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THE HIDDEN KILLER

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JANUARY 2019



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Background

Political assassination is an ancient and common phenomenon in the modern political history of Yemen. Although such phenomenon poses serious risks in enrooting political process in the country, and in the democratic transformation and peaceful transition of power, yet unfortunately, this political phenomenon has not received much attention from academic studies and scientific researches, nor from the media, to explore its reasons and work to avoid them and prevent its recurrence.

The political history in Yemen, is black one, claimed the lives of hundreds of political and military personalities, within the context of the struggle over power, either during the Imamic rule, or following the 26th September 1962 revolution. Where political assassination constituted a fundamental political choice in resolving access to power, furthermore, Yemen history witnessed more serious and ambiguous political

assassinations, where in 1948, the Constitutional Movement rebels assassinated Imam of the Mutwaklya Kingdom, Yahya Hameededdin on 17th February of the same year, by Ali Naser Al-Qardae', and the declaration of the first constitutional rule.

On 6th March 1961, Imam Ahmed Hameededdin escaped an assassination attempt, led by three rebels; Muhammed Abdullah Al-Ulafi, Abdullah Al-Luqiyah, and Muhsin Al-Hundwana, and the three were executed. The assassination continued where martyr Muhammed Mahmoud Al-Zuberi was murdered on 31 March 1965, in Barat city, Al-Jouf governorate, which its circumstances still raises many questions.

Political assassination continued to be a political option to eliminate political adversaries, and a method to assume power, where in the middle of seventies of last century, this phenomenon escalated due to the struggle over power,

influence of regional and international powers over the political scene in Yemen, absence of clear political, constitutional and legal mechanism to resolve political differences and ensure peaceful transitional of power. Political assassination during this period claimed the lives of prominent Yemeni political figures, namely deputy prime minister and foreign minister Muhammed Ahmed Numan (junior), in Beirut, two weeks following the 13th June 1974 movement, also the member of the republican council, Muhammed Ali Osman in Taiz city, on 30 May 1973. 30th April of the same year witnessed the explosion of the southern diplomat plane.

On 10 April 1977, the member of the republican council, and prime minister judge Abdullah Ahmed Al-Hajri, his wife, and diplomat Abdullah Al-Hamami, were assassinated, at the gate of Lancaster hotel in London. On the same year, on 11 October 1977, president Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, and his brother Abdullah, the

commander of commandos force was assassinated. In the following year, on 24 June 1978, his successor, president Ahmed Al-Gashmi, the primary suspect of Al-Hamdi murder, was also assassinated, as well as southern president Salem Rubaiy Ali, two days after Al-Gashmi's murder, thereby three presidents were murdered in Yemen in less than one year.

During former president Ali Saleh era, the National Security apparatus was established, led by Muhammed Khamis, with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, support, moving the assassination into more systematic operations. Muhammed Khamis was behind such transition, who was accused of murdering hundreds of figures, on the basis of regional ground, particularly from Taiz, and Ibb on the allegation of Nasserite party or Muslim Brotherhood membership. Khamis himself was murdered late 1979, in an ambush while returning from Hodiedah. In 1986 Aden witnessed major mass and

bloody assassinations escalated to a civil war that claimed the lives of about ten thousand people, which was triggered by the assassination attempt that targeted the members of the Yemeni Social Party politburo on 13th January, where several politicians, academia, and military figures were killed, including the former president Abdelfattah Ismael

(claimed to be disappeared) and Ali Antar.

In 1990, the two parts of Yemen were unified, soon after, political differences surfaced, and the assassinations reappeared in Sana'a, where assassinations claimed the lives of more than 150 of YSP civil and military cadres, including prominent journalist Abdulhabeeb Salem. This wave of assassinations reflected the struggle of the new power blocks over power in Sana'a, which reached its peak with the 1994 summer war.

The situation calmed relatively following 1994 war, yet with



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the emergence of Al-Qaeda, that murdered security officers mainly. On 28 December 2002, the YSP leader Jaraalah Omer was murdered, the engineer of Joint Meeting Parties, at the third Islah Party Conference, by a religious extremist. The incident raised concerns

chief if the Shura council Abdulaziz Abdulghani.

During the transitional period, as of 2012, another wave of assassination swept Yemen, and hit tens of security and military officers, mainly unclaimed or attributed to Al-Qaeda, involved



on the relation between politics and religious extremism in Yemen, at the political and media arenas.

On 3rd June 2011, former president Saleh, escaped an assassination attempt at the presidential palace mosque, but sustained serious injuries, beside many senior government officials including

MP Abdulkareem Jadban late 2013, Ahmed Sharfuddin, Ansar Allah delegate to the National Dialogue Conference, on 21 January 2014, Dr. Muhammed Abdulmalik Almutawkil, secretary-general of the Popular Forces Association on 2nd November 2014, all assassinations committed in Sana'a.

Assassinations continued early 2015, following Houthis coup, and seizure of Sana'a, since September 2014, with the assassination of pro Houthi journalist Abdulkareem Al-Khewani, On 18 March, and Houthi scholar Murtadha Al-Muhatwari on 20th March 2015, by Daesh suicide bomber.

Different forms and circumstances of assassinations related to the war, has escalated following the Saudi-led Arab Coalition started its military operations in Yemen on 26 March 2015, and included journalists and politicians who were detained at sites exposed to the Coalition airstrikes, including the "Harran Massacre", in Dhamar in May 2015, that claimed the lives of Amin Al-Ragawi, Islah Party leading member in Ibb, and two journalists Yousuf Al-Aizari, and Abdullah Qabil, and some other leaders were under enforced disappearance, like Mohammed Qahtan, member of Islah Supreme Authority.

One of the major massacres of the nature of political assassination during the war, was the bombardment of the

Assala Alkubra "the Great Hall", by the Coalition during a mourning ceremony on the demise of the father of former interior minister Jalal Al-Rowishan, on 8th October 2016, that killed prominent leaders; including commander of the reserve forces, general Ali Al-Gaiefi, and former mayor of Sana'a, general Abdulgadir Hilal, and several military and security commanders, in addition to the murder of former president Saleh on 4th December 2017, and other leaders loyal to him, following the collapse of the alliance with the Houthis.

Majority of assassination incidents were reported in Aden and Taiz governorates, during 2015-2018, with more than 300 victims in Taiz affiliated to the resistance and national army, and in Aden with 103 victims, included security personnel, imams, preachers, and politicians. Such incidents remained ambiguous, till recently where relevant facts start unfolding.

Introduction

Although legitimate government forces restored Aden city on 17 July 2015, with the support of the Arab Coalition member, UAE, yet the city, which is controlled by armed forces loyal to the UAE, the security situation is not yet stabled. Rather the city turned into wide theatre for unclaimed assassinations that targeted security personnel, imams, government armed forces members, businessmen and government officials, despite the government authorities arrested some of those accused of involvement in the assassination.

Assassination carried out in the city remained a security and political mystery, and caused a state of security instability, because of the ambiguity that surrounds it, and the different speculations on the reasons and motives, especially since many of these assassinations were not claimed by specific parties.

Although the concerned authorities have detained some suspects, but the security authorities or the ministry of interior did not issue any statement to explain such ambiguity, neither did they refer the suspects to justice, thereby raising

many doubts on this assassinations wave which apparently is a systematic and turning into a phenomenon.

