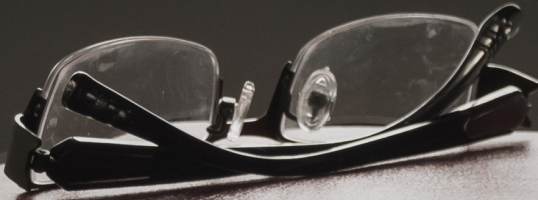


Report Knowledge Behind the Bars in Secret Prisons (Yemen)

Report issued by Insan Organization for Rights and Freedoms
2024



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Insan Organization for Rights and Freedoms is:

an independent, non-profit organization established in response to an urgent need in the field of defending human rights and combating violations that may be practiced against any individual or group. Insan Organization seeks to improve the situation of victims of human rights violations and their relatives, address their cases, and create an enabling environment that supports the achievement of justice and the sustainable reduction of human rights violations.

Our Mission:

We seek to reduce the rates of violations of human rights and improve the societal environment to enhance the preservation of human dignity by monitoring and documenting violations and crimes, supporting and rehabilitating violated persons and their relatives, and carrying out awareness-raising and advocacy work activities for individual and communal community rights. We are committed to the values of privacy for the information of the targeted people and the principles of impartiality, independence, justice, equality, collaboration and collective responsibility.

Principles and Values:

- Impartiality and independence: All our activities are carried out impartially and without bias towards any party to ensure reliability and integrity.

- Justice and equality: Ensuring that everyone individual in society obtains his full and undiminished human rights.
- Collaboration and responsibility: We collaborate with others in a participatory manner in making impactful decisions in society, and we bear responsibility for our actions and decisions.
- Privacy: We ensure the preservation of data privacy and personal information in the cases we work on.

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Introduction

Since the end of March 2015, the situation in Yemen has witnessed events that plunged the country into an unprecedented, catastrophic and inhumane crisis as a result of the large-scale military operations carried out by the Arab Military Coalition, consisting of seventeen countries led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During this and in the overall escalation, actions carried out by the Arab coalition in the context of its military air, land and naval operations, which was among a wide range of escalation practices, “imposing an air, sea and land blockade” and subsequently closing all airports located in the more populous north. It directly affected civilians of various categories, making residents of the northern governorates (Amanat Al-Asimah, Sana’a, Dhamar, Ibb, Al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Saada, Al-Mahwit, Raymah, Amran, and residents of a group of areas of the governorates of Al-Dhale’, Al-Jawf, Al-Bayda, and Taiz) forced - when returning from abroad or travelling abroad - to pass through limited roads and destinations, all of which are located in areas of control of the so-called the government of President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and more recently the Presidential Council, which takes the city of Aden as the capital of its government. Therefore, passing through the ports of those governorates has become the only option for travelling, either by land through Al-Wadiah and Shahan border crossing ports or by air through Aden and Seiyun airports.

The issuance of this report is an important occasion and event to review the crimes and violations committed against civilian teachers, academics and students who were exposed to torture during the period of 2016 to the end of 2023 by the hands of security and military elements. These security

and military elements, under multiple and different names, control the ports and roads of transit, traffic, and travel in the governorates of Aden, Ma'rib, Al-Mahra, and the city of Seiyun in Hadhramaut governorate.

The importance of issuing this qualitative report, which is expected to contribute to achieving justice and protection for the victims of these crossings, ports and roads, is reflected in the following justifications:

1. Enhancing knowledge through documenting and publishing the violations and crimes that academics and students are exposed to while traveling through areas over which the Southern Transitional Council and the security forces of the Yemeni Islah Party exert full control.
2. Providing strong evidence through accurate documentation of these crimes and violations so that it can be used to pressure the parties concerned to protect this important group in society and also, above all, in order to work towards the release of those who remain until this moment in the cycle of detention and enforced disappearance.
3. Enhancing solidarity and providing support to teachers, academics and students who have been exposed to violations, this work will emphasize that they are not alone in their difficult experiences and this work will give them the confidence and courage to speak out and demand justice.
4. The report will encourage thorough investigations into documented crimes and violations, as well as hold those perpetrators accountable by motivating the relevant authorities to investigate and take legal action. It will also enable justice to be achieved and limit the occurrence

of further violations in the future.

This report, which aims to present and analyze a series of violations in which teachers, academics, and students were the victims, reflects the extent of the serious crimes they were exposed to during the aforementioned period. Teachers, academics and students were subjected to numerous violations while travelling through the southern governorates and through Ma'rib governorate in order to reach their places of residence in the northern governorates. Some of them were abducted, and others were detained for several years, during which majority of these individuals were held incommunicado, and some of them are still in detention. As for some of those who were released, they are currently living in a very serious psychological and health status, especially since they have lost some of their family members who developed health problems and subsequently died due to the loss of hope of their return and also due to the news, they received regarding their tragic conditions in those detention centers.

The report includes a presentation of a group of stories from the families of the victims and from the surviving victims themselves, which highlights the details of the violations and crimes committed against them and their impact on their lives and the lives of their families. These stories aim to shed light on the humanitarian side of the issue and enhance awareness of the harsh conditions that these people experienced due to the violations they were exposed to, which are generally represented by abduction, arbitrary arrest in prisons and detention centers for long periods without trial or due process, torture and ill-treatment, physical and psychological abuse, electric shock

torture, severe beatings, solitary confinement, incommunicado detention, and poor health care, which led to the deterioration of the prisoners' health situations.

The report concludes by presenting recommendations to internal parties and international organizations related to human rights. These recommendations aim to strengthen legal protection measures against ongoing violations and ensure the provision of the necessary psychological and medical support to victims and their families, and emphasize the necessity of investigating violations and holding those responsible for the accountable violations.



General context of events and developments:

At dawn of March 26th, 2015, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced from the capital of the United States of America, Washington, D.C., the formation of an Arab military coalition to launch a military operation against the country of Yemen, the brotherly neighbor of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In its first military operation, the coalition launched aerial missile attacks targeting civilian homes in the Bani Hawat area in the city of Sana'a, and then military operations continued as such. In August 2016, the coalition imposed a total blockade on Sana'a airport, which resulted in the closure of the airport and caused catastrophic effects and repercussions, especially for patients and travelers. This prevented thousands of citizens from traveling through Sana'a airport, forcing them to head to other Yemeni airports such as Aden International Airport and Seiyun

Airport. This caused to severe difficulties and suffering for travelers, as the Yemeni governorates in the south, especially the governorates of Aden and Hadramawt, become the only ports for travelers from and to Yemen during that period and until recently. This is due to the blockade and closure of Sana'a airport by forcibly halting it from conducting flights and suspending its flights to any domestic or external destination.

Thousands of Yemeni civilians' freedom has been restricted in prisons belonging to the Southern Transitional Council forces in Aden and the Islah Party forces in Marib, both of which are armed groups affiliated with the internationally recognized government and loyal to the Arab coalition countries. Most of those abducted and arrested were tortured, humiliated, and forcibly disappeared from the moment of detention. A number of other detainees were handed over to the coalition forces and transferred to prisons outside the country; some others were hidden, and their status as detainees was kept secret in the first phase of their detention. During that, they were transferred and placed in different areas from time to time, and perhaps the unsafe situation in the southern governorates and Marib governorate was the reason behind this, which was a source for the Insan Organization to study data and information that shed light on the situation and reality of teachers, students, and academics traveling through the roads and crossings of those governorates.

