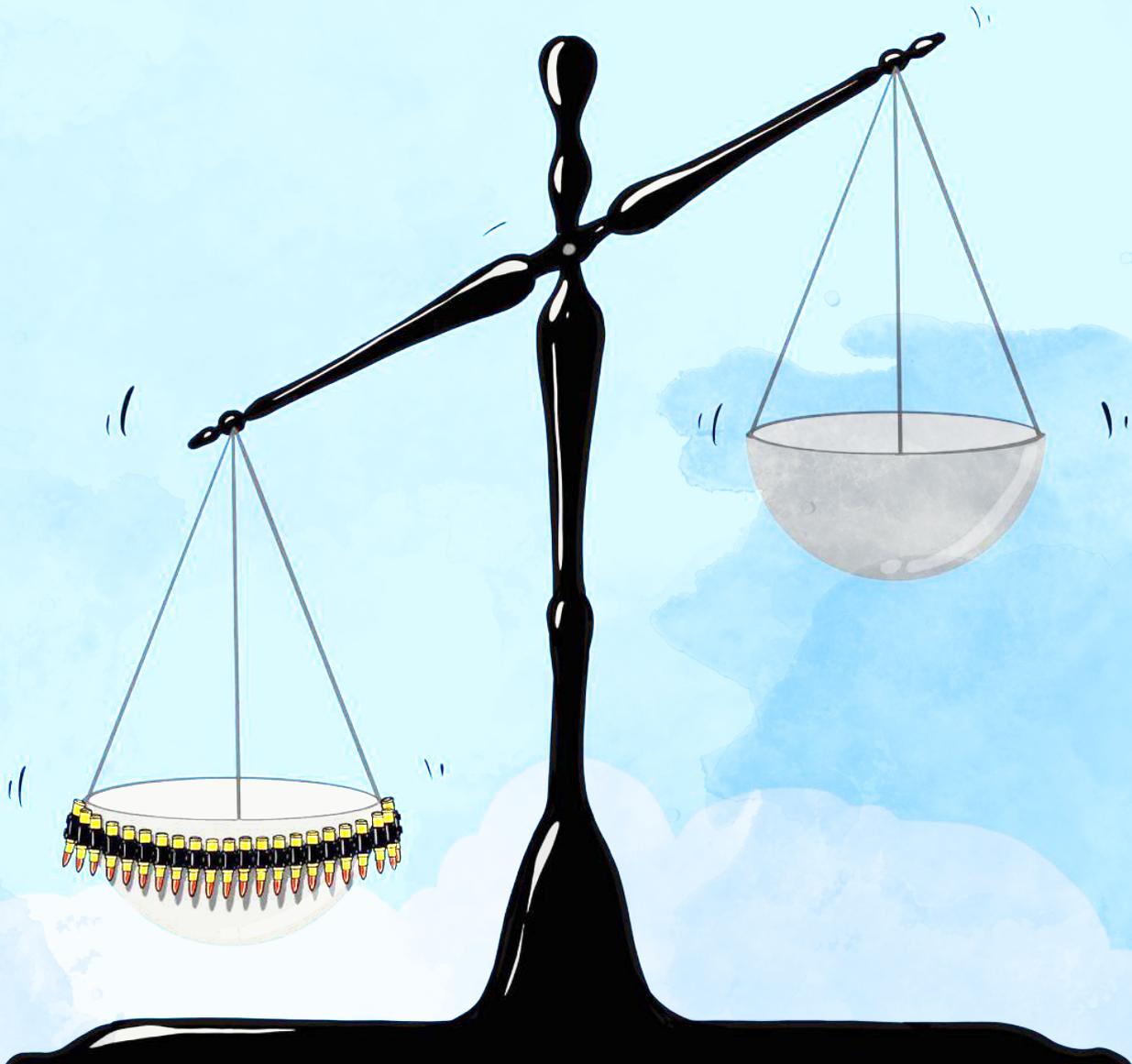


CAPITAL PUNISHMENT **“AS DISCRETIONARY PENALTY”**

EXECUTION OF THE LAW .. EXECUTION OF OPPONENTS

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT MONITORS AND DOCUMENTS THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF FAIR TRIAL AND DEATH SENTENCES ISSUED AGAINST OPPONENTS BY THE HOUTHIS MILITIA

December 2020







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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
“AS DISCRETIONARY PENALTY”

JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

The fair trial is a basic human right, and there is a set of standards and provisions that must be met to ensure that civilians are tried before the courts, and the due procedures that guarantee the rights of the suspects must be observed from the moment they are arrested, during and until their detention by the court.

With the increase in crimes and violations in Yemen, which worsened when the Houthis stormed the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, in late 2014, many victims were deprived of their basic rights on fair trial, and some were arbitrarily and unjustly convicted due to the lack of the minimum standards for a fair trial.

Independence of the judicial system from the executive power, its impartiality and integrity, is a prerequisite for achieving justice and non-discrimination in the application of the law, as many texts in conventions and treaties of a universal nature stipulate the human right to a fair trial, including the Universal Declaration of

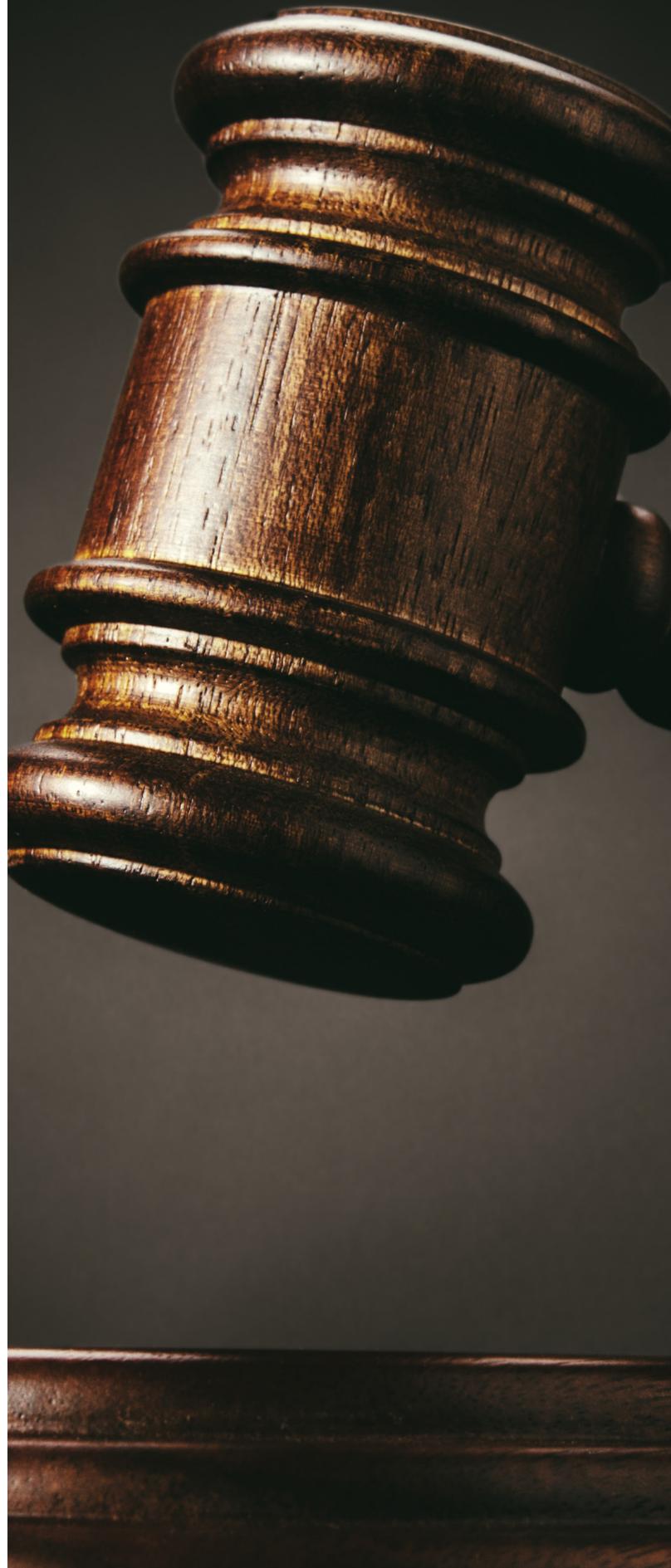
Human Rights of 1948 and the International Covenant On civil and political rights, in addition to treaties and agreements of a regional nature, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981 and the American Convention on Human Rights of 1969.

