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Slow Death

A human rights report monitors the situation of
sick civilian detained in Houthi prisons

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SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties, denounces the deliberate “medical negligence” and “abuses” of arbitrary detained civilians in Houthi-run prisons.

SAM had reviewed information about prisoners illegally detained in areas controlled by the Houthis militia whose lives were at risk because as they are denied the right to treatment in prisons where the Houthis deliberately use diseases as a means to torture detainees.

The health conditions caused by Houthis militia on the detainees in its prisons is described as a “slow death sentence” on these prisoners, as they’ve been exposed to serious diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, tuberculosis and other diseases that require special medical care.

Detainees’ health and sickness have also compounded their families’ psychological hardship and burdened them with additional financial costs

In this report, the Organization has documented the testimonies made by relatives of detainees in Houthi prisons who are suffering from illness

Lawyer Abdelmajid Sabra told SAM that he had filed a request to the Public Prosecution to treat 35 detainees, all of whom needed urgent medical care. Most of them suffered serious and fatal illnesses after their arrest,

according to relatives’ statements, and most of those diseases as a result of the physical and moral torture they suffered during their detention and forcible disappearance. They are held in illegal detention centers that are not under the supervision of the judiciary, in crowded rooms where there is no ventilation, and they are denied sun exposure for most of their detention period, in addition to the failure of the supervisors of such detention to perform their moral, humanitarian and religious obligations to treat them with specialized doctors, rather they give majority of detainees sedatives and painkillers, which has increased and doubled their pain. “this constitutes a flagrant violation of their human right to health care and medical care guaranteed by the Yemeni constitution and laws in force”, added Sabra.

Amat al-Salam al-Haj, president of the Association of Mothers of the Abductees, said to SAM: “From the first moments of the abduction, the suffering of the abducted and arbitrarily detained begins with physical and psychological torture, which has claimed the lives of dozens of abducted civilians. Others suffered major health damage, including paralysis and mental and psychological disorders. Such sufferings are doubled with the prolonged period of abduction, without specialized health care,

and in poor conditions of detention, without proper and balanced nutrition, safe and adequate water for use, good ventilation, deprived of exposure to sunlight for many months, and no access to personal hygiene tools, which makes recovery difficult and not possible in many cases, ultimately the abductor accompanies diseases for life.

All parties responsible for abduction, practice torture by denying health care to abductees and arbitrarily detained persons, in violation of Yemeni and international laws that guarantee them specialized and preventive health care. The Association has documented 183 cases of abductees with various diseases, 95% of them in prisons and detention centers of the Houthi armed group.

Amat al-Salam, told SAM: tuberculosis has infected (11) abductees in the Community College prison in Dhamar, where no health measures were observed in dealing with such contagious diseases. Some of the abductees in the central prison in Sanaa were infected with the hepatitis, and did not receive proper.

Houthi group let diseases ravage the bodies of the abductees, and when they cried out in pain: "We will die", the Houthis answered them "die" !! When other inmates cried for their help and rescue, the prison administration tied and punished them.

Also, when some of the sick abductees sent appeals to the human conscience and the international community, the Houthis tortured them!

And when mothers sent their appeals to the world through media to save their sick relatives and enable them to enjoy their legal rights, the Houthis prevented them from visiting the abductees as punishment.

With every visit, mothers see their son's bodies from behind the iron bars, pale and emaciated, and are no longer able even to stand and wave their hands to greet their families. Mothers fall sick, and with every moment of soreness experienced by sick abductees, their wives suffer, and with every moment their strength weakens, their young are panic and wither.

Amat al-Salam, concludes by saying to SAM: Today these victims are in urgent need of advocacy by all human being, and with the united efforts, and the consolidation of claims, they will receive their full rights and receive the necessary care.

" When I was sick, the guards used to give me pills. He tells me this is a medication, without even telling me the name of the medicine, and when I take the treatment, I feel somewhat better,» Abdel-Hakim al-Majari, a Hungarian national known as Kimo, was quoted as saying. "over time I started to feel addictive, tried to check the

name of tranquilizers, but I could not, and once I went out to shave my beard, I saw the medicine and read the name (Diamxit - xanax- ryll), and I asked a pharmacist who had been detained with me in the same cell and told me, that it's very powerful types of tranquilizers, the guards sometimes deny us of this tranquilizers as a punishment, and a means of torture, where once I was deprived of sedatives for three days as a punishment by the prison official in the Political Security", he added.

