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# YEMEN: KILLING BY TORTURE

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON MURDERS COMMITTED  
UNDER TORTURE IN YEMEN

FEBRUARY 2021





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# INTRODUCTION

The coup of Houthi militia resulting in seizure of the capital, Sana'a, on September 21, 2014, was a significant turning point in the course of events in Yemen because it led to the start of splitting structures of state and the collapse of authorities in this country. As a result, several negative events occurred very quickly.

Aiming to consolidate its control over the reins of power, Houthi militia seized the civil and military institutions and distributed its militias on all national facilities for controlling them. In order to not reach an explosive situation, the political parties in Yemen, including Houthi militia, signed a Peace and Partnership Agreement under the auspices of the United Nations at Yemeni Presidential Palace on September 22, 2014.

Houthis took advantage of the fragile situation of Yemen and cooperated with the military forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. They formed a political and military alliance and seized some northern governorates. On January 19, 2015, Houthi militia attacked President Hadi's house in the capital Sana'a. They also surrounded the Republican Palace in which the prime minister stayed and imposed house arrest on the president of the Republic.



On February 6, 2015, Houthis announced Constitutional Declaration in which they dissolved Parliament and enabled Revolutionary Committee, led by Mohammed Ali al-Houthi to lead the country. However, General People's Congress, the new Houthi ally and former President Saleh's party, declared its refusal to dissolve Parliament and agreed with Houthi militia on the remaining terms of the Declaration. On February 21, 2015, President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi managed to flee to Aden and declared it as a temporary capital for Yemen.

Houthis launched a military campaign to pursue President Hadi. They were backed by military forces loyal to former President Saleh. They could seize large parts of Aden. As a result, President Hadi was forced to leave Aden, and then he moved to Sultanate of Oman and, from there, he went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On March 26, 2015, "Decisive Storm" Operation was launched by a coalition of 10 countries, led by Saudi Arabia, to restore legitimacy in Yemen and put an end to Houthi coup.

"Decisive Storm" operation began with heavy shelling on the sites of Houthi militia and forces loyal to Saleh in various governorates of Yemen. As a result, Houthi militia arrested and kidnapped hundreds of citizens supporting the coalition and put them with hundreds of persons opposing the coup of Houthi militia. Houthis turned some opponents' houses—that were seized after the coup and buildings of civil society organizations—into prisons and secret detention centers.

Despite its weak military formations and armaments, the Yemeni army played an important role in Yemen. After the popular protests, known as the February Revolution, against former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in 2011, the Yemeni army was divided into two parts. The first part included those who supported the revolution against former President Saleh, and the other part were those who supported him. The latter part had more people, arms and training. This part of the Yemeni army united with Houthi militia with the approval of former President after Houthis controlled the capital, Sana'a, on September 21, 2014.

In 2012, President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi started restructuring the army. This led to weakening the army units that supported February protests. In addition, most of those military units also declared their rejection to

Houthi coup and supported legitimacy. After the attack of the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces and controlling most military sites, the remaining army units gathered with some individuals and military leaders who supported the legitimacy and rejected the coup of Houthi militia in Ma'rib and Al-Abr District. This was a major reason for stopping the advance of Houthi militia and Saleh forces toward the eastern areas of Yemen.

With the help of the Saudi-led coalition, a new army was formed from these military units that were loyal to the constitutional legitimacy in Yemen, but it was only a land army that had no naval or air forces and lacked the heavy arms. Yemeni National Army included most of the popular resistance formations that were a mixture of soldiers and civilians who took up arms against the coup of the Houthi militia. This National Army was able to extend its influence

over some of the Yemeni areas that had been previously seized by Houthi militia and forces of former President Saleh, as well as the eastern areas of Yemen.

The National Army, alongside with the Security Forces that were formed later, exercised its powers over its areas of influence, including building prisons and detention centers. Houthi prisoners, who were captured from the fighting fronts, alongside with criminal prisoners and civilians that the legitimate authority claimed to be subversive elements that worked in favor of Houthi militia, were sent to these prisons.

Within a year and a half from the start of Decisive Storm on March 26, 2015, to the beginning of September 2016, the forces loyal to the government, including National Army, Popular Resistance and Southern Resistance, with air and sea support from Arab Coalition, managed to drive the Houthis out of Aden and large parts of the southern governorates (Lahj, Al-Dhale, Shabwa and Abyan). These forces stopped on

the borders of Taiz and Al-Bayda. Other forces loyal to the legitimacy were able to control large parts of Ma'rib and Al-Jawf.

On January 7, 2017, Arab coalition-backed forces, especially UAE representing the major partner of Saudi Arabia in Arab coalition, moved to restore the areas and cities overlooking the Red Sea. They managed to take control of the coastal cities in Dhabab of Bab al-Mandab. They stopped on the outskirts of Al-Hodeidah in early June 2018. With the international mediation, the signing of the Stockholm Agreement was accomplished on December 13, 2018, between Legitimate Government and Ansar Allah (Houthi militia).

UAE-backed armed formations emerged, and they were not completely under the control of the legitimate leadership of Ministry of Defense. They included some separatists calling for the separation of south of Yemen. Support Forces, known as the Security Belt and Hadrami and Shabwa Elite Forces, were formed. These



military forces were loyal to the Southern Transitional Council which, on May 11, 2017, declared itself as a political entity seeking the separation of south of Yemen from north of Yemen. UAE contributed to imposing the Transitional Council as the authority in Aden and some other southern districts.

After the UAE declared the withdrawal of its forces from Yemen on February 8, 2020, it assigned the management of all the prisons that were under its supervision to the forces of Transitional Council. Emirati forces and Transitional Council forces used the official prisons that belonged to the state, in addition to turning some government buildings into prisons and detention centers. These prisons included civilian detainees belonging to the groups of political Islam, which UAE was against, in addition to some political and military opponents and activists who were against the policy of splitting and weakening the Legitimate Government in southern areas, which UAE had been practicing since the first operations of Decisive Storm. These prisons also included some of the soldiers who were captured during the military coup, which took place in Aden by Transitional Council against the legitimate government on August 10, 2019.

In August 2017, the alliance between the former President Saleh and Houthi militia failed. Houthis accused Saleh of betrayal, and he described them as a militia. In November 2017, this dispute developed rapidly and became armed clashes, which led to killing Saleh on December 3, 2017, as well as the withdrawal of his nephew and guard commander, Brigadier General Tariq Saleh, whom the UAE returned

to the military scene and absolutely supported him to rebuild the Republican Guard Forces that were loyal to Saleh with the name of Republic's Guards. These forces were divided into several brigades, and they were enabled to build their camps in Mocha city, located on the Red Sea coast. These forces led by Brigadier General Tariq were loyal to Emirates and did not recognize the legitimacy of President Hadi.

For achieving absolute control over the western coast, the UAE united the military formations fighting in the western coast, including Giant Forces, Tihama Brigade Forces and Republic Guard Brigades in one military entity called the Joint Forces. These forces were under the leadership of Brigadier General Tariq Saleh, and they were loyal to UAE and adopted the same security doctrine. Therefore, they built prisons and detention centers in their areas of control and sent the civilians opposing the splitting policy of UAE in Yemen to these prisons, as well as arresting some activists belonging to the Islamic political groups and some military people belonging to the Joint Forces, and their loyalty was doubtful, especially from among Tihama Forces.

Al-Qaeda took advantage of the chaos that followed the coup, and the Arab coalition intervened militarily and seized several areas in Yemen such as Mukalla, Shabwa and Al-Bayda.

In April 2016, forces loyal to the legitimacy and backed by Arab coalition were able to restore Mukalla. In 2017, forces loyal to Arab coalition were able to expel Al-Qaeda militants from most of the areas that were under their control in Shabwa and Abyan. The influence of Al-Qaeda was greatly reduced and became limited in small areas of Al-Bayda.

Al-Qaeda was similar to other armed organizations and factions. It consolidated its authority over these areas by establishing several prisons and detention centers for its opponents and enemies.

During six years of wars and conflicts, there were several parties who owned weapons and controlled a geographical area of land. These parties believed that they had the right to build prisons and detention centers for their opponents and opposing persons. They practiced the most horrific types of torture and oppression against the detainees and prisoners without fear of any authority, especially during the weakness and absence of the state.

Detainees were killed due to the severity and cruelty of torture, and all conflicting parties in Yemen committed the crime of torture against the detainees. Each party had a share of the crime of murder under torture, but with varying degrees.

Despite the difficult conditions and security risks that affected the human rights work in Yemen, Rights Radar and its monitors in most Yemeni areas sought to monitor and document murders under torture that were practiced by all parties inside prisons during the period from September 2014 to December 2020. The purpose is to make the local and international community and public opinion, in general, be aware of these crimes so that the rights of victims cannot be lost and the perpetrators cannot get away without punishment. It is worth noting that this report does not include all cases of murder under torture during the monitoring period. It includes only the cases that Rights Radar could access, monitor and document.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report starts with a necessary introduction showing the sequence of events in Yemen during the reporting period from September 2014 to the end of December 2020 in order to know the background and reasons for the formation of conflicting parties that committed abuses included in this report.



- The report also included the definition of torture and its purposes and effects according to Article No. 1 of the United Nations Convention against Torture (1984).
- The report refers to the methodology used by Rights Radar Organization for preparing it in accordance with the applicable international standards of international and local organizations by verifying and investigating the validity and reliability of information and data, interviewing witnesses and victims' relatives and collecting data, medical reports, etc.
- The report also shows the legal characterization of abuses related to murders committed under torture and deliberate medical negligence leading to deaths in prisons and detention centers. In addition, it provides a description of these abuses in accordance with laws, charters and international conventions regarding human rights, as well as the legal description in the Yemeni constitution and laws.
- The report also tackles the methods and ways of torture used inside prisons and detention centers that resulted in murders of detainees.

- The topic of this report, titled "Murder Committed Under Torture", is divided into three main sections, including the following three types of murder:

1. **Murders committed under torture inside prisons.**
2. **Murders resulting from deliberate medical negligence inside prisons.**
3. **Deaths of detainees shortly after their release due to the torture or deliberate medical negligence committed in prisons.**

### **First Type: Murders committed under torture inside prisons**

Rights Radar could document and monitor 271 cases of murder committed under torture in prisons. Figure No. 1 shows these cases and has distributed them among the conflicting parties committing these abuses.

- Houthi militia came first with 205 cases.
- The UAE-backed armed formations came second. These military formations and security units were formed away from the ministries of Defense and Interior of the Legitimate Government. Therefore, they were not subject to the authority of Legitimate Government and President Hadi. These UAE-backed formations included Security Belt Forces, Hadrami and Shabwani Elite Forces, Republic Guard, Giants Brigades and Abu al-Abbas Brigades, and they committed 55 murders under torture.
- Al-Qaeda came third with seven murders committed under torture.
- Authorities of Legitimate Government came fourth with four murders committed under torture.
- Regarding the geographic area of murder committed under torture in prisons, Al-Hodeidah came first with 43 cases, and then Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a, came second with 38 cases. After that, Aden came third with 33 cases and Ibb came fourth with 32 cases. The remaining governorates followed them as shown in Figure No. 2.
- As for gender and age factor, regarding murders committed under torture in prisons, men came first with 258 cases, and then children came second with 10 cases, and finally women came third with three cases, as shown in Figure No. 3.
- The report also monitored 16 cases of murder committed under torture in prisons and detention centers.