On the theoretical level, Yemen had made progress in ensuring independence of the judiciary, as the judiciary's budget was protected by a constitutional provision, and the judiciary was largely independent from the legislative and executive powers, and many provisions of the law protect the independence of the judiciary, hence constitute protection for the rights and freedoms of citizens. It is also protected by constitutional and legal provisions of a high degree of idealism, however these texts were not respected enough, as judges were punished by transferring to remote areas if they angered a senior official in the executive body, and the police departments never ceased from detaining citizens outside the legally specified period, in addition to the intelligence services' possession of private prisons that are not subject to the

jurisdiction of the judiciary, and a violation of the principle of the unilateralism of the judiciary by establishing the Specialized Criminal Court.

In this way, the respect of the judiciary continued to erode, until the situation deteriorated further when Houthis militia controlled state institutions in Sana'a in 2014, and it dealt with the judicial system, the same way it dealt with the military and security institutions, in doing so, Houthis hardly found any resistance to protect the judiciary status, or its sanctity, as it responded to all prosecution instructions, and complied with the instructions of the Houthis-appointed public prosecutor, so did the courts, who received prisoners from the prosecution, issued dictated sentences, including death sentences against the President of the Republic and his assistants, and issued orders to freeze the assets of more than two thousand people, and is trying a group of journalists, some of whom have been sentenced to death, and dozens of political activists are being tried in trials that lack the minimum standards of justice.

Houthis militia have manipulated the judicial authority to issue judicial rulings against its opponents, including death sentences and seizing of their assets, in trials that lacked the minimum legal standards for a fair trial. During the previous years, SAM Organization monitored many violations of the citizens' right to obtain a fair and impartial trial in response to the charges brought against them, and this report includes examples of such trials.



REPORT METHODOLOGY

This report documents the facts of the unfair trials, which have affected the arbitrarily detained by the Houthis militia during the past five years. In the context of preparing this report, SAM Organization conducted up to fifty interviews, which included relatives of arbitrarily detained, lawyers and human rights activists. The organization monitors also attend the sessions of some of the trials that were held in public, and stand close to the progress of the trials. SAM Organization was forced to replace some names with pseudonyms, for fear of retaliation, with the consent of the respondents.

SAM was also keen on reviewing and analyzing the reports of the investigations of the public prosecution, the rulings issued.



STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report is divided into two chapters

In the first chapter, the theoretical side of the judiciary and some of the conditions that must be met to ensure a fair trial were reviewed

Summary of the first chapter

The second chapter contained

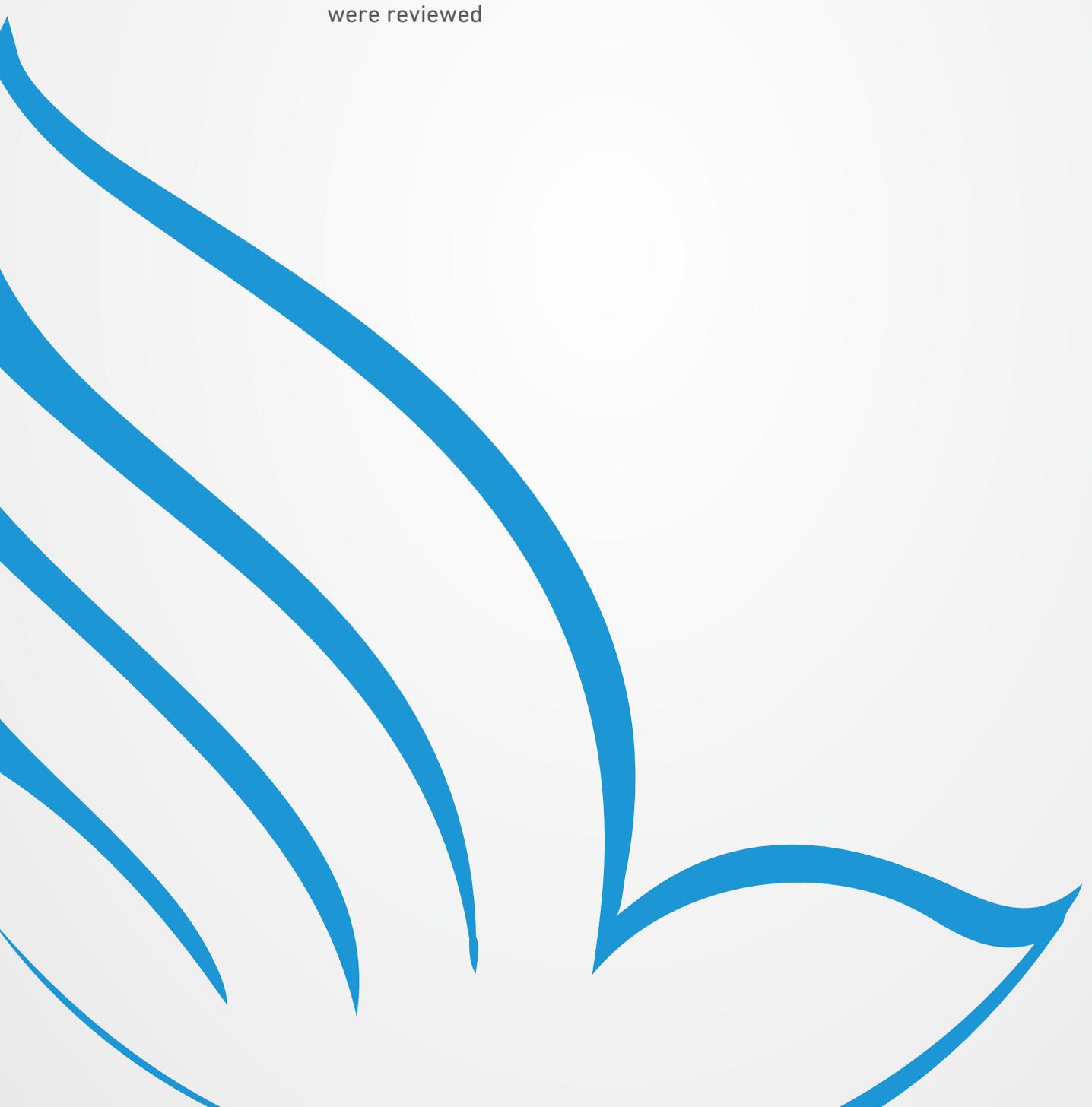
examples of those being tried by the Houthis, the brutal details and torture they were subjected to, by interviewing their families or viewing the investigation reports, or recording the testimonies of the defense team, and from this chapter and included details, a clear conclusion can be made about the lack of impartiality of the judiciary, the judge's point of view, and many abuses, and the confessions that were extracted by force, and tortured and insults for a slightest reason.