Teachers, academics, and students studying abroad and returning through the official ports of the Republic of Yemen, whether from Aden and Seiyun airports or through land roads from Marib governorate to reach Seiyun airport, didn't expect that arrest and torture would be their

inevitable fate on those roads and ports. Despite the fact that many students and academics who returned through these available airports, especially after the closure of Sana'a airport, were longing to meet their loved ones and families, their longing went unheeded as the armed groups affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, the Security Belt Forces in the southern regions, and the Islah Party in Marib abducted dozens of students and academics and placed them in prisons without due process or justification of an offence or crime committed. Although students, academics, and their families sought explanation from the prisons' officials about the reason for being arrested, they did not receive any answer. In the same context, when people of the same category were heading to the countries in which they were studying and while crossing from the Al-Falaj area or Qaniyah checkpoint in Ma'rib in order to reach Seiyun Airport, they were subjected to arrest, arbitrary detention, and abducting, which based on regional backgrounds; some of them were imprisoned for years, and various forms of torture and humiliation were practiced against them during that period.

The Insan Organization for Rights and Freedoms investigated the incidents of serious violations being committed against a group of students studying outside Yemen, academics, and teachers who were abducted either in the southern governorates or in Ma'rib Governorate while traveling through those roads by two groups controlling the southern governorates and Ma'rib governorate between 2016 and the end of 2023. The organization has monitored 176 crimes. This report documents the details of the abducting and detention of university students, academics, and teachers by forces

affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council and Islah Party forces in the governorates of Aden, Marib, and Seiyun. Insan Organization is still receiving reports indicating that the Southern Transitional Council in Aden and the Islah Party in Marib have carried out abductions against hundreds of citizens.

Insan Organization interviewed 67 students, academics, and teachers who suffered from abduction and arrest, in addition to 17 interviews conducted with the families of students, academics, and teachers who are still detained and abducted in:

* Aden Governorate by the military forces of the Southern Transitional Council.

* Marib Governorate by the military forces of the Islah Party.

Interviews conducted by Insan Organization for Rights and Freedoms with those released from Aden and Marib prisons or through meetings with the families of the victims showed serious and grave violations. The escalation of the abduction, arrest, and placement in secret prisons incidents targeted civilians in general and students, academics, and teachers in particular.



Methodology and Content:

- In all the processes related to the preparation of this report, notwithstanding that the headquarter of “Insan Organization” is located in the capital, Sana’a City, the organization was keen to adhere to the principles of impartiality and independence in writing this report to ensure the validity of information and the objectivity of the analysis.

- For the purposes of this report and the sample included in it, a number of teachers, academics, and students who survived detention and were released through prisoner exchange deals have been interviewed, and their testimonies and statements were documented in a form prepared for this purpose.
- Human rights violations suffered by teachers, academics, and students during the period from 2016 to the end of 2023 were studied.
- The testimonies of the victims' families and their personal stories which narrate the violations and crimes to which their relatives were subjected, the majority of whom are still in prisons in Marib and Aden, were listened to.
- The report includes a summary of ten stories as well as an introduction, legal framework, conclusion, and recommendations for relevant local parties and international organizations.
- An extract of the violations and crimes mentioned in the stories was made and classified in accordance with the Yemeni Constitution, national laws, and international human rights laws and conventions.
- This report was based on an analysis of data and information obtained by the Insan Organization for Rights and Freedoms, as the organization was able to collect data on those abducted and forcibly detained since the first crime committed against students, academics, and teachers traveling on September 27, 2016 until the end of the year 2023.
- These data and information focused on violations committed by armed groups affiliated with the legitimate government supported by the Arab coalition countries, which control the southern governorates and the

governorate of Marib since 2016. The armed groups covered in this report include the Southern Transitional Council forces in Aden and surrounding governorates, and the Islah forces in Marib.

- The organization also conducted several interviews over the phone or through reports submitted by the families of abduction and arrest victims. The Insan Organization interviewed 67 released students, academics, and teachers who were abducted and detained, as well as with other 17 family members who suffered from abduction.
- The organization notes that it is deliberately refrained from mentioning the names of some individuals in such cases in the current report and other details that might reveal the identity of the people interviewed, such as details of the place and date of detention.
- Acronyms were used and applied in the context of the report to identify victims and witnesses instead of their real names in order to protect their identity from being revealed and limit the potential risks to which they may be exposed.



Legal Framework:

The legal framework aims to highlight Yemen obligations and the concerned parties to guarantee the rights of teachers, academics and students as a group of civilians protected by international humanitarian law. It also aims to punish those responsible for violating that protection and the accompanying crimes and inhumane practices that directly harm this educational segment.

First: Arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention are considered serious violations of human rights, as stated in the Yemeni constitution and national laws which emphasize the necessity of the need of respecting personal freedom and the rights of citizens not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest. In accordance with international human rights law, individuals should only be detained in accordance with prescribed legal procedures and on the basis of a recognized charge.

Second: With regard to ill-treatment and torture, Yemen's constitution, national laws, and international law prohibit the use of violence and torture in any form. These laws stipulate that detained persons must be treated with dignity and respect. They must not be subjected to humiliation or, physical or verbal violence, and the use of electric shock, cable and stick beating is a blatant violation of human rights.

Third: Regarding violations related to the place of detention, international law stipulates the necessity of ensuring that the detention of individuals is carried out in appropriate facilities that provide suitable living conditions, cleanliness, and healthcare for detainees.

Fourth: With regard to violations during investigation and interrogation, investigation and interrogation must be conducted in accordance with stipulated legal procedures, and to refrain from subjecting individuals to torture, inhuman treatment, or humiliation.

Fifth: As for protecting the right of detainees' health care, the necessary health care must be provided to detainees according to national and international health standards. Preventing the necessary health care is

considered a risk threatens detainees lives and safety.

In general, during armed conflicts, civilians have comprehensive protection against any violation or crime committed against them. International humanitarian law has been clear in defining the basic guarantees for the protection of individuals deprived of their liberty (arbitrarily detained), especially since individuals deprived of their liberty often find themselves in conditions leading to ill-treatment. They are exposed to many forms of pressure, mistreatment, deprivation and violence without being able to defend themselves and having any opportunity for salvation. As a result, depriving them of their liberty can have serious consequences on the psychological and health status of those detained and ultimately preventing them from receiving the necessary care.

All the Geneva and Hague Conventions and customary rules have granted civilians comprehensive protection from any form of aggressing, whether physical, moral, psychological or from any form of aggression or other acts that demean human dignity, especially if they fall under the control of armed forces. Civilians who are detained or arrested must be treated humanely in all conditions and without any harmful discrimination, and they must be protected against all forms of violence and degrading treatment, including murder and torture. International humanitarian law includes all civilians in its protection without any form of discrimination.

Arbitrary arrest and detention constitute a violation of the right to liberty and they expose detainees to risk of various types of violations. Arbitrary

deprivation of liberty (detention) during wars and conflicts violates the provisions and rules of international humanitarian law and the customary rules of international humanitarian law, which have prohibited arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture of all kinds and forms, other cruel or inhuman treatment as well as the prohibition of murder. Any violation of the rules and provisions of international humanitarian law and international criminal law is considered a war crime. Perpetrators of war crimes can be held criminally responsible wherever they are for their criminal responsibility committed against civilians.

The prohibition on committing torture is considered one of the universally binding rules for all countries (*jus cogens*), whether in times of peace or in times of war. The acts of torture and other forms of ill-treatment documented in the current report constitute violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, in particular the four Geneva Conventions and both of their annexed protocols. Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are classified as war crimes if committed in the context of armed conflict.

Therefore, the detention of civilians traveling on roads or through border crossings who are not participants or combatants in the field is not permissible. Rather, they should be protected and kept safe, in accordance with the provisions and rules of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the first Additional Protocol to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1976.