### Second Type: Murders resulting from deliberate medical negligence in prisons

The number of victims of this type of abuses reached 28 cases distributing between only two parties, including 25 cases committed by Houthi militia and three cases committed by UAE-backed armed formations.

- Concerning the geographic area of murders resulting from deliberate medical negligence in prisons, Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a, came first, with eight cases, and then Ibb came second with four cases. After that Aden and Amran came third with three cases each, and, finally, followed by the remaining cities as shown in Figure No. 5.
- Figure No. 6 also shows this type of abuses sorted by age group. Figure No. 7 shows these abuses sorted by the year in which they occurred.
- The also report monitored five cases of murder resulting from deliberate medical negligence in prisons.

### Third Type: Death of detainees shortly after their release due to torture or deliberate medical negligence committed in prisons

- Rights Radar could monitor and document 35 deaths resulting from this type of abuses. These cases were distributed between only two parties, including Houthi militia with 33 cases and the UAE-backed armed formations with two cases.
- As for the geographic area of deaths of detainees shortly after their release, Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a, came first with nine cases. It was followed by Taiz and Ibb with six cases each. Amran came third with four

cases. Finally, the remaining governorates followed them as shown in Figure No. 9.

- The report also monitored eight deaths of detainees shortly after their release.
- The report concluded with recommendations for the conflicting parties in Yemen, United Nations, as well as the local, regional and international organizations concerned with human rights, the released detainees, and finally the families and relatives of the victims killed due to committing torture in prisons.



Deaths of detainees shortly after their release due to the torture or deliberate medical negligence committed in prisons.



Murders resulting from deliberate medical negligence inside prisons.



CASES OF TORTURE MURDER INSIDE PRISONS

# REPORT METHODOLOGY

This report focuses on murders committed under torture and deliberate medical negligence resulting in deaths of some detainees in prisons in Yemen. It is one of the most important qualitative specialized reports. It sheds light on the ugliness of committing murder under torture in detention centers and during enforced disappearance in prisons that belonged to the conflicting parties in Yemen during the reporting period from September 2014 to the end of December 2020.

For preparing this report, Rights Radar has followed the methodology used by various international human rights organizations. The preparation of the report has gone through several steps.

- **First Step:** The monitoring and documentation team of Rights Radar Organization for Human Rights existed in 19 Yemeni cities. Rights Radar coordinated with its partners from the human rights organizations operating in Yemen. Then, the team monitored and documented the cases of murders committed under torture in various prisons, the cases of death that occurred shortly after leaving prison and the cases of deliberate medical negligence resulting in deaths of some detainees in prisons. After that, they verified and investigated the validity and reliability of the information and data that were monitored and collected. They also collected documents and evidence proving the validity of their occurrence, including medical reports, death certificates, official and non-official documents. In addition, they conducted interviews with some relatives of the victims who died under torture or after their release due to the torture they faced in detention centers or those who died in detention centers and prisons due to the deliberate medical negligence, as well as conducting interviews with witnesses regarding the abuses included in the report.
- **Second Step:** Forming a specialized team to analyze and study the information and data collected by the monitoring and documentation team for ensuring the correctness, integrity, evidence of the occurrence of these cases and the conformity with the legal and international standards recognized in such abuses. Then, they were put in a database to be sorted and analyzed according to the main topics included in the report.
- **Third step:** For reaching its final form, specialized jurists edited and reviewed the topics of this report.

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK

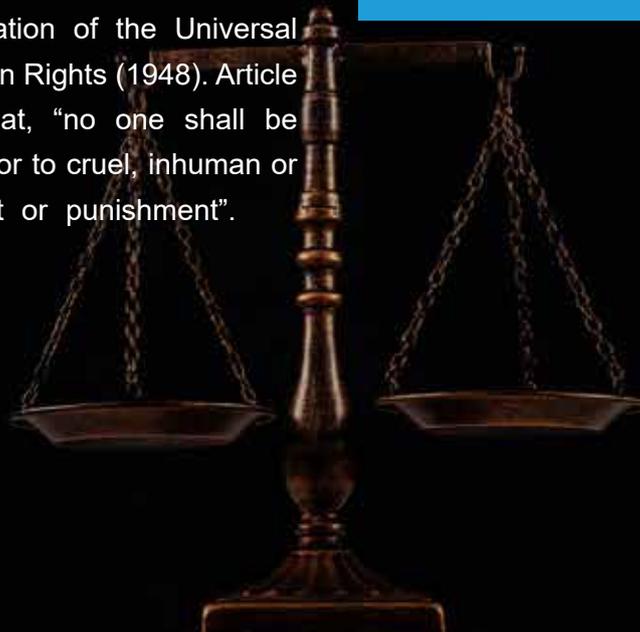
Torture crimes are among the most horrific and terrible abuses that persons can commit against their fellow human being because victims lose their humanity, dignity and right to life. Local laws, international charters and conventions have unanimously agreed to prohibit these kinds of crimes and seek to limit them by criminalizing and holding accountable the perpetrators and the persons who order them to be done and considering them as imprescriptible war crimes. These kinds of crimes have become widespread and are systematically used in the despotic states and regimes that impose their authority by force in order to suppress their opponents.

Detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in Yemen have been subjected to the most horrific types of torture, which often result in torture committed under murder and permanent disabilities, as well as deliberate medical negligence and preventing medication from reaching the detainees, which leads to the deterioration of health and death inside prison.

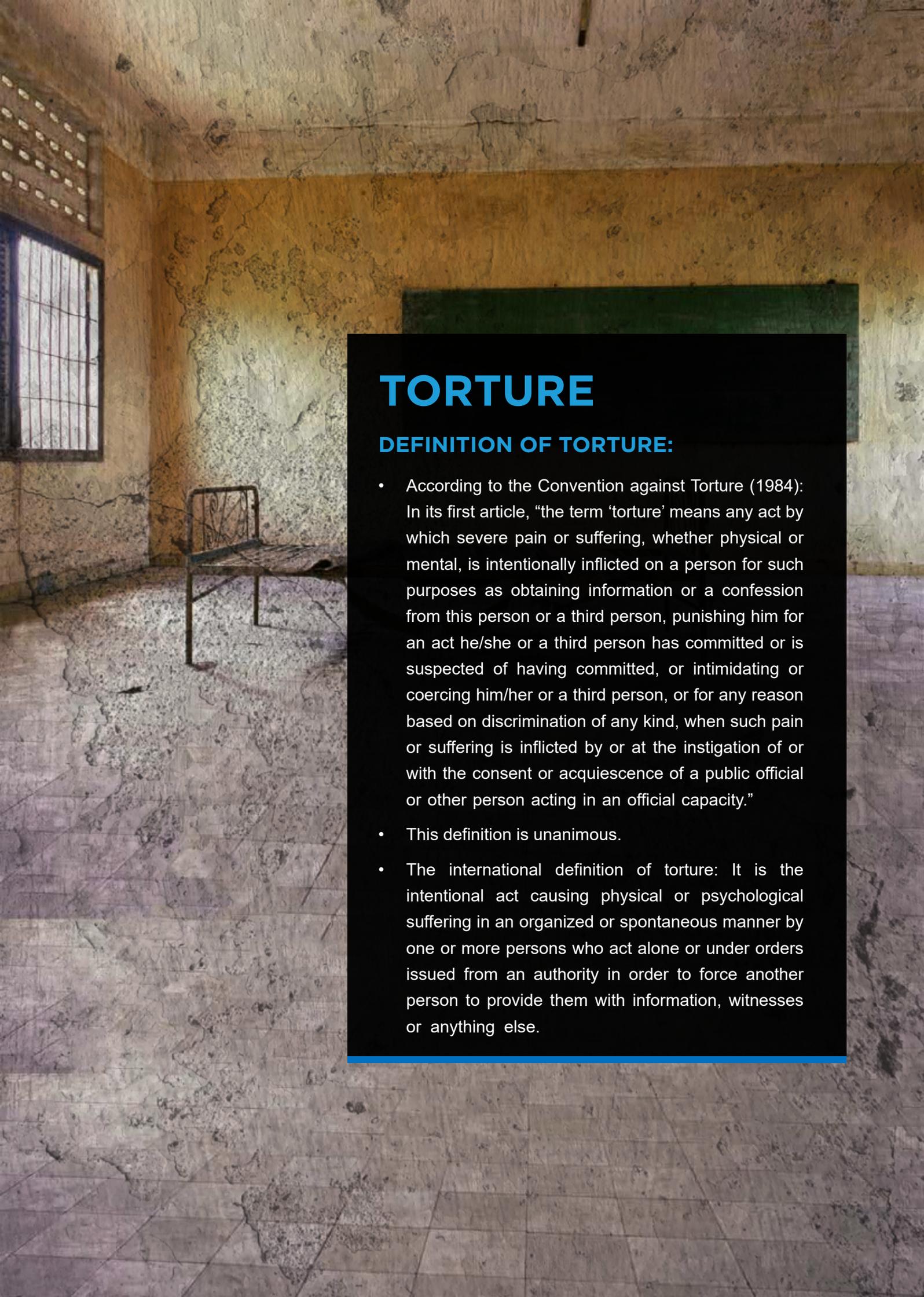
- Committing murder under torture in detention centers and prisons is an imprescriptible crime, according to local and international laws. The deliberate medical negligence resulting in the death of victim is a crime and a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Article No. 5 stipulates that, “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

- Likewise, Article No. 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the Model Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1955), the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of Persons from Physical Exposure and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1975), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (1988) and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (1990) all agree that committing murder under torture in detention centers and prisons is an imprescriptible crime.

- In the International Law, Paragraph A, the murder committed under torture is one of the war crimes that is classified as one of the crimes committed against humanity stipulated within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in accordance with Article No.7 of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, titled “War Crimes”, Paragraph A, “Grave Breaches of Geneva Convention”, issued on August 12, 1949, relating to the protection of persons from several criminalized acts, including Paragraph 2 “Torture or Inhuman Treatment”.



