



# NOTHING IS LEFT FOR US

Human rights report monitors and documents arbitrary arrests, psychological and physical torture of women in Yemen in al-Houthi militia prisons





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# Introduction

This report documents how Houthis and the Zinabiyat groups carried out systematic and widespread arbitrary detentions in addition to enforced disappearance and torture of Yemeni women, particularly in the governorates of Sana'a, Hodiedah and Amran, which are covered by this report. Houthi tried to hide these violations through the psychological intimidation of victims, and threatening to destroy them socially by accusing them of committing crimes that stigmatize them.

SAM work to prepare this report, communicating with victims and documenting their stories has been associated with risks and exposed our monitors to many hazards, including abduction and abuses, similar to that the victims encountered.

In previous reports, SAM documented multiple violations against women,

including violations of the right to life and physical integrity by various parties to the conflict in Yemen. However, this is the first report dedicated to documenting violations of women through arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, The malicious charges.

During the period from December 2018 to May 2019, SAM documented in this report 10 cases of women victims of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture.

SAM interviewed 10 eyewitnesses and contacted five human rights activists involved in the stories narrated in this report.

We have pledged to the victims to conceal their identities as much as possible and to attribute their testimony to aliases for protect their privacy.





## Women in Yemen.. cruel figures

Since their active participation in 2011 revolution, women opened a new phase of the societal struggle for their rights, and for proving themselves in the political scene, and achieved many gains in this endeavor to attain equality and combat negative discrimination against women, and ensure equal opportunities, and other legitimate and constitutional rights. Thus, creating and advanced state of awareness and a unique model in the region that can inspire all women who are longing for freedom and advocating for their legitimate rights. Unfortunately, since the fall of the capital

Sanaa at Houthis militias' hands, human rights situation deteriorated in general, and women's rights in particular. Furthermore, policies of the war parties; namely Houthis militias and Saudi Arabia and have created complexed situation for Yemeni women, where forced to undergo hard reality and conditions, where they live in areas that lack basic services and needs; like food and medicines, and face the ordeal of losing their men breadwinners, who were forcibly disappeared at Houthis prisons in the north and UAE and Saudi-backed militias in the south.



SAM has documented shocking figures of the violations against Yemeni women during 2014 – 2018, including deliberate killing, and injuries against women activists, mounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. During the reporting period; 807 women were killed, majority in Taiz city, with 387 women, followed by Hodiedah, 86 women, Aden, 37, Lahaj, 35, and Sa'da 34 women. And 479 women died by fatal shrapnel, 241 by gun shots, 69 by mines, 4 by EIDs, 14 by serious injuries, and 233 by the Saudi Arabia and UAE airstrikes.

Houthis militia topped the list of perpetrators of violations against women, where they killed in accomplice with Saleh forces 405 women, and solely killed 117 women, Arab Coalition forces and aircrafts killed 228 women, and the US drones killed 8 women, during the reporting period. 1633 women were injured, with majority in Taiz city, with 1278 women, majority of whom by shrapnel, with 999 women, and 415 others by bullets. Houthis-Saleh militia is responsible for the majority of casualties, where 1312 women were injured by their attacks, 180 others by Houthis militias, and 114 by the Arab Coalition forces.





## Legal Background:

The state of war does not exempt any party to the conflict from the obligation to respect the minimum rights of the population in the areas under control of those parties, and the international human rights law is applicable during the ongoing non-international armed conflict in Yemen.

Although, the state of war may limit certain individual rights, however some other basic rights are inalienable, suspended or amended, regardless of the ongoing war. Where all detainees shall stand trials immediately, within 24 hours of their detention, to decide whether to continue their detention or to be released, shall be kept at formal not secret prisons, and women at special women wardens, not exposed to abuses or torture, or deprived from their rights as provided for by the international law, shall be released in absence of sufficient legal evidences to convict them for a crime

punishable by restriction of freedom, also shall be compensated for unlawful imprisonment.

Houthi militias continue to detain women arbitrarily and detain them when they practice their right of peaceful protest or expression of opinion, raid their houses by women militia known as the Zinabiyat, which is flagrant violation to the international humanitarian law, and a crime called for penal and legal accountability.

Torture is a war crime, and shall be banned from civilians and combatants who were captured and became unable to fight, according to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, that Yemen has ratified. SAM has documented torture of women at Houthi prisons in Sana'a, Amran and Hodiedah.



## Zinabiyat. the Security Hand to Oppress Women

Since Houthis control over Sana'a on 21 September 2014, a women security apparatus is implementing extralegal security tasks, which a secret apparatus whose leader or structure is unknown, were highly trained women are employed to undertake raids, detention of female activists, disburse protests, in addition to other tasks such as espionage, monitoring and persecuting female activists at workplaces and private places.

Also assigned with other ideological activities, such as lecturing at social events, and social media to promote Houthi ideology and monitor adversaries' publications.