This report documents the assassination operations during 30 August 2015 – 28 October 2018, by collecting relevant data on assassinations, and attempts to analyze this phenomenon and its motives, from legal perspectives.

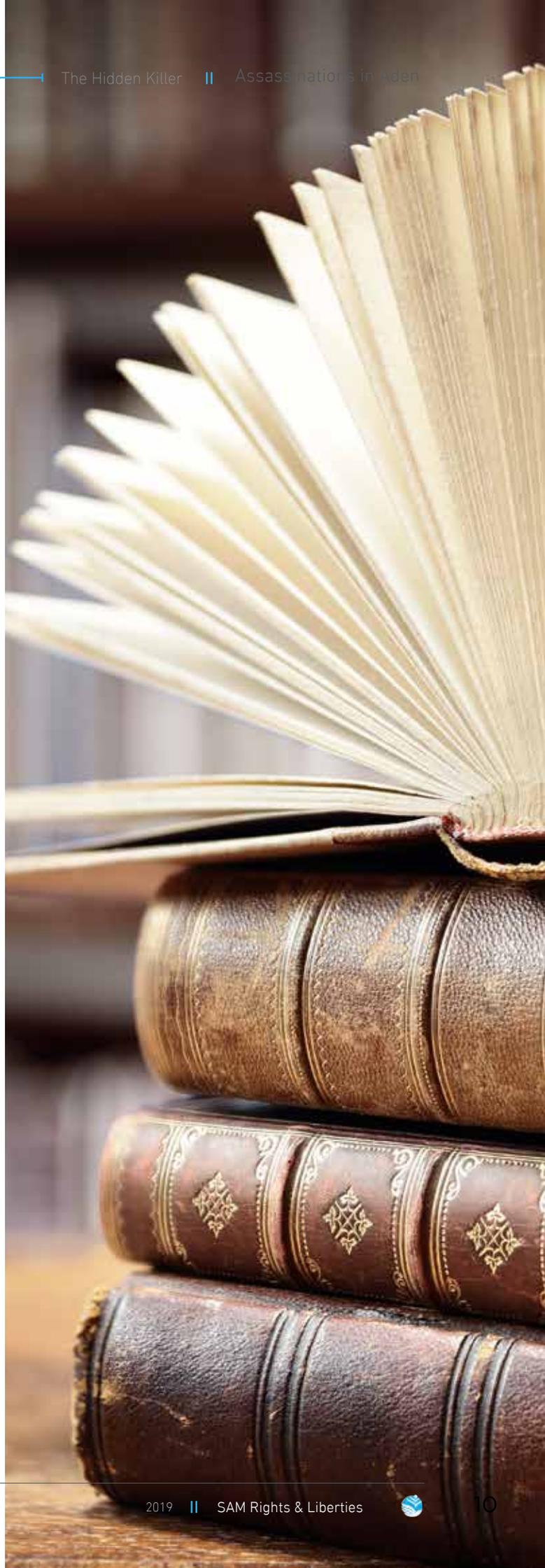
The report has documented the murder of 103 people during the reporting period, without documenting the other casualties “the collateral damage.”

The report included 93 assassinations, excluding 10 unknown victims, who were considered under penal homicide category. And were, either assassinated, or their dead bodies found dumped. Some of them might be linked to the parties responsible for the assassinations, that eliminated them. Unless otherwise proved, their murder is be construed as manifestation of the state of chaos, and a penal homicide crime, irrelevant to plans of targeted assassination, yet they provide a good coverup for the assassination plans, regardless of their motives.

Methodology of the Report

The report applies statistical methodology based on monitoring and documenting these assassinations, during the reporting period, where 103 incidents of assassinations have been documented, in Aden governorate. SAM monitors followed up media outlets, communicated with the victims' relatives, concerned authorities, security, and rights groups, to explore reasons behind the phenomenon. Then analyzed the collected data according to the targeted categories, areas, and tools of murder, to unfold the reasons behind these mysterious crimes, that urged many political and religious leaders to leave the city and settle at other safe places beyond the reach of the assassins.

SAM also, contacted many concerned parties, political parties, and movements' leaders to find answers to these queries, unfortunately there was limited responses, due to relatives' fear and lack of cooperation from the security authorities.



The Legal Framework

The term assassination is used to describe an organized and deliberate targeted killing of a prominent leading figure of intellectual, political, or military influence, normally for religious, political, economic, reasons or for revenge, targeting specific person who is considered as an obstacle by the perpetrators, and hinders the spread of their ideology or goals

Assassination crime is prohibited according to the Yemeni penal code, and considered as extralegal killing, involves plotting to kill an individual or a group, to achieve political goals, and considered by Islamic Sharia as a treacherous murder. It also involves, joint act and joint intention of plotting, logistic support to the principal perpetrator and execution of the crime. The Yemeni Penal Code, penalized whoever collaborated before or after the crime, where article (23) stipulated that "the accomplice is the one who provides subsequent assistance with the intent to commit a crime, and such assistance could be prior or associated with the execution of the

crime, and could also be subsequent, if agreed upon prior to the crime. However, subsequent assistance that was not agreed upon prior to the commission of the crime, such as concealment, would be punished as a special offense."

The international law and conventions had prohibited assault on individual's life, where article 3 of CONVENTION (IV) RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR, of 12 August 1949, prohibited violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture, also article (2) stated that "killing of all forms, at any time and in any place whatsoever, are prohibited." Article (147),

