

2019



The Republic of Yemen  
The Ministry of Human Rights



# Human Rights status in Yemen

## For the period from February 1, 2017 to JULY 31, 2019



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## **Situation Background in Yemen:**

The Houthi militia, backed by Iran, continues to violate international humanitarian law since March 21, 2015, the day the Houthi militia leader announced the general mobilization decision to invade the southern and eastern provinces, until the moment when the Houthi militia coup started its third year.

Since the coup against the legitimacy, the Iran-backed Houthi militia has committed war crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law, where they commit thousands of extrajudicial killings and launched indiscriminate attacks on hospitals, Schools, markets, residential neighborhoods and other facilities, resulting in massive destruction of infrastructure in Sana'a, Tai'z, Al Jawf, Shabwah and Al Khawkhah in Al Hudayda and other provinces. It continued its attacks on Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by firing artillery and missiles at the Saudi border, killing and wounding civilians, as well as firing ballistic missiles at Riyadh and areas inside the Kingdom, confirming Iran's involvement in supporting militias with weapons. This is a violation of Resolution No. 2216 in addition to the finding of drones in Ma'rib and Aden, as well as the Iranian-made naval mines found in Yemeni coasts. Unfortunately, relief barges and ports are targeted, which threatens international peace and security. Residential areas, roads and farms have been turned into minefields. All this is a clear violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, amounting to real war crimes.

It is possible that those familiar with the Yemeni issue will see the restrictions imposed by the Houthi-backed militias in Iran on the right to freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful gatherings through the closure of many civil society organizations and human rights organizations and their founders were forced to leave Sana'a. Not to mention the ongoing violations against journalists, media workers and human rights defenders. They also subjected detainees to enforced disappearances, many of whom were killed, tortured to death and other cruel and ill-treatment.

Needless to say, the media is being harassed because of a political approach that is muzzling their rights

As well as raiding television channels and radios. The intimidation, threats and destruction have been used as extortion tools against civilians and businessmen, where kidnapping, enforced disappearance and torture to death have been committed against youth, activists, media and politicians opposed to them.

The year 2017 witnessed widespread violations of international humanitarian law. Houthi militia practiced all kinds of attacks, including murder, injury and displacement. The crimes of child abuse and recruitment increased. They were stripped of their religious slogans and training camps were opened for them under the name of the Qur'anic March and Qur'an memorization centers. Women have been arrested, prosecuted and repeatedly assaulted, relief assistance was looted, confiscated, intercepted and prevent-

ed from reaching the needy, and even educational facilities, Schools and health facilities have not been spared from their attacks.

At the end of 2017, violations of Iran-backed armed Houthi militias escalated. On December 4, 2017, the militia executed former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a, and they displayed video scenes showing the horror of his execution! People close to Saleh confirmed that the militia had executed the former president and several of his supporters after his arrest and the control of his house. The militia targeted to kill hundreds of people including civilians during the raid into the areas controlled by Saleh and they prevented the emergency services from transferring casualties and a number of medical teams experienced frequent attacks, as noted by the Regional Di-

rector of the International Committee of the Red Cross, including the damage of a medical storage affiliated to them during the indiscriminate shelling against a number of Sana'a neighborhoods.

Not only that, but they also looted most of the relief assistance and humanitarian aids, which were used in the so-called "war effort" to feed the conflict and kill the civilians! Houthi militia also exploited tens of thousands of children to serve their war. Due to the heavy losses in militias, they resorted to conscription and forced the citizens to fight, especially in Sana'a and Al Hudayda, as well as in the villages of Al-Khawkhah, Al-Shama, Al-Waht, Al-Abbassi and Al-Dahefa. There have been reports that militias have forced citizens on recruitment and participate in combat operations.

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## Introduction

The Ministry of Human Rights is working to activate the mechanisms of national protection and promote the human rights culture, in coordination between the ministries and the competent authorities. This confirms the commitment of our country to the international agreements, conventions and covenants it has ratified. The launch of the report comes in the context of the ministry keenness on launching local and international opinion on the human rights status in Yemen and the crimes committed by Houthi militias backed by Iran, since the juridical and humanitarians situation has been strongly violated at all levels as well as humanitarian, social and juridical standards. This increased the burden on the ministry and increased its missions and duties towards citizens in all regions and social segments.

The coups against legitimacy in Yemen have committed serious vi-

olations against humanitarian, international and juridical law (including the bombing of civilian houses, the recruitment of children, the arrests of activists, journalists and all those who differ from them or oppose them, the torture of prisoners and captives, the planting of mines and explosives, the prevention of relief assistance or grabbing them in several regions, the displacement and uprooting of thousands of people by the shelling, etc.... All these crimes called upon the ministry to expedite the monitoring and documentation of the crimes in order to know the increasing statistics of the wounded, the dead, the healthy, the prisoners and the detainees. In this report, we tried to provide a concise picture to reflect the human rights situation during the period in order to identify these crimes and violations of Houthi militias and demand the international community to cooperate with the Yemeni legitimacy and put an end to the suffering of millions of people.



## Executive Summary:

In the past year, due to the continuation of the war waged by the Iran-backed Houthi militias, the violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have escalated, where the suffering of women, children and the elderly has increased. Children are being violated because of their recruitment and the denial of their right to live in peace and in accordance with all the rights, the international and humanitarian laws guarantee for them. Schools have become military barracks and detention centers, hospitals and health facilities were destroyed and many of the wounded and the war-affected from the right to health care, causing the disruption of the international organizations work in the humanitarian field and relief, as they cannot deliver their assistance to the affected category due to the continuation of war. Abuses committed have affected all social categories and segments, even women have been affected by aggression and oppression. In addition, houses destruction and thousands displacement have continued and illegal arrests have escalated by

the Iran-backed Houthi militias. Moreover, mines planting, killing and causing injuries and disabilities to the civilians have continued.

The crimes and violations of the Houthi militias in Yemen ranged from murder, injury, mutilation, using the abducted as human shields or torturing them to death as well as arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, targeting of residential neighborhoods and popular markets of all types of weapons, missiles such as mortar shells and Katyushas and house explosions, in addition to planting mines in farmlands and bypass roads. Figures and statistics received by the Ministry of Human Rights during the period from February 1, 2017 to JULY 31th, 2019 indicate that the total number of civilian deaths and injuries reached (10371) cases of which: (4935) murder cases, including (787) women, (2277) children and (1871) men, while civilian casualties reached (5436) cases, including (764) women, (1945) children and (2727) men. Most of the victims were killed in 2015, and their number reached (29084)

victims, while in 2016 the number of victims amounted to (8508).The number of killed and injured victims in 2017 reached (5653) victims, according to the first report of the Ministry of Human Rights. This indicates that the more the legitimate government releases new areas, the more the percentage of violations against civilians decreases

In the southern Yemeni province of Daleah , 398 civilians, including children and women, were killed in the Houthi militia attack on Daleah displacing thousands and launching military attacks on populated villages.

.in Hajjour areaof Hajjah governorate 321 killed and wounded wouthi militia stormed the area

Many journalists, students, activists, academics and politicians are still in prisons and detention centers of Houthi militia, where cases of arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearance during the report period amounted to (5003) cases, including (79) women and (85) children, while the concealment cases reached (701) cases, including (5) women and (19) children, where (225) of them were tortured of which (35) died out of torture and (402) were used as human shields by Iran-backed Houthi militias.

While the rate of abduction during the period from March 2015 to January 31, 2017 reached (16804) cases, including (13938) arbitrary detention cases, while enforced disappearance cases reported were (2866) cases. The number of violations against journalists, journalists and human rights defenders amounted to (136) violations, including ( 7) murders and (64) confiscations, launching and blocking cases in media, while the number of violations during the past two years, according to the first report of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Union of Journalists, reached (450) violation cases, including torture, arrest, confiscation, looting and storming of headquarters, newspapers and chan-

nels, as well as the closure of local and Arab offices, satellite channels and radio stations. The killings of journalists reached (19) cases, and the number of abducted journalists in the prisons of Houthi militia amounted to (125) abducted persons.

Houthi militia has used children as fuel for its war, where the number of recruited and exploited children has been estimated to be more than (20000). The Ministry of Human Rights has documented about (8719) recruited underage children cases. In addition to recruiting children, they recruited women and young girls to engage them in the war fronts and use them to raid houses and attack women demonstrations. Houthi militia systematically destroyed infrastructures, whether public or private, where the number of cases reached (3018), most of them are housing facilities, where (340) houses were completely destroyed, (1907) partially destroyed, (86) houses of worship, (315) governmental facilities, (59) health facilities, (295) educational facilities and (16) archaeological sites. While the number of cases from March 2015 to January 31, 2017 amounted to (29422) cases, including (3557) cases of violations committed against the public property, of which government offices, Schools, hospitals, water and electricity networks, communication, roads, bridges and others. Whereas the number of violated private property reached the number of (25865) violation case, including houses, buildings, shops, vehicles, farms, companies, factories, etc., and the damage varied between total or partial destruction or between looting and violation of sanctity or confiscation.