In this chapter, we find, for example:

- "The fastest death sentence in the history of the judiciary, within 12 minutes
- The execution and flogging of the only accused of political charges in Yemen
- And the tragedy of the one who the Coalition bombed his house and the Houthis torturing him
- And a man in debt who was sentenced to death and confiscation of his real estate, fixed and movable assets
- And the four mockery trial of journalists, where the judge revealed his prejudice and described the journalists as "enemies of the people" in the first session, and in the second session he removed the lawyers and prevented them from pleading, and a third session without the defense team, and ruled with death sentence in the fourth session.
- In this chapter, SAM documents testimonies of some members of Parliament who were sentenced to death by the Houthi-run court and to confiscate their properties, where the Houthis brought the "Zinabiyat", their armed women squad, and stormed parliamentarians' homes, took out their families and looted their belongings.
- The report reveals one of the most weird ruling: a verdict to execute dozens of people, including a military commander who was assassinated along ago, also documents the testimonies of some detainees relatives and the violations against female relatives of detainees, as the militia planted a female squad inside the courtroom to spy on them and take them out of the courtroom if they tried to communicate with the detainees.

CHAPTER ONE

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and some of the conditions that
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LEGAL BACKGROUND

The de facto power; Houthis militia in Sana'a managed to subjugate the judiciary system and manipulate it to try activists and opposing politicians, in trials that lack the minimum standards of fair trial, which is one of the basic human rights.

There are a number of standards that must be met to ensure a fair trial before a court that has the legal and legitimate jurisdiction to hear cases and try people who appear before it, with the aim of protecting the rights of individuals from the moment of arrest and during their detention before they are brought to trial, and during trial in the first instance, appeals and cassation.

The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 stipulated the right of everyone to enjoy a fair trial before the judiciary, and the text of "the right to a fair trial" was mentioned in several articles, including:

Article 9: 1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

2- 2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.

Many jurists believe that there are a set of legal conditions to decide whether or not a fair trial exists, including, but not limited to: adherence to the law in form and content, the independence of the judiciary, a genuine financial and administrative independence, the provision of legal and realistic guarantees for the defense to carry out its duties, and respect for the inherent dignity for the one who stand trial, and this requires that the court should preserve the dignity of the human being, and protect individuals from insults during the trial procedures. Also, not to subject individuals to psychological and physical torture, even to extract confessions, and shall be considered innocent until proven guilty, and treated on this basis during the trial procedures, also to respect the principle of non-retroactivity of the law regarding the charges attributed.

The violation of the right to a fair trial raises concern, especially with the growing number of cases of defendants who have been deprived of this right, and that there are those who have been convicted arbitrarily and unjustly due to the lack of minimum standards of the fair trials.



THE TERMINOLOGY DILEMMA

The courts that try activists and political opponents of the Houthis militia, lacks constitutional legitimacy, In terms of and legal legitimacy, as legal and international recognition grants legitimacy to the government of President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi as the representative of the Yemeni people, as stipulated by the UN resolutions issued since the Houthis militia took control of the capital, Sanaa, and these resolutions, grant the government headed by Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi the "international and constitutional legitimacy" compared to the de facto legitimacy of the Houthis. Therefore, whatever arises outside this legitimacy is incompetent.



To avoid Judicial vacuum, the internationally recognized government allowed the civil, criminal, commercial and other courts, to continue and issued decision 22 of 2018, on April 30, 2018, to invalidate the jurisdiction of the Specialized Criminal Court in Sanaa, in favor of the Criminal Court in Marib, and suspended the salaries of the employees of the Houthis-controlled Specialized Criminal Court in Sanaa, thus the legitimacy of this court has invalidated, and the ruling it issues are like extrajudicial execution, and within this context Article (6) of the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights stipulated paragraph (2): 2. In countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to the provisions of the present Covenant and to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This penalty can only be carried out pursuant to a final judgement rendered by a competent court", therefore the Houthi-run court, is devoid of jurisdiction and has no value before international law, and its rulings, if implemented, are extrajudicial killing.

MASS VIOLATIONS

SAM Organization found that those sentenced to death - whether detained or fleeing outside Yemen for fear of arrest - were exposed to many serious violations that breach the principles of fair trial, the most important of which is

- Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance for long periods exceeding two years in most cases, in unknown locations, which constitutes a grave violation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance approved on December 20, 2006
- During this period of enforced disappearance, the detainees were subjected to harsh conditions of inhuman and degrading treatment, both physically and psychologically, and the effects of torture on the bodies of many detainees were witnessed in the first session of their trial by the Houthis-controlled courts, and some of them complained to the court of ill-treatment, such as Dr. Yousef Al-Bawab, confirming that the confessions attributed to them were extracted by force, as they were forced to make false statements, in violation of the Convention Against Torture.
- The detainees were denied access to legal assistance by lawyers and communication throughout their detention, and the Houthis militia did not disclose their whereabouts until their trial commenced, which constitutes a crime of enforced disappearance, in addition to
- Depriving detainees of medicine and visitation, depriving them of exposure to the sun and other serious violations that resulted in many of them being seriously ill. SAM Organization published a report documenting such violations on February 20, 2019 under the title: (Slow Death), and some of them succumbed to death eventually, as happened to the detainee Khaled Al-Hithi, who died of illness in the Political Security detention center on February 12, 2019
- The Houthis have deliberately deprived the defendants of their right to have lawyers to attend the interrogation, in flagrant violation to the relevant law, as well as denying them access to medicine, healthy food and necessary hygiene.

- One of the Houthis-controlled courts ruled with death sentences against defendant in a session that lasted twelve minutes only, in the Political Security building and not the court building, and the judge was so pleasant that he addressed the convict, telling him that he is facing the “cells of aggression and that the country is in a state of war!”
- The Houthis militia use media outlets to defame and incite public against the abductees or those who tried in absentia, and calling them traitors, before ruling the case, in violation of the presumption of innocence.
- Indeed, Houthis-controlled courts are only a mock form of judiciary passing ready-made judgments, and they lacked the most basic fair trial standards. Where many lawyers were subjected to harassment, threats, and even arrest, and the detainees were denied the most basic rights of defense.

Houthis militia seized the properties of their political opponents who fled the country for fear of arrest, and forced their families to leave their homes, and threw them in the open, under the pretext of issuing a ruling to confiscate movable and immovable assets, as happened with the families of some parliamentarians, such as Dr. Saleh Al-Sanabani , And Abdel-Wahab Maoudha, although the court that issued the rulings of confiscation had banned the storming of homes because the rulings are not final.

JUDICIAL RESTRUCTURE

Researchers Mohammed Al-Shuwaiter and Emelie Kozak issued a research paper for the Deep Root Foundation, in association with the Crisis Management Initiative, in which it stated, “In Sana’a, the former de facto president, Saleh Al-Sammad, appointed Judge Ahmed Al-Mutawakkel as the President of the Supreme Judicial Council in September 2017, most of the eight members of the current SJC – including the Attorney General, the Minister of Justice, the President of the Judicial Inspection Authority, the Secretary General of the SJC and the deputy of the SJC – were appointed after the Houthis took over Sana’a, with four of them coming from Hashemite families. The de facto authority in Sana’a also appointed judges to the Supreme Court, yet the President of the Supreme Court, Judge Esam Alsamwi, was appointed in 2006 and remains in his position to this day.” The Minister of Justice and senior officials of the Ministry of Justice were also appointed, among individuals belonging to Hashemite families or loyal to Houthis.”

Based on this methodology, the Higher Judicial Institute in Sana’a continues to accept new candidates, and local sources claim that many of them belong to Hashemite families or are loyal to the Houthis. “The Judiciary in Yemen: The Status Quo, Current Challenges and Post-Conflict Considerations”, Mohammed Al-Shuwaiter and Emelie Kozak

UNDERMINING CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY

Manipulation of the judiciary to achieve political purposes in the conflict, has greatly undermined confidence in the judiciary and impeded its independence. A number of human rights organizations, including SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties, have accused Houthis of "using the judiciary to take revenge on opponents," while Amnesty International accused the Houthis of "using the judiciary to settle political scores", the trials that are held for political opponents are in general "sham trials". The United Nations has urged Houthis militia to review the death sentences it issued against the 30 academics and political opponents.