- Violations of international humanitarian law.
- Establishment of illegal detention centers and prisons.

Based on interviews with released detainees, they have spoken about the reality of those prisons (detention centers) as being unsuitable and overcrowded, with small rooms that lack adequate sanitation facilities. There is also a shortage of food or the provision of poor-quality food, a lack of healthcare, physical abuse, and the presence of physical, psychological, and moral torture and they were not allowed to communicate with their families.

The Southern Transitional Council in Aden governorate and Islah Party in Ma'rib governorate established illegal detention centers, some of which were secret, where dozens, if not hundreds of civilian citizens were being detained. The released teachers, academics, and students indicated that the places they were held in were unlawful. In addition, a number of detainees released from Ma'rib prisons reported that there are ongoing construction and expansion activities in the governorate's political security prison and Al-Saleh Institute prison as a result of the overcrowding of prisons and the continuous arrests.

Images of Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention Practices

There have been numerous cases of abductions and arbitrary detentions of dozens of students, academics, and teachers. The students who were studying abroad in various Arab and foreign countries have reported these incidents and provided the following details:

- The detention and arrest at Al-Falaj checkpoint and their interrogation were based on mere suspicion towards individuals, or due to their name, surname, or the region they belong to.
- Personal mobile phones were confiscated, and the contents, including photos and videos, were searched. Any individual could be detained or arrested solely based on the presence of a photo or video on their mobile phone that expressed any particular stance, even if these items were stored from WhatsApp group chats and were not specific to the detainee. This could also happen if there was a suspicious name saved in the contact list or similar circumstances.
- There was an access to the personal pages of the detainees, whether on Facebook or Twitter, and if it became apparent that someone had a post or a tweet about the violations committed by the Arab coalition, that person would immediately be arrested and detained in prisons under the pretext of those clips, pictures, or tweets.
- The arrest of returnees from abroad through the airports of Aden and Seiyun involved armed groups operated by the Southern Transitional Council, which established military checkpoints in areas such as Khormaksar, Al-Tawahi, and others. They intentionally detained

travelers, especially individuals from northern provinces, shortly after they had left courtyards of Aden Airport, by a distance of tens of meters. Subsequently, they subjected them to interrogations conducted in illegal ways and in violation of the rules and provisions of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Types of Violations Committed Against Detained Students

Physical torture:

The forces affiliated with both the Southern Transitional Council and the Islah Party deliberately coerced arbitrarily detained students, academics, and teachers to confess to actions they did not commit leading to their wrongful conviction. The students reported that investigators were keen to accuse and convict them of engaging in subversive activities alongside the Houthis (Ansar Allah). The methods of interrogation and coercion used against students, academics and teachers, according to the victims' testimonies, included the following:

- Full body suspension for long periods of time, by tying the arms from behind, upwards. Many victims have reached a state complete collapse.
- Violent beatings and electric shocks in some cases, and threats of using it in other cases.
- lashing all body parts with a metal whip.

Psychological torture:

Detained students, academics, and teachers were subjected to the worst types of psychological torture. According to the victims' testimonies, the most prominent types of psychological torture inflicted upon them are the

following:

- Verbal threats of shooting or strangulation to death.
- Threat of elimination one of their relatives.
- Demanding their families' home addresses and threatening them to inform the military coalition's operations room to target their families' homes and kill those within.
- Continuous verbal abuse and insults using offensive language that targets them and their families.
- Broadcasting news that induces psychological pressure and fear within them.
- Mistreatment and violation of dignity.
- Using and imposing of various forms of treatment with the intention of abusing and treating them in an inhuman, immoral, and undermining their dignity, as follows:
 - Putting a full hood over the head, in addition to blindfolding during the initial days of detention, and restraining them with iron chains.
 - Detaining the prisoners in unsuitable places that do not meet the most basic conditions for habitation, such as cramped and overcrowded spaces with the presence of dangerous insects and a lack of ventilation compared to the number of detainees.
 - Lack of basic shelter needs such as mattresses and sleeping blankets.
 - Insufficient availability of toilets that can accommodate the large number of detainees in a very small room.
 - Subjecting detainees to psychological distress due to their inability to sleep, especially since interrogations are intentionally conducted with

detainees during the night until morning. Additionally, the detainees' movement is limited within the detention centers.

Medical negligence and poor healthcare:

According to the victims' testimonies, they have experienced multiple instances of serious health symptoms that could have been life-threatening, but were ignored by the guardians responsible for their detention. This negligence and disregard were part of the practices of torture, mistreatment, and deprivation of basic human rights. This approach was perpetuated through the following:

- Failure to respond to the detainees' demands for medical treatment and the provision of medical care necessary to save their lives.
- Failure to provide necessary treatments for detainees with chronic conditions such as hypertension, tuberculosis, diabetes, joint issues, and acute mental and neurological conditions.
- Failure of detainees to obtain the necessary doses of medicines that they had run out of and which they had in their possession at the time of their arrest.
- Leaving detainees with bleeding wounds resulting from beatings and torture and not providing them with any first aid.
- The absence of any preventive measures towards infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, asthma, and other diseases has led to cases of infectious and very dangerous diseases such as tuberculosis, particularly in Marib prisons, resulting in the deaths of many detainees.

Malnutrition and deprivation of clean drinking water:

The released detainees have suffered from symptoms of malnutrition, evident in their physical appearance, and the effects have persisted even after their return to their families. According to the testimonies of the detainees, this can be attributed to the poor quality, quantity, and inadequacy of the food provided. The meals were of low quality, unsuitable, and unhealthy. Furthermore, there was a lack of clean drinking water. The only source of water available was from the toilet tap water, and it was collected using dilapidated plastic cans that had been previously used.

Prohibition from communicating with family and relatives:

Despite the fact that international humanitarian law clearly establishes rules and provisions regarding the rights of prisoners of war to contact their families from the first day of their captivity, a number of abductees and detainees in the prisons of southern governorates and Ma'rib have not been granted these rights. Instead, these rights have been directly violated, and some of the violations include:

- Failure to notify the families of abductees and detainees from the very first moment of their arrest.
- Failure to enable abductees to communicate with their families.
- Abductees are not allowed to correspond with their relatives.
- The inability of many international organizations, such as the Red Cross, to visit them and take the messages of the abductees to reassure their families and relatives.

Enforced disappearance:

Many students, academics, and teachers have been subjected to enforced disappearance, preventing them from communicating with their families for years. Additionally, according to the testimony of one of the released individuals, some families have been subjected to financial extortion. Some families would respond and send monetary amounts, but it proved futile as the extortion would continue repeatedly.

Here the decision is made, and here the human is being violated. Here the law is violated, and from here begins the journeys of another era in the oblivion of history and law.



(Al-Falaj checkpoint, Marib city)

Here, 'put beyond doubt'

- **Here, at this checkpoint, every traveler confronts his destiny.**
- **Unknown does not know what comes next.**
- **. At this checkpoint, dreams come to a halt and ambitions freeze.**
- **This Yemeni citizen stands alone, and others pass by**
- **Here, one loses everything except hope in justice**
- **Here, years of life converge into a single moment.**

Samples of a series of incidents and events that academics, teachers, and students were exposed to during their travel trips through the Governorate of Marib, Aden, and the city of Seiyun.

In 2016 AD, Y.H. was a university student on a bus belonging to a public transportation company heading to the city of Sayun for the purpose of traveling to the Arab Republic of Egypt to continue his university studies. When he arrived at al-Falaj checkpoint in Marib, the soldiers at that checkpoint ordered him and his colleagues S.K., W.Z., B.T., D.W., R.S., and Q.N to get off the bus.