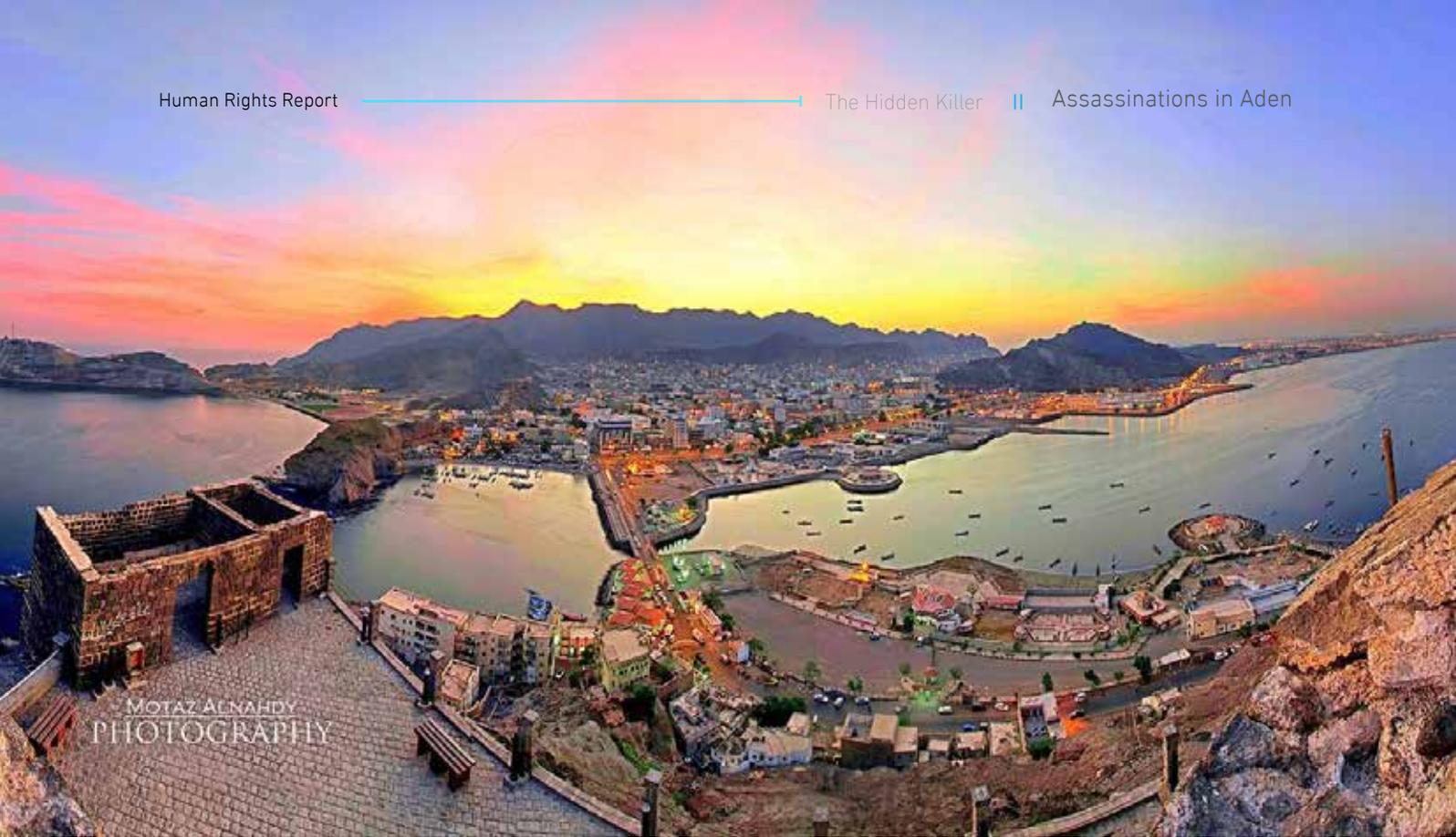
considered deliberate killing as a gross breach, and stated “the gross breach are that include one of the following acts, if committed against protected persons or objects by this Convention, and considered deliberate killing as one of these gross breaches”, “also considered extralegal killing (political assassination), against politicians and activists during war or peace time, is clear breach to the Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague IV); October 18, 1907.

Article (33), prohibits killing or wounding treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army; killing or wounding an enemy who, having laid down his arms, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion, also prohibited employing arms, projectiles, or material calculated to cause unnecessary suffering.

Article (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of 10th December 1948, stated that “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”,

also article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of 16th December 1966, stated that “every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.”

Also, the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, prohibits extralegal executions, according to the first principle “Governments shall prohibit by law all extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions and shall ensure that any such executions are recognized as offences under their criminal laws, and are punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account the seriousness of such offences. Exceptional circumstances including a state of war or threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency may not be invoked as a justification of such executions.



Why Aden?

The report on assassinations in Aden, is the first qualitative and analytical report of its kind, that sheds light on the assassinations that hit the interim capital of the legitimate government, and targeted security, military, and civil figures for political goals, following restoration of the city on 17 July 2017, with UAE support. The city should have stabilized and allowed for the return of the legitimate government, and

security should have restored following the Houthis war, unfortunately the security situation has deteriorated and systematic assassinations targeted military, security, and civil figures, including the former governor of Aden general Jafar Mohammed Saeed, on 6 December 2015, raising many questions on the motives and parties responsible for such crimes.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a rifle barrel, showing the muzzle and the textured metal of the barrel. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a somber and menacing atmosphere.

Everyone is Under Gunpoint

SAM Organization documented 103 assassinations during the reporting period 2015 – 2018, in Aden governorate. Such incidents could be categorized under the following groups, to better understand the motives and goals of such crimes;

- First category; security personnel (42) people, including Criminal Investigation, Political Security, and Aden Security personnel;
- Second category; Imams and preachers (23) people;
- Third category; military personnel (8);
- Fourth category; resistance members (7);
- Fifth category; activists, sportsmen, professors, judges, prosecution members (14).

Category	Number	Percentage	Remarks	Category	Number	Percentage	Remarks
Security	42	45%		Judiciary and prosecution	5	5%	Media confirmed this number, also SAM documentation verified the number, apart from one who is not under this category
Military	8	9%		Civilian	5	5%	Including the governor and a businessman
Resistance member	6	7%	Including Al-Edrisi and Al-Aqrabi	Imams and preachers	23	25%	
Teachers, journalists, and humanitarian workers	4	4%		-----			

Table on the Categories of Assassinated Persons according to their Category



Analysis of the Figures

Assassinations started in Aden on 30 August 2015, 43 days after Aden liberation by the government forces, and according to activists; the assassination plan, and the targeted figures were already prepared, and such work could only be undertaken by intelligence apparatus, foreign agent, or the security apparatus loyal to the former president Ali Saleh.

No party claimed responsibility for such assassinations, yet the media loyal to the legitimate

government, held Houthis and Saleh cells accountable for these crimes. Nevertheless, no serious investigation was carried out, or statement made by the government to reveal the truth of these operations, which continued till date,



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targeting specific security, social and political faction.

However, assassinations continued, there by eliminating Saleh's security apparatus as responsible party for these operations, in addition no official claim was made by any party as the responsibility of such assassinations, either by the ISIS, or Al-Qaeda, raising many speculations on the party behind them, and the beneficiary therein, noting that it has continued following restoring of Aden from Houthis militia, and opens the door

wide for all probabilities, including foreign party, working to spread chaos, through local or foreign agents, aided with logistic and intelligence support, and capable of executing such assassinations easily. It is clear that the 43 days between the liberation and the first assassination were enough for this party to arrange its papers, gather information and study the reality, before the implementation of this scheme with different tools, internal and external.





Assassinations; Timing and the Start

Assassinations started after war, and continued for different motives, including political, security or intellectual motives. Data collected by SAM shows that 18 assassinations took place in January 2016, constituting a high surge compared to the months before, and it is noted that such wave commenced one month after the assignment of Idroos Al-Zabedi as Aden governor, and general Shalal Shaie, commander of Aden security on 7th December 2016.

4th January 2016 witnessed the first assassination incident that targeted the preachers, where sheikh Ali Othman Al-Jelani, imam, and preacher of Al-Qaderya mosque was shot dead while going to dawn prayer in Krater neighborhood. According to information received by SAM, Al-Jelani, who is the sheikh of Al-Jelanya sect, was likely murdered on religious grounds, where extremist parties accused him of witchcraft and heresy. Followed by other 17 assassination incidents, mainly targeted security personnel, till 27 January.

Major Assassination Incidents Took Place During 2016

- On 6 January 2016, general Baggash Thabet Hawash, serving at Aden security, was

assassinated in Al-Mansoura district by unknown persons, on the same day, brigadier-general Ahmed Al-Jahouri Al-Radfani, commander of Communication and Information Division at the CID, and Mahmoud Al-Sa'di, member of the local council, were assassinated by unknown gunmen;

- On 18 January, judge Abdulhadi Muhammed Al-Maflahi, chief of Penal Division, specialized in terrorism cases, in Hadhramout was assassinated by unknown gunmen, in Al-Mansoura district.