Absolute loyalty to Houthis and their ideology is the primary factor in recruiting women brigades, and their commanders are recruited on ethnical basis, and among others who believe in Houthi ideology.

According to press reports, the Zinabiyat includes 4,000 elements, trained in fighting in Sana'a and some trained abroad, in Lebanon and Iran by experts from Hezbollah and Iran.

The women's security formations of the Houthis militias consist of ten teams, with different names, notably the Zinabiyat Brigades, the Women's Group, the Zahraa Brigades, and the Protective Intelligence.

Zinabiyat are trained to handle weapons from the use and dismantling and installation, in addition to dealing with explosives, installation and dismantlement, and the implementation of intrusions and inspection, and get training at civilian sites used by the Houthis for military purposes, including schools and educational zones, sports courts and government universities.





## Media for Harassment... Systematically

In the propaganda movie titled "Red Lines", at Al-Maseera channel, Houthis militia featured women confessing of being involved in immoral crimes, to cover up for their violations against women. Such charges will inflict serious damage on women reputation, in a masculine community such like Yemeni community which treat women as an inferior object and justifies oppression of women.

"With News", another TV program at Al-Sahat channel, which threatened, in an episode about rumors war, human rights

activists and organizations that advocate for women's rights, and mobilize the community against detained women and rights organizations and activists, in an attempt to defend CID director, Sultan Zabin, who is accused of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of women, when some Houthis leaders criticized him for his violations against women. A human rights activist tells SAM "we are not allowed to advocate for women cases, where they have been harassed through media campaigns by Houthis-run media outlets".



## Prostitution; a Readymade Charges

SAM has documented the detention of a large number of women in the capital, Sana'a, and verified about 30 names, which is part of a larger number of women detained in secret prisons of one of the prominent Houthis security leaders. SAM could not identify the whereabouts of the illegal secret detention center.

Women's detention has increased since the beginning of 2018, and some of the voices raised, rejecting these crimes, including by Houthis militia. A propaganda film was shown on the Al-Maseera channel of the Houthis militia to silence voices opposing the policy of arresting and torturing of women.

It is believed that the detainees were subjected to extortion and psychological

torture before they were referred to the public prosecutors on charges of "prostitution," as recorded in the various indictments that SAM obtained copies of. Some activists and lawyers, whom contacted by SAM, doubt the validity of these allegations, although there are some individual cases, but not as a collective phenomenon, emerged suddenly in a similar time, as envisaged by Houthis media, by security officials, scholars and judges, including deputy minister of Interior in the Houthis de facto government, and director of Witan radio station, brigadier Abed Al-Sharifi, and undersecretary of CID major general Hussein Qasab.

Detained women and some of their relatives told SAM that most of the women held in Houthis prison prisons have never been



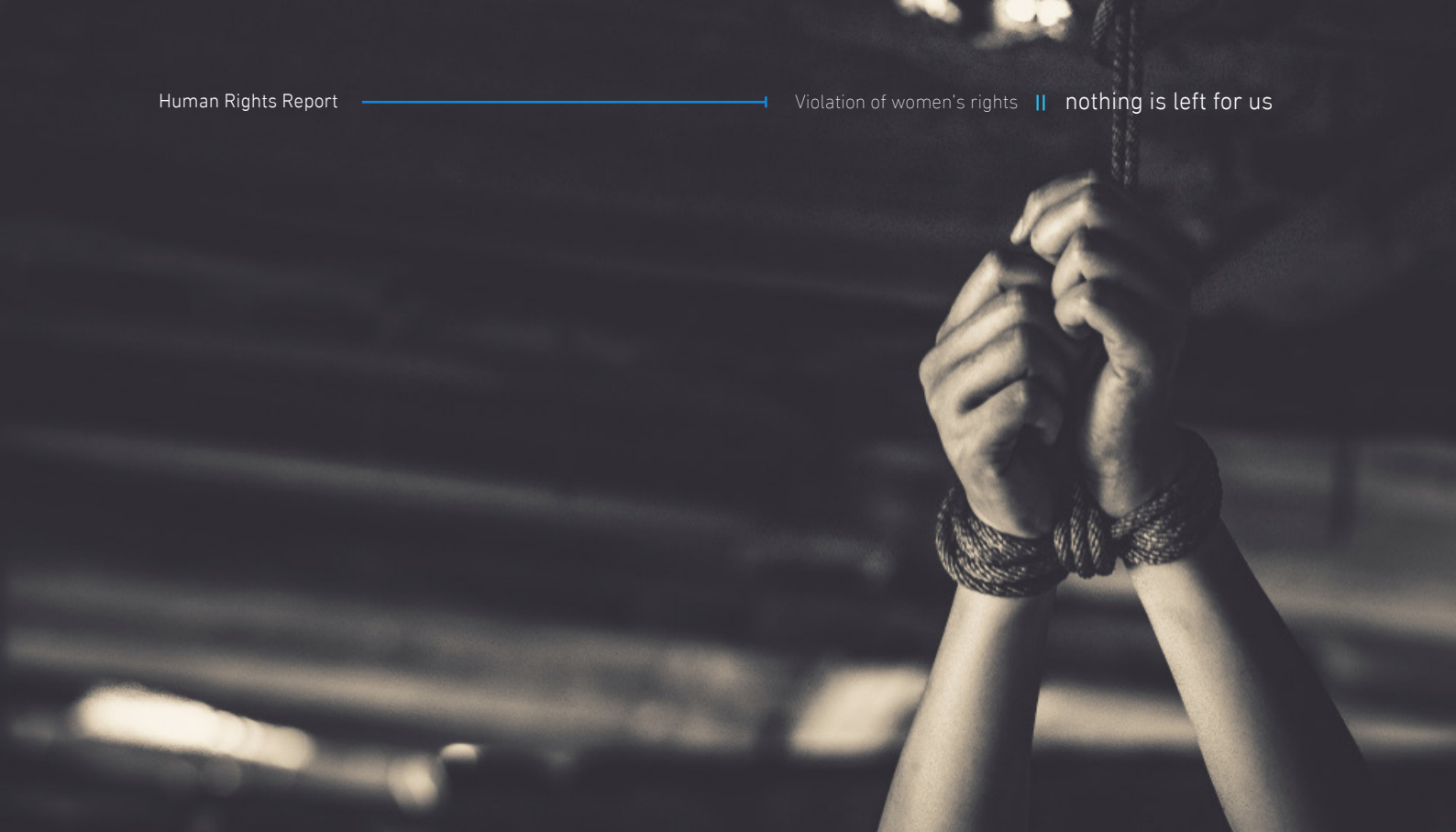
charged despite long period of detention. They have been held incommunicado for many months, some of them we, some for more than a year, and were denied contact with their families, or with a lawyer, and were not brought before the courts.