- Local legislation, including Yemeni Constitution, affirms the opposition to torture and prohibits it and all its types and forms. Paragraph B of Article No. 48 of the Yemeni Constitution stipulates the prohibition of physical, psychological or moral torture and prohibits the extraction of confession by force. Paragraph E of the same article stipulates that the crime of physical torture is an imprescriptible one. This Paragraph stipulates that, “The law shall determine the punishment for whosoever violates any of the stipulations of this Article and it shall also determine the appropriate compensation for any harm the person suffers as a result of such a violation. Physical or psychological torture at the time of arrest, detention or jail is a crime that cannot be prescriptible. All those who practice, order, or participate in executing, physical or psychological torture shall be punished.”
- The provisions of Yemeni Penal Law No. 12 (1994) also affirms the prohibition of torture. There is a sub-section of this law, titled “Abuses of Employment”. In the Republican Decree, By Law No. 12 for 1994, Concerning Crimes and Penalties, Article No. 166 stipulates that, “Any public employee who tortures or uses force, by himself or through others while carrying out his job, with any suspect or witness or expert, in order to force him to confess to a crime or give testimony or relevant information thereof, without prejudice to the right of the victim thereof to the right of retribution [qisas] or blood money or liable injuries compensation, shall be subject to a maximum imprisonment of ten years.”
- The Republican Decree – By Law No. 13 (1994) concerning the Criminal Procedures affirms this in Article No. 6 stipulating that, “The torture of any person convicted or charged is prohibited, as well as inhumane treatment, or cause of bodily harm, or harm to morale, for the sake of obtaining an admission of guilt... etc.”
- Law No. 48 (1991) regarding Prison Regulations has Section No. 5, titled “Health Care for Prisoners”, and Article No. 23 stipulates that “The prison administration must take care of public health in the prison and provide treatment, preventive health care and doctors for prisoners in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health.” Article No. 24 of the same law considers doctors’ instructions and notes concerning health, prevention, cure and nutrition for prisoners to be binding among prison administration.
- The Republic of Yemen is a member of the international community, and Article No. 6 of its constitution affirms the implementation of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and generally recognized rules of the international law.
- The Republic of Yemen is also one of the parties of several conventions related to the international humanitarian law, including the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- The Republic of Yemen signed on these international conventions, treaties and instruments related to respecting the principles of human rights, in general, the international humanitarian law, the law of war and the rules of customary international law. Therefore, Yemen is bound to respect and implement these international conventions.
- All the conflicting parties in Yemen, including irregular armed groups, must adhere to these principles relating to human rights, in general, and the Convention against Torture, in particular.
- In light of these treaties, conventions, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in general, and the provisions of the Yemeni Constitution and laws related to the prohibition of torture, in particular, and the rights and freedoms, in general, this report legally characterizes and describes the abuses regarding committing murder under torture and the deliberate medical negligence resulting in death of some detainees inside various prisons by the conflicting parties in Yemen.



# TORTURE

## DEFINITION OF TORTURE:

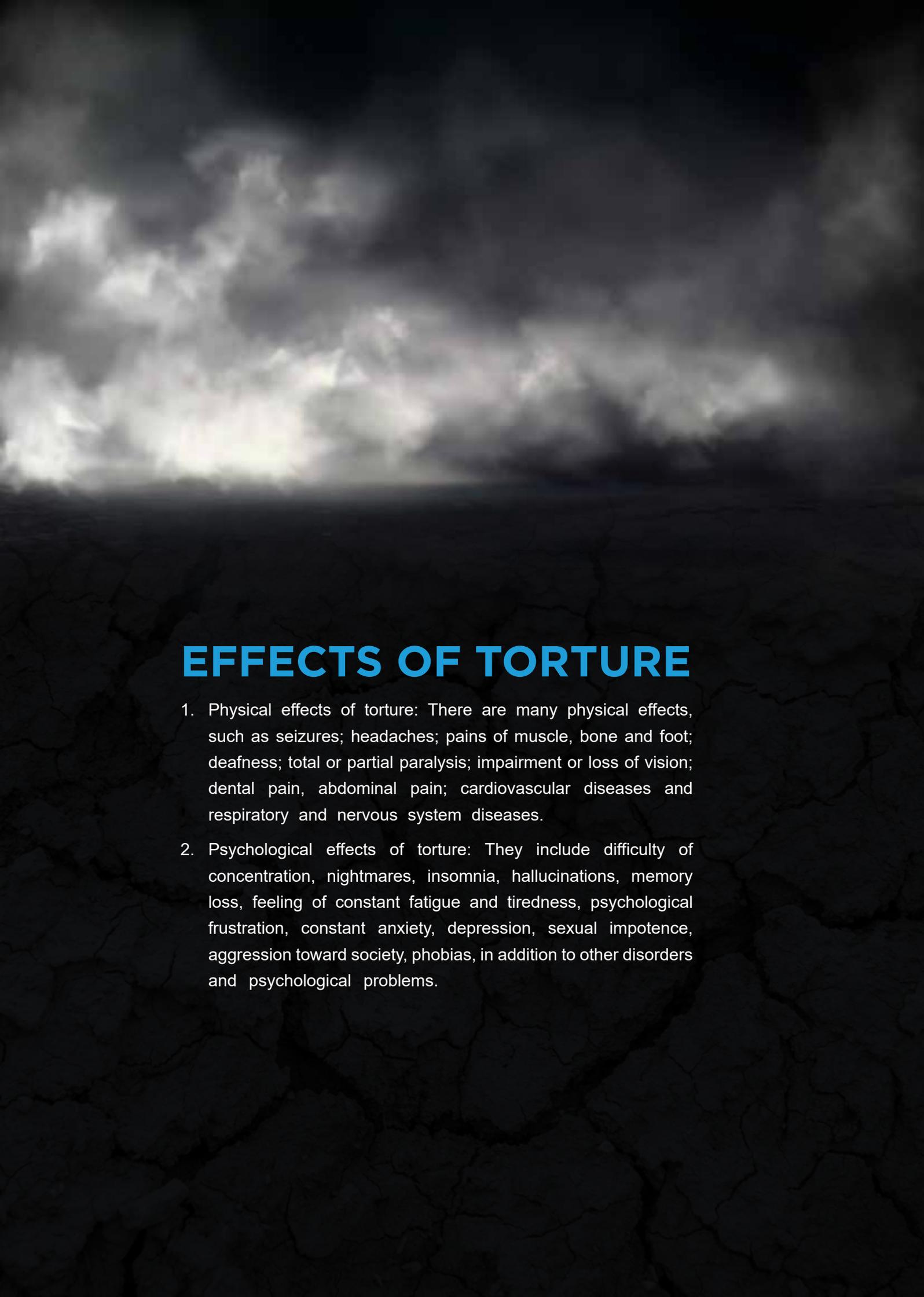
- According to the Convention against Torture (1984): In its first article, “the term ‘torture’ means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining information or a confession from this person or a third person, punishing him for an act he/she or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him/her 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 is unanimous.
- The international definition of torture: It is the intentional act causing physical or psychological suffering in an organized or spontaneous manner by one or more persons who act alone or under orders issued from an authority in order to force another person to provide them with information, witnesses or anything else.



## OBJECTIVES OF TORTURE

The objectives of torture are as follows:

1. **Obtaining information:** The most important objective of using torture is to obtain information related to criminal, political, military or other affairs.
2. **Intimidation:** It aims to spread terror and intimidate others by making the methods of torture known to the public, and then preventing them from carrying out any action or act that is not agreed on by the ruling authority.
3. **Destroying the victims and breaking their spirits:** This method is used to generate terror and feeling of inability and destroy the victim's spirits.
4. **Indoctrination:** This aims to persuade the detainee to abandon his/her previous ideas and opinions and adopt new ones agreed on by the jailer. The ultimate goal is to change loyalty by brainwashing.



# EFFECTS OF TORTURE

1. Physical effects of torture: There are many physical effects, such as seizures; headaches; pains of muscle, bone and foot; deafness; total or partial paralysis; impairment or loss of vision; dental pain, abdominal pain; cardiovascular diseases and respiratory and nervous system diseases.
2. Psychological effects of torture: They include difficulty of concentration, nightmares, insomnia, hallucinations, memory loss, feeling of constant fatigue and tiredness, psychological frustration, constant anxiety, depression, sexual impotence, aggression toward society, phobias, in addition to other disorders and psychological problems.

# METHODS AND WAYS OF TORTURE

Detainees and forcibly disappeared persons are exposed to physical and psychological torture in the various prisons and detention centers of the conflicting parties in Yemen, especially during the period of enforced disappearance and investigation with victims to force them to give information and extract witnesses under torture.

There are various methods of torture, and the executioners have devised new methods and ways. According to the witnesses of detainees who have been released, the methods of torture included beating with whips; electric wires or heavy tools; pricking with sharp tools; inserting needles or staples under nails and in knee and nose; dragging a detainee by legs while he/she is clenched by his hands, causing nerve rips and paralysis; forcing a detainee to drink sewage water; hanging from hands for days; electrocuting a detainee; putting a detainee in a water barrel and connecting it to electricity; removing nails and toes; ironing with fire on various parts of body; stripping a detainee during the bitter cold days and spraying cold water all night; preventing a detainee from having food and drink for long periods; putting detainees in empty water tanks during very hot days and threatening to liquidate them and deceiving them that they are executed by firing squad.

There were also victims who were shot dead inside the prison. In addition, detainees were

exposed to harassment and sexual assault, severe beating on all parts of the body to the extent that they suffered from total paralysis and memory loss, being suspended by the legs for long hours, putting them in dark solitary cells for weeks and months, resulting in impairment or loss of vision, and putting them in a certain position for a long time, such as standing or squatting.

There were other varied and dangerous types of torture, which led to the death of victims under torture and sometimes shortly after their release. The deliberate medical negligence of some sick detainees and preventing them from having medicine and treatment is one of the methods of torture, which leads to the deterioration of their health resulting in death.

Some of the released detainees mentioned some methods of torture that they were exposed to in detention centers and prisons. For example, Dr. Abdul Qadir al-Junaid was one of the detainees who was released from the Houthi prison. He talked about the crimes of torture and the methods used at the forum, titled "Torture, the Crime of Age", and held by the Human Rights Information and Training Center. This forum was held via video conference on occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26, 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/HRITC/videos/1152228388477400/>

## THESE METHODS AND WAYS RESULTED IN THE MURDER OF SOME DETAINEES.

This included murder due to torture inside prisons, murder due to intentional medical negligence as a form of torture for detainees inside prisons or death of detainees shortly after being released, resulting from torture or deliberate medical negligence practiced against the victim inside the prison.

Regarding the bad health conditions faced by detainees inside prisons resulting in various diseases and death of some detainees either inside prison or shortly after their release as a result of complications of these diseases, we talked with Dr. H. A., a competent physician working in a government hospital located in an area under the control of Ansar Allah (Houthi rebellion), and he treated a number of detainees of Security and Intelligence Service Prison who were brought to this hospital by military vehicles. He said:

- “Putting detainees in closed rooms causes great risks to health, especially the possibility of infection with respiratory diseases, such as tuberculosis and Coronavirus. The easy infection of these diseases resulted from the large number of detainees in overcrowded rooms.”
- Providing medical treatment inside prisons is often insufficient. It is deliberately delayed or prevented, and prisoners are usually given only non-prescription painkillers without any medical follow-up or

examination. As a result, they are exposed to kidney failure due to not receiving the necessary health treatment and using sedatives and painkillers for a long time. In addition, prisoners are not allowed to go to toilets and this causes urinary retention, which resulted in stone deposits in kidneys.

- Putting detainees in dark rooms without exposure to the sun causes the loss of vitamin D, and this results in a severe disorder in the role of the immune system, increased chances of occurrence of many health problems, such as osteoporosis and growth of fungi and bacteria.
- Lacking of balanced food contributes to detainees' health deterioration. This may be a way used to force them to confess and put pressure on them in order to obtain the required information by the repressive security apparatus.
- Psychological pressure put on detainees for long time can be used as a method of torture that may cause death in case that they suffer from the circulatory system diseases that lead to heart failure and high blood pressure.



