remained in their residences, 10 of them complete families, and the other 16 just consisted of minor children. However, other documented sources indicate that these statistics exclusively pertain to individuals who were affiliated with or loyal to the Houthi militia.

SIXTH EVICTION CAMPAIGN

On Saturday, October 23, 2021, under the directives of Dr. Al-Qassim Al-Tayeb, the Houthi-appointed president of Sana'a University, Houthi militants raided several apartments occupied by the families of deceased academics. These families were forcibly evicted at gunpoint, without any legal justification and in total disregard for the years of dedicated service that these academics had given to the university.

Dr. Al-Tayeb reportedly instructed the Houthi militants to use force against any families refusing to vacate their homes. In the process, the militants confiscated household furniture and concealed it in unknown locations. Some also looted valuables during late-night raids, blocking residents from accessing their apartments or retrieving their personal belongings. In several instances, they coerced families into surrendering their housing rights in exchange for the return of confiscated items. Many were forced to leave without regard for the presence of elderly or ill residents, who were subjected to harsh and humiliating treatment. Among those affected were the families of the late Dr. Sultan Al-Ajil and Dr. Hussein Al-Falahi.

The evicted families included widows and children of deceased professors, as well as elderly retirees with no viable alternative housing or means to pay rent. These arbitrary actions occurred amid worsening economic and humanitarian conditions in Yemen, where most academics lost their salaries and were being denied employment opportunities by Houthi authorities.

These forced evictions also violated a legal ruling issued by the Administrative Court of First Instance on July 7, 2021. The court overturned the university president's prior administrative decision and ordered that the affected individuals be allowed to remain in university housing. The ruling further required the university president to pay the associated court costs.

Professor Al-Daghshi and his family

The campaign, which continued through the end of 2021, also targeted Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Daghshi, a professor of educational thought at the Faculty of Education at Sana'a University. He reported that he and his family were forced to vacate their apartment in the university housing complex after enduring persistent harassment and intimidation by Houthi authorities. The final incident, according to Dr. Al-Daghshi, was when armed female members of the Houthi militia, known as Al-Zainabiyat, raided his apartment in what he described as a "barbaric manner."

In a statement resembling a press release, Dr. Al-Daghshi detailed several earlier raids, carried out by the same militia members, which terrorized his family. He also received repeated threats warning that he and his family, along with their belongings, would be forcibly thrown into the street if they did not leave voluntarily. Ultimately, he was compelled to vacate the apartment, despite having spent a significant sum on furnishings and renovations during his residency.

Dr. Al-Daghshi further accused the Houthi militia of implementing a policy of racial discrimination against him, alleging that this discrimination extended to his sons and daughters, who were enrolled in various faculties of the university and in the affiliated Azal University of Human Development. He did not provide details on the specific nature or consequences of this harm but stressed that the standards for eviction were not applied equally. He noted that many Houthi-affiliated individuals, some with no official connection to the university, continued to reside in campus housing without facing similar threats or removals.

SEVENTH EVICTION CAMPAIGN

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, security forces from Sana'a University, accompanied by members of Al-Zainabiyat, the armed women's branch of the Houthi militia, carried out the seventh raid targeting the residences of university professors and their assistants, both on and off campus. The raid was conducted under the directives of the university's vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Muta'a, and aimed to enforce the evacuation of 150 apartments and forcibly evict their occupants.

Dr. Alaa Al-Asbahi

"Kill us... execute us. We deserve it because we educate your children for free. No honorable person should remain alive under your rule." With these powerful words, spoken in a hoarse voice heavy with pain, injustice and oppression, Dr. Alaa Al-Asbahi responded to the Houthi raid on her apartment. Prior to the Houthis' takeover, the Housing Authority at Sana'a University, under the supervision of the Academic Affairs Department, had been covering her monthly rent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FIRST: THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT

- **Cease Unlawful Interference:** All security and administrative bodies must immediately end any illegal involvement in university affairs and refrain from targeting academics for their opinions, research or academic activities.
- **Ensure Accountability and Protection:** National human rights institutions and the judiciary should be empowered to independently, impartially and effectively receive and investigate complaints related to violations of academic rights, ensuring both protection and redress for victims.
- **Compensate and Release Affected Academics:** Academics and their families who have suffered attacks must be fully compensated. All academics detained or abducted by either the internationally recognized government or armed formations, who are not charged with criminal offenses, must be released without delay. Perpetrators of such violations must be prosecuted promptly and fairly.
- **Address Financial and Professional Rights:** Authorities must respond to academics' demands regarding their financial rights, including the timely and full payment of salaries, and the provision of job-related benefits, such as bonuses, incentives and promotions. Efforts should be made to improve their overall living conditions, particularly with regard to secure and affordable housing, whether owned or rented.
- **Guarantee Health and Medical Care:** A safe and healthy environment must be provided for academics and their families. This includes ensuring access to necessary medical care, both domestically and abroad, and covering associated treatment costs.
- **Enhance Communication Channels:** Effective communication mechanisms should be established and maintained to ensure ongoing dialogue with academics, whether through direct contact or through professional unions and associations, to address their concerns and demands in a timely manner.