The freedom of opinion and expression disappeared completely under the influence of Houthi militia, where they looted the official and private media opposing them. They blocked most of the news websites, followed voice oppression policy and imprisoned dozens of journalists in private prisons and detention centers. They also committed murdering crimes and assassinations against journalists and used them as human shields. The number of violations against journalists, media men and human rights defenders reached (139), including (13) murders and (64) confiscations, 62 Abduction, arbitrary detention launching and blocking cases in media. On the other hand, the number of violations during the past two years, according to the first report of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Journalists Syndicate, was estimated by (450) violations, including torture, arrest, confiscation, looting and

storming of headquarters, newspapers and channels in addition to the closure of local and Arab offices, satellite channels and radio stations, whereas the murders of journalists amounted to (19) cases, while the number of abducted journalists in the prisons of Houthi militias reached (125) abducted journalists. This report documents the human rights situation in Yemen for the period from February 1, 2017 to February 28th, 2018. These statistics do not reflect the whole truth, but a part of it, which was reached or handed over to us, while the real numbers far outweigh these numbers. There are some violations that were not accessible to the ministry or civil society organizations due to security conditions, fearing that it could expose its monitors to abduction, torture or murder. Moreover, some of the victims' families and eyewitnesses refuse to give any information or statements about many of the incidents for fear of being subjected to a criminal reaction from the militia.

# Report Preparation

## Methodology:



The report before you is a preliminary report on the situation of human rights during the period from February 1st, 2017 to JULY 31th, 2019 , prepared by the Ministry based on:

- Carrying out field visits through the Ministry of Human Rights field coordinators and monitors coordinated in each province (their task is to monitor and document violations and they are experience and competent) in a number of the Republic of Yemen provinces to obtain certificates and documentation, record interviews and take photographs.
- Relying on the investigation results reports sent by the National Commission to investigate allegations of human rights violations.
- Carrying out field visits by the Ministry's leadership, meeting with a number of violations' victims, listening to their testimony and viewing the violations' sites and their effects directly.
- Reports of civil society organizations and alliances that have monitored and documented human rights violations over the past two years.
- Complaints and communications

received by the ministry from eyewitnesses, victims' families or the victims themselves.

- Witnesses, reports and responses received from a number of government agencies and ministries related to the human rights file on violations against their sectors such as health, education, the interior and other relevant bodies.
  - The collection of daily data and qualitative reports issued by the ministry during the reporting period.
- The data and statistics mentioned in the report are those accessible to coordinators and ministry staff. The ministry maintains a large and comprehensive database of these statistics.

## **Legal Framework:**

### **Yemeni Law and Constitution.**

**The conventions and treaties signed by our country, including: (the four Geneva Conventions and their two Additional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other agreements signed and ratified by our country).**

## Module One: Extrajudicial Killings and Injury

Figures and statistics received by the Ministry of Human Rights during the period from February 1st, 2017 JULY 31, 2019 indicate that the total number of civilian killings and injuries reached (10371) cases, including (4935) killings, of which (787) women, (2277) children and (1871) men, while civilian casualties reached (5436) injuries, including (764) women, (1945) children and (2727) men.

The following are some of the facts and mass massacres that have been proven by Houthi militia against unarmed civilians through indiscriminate bombardments of residential communities and popular markets, and we will choose, for example, a number of facts to be presented in more detail with testimonies of a number of victims or eyewitnesses. These collective facts are considered serious violations of international humanitarian law and are crimes against humanity that are not subject to statute of limitations and time, its perpetrators must be punished.



# Chapter I:

## Killings and Injuries Facts:

On February 8, 2017, Houthi militia snatched the human rights activist Reham Al-Bader Mohammed Abdul Wassa' at 11:00 am. She was carrying out her humanitarian duties in humanitarian relief, monitoring and documentation at 11:00 am in the area of Kuraymat, east of Tai'z. Not only did they snatch the jurist and the member of the monitoring team in the National Commission to investigate the allegations of human rights violations, Reham Al-Bader, but they fired a shell at her colleagues as well, which led to the murder of the activist Mo'men Sa'id Hammoud Salem and injuring others.

On May 23rd, 2017, the militias bombed Al Daboua neighborhood in Tai'z with several shells, four of which fell on the public street in front of the first old condolences building near Tiba Schools, resulting in the death of one person. The second shell fell in front of the car repair shop, leading to a number of injuries, then the third shell fell on Abdou Ali al-Makhlafi's house and the fourth shell fell on the shop of Al-Awadi, killing four people, where the four shells led to five deaths and 11 injuries, including the child Elias Abdul Hakim Kaed, a 6-year-old boy. Six others were killed and injured: Malak Gamil Kaed, 9 years old, Mohanad Waheeb Ahmed, 3 years old, Mohamed Waheeb Mohamed, 3 years old, Abdul Rahman Shawky Ismail, 10 years old, Samy Salem Mohamed Ali, 6 years old and Nada Mahmoud Mohamed, 10 years old.

On December 2, Houthi group killed Akram Al-Zarqa in the town of Hajjah along with seven of

his relatives, and then they blew up his house and the house of one of his relative. The explosion led to the demolition of the nearby houses and the injury of some civilians, who were near the explosion site, according to the eyewitnesses testimony to the organization.

On December 3, members of "Houthi" group raided the "Advisory Hospital" on the 60th Street West, took out five wounded men from Saleh's house guards and led them to an unknown destination.

On December 4, 2017, the militias of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh were executed in Sana'a, where the militias displayed a video showing their execution. Some of Saleh's confidants stressed that the militias had executed the former president and a number of his supporters after his arrest and taking control of his house as well as the assassination of General Secretary of the General People's Congress Party, Aref Al-Zuka, Head of the party's delegation to the peace negotiations.

A number of civilians were wounded in the clashes in Sana'a, including the child Rayan Marwan Mustafa, 2 years old, with a shot in the right leg, Saddam Abdullah Ahmad Hashim with a shot in the left hand, Akram Adnan Saleh, with a fragment in the left leg, Essam Mohammed Ahmed Qidan, with a shot in the neck, Habib Abdulsalam Ghaleb Ali, with a shot in the right hand, Zalfah Yahya Ayesh, Jamila Mohammed al-'Abbari and Abdou Ali Mohammed Al-Fatimi were wounded with splinter in the left eye, all of them are civilians.

On December 2, three guards from the Yemen Canal building were injured today after the channel was stormed by the Iran-backed Houthi militias.

On December 6, the 14-year-old child Amin Wahba Allah Bazaz was shot by a Houthi sniper in the head.

On December 10, Houthi militias fired three Katyushas at Al-Khawkhah city, which led to the murder of the young girl Reemas Najib and the injury of her mother and brother.

In “Dhamar” province, Houthi forces liquidated two wounded men: “Dhaifallah Zayed” and “Mohammed Al-Aqr”, after they managed to arrest them hiding in a mosque.

On December 28, the militia shelled the residential neighborhood of Tho’bat, injuring the eight-year-old child Osama Arafat Abdel Karim and his 12-year-old sister, Fatima Arafat Abdul Karim, with splinters all over their bodies.

On January 2nd, Houthi militia shelled Al Mefalis area and wounded the 12-year-old child Yazeed Abdul Salam Mohammed with shelling splinters.

On January 4th, an 8-year-old boy named Ziad Ibrahim Abdul-Samad was wounded in Al-Shaagab area by a Houthi sniper centered in Tabat Al Saleheen.

On January 6th, a mortar shell hit a residential house in al-Ashbat neighborhood, eastern Tai’z, injuring the citizen Mossad Naji Said, 45 years old, and Hassan Mohammed Ali, 51 years old.

In Bani Sarraa village, on the main road between Tur and Hajja (in the northwest), the mi-

litias executed four people, including a child, and executed “Abdel Salam Nejad”, and another child of the same family under 10 years old. A number of Houthi gunmen attacked “Nejad”’s house, and wounded several members of his family with live bullets and arrested some of them. The militias used machine guns and RPGs “while attacking the house, according to civil society organizations in the region.

On January 10, five students were injured: Ali Ahmad al-Taweel, Salim Qaid Ali al-Shani, Mohammed Salem Mohammed Qamas, Abdul Latif Hussein Mubarak and Nasser Ali Saleh Musaed in Al-Baidah governorate because of a mortar shell fired by the militia at Salah al-Din School in Al-Saha area in the center of Na’man city.

In January, Taleb Ahmed Ali al-Laqahi was died of the injury, and Jabr Mabkhout Ali Saleh al-Laqahi was wounded in a random bombardment of the Houthi militia based in Jamida Mountain, targeting Lokah village at the Wald Rabi’ District.

In January, the Houthi militia committed a





crime in Tai'z, in the village of Shahdat at al-Dabab area, with Katyusha rocket launcher targeting a house, killing four members of a family, walaya Thabet Bakir Ahmed, 50 years old, Hassan Mohamed Ahmed, 35 years old, Jalal Abdulla Abdul Khaliq, 12 years old, and Tahani Abdullah Abdul Khaleq, 8-year-old girl.

On May 23, 2017, The Houthi militias targeted the neighborhood of Daboua in the center of the Tai'z, resulting in the murder of five civilians, including a child, and 12 others were wounded in two consecutive attacks (see statement of condemnation launched by the Ministry of Human Rights).

Shatha Abdullah, 10 years old, was hit by a sniper shot in the chest, by one of the militia snipers, stationed at Tabba salal in Tai'z on 7 May.

On 15 September 2017, in the crime of the neighborhood Shab Al-Dabbah, basin of Ashraf and Shaarah district, the militias fired indiscriminate shells that killed 3 children: Sarem Samir Saleh Ali, Wahid Mukhtar Abdul Hamid, 6

years old, Muhammed Murad Yassin Saeed, 8 years old, and injuring of 11 children, including 9 children: Maram Thawat Noman, 13 years old, Mu'taz Muhammad Hijaz, 11 years old, Usama Jihad Abdul Qader, 13 years old, Abdullah Mohammed al-Tanbashi, 14 years old, Al-Khader Mukhtar Abdul Hamid El Kades, 13 years old, Mohsen Mustafa Nasser al-Badawi, 8 years old, Ayman Baligh Thabet, 14 years old, and Mohammed Thabet Mohammed Abdullah, 16 years old.