## FIRST: MURDERS COMMITTED UNDER TORTURE INSIDE PRISONS

Murder committed under torture inside various prisons and detention centers belonging to the conflicting parties in Yemen is the most prominent abuse committed against detainees inside prisons. Rights Radar could monitor and document 271 cases of torture murder inside prisons. They were distributed among the conflicting parties in Yemen.



# 271

CASES OF TORTURE  
MURDER INSIDE PRISONS

## Houthi militia

came first with 205 cases of murder committed under torture in the areas located under its control.

## The UAE-backed armed formations

came second. They included the military formations and security units were formed away from the ministries of defense and interior in the legitimate government, and they were not subject to the authority of the government and President Hadi. These UAE-backed formations were Security Belt Forces, Hadrami and Shabwani Elite Forces, Republic Guard, Giants Brigades and Abu al-Abbas Brigades. They committed 55 torture murders in the areas located under their control.

They included 41 torture murders committed by the armed formations of Transitional Council and 14 cases committed by Giants Brigades and Abu Abbas Brigades.

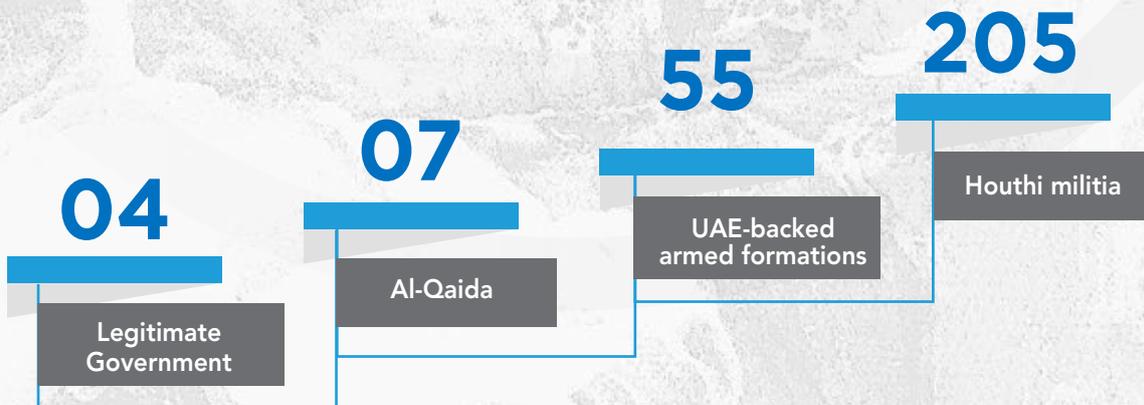
## Al-Qaeda

came third with seven cases of murder committed under torture.

The areas located under the control of the legitimate government came fourth with four cases of murder.

**Figure No. 1**

the total number of people who were killed due to torture inside prisons, and they are distributed among the violating parties.



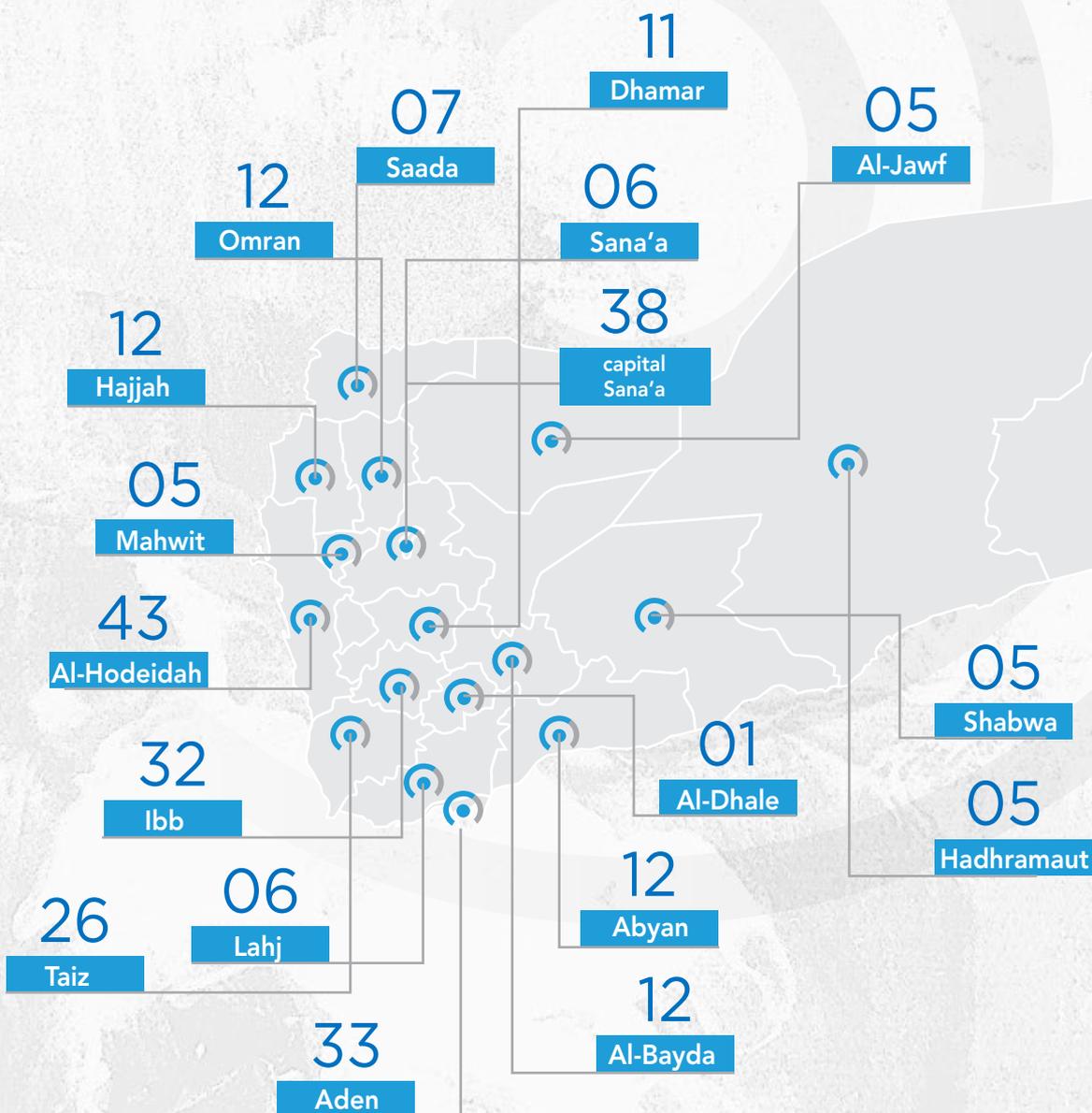
## Murders Committed Under Torture Inside Prisons

The distribution of abuses sorted by geographic area: First, the victims of torture who were killed in detention centers located in the areas controlled by Houthi militia, and then the areas under the control of UAE-backed armed formations, and finally the areas under the control of the legitimate government.

**Figure No. 2**

It shows the number of murders committed under torture inside prisons during the reporting period.

Sorted by Geographic Area



Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana'a, came second with 38 cases of murder committed under torture. Aden Governorate came third with 33 cases of murder committed under torture. Ibb Governorate came fourth with 32 cases of murder committed under torture. Taiz Governorate came fifth with 26 cases of murder committed under torture. Then, the remaining governorates are included in Figure No. 2, which shows the total number of people killed due to torture. These cases are distributed among these governorates.

### Murders committed under torture and sorted by gender:

Men came first with 258 cases of murder committed under torture out of the total number of cases that were monitored and documented in this report.

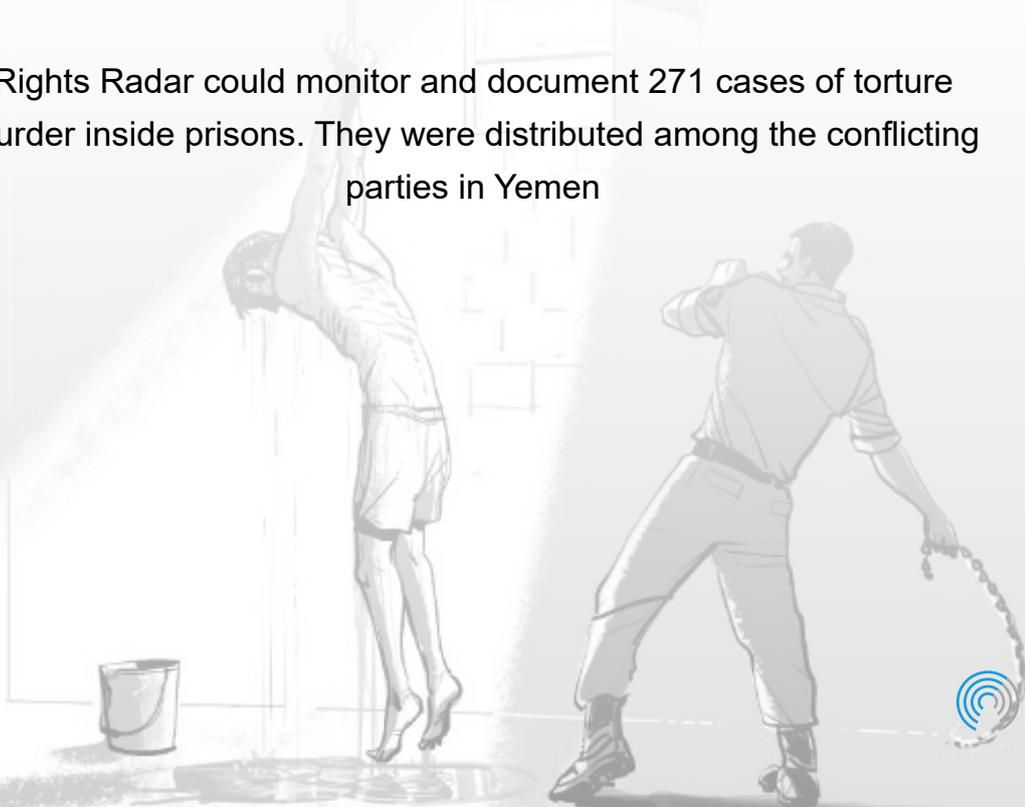
The number of children who were killed due to torture reached 10 cases.

As for women, three cases of murder committed under torture were monitored.

Figure No. 3



Rights Radar could monitor and document 271 cases of torture murder inside prisons. They were distributed among the conflicting parties in Yemen





**EXAMPLES AND CASES:  
MURDERS COMMITTED UNDER  
TORTURE INSIDE PRISONS**



### 1. Victim: Mohammed Mahmoud MUSAAD al-EMAD

**Age: 28**

**Marital Status: Married**

**Job: Soldier**

**Place: Hajjah**

On Friday, April 20, 2018, some Houthis were practicing their religion rituals in the mosque. Therefore, Mohammed Mahmoud MUSAAD al-EMAD objected to that deed. In the afternoon of that day, Mohammed was abducted and taken to the Political Security Prison in Hajjah. In addition, they prevented his family from visiting him.

Seven days later, on April 27, 2018, Mohammed's family was informed of his death. They claimed that he had hanged himself and committed suicide. His father received his body and found a fracture in his right hand and signs of torture on his left arm and the rest of his body.