The soldiers searched their belongings and personal documents. After that, at the center of the checkpoint itself, an officer interrogated them without even knowing the charge against them. Y.H. and his fellow students studying in Egypt were subjected to ill-treatment at that checkpoint, such as insults, verbal abuse, and the use of force against them. Y.H. continued saying, "We were detained in an inappropriate and very bad place. After that, I was taken to a prison in the city of Marib with my colleagues, and a few days later, my colleagues were released."

Weeks later, Y.H. was transferred to numerous prisons in the Marib governorate for two consecutive years, during which he was held in solitary confinement dozens of times and interrogated from night until morning.

Y.H. said: "During the first interrogation, he was beaten with a stick while he was blindfolded. The investigators were beating and insulting him

without bringing any charges against him. In this manner, the officers of those prisons continued to interrogate him at night until the morning for several days.”

He also said that “one day, the prison guards bound his hands and feet and blindfolded him for three consecutive days, during which he was placed in a solitary room under surveillance. He was not allowed to open the blindfold except when he was taken to the bathroom once a day. Even when he was eating the only scheduled meal throughout the day, he was kept shackled and was not allowed to remove the cover from his eyes. During that period, he was not exposed to sunlight for more than a year and a half.”

He then elaborates that “he was electrocuted, beaten with metal cables and wooden sticks, deprived of healthy food and clean drinking water and denied health care.”

Y.H. was subjected to psychological and physical torture every day. During the year and a half since his trip to Sayun Airport, Y.H.’s family and relatives knew nothing about him. His family kept searching for him and asking anyone coming from Marib about his fate, without answer. Then, at the end of the second year of his detention and torture, he was released.

When Insan Organization held an interview with Y.H to hear his testimony, he stated that “he did not know the reason for his detention; however, he was surprised when he knew that his name, surname, and the governorate to which he belonged were the reasons for that detention.” He added “the prison was full of detainees from the northern governorates, including other

Seiyun Airport

checkpoint
in Marib
for
Kidnapping
students

Traveling
for
studying



university students. They were arrested at the Al-Falaj checkpoint and other military checkpoints in Marib Governorate and were detained in the same prison I was in.” He said “I still remember a group of my classmates who were with me inside the prison; they are: “G.N., H.B., L.K., A.Y., and R.O., those who were with me in prison. There may be other prisons in which other abducted students have been held.”

“I was released, without truth explanation or confession of violations that I was subjected to,” Y.H. said. “Many of those who were with me in prison have died, some as a result of torture and others as a result of poor health care, including Yahya Ahmed al-Qahm, a native of Hajjah governorate, Kahlan Afar district.” He added “He was 56 years old and was severely tortured in Al-Saleh Institute prison in Marib City until he died under torture. I still remember the date of his death, which I have never forgotten, the nineteenth of March 2017.”



(Photo of Yahya Al-Qahm, who died as a result of torture in Al-Saleh Institute prison in Marib Governorate)

Dr. H.M., 40 years old, from Al-Muftah District in Hajjah Governorate, This is a story about a student who was studying abroad in Pakistan. He was sponsored by the Yemeni government to pursue his doctoral studies in English linguistics at Peshawar University, starting in 2014. Initially, his scholarship was funded by the transitional government of Yemen, and later it was continued under the sponsorship of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi's government. He completed his academic studies in November 2019 and proceeded to collect his documents and luggage in preparation for his return to Yemen.

Before reaching Yemen, specifically in February 2020, he travelled to Mecca to perform Umrah. On March 13, 2020, he traveled through the Al-Wadiyah border crossing and arrived at the Al-Falaj checkpoint in Marib at 4:00 PM on the second day of his journey from the Al-Wadiyah border crossing. Unfortunately, upon reaching the Al-Falaj checkpoint, he was detained and taken to one of the prisons in Marib.

Dr. H.M., says: "After returning from Mecca and performing Umrah, I arrived at the Al-Falaj checkpoint by bus. Soldiers at the checkpoint conducted a search of the bus and asked me to disembark. They thoroughly searched all my bags and belongings. I had a bag containing all my academic documents from Peshawar University, my laptop, and my phone. They took everything and confiscated them. I was held in detention from the afternoon until midnight. Then, I was transferred to the security police administration in

Marib under a person named Al-Awadi. He placed me in a small cell called 'Al-Shabakiya,' which resembles a pressure chamber used in Marib prisons. Every hour, they would bring in other people. I spent a month in there, and we were only allowed to relieve ourselves inside the cell or in the vicinity of it, as there were no bathrooms nearby. Whenever we asked Al-Awadi, who was one of the guards, to provide a place for us to use the bathroom, he would respond by saying that they would take us to another spacious location."

After enduring severe suffering, those imprisoned in Al-Shabakiya cell began to experience various health symptoms. Some developed colon-related diseases due to poor nutrition, while others suffered from severe psychological conditions. Among them, some started experiencing nervous spasms.

He further described the other prison he was transferred to, saying, "When we were moved from Al-Shabakiya to the political security prison in Marib, they placed us in a crowded room with other detainees. The place was extremely overcrowded, where each of us slept on an area of three small floor tiles, approximately forty square centimeters. I received harsh and unethical treatment. We suffered from insufficient food, denial of medication, lack of sanitation, and clean water. Interrogations would last from midnight until morning. I was falsely accused of working for the Houthis and supporting them in Pakistan. When I denied it, they would beat me, threaten me with a gun, and put it to my head. Sometimes, they would tie me up and suspend me for several hours."



Regarding healthcare, Dr. H.M. said, "Some of us experienced various pains that required basic pain-relieving medication, while others suffered from severe illnesses. There was a case of a fellow detainee named Sadiq Al-Qusimi from Sana'a Governorate, Bani Matar Directorate, who was suffering from tuberculosis. We demanded that the prison authorities provide him with medical assistance to save his life and the lives of those accompanying him in that prison room. However, for more than three days, we received no response. On the fourth day, they removed him from our presence, and he passed away from the illness he was suffering from. There were other cases of civilian detainees who contracted tuberculosis and died among us."



(Photo of Sadiq al-Qassimi obtained by the Insan Organization before he entered prison and after contracting tuberculosis, as a result of which he died)

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that has spread significantly, and Dr. H.M. mentioned that another detainee also suffered from a severe illness

inside the prison. He mentioned, "There was another detainee named Hadi Al-Quradi from the people of Marib who was suffering from a severe abdominal illness. We repeatedly called for his rescue. Afterwards, he was taken outside and examined by a doctor who prescribed him sedative pills. Then, he was returned to the room where we were, but he still experienced intense pain."

Regarding the fact that international organizations visited them and inspected their situation, Dr. H.M. said, "No international organization has visited us, neither the Red Cross nor the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, nor any human rights organization."

M.A., a 25-year-old student and human development trainer, was studying at the Faculty of Media in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, Omdurman University, and had reached his third year of university studies.

The father of the abducted student approached the organization and highlighted the injustice suffered by his son, who was arrested in Marib and remains in detention as of the writing of this report. The experts in the organization listened to the father, M.A., who stated, "My son was studying at Omdurman University, Faculty of Media, in Khartoum, Sudan. He used

to communicate with us on a daily basis. His mother would talk to him for hours and check on him. He informed us that he would come to Marib Governorate to conduct a human development training upon the request of a party in Marib. On February 20, 2021, my son called us to inform us that he had arrived in Marib and was staying at Istanbul Hotel, and that he was in good condition. We continued to communicate with him until February 27, 2021. After that day, we were surprised to find that his mobile phone was out of coverage (turned off). Since then, we have not received any news from him, and we don't know anything about his fate. We have been following up and searching through all means, but we have not obtained any information about him."