The judiciary was also used for political propaganda in 2019, as the First Instance Specialized Criminal Court in Sanaa, issued a subpoena ordering 52 people to appear before the court for their participation in the assassination of Saleh al-Samad, who was appointed by the Houthis as president, including US President Donald Trump, former UK Prime Minister Theresa May, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, President Hadi and other Yemeni officials. (ibid)

DEATH JUDGES

SAM documented the Houthis restructuring of the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, which examines the cases of the political opponents of the Houthi militia, who was Allawi keen to nominate judges for the so-called Specialized Court, with specific and accurate criteria, who are loyal the Houthis ideology, and assigned six judges who were known as "the execution and precautionary seizure judges" of the assets of the political opponents of the Houthis militia, SAM also noticed, through testimonies of lawyers, families and former victims, the judges are tough and biased in treating defendants, among them are the following judges:

- Judge Abdo Rajeh, former chief of the so-called Penal Court, who belongs to the Sana'a governorate, al-Haima district, and has issued a number of death sentences "as discretionary penalty", the most famous one is the case known as the 36 case, including professor Yousef Al-Bawab, and currently Rajeh has been transferred to the money court in charge of seizing the opponents' assets.
- Judge Mujahid Al-Amadi, from Dhamar governorate, Amad region.
- Judge Muhammad Mufleh al-Hajjaji, from al-Manqab village of Hamadan, Sanaa governorate, joined the General Security and studied at the College of Sharia and Law, then joined the National Security, due to his relation with Al-Murtadha Al-Mohatwari, one of the intellectual references of the Houthis who was assassinated

on 20 March 2015, al-Hajaji then enrolled in the Judicial Institute, and he was known for his activity in the Believing Youth organization, the group that formed later the Houthis group", where he used to do Ramadan evening events attended by Al-Murtada Al-Mohatwari in the village before 2011, and he contributed to the Houthis' seizure of Sana'a, and after that they appointed him a judge in the Criminal Court. Al-Hajaji is active in supporting the Houthi fronts with financial aid and support, a video of him was shown in Al-Masirah channel of the Houthis, as he was running a relief convoy for the militia on the fronts, and encouraging support with money and men for the fronts.

- Judge Ibrahim Al-Azzani, from Azzan, Rada'a, Al-Baidha governorate
- Judge Ismail Al-Shaiba, from Sana'a Governorate
- Yahya Al-Mansour, Old Sana'a, Sana'a City, the Al-Mansours are among the known Hashemite family with strong loyalty and affiliation to the Houthis militia.
- Hussein Ali Saleh Al-Qa'l, Sana'a

These judges rotate between the Houthi-run Specialized Criminal Court in Sanaa, and between the Public Fund Court, who is responsible for issuing rulings to confiscate assets and properties of Houthis rivals, to be managed by the court-appointed receiver, in favor of the Houthis.

The Houthis militia appointed Dr. Khaled Al-Maori as chief of the Specialized Criminal Prosecution in Sana'a.



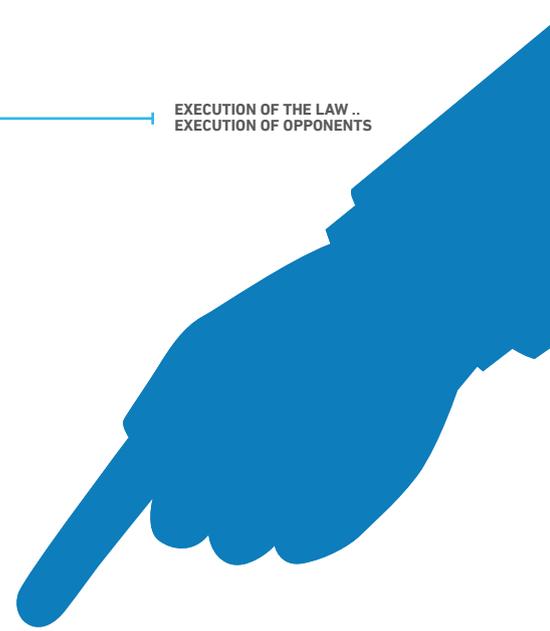
FALSE CHARGES

According to the investigation carried out by SAM of the charges and sentences against the opponents of Houthis militia, who were convicted with death sentence as discretionary penalty, noticed that almost all suspects faced one identical charge, namely: aiding aggression. Which mean cooperation with the countries of the Arab coalition led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was formed to restore the legitimacy of President Hadi and carry out military operations in Yemen.

This accusation has clear political implication, and was based mainly on the stances of the suspects towards Houthis militia.

Of those who charged with such accusation and were sentenced to death are:

- Members of the House of Representatives, where the Houthis-run criminal prosecution filed a criminal case against the MPs, after they convened a single session, since the beginning of the war, in the city of Sayoun on April 13, 2019, confirming that the litigation was motivated by their political stand against Houthis and has nothing to do with the law.
- The detainees on what is known as the case of the 36, whom the Houthis-run court sentenced 30 of them to death on July 9, 2020, and most of them are members of the pro-legitimacy party, Islah Party, and the Houthis had preceded the trial and death sentence with a movie called: The Other Face of Islah, which was broadcast on the Houthis-run Al Masirah channel.
- The four journalists who were sentenced to death by the Houthis-controlled court on April 12, 2020, for their association with media leaders in the Islah party, an issue the court believes it is concerned to deal with, as the judge told a journalist in one of the sessions.



150

discretionary death sentences against Houthis rivals

Three discretionary death sentences, followed by military, and journalists with

05

Journalists

FIGURES AND STATISTICS

SAM Organization tracked the rulings issued by the exceptional courts of the Houthis militia in Sana'a, during varying periods. And monitored and documented nearly 150 discretionary death sentences against Houthis rivals, including senior state officials, headed by President Hadi and the Prime Minister, and thirty-five MPs and academics, journalists, activists, soldiers, and ordinary citizens. All the convicts faced one charge: aiding aggression and high treason.

Parliamentarians come at the forefront of those scented to discretionary death penalty, followed by politicians, including President Abd Rabbo Mansour, who was sentenced to three discretionary death sentences, followed by military, and journalists with 5 journalists, and civilians. Attached to the report are lists of the names of convicted with discretionary death sentences and confiscation of their assets.



HARASSMENT OF THE LAWYERS

SAM organization documented reports on the harassment, threats, media mobilization and incitement by the courts against lawyers who defend the suspects among Houthis' rivals, before the specialized Houthi-run court, by the media affiliated with the Houthi militia, and by the fanatic among Houthi supporters, calling to hold the lawyers accountable, considering them as collaborators with the Saudi aggression, according to them, which is a flagrant violation of the right to defense, and a breach of the principle of justice, that requires allowing lawyer enough time to respond to the charges against the defendants.

Major incidents documented by SAM organization

- Abdul Majeed Sabra, the most prominent lawyer in defending the convicted with discretionary death penalty, was subjected to many harassment and threats, including by judge Muhammad Mufleh who prevented the "lawyer with his colleagues" from pleading before him, under the pretext that they submitted a recusal warrant against the judge handling the case of the ten journalists: Abd Al-Khaliq Imran and others, and the rest of the sessions proceeded without the defense lawyer, in addition to the case known as Case of the 22, Khadim Muhammad Zuhri and others, the case of the 13 Ahmed Al-Qata'a and others, and the case of the 13 Mujahid Mahfel and others.
- On Monday, March 9, 2020, two sessions were held, one for the case of the ten journalists, and the other for the case of the 22, without informing the lawyers and without their knowledge, and when the suspects asked the judge about their lawyer, the simply told them that: "I expelled them."
- On April 16, 2017, a member of the Houthi militia-appointed Specialized Prosecution Office, assaulted lawyer Essam Al-Radwani, a member of the defense team in the case of the 36, which prompted the defense team to withdraw.
- Lawyer Hussein Al-Hamami, was referred to the Prosecution for trying to give one of the detainees a pen, in the 36 detainees case, and lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra and lawyer Muhammad Al-Hammadi were referred to the investigation under other allegations in the case of the 36, before the judge retracted the decision after a number of lawyers intervened.
- Incitement against lawyers and the defense team in the media, and social media, in general and against lawyer Sabra and Ghazi in particular.
- Late in the evening of Sunday, February 16, 2020, the Houthi militia arrested and detained the legal advisor of the University of Science and Technology
- In February 2020, the Houthi militia arrested the lawyer Ahmed Abdullah Al-Warqi, on the background of his pursuit of the release of the president of the private University of Science and Technology, Dr. Hamid Aqlan, who was detained by Houthi in Sana'a, where a number of Houthi gunmen intercepted him and took him to an unknown place.