### 2. Victim: Ali Mohammed Abdo Jamil

**Age: 42**

**Marital Status: Married**

**Job: Mechanic**

**Place: Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a**

On Friday, August 31, 2018, Ali Mohammed Abdo Jamil stood in front of the grocer's store, located on Sakhr Street near former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's home, and Houthi gunmen wearing civilian clothes drove him to an unknown place.

On Tuesday, September 4, 2018, a few days after his disappearance, they told his family that he had died. They claimed that he had committed suicide in prison, and his body was in Zayed Hospital.

The forensic doctor examined the victim's body, according to the duty prosecutor's order No. 568 dated on September 12, 2018, and the mandate of Forensic Medicine Department of the Office of Attorney General No. 491, dated on September 18, 2018. The forensic doctor's medical report confirmed that there were many bruises and abrasions on the victim's body resulting from hitting with a hard tool. In addition, he was exposed to injury due to electrocution and his head was hit with a hard object, which resulted in a cerebral hemorrhage causing his death.



### 3. Victim: Yahya Hussein Muadeeb

Age: 50

Marital Status: Married

Job: Farmer

Place: Hajjah Governorate

On February 9, 2018, an armed campaign that belonged to Houthi militia came to Mustaba District, Hajjah Governorate. While Yahya Hussein Muadeeb was leaving home for grazing sheep, he was summoned. When he approached the vehicle, he was shot in his shoulder. Then, he was taken to an unknown place.

On March 11, 2018, they told his family that he had died. His family found signs of torture, burns and bruises throughout his body.

### 4. Victim: Masoud Yahya Masoud al-Bakili.

Age: 33

Marital Status: Married

Job: Worker

Place: Hajjah Governorate

On October 23, 2017, Masoud Yahya Masoud al-Bakili was abducted from his home in Bakil Al-Meri District, Hajjah Governorate, by Kateb Batel, the Houthi supervisor in the District, and he was taken to an unknown place. After his father had searched for him, they told him that he was in the Political Security Prison in Hajjah Governorate. He was allowed to visit him for a quarter of an hour, but he was not allowed to see him again. Then, one year after abduction, his father was informed that his son's body was in the mortuary in Hajjah Hospital.

According to witnesses of some detainees, he was tortured until his hands were broken, and they used to hear his screams during the torture. They added that they saw him unconscious before he died.



### 5. Victim: Abdul-Ghani Ayed Jahlan al-Da'ani

Age: 40

Marital Status: Married

Job: Soldier

Place: Amran Governorate.

On July 30, 2017, some Houthi elements arrested Abdul-Ghani Ayed Jahlan al-Da'ani in Da'an Village, Amran Governorate. There was a complaint against him from his cousin, Ibrahim Jahlan, who was a member of the so-called Revolutionary Committee of Houthi militia in Jabal Yazid District and an officer in the Republican Guard loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

There was a dispute between the victim and his cousin due to farming land. Abdul-Ghani was sent to one of the secret prisons of Houthi militia in Amran.

On October 14, 2017, the victim was brought dead to the Military Hospital in Amran with visible signs of torture on his body.

On November 25, 2017, Abdul-Ghani Ayed's family was informed of his death by the head of the Revolutionary Committee in Jabal Yazid District and to come receive his body.

### 6. Victim: Hussein Ali al-Osaimi

Age: 55

Marital Status: Married

Job: Officer

Place: Al-Jawf Governorate

On the morning of Thursday, March 19, 2020, Hussein Ali al-Osaimi, Commander of the 161st Infantry Brigade affiliated with the National Army of the Legitimate Government, moved toward Al-Sulailah, Khabb wa ash Sha'af District, Al-Jawf Governorate. When he arrived there, he and his companions were exposed to a Houthi militia direct-fire attack. This resulted in the death of four persons, and al-Osaimi was wounded in his leg, and then three vehicles surrounded him. Finally, he and four people were captured.

On May 23, 2020, a prisoner exchange deal was made between the National Army of Legitimate Government and the Houthi militia and al-Osaimi was released according to this deal because he was injured. Instead, the Houthis handed over his lifeless body. The forensic doctor examined his body and found signs of torture indicating that he was killed under torture.



### 7. Victim: Majli Abdullah Hussein Farhan

Age: 53

Marital Status: Married

Job: Director of Department of Education in Saada Governorate

Place: Saada Governorate

On Sunday October 4, 2015, at 5 p.m., a group of armed elements led by Haider Sabr and accompanied with persons belonging to Beit Al-Selami broke into Majli Abdullah Hussein Farhan's home. They were driving a Vitara car. When they arrived at Majli's home, they knocked on the door. When he opened the door, they told him that he was wanted by the so-called Abu Amer, the security supervisor of Houthi militia in Saada. He asked them if he could change his clothes, but they refused and took him to an unknown place.

According to witnesses from among the released detainees, Majli was exposed to torture. They said that they met him in the National Security Prison in Sana'a, and he was tortured in prison, but they confirmed that he faced the most severe torture when he was in Saada prison.

Majli remained disappeared until May 4, 2017, when his family was contacted by Abu Taha Abd al-Rab Jarfan, the supervisor of Houthi militia in the National Security in Sana'a, who told them that Majli had died of a stroke, and his body was in the mortuary of Police Hospital in Sana'a. Finally, his family received his body and took it to Saada where it was buried.

### 8. Victim: Sadiq Qaid Farhan Ali al-Haidari

Age: 43

Marital Status: Married

Job: Teacher

Place: Taiz Governorate

On Monday, July 11, 2016, at 8:30 p.m., Houthi armed elements, led by the so-called Abu Raad, came in two vehicles to Sadiq Qaid Farhan Ali al-Haidari's home in Salah District, Taiz. They took him by force, while his wife and children watched, to an unknown place.

His family knew that he was in Al-Amjad Schools in Salh District, Taiz, where he stayed for three days. Then, they sent him to the prison of Al-Saleh Town, Al-Hawban District,



Taiz Governorate, where he stayed for some time. Then, they sent him to one of the secret prisons in Dhamar Governorate.

His family knew that he was sent to this prison when he told them that he did not know his place exactly. He used a phone, but it was taken from him. The owner of the phone told them that if they wanted to send him money or anything, they could put it in a grocery shop next to Al-Karimi, near Taiba Hospital in Dhamar. They refused to allow his family to visit him. Sadiq's mother waited for permission to visit him or even hear his voice, but she died a year after his abduction.

Some of the released detainees, who accompanied Sadiq in the prison in Dhamar Governorate, told Sadiq's brother that he was taken out of the prison cells and badly beaten. Then, he was dragged to prison so that he could not sleep either on his back or on stomach because of the severe torture.

On April 29, 2018, he was sent to Dhamar General Hospital suffering from cerebral coma and high blood pressure. In hospital, a CT scan was done, and they found that he had a brain hemorrhage. He remained in the intensive care, but he died on May 8, 2018, according to Dhamar General Hospital Report No. 397, dated May 12, 2018.

### **9. Victim: Bandar Ahmed Eideh Shatan**

Age: 38

Marital Status: Married

Job: Worker

Place: Saada Governorate

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 7 p.m., armed Houthi elements came to Nu'man Village, Al-Hashweh District, Saada Governorate. They broke into the village mosque and tried to arrest the mosque imam, but the prayers prevented them from arresting him. The gunmen started to shoot them. Therefore, Bandar Ahmed Eideh, his father and another person went out of the mosque. Then, they arrested them and took them to an unknown place. On the second day, Bandar was found dead and bound with chains in Al-Salam Hospital in Saada.



### 10. Victim: Ahmed Saleh Hussein al-Wahashi

Age: 34

Marital Status: Married

Job: Mechanic

Place: Al-Bayda Governorate

On October 15, 2017, Houthi elements abducted Ahmed Saleh Hussein al-Wahashi from his home in Mazouqin Village, Al-Bayda Governorate. He was taken to an unknown place and forcibly disappeared.

His family kept looking for him, but they did not find him. After that, Houthi militia contacted Ahmed's relatives and told them that he had hanged himself in prison, but the witnesses of released prisoners confirmed that they heard sounds of torture all night in Habra Prison in capital Sana'a on October 28, 2017. Then, they saw an ambulance leaving the prison with Ahmed's body. One of the witnesses confirmed that when Ahmed's body was washed, he saw signs of torture on his back.

His family received the body 20 days after his death. They paid sums of money so that the body could be examined by the forensic doctor, but the Houthis did not allow them to do so.

### 11. Victim: Walid Ali Qassem al-Ibbi

Age: 26

Marital Status: Married

Place: Amanat Al- Asemah, capital Sana'a

On November 12, 2016, at about 8 p.m., Walid Ali Qassem al-Ibbi was returning to his home with his wife. When he arrived at his home, some Houthi armed elements took him to the Criminal Investigation Prison in Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a. Three days later, on November 15, 2016, his family was informed that their son had committed suicide inside the prison. They claimed that he had shot his head with a pistol owned by one of the prison guards, and his body was in the mortuary of Kuwait Hospital.

The Public Prosecution was notified and Walid's father requested that his son's body must be examined by the forensic doctor to find out the cause of death. The body was examined by the forensic doctor, and he mentioned, in his report No. (888) dated December 12, 2016, consisting of seven pages, that there were signs of brutal torture on all parts of Walid's body.



The forensic doctor's report confirmed that Walid was subjected to severe violence before death, and there were bruises and abrasions on the lower limbs resulting from being hit with a solid object. There were signs of beating with this solid object on his feet, legs, thighs and buttocks. The cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and the traumatic injuries on the victim's body resulted from the physical torture, in general. The medical report also included more details.

### 12. Victim: Sarhan Saleh Yeslam Bu Shaml

Age: 32

Marital Status: Single

Place: Shabwa Governorate

On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, elements belonged to the UAE-backed Shabwani Elite came and took Sarhan Saleh Yeslam Bu Shamal from his home in Mayfa'a District, Shabwa Governorate, after he had quarreled with one of his neighbors. Sarhan was released by the Shabwani Elite, but they re-arrested him in the evening of the same day without any charge. He was tortured in the prison of Shabwani Elite Forces until he died on the evening of Sunday, October 7, 2018. The Elite Forces prevented his family from seeing his body. The body was washed and shrouded and only his children were allowed to see it.

Prayers for him were performed by his family and some neighboring persons with heavy guard by elements of the Shabwani Elite Forces.

### 13. Victim: Hussein Marwan al-Aidarous

Age: 20

Marital Status: Single

Job: Student

Place: Aden Governorate

Hussein Marwan al-Aidarous participated in a demonstration with a group of youths who called for improving the electricity service, accompanied by a number of citizens in the residential city of Enmaa, Aden Governorate.

Twelve young men, including Hussein, were arrested by elements of the UAE-backed Transitional Council militia on June 13, 2020, and they were taken to the Criminal



Investigation Prison in Aden and other prisons of the Transitional Council.

Hussein was away from his family for 12 days, and then they knew that he was in the Criminal Investigation Prison when he was allowed to contact them. One day after contacting his family, they were notified to come receive his body.

Hussein's family noticed signs of torture on Hussein's body, including beating with sharp tools and electric shocks on his face and the rest of his body.