The child Younis Ismail had his legs and part of his hand amputated, because of injury by fragments from a shell fired by the militias on June 2 on Huod al-Ashraf neighborhood, killing Haj Ali Iskandar, 52 years old. On June 12th, Hani Abdel Karim Mohammed al-Faqih, 33 years old, was killed by a mortar shell fired by Houthi militias on the Huod al-Ashraf neighborhood.

On May 30, the militias fired shells at Al Jumhori neighborhood of Tai'z, resulting in the injury of the children: Ali Khaled Hassan, 10 years old, Omar Khalid Hassan, 9 years old, Hisham Abdel Momen Mohammed, 10 years old, Noor Eddin Fares, 9 years old, Mohammed Khaled Mohammed, 10 years old, Qaid Mufid Qaid and Mohammed Mufid Qaed. Militias bombed a popular market called Al-Lokma market in Al-Bab Al-Kabeer in central Tai'z, killing one person and injuring seven others.

On May 12th, Iman Mohammed Hazza, 35 years old, and her son Mohanad Abd al-Hafiz al-Sufayani, 11 years old, were killed and her daughter, Shahd Abdullah' Abd al-Hafiz al-Sufayani, 8 years old, was seriously injured and others were wounded by shells fired by the militias in the main street.

On May 6th, the young girl Layan Maher Ali Ahmed was killed by an anti-aircraft missile bullet fired by the militia on the village of Al-Mehras.

On March 29, three children were killed: Emad Abdel Halim Ahmed Ali, 9 years old, Farah Abdel Halim Ahmed Ali, 5 years old, and Ansam Mohammed Said, 13 years old, and others injured by a mortar shell fired by the militias near a military hospital.

On January 27, 2018, The journalist Osama al-Salam was killed and Azzam al-Zubairi and Huthaifah al-Athouri were wounded by a missile launched by Houthi militias.

On January 22, the journalist Bashir Aklana RT TV reporter- was injured by the bomb-

ing of the militias on the Khaymi area in Al Ma'afer.

A 11-year-old young boy, Ayman Mohammed, was wounded by fragments of a mortar fired by the militia into the Sala district on January 13th.

The girl, Sara Nabil, died of her injury by fragments of a bullet fired by the militias on Al-Noor Street, 24, on January 12th, 2018. Reham Al-Bader, Human Rights Defendant and a member of the Monitoring Team of the National Committee to Investigate Human Rights Violations, assassination on February 8, 2018, while trying to deliver food to the people in Tai'z who are almost starving.



**The National Committee for the Investigation of allegations of violations of human rights in Yemen**

**Our Mission:**

**Ensuring accountability and the principle of non-impunity**

**The assassination of human rights activist Riham al-Badr by a Houthi sniper on February 8, 2018, trying to deliver food to the besieged in Taiz**

## Chapter II:

# Sana'a events and the serious violations committed by the Al Houthi militia, backed by Iran against civilians and leaders and supporters of the All People's Congress:

The beginning was on Wednesday, 29/11/2018 in Amana in Sana'a within the scheme of power control by the force of arms and the implementation of its destructive plans, Houthi militias attacks backed by Iran, through provocation and wounding many guards of Saleh Mosque to celebrate the birth of the Prophet and announced its establishment in Al Sabeen Square next to Saleh Mosque guarded by members of the former President Saleh guards. On this day, Houthi militia controlled Saleh Mosque claiming the securing of the celebration of the Prophet Muhammed's birth, but this was rejected by the guards of Saleh mosque, then clashes between the two parties has occurred, resulting in deaths and wounded people. On Friday, 1/12/2017, supporters of Saleh had Friday prayer at Saleh Mosque, chanted after the prayer slogans against Houthi militia backed by Iran and removed the slogans of the so-called cry from the pulpits, and in the other side, Houthi militias celebrated the Prophet Muhammed's birth in Al Sabeen Square.

On Saturday 2/12/2017, Saleh appeared in a speech on Yemen Today channel affiliated to him called on all Yemenis to the uprising against the Houthi movement, claiming their responsibility for that situation, and called on all civilian and military staff to not carry out any orders for the Houthis, and called for opening a new page with neighboring countries. On the other side, the Al-Masirah channel broadcasted a lengthy speech by the leader of Houthi militia backed by Iran, Abdul-Malik Houthi, who considered that Saleh's speech was a declaration of war. He then mobilized Houthi militias and started violent clashes between the two parties to include several areas in Amana the capital, including (Al Sabeen, Hedah, Al-Masbahi, Al-Ruwishan, Al-Zubairi, Al-Sitteen, and Al-Hasbah) after the

bombing on the neighborhoods of Amana and the Houthi militias broke into Yemen today channel and kidnapped the interviewers, staff and the site of motamarnet belonging to Saleh, and he broadcasted through them a statement calling on Saleh's supporters to pacification and a return to dialogue under the siege and bombing Sakhr Street and the surroundings of Saleh's house, Tariq's house and the Standing Committee in Al-Hasbah. The militia trapped the former president Saleh and his fighters around his house on Sakhr Street, imposed several security perimeters and clashes continued between the two parties using heavy weapons, including tanks by the Houthi militias. During the clashes, there have been many deaths and wounded ones, most of them from the fighters of both Parties, and clashes continued until late Sunday evening, 3/12/2017.

On Monday December 4, 2017, the militias executed the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a, where the militia reviewed a video showing their execution and some close ones to Saleh confirmed that the militias executed him and a number of his supporters after his arrest and control of his house, and the assassination of the secretary-general of the General People's Congress Party, Aref al-Zuka, head of

the party's delegation to the peace negotiations, that managed to register for the ministry many crimes and violations committed by the Iran-backed Houthi militias on the day of execution of the former president.

(109) injuries Annex 1, (280) abductions Annex 2, (64) attacks on the private properties Annex 3, (47) killings Annex 4, (49) journalist abductions, including 8 threats and (40) attacks on press organizations. Moreover, they blocked websites and the Internet and also looted and bombed a number of houses that will be mentioned later in the report.

\* Many human rights organizations and international bodies and agencies have expressed their concern and condemnation of the serious human rights violations committed by the Houthi militias.

\* The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Tuesday that fighting between Saleh and Houthi supporters has killed 234 people and wounded 400 others since December 1. "We now have 234 dead and 400 wounded," said the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yemen, Sumaya Beltefa. They were killed during clashes between Houthi rebels and their former allies.

\* A statement was issued in a closed session on 5/12/2017 about the events in Sana'a, which called for the need to implement the resolutions of the Security Council in Yemen, particularly the resolution (2216). The President of the Security Council said that the members of the Council agreed in their closed session to condemn the rocket fire on Saudi Arabia, and stressed the need to comply by the arms embargo on Yemen according to the Security Council resolution 2216 of 2015.

\* Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Erica Chosha called on all sides in Yemen to revive political negotiations to end the ongoing war in the country, adding that the Houthis' insistence on using ballistic missiles shows how destabilizing they are causing.

\* US Senator John McCain said the killing of Saleh would lead to more violence in Yemen, and that the Houthis and Iran which supports them are not interested in peace in Yemen.

\* French Ambassador François Delattre said that recent developments, though serious, could help change the equation in the country and create new opportunities to enhance the political process.

\* The rule of law: She issued a statement to pay homage to the martyrs of the uprising, and called on the remnant conference members to abide by the rule of law to defend the Republic, the national constants, and the agreed terms of reference.

\* The Iranian intervention was manifest in the statements of Iranian officials, where Iranian President Hassan Rowhani said in a televised speech: The Yemenis will make "the aggressors regret their actions, and he confirmed the hostile statements made by the Commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, General Mohammad Ali Jafari."

\*The UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, expressed his regret for the assassination of the Secretary-General of the General People's Congress Party, Aref al-Zouka, the head of the party's delegation to the peace negotiations, by the Houthis. In a statement, Ould Cheikh expressed his concern about the fate of the other members of the Conference of delegation, which remains unknown till this moment as he said: Yemen is suffering from daily violations against innocent civilians, stressing that what is happening is contrary to all customs and must not be tolerated. He referred to the reports from Sana'a about the Houthi repression of a peaceful women's demonstration, and arrests of journalists and members of the Congress Party, stressing that this is against international public law and human rights law.

# Chapter III:

## Abduction, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and torture:

The Houthi militia has adopted a policy of silencing the mouths of dozens of journalists and activists in prisons and private prisons. Some journalists have become human shields, and others are arrested in the military police, which became an operation center and where weapons are stored by militias. The Iranian Houthi militias have created additional prisons during the reporting period and transferred a number of mosques, universities, houses and clubs into prisons and detention centers such as the Hudhayfah Mosque in Qa'a Al-Fadhi and the Medical University of 21 September in Hiziz area, south of Sana'a, and used many of the abducted as human shields. All these crimes are considered violations of the international human rights law. After the Iran-backed invasion of and control over the capital Sana'a in late 2014 by Houthi militias, they launched systematic repressive arrests and carried out enforced disappearances against many of their opponents. Many journalists, students, activists, academics and politicians still languish in prisons and detention centers of the Houthi militias

The Security Council issued resolution (2216), which demanded from the Houthi militias the safe release of General Mahmoud al-Subaihi, Minister of Defence, as well as all the political prisoners and persons put under house arrest

and arbitrary detention. Many journalists, students, activists, academics and politicians are still arrested in Houthi militias' prisons and detention centers. Cases of arbitrary arrests, torture and enforced disappearances have reached the following numbers during the reporting period. (5003) among them (79) women (85) children and disappearances (701) among them (5) women and (19) children (225) were tortured (35) died because of torture and (402) were used as human shields by the Iran-backed Houthi militias.