MEDIA INCITEMENT AND MOBILIZING OF THE PUBLIC OPINION

In some cases that would cause an unfavorable reaction at the international level, and local unrest, even within the context of the conflict, the Houthi militia used media Incitement campaigns to defame the detainees and feature them as dangerous terrorists and agents with the Coalition countries led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Many of those targeted by the Houthis media campaigns are known for their social activities and academic work, and authors of many books such as Dr. Yousef Al-Bawab who authored has nearly fifteen books. The Houthi militia sought to defame him and all other detainees with him in the same case, and show them as agents and terrorists through a film broadcast by Al Masirah TV, titled "The Other Face of Islah". The film was preceded by a wide media propaganda published in the streets of Sana'a, announcing the date of the film's broadcast.

On the four journalists' case, who were also sentenced to death, Houthis militia published on April 16, 2020, an investigation on the Al-Masirah TV website, which it called "confessions of the media workers cell."

CHAPTER TWO

examples of those being tried by the Houthis, the brutal details and torture they were subjected to, by interviewing their families or viewing the investigation reports, or recording the testimonies of the defense team, and from this chapter and included details, a clear conclusion can be made about the lack of impartiality of the judiciary, the judge's point of view, and many abuses, and the confessions that were extracted by force, and tortured and insults for a slightest reason.



THE TRIAL OF 36

On July 9, 2017, the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, chaired by Judge Abdo Rajeh, sentenced to death 31 civilian detainees out of a total of 36, on charges of "espionage with a foreign country," and the judgment was issued without regard for the legal rights in a fair and impartial trial. The lawyer was not allowed to contest the accusation and the evidence presented or to present a defense case. The case of the (36) handled by the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, who are a group of civilians who were forcibly disappeared for two years, as their whereabouts and fate were not known for their families, until trial was announced on Saturday 8 April 2017.

These suspects were able to talk about the torture they've encountered during their enforced disappearance, in the trial sessions, yet the torture continued, as they are punished for not confessing to the charges raised against them before the judge, also for complaining of torture with more torture, which is violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of 1984.

The victims were also subjected to torture and inhuman and degrading treatment during the interrogation by the Houthis-appointed Public Prosecution in Sana'a, and international standards were not respected during the interrogation, as "the victims have the right to remain silent, and to refuse interrogation without the presence of their lawyer", which is a breach of fair trial standards and guarantees.

Inside the courtroom, members of the public prosecution verbally abused the defendants and their defense team, such as stigmatizing them as "agents, mercenaries, and miscreants" in full view of the judge, who did not take any action, which proves the court's bias and indicate lack of confidence in the court to achieve justice.

SAM also noted the judge's refusal to consider the defense's requests in the hearing records, a biased measure that undermines any hope of the court's impartiality.

On July 15, 2017, the first court sessions were held and the complaint of Dr. Youssef Al-Bawab, one of the victims of this trial, was recorded, in which he said: "Your Honor, we are subjected to all kinds of torture, we drank sewage and rain water. We were denied use of toilets and used plastic bags. One of the colleagues suffered kidney failure on the twenty-eight day of Ramadan ..!, I am a university professor, and I am sick, my daughter suffered mental disorder as a result of the terror that all my family members were subjected to when they raided the house and drove them out of the house before the dawn prayer, what did they find in my house ?! They found more than one hundred and fifty scientific research project titles that have been confiscated. I and all these poor prisoners have all been severely tortured. We have been prevented from consulting our lawyers from the beginning of the trial until now for five months. We were not allowed to see a physician. We are treated as if we are not Yemenis, even though we are being tried according to the Yemeni constitution, the Yemeni law, and the Yemeni judiciary, and we respect the constitution, law and judiciary whose justice we trust. Your honor Judge, we trust your integrity and your justice, so do not be a means for our injustice."

After the session and return of the prisoners to the Political Security prison in Sana'a, they were subjected to collective punishment, forced to take off their clothes, and insulted.

On November 26, 2017, SAM noticed that the defendants were handcuffed, each two together, despite the fact that the court had ordered in a previous session not to handcuff them.

On November 16, 2017, the prosecution brought in an unidentified person with a mask on his face, and presented him as an explosives expert to explain how the alleged explosives work. And the defense lawyers objected to his presence, as his presence is considered illegal, Judge Abdo Rajeh continued hearing the testimony from the unknown person, and he did not ask him for his name nor asked him to take the oath before giving the testimony, and disregarded the lawyers' objection, so they were forced to present the objection in writing, and

he refused again, so they asked to be prove their objection in the session's minutes, but he refused even to document their objection, which is a basic right of the defense, and when Dr. Yusef Al-Bawab expressed his objection, the judge ordered him to be removed from the courtroom, and the soldiers took him out of the cage in a humiliating manner, and tortured him and suspend him in the room next to the courtroom. They beat the doctor, with the rifle butts, and his colleagues were shouting "they are beating Dr A-Bawab, everyone in the hall heard them, but the judge didn't!

In the session of Sunday, April 16, 2017, the defense team for the (36) detainees withdrew from the courtroom in protest against an assault on the lawyer Essam Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Radwani. The attack was preceded by threats to the defense team in the courtroom by the prosecution, and others present in the room from the other side, where the room was crowded with members of the Political Security and National Security elements, and other armed men, and a statement from the defense team said that the lawyer was attack following the incitement of a member of the Public Prosecution at the stage. The lawyers had objected to what they described "blindly response of the court to the requests of the public prosecution and the private prosecution lawyers to review evidence that contradicts with the principle of due process."

The Houthis mobilize the print and visual media against the victims/defendants in conjunction with the dates of their trial sessions, and broadcast provocative films against the defendants, included their confessions during the investigation and published them to pressure them, their families and their defense team, and preparing public opinion accepts harsh sentences against them.

THE FASTEST DEATH SENTENCE IN THE HISTORY OF THE JUDICIARY

Journalist Abdul Raqeeb Al-Jubaihi, 63 years

On April 12, 2017, the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, headed by Judge Abdo Rajeh, sentenced the journalist Abdul Raqeeb Al-Jubaihi, 63, to death on the charge of "espionage with a foreign country," and the trial was gravely flawed due to the absence of minimum standards of fair and impartial trial. The lawyer was not allowed to discuss the accusation and the evidence presented or submit a defense pleading, rather the judgment was issued only during two sessions.

The Houthis militia abducted Al-Jubaihi from his home on September 9, 2016, without a warrant. They stormed the house and terrorized its residents, confiscated documents and personal belongings of family members, arrested his two sons, and after his release, the militia issued an amnesty decision. one of his sons is still imprisoned.

The trial of the journalist Abdul Raqeeb Al-Jubeihi is considered the fastest trial in the history of the Yemeni judiciary - if not in whole human history. Where the court issued a verdict to execute him in discretionary measures within 12 minutes of his entry into the trial place, which was a room in the Political Security building and was not in a regular courtroom dedicated to litigation.