The prisons controlled by Houthi group in the capital Sana'a, where the patients are being held, lack the minimum international standards of prisons' conditions, known as Nelson Mandela standards, that provides that prisoners shall be treated with due respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings. No prisoner shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. All prisoners shall be provided with protection from all this, and no circumstances shall be invoked as justification".

Under international law and the Mandela rules, the ill-treatment of detainees in Houthi prisons is considered as cruel and inhuman treatment and torture which may be a violation of the right to life.

SAM calls on the international community and organizations to intervene urgently

to save the sick detainees, and pressure the Houthi group to apply international standards for prisons, and using the disease as a punishment against detainees and their families.

SAM also urges the UN envoy to make the issue of sick detainees' sick who in need of treatment in Houthi prisons among his priorities, as ignoring them will exacerbate their violations and affects their mental and physical health, and the suffering of their families.

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In this report SAM publishes a summary of 41 detainees' cases, all are suffering severe pain in Houthi militia prisons and in need of urgent medical intervention. We obtained their information from their relatives, who agreed to publish their names. We prefer to publish the names of prisoners and keep the names of informers and complainants confidential, in the interest of their safety as much as possible, hoping that this report will cause the conscience of the prison officials within Houthi militia and those working under their administration from

the officials of the state organs in the areas of Houthi control. We would like to point out that these are the names we managed to obtain, **but it is not fully exclusive** to all cases that need treatment intervention in Houthis prisons.

Ahmed Mohammed Atiq al-Azani, arrested by the Houthis on February 15, 2015, and is currently held in the National Security Agency prison, suffering from nerve spasm, kidney stones and suffers from rheumatism, chronicle headaches, salts and varicose veins in the two legs and stroke in his left leg due to severe torture in the National Security, where he was detained for a full year, and the Houthis deny him medical service.

Hussein Hamoud al-Hadi, arrested by the Houthis on October 8, 2016. He was one of the wounded in the bombing of the Grand Hall. He was taken to the German hospital and has since been forcibly disappeared.

Himyar Muhammad Ali Rajeh, arrested by the Houthis on September 24, 2017, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from irritable bowel syndrome and bleeds permanently because of colitis. Houthis deny him medical care.

Khaled Muhammed Mahmoud al-Haith, 43, arrested by the Houthis on February 26, 2016, and is currently being held in the central prison in Sanaa. Khalid did not suffer from any disease before his arrest in the Houthi prisons, but he was infected with hepatitis, received incomplete treatment, and the Houthis refuse to take him to do X-ray requested by the doctor, the visitor notes yellow in his eyes, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Saad Hassan Muhammed al-Nuzaili, dean of the Teachers' Union in the capital, was arrested by the Houthis on September 11, 2016. He is currently detained in the PSO prison, suffering from pressure, gout, irritable bowel, hemorrhoids and kidney stones. Houthis deny him medical care.

Shoaib Ahmad Hizam al-Shami, arrested by the Houthis on August 31, 2015. He is currently being held by the PSO prison. He suffers from knee pain and is unable to sit or sit with difficulty. He has been given sedatives. Houthis are not allowing him to see a neurologist or orthopedic doctor.

Sadiq Muhammad al-Haj al-Majidi, arrested by the Houthis on October 25, 2015, is currently being held in the Political Security Organization prison. He suffers from a herniated disc below the spine, a weak left side, severe urinary tract infections, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Saddam Hussein Hizam al-Rouhani, arrested by the Houthis on September 25, 2016, is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from chronicle headache, osteoporosis and kidney infections, which are aggravated in winter. He suffers from eye pain caused by torture in prison, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Suhaib Sinan Qaid al-Jaradi, was arrested by the Houthis on September 1, 2015. Currently held in the PSO prison. He suffers from kidney and colon pain, a rash and chest infections, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Adel Tariq Muhammed Hussein al-Baidhani, 30, was arrested by the Houthis from his home on April 24, 2015. He worked as a taxi driver. He suffered a fracture in his right hand. He previously had surgery that did not work, currently suffers heart pain and drinks aspirin continuously. Also pains in his stomach, colon and joints pain, his family give him medicines monthly, but they do not always get permission to deliver the medicines, and he needs an operation to treat hemorrhoids, his family visits him twice a month in the presence of soldiers, and they notice that every time he loses more weight and seems more emaciated.