While the rate of abductions during the period from March 2015 to 31 January 2017 was (16804) cases (13938) of them were arbitrary detentions, while cases of enforced disappearance were (2866) cases.

### Proceedings:

In Ta'iz, there are (20) cases of forced disappearances, whose location is unknown, after they were abducted by the militias from their villages namely Shaqab, Fuda'ia, Khams, and Wadi Areeq, according to civil society organizations. On December 2, the militias kidnapped (41) employees and media personnel from Yemen Today Channel (Annex 5).

On December 3, Houthi militias detained Mukhtar al-Sharafi and the photographer from al-Hurra American channel, according to the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. The militias circulated in their units names of journalists and media personnel with the aim of arresting them, in addition to threatening dozens of journalists with liquidation and prosecution.

On December 9, the militias abducted a number of the Congress Party leaders and supporters of Saleh that reached (16) persons.

In the occupied province of Mahwit, more than a hundred persons were abducted and the militias are still launching their raid campaigns, arrests and threats against Saleh's supporters, and

members and leaders of the General People's Congress party.

On December 17, a video of prisoners at Shibuya bayhan was shown, revealing how Houthi militias used them as human shields in military operations zones. After liberating the region, the prisoners were released after being exposed to different kinds of torture.

In Bihan, the militias launched a campaign of arrests, including Abdul Qadir Dahwali, field leader of the General People's Congress party in Bihan, according to a local source.

On January 6, 2018, the family of the abductor, Ali Muhammad A'ad Al-Tuwait, received his body after committing to bury the body, and never showing it to a forensic doctor. Al-Tuwait was abducted by the militias on November 19 while passing through one of the Houthi military points, located exactly in Al-Arfaf village, Damet town, al-Da'ei province. He was forcibly hidden in the secret prisons in al-Rizma, lbb province which is under the control of Houthi militias. He was subjected to terrible and brutal torture techniques, including the removal of nails and skin, and distorting his body to the extent of mutilating his corpse. Houthi militias demand transport companies to give them names of citizens six hours before travel time. The abducted are shackled at the political security prison in the capital Sana'a, and tormented by the cold weather and prevented from drinking water.

### **The use of detainees and hidden prisoners as human shields:**

The International humanitarian law considers the use of detainees and civilians, under any circumstances, as human shields a war crime according to Article 28 of the Geneva Convention of 1949. Moreover, the Additional Protocol

of the Treaty of 1977 (Article 51) and the Geneva Convention (Article 85) stress the need to provide a shelter to prisoners in buildings or places, where health conditions and safety are guaranteed, from the moment they are arrested. They also need to be effectively protected from harsh climate conditions and the effects of war. According to the Rome Convention of the International Criminal Court, the warring parties are also prohibited from using civilians as shields for military objectives or to protect operations against attacks. And according to paragraph 23, which states that using a Yemeni or any other person enjoying protection to give immunity against military operations in military points, areas or units is considered a war crime.

The number of detainees and the kidnapped used by militias as human shields was (402). A number of them were killed as a result of the hostilities. On top of the list comes names of media personnel, journalists, human rights defenders and activists, who were considered by the leader of the Iran-backed, armed Houthi militias, Abdul-Malik Houthi, in a televised speech broadcast by Al-Masira channel, to be more dangerous than those fighting against him on the fronts.

# Chapter IV:

## Landmine victims:

Planting landmines is a criminal violation according to the International Humanitarian Law and the associated charters, including the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines. The Iran-backed Houthi militia devised new methods to convert anti-vehicle mines into anti-personnel mines with the purpose of causing maximum damage to people or property. Women and children are often victims of such mines, which cause death or permanent disabilities. The militias have planted explosive, individual, camouflaged and improvised explosive ordnance IEDs of different purposes and targets, including improvised / explosive devices (IEDs) using radio systems. Some explosives were manufactured in Iran, others by Iranian experts. They are of various types and in different shapes, colors and sizes. They take the same nature of the land and the place where they are planted, making them difficult to detect and distinguish from their surroundings. Some of them look like rocks of different shapes or sizes, and some are in the form of building materials in the areas under their control such as (Aden, Tai'z, Marib, Lahj, Dali, Jouf, Shabwa, Al-Baida, Nahm, Sana'a, Hodeidah, Mukha, Waze'yah, and on the Saudi borders). They were cultivated randomly and in huge quantities in residential areas and inside civilians houses. One type of explosives that the militias used is the (pedal) which is detonated by the victim. It is a mine targeting individuals and is internationally prohibited. Some

explosives are detonated via contact wires, some through infrared radiation, while others via remote control. There are naval mines, an adhesive type, manufactured in Iran, and the KMD-1000 mines which were found in the Mukha in four containers. Similarly, a number of naval mines were found in the Midi area, the Tawak regions and on the beaches. One of the mines exploded in a naval boat as a result of colliding with a sea mine, killing four people. The legitimate Yemeni forces were able to eradicate more than forty mines and detonated them.

☐ The mines caused (846) civilians to suffer from permanent disabilities, 374 of whom with amputated legs including children and women. In addition, a number of children were recruited by the Iran-backed Houthi militias, and were assigned by the Houthi militias to plant mines either in the areas the militias withdraw from or on the Yemeni-Saudi border. Consequently, a number of children recruited by the Iran-backed Houthi militias were killed.

☐ International engagement with deadly mines failed to stand up to the challenge. Mines have caused the death and injury of thousands of people, mostly during the return of displaced people, and numbers are supposed to increase when more displaced people return.

☐ Civilians account for 80% of landmine victims. Children and displaced persons returning to their homes are the most vulnerable.

The Ministry of Human Rights documented the killing of (982) among them 204) children and (125) women, and the injury of (1134) among them (176 children and (241) women. The number of individuals who have been distorted mounted to (374) mostly civilians.

The number of mine victims during the period from 21 January 2015 to 31 January 2017 was (673) cases, (315) of which were killed and (358) were injured according to the first report of the Ministry of Human Rights.

The commander of the Mines Division, Saif bin Saif Harharah, was killed in Wadi al-Masni while taking part in a clearing mission of landmines planted by al-Qaeda in Hadramout.

## Types of mines used by Houthi militias:

### 1. Individual mines:

The use of anti-personnel mines by armed Iran-backed Houthi militias is extensive. They depend on it as one of the most important weapons that harm the innocent civilian population, and continue to kill and cause further casualties even after military operations end. Children and women are often victims of such mines as they end up dead, wounded, mutilated or disabled. Anti-personnel mines are one of the most dangerous, indiscriminate and banned weapons which were planted in populated areas, and converted by the militias into mine fields, particularly in the capital Aden, where they planted about 100,000 mines. There are more than 300,000 other mines planted by the militias in several Yemeni provinces, in the south and north, including the neighboring provinces of Aden, namely Abyan, Lahj and Dali, in addition to the provinces of Marib, Shabwa, Jouf, Tai'z, Nahem and other provinces. This led to the fall of many civilian victims, around 3000 cases with different damage levels like killing, wounding, bombing of facilities, in addition to explosion of vehicles, bridges, farms and wells.