Former detainees said that Houthis militia are practicing political retaliation against them for taking part in demonstrations against the Houthis after they killed President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Most of the women were accused of being “prostitutes” in favor of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, adultery, drugs trafficking and use, and they between 16 – 50 years of age. SAM tried to communicate with them but they refused to talk because of fear. They told the Organization’s monitors that they had

confessed under pressure. They were given 100 lashes and made a written pledge to “Not to talk to any organization or media.”

According to documented testimonies by SAM, many detained women suffer from severe psychological conditions, especially after being released from detention. Some of them have been forced to pay large ransom beyond their families’ financial ability to release them. Some women have lost their family life, due to arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, where some husbands divorced their wives because of their disappearance in prison, and others were forced to divorce because their mothers were accused of working within the sex trade networks.





## Confession under Torture:

The “Houthi militia” deliberately humiliates women and separates them completely from the family and social environment, apparently to exploit them in the future. “nothing is left for us, what do they want from us, they’ve tortured us and forced us to confess that we are prostitutes, and our families rejected us”, says Fatima in response to SAM request to interview her.

Detained women are subjected to a wide range of torture methods which constitute a gross violation of the international law.

Latifa describes some of the methods of torture of detained women: “I was beaten in the face, in my mouth until my teeth broke, and I saw another detainee who have been standing on beans can for a whole day until the blood vessels of her leg were burst, another sustained heart attack due to torture and entered the hospital in a fictitious name,

another detainee whose chest is all burned because of torture with electric shock. “

Radhya, a girl who lives in Sana’a, was abducted in Sana’a by a taxi by two women and two men. They took her to the CID prison where she was beaten, and accused of prostitution, for mobilizing women to 60th street to participate in solidarity events with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