His family also explained that their dead son told them through his phone call that five investigation members in the Criminal Investigation Department had practiced various types of torture against him, including severely beating with electric wires and stepping on him with boots. After contacting with his family, the torture became more severe until he died on June 13, 2020.

#### 14. Victim: Ammar Sultan Yasser

Age: 24

Marital Status: Single

Job: worker

Place: Aden Governorate

In mid-May 2019, Ammar Sultan Yasser was arrested by elements of the 20th Brigade of the Security Belt Forces in the Al-Badri neighborhood in Crater District, Aden Governorate, who worked under the authority of the UAE-backed Transitional Council supported. He was charged with stealing cars. He was exposed to various types of torture during his detention.

On Friday, May 31, 2019, Ammar's family was informed that he had died. Colonel Imam al-Nubi, the 20th Brigade commander, told them that Ammar had committed suicide.



### 15. Victim: Mohammed Saleh Fadl al-Noum

Age: 35

Marital Status: Married

Job: Employee in Electricity Corporation

Place: Aden Governorate

On July 13, 2016, UAE- supervised security forces arrested two citizens, including Mohammed Saleh Fadl al-Noum who was arrested in front of his house in Al-Mansoura District, Aden Governorate. Mohammed remained forcibly disappeared, and his family did not know the place of detention until June 6, 2018.

Mohammed's family was shocked when they saw pictures of his body after his death about two years after being arrested and forcibly disappeared by these security forces. His family reported that they were shocked when an unknown person published the pictures of their dead son, displaying signs of torture.

### 16. Victim: Mohammed Mahdi Yeslam

Age: 23

Job: Worker

Place: Lahj Governorate

On August 10, 2019, Aden witnessed widespread violence and physical liquidations committed by elements of the Transitional Council against their opponents who supported the legitimate government after the Transitional Council militia had controlled Aden Governorate.

Mohammed Mahdi Yeslam was arrested and sent to a prison belonging to the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces, and he was exposed to torture inside this prison.

On October 1, 2019, Mohammed died in a prison belonging to the Fifth Brigade led by Saleh al-Sayed. Then his body was sent to Ibn Khaldun Hospital in Lahj Governorate, and it remained there for 12 days until his family was informed of his death.

## SECOND: MURDERS COMMITTED INSIDE PRISONS DUE TO DELIBERATE MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

Rights Radar recorded witnesses of detainees who could escape death due to the deliberate medical negligence during suffering from some diseases inside prisons. It also documented witnesses of families about detainees died in prisons and detention centers due to deliberate medical negligence.

They mentioned miserable and painful conditions for detainees inside prisons and how people in charge of these prisons did not keep the minimum of human rights. These witnesses confirmed that the medical negligence was used in a deliberate manner as a method to get rid of civilian opponents through slow killing.

The painful situation inside prisons and detention centers in Yemen assures that health care for detainees is almost non-existent. This has led to the increase of detainees' deaths.

### Features of medical negligence in prisons and detention centers:

- The lack of clinics and health centers in prisons.
- Although there are few clinics and health centers, they lack the required medical equipment.
- The lack of clean environment and qualified medical staff of specialized doctors and nurses.
- Lack of medical devices and equipment.
- Lack of medicines and treatments.
- Lack of means that can find out and diagnose diseases, such as analysis laboratories, X-ray sections, etc.

### Classification of diseases suffered by detainees in prisons:

The medical reports, the witnesses of detainees after their release, and the witnesses of detainees' families and relatives confirmed that the diseases suffered by the detainees during the detention period resulted from the deliberate medical negligence and the brutal torture that they faced in those prisons, including the following:

- Heart diseases
- Bone diseases
- Respiratory system diseases
- Skin diseases
- Nervous system diseases
- Urinary system diseases
- Eye and dental diseases
- Indigestion and food poisoning
- Diabetes

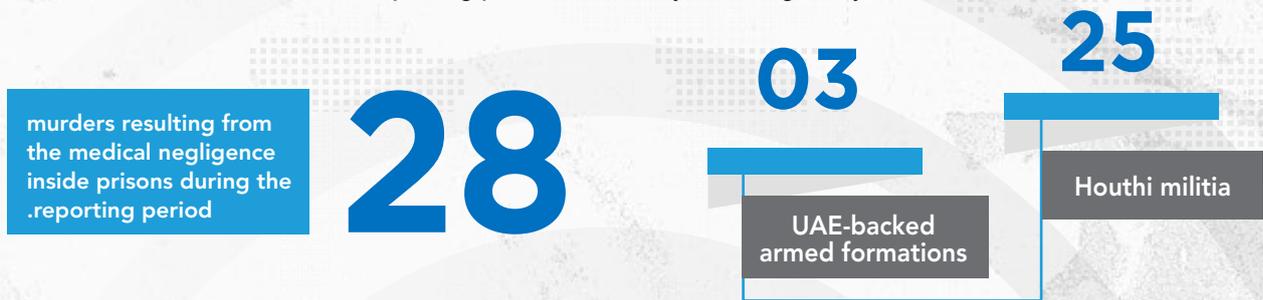
Detainees experienced very bad health conditions in prisons. They faced systematic methods for weakening their bodies by depriving them of the required medical care as one of the methods of oppression, humiliation and torture practiced by the persons in charge of these prisons and detention centers belonging to the various conflicting parties in Yemen.

During the reporting period, Rights Radar's monitors documented 28 cases of murders resulting from the deliberate medical negligence inside the various prisons and detention centers of the conflicting parties in Yemen.

**Murders sorted by violating party:** Houthi militia came first with 25 cases of deliberate medical negligence. The UAE-backed armed formations affiliated with Transitional Council came second with three cases.

**Figure No. 4**

murders resulting from the medical negligence inside prisons during the reporting period. Sorted by Violating Party



Murders sorted by geographic area: Prisons and detention centers located in the governorates controlled by Houthi militia had the largest number of murders committed inside prisons and detention centers due to the deliberate medical negligence practiced by jailers as a form of torture.

Amanat Al-Asemah came first with eight cases of murders resulting from the deliberate medical negligence.

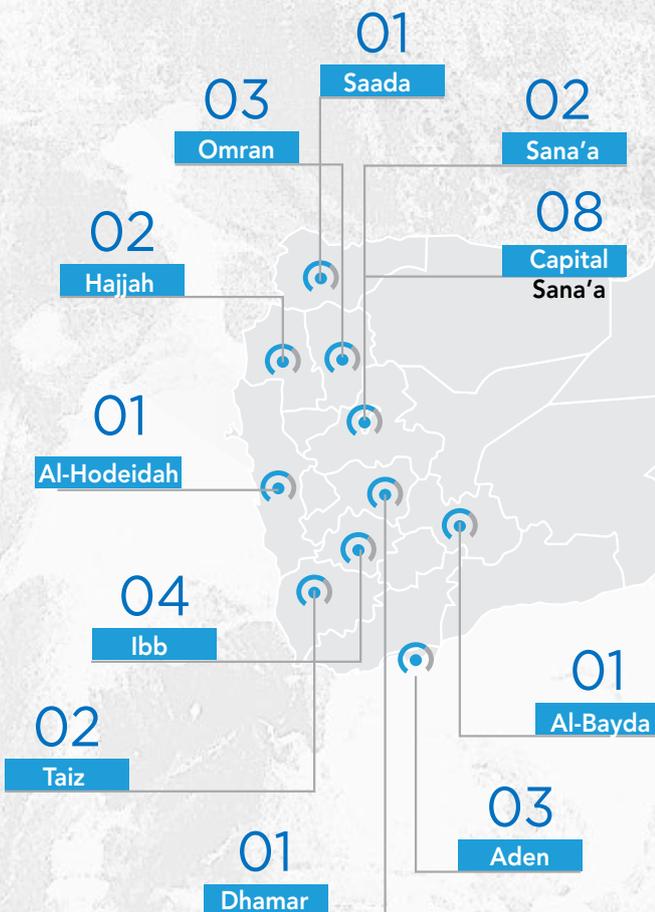
Ibb Governorate came second with four cases.

Amran Governorate was third with three cases.

Aden Governorate occupied the third place with

Amran Governorate with the same number of victims due to the deliberate medical negligence. It is the only governorate located under the control of UAE-backed armed formations and detainees are killed in its prisons due to deliberate medical negligence.

As for the remaining governorates in which detainees were killed as a result of the deliberate medical negligence, all of them are located under the control of the Houthi militia, as shown in Figure



**Figure No. 5**

murders resulting from the medical negligence inside prisons during the reporting period. Sorted by Geographic Area

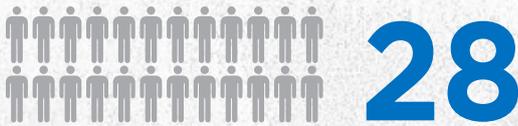
Murders sorted by gender: During the reporting period from September 2014 to the end of 2020, all the persons, who died of deliberate medical negligence in prisons and detention centers, were males. There were no women or children among the victims.

Figure No. 6 shows the result of analyzing the data of ages related to the detainees who died due to the deliberate medical negligence inside prisons. The first group of 13 detainees who died was 20 to 35 years old. The second group of 11 detainees who died was 36 to 51 years old. And finally, the third group of four detainees

who died was 52 to 67 years old.

These numbers show that most of those who died from the deliberate medical negligence were 20 to 51 years old. They belonged to the youth who were the most resistant to the arrogance and intransigence of jailers. This made them more vulnerable to the various ways of torture, resulting in infections and many diseases. Jailers used the deliberate medical negligence as a form of punishment for detainees. In addition, they prevented them from taking medicines provided by their relatives.

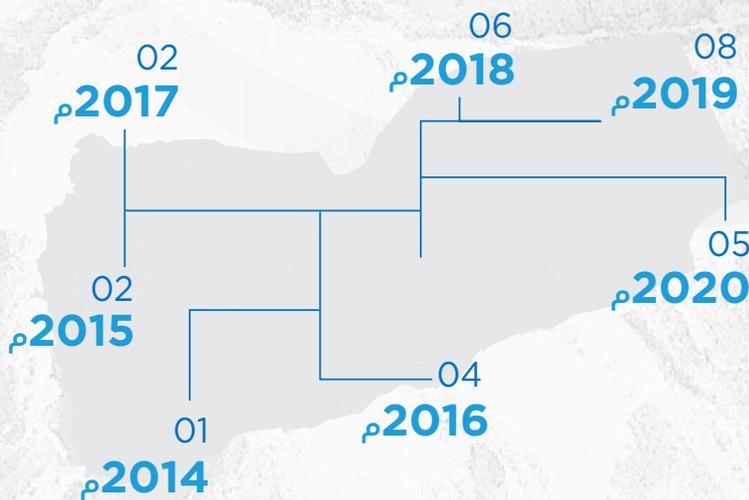
**murders resulting from the medical negligence inside prisons during the reporting period.**



Age Group	Number
From 20 to 35	13
From 36 to 51	11
From 52 to 67	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

**Murders sorted by detainees' year of death resulting from deliberate medical negligence inside prisons:**

The year 2019 came first with eight detainees who died from deliberate medical negligence inside prisons and detention centers. Then, 2018 came second with six cases, and 2020 came third with five cases. The remaining murders of detainees were committed in the years of 2016, 2015, 2017 and 2014 with 4, 2, 2 and 1 cases, respectively



**Figure No. 7**  
Murders resulting from the medical negligence inside prisons during the reporting period



# EXAMPLES AND CASES: MURDERS COMMITTED INSIDE PRISONS DUE TO DELIBERATE MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE



### 1. Victim: Khaled Mohammad al-Hith

Age: 43

Marital Status: Married

Job: Employee in Ministry of Culture

Place: Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a

On February 26, 2016, Houthi militia abducted Khaled Mohammad al-Hith from Haziz District, Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a. Then he was taken to an unknown place.