### 2. Camouflaged landmines:

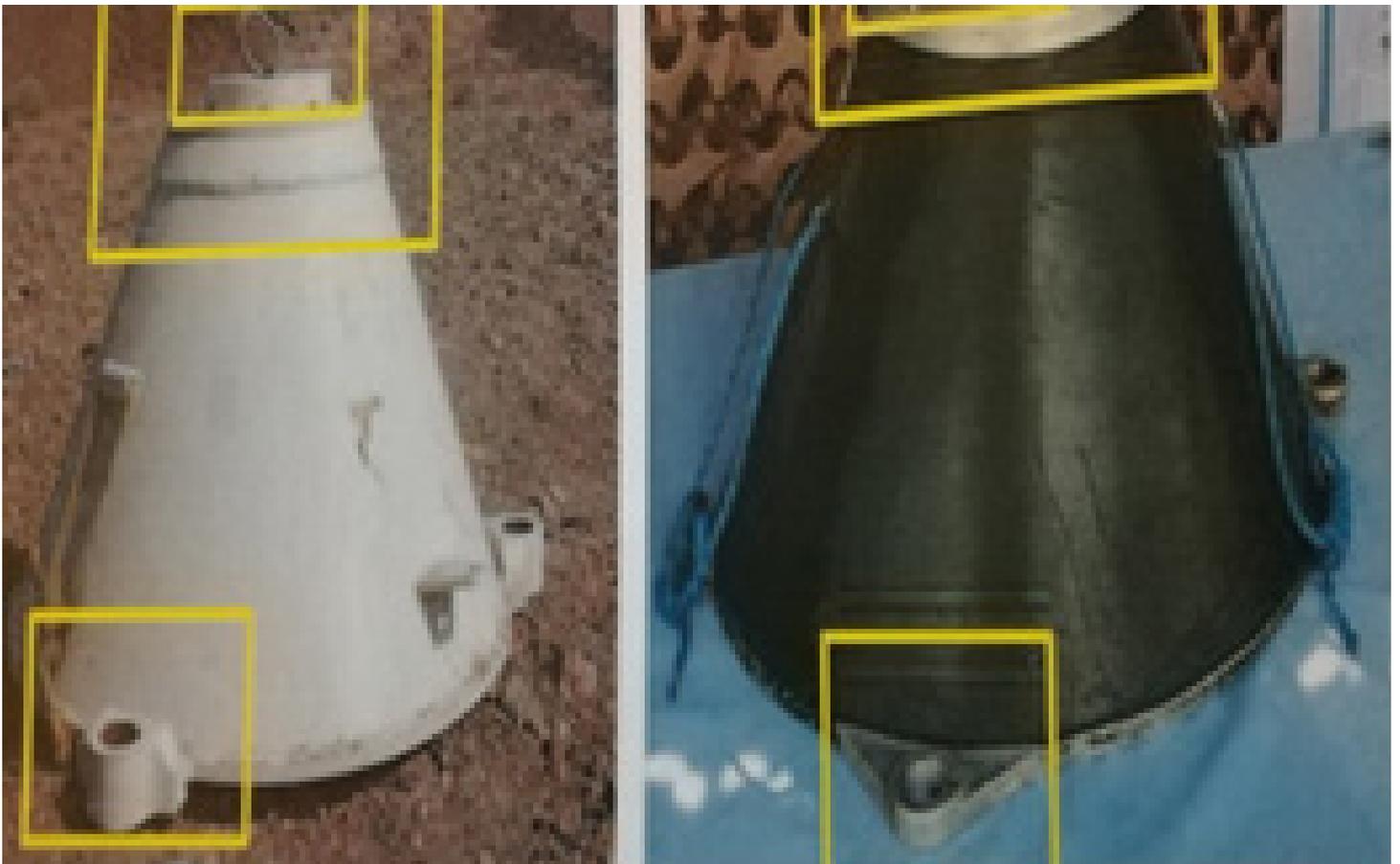
The Iran-backed Houthi militias have devised new methods and techniques of using anti-vehicle mines and converting them into anti-personnel mines in order to inflict the greatest amount of killing, disability and harm on innocent civilians. Women and children are often victims of such mines, causing death, injury or permanent disability as the militias planted explosive, individual, camouflaged and improvised mines. IEDs, with a variety of purposes and targets including explosive / improvised devices working by radio

systems. Some of them were manufactured in Iran, others by Iranian experts. They have various types and different shapes, colors and sizes. They take the same nature of the land and the place where they are planted which makes it difficult to discover and distinguish them from their surroundings. Some of which have the form of rocks of different sizes or shapes, and some of them are in the form of building materials in the areas under their control such as Aden, Tai'z, Marib, Lahj, Dali, Jouf, Shabwa, Baida, Nahm, East Sana'a, Hodeidah, Mukha, Waze'ya and on Yemeni-Saudi borders). They were planted randomly and in huge quantities in residential areas and inside civilian houses. Among the types planted by the militias are explosive devices that are detonated by the victim (a pedal), a mine that targets individuals and is internationally prohibited. Some of them explode by means of the contact wire, some are detonated by infrared radiation, and others are via remote control. Some are in the form of cardboard boxes coated with rain-proof adhesive material, and others in the form of a tightly-sealed wooden box which is Russian made. There is also a type made in the form of plastic bottles of drinking water and in the form of cooking utensils. The camouflaged mines often contain nails, iron balls, and highly explosive materials. The militias put mines in children's toys and inside their homes to explode them when they return after displacement. where more than five thousand camouflaged mines were destroyed by coalition forces and the legitimate government.



**3. Naval mines:**

Iran-backed Houthi militias have planted adhesive Iranian-made naval mines and KMD-1000 mines which were found in Mukha in four containers. In addition, naval mines were found in Midi, Tawak and on the beaches. One of the mines exploded in a naval boat after colliding with a sea-mine resulting in the death of four people. The Yemeni Naval forces have eradicated more than 40 sea mines and exploded them. Yet, there is growing concern about the presence of sea mines in areas frequented by Yemeni fishermen.



Yemeni mine- Iranian mine in public sources

## **Proceedings:**

A mine exploded in a car belonging to a citizen called Khalid Ali Ghannam on the Bihan air route on January 10, which led to his injury.

Three civilians were killed in Tai'z by a landmine planted on al-Saddad coast, north of Yakhtal. They were Mohammed Daoud Hamdi, Abdul Ghaffar Adel Mas'adi and Abdullah Muhammad Shadli on January 4.

On December 25, in Lahj province, a mine exploded in Abdullah al-Sufi's car while passing through the general road in Al-Jawaza'a area.

On January 4, an anti-personnel landmine exploded in Asilan district, Shabwa governorate, killing four of the demining team who were explosives experts. They were Abdul Karim Saleh Al-Aqili, Naji Bin Ahmed, Qassem Al-Harthy and Saleh Abdul Qader Bin Sulayem. Meanwhile, the Chief of Staff, General Taher Al-Aqili, and Jouf Sheikh al-Ukimi, the Governor of Juf province, survived after their car was hit by a mine planted by Houthi militias.

Earlier, Habiba Mohammed Haidar, 32 years, and Fathi Sadiq, 24 years, were killed by an individual mine planted by militias in the village of Al-Houd in the Salou district. In addition, Tahani Haider and Samira Abdel Salam were injured by the explosion of the same landmine.

In January a landmine planted in al-Baida area, a faraway place on the road link between Hauran and Qaneya, exploded in the car of Abdul-Allah Ali Mohamed Al-Amiri with his family and children who were injured and his car was severely damaged.

**Chapter V: Bombing, booby-trapped houses, indiscriminate shelling and targeting of infrastructure:**

Violations related to bombing and booby-trapping of the houses of adversaries is a peculiar violation of Houthi militias, which they practice systematically against opposition leaders or those who differ with them. They target their homes or those of their relatives. The number of houses that were booby-trapped and detonated during the reporting period was (241) houses and establishments, most of which were in Hajjah.

The strategy of bombing houses continues to be adopted by Houthi militias, where public properties such as government buildings, Schools, hospitals, water, electricity and communication networks, roads and bridges, houses, buildings, commercial stores, vehicles, farms, companies, factories and others were destroyed and shelled by artillery in the districts of Tai'z, Bihan in Shabwa, Lahj and Hodeidah. The clashes in Sana'a became more frequent in the different neighborhoods of the city since the beginning of December. Damage varied between the total or partial destruction or looting the properties. In addition, dozens of government buildings, residential buildings and universities were transformed by the militias into private prisons or military barracks and command centers. Mosques were not safe from the bombings. Militias blew up a mosque in Sarawah Marib and a mosque in Tai'z, and they targeted cultural centers.

## Proceedings:

The house of former President Saleh, those of his relatives, the headquarters of the General People's Congress, in addition to the press organizations of the General People's Congress witnessed large-scale looting by armed Houthis, where pictures of large and small trucks while carrying furniture from houses owned by leaders of the Congress Party were published. This was seen in the streets and neighborhoods of Sana'a, where the militias shouted with slogans when shelling residential neighborhoods or during the bombing of houses and destroying them. Al-Saleh Mosque was raided, four guards were killed and the militias changed its name. Furthermore the houses belonging to each of Mohammad Yahya Hadish, a member of the Standing Committee of the Congress Party, Ahmad Yahya Sarra'a, and his brother Mohammed Yahya Sarra'a, and his sons were also bombed.

The Houthis also stormed the house of the former Yemeni prime minister's daughter! As well as "Rokaya Al-Hajri's" house, daughter of Judge Abdullah Al-Hajri, former Prime Minister of Yemen, who was known as "Mother of Orphans" in Sana'a.

The Iran-backed Houthi militias stormed an orphanage in Sana'a and transferred the orphans to the front lines. According to witnesses to the Ministry of Human Rights, the militias turned the orphanage into a military training camp and enlisted 50 residents of the orphanage in the military operations. They also broke into the orphanage in Al-Mahwit and looted its contents. A number of residential and commercial buildings were to-

tally or partially damaged because of the recent clashes in the capital Sana'a. The most prominent casualties were the destruction of the commercial complex "Sam Mall" and the commercial complex "Alkemim".

In Tai'z, the militias blew up a number of houses, including that of Sheikh Said Al-Huraibi, a leader of the Congress Party, in Sharaf village in Al-Hayma Al-Ulya, as well as Abdullah Haza'a Naji's house and Mohammed Ahmed Sarhan's house using explosive devices and TNT.

On December 8, Houthi militias blew up 20 houses, most of them belong to leaders of the General People's Congress Party and 104 were harmed including commercial shops. More houses were bombed, including the house of Sheikh Akram Khalid Abdullah Mohammed al-Zarqa and five other houses together with the house of the local council of the Popular Congress.

On December 27, the militias broke into the villages of Al-Hima and blew up a mosque in Al-Hidali village.

On December 31, the militias indiscriminately shelled the residential areas in Al-Baida, Nata'a, Hajlan and neighboring areas of Al-Faraj via Katyusha rockets, injuring one woman and three children. Four houses were damaged by the shelling. In Al-Baida, the Houthis situated in the nearby locations of Al-Duraiya village, sniped the sheep owned by some citizens resulting in the death of a number of sheep (5).

Houthi militia shelled al-Hafi areas in Tai'z, which resulted in burning a health unit, and shelled Uqba Ibn Nafie School with heavy weapons, which led to the destruction of parts of the School.

The militias targeted a number of eastern districts in Tai'z city with artillery from the summit of the Sofitel building and a number of other neighborhoods on a daily basis.