The father of M.A. adds, "In April 2021, I received a phone call informing me that my son is detained in the Sixth Military Zone. The communication with me continued from Marib, and he was being threatened with execution. There were other calls requesting the payment of 2000 Saudi Riyals as fees for the lawyers who would defend him in court, but I did not respond to that. Then I received another call asking me to follow up with the relevant authorities in Sana'a to release one of the military prisoners in Sana'a and exchange him for my son. The last call was in August 2023."

The student, M.A., is still detained in the prisons of Islah party in Marib. The situation has reached a point where his parents have developed chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure due to the

psychological and emotional stress of being separated from their imprisoned son without any legal justification. His devastated father states, "Until now, we don't know the reason for his arrest and detention in the camp of the Third Military Zone in Marib, which is under the supervision of Islah party leaders. We received news that he was transferred to the Political Security Prison in Marib." The father suffered a stroke, and the mother experienced a severe setback and is exhausted to this moment, waiting for her son to return from that detention center, which is being run by military forces affiliated with the Islah party.

M.A.'s father appeals to all international organizations, foremost among them the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to investigate the fate of his abducted son in a Marib prison and to release him immediately due to the illegality of his detention.

F.A. is a 28-year-old student from Taiz governorate.

F.A. was studying Geology Engineering at Shabwa University in Shabwa governorate, along with his cousin A.A. They were in their fourth year of studies. During academic breaks, F.A. would return to his family in Taiz for visits and then go back to Shabwa University when the break was over. F.A. recounts, "In May 2017, while we were traveling from Shabwa to Taiz to

spend Ramadan with our family after finishing our university exams, I was stopped and abducted along with my cousin and our colleague T.S. in Marib. We were taken to the court's prison and stayed there for months. My cousin was suffering from an illness, and he did not receive any medical care. Later, we were transferred to the Political Security Prison in Marib."

F.A. was physically and psychologically tortured along with his cousin, and F.A.'s father suffered from heart disease, and his condition worsened as a result of his son's imprisonment. F.A.'s mother traveled to Marib to search for her son and get him out, but her efforts were in vain. F.A. continued to suffer in prison with his cousin due to torture and poor health care until they were released in exchange for prisoners of war between Sana'a and Marib in June 2018.

F.A. has been suffering from the effects of his imprisonment, and his mental well-being has been greatly affected, especially due to the deprivation of his university education, for which he had spent years working towards obtaining a bachelor's degree.

When asked if any organizations visited them in prison, he stated that no United Nations-affiliated organizations or the International Committee of the Red Cross visited them during their time in detention.

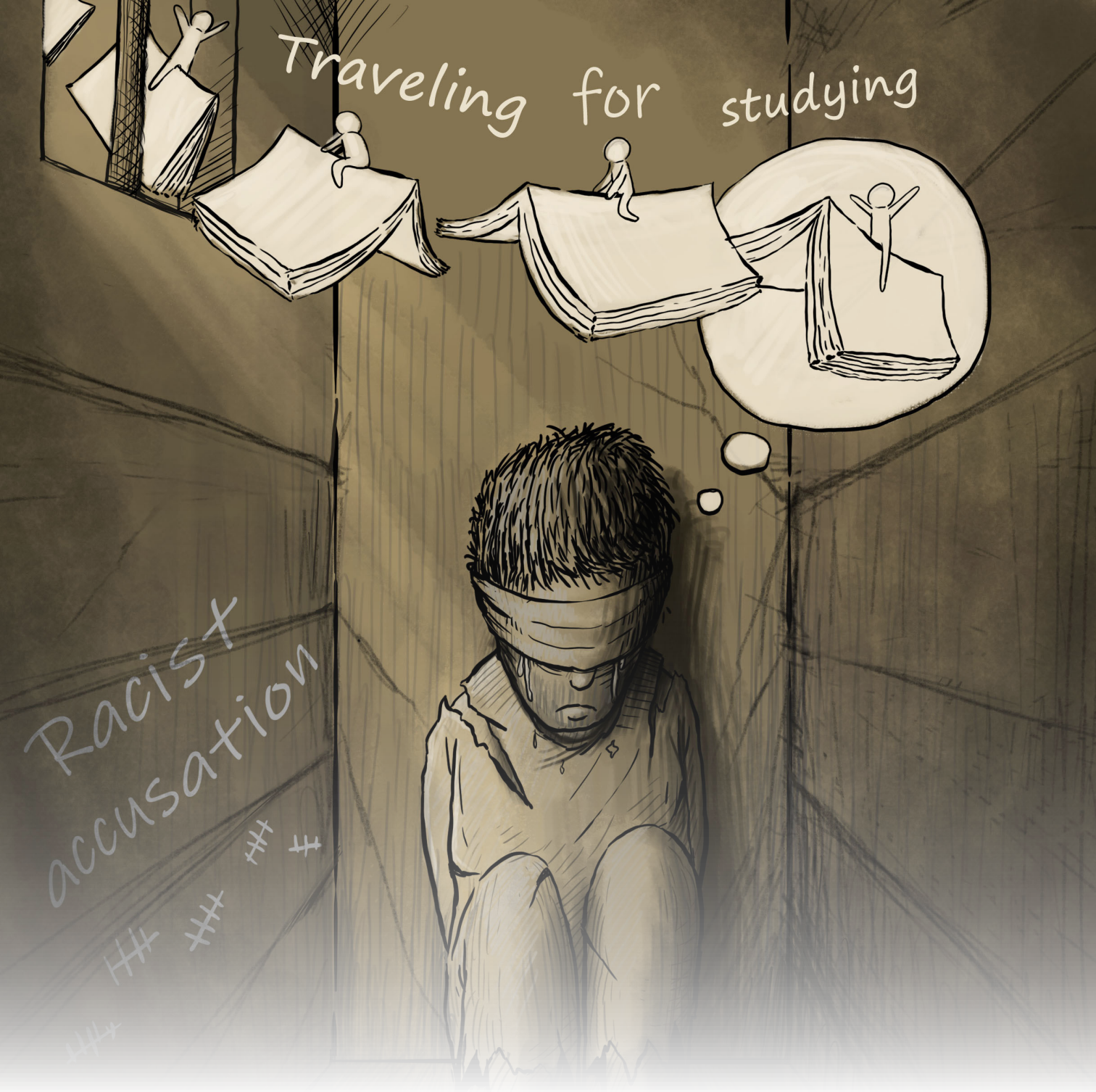


(A document addressed by the Dean of the College of Oil and Minerals in Shabwa to the Governor of Marib demands the release of the students, and the document proves the abduction of the students traveling in Marib)

S.A. is a university student in one of the law colleges in the Sultanate of Oman, from Sana'a Governorate, Arhab District. In January, 2017, he traveled to Oman, passing through Marib Governorate. However, he was detained at Al-Falaj checkpoint due to suspicion regarding his name. He was subsequently transferred to the court's prison, where he stayed for two months before being moved to Al-Saleh Institute prison (an undisclosed and unlawful detention). S.A. recounts, "I was subjected to severe torture with cables, sticks, and hanging. They used electric shocks on me, and they demanded that I confess to having connections with the Houthis (Ansar Allah). My fingers were taken after the interrogation, while I was blindfolded, and they forced me to thumbprint on documents whose content I did not know or understand."