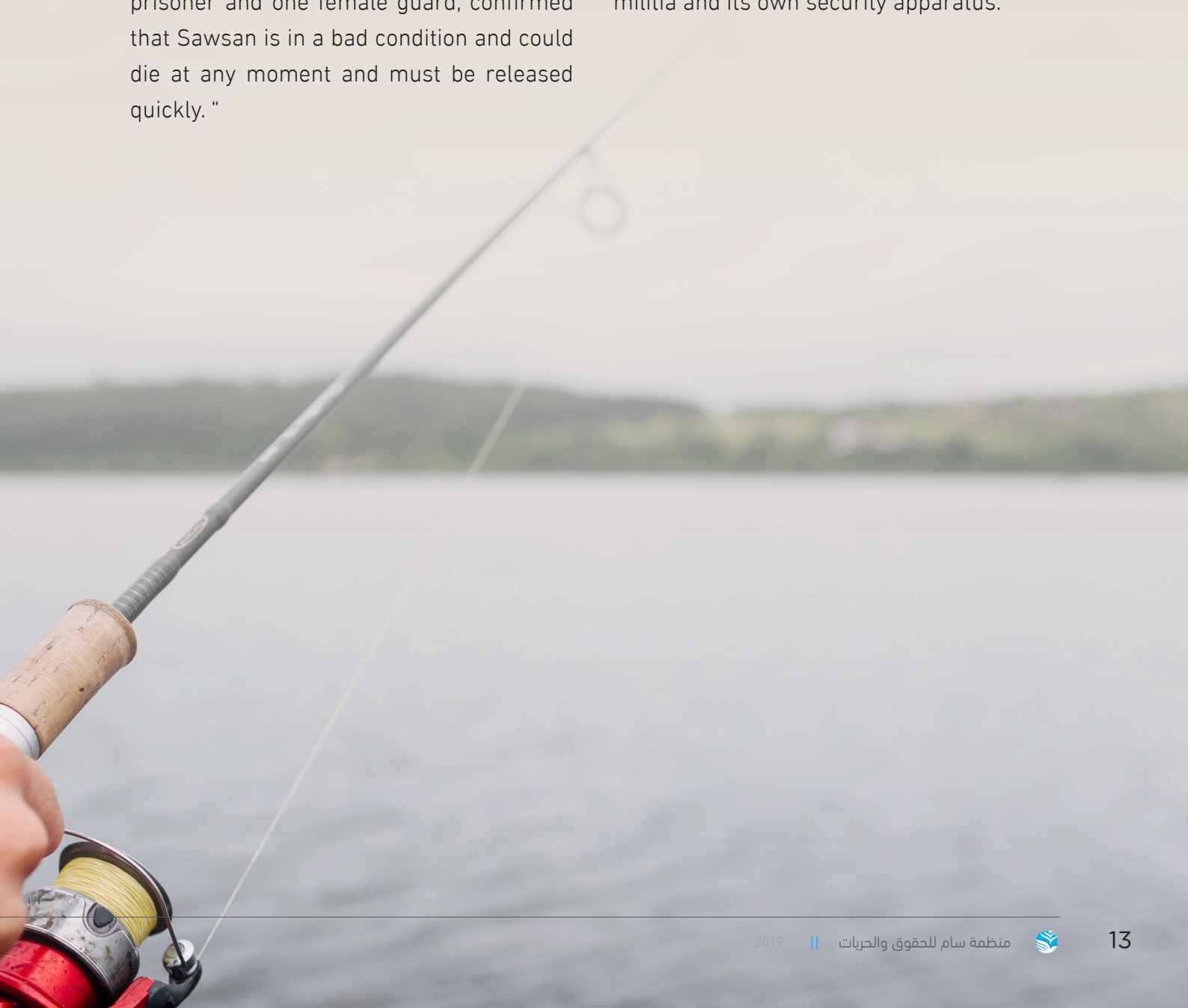
“My phone was searched and they found phone numbers of officials during Saleh’s regime, then they forced me to confess that I had brought them the girls,” she told SAM. “They show me another list of Ali Saleh’s official and wanted me to confess that I and others had sex with them. I was tortured with electric shocks and a severe beating with a stick, and they made me stand on the beans can for a full hour,” she said.

## Aids as Fishing Rod

Sawsan, also a fictitious name, 55, female, who had been contacted by a person claiming to be a charity representative in order to attend and receive relief aids. After leaving her house, she was taken by a taxi by two men and two women and forced under torture to confess that she runs a “brothel” in favor of Afash.

Sawsan, suffering from heart disease and diabetes and high blood pressure, and one prisoner and one female guard, confirmed that Sawsan is in a bad condition and could die at any moment and must be released quickly. “

SAM's monitors met a number of victims, and documented testimonies made by former CID officers who, on the condition of anonymity, reported that the detention and forced disappearance of women in secret prisons of the Houthis militia had become a phenomenon threatening social security. And serious violation of the rights of the victims, especially after the establishment of the armed Zinabiyat militias of the Houthis militia and its own security apparatus.



## Figures and Prisons

SAM managed to monitor a number of stories that reveal the extent of violations against women in Yemen, which confirm that violations of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance have become frightening and disturbing in a masculine community governed by primitive customs and traditions, rendering such violations against women of deep impact, and may lead to the destruction of their lives, and live the rest of their life isolated from the community, and some families may get rid of their daughters out of shame.

- Detained women at Houthis prisons live in a very poor humanitarian and human rights conditions. Where 90 inmates were kept at three rooms, 60 women in a room of five meters in nine meters with their children, and 30 in two rooms; of four meters by four meters, with their children, also, there are more than 35 children, in poor health conditions, where a number of them were exposed to various skin diseases.

SAM verified from the testimonies received that, all detainees are subjected to torture by Houthis militia at various houses in Sana'a city, and then moved to another detention called Addar, which is a secret prison

supervised by a Houthi security commander in Sana'a. they are forced to record their confession before video camera and then imprisoned at the central prison under fictitious names, where Houthis-designated female warden named "the Quranic March Women", are in charge, after expelling ministry of interior warden by Houthis.

Amran Central Prison is one of the worst prisons where Houthis detain women. The prison was not ready for more than 20 women, but today it is crowded with dozens of women, most of whom have been transferred from the CID, in Amran.