His family is suffering from a severe financial constrains where he was the only breadwinner, and suddenly he became a prisoner and dependent on them in poor

health conditions, his medicines cost them 15 thousand riyals per month, and the surgery is expected to cost them more than 100,000 riyals, while they lack regular source of income.

Abdulrahman Ali Abdullah Saeed al-Selwi, 24, abducted by the Houthis on July 26, 2015, from Shuob district, currently held in the Political Security Prison in Sana'a, was beaten during arrest, including a blow that led to severe inflammation in the eye and severe vision impair.

Abdulrahman was not complaining of any disease before his arrest, but he now suffers severe eye pain, migraines, kidney pain, tear gland disorder, bleeding in the gums, varicose veins and congestion in the testicle.

Houthis took him to the Republican Hospital twice to treat his eyes throughout his detention period. He did not receive any treatment for other serious illnesses he suffered. His family learned of his injury and they received misleading information saying that he had become blind and that the Houthis had pulled out his eyes during torture, and his family panicked and shocked.

Abderahman's arrest came one month after the death of his father, who had cancer, and his family is allowed to visit him twice a month, and filed many complaints about

his health to the prosecution, but did not respond to his requests.

Abdulrazzaq Ahmed Salem Ayyash Jabi, arrested by the Houthis on February 4, 2017, from his workplace at the Water Office in Tahita district in Hodiedah governorate. He is currently detained in the Political Security Prison in Sana'a. He was suffering from diabetes before his arrest and got blood pressure in prison. Houthis allowed him to get Diabetes medicines, provided by his family, and do not allow him to get pressure medicine. He suffers from wasting due to malnutrition inside the prison, and he had infected with cholera.

Abdulaziz Ahmed Nasser al-Abbasi, 50, arrested by the Houthis on October 15, 2016, from his neighborhood in Beit Boss, south of Sana'a. He is held by the Houthis in the prisoners' section of the Central Prison in Sana'a after being transferred from Habra prison. Suffering from diabetes, and repeated comas, and knees problem, he feels severe lower back pain, and in the abdomen, high sugar causes frequent comas, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

The Houthis allow his family to visit him one day a week, who lives in difficult economic conditions, especially after his wife suffered a heart disease.

Abdulelah Ali Ayedh Sylan, arrested by the Houthis on August 29, 2015, and is currently held in the Political Security Prison, he entered the prison in good health, but now he suffers from a herniated disc, varicose veins in the testicles, inflammation and germs in the stomach, salts and infections in the urinary tract, sinus infections, a chronic headache and need specialized doctors, but Houthis refused to be seen by any doctor.

Abdulkhkim Hassan Mohammed al-Ansi, arrested by the Houthis on January 23, 2016, and is currently held in the Political Security Organization's prison, entered the prison in good health. He is suffering from high pressure and inflammation in the joints, and suffers from hemorrhoids and suffer from impaired vision, and Houthis deprives him from medical care.

Abdullah Muhammed Hassan Khuban, arrested by the Houthis on December 18, 2016 and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from hemorrhoids high pressure and mental disorder. Houthis allowed him to see a doctor, who advised him to undergo a surgery, but Houthis returned him to prison without treatment, and allowed him to get sedatives only, the Houthis deny him medical care.

Abdulmajeed Abdulhameed Muhammed Allous, arrested by the Houthis on March 17, 2016. He is currently detained in the PSO prison, suffering from pressure, diabetes, kidney pain and skin allergies. The Houthis deny him medical care.

Abdo bin Abdo Ali al-Zarri, arrested by the Houthis on December 6, 2017. He is currently held in the PSO prison. He suffers from asthma and respiratory disease. He suffers from high humidity in the cells of the PSO prison. Houthis deny him medical care.