# Chapter VI: Violations of freedom of opinion and expression:

Houthi militias has stepped up its targeting of the media in Sana'a since the beginning of December through the raid on the headquarters of the Yemen Today channel. The freedom of opinion and expression has been totally repressed. The militias have carried out wide-scale intrusions into a number of media centers, looted its contents and kidnapped the personnel. The number of violations against media personnel, journalists and human rights defenders was (139) (13) murders and (64) media and Abduction, arbitrary detention 62 means, whereas the number of violations during the past two years, according to the first report of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Syndicate of Journalists was (450), including torture, arrest, confiscation, looting and the storming of offices, newspapers and channels, as well as the closure of local and Arab offices, satellite and radio stations. The number of killed journalists was (19) and the number of kidnapped journalists in the prisons of the Houthi militias was (125) abductees. number of violations against journalists, media men and human Proceedings:

Yousef Ajlan ...Yemeni journalist

Journalist Yousef Ajlan, who began journalism in the local news website "Al-Masdar Online" in 2008, was subjected to three kidnappings by the Houthis, but he managed to escape the second abduction after being forced to sign a pledge not to return to work in the press.

Ajlan said: When I was kidnapped for the second time from my house on March 26, 2015, the

day Saudi started Al-Hazm Storm operation, the Houthis forced me to write a pledge that I would stop writing and end my journalism career. They also broke into my workplace and looted everything. This forced me to leave my job and buy a taxi to work on."

"On the evening of October 13, 2016, when I stopped my car next to my house and my wife got out of the car, I was surprised by four armed persons pointing their weapons at me," Ajlan said. "It was an intimidating situation. I felt I would never see my family again."

He continued with pausing sighs, "I was transferred to six different prisons, put in solitary confinement, 2x1 meters, and I was next to a person convicted of murder."It was terrifying, a dark cell and a murderer next to me, no mattress or a blanket to protect me from the extremely cold weather. I was not allowed to enter the bathroom for days, which caused me health problems I have been suffering from till now."

He added, "I was interrogated six times, tortured using the (grill) method, where they hanged me by tying my hands and feet together, and putting a stick in my feet, with brutal beating. The blood was sometimes dripping from my face from the intensity of beating. On one occasion, the interrogator threatened me with a rape if I did not confess to him things I did not know anything about. Not only that ...He threatened me to liquidate my two-year-old daughter and depriving me of her, in addition to liquidating my wife and father."

He also added? "After 26 days of torture, they transferred me to the Revolution's preventive detention where I stayed for 50 days. My family was not allowed to visit me until two months later. After four visits, I was sent again to the Political Security, where I remained hidden for 3 weeks till my family knew where I was."

Ajlan added, “I spent five more months in the Political Security, and we were not allowed to meet other prisoners, even though there were more than 10 journalists who were detained in the same prison. Sometimes they stopped visits suddenly, and the last month in prison visits were totally prevented and nothing was allowed to be given to us,” and he pointed out that he was transferred back to the central prison in Sana’a again, where he stayed for another five months. “I was transferred to the military police prison where we were used as human shields against the coalition aircrafts. I stayed there for a month before being released in a prisoner exchange process, although I was kidnapped in front of my house in Sana’a. I barely survived death as the prison was shelled by aircrafts and 23 martyrs fell including prisoners and captives. Yet, I am now exiled in Marib, away from my family and my city, where I was born and grew up.”

Ajlan also spoke of the birth of his child while he was in prison. He called him Ibrahim, and he was unable to hold him till he was nine months old. In addition, his wife almost died after being infected with Cholera, and his uncle died while he was still in prison, as his abduction period lasted for one year and 45 days.



Journalist Yousef Ajlan

**On December 2, the Iranian Houthi militias stormed the Yemen Today Channel in Bayt Buss area, Sana'a and arrested its crew as well as the Yemen Today newspaper and the Yemeni FM Radio. On the same day, the militias abducted (41) employees and a TV presenter from the Yemen Today Channel (Annex 5).**

**On December 3, Houthi militias detained Mukhtar al-Sharafi and the photographer from al-Hurra American channel, according to the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. The militias circulated in their units' names of journalists and media personnel with the aim of arresting them, in addition to threatening dozens of journalists with liquidation and prosecution.**

**The Iranian Houthi militias blocked more than (40) news websites, and cut the internet connection, especially with regards to means of social communication, and on the same day a number of sites were hacked and penetrated like [www.almotamar.net](http://www.almotamar.net), [www.almethaq.net](http://www.almethaq.net) belonging to the Party of the General People's Congress, and [www.khabaragency.net](http://www.khabaragency.net).**

**The militias also sentenced journalist Mohamed Ana'am, the editor-in-chief of Al-Methaq newspaper of the General People's Congress party, to a fine in absentia.**

# Chapter VII: Freezing, looting money and threatening banking business:

The government prepared a budget for the fiscal year 2018 after a three-year hiatus from 2015 - 2017 during the coup of Houthi militias against state institutions. This coincided with the return of some revenues of the Yemeni government in the liberated areas and the improvement of performance in administrative facilities. However, the banking sector still has a lot to suffer in the areas controlled by the Houthi militias backed by Iran. All the contents of the Central Bank of Yemen located in Sana'a were seized including, the resources of the state budget, foreign exchange reserves, and balances of commercial and private banks kept in the Central Bank. Consequently, the work of these banks was hindered, this reflected in turn on the financial, monetary, commercial and economic transactions in the country in general, and in the areas that are not liberated in particular. The central sector has become paralyzed and stuck in a phase of irreversible deterioration. This resulted in lack of liquidity and a drop in traders' confidence in the banking transactions, which led to high food prices in areas still under the control of the militias. What further aggravated the situation was the creation of new customs areas at the entrances of some major cities such as Dhamar to recollect customs on goods coming from the ports controlled by the legitimate government in the liberated provinces. This new burden had its impact on the citizens. In addition, the militias continued to issue illegal decisions and circulars, targeted traders, and imposed levies

to support war efforts. Sana'a witnessed claims and frequent sit-ins by traders. A large number of traders closed their shops because of these levies, and the Chamber of Commerce issued several calls to stop abuses and collecting illegal levies from traders, and to stop the confiscation of funds and the freezing of bank accounts of companies. The Iran-backed Houthi militias demanded the operating banks in the capital Sana'a to submit complete data regarding deposits and balances of the leaders of the General People's Congress and some relatives of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. According to the directive, the Houthis demanded banks to provide the deposits and balances of (32) leaders of the Congress and Saleh's relatives, along with five companies owned by leaders under the former president's regime. Issuing a confiscation letter of (1223) citizens and leaders of the Congress Party where the list included names of businessmen This list was attached to the letter addressing banks to freeze the attached bank accounts (1223), serialized 696.

## **Module Two: Violations against women and children, displacement and sectarian attacks:**

The impact of war on women is very different from men, as its physical and psychological repercussions are extended to the whole family. Women in Yemen have experienced grave violations during the war - and still are - and they need to be saved, and the same applies to children. The United Nations Convention acknowledged the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which started to be implemented on September 1990, 2. The United Nations General Assembly held a meeting in 2001 with the participation of most of the world leaders and a large number of international organizations and persons working with children, where the paper entitled «A world worthy of children» was approved. It calls for alleviating the suffering of children and respecting their rights stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child contains «08» articles that cover all children's rights in all aspects of their lives, which can be classified into five groups: Survival rights, health rights, development rights, education rights, and participatory rights.

# Chapter I :

## Violations against women:

Women in Yemen pay the heaviest price in war and armed conflict. They are subject to various forms of murder, injury, abuse, and sexual and moral violence. They lack basic survival and health care because of their nature as the weakest and most vulnerable.

Yemeni women have been subjected to many stresses and violations, which have been exacerbated by the war waged by Houthi militias in most of the Yemeni provinces.

The total number of murders among women during the period 1 February 2017 to 13 JULY 2019 were the death of (787) women, while injury cases were (764) women.

On 6/12, a protest was held in Al Sabeen Square of the dozens of women who asked the Houthis to hand over the body of Saleh, but the protest was attacked by the Houthis and by the police women, according to the witness / A. H. M., the owner of a taxi, "I drove three women to Al Sabeen Square, without knowing that there was a protest demanding Saleh's body." He saw Houthi women severely beating the protesters with batons and hands! The women were weeping and bleeding because of beating. I also saw a person taking photos with a camera for what happened, then he was beaten until bleeding from his head and mouth, then he was arrested, and about 20 of the bus owners and who drove the protesters to Al Sabeen Square were arrested. About (40) women protesters were arrested and transferred to police station 45. They are re-

leased only after the presence of their relatives and obliged not to repeat it.

- On 13 January, the Iran-backed Houthi militia attacked a women march in Tahrir Square in central Sana'a and kidnapped many participants. They were taken to Jediri police station, where the women march came out demanding payment of salaries and the release of the abducted and forcibly disappeared by those militias. Houthi Saleh militias committed dreadful violations of women's rights in Yemen, including:

- Murder, harassment, sexual violence and other ill-treatment without human dignity.
- Demolition, occupation and bombing of houses.

- Destruction of houses.

- Poverty due to poor economic conditions because of the policy of blockade and unemployment, and lack of access to adequate medical care.

- The Houthi militias prevent ambulances from reaching hospitals many pregnant have been died because of the traffic stations that prevented the ambulances, so patients, including women, could not reach hospitals. This explains the high number of births in homes and the low number of women receiving post-natal care.

- Siege and deprivation of women who find themselves in emergency situation and armed conflict because of shelters, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- Detention and arrest at traffic stations set up by Iran-backed Houthi militias.