Many of them were detained because of the political stance of their relatives, in addition to being relatives of administrative officials who wish to transfer their jobs or leave the city of Amran.

SAM learned that one of the detained women jumped out of the detention room of the CID, in an attempt to escape, causing her fractures. Later, Houthis militia imposed more stringent security measures and prevented visits to detained women after some information was leaked about the circumstances of their arrest.



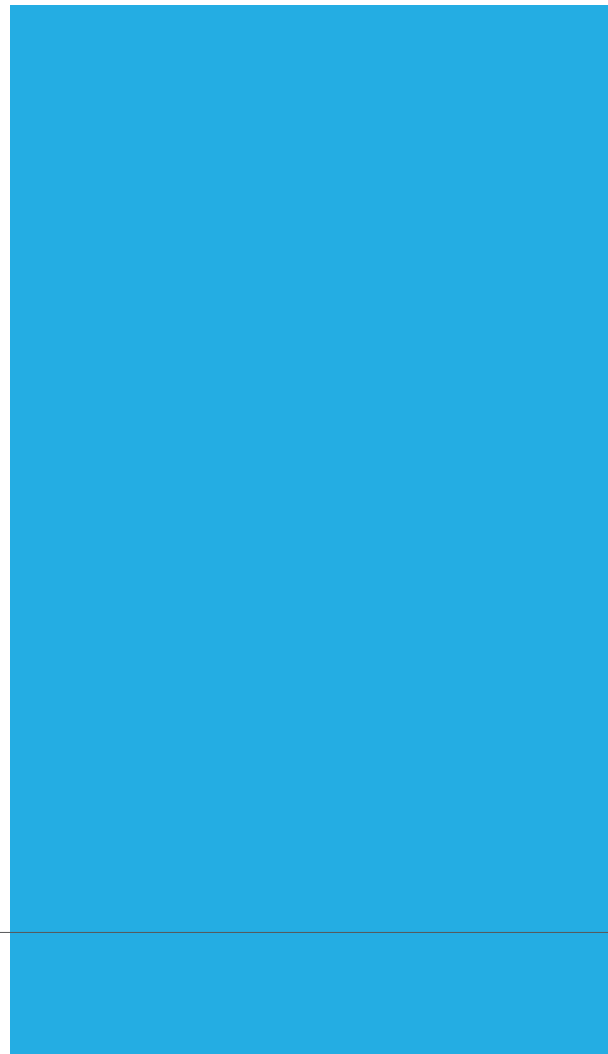
# Examples

## Asma Al-Omaisi, 22;

A mother of two, detained at the Political Security in Sana'a, since October 2016.

She was sentenced to death the Houthis-controlled judiciary, for "intelligence with the aggression" charges. Asma's father, 50 years old, told Amnesty International, that they were both tortured, and he was detained with his daughter at the CID office in Sana'a. "they used to bring two others, Saeed Al-Roweshid and Ahmed Bawazeer,

to our room, blindfolded and handcuffed, and beat them in front of us, and force them confess, while they deny committing any crime. Me, and Asma remained silent, fearing that they might fire at us. God knows how we suffered. According to Amnesty, Asma was beaten also, boxed and by stick and by hand of one female officer.





## Violent Breaking in and Looting

Salwa, mother of two children, lives in Sanaa. She tells Sam: "My apartment was broken into, and the contents were tampered with twice. The first was on September 9, 2016, at 6:00 pm, after the door of my apartment was kicked in horrifying way, (25 men with one woman), there were more armed men on the stairs and on the street, I was with my 3 years old daughter and 2 years son.

My brother opened the door and they entered the house in a barbaric and absurd way, which caused panic and fear of my children. I did not have time to wear my hijab, and they prevented me from knocking on any neighbor's door or even communicating with a relative. My mobile phone was confiscated while I was talking with one of my relatives. They continued to tamper with all the contents and possessions of the apartment.

"I was kept in my children room, and they searched and tampered with the bedroom, and looted all valuable things (money, gold and others), also searched in my children's room, the rest of the contents of the other rooms, the kitchen, the bathrooms, the furniture, the kitchen utensils and the food, everything was destroyed and looted." She

added.

The next day, at 4:30 pm, two armed men (including those who had been came the previous day) wanted to enter the house with their weapons. I refused to open the door to them and they continued knocking and kicking the door. I told them to talk to the "Aqil", the head of the neighborhood, with what they want. I opened the door for the Aqil and one of them pushed the door strongly and entered the apartment asking me about the laptop which they had taken the previous day and I explained to them that it is not here. One of the gunmen threatened and me that he will fire on me, and a few seconds later they stormed the apartment with a large number of gunmen and two women again.

They tampering with the contents of the apartment, worse than the previous day, more absurd and barbaric, and continued to tamper until 7 pm, and then they wanted to take me with them, without taking my children, I refused, they tried with me by threatening me at gun point, but I refused to go out with them. They told the Aqil that I will go with them to return my gold and money, what they've looted the day before,

I asked them to hand them over to the Aqil, but they refused, finally they let me go with them accompanying my children.