Othman Abdo Hizam al-Nuwaera, arrested by the Houthis on 15 October 2016, is currently being held in the Political Security Agency prison. He suffers from a sliding spine and pain in the right part of his body. He feels more pain in winter, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Fuad Ali Ahmad Silan, arrested by the Houthis on October 30, 2016, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He entered the prison in good health. Currently suffering from herniated disc in the third and fourth lumbar vertebrae, fourth and fifth, and the beginning of a herniated disc in the lower thoracic vertebrae XI and XII, muscle strain in the spine, and needs medical attention and physical therapy sessions, and suffer from allergic rhinitis, shortness of breath increases in winter, the Houthis deny him medical care.

Qaboos Yousuf Haider al-Shami, arrested by the Houthis on September 28, 2016. He is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from bladder stones, asthma, gum infections, rheumatic pain and epileptic seizures. Houthis deny him medical care.

Mujahid Ali Muhammed Saleh, arrested by the Houthis on November 23, 2015, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from back pain, dry mouth, colon pain, gastric germ, poor digestion and a drop-in sugar. Houthis deny him medical care.

Mahdni Ali Ahmad al-Mahdani, arrested by the Houthis on October 10, 2016, and is currently being held in the Political Security Organization prison, suffering from chest allergies, varicose veins in the feet gradually increased pain, salts, and pain is not known cause in the abdomen, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Muhammad Ibrahim Suleiman Al-Ahdal, arrested by the Houthis on September 9, 2016, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from a slippage and has two spinal operations and is unable to stand up for ten minutes. He suffers from stomach pain, gallbladder and hemorrhoids, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Muhammed Ahmed Saleh al-Radai, arrested by the Houthis on September 22, 2015, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from rheumatism in the joints, impaired vision, bronchitis, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Muhammad Hamid Shu>i al-Adabi, arrested by the Houthis in December 2016, is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from a chronic nerve disease and electrical activity in the brain. He got hemorrhoids in the prison and chest allergy. Houthis deny him medical care.

Muhammad Abdullah Ahmad Saif Al-Huraibi, arrested by the Houthis on December 9, 2013, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from swelling around the eyes, loss of hearing and smell, complains of back pain and rib fracture due to torture, he feels shortness of breath, vomits blood, and the Houthis deprive him of medical care.

Muhammad Abdulwahab al-Haddad, arrested by the Houthis on October 4, 2016, and is currently being held in the PSO. He entered the prison in good health, but now he suffers from irritable bowel syndrome, varicose veins, hemorrhoids and bone problems, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Muhammed Abdo Ahmed Salah al-Harazi, arrested by the Houthis on October 11, 2015 and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from chest allergies, colon pain and pain in the vertebrae of his neck. Asked Houthis to be hospitalized but they refused.

Mufaddal Muhammad Ali Adham, arrested by the Houthis on 15 November 2016, is currently being held in the PSO prison. He suffers from narrowing of the arteries and is at risk of a stroke, needs medical intervention, and the Houthis deny him medical care.

Hamdan Mohammed bin Mohammed al-Saifi, arrested by the Houthis on October 28, 2016, and is currently being held in the PSO prison. He entered the prison in good health, but now he suffers from respiratory infections, joint pain, low back pain, and the Houthis deny him medical service.

Walid Qasim bin Qasim al-Zain, 36, arrested by the Houthis on September 19, 2016, from his workplace in the Islamic Bank of Sheba in Sana'a, was suffering from a slippage in one of the back vertebrae, and his condition worsened in the hospital to the extent that he lost more than half the weight, visited by his family once every two weeks, the Houthis allow his family to enter some sedatives more often, but they prevented him from visiting the doctor to conduct the necessary tests to diagnose his disease and provide appropriate treatment.

Yousuf Ali Qaid was arrested by the Houthis on August 12, 2018. He was seventy years old, forcibly disappeared. No one knows where he is currently detained. He was suffering before from prostate enlargement, lung fibrosis, kidney pain and a very difficult psychological condition. Houthis deny him medical care.

Younis Sinan Qaid al-Jaradi, arrested by the Houthis on September 9, 2016, entered the prison in a good health but now he suffers from back and spinal pain, kidney pain, infections in his right ear and hearing loss in his left ear, and the Houthis denied him medical care.

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