Al-Jubeihi says: "for the trial, they took me to a court, established in the same prison, meaning that it is not a regular known court in Sana'a, rather it is a small court." Al-Jubaihi continues: "They blindfolded me and led me to the court. When they put me on the stage, they removed the over from my eyes, and I saw a lawyer who was a well-known relative of mine and brought another lawyer, a friend of him, loyal to Houthis, as I learned later" .

According to Al-Jubaihi: "The first question was from the judge, whose name is Abdo Hassan Ahmad Rajeh from Sana'a governorate. He asked me about my name and my work, then he told me: You are accused of espionage with the countries of aggression, and I denied. But he did not allow me to speak, and at that time the Chief of Criminal Prosecution, Khaled al-Maori, pulled out an unpublished study that I had prepared,

entitled: "Iran is the other Face." They took it - the study - within papers, studies, research, and many other exhibits that they took from my house and are still with them today, unfortunately.

Al-Jubaihi continues: "Khaled Al-Maori raised the study and he told the judge: "I call for a death sentence for the accused, at least because of this research or study that endangers the relationship of Yemen," and because the judge - as Al-Jubaihi says - had allowed me to get off the stage due to my hearing impairment, I took the research front of al-Maori and said: "I am being tried because of my ideology and thinking only, knowing that the attendance did not exceed seven people and filming and recording is forbidden. Al-Jubeihi adds: "The lawyer wanted to plead and refute what he heard from the judge and the chief of the criminal prosecution, but the judge silenced him, and said: "the session was adjourned", which only lasted 12 minutes.

the second session was three weeks after this session. Al-Jubaihi said: "the first question from the judge was, do you want to say something? I told him: I am waiting for justice. He said: "The court sentenced you to death in as discretionary penalty". I replied: "Praise be to God. I knew then that the ruling is politicized." While the lawyer was furious and threw the papers from his hands and said "ruling without a trial, how come? no pleadings, no nothing, and the Houthis lawyer stood up and told the judge that the articles in the constitution say such-and-such and from where did you bring this ruling? The judge said to him: From this head and pointed to his head ... this is the trial."

Al-Jubaihi knew later that the judge would have sentenced him to health release due to his asthma infection in prison, but as the journalist Al-Jubaihi pointed out: the chief of the so-called Supreme Revolutionary Committee asked the judge to issue a death sentence as a reprimand and a lesson to journalists.

In his testimony, Al-Jubaihi said: "I was forced to sign and fingerprint on a large file containing 48 pages, and when I refused, they tortured me with electricity, beatings, and so on. One of the investigators advised me to sign and fingerprint in order to protect my life, as he said, so I had to sign and fingerprint without knowing any word about that file, which they did not allow me to see or any page of it, and this what they did repeatedly with many of the cellmates ... This is briefly a summary of the mock trial and God bear witness to that."

EXECUTION AND FLOGGING OF THE ONLY FEMALE ACCUSED OF POLITICAL MOTIVES IN YEMEN

Asma Al-Omeisi

On charges of aiding the aggression, Asma Al-Omeisi, 22, was tried during 2017, and later at the beginning of 2018, she was sentenced to death by the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, in addition to two men who were tried in absentia: Ahmed Bawazeer and Saeed Al-Ruweished.

Asmaa Al-Omeisi is the only defendant who appeared before the court, and she is a mother of two, the court sentenced her father to 15 years in prison, and Asmaa was sentenced to 100 flogs for committing a "disgraceful act" of traveling with people who are not her Mahram, as the court indicated! She is the first Yemeni woman to receive death sentence for political and revenge motives in Yemen, which constitutes a serious precedent for the Yemeni women status under the control of the Houthis militia, which has transformed women from a dove of peace into a war machine by cramming them into combat and security actions that do not serve social peace in Yemen, and opening prisons for them, and were subjected to the most severe forms of torture. Please refer to SAM Organization report issued on 3 July 2019 on the situation of women in Houthi prisons, entitled: "What Remained for us."

This ruling was issued by the Specialized Criminal Court, which is not independent and does not respect the due process that must be taken to guarantee the rights of the suspects. Death sentences are issued after flawed and unfair trials, and Asma Al-Omeisi was not allowed to defend herself through a lawyer according to the law.

Asma, her father Mater, Bawazir and Al-Ruwaished were arrested, and made to forcibly disappear, physically and psychologically tortured, denied of treatment, and subjected to extortion since their arrest in October 2016, and until they were brought before the court at the end of 2017, and the court ignored all these facts and violations!

In a statement on the incident on 15 February 2018, Amnesty International said: Three of the defendants were visiting the southern part of the country when they were arrested at a checkpoint in Sanaa in October 2016. Things got worse when the authorities interrogated them, on the accusation that Asmaa al-Omeisi's husband is linked to Al-Qaeda.

Two of the defendants, speaking from areas in Yemen outside of Houthis control, told Amnesty International that they had been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in all the facilities they had been held in since their arrest, including while they were being held in the CID building. They were denied contact with anyone for a period of between two and three months.

Asma's father, Mater Al-Omeisi, compared the interrogation process to a "psychological war", as "the police accused us of everything ... that we are a terrorist group and that we were a sleeper cell in the capital, Sanaa."

The three men were held in a part of the CID building known as al-Makhfi, or "the hidden prison," for nearly eight months. Asmaa Al-Omeisi was held there for two months before being transferred to the Central Prison.

Family members of one of the detainees, were looking for him in several prisons, including the CID, but they were told that he is not there. The family of another detainee was denied any information about him for three months, and they held mourning ceremonies, believing that he had passed away.

Asmaa's 50-year-old father, who was detained with her in the CID building, told Amnesty International how they were tortured: "They were bringing two others (Saeed Al-Ruwaishid and Ahmed Bawazir) to our room blindfolded with their hands tied, and they beat them in front of us, and forced us to see them beating. They were beating them and asking them to confess while denying any wrongdoing. We "Asmaa and Mater Al-Omeisi" remained silent for fear that they would shoot us God only knows the torture we were subjected to."

Saeed Al-Ruwaished, 34, said: "They did not allow us to sleep, and continued to beat us They would interrogate me from 3 in the afternoon until 4 or 5 in the evening the next day. This lasted for several days in a row. Every interrogation involved torture and beatings. They ask me, "Are you with the Arab coalition? Are you recruiting fighters for the coalition? Are you part of the spy network? ".

Saeed Al-Ruwaished described to Amnesty International how he and Ahmed Bawazir were shackled by their wrists, and suspended from the ceiling for hours at a time, sometimes throughout the night. They were kicked and punched, including on their genitals, beaten with shoes, threatened with rape, and subjected to verbal abuses. Amnesty International viewed medical records confirming at least one serious injury as a result of the beatings.

According to Asma's father's account to the Amnesty International, Asmaa was also subjected to beatings, including punches, and beatings with a stick by a policewoman. When the families of the accused were allowed to contact them, they were required to send money to cover their expenses in the prison, including for food. However, Houthis prison guards and brokers have repeatedly blackmailed detainees, as they seize half of the money sent by the detainees' families. Family members were prohibited from bringing items such as blankets and clothes; one of the defendants wore the same underwear for eight months.

Ahmed Bawazir suffered from severe liver disease, although he was in good health and fitness before his arrest. After eight months, his family finally dared to travel from the south to visit him, and provided a small sum of money for his treatment and medicines, including having to pay for the car that would take him to the hospital, where he received medical care while he was surrounded by about six guards.

On the "date" Asmaa Al-Omeisi's lawyer, Abdul Majeed Sabra, wrote on his Facebook page that "Asma al-Omeisi's health state cannot stand to wait due to lack of specialized health care in the central prison, according to an official report issued by the Central Prison Clinic on July 28, 2020, in which it was stated that Asmaa Al-Omeisi suffers from frequent bleeding and a drop in the blood percentage, and the last examination the blood level was 8, and this leads to dizziness and fatigue and began to affect the heart. The report concluded that she needs follow up and treatment in a specialized center in obstetrics and gynecology, and to follow up her condition periodically to avoid any complications, which has not been provided until this post was written.