"I was beaten and pushed by the two women and an armed man inside the apartment and in the stair of the apartment, which caused me to break my jaw while I was pushed from the stairs, because I wanted to lock the apartment door, to keep the rest of the furniture from being stolen.

On the way inside the car, the two women interrogated me, but I refused to respond and talk to them. They threatened me that I will not be released and they would not cooperate with me, and that I'm a woman and they can harm me. I refused to respond until the interrogation was formal. We came to the area where the lighting is very dim, which increased the fear and anxiety for myself and my children, knowing that no one knows from my family and relatives that they took me after taking my phone and inability to go out, and I'm alone and helpless woman. We reached a dark building at about 8 pm when we entered the building, they ran an electric generator and we went up to the third floor and the building was deserted. They entered me into a room and said that it was an interrogation room. There were two men writing on papers on the ground. The two women and two gunmen were present. They did not allow me to move or look around. They ordered to take my children from me but I refused, one of the women tried to take them by force, and we jostled and could not take them and told them that I will not talk and will not give my children to them even if they kill me. Two armed men came to calm down the situation and left my children with me. I waited for about an hour until the interrogator came. I told him what happened to me, but he did not react.

I was interrogated for 3 hours with the same questions of the previous day. What is your name? Where do you live? Your age? Personal ID? Where is my family? ... etc).

I was in a very bad situation, and after writing the interrogation, which consisted of several handwritten pages, they took my fingerprints in red ink. I have not read what the investigator wrote, and I have filed a complaint for raiding my apartment without a warrant, looting and stealing valuables, telephones, laptops, threats, assaults, beatings, cursing, insulting, injuring my hands and breaking my jaw. I told them that my brother had been ill for eight months, but they took everything that was available and related to my brother's illness the day before.

The interrogation ended at 12:30 midnight. I waited about an hour for the interrogator to come back and hand over what was taken, according to their promise. Meanwhile, my children became hungry, scared and sleep. They did not stop crying. We had no food or drink from the day before. Where they have stolen our money and our food and gave it to the children of women whom they had brought with them the previous day!

The interrogator came back with one of the gunmen telling me to go back to the flat, and there is nothing against me. I said to him and the loots? The interrogator said: "Do not ask for the loots at all" The gunman said, "Do not talk about it, and if you continue with the claim, you will not leave this place at all, neither you nor your children and nobody will find you at all."

I kept silent and they took me back to the apartment at 2:30 am, accompanied by the two women, two armed men, and by the same car in which they took me from my apartment."





## Exploitation of Relief and Humanitarian Need:

Yemen is present at news from the human suffering perspective and the need of millions of Yemenis for emergency aid. Nonetheless, Houthis militia is exploiting and diverting these aids. According to documented testimony received by SAM, the Houthis militia used humanitarian aid to set up women, and detain them, also to recruit new fighters under the pressure of need. Fatima, a social activist, was forcibly disappeared for 87 days in Houthis prisons in Hodiedah in western Yemen.

Two months later Fatima's family learnt about her detention. Fatima's charity work, a crime for the Houthi militia, which required arrest and enforced disappearance,

defaming her and her family and subjected to rumors and speculations, and subjected to torture and murder squads.

Fatima told SAM: "They arrested me in front of the Red Crescent Center of the Port Directorate at 5:30 pm, where I was enticed by an unknown female who claimed to represent a community of displaced people in one of the city's neighborhoods. When I arrived, I realized that it was just an ambush, I found myself in front of a group of soldiers armed with guns and shamelessness, five armed men and two women. They took me at gunpoint"... for no reason or explanation they took me from the street. I did not know

where they were taking me, on the military vehicle."

"they took my mobile phone, notes and pens, at Alrabasa police station I was insulted, verbally abused, calling me names. They took me to the central prison and put me in solitary confinement for a period of three days, I did not know my destiny, all my thinking was with my mother and my brothers, and the society how will look at me, I'm worried and terrified in 2mx2m room, and a small bathroom in the same room, three days I could not even change my clothes only nonstop tears, praying to Allah to get me out of here and go back to my family.

Every evening I am interrogated and asked to sign papers under threat. And when they find out that there is no evidence against me, they said "We take you hostage or exchange you for prisoners!"

Then I was transferred from solitary confinement to the prison, where I found 17 prisoners with their children, and stayed there for 75 days. I was wondering why I'm here?

I could not even swallow food, we eat only to live, even we used to clean the bathrooms, we were insulted every day.

There were many women in prison, who spent many months and even years in those prisons, and nobody know about them.

Sometimes there are some organizations that distribute clothes and materials such as shampoo, soap and clothes, although

they took the majority, but we get a bag or a small bag containing robe and soap.

Prison is torture, deprivation, hunger, illness, etc. we are forced to watch Al-Masera channel only or listen to the speeches of Abdul Malik Al-Houthi

One of them, Fayrouz al-Baydani, was lecturing every two days on the importance of fighting and defending religion and honor against "mercenaries."