Regarding healthcare, S.A. states, "I suffered from skin diseases like scabies and eczema without receiving any medical care. Additionally, we had various illnesses due to poor nutrition. As for sanitation facilities, "We had to use plastic bottles and bags for waste disposal, and the only time we were allowed to leave the cell in Al-Saleh Institute prison was once a day to empty the bottles and bags and refill drinking water from the bathrooms."

When S.A. was asked about other students or academics detained with him in the same place, he replied affirmatively that there were others with him and said, "There was another person with me in the prison called T.R., and there was also another student named N.K., an engineering student



studying in Sudan; he was detained with us in the same prison. There was also a detained doctor with us named K.T., who holds a Ph.D. in education management from Cairo University and was traveling to Egypt for academic work. He was abducted and imprisoned with us because of his surname.”

S.A. says: “As a result of the poor health conditions situation, a young man in his twenties named Mohammed Nagi Mureit from Al-Jawf Governorate, who was imprisoned alongside me, passed away died next to me, named Muhammad Naji Marit. He suffered from severe diarrhea that appeared to be cholera, and they did not receive provide him with any simple health care until he died.”



(Photo of Mohamed Naji Mureit, who died as a result of health negligence in the secret prison of the Al-Saleh Institute in the city of Marib)

S.A. was subjected to prolonged solitary confinement and severe psychological torture. After 7 months, S.A. was transferred to the Political Security Prison, where he stayed for nearly a year. He was released after a year and eight months after signing a commitment to leave the city of Marib within 24 hours.



A.M., a 26-year-old student from Sana'a Governorate, He is one of the students studying in Malaysia and was sent there on a scholarship. He was accompanied by three other colleagues from APU University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They were studying Telecommunications Engineering.

An interview was conducted with him, and he testified that he was arrested in Aden Governorate upon his return from Malaysia through Aden Airport. He stated, “I traveled to Malaysia in 2017 to continue my university studies, and I had already completed the third year. My colleagues and I, whom I met at the university where I was studying, thought of returning to Yemen to visit our families due to the prolonged separation, especially considering the devastating and tragic news we were receiving, particularly from international channels that we used to watch.”

When we arrived at Aden Airport on September 25, 2021, and after completing the usual inspection procedures inside the airport and having our passports stamped, we exited the airport. We rented a Prado car from a tourist transportation company. Since passing through the airport gate until we reached the Khormaksar area, there was a newly established checkpoint. They stopped us, and one of the military personnel approached the car. After a few minutes, we were transferred in a convoy to the Badr camp. There, one of the investigators kept saying, “You are so-and-so, and you are so-and-so,” repeating our names. We were also interrogated about our whereabouts and the field of study in Malaysia. Each of us answered regarding our specialized scholarships. I told them that my specialization was in Information Technology (IT), while my second colleague answered that his specialization was in Telecommunications, and the third colleague said his specialization was in Mechatronics. As for the fourth person, he was

the driver of the car. After that, we were surprised by false and malicious charges against us, including being accused of being drone experts affiliated with the Houthi (Ansar Allah). They accused me of having a relative who was a leader among the Houthi (Ansar Allah). We denied all of these allegations as they had no basis in truth.

A.M continued, saying: “My third colleague, the car driver, and I remained imprisoned for twenty-one days. During that period, we were subjected to the most brutal forms of physical and psychological torture. The student, A.M, stated the following: ‘The prison authorities would come to our place of detention and tell us that we would be released soon. We would hope to be released today or tomorrow, but without any result. Each one of us would sit there, contemplating whether our release was true or if we would remain captive indefinitely. During one instance, we requested the investigators, and they made a promise that we would be released today or tomorrow. However, we continued to hold onto that hope in vain.

One of the physical tortures inflicted upon me was being suspended and subjected to various forms of torture, including the use of electric shocks all over my body. I suffered swelling in my knees. The food provided was inadequate, and the treatment we received was inhumane. After twenty-one days of our detention, we were finally allowed to communicate with our families when we were in the Badr camp in Aden.”

He also stated, “The military forces affiliated with the so-called Sothern

Transitional Council in Aden transferred me and my colleagues to a prison in Al-Tawahi. I was forcefully dragged into the prison, and they put me in chains. My other colleagues, as well, were treated the same. We were inside a prison ward in the At-Tawahi prison with over 110 detainees, and there were four small cells, each of which held more than 20 detainees. Each one of us had a small space, only three floor tiles to sit in. I was interrogated nightly until dawn, and during the interrogation, a gun was placed against my head, and I was threatened with death if I didn't confess to what they wanted. My mental state was extremely shattered. He added "Due to exhaustion, we couldn't sleep properly inside the prison because there was no suitable place for it. In addition to the nightly interrogations that were conducted against us."

With regard to food and medicine, the student A.M. pointed out that the jailers practice systematic torture against them, especially in terms of not providing adequate food and appropriate medicine. He mentioned that individuals who experienced severe pain were deprived of proper medical care and only providing with some tranquilizers. Clean water and sanitation facilities were also not available. Each detainee would take five bottles of water for ablution and drinking purposes throughout the day. The food provided was inadequate, as each detainee received only three loaves of bread and a small amount of beans, which had to be shared among more than eight people, which was not sufficient for two individuals. As for

medication, there was severe negligence by the prison authorities, as they repeatedly prevented patients from being taken to hospitals or requesting specialized doctors to examine those who were in pain inside the prison.



M.H. is a 25-year-old university student from Hodeidah governorate. He was abducted on August 26, 2023, by four armed individuals affiliated with Al-Islah party at a checkpoint in the Ben Ma'ili area of Ma'rib governorate. This incident occurred while he was returning from Malaysia to spend his vacation in the capital, Sana'a, through the Shahin- Ma'rib-Sana'a route. After his abduction, he was forcibly hidden. According to his relatives' testimony, the student (M.H) was taken out of a small car that was transporting him towards Ma'rib complex by an armed group at the checkpoint. They placed him in an unknown location. One of his relatives mentioned that his father was searching for him everywhere and kept asking anyone passing through Ma'rib governorate about the fate of his son, whom he had lost for over two weeks. The relative informed the organization that M. H's father received information that his son was in military intelligence prison or in a special security or isolated house. He added that his father had been in contact with someone through WhatsApp who was bargaining with him to release his son after releasing twenty prisoners detained by the Houthis (Ansar Allah).

One of his relatives mentioned that M.H. returned to Yemen during his study break to celebrate his wedding ceremony. He chose to travel through AL-Shehn border crossing in Al-Mahra governorate, eastern Yemen, due to the lower cost and also out of fear of being arrested by forces affiliated with the Transitional Council, as had happened to previous students who returned from Malaysia through Aden Airport.

One of his relatives further adds that he was subjected to enforced disappearance due to his surname by armed individuals in Ma'rib governorate. It was not because of his political or party affiliations. Due to his family name, he became a victim of abduction, enforced disappearance, and torture. As a result, the student's family (M.H) suffered severe psychological damage. They were overwhelmed with pain due to the loss of their son, who was joyful about returning to Yemen to celebrate his wedding and then planned to return with his wife to Malaysia to continue his higher education.

A.B. works as a social studies teacher in Sana'a and supports four children. Due to the difficult living conditions that worsened after the suspension of salary payments in October 2016, he and his family faced challenging circumstances. In late 2016, he decided to

search for work elsewhere and traveled to Al-Mahra governorate. There, he found an opportunity to work as a social studies teacher for students in the primary education stage.

He had been working in the field of education for several months and would return to Sana'a whenever he had the opportunity to visit his family. During one of his visits, while returning through Ma'rib governorate in the Al-Falaj area, precisely at a security checkpoint, he was intercepted by security forces. They arrested him without any legal justification.