SECOND: HOUTHI REBELS

- **Release Detained Academics:** Immediately release all academics and university professors abducted and detained in Houthi prisons for their opinions, academic activities or affiliations, as well as ensure their physical and psychological safety.
- **End All Forms of Interference:** Cease all types, forms and levels of interference in academic and administrative affairs, and refrain from imposing appointments or security interventions that undermine the independence and integrity of academic work.
- **Protect Academic and Union Activities:** Stop interference in union and academic frameworks or activities, whether scientific, cultural or otherwise, and lift all forms of censorship on academic content.
- **Uphold Academic Freedom:** End repressive policies and practices; respect academics' freedom of opinion and expression, as well as their intellectual, political and personal beliefs, as a fundamental human right.
- **Review Detention Cases:** Conduct comprehensive reviews of all academic arrest cases, provide clear justifications for detentions, and ensure fair trials for those charged with criminal offenses in accordance with the law.
- **Ensure Academic Safety:** Take effective measures to guarantee the safety and security of academics in Houthi-controlled areas, protect them from threats or violence and respond seriously to complaints and reports of attacks, ensuring perpetrators are held accountable.
- **Guarantee Financial Rights:** Fulfill all financial entitlements, particularly unpaid salaries, and commit to ensuring their regular and timely disbursement.
- **Improve Living Conditions:** Provide the necessary economic and living conditions that enable academics to fulfill their duties efficiently and with dignity.
- **Honor Financial Commitments:** Adhere to prior agreements ensuring the salary disbursement and transfer of financial revenues to the Central Bank in Sana'a, Hodeidah or Aden, in accordance with relevant commitments.
- **Provide a Secure Living Environment:** Ensure a safe, healthy and secure living environment for academics and their families, plus cover all medical expenses, both domestically and abroad.
- **Reinstate Dismissed Academics:** Cancel all arbitrary dismissal decisions issued by the Houthi militia against academics for political or malicious reasons, and restore their positions.
- **Restore Housing Rights:** Cancel all amendments to internal regulations regarding staff housing, reinstate academics and their families who were expelled from university housing, and address their housing situations fairly.

THIRD: LEADERS OF ACADEMIC AND UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS

- **Enforce Academic Rights:** Uphold internal regulations that protect the rights of academics — foremost among them the freedoms of opinion, expression, publication and scientific research — and ensure fair and transparent procedures for handling complaints and grievances.
- **Enable Free Expression:** Provide safe and open platforms for academics to express their views and engage in discussions about academic and public issues without fear of intimidation or revenge.
- **Preserve Academic Independence:** Resist all forms of political or partisan interference in academic and administrative matters, and safeguard the independence of decision-making related to appointments, promotions, and curricula.
- **Ensure Legal Protection:** Provide legal assistance and protection to academics whose rights are violated by any party or authority.
- **Promote Integrity and Ethics:** Establish and uphold principles of academic integrity and ethics and actively combat corruption in all areas of academic work.

FOURTH: THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- **Address Human Rights Reports:** Seriously and attentively respond to all human rights reports concerning the conditions of academics in Yemen and engage with them in a way that reflects international responsibility toward this vital segment of Yemeni society.
- **Activate Legal Mechanisms:** Provide necessary legal support by activating relevant UN legal mechanisms to investigate violations of academics' rights in Yemen. Plus, take concrete steps to ensure protection and redress.
- **Prevent Violations and Protect Detainees:** Apply effective pressure to prevent further violations of academics' rights, and ensure the safety, well-being and health of detainees held by all conflicting parties.
- **Demand Payment of Entitlements:** Exert pressure on all conflicting parties, particularly the Houthi militia, to pay the salaries and fulfill all financial and living entitlements of academics.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

CACA	Central Agency for Control and Auditing
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
YEGRA	Yemen Early Grade Reading Approach





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.

YEMEN: The Assassinations of Great Minds

A Human Rights Report About Violations Against
Academics
2014-2024

RIGHTSRADAR |      

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