The prison was hit by a mortar shell that hit the visit room and they said that the "mercenaries" bombed the prison.

"when I left the prison, I was shocked by the news of the death of my brother, who did not bear the news of my arrest. He was taken to the hospital after a heart attack" Fatima told SAM.

My brother was forcibly hidden for six months, during this period we did not know anything about him, and he was tortured and injected with a certain needle, and after his release he was sick for six months, he was very scared that I will be tortured, he sustained heart attack and died."

I want to communicate my voice and voice of the rest of the women in Houthis prisons who are beaten, insulted and abused by those human wolves, Houthis prevent us from eating, beat us, force us to clean the bathrooms, and the wards, and face types of torture, and some faces unethical harassment."

## Political Activities not Allowed

Zeinab was arrested for filming a protest in Hodiedah, west of Yemen. "while returning home after the protest, my friend and I were followed by three armed men between the ages of 15 and 13," she told SAM. "they asked us to go to the municipality office, but we refused, and we stopped a bus and boarded it, and asked the driver to drive through the market so that no one would follow us, but a white car followed us, on board a fat man holding his mobile phone. I was scared and they stopped the bus and the fat man ordered us to hand over our phones. We told him: "we do not have telephones, I tried to get out of the bus and one of the gunmen pointed his gun and threatened me that he would shoot me in the head. Then they forced the driver to go to the CID. They took our bags, searched them, and took our belongings.

We were on the bus and the white car drove up and behind us a military vehicle with

about 12 armed men on board, and two with us on the bus. I wanted to open the door and jump from the bus. But when I extended my hand to the door, one of them hit me on my hand and stopped me. Two women police officers came out and took us in one of the rooms and searched us in a very humiliating way for half an hour and they forced us to take off our underwear during the search. Then they took us out to be interrogated by Abu Raad, who was beating the table with his hands during the interrogation to frighten us , and he asked us why we go out, and if we are politicians, then he threatened that he would shoot our heads out if we went out again, and he fear no one, we were held for three hours until some men came from our relatives and signed pledges not to go out again.





## Sanaa University .. Wide Violations

Many of the students who participated in demonstrations in the capital Sana'a protesting the deterioration of the living conditions, were detained and humiliated by the so-called Zinabiyat. A number of female students spoke to SAM. Saud said "The students who refused to hand over their phones were dragged by the so-called Zinabiyat into medium white buses. Those who raised their voices were beaten with electric sticks and taken to a police station. They were released only in the presence of their parents and signed a written pledge not to return to any gatherings."

"what happened to me," said Saud, "is that the Zinabiyat pushed me, "I was resisting, I do not want to take the bus, they lift me up by force. One of the students managed to

escape. Then they tightened the guard over us and boarded the bus with 4 Zinabiyat, carrying electric stick and rods, and two armed men. No one was allowed to talk. We came to a large place with a number of offices, full of Houthis. Our mobile phones were confiscated, they took us to an office and when we asked about our fate they told us that they would only take our four names and numbers The parents will be contacted And release us, we waited for hours, and when we start asking about our fate , some respond with respect, and some of them starts cursing, humiliation and threatening with electric stick, there were some phones that Zinabiyat could not find, and we used them to call our families."





## Mothers' League. Continuous Oppression

The Mothers of Abductees League, established in April 2016, in Sana'a, and consist of the mothers, wives and female relatives of the detainees. To inform the local and international community about the issue of abductees and those who were forcibly disappeared through their correspondence, appeals, media campaigns and continuous communication with the media. They appealed to international bodies and personalities and held meetings in Sana'a to introduce the issue to the local community and the offices of UN and international organizations such as the Red Cross and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The mothers and relatives of detainees were subjected to violations, by Houthis group in both the provinces of

Sana'a and Hodiedah and by the Security Belt in the province of Aden, according to the Mothers' League third report, which is entitled "Mothers at the Prisons' Doors", the mothers have organized 64 protests, a number of them were arrested and harassed in Sana'a, Aden and Hodiedah.

In Hodiedah, three of the members were arbitrarily detained, for protesting to release the detainees, they were threatened, their phones confiscated, and humiliated. They were released only after the arrival of their male relative who pledged that they will not protest again.

On March 9, 2019, the mothers of the detainees in the prison of Bir Ahmed in the city of Aden, south of Yemen, supervised by the security forces in the UAE, were

physically abused. One of the detained mothers, who participated in a protest said, "We arrived at the gathering point near the Bir Ahmad detention center to check on our sons after hearing about their strike and assaulting them, and we told them to allow us a 15 minutes to check on our sons, as we heard about their hunger strike, They told us that Ghassan al-Aqrabi, the prison director, would come, then they refused. After a while, a group of soldiers came out boarding 4 military vehicles, pointing their guns on us, one of them took out his pistol and pointed at us. They pushed one of the women to the

ground and twisted other's arm. They also took one of the mobile phones into the camp. They unlock it and reviewed it, and return it after half an hour, while we are going out." The witness added: "We saw an officer with UAE uniform, hitting an 8-year-old child when they assaulted his mother, who was fighting with the UAE officer. The child intervened with his mother, also an officer was seen pointing a pistol at the wife of one of the detainees at the point and telling her to return, or will slap her in the face."