FAITH TRIAL AFTER A LONG DETENTION

Hamid Haidara

In January 2018, the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a sentenced Hamid Haidara, who belongs to the Baha'i community, to death on charges of treason and collaborating with Israel, and ruled that his assets be confiscated.

Hamed was arrested in 2013 from his workplace at an oil company in Shabwa governorate, and he is still under arrest

until the moment... The Penal Prosecution accused him of committing acts affecting the independence and territorial integrity of the Yemeni Republic, abusing Islam, and working for a foreign country charges, based on which the Specialized Penal court ruled with death penalty against him. The Public Prosecution Office had presented, among the evidences for Haidara's accusation, what it called the political support received from outside, at the "international level" by:

- The United Nations, as there is a representative for them in the United Nations and in all its offices, which enables them to formulate the United Nations policy "according to the statement of the prosecution."
- Amnesty International issued a statement on 17 August 2016 denouncing the arrest of the cell members by the state.
- SAM Organization for Human Rights and Liberties, based in Geneva, which issued a statement on the Yemeni government's violations of human rights for the period between August 12-14, 2016, entitled "Restricting Freedom of Thought and Assembly."
- Western and European embassies.
- The British Foreign Ministry, where the office concerned with Yemeni affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its embassy in Yemen, contacted the office of Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, in 2013, to demand the release of the detainee Hamid Kamali.. according to what the Houthis described as evidences.!

THE TRAGEDY OF THE DISPLACED, WHOSE HOME THE COALITION BOMBED AND THE HOUTHIS SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH AFTER SEVERE TORTURE

Muhammad Yahya Ibrahim Hajar

On January 19, 2020, the Specialized Penal Appeals Division in Sana'a of the Houthis militia issued a death sentence for Muhammad Yahya Muhammad Ibrahim Hajar, 38, upholding the ruling issued by the Specialized First Instance Penal Court in Sana'a on charges of "aiding aggression."

According to information received by SAM, Muhammad Hajar is the father of seven children, three males and four females, and he is from Al-Hajawir village, Haradh district, Hajjah governorate, and he was displaced to Bani Hassan, the village of Al-Mahsam, until he was arrested.

The real tragedy of Muhammad Yahya began when, without his consent, the Houthis militia used his farm to launch missiles at Saudi Arabia, which led to the targeting of his home by Saudi missiles on April 15, 2015, and five women from his family, including his daughter died, forcing him to flee to Al-Qas village, for one month, then he was displaced to Bani Hassan, where the Houthis arrested him on December 1, 2016, and he remained in detention at the Political Security and National Security agencies for nearly eleven months, ten of which he was forcibly disappeared, during which his relatives were allowed to visit him once only.

On 18 November 2017, he was interrogated by the Specialized Penal Prosecution in Sana'a without the presence of a lawyer. He denied in the prosecution report the

charges against him, and confirmed that he was forced to fingerprint the report, which the National Security wrote, after he was tortured. Noting that the detainee does not have a written signature on that report, which confirms his allegations.

Hajar added that "this accusation was fabricated against him because of his objection to striking missiles from his farm at the of Saudi Arabia, which responded to that strike and the damage resulted in loss of life, the house, the tractor, the car ... etc."

Muhammad Hajar was subjected to various types of physical, moral and psychological torture during his forcible disappearance by the Political and National Security Apparatus: "They tortured me by suspension, beating and spraying with water, and they interrogated me by force. The torture continued for eleven days. And they hang a can of water on my penis and threatened me that they would bring my son and lock him with me, and they call my wife and tell me this is your wife and she will confess or we will put her in prison. As a result, they forced me to confess to my relationship with a Saudi person named Ahmed Khurmi.

According to what Hajar said: "Before Ramadan this year they summoned me at 11 pm, and removed the cover from my eyes and told me to confess to what was written in the minutes, I refused, and they beat me, threatening me, and returning me to the

guard of prison, and told him to treated me badly and take me to the basement and cut off contact and visit” Hajar continues: “they took me back the second day in the afternoon and showed me to a room in which there was one suspended detainee and said to me, either you confess with what I tell you, otherwise, I will take you to “the workshop”, and they will do to you like this person and even worse, so I confessed to in the video according to what the two interrogators wanted, and they return me to the cell. After one month they called me and I fingerprinted the interrogation report, and today they referred me to you.”

The prosecution asked him in the same interrogation report, p. 4, about the type of coercion he was subjected to, who forced him, and what evidence there is for that. He replied with the following: “The torture that I mentioned to you and that they will enter someone who will rape me and they say you are homo. So, I confessed with what they want, I do not know who tortured me, they are two persons, and I did not know their names or their features, nor did I see them, and I have no evidence of the torture I was subjected to, they used to send me back to prison and the effects of beatings on my body and I still have traces of torture in my hands from suspension.”

Hajar was referred by the Specialized Penal Prosecution in Sana’a to stand trial before the Specialized First Instance Penal Court on charges of “pursuing and assisting the state of aggression; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and providing the coordinates of the army and popular committees’ positions.”

The Specialized First Instance Penal Court in Sana’a held its only session on July 14. In 2018, and charged the detainee with the accusation without the presence of a lawyer, and he confessed, and was sentenced in the same session with discretionary death sentence, after which his case was appealed, and the court assigned lawyers to provide him with legal assistance.

Hajar lawyer asked him, before he prepared the appeal petition, and after reviewing the case file, asked him about the reason for his confession at the court of first instance, and he said that the National Security Agency, when taking him to the court session, threatened him to repeat the torture if he did not confess. “but I did not suffice with that excuse to explain the invalidity of his confession, as I indicated in the appeal petition that I submitted to the division on his behalf that this confession by the detainee before the Specialized First Instance Penal Court was contradictory in all stages of the penal case and contradicts with the evidences. A confession that is inconvenient and contrary to the truth and reality, which confirms the validity of his claim that he was threatened and as detailed in the appeal petition; However, however, the Division did not pay attention to that and decided in its session held on Sunday, January 19, 2020 to convict the detainee Muhammad Yahya Muhammad Hajar of the accusation against him and to execute him, upholding the ruling of the first instance court.

A WORKER WHO OWNS NOTHING, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AND CONFISCATION OF HIS OWNED REAL ESTATE, MOVABLE AND FIXED ASSETS!

The detainee Abdullah Saleh Hussein Nasser Al-Marri

The detainee Abdullah Saleh Hussein Nasser Al-Marri, a worker from Raida, Amran Governorate. On Saturday, January 19, 2019, the Specialized First Instance Penal Court in Sana'a sentenced him to death and to confiscate of all his real estate and movable property, that he owned inside and outside the republic.

Lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra says: "When Al-Marri appointed me to represent him before the Specialized Penal Appeals Division in Sana'a, and when I met his relatives, I asked them about the assets that he owned and was confiscated by the court? They said he does not have any assets, and when he was arrested, he was indented 700 thousand riyals to the grocery, as he used to work in Saudi Arabia for a company with a low salary and left Saudi Arabia for good.

THE STREET VENDOR ... ACCUSED OF RECRUITING FOR THE NATIONAL ARMY AND SENTENCED TO DEATH

Oqba Abdel Nasser Oqba

Oqba Abdel Nasser, 23, resides in Sana'a, Madbah area, works as street vendor. He was accused of recruiting individuals to fight with the legitimate national army in Marib and Taiz. Oqba was arrested on 11 August 2016.

The Houthis-run Penal Court appointed lawyer Saqr Al-Samawi in the last session to provide legal assistance to Oqba, which is the same session in which the judgment against him with death sentence was on September 29, 2018.

Oqba during the interrogation before the Public Prosecution: "I don't know the reason for my arrest. They arrested me and took my phone and Janbiya "dagger", "I am the owner of a stall and they came and took me and my laptop, and I'm innocent, I did not commit any crime, and the statements that were taken from me were by force." "My brother Jamal used to work in the Economic Corporation and was transferred to Marib, and currently he is at the village."