After that, he was sent to Habra Remand Prison. Then, he was taken to the Central Prison, and finally he was sent to the Political Security Detention Center. During the period of abduction and arrest, Khaled was subjected to various methods of brutal torture and continuous cruel treatment in these prisons and detention centers. As a result, he had cirrhosis disease and the deliberate medical negligence resulted in deterioration of his health when it became a serious condition. Finally, he was taken to Azal Hospital in Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a where he died.

### 2. Victim: Tawfiq Ahmed al-Lahji

Age: 30

Place: Taiz Governorate

On February 25, 2016, Houthi militia abducted Tawfiq Ahmed al-Lahji, from the Al-Mughaini neighborhood in Al-Mokha, Taiz Governorate. Then, he was taken to an unknown place.

Six months after his abduction, it appeared that he was detained in Al-Saleh Prison in Al-Hawban District, Taiz Governorate.

In December 2016, he was sent to a prison in Ibb Governorate. Then, he was taken to a prison and detention center in Amanat Al-Asemah, capital Sana'a, after he had suffered from kidney failure, resulting from severe torture, as well as deliberate medical negligence.

On December 23, 2018, his mother was shocked when she was informed of his death. She was summoned by Houthi militia to attend the burial of her son whose body remained for 9 days in the mortuary.



Tawfiq's family asked the Houthis to give them the body, but they refused their request and buried it themselves fearing that their crimes would be revealed because there were signs of torture on his body. This could not be documented and photographed, and a forensic doctor did not examine the body.

### 3. Victim: Abdullah Abdul-Qawi Salem al-Hamiqani

Age: 38

Marital Status: Married

Job: Employee in Ministry of Health

Place: Al-Bayda Governorate

On February 9, 2016, Houthi elements arrested Abdullah Abdul-Qawi Salem al-Hamiqani at a market in the Al-Bayda Governorate. Then, they took him to the Political Security Prison of Al-Bayda because he was charged with recording the coordinates of the Arab Coalition aircraft.

He was placed in a narrow solitary cell without taking into account his bad health condition because he was suffering from a heart disease. He was subjected to brutal torture few days after his arrest. This resulted in the deterioration of his health, and he was moved to Al-Thawra Hospital. After that, he returned to the prison, but his health deteriorated due to the lack of necessary medicine and healthy environment.

As a result of the torture and the deliberate medical negligence faced by Abdullah, he died on June 2, 2016. His family was not allowed to receive his body, and the forensic doctor did not examine it to find out the cause of his death. They were even prevented from obtaining an official burial permit from the competent authority.

### 4. Victim: Ahmed Mohamed Sweid

Place: Taiz Governorate

Ahmed Mohammed Sweid was arrested by Houthi elements in Al-Waziya District, Taiz Governorate. They took him to a prison of Houthi militia in Sana'a.

After a year and seven months of continuous torture, he had repeated in coma. His fellow detainees asked the prison administration to provide him with the required medical care, but it was in vain.



In addition, his fellow detainees protested to pressure the prison administration to provide him with medical aid, but they refused to do so. This resulted in more deterioration of his health. Therefore, his fellow detainees protested again to provide Ahmed with the required medical treatment.

After these pressures and demands, he was moved to Al-Quds Hospital in Sana'a, but they refused to receive him due to his serious condition. Then, he was transferred to Azal Hospital in capital Sana'a. However, on November 21, 2017, he died there as a result of severe torture and the absolute deliberate medical negligence.

#### 5. Victim: Saleh Yahya Hadi Raadan

Place: Amran Governorate

In mid-July 2016, Colonel Saleh Yahya Hadi Raadan, an officer in the 15th Brigade, was abducted on Houth Road, Amran Governorate, and he was sent to the central prison of Amran.

After six months of torture, cruel treatment and deliberate medical negligence, Saleh's health worsened. Due to negotiation and mediation, he was released to receive treatment after paying the bail and imprisoning his son, Abdul Jalil, in place of him as a hostage. Three months later, he died in hospital where doctors were unable to save him as a result of the severe injuries due to the physical and psychological torture and the deliberate medical negligence that he faced in the central prison of Amran.

## THIRD: DEATH OF DETAINEES SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RELEASE

Rights Radar's monitoring team recorded and documented the deaths of detainees shortly after their release from prisons and detention centers. The medical reports and questionnaires indicated that detainees were taken to prisons and detention centers, and they were in good health. However, ill treatment and psychological and physical torture led to a gradual deterioration in their health, as well as the deliberate medical negligence of those in charge of these prisons and detention centers, depriving detainees of health care and specialized doctors and preventing them from getting medicines as a form of arbitrary punishment. The detainees' families and relatives confirmed the occurrence of these violations.

Rights Radar could monitor and document 35 deaths of detainees who died shortly after their release from prisons and detention centers. Houthi militia came first with 33 cases out of the total number. The UAE-backed armed formations came second with two cases.

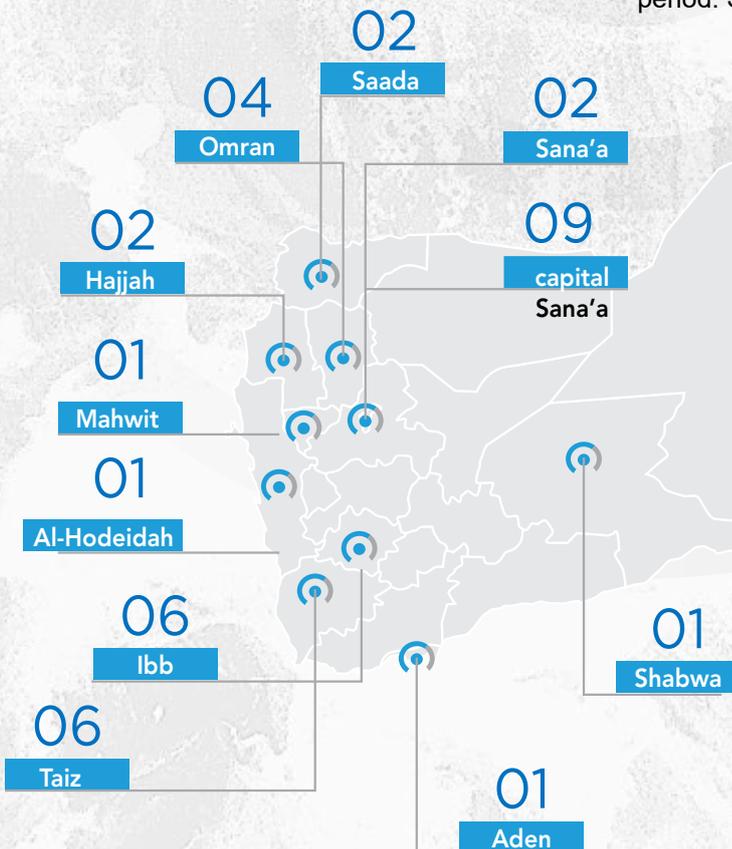


**Figure No. 8**  
deaths of civilian detainees shortly after their release during the reporting period.  
Sorted by Violating Party



As for the geographic area of deaths of civilian detainees shortly after their release, Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a came first with nine cases. Taiz and Ibb governorates came second with six cases each. Amran Governorate came third with four cases. The governorates of Sana'a, Hajjah and Saada came fourth with two cases each. Then, the remaining governorates came fourth with two cases each

**Figure No. 9**  
cases of deaths of civilian detainees shortly after their release during the reporting period. Sorted by Geographic Area





# EXAMPLES AND CASES: DEATH OF DETAINEES SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RELEASE



### 1. Victim: Ahmed Mubarak Ahmed al-Falak

Age: 47

Marital Status: Married

Job: Workshop Owner

Place: Saada Governorate

On Monday, January 5, 2016, at 9 p.m., Houthi armed elements attacked Ahmed Mubarak Ahmed Al-Falak's children while they were working in their workshop in Saada. The attackers continued beating them until their father arrived. He tried to rescue them and sprayed the attackers with water of batteries and oil. However, they arrested and forcibly abducted him, and then he was taken to an unknown place.

During his detention, Ahmed was subjected to the most severe ways of torture, which caused his kidney to be removed. Therefore, his health condition worsened, and he was not allowed to go out to receive treatment except under a guarantee from the director of the Agriculture Office in Saada. His family tried to save his life by taking him to Sana'a for treatment, but their attempts failed, and he died on June 26, 2016.

One of the eyewitnesses said that the victim was abducted after the attack on his children on January 5, 2016, and then he was taken to an unknown place. He was released after being a weak patient, and his relatives took him to Sana'a for treatment, but he died on June 26, 2016, also, and the signs of torture were visible on his body.

### 2. Victim: Sheikh/Mohammed Hassan Dammaj

Age: 80

Place: capital Sana'a

After Ansar Allah Group (Houthis) overthrew the legitimate authority in Yemen and controlled the state's civilian and military institutions, Saudi Arabia formed the Arab coalition at the request of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and launched the military campaign called "Decisive Storm" to put an end to the coup and restore legitimacy in Yemen. The Yemeni Rally for Reform Party issued a statement of support for the operations of Decisive Storm. As a result, Houthi militia launched a campaign of abduction against the leaders and members of the party, including Sheikh/Mohammed Hassan Dammaj, one of the members of the Supreme Committee of the party.



On Sunday, April 5, 2015, Houthi armed elements stormed Dammaj's house in Al-Rawda neighborhood, north of the capital, Sana'a, and abducted him with his son, al-Hassan. He remained abducted for four months until he was released on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. Although he was 80 years old, he was subjected to psychological and physical torture. His wife could not bear the news of his arrest, so she suffered health breakdown and struggled with illness for only four days, and specifically on April 9, 2015, she died, and her husband was not allowed to visit her, even for a moment, according to one of his relatives. Houthis used him, accompanied by a group of detainees, as human shields. In a report issued by Amnesty International, Dammaj's son said that on April 18, his father phoned him and told him that he was detained in weapons depot in Jabal Naqum, Sana'a, on which the Arab Coalition forces launched airstrikes. Although Dammaj's health condition deteriorated, his family was not allowed to visit him or transfer him to the nearest hospital to receive treatment. He remained ill and bedridden the rest of his life until he died on Thursday, December 20, 2018.

### 3. Victim: Jamil Hassan Ahmed al-Oumaisi

Age: 24

Marital Status: Single

Job: Student

Place: Hajjah Governorate

On September 19, 2016, Jamil Hassan Ahmed al-Oumaisi tried to return to Hajjah from Ma'rib, but he was arrested at Rada'a Houthi checkpoint. They took him to the Political Security Detention Center in Hajjah.

In this detention center, Jamil was beaten, tortured and threatened with physical liquidation. On December 18, 2016, he told his family about this by phone.