## Extorsion.. in Hodiedah

Safiya, a resident of the city of Hodiedah, was detained by Houthis militia in her last days of pregnancy and refused to release her until she proves that she is married. Her father brought the marriage contract document, but they arrested him for two days, then released them after paying seventy thousand riyals.

## Suicide attempt .. in Amran

Elham, married to a man loyal to the Houthis militia in the city of Amran, met her father who was chased by the militia since the death of Ali Abdullah Saleh. She was arrested by the Houthi militia and placed in the central prison in Amran. She was tortured and humiliated. She attempted suicide by throwing herself from the second floor, but suffered injuries and fractures, and was released provided that she did not leave the city of Amran.

## Alkadan .. Another Tale of the Women Oppression

Alkadan checkpoint is in the outskirt of Hodiedah city, where Houthis detain women people arbitrarily and systematically, and elder people and children as well.

Zahraa, 72, and Zeinab 30, with her children, were arrested by a member of the Houthis militia, Abu Talib, who was held in an abandoned house. The supervisor refused to release them unless they pay a ransom of YR. 200,000, as a punishment for going to Mareb to obtain a passport.

On February 21, 2018, Rukaya, 33, was arrested by the Houthis militia at Alkadan checkpoint, for going to Mareb to visit her husband. She remained in detention for 17 days and was released only with a written pledge that she and her two children will not visit her husband again in Mareb. !

According to eyewitnesses from the village of Alkadan, Houthi militia carried out raids in the village of Deir al-Mashhur, and committed horrendous violations, including detentions and forcing residents to leave their homes, where 32 families were displaced to Mareb.

## Continuing Tragedies

### Amani Saleh, 43, housewife

"My husband Ahmad and I were staying at a house in Shamlan district, northwest of Sana'a, and his father lives with us in the same house, he works in education sector, he is in his 60s. Our house was raided on September 1, 2016 by a group of gunmen, they then took my father-in-law and returned to take me and my husband to Shamlan police station. They put us at different places, searched my personal belongings, prevented me from contacting my relatives, interrogated me, and accused me of working for Saudi Arabia, and some other defaming accusations, I can't even think about, and I'm a housewife."

They were threatening to kill my husband and I did not know anything about his condition. Then they took us out of the police station, and while we were on the car they were communicating with their leaders. They get my brother's number from my husband and called him to come to receive them. They handed me to him at a checkpoint near Hamdan court, at about 2:00 am, and took my husband with them to begin the suffering journey and we are looking for my husband and his father who were disappeared the prisons of the Houthis.

We searched from one prison to prison, and begged Houthis senior and junior leaders to show us their place, for three months, until we found out the place of detention of my

husband, where he was in the prison that was a house to memorize the Quran. Then we learnt that my father-in-law, Mr. Ahmed El-Haj, had died in prison because of torture, and later they released my husband.

## Target of Bahai

### Raqiya Hishmatullah Thabet

Head of Yemen Jood Foundation, and an English teacher, of Baha'i faith group, was arrested with a group of her colleagues and others who were among the organizers and attend an event for civil society organizations in Sana'a on 10 August 2017. An armed group of Houthis militia stormed the venue and arrested the organizers and the guests, after four days of detention, Raqiya discovered that her husband was also detained in the same prison. Twenty-one women and four children were detained.

"We were brutally treated during the interrogation without mercy," she told SAM. "women and girls cried and were very frightened because of the threat and intimidation. There was great psychological torture," they used to tell us that your father failed to educate you. "The investigation was often late at night from 11 pm to 3 am," she said. She was released after 26 days of detention.

## Recommendations:

- Houthis militia should release all women prisoners on political grounds, stop putting more women in prisons and improve the conditions of the female inmates, while completing their release procedures.
- The Houthi militia should allow human rights organizations, specialized women and human rights activists and organizations, to meet with women in prisons and learn about their situation. Stop defaming detained women and deleting abusive videos.
- Amend some laws that are unfair to women, especially those related to so-called honor crimes, in order to ensure that women maintain their dignity and their right to life.
- The Special Rapporteur on violence against women should investigate on violence against women in Yemen, including all forms of inhuman treatment, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, displacement and other abuses.
- We call upon all investigation committees concerned with Yemen to conduct an investigation into the violations that have affected Yemeni women based on their gender. And we are ready to provide any assistance and to cooperate with them to provide additional information or to reach the witnesses.





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# NOTHING IS LEFT FOR US

Human rights report monitors and documents arbitrary  
arrests, psychological and physical torture of women in  
Yemen in al-Houthi militia prisons



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