- Indiscriminate attacks and deliberate shelling of neighborhoods and spreading panic and fear.

- The arrest and loss of the earner such as husband, father, son and brother.

- Educational disadvantage and deprivation of health care.

- Displacement and forced deportation.

- Attacks on female protests such as at-

tacks on the Association of Mothers of Detainees. The attack on teachers at Sorouh al-Majd School in Sana'a in order to blackmail men and female teachers by force to support the war effort and forcibly recruit children into the militias, and videos were seen showing soldiers of the militia extorting and assaulting men and female teachers.

The child recruitment policy was followed continuously, Houthi supervisors were being seen instructing teachers to engage children in combat through lectures that urge them to fight and struggle according to their claims.

# Chapter II:

## Violations against children:

Children are the most affected groups whose rights are violated because they are the most vulnerable in the society. Therefore, many national legislation and international conventions have been devoted to protect child, in particular the “Yemeni Child Rights Act”, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by the Republic of Yemen in addition to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. Article IV of the second paragraph of Protocol II stipulates that: “Aid and care must be provided to children as much as they need. This was confirmed by the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, which was a crucial turning point in the history of childhood, where the rights of children are seen as human and universal rights that cannot be overlooked.

Yemen has ratified the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and the two Additional Protocols. The Fourth Geneva Convention and its Second Protocol define crimes, in particular common article 3, and violations against civilians and criminalize endangering their lives.

All this prohibits the use of children in armed conflict and their recruitment, killing, injury, disabling, or depriving them of education by shelling Schools or educational establishments, or depriving them of treatment and health services by targeting hospitals and health facilities, or starving them by besieging of cities, and preventing or looting the entry of food, clothing and humanitarian aid. Iran- backed Houthi militia

have committed all six grave violations against children.

### **Killing or maiming of children:**

The total number of child murders during 1 February 2017 to 13 JULY 2019 reached (2277), While the number of child injuries (1945).

While the number of children killed since 2015 until 31 January 2017 (1002) dead child and (3334) injured child is wounded. Because of planting of mines by Iran- backed Houthi militia, the children and women are often victims of mines, there were (420) victims, including (179) killed and (241) injured victims. Some of them are deformed or have permanent disabilities.

# Chapter III:

## Recruiting or using children as soldiers:

The recruitment of children is one of the six grave violations of national legislation and international conventions on the protection of children, namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which deals with the use and recruitment of children in armed conflict and ratified by the Republic of Yemen, in addition to the Yemeni Child Act.

Iran-backed Houthi militia used children as fuel for its war, where the number of recruited and exploited children by Iran-backed Houthi militia has been estimated to be more than (20000), the child recruitment reached alarming levels in an affront to human dignity. The representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for children and armed conflicts, Leïla Zerrougui, visited Yemen in November 2012, and had visited Saada province (North Yemen), and during the visit, she urged the Government and the armed Houthi movement to abide by international laws, protection and non-recruitment of children.

On May 14, 2014, the Yemeni government signed a plan of action with the United Nations to include the demobilization of child soldiers in the government army. However, according to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, the recruitment and use of children increased continuously three times over the previous year, and 82% of the confirmed recruitment cases were attributed to Houthi militia. This percentage increased to 95% of the recruited

children by the Iran-backed Houthi militia. This increase of recruited children was according to local estimates based on reports, views and documentations that reached in 2016 six times more than in previous years.

The Ministry's task forces have discovered training camps for children recruited in provinces under the control of the Iran-backed Houthi militia and those responsible for recruitment. (The Ministry maintains a detailed breakdown of these camps, those responsible for recruitment and lists of recruited children who have been captured while carrying out hostilities).

Most of the employed children by Houthi militia are from poor families, the Houthi militia find it easy to exploit the needs of these families and recruit their children to serve as fuel for their war. They brainwash them to be more loyal and devoted in carrying out the orders. We find many recruits in the Houthi militias chanting. They were convinced that fighting against Israel and America the biggest enemy and fighting them is the shortest way to paradise. We find that this crime has become a phenomenon in some of the northern tribal areas, where some of them see, that their children involvement in fighting, is a great pride for them. Iran-backed Houthi militia play a major role in using and growing this concept as we said, taking advantage of the poverty and destitution of most residents of these areas, the Houthi militia, whereupon, attract and recruit children in exchange for material amounts ranging from \$100 to \$150 per month.

We've noticed over the past two years that the Houthi militia started child recruitment publicly, attracted School students and distributed recruitment forms from the same militia, and often from the Ministry of Defence controlled by Iran-backed Houthi militia.

Tens of thousands of children, who supposed to be in the primary and secondary Schools, enrolled in militia training camps in the provinces of Dhamar, Hajja, Amran and other provinces. Some children are taken without the knowledge of their parents, while others taken to pressure their parents by threatening if they opposed. While others were recruited with the consent of their families in hope that the family will receive a material return helping them to pay for living expenses and difficult life situations.

After attracting children, sometimes they are deluded of being recruited to guard in their areas and convinced that they will not go to the front

lines, but this is a trick to attract them! Once they have been attracted from Schools and communities through a network of Iran-backed Houthi militia in different areas, they are subjected to an intensive ideological training program for a period from three weeks to a month. They are then transferred to a training camp to attend a military training session for another month, and distributed on different fighting fronts! Children are surprised that they have become in a battlefield they are not prepared for, and unqualified to fight. It is difficult for them to return to their parents and families, many of them return dead bodies.

UNICEF warned that the consequences would be dire if the current generation of Yemen did not attend School, stressing that priority should be given to investment in education and child protection so that children can realize their dreams now and in the future.

Due to the rebellion of the Iran-backed Houthi militia and its coup against legitimate authority, millions of children have been deprived of their right to health care and denied access to adequate food or humanitarian assistance. According to accurate estimates from international organizations, including UNICEF, state that in Yemen (At least one child dies every 10 minutes due to preventable diseases such as diarrhea, malnutrition and respiratory infections)!

Epidemics such as cholera, measles and dengue fever have spread, (2.2 million) child is severely malnourished while (462,000) children suffer from severe acute malnutrition. If they are not treated in time, they will be 11 times more likely to die than healthy children. Even if they survive, they will face the risk of not achieving their developmental potential, posing a serious threat to a full generation. Acute malnutrition occurs among children in the provinces of Hudayda, Sa'ada, Tai'z, Hajja and Lahj, these five provinces form the largest number of severe acute malnutrition cases in Yemen.

The number of hospitals and health facilities affected by the Iran-backed Houthi militia is more than (650) hospital and health facility damaged by indiscriminate shelling, some of which were looted or closed by the militia. The militia prevented the entry of medicines, medical supplies and oxygen cylinders to many patients and civilians in need. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (600) health facilities were closed in 2016

due to the damage caused by the conflict and the lack of basic equipment and medical personnel.

In general, (21.2 million) out of (27 million), the estimated total population of Yemen, need urgent humanitarian assistance in various fields including (19.3 million) person who do not have access to safe drinking water and (14.1 million) suffer a food shortage by 200%. more than the past two years, indicating that more than 80% of the total population need humanitarian aid. However, the Iran-backed Houthi militia confiscated most humanitarian and relief aid of food and medical supplies, and much aid were used in the so-called war effort to strengthen its war against civilians. Houthi militia prevented access of some of the humanitarian aid and worked on almost total breakdown of the health system of Yemen.

The looting of Iran-backed Houthi militias has been repeated for relief convoys with humanitarian and food aid from the World Food Program or provided by King Salman Humanitarian Relief Center in Tai'z, Al Hudayda, Rameh and other provinces.

## Chapter V: Displacement:

Displacement is contrary to article 17 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Convention, including the displacement of Bilad Al-Wafi villages in Tai'z on February 16, 2017. The Houthi militia stormed the village of Tibsh'a, the Directorate of Jabal Habashi, Tai'z province, forcing the residents to leave their homes and possessions, and to get out of the village according to a certified report prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights. In addition to the areas of Ozlat Al-Sharja in Jabal Habashi in Tai'z.

Houthi militia has forcibly and collectively displaced thousands of families in Al-Hima district in Tai'z directorate in the north of the province, as a result of the direct shelling of these areas, as well as the displacement of hundreds of Yemeni families related to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, after the Houthis attacked his home and the homes of some members of his family in Sana'a in early December, ended with the death of Saleh and arresting of some survivors of his relatives and pursuing supporters and leaders of the Congress Party, causing a significant displacements to Aden of about (3000) families, during the reporting period as well as to Ma'rib and Lahj provinces.

In Tai'z, Houthi militias displaced villages in Jabal Habashi district where they included mass displacement in the areas of Al-Ashruh in Bani Bakari and Al Quoz areas where more than (250) families were displaced, so villages under militia control have become empty. The militias are still preventing a number of families from leaving their homes in Al-Ashruh, Al-Mahahefah and Al-Manaiz, in Jabal Habashi because of the clashes and intensive indiscriminate shelling that killed many people in the area and because of planted mines on the roads. The

displacement included Al-Shufb, Akamt Al- madfan, Al hasen, Dar Al-Jalal, Al-Hajar, Al-Dakhla, Al-Lasba, Al-Habil, Al-Aqad, Al-Saddaq and Al-Hadafi villages. These displacements included restricting the right of movement of citizens and individuals. The militias issued a circular consisting of several items restricting the movement of citizens to and from Sana'a, as part of activists and politicians harassment and prosecution.