Some observers attribute increase in the assassinations to the deteriorated security situation, resulted from the worsening political situation by the UAE,

which tighten the siege on president Abdorabo Hadi, at Al-Ma'sheq, and restricted his mobility inside Al-Ma'sheq palace, prior to his departure from Aden on 13 February. Also, assassination during that period, targeted security and judges concerned with terrorism cases. According to the report, year 2016 was the bloodiest year, where SAM documented 45 assassinations, at 48%, and majority of victims are security and military commanders, followed by year 2018, with 24 assassinations, which witnessed the clashes between the Presidential Guard Brigades and the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces in January 2018. And ended with Security Force control over Aden city. Most of the

assassinated were military personnel and preachers, at 26%. In year 2015, SAM documented 13 assassinations, at 14% , and finally year 2017 with 11 assassinations at 12%.

Many of people interviewed by SAM, believe that the tense relation between the UAE commander of the Arab Coalition in Aden, and the legitimate government, is one of the major reasons of these assassination operations, either by each party or by a third party.

Year	Number	Year	Remarks	Year	Number	Year	Remarks
2015	13	14%	First assassination was in August. No imam was assassinated this year	2017	11	12%	
2016	45	48%		2018	24	26%	till 28 October



Security Apparatuses are the first Target

Security men ranked first in terms of number of targeted with assassination, with 42 murdered, at 45%. Apparently, targeting of security men, was deliberate to weaken the security system in the

city, by targeting experienced elements; and within the struggle of the power blocks in the city to control the security apparatuses.



Details of Attacks on the Security System;

Criminal Investigation Department

SAM has documented the murder of 8 individuals serving at the CID in Aden, and 4 attempted murder, which is high number compared with security apparatuses. CID is one of the important pillars to security in Aden, and its mandate is to collect data on the outlawed and maintains significant information on the crimes in Aden. Major operations targeted the CID personnel as follows;

- 6 November 2017, CID headquarters was attacked and the IS claimed responsibility for the operation that killed more than 50 people, according to the ministry of interior report. According to activists the attack aimed to destroy information and dysfunction the CID.

Due to the continuation of the assassinations, the ministry of interior, replaced the security commanders in the city with others loyal to the powers in control of Aden.

- 30 July 2017, CID officer and deputy director of Asheikh Osman police, Sameh Al-Husni, was murdered by explosive device laid in his car, in Mualla district.
- 25 November 2017, CID colonel

Muhammed Ahmed Abdo, and colonel Hamoud Muhammed Al-Humeidi, were murdered by unknown gunmen, near Al-Kahera police, Aden.

- 27 November 2017, CID colonel Otham Muhammed Abdo, in Aden security department was assassinated at Al-Kahera roundabout Asheikh Osman district.
- 17 January, colonel Muhammed Qasim Al-Hareri, investigation officer at Aden security, was assassinated at Sar Sa'ad district.

It is noted that all assassinations followed same pattern and during short period of time, without due security precautions, also indicating that the responsible party/ies, are moving confidently and possesses sufficient information about the targets.

Political Security Office

PSO, formerly charged with counter-terrorism activities, comes next in term of number of members murdered, and major assassinations included;

- 8 November 2015, Sharid Taher Al-Hazemi, PS officer, assassinated at his home in Krater district, when two gunmen riding motorcycle attacked his house and took him to the terrace where they shoot him, and fled the place.
- 10 January 2016, colonel Ali Saleh Al-Nakhebi, PS officer assassinated



by IS gunmen at Al-Mansoura district.

- 30 September 2016, PS colonel Saleh Ahmed Al-Hareri, was murdered inside his car, by gunmen on a motorcycle at Al-Mansoura district.

SAM noted that there is one plan of assassinations, which is an extension of the plan that targeted the Political Security officers, which is continuing for the past 10 years, and the organizer of such plan are adapting themselves according to new priorities and circumstances, whereas, if such assassinations are random and without plan, it would have been chaotic, and targeting of one specific category would have been more than the other.

Border Security:

The report documented targeting of border security, particularly at Aden airport and seaport, that links Yemen with the world, who controls the passenger's movements, where 8 assassinations were reported.

- 12 January 2016, lieutenant colonel Amin Shaef, Investigation Officer and Head of Intelligence, at Aden airport, was murdered by unknown gunmen, riding Hilux pickup car, while leaving his house at Al-Mansoura district.
- 10th August 2017, brigadier general Muhammed Naser Al-Jahma, National Security commander of the borders, shot dead by unknown elements, at Abdulqawi neighborhood, at Ashiekh

Osman district. A security source, in Lahaj governorate, confirmed that, the security has arrested (A.S.Y. Al-Anbouri), accused of murdering brigadier general Al-Maremi, two other officers at the airport, director of the Free Zone security, two officers at the ships catering wharf, and the commander of the border security at the National Security. Apparently, targeting of this category of security personnel, aims to control the Yemeni borders, by replacing them with loyal elements.

It is noted that no party has claimed responsibility for assassinating border security officers, apart from one incident. When considering the posts occupied by these victims, we conclude that there is a systematic scheme to control the marine and air borders of the city, particularly that related to arms smuggling, according to information received by SAM. And targeting of such category of the security elements, is an indicator to the ongoing process to reconstruct the security system in Aden, according to

new political reality, and assassinations comes within such trend. Such plan follows the long-term policy, considering the prolonged process and its serious security nature, and this is evident by the continuous targeting of Political Security officers for the past ten years. Also assassinations were reported within the conflict between president Hadi, and the Arab Coalition forces, in Aden airport and seaport, namely seizure of government money shipment by the UAE forces that control Aden port, since February 2017, also preventing former minister Salah Al-Sayadi, from returning to Aden, who posted at his facebook page, that "I've booked to Aden to visit my sick mother, but I've been informed that I'm banned from returning to Yemen, and Aden in particular, by the AC, who pledged to the world, Security Council and the UN to restore the legitimate government." Brigadier general Mahran Al-Qubati, commander of the 4th brigade of the presidential guards, was also banned from entering Aden and returned to Riyadh.

Table on the Assassination Incidents according to Security Apparatus

organization	Number	Percentage	Remarks	Organization	Number	Percentage	remarks
Political security	6	14%	Recent incident 30/9/2016	Police	7	17%	
Airport security	4	9.5%		CID	8	19%	
Port security	4	9.5%		Others	13	31%	

Resistance Commanders

8 of the resistance commanders were assassinated, including Ahmed Al-Idrisi, who was murdered along with 7 of his guards, on 30 December 2015, at Al-Mansoura, while leaving Janat Aden hotel, at Atiseen street.

On 30 August 2015, unknown elements assassinated Hamdi Nasr Zein Al-Shateeri, resistance commander, by unknown gunmen at Al-Alam, Khor Maxar neighborhood. However, no party has claimed responsibility for such murders, nor did the security apparatus arrested any suspects.

Imams Category

The report has documented 23 murder incidents of imams and preachers, during 2016-2018, who were affiliated to different religious sects, such as Salafis, Al-Nahda movement, Islah party, and others, all are known for playing significant role in restoring Aden city from Houthis militia, by mobilizing the combatants.