The forces of the Al-Islah party arrested A.B., who was 36 years old, at Al-Falaj checkpoint based on their suspicion of his name and family name. They transferred him to the court headquarter in Ma'rib and placed him in prison. He was subjected to various forms of torture on his body and humiliation during the interrogation. After months of being held in the court's prison, he was transferred to Al-Saleh Institute's prison (an illegal and hidden prison). He was placed in solitary confinement in a dark and dim cell all the time. Interrogations with him would occur throughout the night until morning. He endured physical torture during the interrogations. He ate, slept, and defecated in the "same small dark place." They hung him from a window and beat him all over his body with sticks and electric shocks in an attempt to force him to confess to things he did not do and was not involved in.

He contracted cholera in July 2017 and did not receive adequate medical

care to save his life from this disease. Instead, he was subjected to beatings, insults, and hanging. One of the masked guards, known as Abu Laith, would take him out of his cell while he was suffering from cholera. He would then kick and roll him down the stairs, only to bring him back up the stairs and repeat the process again. This continued until he lost consciousness due to the severity of the torture. This torture was repeated over and over again.

A.B. describes his health situation, saying, “I contracted cholera and miraculously survived. There were dozens of detainees with me in the secret prison of Al-Saleh Institute who also contracted the disease and died due to the lack of healthcare. One person I remember who passed away is named Mohammed Al-Awadri, a trader of petroleum derivatives, contracted cholera and was tortured. Afterward, we knew that his body was hidden for over six months before being handed over to his family.”



(Mohammed Al-Awdari, an oil derivatives trader, died in Al-Saleh Institute prison in Marib as a result of torture and poor health care)

When asked about scholars or academics who were with him in prison, A.B. answered, "Yes, there was Q.F., a law master student who was traveling to Jordan to continue his studies. He was abducted from the Al-Falaj checkpoint and imprisoned with us."

A.B. was deprived of basic rights such as food, drinking water, and even contacting with his family. After being subjected to various forms of torture and enduring excruciating pain, he was transferred to the Political Security prison. There, he was subjected to severe torture with electric shocks, cable beatings, and rubber stick beatings by torturers known as "Abu Ayyash" and "Abu Thanya." A.B. was not exposed to sunlight during his time in the Political Security prison except for two times. He was finally released on February 18, 2018.

During the interview with Mr. A.B., he was in an extremely poor psychological condition due to the torture and deliberate neglect he endured during his detention period. As of the writing of this report, he continues to rely on medication prescribed to treat severe psychological conditions.

N.F. supports two children and works as an Arabic language teacher in Dhamar Governorate.

Due to difficult living conditions and his family's situation after the suspension of salaries in the northern governorates, he decided to search for employment in the field of teaching in one of the southern governorates.

On November 7, 2018, N.F traveled to Al-Mahra Governorate and found a job opportunity as an elementary school teacher for the Arabic language. He would teach for a period and then return to visit his family in Dhamar. During one of his trips from Al-Mahra back to Dhamar passing through Marib governorate, specifically at Al-Falaj checkpoint, a group of armed individuals wearing military uniforms was waiting for him. They arrested him without any legal justification.

He was arrested by forces affiliated with Al-Islah Party at Al-Falaj checkpoint when he was forty years old, without any charges. He was then taken to the Marib Security Administration headquarters and, after a few days, transferred to the Political Security prison in Marib. N.F. was subjected to various forms of torture and humiliation during interrogation. He was placed in solitary confinement for two weeks, and the interrogations with him would continue throughout the nights until morning. He endured physical torture during the interrogations. He ate, slept, and defecated in the same place without receiving any medical care, despite his advanced age. He was not allowed to contact his family throughout his one-year and

one-month imprisonment.

N.F. endured difficult circumstances, as he stated. He adds, "I am the sole provider for my family, and I didn't know about their situation due to the war in Yemen. I developed diabetes and heart muscle tremors as a result of constantly worrying about my family during those months. I didn't know how they were doing. My wife is an orphan, and I am an orphan as well. They have no provider other than me." N.F. faced harsh conditions without any reason or appreciation for his position as a teacher for Yemen's generations in the Arabic language.

N.F. says, "When I was released from prison, they asked me to sign a document stating that I would not involve in terrorist activities, despite being a teacher and educator for young people. They demanded that I should commit to leaving Marib within 24 hours and take responsibility if I stayed. They also asked me to bring a guarantor from the city of Marib. I told them that I didn't know anyone in Marib, and luckily, when I became flustered, I took the document and put it in my pocket without the masked guard noticing. They released me. It is requested from all civilian detainees to sign this document upon their release".

تعهد والتزام وضمانه

انا / أحمل بطاقة /
رقمها صادرة من
بتاريخ

التزم على نفسي بعدم الدعم والتأييد أو الذهاب مع الانقلابيين أو مع أي شخص أو
جهة تقف ضد الشرعية والمقاومة أو تمارس أعمال ارهابية أو تخريبية ضد
الوطن أو المواطن وإذا ثبت ذلك اتحمل كافة الاجراءات المتخذة من قبلكم ضدي
وعلى هذا ابهامي وتوقيعي .

التوقيع اللصمه
رقم التلغون بتاريخ

ألتزم بمفادرة مدينة مأرب خلال ٤٢ ساعة وأتحمل مسؤولية
عدم بيانات الضمين! المفادرة خلال ال ٤٢ ساعة

الاسم رباعيا اللقب العمر
المحافظة/ المديرية / العزله
نوع الضمانه عمل الضمين
السكن الحالي السكن الدائم

انا الموضحه بياناتي أعلاه اضمن على
الأخ/
ضمانته-حضوريه- تجاريه.
بحيث التزم بايصال المذكور اعلاه اليكم في حال تم طلبه من قبلكم في أي لحظه
واتحمل المسئوليه الكامله عن أي مخالفه أو جريمه يرتكبها المذكور

التوقيع/
رقم التلغون /
الليصمه

(A document of pledge, commitment and guarantee that civilian detainees are required to sign upon when they are released)

Dr. Ilham Al-Mutawakel, wife of the kidnapped Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel,

“This is Marib, which they claim to be the shining face. These are the ones who claim to be the legitimate authorities”. These are the words of Dr. Ilham Al-Mutawakel on her personal Facebook page before her unfortunate health decline and subsequent passing. She hoped for the return of her husband, Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel, who was detained on April 27, 2017 at Al-Falaj checkpoint in Marib while returning from the city of Seiyun, after his participation in the annual conference of investment bodies in the Kingdom of Morocco.

At Al-Falaj checkpoint, an armed group wearing military uniforms boarded the bus on which Dr. Mustafa was traveling. They forcibly dragged him off the bus, and took him to an unknown location.

Al-Mutawakel’s family describes that Dr. Mustafa traveled to Morocco through Seiyun airport passing the areas controlled by Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi’s government at the time without being harmed. During his return, he also passed through the same areas via a public transportation bus, He was confident that no one would harm him considering he was an academic and a civilian. He did not expect to be arrested.

Al-Mutawakel family was perplexed by the extensive international campaigns published on websites affiliated with Hadi’s government leadership, calling for the detention and concealment of Dr. Mustafa.

He was completely disappeared, and his family had no knowledge of his whereabouts or his fate.

On May 15, 2017, Dr. Ilham Al-Mutawakel, Mustafa's wife and a university professor, traveled to Marib accompanied by a legal team to assert her legal right to visit and check on him. Three members of the Faculty Syndicate at Sana'a University, including the association's president, also accompanied her on the visit in solidarity with their colleague.