**Chapter VI: Militias' attacks on Yemeni Baha'i citizens:**

Iran-backed Houthi militias have launched Systematic broad arrests, arrested dozens and stormed their homes. Some of them have been disappeared to this day, as well as Baha'is accused of malicious charges of their beliefs, culminating in the death sentence against the Baha'i detainee, Hamed Haiderah and the confiscation of his funds. The fight against the Baha'is of Yemen comes under the guidance of Iran to the militias because Iran has taken a policy to fight Baha'is inside Iran, which issued these ideas to the Houthi militias, which owe allegiance to Iran.

**Chapter VII: Violations of public and private property:**

The Iran-backed Houthi militia practiced generally systematic destruction of infrastructure, public or private property. Public and private property violations reached more than (3018) violations, most of them are housing facilities, where (340) houses were completely destroyed, (1907) partially destroyed, (86) houses of worship, (315) governmental facilities, (59) health facilities, (295) educational facilities and (16) archaeological sites

**Humanitarian Aid and Relief:**

The Ministry of Human Rights documented, according to the report of High Relief Committee, the prevention and looting and Disrupting of humanitarian and relief aid by Houthi militias, as well as preventing the arrival of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Humanitarian Relief Coordinator in Yemen, Stephen O'Brien from entering Tai'z province on February 28, 2017, including: Seven relief convoys were destroyed in the province of Rima from the Gulf Cooperation Council through World Food Program in February 2017. In the same month, the militias looted five relief convoys at the entrances of Tai'z province in Jabal Habashi District,

provided by King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center through World Food Program, and in the same month, the vaccination of infantile paralysis were detained at Sana'a airport through UNICEF.

On March 2017, the militias detained 100 relief trucks in Al Hudayda province provided by the Gulf Cooperation Council through World Food Program. In the same month, the militias detained 100 relief trucks in Dhamar province, provided by the Gulf Cooperation Council through World Food Program.

On April, the militias detained five relief trucks for Amran province at the province entrances through World Food Program.

On May 2017, the militias looted 6,000 wheat sacks from the pro-militia merchants' warehouses provided by the Norwegian Council. In the same month, the militias looted 17 trucks of relief aid from the Cooperation Council. In June, the militias bombed 4 trucks loaded with medicines and medical supplies to fight Cholera epidemic in Al Hudayda, from King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center.

On July 2017, 13 truck loaded with medicines and medical supplies from the UAE were seized at the militia port. In the same month, the militias targeted an Emirati relief vessel, bombed Al-Mukha port and targeted a many relief vertical vessels at the port. Since the coup of militias, the total detained and banned vessels and trucks reached 65 relief vessels and 580 trucks, and bombing of four-relief trucks relief.

#### 1. Targeting the health sector and health facilities:

Targeting the health sector and health facilities is deemed crime in accordance with national laws and legislation and the provisions of international humanitarian law in articles (9, 10, 11 and 12) of the additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions. Many health facilities damaged and stopped working, resulting in health deterioration and Houthi mi-

litas control over institutions and health facilities, caused the expulsion and layoffs of health staff, and the spread of epidemics and diseases like cholera and diphtheria, and diseases like cancer, diabetes and kidney failure and heart disease. Whereas (59) many health facilities were destroyed, and transformed (47) health facilities to military barracks or looted and tampered with their contents.

#### 2. Targeting the educational sector and educational facilities:

The education sector has been severely affected. The sector has been targeted by strikes destroying many Schools. Many Schools have also converted into military barracks, weapons stores and prisons for large arrests. Recently, large sums of money and royalty payments have been levied for private Schools in areas under control of Houthi militias, causing many of them to be closed because they could not afford to pay. All this was reflected in a painful situation for children, their denial of education in unliberated areas, their involvement in conflict and fighting rather than education, this considered as flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. Whereas (29) Schools were fully destroyed, (41) Schools and educational facilities were partly destroyed and (225) Schools or educational facilities were converted into military barracks or raided and looted and tampered with their contents or converted into private prisons.

#### 4. Attacks on cultural and historical properties and places of worship:

The Iran-backed Houthi militias have systematically destroyed cultural objects and historical monuments and used military barracks to turn them into military sites. Where its violation or damage is a crime in accordance with national legislation and an explicit violation of international conventions, including the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict of 1954 ratified by Yemen, as well as the violation of the provisions of Article 16 of the Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Convention on non-international armed conflict Which prohibits the commission of any hostile acts against historical monuments and artistic works that constitute the cultural heritage of peoples. Where they were completely destroyed (11) of places and places of worship, and blew the number of (2) of monuments and turned several into military barracks.

## 5. Bombing of US drone aircraft:

Those drones bombed citizens in Najad al-Atheel village in Mar'ib on May 23, 2017, killing five members of Al-Aadil family, including two children, Yasser Mohammed Saleh Al-Aadil, young girl Shirin Saeed Salem Al-Aadil, Nasser Ali Al-Aadil, a 90-year-old man, Saleh Mohammed Saleh al- Al-Aadil, and al-Ghadir Saleh Salem Al-Aadil, and other five injuries, including young boy Osman Saleh Mohammed Saleh.

According to the report of the National Commission to investigate allegations of human rights violations, it has proved the involvement of US drone aircraft in this incident.

### Efforts exerted by the Ministry of Human Rights:

The Ministry of Human Rights promotes and protects human rights in coordination with the relevant authorities, institutions and ministries. We have sent them many memos, and are waiting their response until now. The Ministry aims to activate the mechanisms of national protection of human rights and to strengthen them to confirm Yemen's commitment to international ratified conventions, covenants and treaties. The Ministry exercises its role effectively and clearly to achieve its objectives and implement its strategies. The ministry enjoys the support and assistance of the political leadership to perfectly carry out its mission.

There are many measures, procedures and efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Human Rights during 2017, to promote and protect human rights. Today, human rights issues are one of the priorities of the Yemeni government, to achieve security and economic stability, strengthen the rule of law, reform the judiciary, combat corruption, promote national protection of human rights and public freedoms, in addition to meet the urgent humanitarian needs. Under the guidance of His Excellency the President of the Republic to make all the ministries proceed

work from the interim capital Aden. The Prime Minister supported the move of the Ministry of Human Rights cabinet to the interim capital of Aden, the work are currently ongoing from the new headquarters of the Ministry in Aden.

The most important measures and activities carried out by the Ministry of Human Rights in the interim capital Aden during the year 2017:

### a. Strengthening partnership with civil society

Ensuring its effective contribution to overall development processes<sup>2</sup> The Ministry held many meetings with civil society organizations and all human- rights sectors to promote the principle of broad partnership between the government and civil society organizations in human rights to activate mechanisms of national protection of human rights in implementation of the common framework of mutual responsibility between the Government and donors on the empowerment and strengthening of partnership between State institutions and community organizations.

The ministry initiated early to set up partnership with civil society organizations through their permanently involvement in the programs and events held by the ministry.

The Ministry's concerns with the civil society in all human rights-related issues have been met during this period and a joint effort has been made to prepare advocacy plans for many human rights issues.

### b. Submitting reports on human rights situation and the humanitarian situation:

In the context of the ministry's follow-up to daily events and facts, and as a fundamental measure of expression of its opposition to practices contrary to human rights principles, important reports and statements have been issued on various events. Because of its importance, a database and information on human rights situations have been created and used to achieve transitional justice.

Preparing brief and detailed reports of the human rights situation according to the violations, and analytical reports for the international reports on Yemeni issue for responding to or benefiting from them.

### c. Establishing special events on the promotion and protection of rights and freedoms:

<sup>2</sup> Holding a training session on psycho social support for child protection from May 10-15, 2017

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Human Rights concluded its celebration in 2017 under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Abd

Rabah Mansour Hadi, of the most important humanitarian events in the history of our contemporary world, “the sixty-ninth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, with the broad participation of Civil society and international organizations in Yemen, confirming the intensification of the State efforts, society and the Ministry to achieve respect for, promotion and protection of human rights, within the framework of a program including a number of specific activities aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights. The celebration will last for one year until the 70th anniversary, and several programs will be held during the year 2018 in various provinces of Yemen.

d. Training courses and capacity building of national cadres.

Building national human rights capacities and raising the performance of the national cadre (cadres of the Ministry of Human Rights). The Ministry was able to implement its training and rehabilitation performance plan in line with the priorities and needs of the specific issues that topped the Ministry concerns. The building of national human rights capacities contribute in disseminating the human rights culture, principles and concepts among the society in general and law enforcement officials in particular, especially the ability to promote and develop the relationship of the state with all human rights institutions at the national, regional and international levels, The promotion of human rights expands to the extent that the needs of institutional development of the relevant parties meet the rights process in addition to dealing professionally with the events requirements, which are facts and practices. The Ministry has established many workshops and training sessions in many provinces of Yemen.

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### **Recommendations:**

- 1. Call upon the international community to pressure on the Iran-backed Houthi militias to quickly release kidnapped journalists, the disappeared and politicians, to stop pursuing them and stop arbitrary measures from breaking into and ceasing the media, blocking websites and prosecuting journalists.**
- 2. Oblige Houthi Saleh militia - to implement the Council's resolutions on Yemen, specifically resolutions (17/18) (2011), 27/29 (2014).**
- 3. Provide urgent humanitarian aid to the affected areas and provide relief to the displaced and refugees.**
- 4. Oblige Houthi militia to implement relevant resolutions related to Yemen and specifically resolutions 2140/2014 and 2216/2015, and oblige Iran with resolution and to stop providing the Houthi militia, whom they backed, with weapons and experts, and cease attacking ports and ships, and mining the territorial waters.**