We may conclude that, such category was systematically targeted, indicating that an organized party is behind such crimes.

In most of the incidents, the imams were assassinated following performing the dawn "Fagr", and evening

“Maghrib” prayers, and at locations close to the mosques or the roads leading there.

According to the report, 12 imams and preachers were assassinated during the reporting period, affiliated to the Salafi sect, and one to Al-Nahda movement, 4 affiliated to Islah party. According to various sources, assassination of imams and preachers, is intended to control one of the most influential tools in the community that guides the community through the religious discourse, and according to the former leader at the southern resistance movement, Adil Al-Hasani, in an interview by Al-Jazeera channel, on 19 December 2018, there is massive struggle and intention by the pro-UAE Salafi trend to control over the mosques in Aden.

On 31 January 2016, sheikh Abdulaziz Samhan, (Al-Rawe), imam of Ibn Al-Qayem mosque, member of Al-Buraiqa local council, and resistance leader, was abducted and killed, and his body was dumped at Al-Areesh, Khor Maxar neighborhood, and no party has claimed responsibility.

On 9th May 2018, sheikh Safwan Abdulwali Al-Shargabi, imam of Assomal mosque, was assassinated near his house in Mualla district.

On 24 January 2018, unknown gunmen assassinated sheikh Aaref Al-Subehi, imam and preacher of Arrahma mosque, member of the Shura council of Al-Nahda movement, near his house in Al-Mansoura, and no party has claimed responsibility.

On 12 December 2017, unknown elements murdered sheikh Faiz Fuad, imam and preacher of Abdulrahman bin Ouf mosque, in Attaqnyah neighborhood, while driving his car. SAM received exclusive information from the former resistance leader Adel Al-Hasani, that “while he was detained at the Coalition prison, in Al-Buraiqa, before transferring him to Bir Ahmed prison, met some detainees, who informed him that the Emiratis, are asking about sheikh Faiz Fuad, and the interrogator, and Emirati person, nicknamed “Hitler”, and his name is Matar. Following my release, I contacted people who know sheikh Faiz, to warn him, but unfortunately he was assassinated.

Assassination of Activists on charges of Atheism

Aden city witnessed during 2017, an intimidation campaign against civil activists and journalists, by extremists, some are followers of Salafi sheikh Hani bin Breek, loyal to the UAE, and murder of two activists Omer Bataweel, and Amgad Abdulrahman, and the two crimes were unclaimed.

On April 2016, unknown gunmen murdered Omer Muhammed Bataweel 17, and his body was found in Aden city with gunshots at his head and chest. Sources closed to the family said; armed men abducted Omer near his house and dumped his body. Bataweel believed to be murdered for his liberal ideology,

and speeches that criticize extremism, considered by extremists as an atheism. On May 2017, Amgad Abdulrahman 24, was murdered at an internet café in Ashiekh Osman district, by an armed man who stormed the café and shot at his head and chest to die instantly.

Amgad was the founder of Anasyah Cultural Club, and activist, he was active among youth in politics and cultures.

Hani bin Breek militia banned burial of Amgad at Muslims cemetery, or to organize funeral ceremony for him, and detained three journalists who tried to visit Amgad's family to mourn his death.



Assassinations on Political Motives

Year

2018 was the bloodiest year for Islah party, according to one Islah leader, where four, out of six of the party leading members were murdered, he confirmed that Islah party was exposed to systematic incitement media campaign, led to raid, and burn party's premises, in May and October 2017. Associated with detention to many Islah leaders, and an attempted murder of Islah party chief in Aden, Insaf Mayo, on 29 December 2015, according to BuzzFeed website, the attempted murder was carried out by foreign mercenaries for the UAE authorities.

On 15th August, unknown gunmen murdered sheikh Saleh Salem bin Hulees, leader at Islah party, and imam of Arridha mosque, in Al-Mansour, and according to eyewitnesses, he was assassinated by gunmen, riding a motorcycle.

In February 2018, gunmen assassinated Shawqi Kamadi, imam and preacher of Al-Thwar mosque in Aden, and director of Organization and Rehabilitation Department at Islah party, member of the local council of Mualla district, while en route to Mareb school where he teaches, and according to identical testimonies, received by SAM, two gunmen riding a motorcycle,

fired at him while driving his car, he tried to escape, but crashed with another car and the gunmen chased and shot him dead. Shawqi, was member of resistance against Houthis militia and played significant role in defending Aden against the militia.

On 2 October 2018, unknown elements murdered Muhammed Abdullah Al-Shugaina, director of Islah Charity Society branch in Aden, where he was abducted from Mualla main street, and found later dead at Abyan coast, in Khor Maxar, with traces of torture in his body. Al-Shugaina one of the pioneers in charity work, and the founder of Islah Charity Society in Aden.

He also played significant role in reopening Suhaib military hospital to treat army and resistance casualties.

On 19th September, unknown assassinated Ali Muhammed Al-Daousi, a school principal at Ataqanyah neighborhood, near his house in Inma



city, and fled the site.



Other figures

The report documented assassination of other personalities; including colonel



Taha Al-Subaihi, officer of security deployment in Aden police on 24 January 2016, at Caltex roundabout, and Muhammed Al-Dhaif, retired security officer, assassinated on 11 April 2016, at Al-Mimdara neighborhood, and his bus was robbed, indicating to the criminal motives of the crime.

Assassinations also targeted judiciary and prosecution staff, whose mandate is to handle terror profile; including Abbas Al-Aqrabi, secretary-general of the court specialized in terrorism cases, on 8 October 2016, Hassan Muhammed Farhan, head of the penal division, specialized in terror cases,

on 5 December 2015, and 4 of his guards, in Al-Mansoura district, judge Abdulhadi Al-Maflahi, head of the penal



division, specialized in terror cases, in Hadhramout, who replaced Hassan Olwan, following his murder, and Jalal Abdullah Al-Hakimi, successor of Olwan Al-Maflahi, assigned few days prior to his murder at the penal division, specialized in terror cases, in Hadhramout, on 29 December 2015, and Altaf Qaed, wife of colonel Taha Al-Subaihi, who was assassinated beside her husband. In conclusion the four victims are directly related to the terror issues.

Islamic State (Daesh); on the Line of Assassination

Islamic State claimed responsibility for 3 murders, including brigadier Jafar Saad, former Aden governor, along with 6 of his guards, on 6th December 2015, at a car bomb explosion, two others are imams; sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Emrani, imam of Assahaba mosque, Al-Mansoura district; on 5 December 2017, and sheikh Faiz Al-Dhibiani, imam of

Abdulrahman bin Ouf mosque, on 12 December 2017, Al-Mansoura district, by the Islamic State organization.

The victims accompanying brigadier Jaafar Mohammed Saad are not included in the statistics, since their killing was due to their presence next to the target.



Means of Assassination Indicate to the Perpetrator

When analyzing the means of assassination, SAM concluded that using of gunshots is common means by the perpetrators in Aden, where the first operation took place on 30th August 2015, and the first assassination by explosive device took place on 30th July 2016.

Gunshots were preferred over explosive devices, apparently to ensure the success of the assassination, where IEDs succeeded in 5 cases, out of 14

unscheduled ones, while 79 attempted murder succeeded, against 15 failed.