After that, he was released, and then he died of torture on June 3, 2017.

Eyewitnesses said that his family demanded that his body must be examined by a forensic doctor, but Houthis refused and forced them to bury his body.



#### 4. Victim: Yasser Ahmed Issa al-Nashiri

Marital Status: Single

Job: Student at College of Engineering

Place: Hajjah Governorate

On December 15, 2015, Yasser Ahmed Issa al-Nashiri was returning from Hadramawt to Sana'a, when Houthi militia arrested him in Al-Hatarish District, Sana'a Governorate, because they suspected that he belonged to the popular resistance.

Yasser was taken to an unknown place, and he remained forcibly disappeared for four months. After that, he was found in Habra Remand Center in capital Sana'a, and he was in good health.

Five months later, his family visited him for the second time and found that he was unable to stand and walk due to his total paralysis. Therefore, those who were in charge of the prison transferred him to Al-Quds Hospital and told the hospital administration that he had cancerous tumors. He was treated in hospital for three months without improvement. Instead, his health condition was getting worse day by day, and this made Houthi militia contact his family, asking them for a commercial guarantee in exchange for his release.

His family could not obtain a commercial guarantee, so they asked them to pay a bail. Then, they released him on July 14, 2016. His family took him to be treated in the University of Science and Technology Hospital in capital Sana'a. A month later, he died on August 17, 2016.

Reports and medical examinations indicated that the victim did not suffer from any cancerous tumors as the administration of Habra Remand Prison claimed. Several hits and electric shocks in his head caused the visible tumors on his body. This also caused the suppurations resulting in his death.



### 5. Victim: Adel Abdul-Malik Mohammed al-Hasani

Age: 41

Place: Ibb Governorate

On August 2, 2016, at 4 p.m., Houthi elements stormed the village of al-Rabadi, Jableh District, Ibb Governorate. They surrounded Adel Abdul-Malik Mohammed al-Hasani's house and arrested him. Then, they took him to the Political Security Detention Center in Ibb.

After that, Adel was sent to another unknown prison in Yarim. He remained disappeared for 15 days, during which he was subjected to various ways of cruel torture. As a result, he suffered from several diseases, including heart disease, liver failure, diabetes, pressure disease and injuries in his back and chest. As a result, he was released due to his bad health condition.

He returned to his family, and they tried to aid him in the intensive care unit in a hospital in Ibb. However, he died due to his critical health condition.

He was subjected to this torture without offense or guilt, but simply because he was suspected of being on the side of popular resistance.



## 6. Victim: Sadiq Abdullah Abu Awja

Age: 53

Marital Status: Married

Job: Soldier

Place: Amran Governorate

On December 21, 2015, Sadiq Abdullah Abu Awja was arrested by Houthi elements in Al-Hatarish District, Sana'a Governorate, while he was returning from Seiyun, Hadramout Governorate, as he was a soldier in the 135th Infantry Brigade affiliated with the 1st Military Region.

He was taken to the Central Prison in Sana'a where he was subjected to the most severe forms of torture, without taking into account his bad health condition. He was suffering from chronic diseases, which caused the deterioration of his health condition. As a result, his brother, Saleh Abu Awja, the appointed deputy for Amran Governorate by Houthi militia, intervened to release him.

Six days after his arrest and transfer to the capital, Sana'a, his family tried to save his life, but he died of the torture that he was subjected to in the Central Prison in Sana'a.

## 7. Victim: Anas Ali Yahya Mughalis

Place: Al-Hodeidah Governorate

On January 17, 2019, Houthi elements arrested Anas Ali Yahya Mughalis, and they took him to an unknown place in Al-Maghalsa Village, Beit Al-Faqih District, Al-Hudaydah Governorate, under suspicion. During two weeks of arrest, he was subjected to the most severe forms of torture and abuse resulting in the deterioration of his health.

On February 2, 2019, he was released. Three days later, he died of severe injuries on various parts of his body as a result of the torture that he had been subjected to during the period of detention. He was not released until after it was found to them that he was innocent, so they apologized to his family.



## 8. Victim: Mohammed Qaid Saleh Shater

Age: 34

Job: Plastic Artist

Place: Dhamar Governorate

Mohammed Qaid Salih Shater graduated from Department of Art Education at College of Education. He reached the top of his class at Dhamar University, and the paintings of his graduation project indicated that he would be a great plastic artist, but the governorate conditions, in particular, and Yemen, in general, did not allow him to practice his hobby and specialization.

He resorted to selling khat, and then he traveled to Aden for earning his living and ensuring a decent life for his family.

In Aden, he worked for a short period, then the situation began to worsen for the residents of the northern districts. The UAE-backed Transitional Militia pursued people in restaurants, markets and residential neighborhoods to arrest and deport them.

This forced Mohammed Qaid to return to his governorate. While he was returning, he was arrested with a number of travelers at the entrance to Aden Governorate. They were taken to a police station controlled by the UAE-backed Transitional Militia. Then, he was sent to a secret prison in Aden.

Mohammed and the other detainees were kept in prison for three months, during which he was subjected to brutal torture, including pulling out all his nails, electric shocks and shooting with bullets in his stomach. Due to not receiving treatment, his intestine rotted and he suffered from a kidney failure.

When his health condition worsened and he was about to die, they released him. When he arrived to Dhamar Governorate, his family tried to aid him. He was taken to Dhamar General Hospital, but the doctors could not save his life, and he died there.



### 9. Victim: Professor Adnan Abdel-Qader al-Sharjabi

Job: Professor at Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

Place: Amanat Al-Asemah, Sana'a

On September 9, 2020, Professor Adnan Abdel-Qader al-Sharjabi was abducted while he was going to Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a, by Houthi elements in capital Sana'a. They took him to an unknown place. After about a month of his enforced disappearance, they stormed and searched his house.

On October 6, 2020, he was released and his health condition was very bad, so his family tried to save his life, but he died two weeks after his release as a result of the physical and psychological torture he was subjected to during his enforced disappearance, in addition to preventing him from taking medicine and getting treatments for his chronic diseases, including a heart disease and a pulmonary edema disease.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Rights Radar contributes to reducing abuses committed against unarmed civilians by the various conflicting parties in Yemen, especially abuses related to the brutal crimes of torture inside prisons that led to deaths and murders due to the medical negligence that was used as punishment against the detainees by persons in charge of these prisons and detention centers. As a result, many detainees were murdered, either inside the prison or shortly after their release.

In order to reduce these crimes and abuses, Rights Radar provides the following recommendations to several parties:

## UNITED NATIONS:

1. Taking urgent and rapid action to put pressure on the conflicting parties in Yemen to stop arrests, as well as enforced and arbitrary disappearances of citizens.
2. Obliging the conflicting parties in Yemen to release civilian opponents who are still kept in prisons and detention centers.
3. Forcing the conflicting parties to establish health centers and clinics with the necessary medical staff in prisons and detention centers and provide them with medical tools, devices and medicines, especially for chronic diseases referred to in this report.
4. Paying serious and practical attention to imposing real control over prisons and detention centers of the conflicting parties in Yemen in order to reduce the number of victims of murder under torture.
5. Conducting a serious and transparent investigation in cases of murder under torture and cases of death shortly after release from prisons and detention centers in order to redress the victims and ensure that the perpetrators of these abuses do not escape punishment.
6. Imposing penalties targeting those who are responsible for cases of psychological and physical torture, including those who issued orders to carry out these abuses.
7. Forming an international fact-finding commission to investigate the health conditions of detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in the prisons of the conflicting parties in Yemen in light of the increasing cases of death among detainees and forcibly disappeared persons shortly after their release.

## **Conflicting Parties in Yemen** (Legitimate Government, Houthi Militia and UAE-Backed Armed Formations):

1. Releasing detainees and forcibly disappeared persons from prisons and detention centers immediately.
2. Conducting transparent and fair investigation in cases of murder under torture and referring the perpetrators to the judiciary in order to be examples to others.
3. Stopping all ways of psychological and physical torture in prisons and detention centers and considering those to be violations of national laws, international law and international charters and treaties related to human rights signed by Yemen.

## **LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

1. Interacting with, monitoring and documenting reports of human rights abuses in Yemen and taking serious action for reducing them.
2. Coordinating with each other to document abuses in Yemen and reporting them to the highest international and national levels.
3. Putting pressure on the conflicting parties in Yemen to provide full medical care to detainees and forcibly disappeared persons, as well as putting an end to their illegal detention, in general.
4. Putting pressure on the conflicting parties in Yemen to adhere to national and international laws and international treaties and charters as a reference for dealing with crimes of psychological and physical torture inside prisons.
5. Disclosing the perpetrators of human rights abuses related to torture crimes inside prisons and detention centers and demanding that perpetrators of these abuses have to be brought before the local and international courts.

## **RELEASED DETAINEES, FAMILIES AND RELATIVES OF DETAINEES WHO DIED, DUE TO TORTURE:**

1. Ensuring that cases of torture committed against their fellow detainees in prisons and detention centers are documented as witnesses and proving them by all possible legal means.
2. Disclosing all abuses committed against their fellow detainees via various national and international media, as well as revealing the names of persons in charge of committing these abuses.
3. Families of victims must resort to the national courts to redress their relatives. In case they are not redressed, they can resort to the international courts.



## **YEMEN: KILLING BY TORTURE**

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON MURDERS COMMITTED  
UNDER TORTURE IN YEMEN

FEBRUARY 2021



# RIGHTS RADAR

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## WHO WE ARE?

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

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

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

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## OUR OBJECTIVES:

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

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

- Networking and partnership with human rights organizations.

- Capacity building and leadership developing for human rights activists.

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## OUR VISSION:

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

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## OUR MISSION:

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

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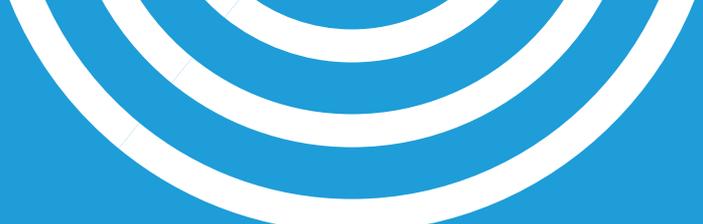
## OUR VALUES

- Responsibility

- Credibility.

- Independency.

- Transparency.



# OUR PROGRAMS

## MONITORING

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

## DOCUMENTING

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

## ADVOCACY

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

## NETWORKING

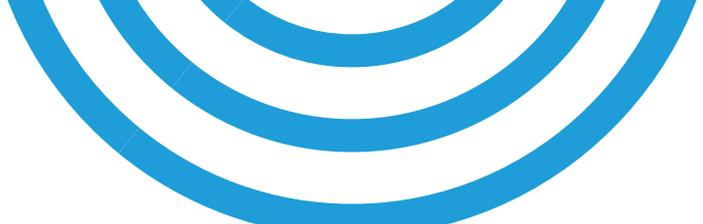
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We achieve our objectives and goals through collaborating with a wide network of local, regional and international human rights organizations. Sharing experiences and working together, we drive outcomes and defend human rights through collective action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

## CAPACITY BUILDING

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



# FIELDS OF FOCUS

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

## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

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

## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

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

## **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

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



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