At the Marib governorate building, she was received as a criminal. Ilham says, "I never imagined such bad treatment from some officials in Marib." Despite the hardship of traveling from Sana'a to Marib, I faced closed doors and did not find any alleviation for my long suffering".

Before leaving Marib, Ilham Al-Mutawakel's lawyer received a call from a blocked number, which her lawyer answered. The caller informed them that Dr. Mustafa was no longer in Marib and had been handed over to Saudi Arabia. The caller added, "Don't bother us, and we won't bother you. It's better for you to leave." This prompted Ilham to make the decision to leave after two weeks of the visit.

Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel has three daughters and two sons. His son, Al-Hussein Mustafa Al-Mutawakel, died in Malaysia due to a medical error after being involved in a car accident. The son's death occurred months after the father's forced disappearance. Al-Hussein spent in anguish over his father's fate, according to his family's testimony. One of his daughters says, "It was

a catastrophic year for us—the forced disappearance of our father and then the painful death of my brother.” She adds: “We had to smuggle my brother’s body through Oman for fear that the body would be detained in Ma’rib, as happened with my father”. Enforced disappearance is the detention or abduction of a person, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or concealment of the fate of the disappeared person.

Ilham Al-Mutawakel, before her passing, said that one of Dr. Mustafa’s companions in prison, after being released, came asking about him, believing that he had also been released. However, he was unaware that Dr. Mustafa had been handed over to Saudi authorities. Ilham asked her husband’s comrade about their conditions and how they were in prison. The answer was, “There were 12 of us inside the cell, sleeping in close proximity, with our feet touching due to severe overcrowding. We were allowed to use the bathroom once a day. Each one of us had a used bottle that we filled with water from the bathroom to drink. There were prisoners who had diabetes, and four prisoners died from cholera. The food was bad and insufficient. We slept on the floor. They provided Dr. Mustafa with a mattress for the last two days of his presence in Marib because he was the oldest and was starting to weaken. There was only one Quran circulating among everyone”.

(The content of this story was quoted from the family of Dr. Mustafa Al-Mutawakel and from the Facebook page of his deceased wife, Dr. Elham Al-Mutawakel.)



(A picture of the deceased Dr. Elham Al-Mutawakel holding a picture of her abducted husband in one of the vigils to demand his release)

Conclusion:

Through this report, we conclude that many civilians, especially university students, academics and teachers, have been subjected to various types of violations and crimes. The situation has become tragic and catastrophic for dozens of them. Some are in severe psychological distress, some have lost their studies, and others are still missing with no information about their fate until now

We also conclude, according to the testimonies of dozens of abductees and detainees, including students, academics and teachers, that the relevant organizations, especially the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross, did not carry out visits to the prisons where they were held, despite their responsibility as stipulated by the Geneva Conventions as well as customary international humanitarian law: The International Committee has the right to visit all prisoners of war and civilian detainees, wherever they are held, in international armed conflicts. These visits help ensure respect for their lives and preservation of the dignity by reminding the detaining authorities that the treatment of prisoners and the conditions of their arrest or detention must comply with the standards set out in international humanitarian law. This includes their access to medical care, food and water. They shall also not be tortured, intimidated or subjected to violence.

The organization expresses its astonishment at the painful reality faced by the abducted and detained students, academics, and teachers in the prisons of the Southern Transitional Council and Al-Islah Party, which are currently under the authority of the Presidential Council. This astonishment arises from the fact that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the High Commissioner for Human Rights have not fulfilled their responsibilities and mandates granted to them. Furthermore, the organization questions the commitment and lack of implementation of the provisions and regulations of the four Geneva Conventions and their Optional Protocols, as well as the conventions against torture and enforced disappearance. None of these have been applied or implemented by the relevant international bodies responsible for monitoring states and groups that deliberately commit various violations and crimes

Recommendations:

1. Call on the United Nations, its bodies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to condemn all human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law, including publicly condemning acts of abduction, arbitrary detention, and torture faced by civilians, especially students, academics, and teachers.
2. Inform the families of abductees and detainees of their fate and whereabouts, including those who have lost their lives, and providing them with information about the circumstances and details of their

deaths, as well as the locations of their burials.

3. Demand The United Nations to directly pressure the Presidential Council and its affiliated entities (the Southern Transitional Council and the Islah Party) to allow for an independent international inspection of all detention facilities. This inspection should ensure the compliance with detention conditions and the treatment of detainees in accordance with relevant international standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Full protection must be provided to all detainees, guaranteeing that they are not subjected to torture or any other forms of ill-treatment during their detention.
4. Sparing Sana'a Airport of any future measures that may limit its effectiveness and lifting restrictions on the airport completely, as it serves a large population concentrated in northern Yemen mostly of whom are students, academics, patients, and businessmen.

Urgent actions that can be taken:

These measures aim to protect the rights of civilians, achieve justice and hold those responsible for accountable violations and provide the necessary support to victims and their families. It is important that these measures are implemented immediately and effectively to address violations and repressive practices and ensure human rights for all.

1. Establish an independent and impartial investigation committee of inquiry to investigate reports related to torture, ill-treatment, and deaths in prisons, which should be composed of highly competent and

unbiased members who are capable of collecting evidence and hearing witnesses freely and in complete confidentiality.

2. Work to provide immediate protection to prisoners and detainees who are still in the prisons of those armed groups, ensure their safety, prevent torture and ill-treatment, and guarantee their fundamental and human rights.
3. Release all detainees who have been unlawfully or arbitrarily detained., and the detainees' cases must be verified and their treatment should be in accordance with the law and international standards of human rights.
4. Provide necessary medical and psychological care programs for detainees who have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment and to ensure that they receive the required treatment and support to alleviate the physical and psychological injuries they have suffered.
5. Hold accountable those responsible for crimes of torture, ill-treatment, and deaths inside prisons and they must be brought to justice and prosecuted in accordance to international law and human rights standards.
6. Provide support and assistance to victims and their families, including affirming their rights to justice and compensation.

Disclaimer:

- The concept of neutrality, independence and impartiality here is to present and discuss facts as parties and victims.
- While we believe in the importance of lifting restrictions and ending the imposed siege on Sana'a International Airport, it is important to note that this will not eliminate the practice of attacking travelers and passersby. However, it may lead to a decrease in cases of arrest, kidnapping, and disappearance. This implies that some parties may continue these practices whenever an opportunity arises.
- We do not object, at the very least, to using this document by the concerned authorities to review its inputs and verify the information provided, as well as to gain initial insights into the current situation. It should be noted that the content of the report serves as a call to address and condemn this situation.

Insan organization's position on the crimes of enforced disappearance, abduction and arbitrary detention practiced by security and military elements in the southern governorates and the governorate of Marib against civilians traveling through those governorates.

The report issued by Insan Organization for human rights regarding the crimes of abduction and enforced disappearance of civilians and it reflects the organization's firm stance against these practices. The report highlights the importance of preserving the dignity of civilians, their right to security, and the avoidance of any harm to their physical well-being. It expresses the organization's deep concern regarding these practices. According to the report, these crimes are considered a flagrant violation of international law and human rights, as civilians must be protected from any acts of violence and enforced disappearance. The organization emphasizes the importance of respecting human rights and protecting all civilians, while underscoring the need to hold accountable those responsible for these crimes and bring them to justice. Additionally, the organization calls for raising public awareness about this issue and taking effective measures to prevent and combat abduction and enforced disappearance. The organization also supports the efforts of the international community in establishing robust mechanisms to ensure the protection of civilians and provide necessary support to victims and their families.

Letter of Thanks and Appreciation Acknowledgement



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