Colonel Taha Al-Subaihi, in-charge of security deployment in Aden police force, escaped an assassination attempt by EID, on 30 July 2012, to be assassinated by fire shots on 24th January 2016, while at Caltex roundabout.

This explains that using of EIDs is complicated and require specific techniques, unlike gunshots, but also raises question on the preference of

using bullets, although EIDs are safer for the perpetrators, who might be arrested when using guns.

Also, using bullets, despite possibility of arrest and disclosure of perpetrators, indicates that the responsible party is not worried of being disclosed, being the party in control of the security and can pass weapons used through the security checkpoints, and guarantees the safe movements of the suspects, and to safeguard them if arrested by other party, also to undertake subsequent legal measures. Thereby. Such party is executing such assassinations at ease and using simple means.

It also explains executing of assassination at high pace, as evident by the numerous

assassinations, where some of the perpetrators were arrested by the public and resistance elements, such as the assassins of sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Adani, who were handed over to the Security Department, but have been let loose, according to unverified information received by SAM.

Also, the Security director, Shalal Shae' has declared arrest of suspects at many instances, to avoid suspicious, and promised to interrogate and bring them to justice, but in vain.

Means of Assassination	Number	Percentage	Remarks
Bullets	79	85%	
EIDs	5	5%	
Others	9	10%	Abduction, murder, armed attack is also means of targeting by bullets, but with many assassins and different weapons, and according to different plans, rather than attacking by gunshots by assassins riding motorcycles.

Table on the Percentage and Type of Assassination Means

Al-Mansoura District has the Lion Share of Assassinations

Although assassinations hit all districts in Aden, yet the rate differs from one district to the other, for many reasons, and according to the analysis of the assassinations, Al-Mansoura district comes first at 45 assassinations, at 48%,

of the total assassinations. Followed by Ashiekh Osman district, 17, at 18%. The figures show main focus on Al-Mansoura district, at Inma, Atiseen, Caltex, and old Al-Mansoura neighborhoods.

District	Number	Percentage	Remarks	District	Number	Percentage	Remarks
Sira	3	3.5%		Dar Saad	4	4.5%	
Khor Maxar	14	15%		Mualla	4	4.5%	
Ashiekh Osman	17	18%		Attwahi	1	1%	
alMansoura	45	48%		Al-Buraiqa	1	1%	
				Aden vicinity	4	4.5%	Addalie, Al-Habellen, Al-Fyush, Jaar





هاني بن بريك 
@HaniBinbrek

بؤرالمفجرين المنتحرين هي المساجد الحاضنة
لفكرهم ومن المؤسف أن نجد من يقف ضد
تطهير المساجد من دعاة هذا الفكر الإجرامي

Media Incitement

Some instances witnessed attacks by Hani bin Brek against mosques, accusing the of hatching terror, where is a tweet he said “mosques are the spots of the suicide bombers, the incubator of their ideology, and it is regrettable that some stand against cleaning the mosques from the preacher of such criminal ideology”, in another tweet he said “unless the government, represented by the ministry of endowment, stand firm to disempower the mosques from affiliation to the parties and the Takfiris “who accuses another Muslim (or an

adherent of another Abrahamic faith) of apostasy”, the hatching will continue, as long as the hatchery is functioning”.

Early February 2018, following the recent fighting in Aden, Ahmed bin Brek, member of the southern Transitional Council and former governor of Hadhramout, has spoken in an interview with Akhbar Hadhramout newspaper, about secret documents used by the other party to cause troubles between Saudi Arabia and UAE, in reference to documents related to assassinations.

BuzzFeed

BuzzFeed Website and Demystifying Assassinations Mystery;

BuzzFeed News website published on 15 October 2018, an interview revealed that the UAE, has contracted American and French mercenaries, from an Israeli company to execute assassinations of politicians and clergymen in Aden.

The website mentioned that the US Spear Operation company, established by Israeli retired officer Abraham Golan, that UAE has contracted in 2015, has hired American mercenaries, who used to work at different American military units.

The website quoted soldiers who operated in Yemen, that they have executed assassinations in Yemen, during 2015 – 2016, including assassination attempt of MP and Islah leader Insaf Mayo, on 29 December 2015, by explosive device at the party's premises, while Mayo, other leaders, and journalists believed to be

inside the premises.

According to Abraham Golan, the commander of the unit responsible for the assassination, the contract was signed between his company and the UAE, in Abdu Dhabi, through Mohammed Dahlan, former security commander at the Palestinian Authority, and the advisor to Abu Dhabi crown prince, with the presence of Isaac Gilmore, executive director of the company and Golan associate in the mission.

According to a joint statement by the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory for Human Rights and SAM, the company's work in Yemen is mercenary's mission, where article one of the International convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, and article (47) of the 1st Geneva Additional Protocol 1977, on the definition of mercenary, applies on those individuals, where the two conventions

defined the mercenary as the person who is recruited to fight in an armed conflict - like the one in Yemen – and he is not a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict; and is motivated to take part in the hostilities essentially by the desire for private gain and, in fact, is promised, by or on behalf of a party to the conflict, material compensation substantially in excess of that promised or paid to combatants of similar rank and functions in the armed forces of that party. The two organizations considered the mission assigned to the company is an illegal act and a crime according to the international and local laws, where the contract between the two parties provided for payment of \$1.5 million monthly, to undertake the assigned assignment, which is specified as “dysfunction and destruction of the Islah party”, by “targeting the party’s leaders, not detain them”. Consequently, the group of 12 persons traveled to Yemen late 2015, including 3 Americans, who receives \$24 thousand monthly, for the mission, the majority of the team were French who receives \$10 thousands

monthly, in addition to other allowances “for each successful killing.”

In his testimony; journalist Abdurraqeab Al-Hadyani, the UAE Al-Etihad newspaper correspondent, and one of survivor of the incident said “we were ten journalists from Aden, and some others from other governorates that are under Houthis control, including correspondents of local, American and Gulf newspapers, writers, and TV program presenters at local channels, we were working at the second floor, where Insaf’s office is located at the first floor of the building”, “the explosion was huge, where it destroyed my laptop, we panic and rushed to the terrace, and we thought that the building was raided to kill us, but the neighbors told us that the persons who detonated the building, fled in their car, and they heard them speak in English”, he added.

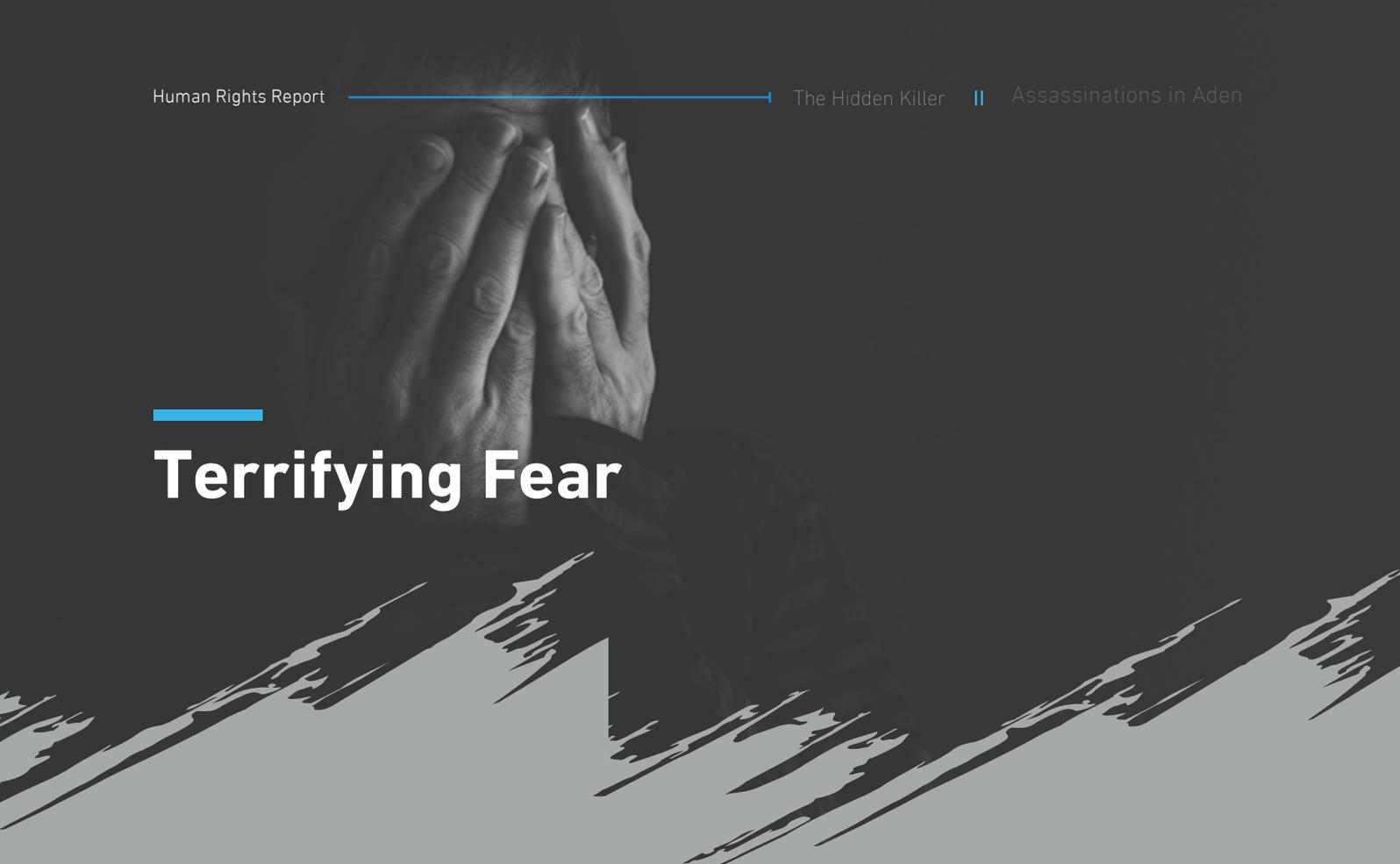
Other Evidences

In a post at his facebook account, Adel Al-Hasani, former resistance leader wrote on 2 December 2018, about the assassination of the Salafi sheikh Rawe "at Al-Jala camp, northeastern Al-Buraiga district, there was a gang led by Abdullah Al-Fadhli, and supervised by junior Emirati officer; first lieutenant Abu Rashed, from Dubai, and serves at the UAE army intelligence, I met him and he told me that Hani bin Breek issued a Fatwa to kill sheikh Rawe, under the allegations that the Brotherhood are from The Kharijites, who should be killed. Arrangements were made at Al-Jala camp with l-Fadhli gang, who assigned three persons to execute the murder, who approached sheikh Rawe, under the pretext that they have a case to solve and they want sheikh Rawe to decide on it. They had dinner with him at Al-Kawthar restaurant, that installed surveillance CCTV that pictured them, and the pictures were obtained by Rawe's relatives. The three persons took sheikh Rawe to Al-Jala camp and tortured him, mutilated his body and

killed him, and dumped his body at Suzuki roundabout, at Ashiekh Osman district, on 30th January 2016", "former minister of interior, Hussein Arab, told me at the presence of Naif Al-Bakri, that the ministry has all evidences that prove that the Emiratis has killed sheikh Rawe, but for political reasons, and pressures they refrain from publicizing these evidences." He added.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera channel, on 19th December 2018, "Belaa Hudood" show, Adel Al-Hasani, disclosed that "Emiratis asked me to murder sheikh Ahmed Al-Esa, deputy director of president Hadi office", "I have a list of 42 names with photos of people died under torture at UAE prisons in Aden", he added.

Such information and data held the UN and the National Commission to Investigate Alleged HR Violations, legally and judicially accountable.



Terrifying Fear

Our monitors tried to communicate with different parties, related to the assassinations, either among relatives, or partisan and security leaders, but they prefer to keep silent.

Relatives of the victims are surrounded by fear, frustration, and disappointment, due to the failure of the judiciary in disclosing the culprits and bringing justice to the victims. Al-Baraa Saleh Hulais, whose father was murdered on 15 August 2016, responded to us saying “my father did not receive any threats, but he was upset for the murder of imam Abdulrahman Al-Zahri. We complain to God, even if the perpetrators escaped punishment, they will not escape God’s punishment in the other day”.

Within the same context, our monitors contacted some of the relatives, who

requested to conceal their identity, said that the security apparatuses are accomplice to the crimes, considering their security responsibility and failure to observe their duty, and ignoring those who are involved in the crimes, and failure to conduct investigations, or issue any relevant clarifications.

In a testimony by politician, documented by SAM, who said that “assassinations are systematic act and the party responsible, is the party that controls Aden”, “we’ve poor communication with the security agencies, we only met the interior minister, and tangible procedures by the responsible agency in the government”, he added.

Insaf Mayo, Islah head in Aden, refused to comment on BuzzFeed news, for political and security reasons.

Gangsters and Questions

On 13 January 2018, Yasir Al-Yemani, leader at the Peoples General Congress party, leaked a telephone call of the brigadier Muhammed Tammah, head of military intelligence on the assassination of sheikh Rae, where he said that there are many data on the assassinations in Aden, confirming that there are suspects and gangsters, referring to the assassinations of clergymen in Aden. Such call raised many questions on the list of wanted persons on terrorist cases, announced by the security apparatuses, assassination of imams, and the fate of

the arrested suspects by the southern resistance, like Helmi Al-Zingi, at Abyan governorate and handed over to the Arab Coalition, who was not brought to justice, so far. According to information received, Helmi was close member to Al-Qaeda, and after his arrest by Bakazem tribes in Abyan, he was handed over to the Arab Coalition in Aden, however his whereabouts is unknown, whether he died under torture or transferred outside Yemen, according to unverified information received, however this raises many questions and mystery.

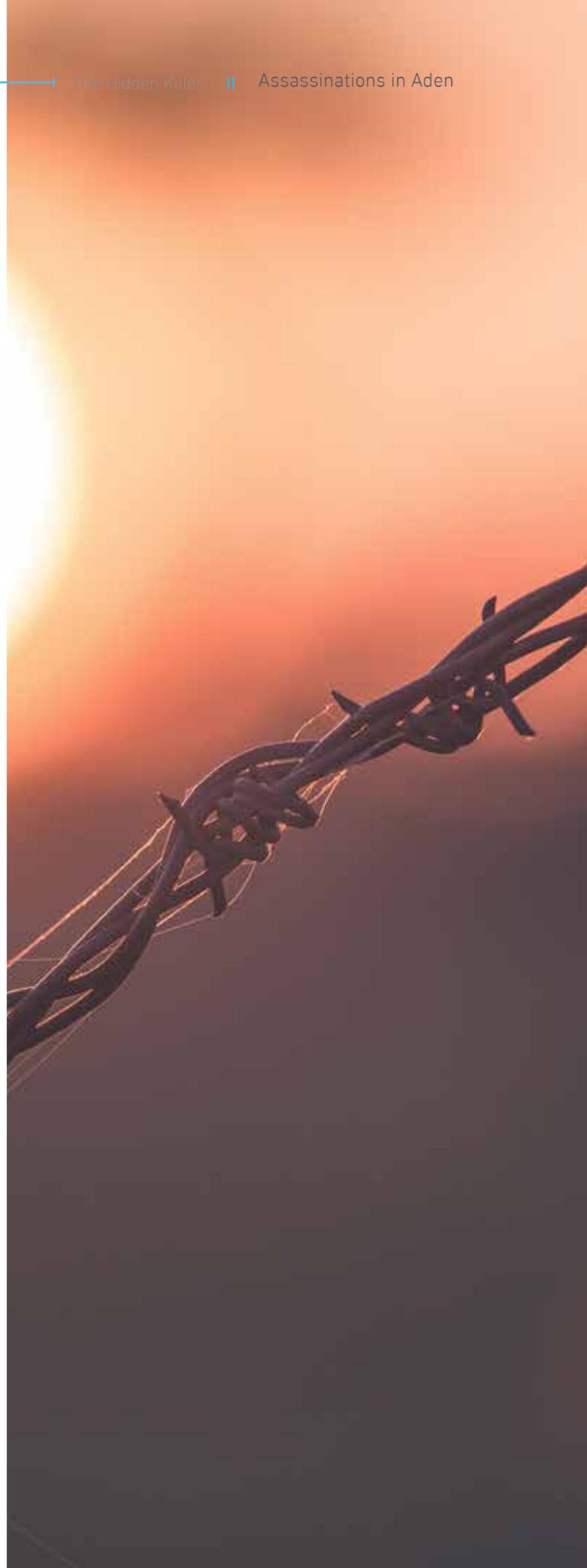
Enforced Displacement and Assassinations

SAM contacted one person who left Aden, to find out the reason, he said “when you are exposed to assassination in the day light, in plain sight, and with security apparatuses’ silence, or when you face detention by informal security apparatuses extralegally”, “assassinations hit all Salafi preachers, more than 40 murdered, for their influence before, during after war, may Allah has his mercy on them, and revenge from the killers”, he added.

Muhammed Abdo Sallam, detained for two years, and severely tortured told SAM that “I’ve been hanged for three years blindfolded, beaten severely, shocked by electricity at my testicles and private organ, and waterboarding. My left hand was broken, and I suffocated and suffered urinary retention for about two weeks. When the prosecution ordered my release, I was disappeared for a while, and Yusran Al-Maqtari, warned me that they will release me provided that I deny that I’ve been detained by them



and to say that I was at Bir Ahmed, not to conduct interviews, specially with Al-Jazeera, and to speak about the torture. Following my release, I decided to leave Aden and my family, following threats to kill me by the Emiratis, Yusran Al-Maqtari and Ghasan Al-Aqrabi, also one Emirati soldier threaten to kill me; he is Abu Odai, Ali Hajar Al-Shihi, and Abu Ahmed, if I disclose them. Yusran has threatened to kill me if I speak about his responsibility for killing Shukri Al-Saqqaf”, “they released me at 10 p.m., and dumped me at the Jews cemetery, and gave me one thousand ryals, I took a bus to my house. Two days later two gunmen on a motorcycle came near my house before dawn prayer. I stayed at home, and my neighbors warned me. I escaped to Barbara in Somaliland, and now I’m in the Sudan, I can’t work or bring my family. I became homeless, and my family is broke, I complain to Allah”.





Absence Role of the Officials

In July 2018, the ministry of endowment condemned the assassinations and urged for firm stand by the officials to preserve citizens' security and safety. The minister of endowment, Ahmed Atya, urged the ministry of interior and security agencies, to safeguard the ulama and scholars in Aden. He said in post at his facebook account; "we daily wake up on a new assassination crime of imam, preacher or scholar, we appeal to the interior ministry and security to safe the remaining imams and scholars."

In December 2017, the preachers, scholars and imams of Aden, confirmed that the assassinations of preachers and imams is a criminal systematic act, to empty the city of preachers,

holding the legitimate government, the Arab Coalition, represented by the UAE, accountable, and fully responsible for the safety and security of the imams and preachers, calling to prosecute the perpetrators, and to bring them to justice. Also, urged Aden security department to issue a statement explaining arrest of the killers, to the local and external public. The statement called all rights organizations to monitor and document these brutal crimes, and to undertake all necessary measures to end such crimes. The statement warned of systematic incitement against preachers and imams, through media and some extremist mosques.

CONCLUSION

From the incidents documented during the reporting period, we may conclude that the assassinations that hit Aden city, were executed in a systematic, and highly organized way, with high standard of planning and execution, where the victims are identified according to accurate intelligence, and on the basis of their functional, political, and social roles, and no doubt that there are internal and external parties stand behind these crimes, for political motives mainly, in order to empty the city from specific political and ideological powers that stand in their way.

Such motives are interrelated with the ongoing struggle between the political factions that administrate Aden city, that reached to armed conflict in January 2018, where such similarity in execution and victims could not be random, without premeditation, and the perpetrators move around safely, fearing no consequences, also failure and dysfunction of the security agencies is obvious, either because of intimidation or other reasons, as seen in their

media discourse and failure to bring perpetrators to justice.

Furthermore, the security agencies fall victims of these crimes, where many experienced security figures lost their lives, creating unprecedented security chaos in Aden, allowing for the systematic assassinations by internal and external hands, against specific parties, and the security agencies failed to demystify these crimes or expose the perpetrators, so far, neither did they refer any suspect to the judiciary. However, many facts start to reveal gradually, and the perpetrators will be brought to justice, and justice will be served for the victims and their relatives.

Nonetheless, the legitimate government, Arab Coalition forces in Aden, particularly the UAE, and KSA, will remain legally responsible for these assassinations, as they are the power in control, and manage the security and military apparatuses in Aden city, and they've the technical capacity to disclose these crimes.



Recommendations

- the Group of Eminent Experts of the UNHCHR, is requested to investigate these human rights violations, and to include assassination crimes in their agenda for 2019.
- Pay high attention to the information related to assassinations, with due monitoring and data collection, and analyses them from political and security perspective.
- The legitimate government shall undertake serious and independent investigation on the assassination crimes, and to disclose involved parties.
- To establish a joint committee with the Arab Coalition, to manage the security profile in Aden, and to unify the security apparatuses, and rebuild them on national and professional basis.
- To punish the those who are involved in these crimes, and not to coverup and protect them, regardless of any security or political considerations.



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