A DENUNCIATION THAT LEAD TO SENTENCE AL-SHAIBA TO DEATH

Abdul Rahman Al-Shaiba, Ezrat Qafal, Amran Governorate

On February 21, 2017, Abdul Rahman Al-Shaiba was arrested by the National Security Service of the Houthis militia, and he remained arbitrarily detained in the Political Security prison until November 3, 2017, after which his file was transferred to the Houthis-run Penal Prosecution specialized in terrorism crimes.

On November 14, 2017, a report was prepared by the Penal Prosecution, and ordered to detain Al-Shaiba for one and half months, but his detention continued until March 24, 2018, when his file was transferred to the Penal Court, on charges of "aiding aggression and leaking information about the movement of the popular committees, "Houthis fighters", to a Saudi officer named Muhammad Al-Soraie.

On May 12, 2018, the Houthis court held its only session, and ruled Abdul Rahman Al-Shaiba with discretionary death sentence and confiscate his real estate and moveable assets at home and abroad due to denunciation by people from his area.





ONE SESSION IS SUFFICIENT TO SENTENCE THE RED CRESCENT VOLUNTEER TO DEATH

Mohammed Hadi Zafer

Muhammad Hadi Zafer, 40, a volunteer for the Red Crescent in Sa'da governorate, was arrested on March 29, 2016, by the National Security Service, three months after he was subjected to torture, Houthis authorities, issued an arrest warrant against him on June 2, 2016, and another report of the relevant evidences was prepared on June 27, 2016.

In October 2017, the Houthis-controlled National Security Agency referred Zafer to the Penal Prosecution Office dedicated to terrorism and state security issues in the Sana'a, and on November 15, 2018, the Prosecution issued an investigation report with Zafer.

On January 21, 2018, the Prosecution referred him to the Penal Court in Sana'a, on charges of communicating with the aggression and leaking security information related to the movement of the Popular Committees to a Saudi named Ibrahim Awash, and on April 30, 2018, the Houthis-run court held its only session and sentence Muhammad Hadi Zafir to death.

JUSTIFY THE EXECUTION ON THE BASIS OF THE UNDECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY!

Saleh Abbas Saleh Suleiman

On the morning of Tuesday, January 26, 2016, Saleh Abbas Saleh Suleiman was arrested in Dhahyan, Sa'da Governorate, by the National Security without warrants issued by the Specialized Penal Prosecution, and after a year and seven months of his arrest, on Sunday 16 July Dhahran 2017, the Houthis-affiliated prosecution rushed to prepare the evidence report, to prove the charge of communicating with the countries of aggression, as they claim.

On October 3, 2017, the Houthis National Security Service referred Saleh Abbas to the Specialized Penal Prosecution, that is, one year and ten months after his arrest, and on November 14, 2017, they began the investigation with Saleh Abbas.

In July 2018, Saleh was referred to the Penal Court on charges of collaborating with the aggression, and on Saturday 14 July 2018, the First Instance Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a, held its only session in the case, where Saleh denied all charges, and the court assigned him the lawyer Abdul Majeed Musleh Sabra, who is the lawyer of the currently appellant - has submitted procedural and substantive defenses for the appellant, but they have not been taken into consideration, and the court decided to reserve the case for judgment and pronounced it in the same session, which ruled that "Saleh Abbas Saleh Suleiman shall be punished with the discretionary death penalty."

Lawyer Sabra says: "I asked for a copy of the file, but the court refused and said that it is sufficient to see the file, and although this constitutes a violation of the right to defense, I pleaded for the detainee. Nevertheless, the court decided to reserve the case for judgment and declare it in the same session.

In reasoning its ruling, the court acknowledged the legality of my defenses, but justified the National Security Agency's behavior that the country is in a de facto state of emergency, even if it was not declared.

WHEN THE JUDGE REVEALED HIS PREJUDICE AND DESCRIBED THE JOURNALISTS AS "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE"!

The Four Journalists

On 9 June 2015, at 3 am, an armed force affiliated with the Houthis militia raided one of the rooms of the Dream Palace Hotel in Sanaa, and arrested a group of journalists to Al-Thawra police department, then forcibly disappear them from their families, relatives and the community for more than a month without any charges or justification, before they were transferred to Habra prison, then to the CID, then back to Habra prison, and recently to the Political Security prison in Sana'a, where they are subjected to a long investigation coupled with psychological and physical torture, to force them to confess.

SAM recorded testimonies of the journalists' relatives, which confirmed that arbitrarily detained journalists were subjected to all kinds of psychological and physical torture, including insults, abuses, electric shocks, beating with rifle butts, terrorizing them, isolating them in solitary confinement and other harsh methods. They are also being held in very small, narrow prisons, lacking basic utilities, especially the adequate toilets, which are not easily accessible, to exacerbate the detainees sufferings, in addition to imprison them with dangerous ex-convicted criminals, and in the cold winter they are deprived of blankets, and visitation, and their families and relatives who visit them are subject to insults and humiliation.

ABDUCTION, TORTURE AND DEATH SENTENCES

BRUTAL DETAILS ABOUT JOURNALISTS

1. Abdul Khaleq Omran

In November 2016, the family of journalist Abdul Khaleq Omran, 34, issued a "distress call" to save him from death in the Political Security prison after his health deteriorated as a result of torture since his abduction, and Imran's family stated that he suffers from severe pain in the spine and his health is deteriorating and continues to become very worrying while the Houthis refuse to provide him with medical care, even primary health services.

Omran's family confirmed that he was subjected to multiple forms of torture during his abduction and almost daily, and in various detention centers: in the CID, Al-Thawra prison, the National Security prison, Habra provisional prison, and now in the Political Security prison.

Umm Al-Harith (relative of Omran - who refuses to reveal her identity for security reasons) says that during the last six months, Abdul Khaleq went through more difficult circumstances than the previous ones in the past two years. Militia members routinely torture him with psychological methods of torture, as they deceive him that he will be released by the end of the month, then start new investigations and frightening methods of interrogation, then denied him visitation.

2. Tawfiq Al-Mansouri

Tawfiq Al-Mansoori, 33, a journalist, whose health condition has deteriorated due to torture and neglect in prisons, since mid-2017, as he suffers from heart disease, shortness of breath and swollen prostate, and torture has paralyzed him and kept him in the Political Security prison in Sana'a without health care.

In more than one statement, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate revealed that the detained journalist Al-Mansouri was subjected to various methods of torture, including beatings with sticks, iron pipes, wires and rifle butts, punching and slapping on the face, eye and chest, tying hands to the back, plucking the hair of the beard, strangling, insulting and cursing with obscene language, Al-Mansouri was forced to carry concrete blocks for long hours, and prevented him from the bathroom except once a day.

Journalist Waddah Al-Mansouri, brother of the detained journalist Tawfiq, says that "when my father visited him in al-Thawra prison, he saw the signs of torture on Tawfiq's body. Tawfiq tried to show my father from behind the window parts of his body, the signs of torture were still there in the head, neck and hand. With the butts of a jailer's rifle."

3. Akram Al-Walidi

Akram Al-Walidi, 30, a journalist who is slowly dying in the prisons of the Houthis militia. Since his abduction, he has been suffering from chronic and serious diseases in addition to the continuous torture by his captors.

Akram's sister affirms that "he suffers from Irritable Bowel Syndrome and the Houthis militia has prevented him from taking medication, and that since her visit to him, her mother has plunged into deep sadness after seeing her son Akram with his lean and thin body." She added, "The Houthis militia placed her brother among mentally ill prisoners for a week, then placed him in solitary confinement for a long time."

4. Al-Harith Hamid

The detained journalist Al-Harith Hamid, 28, his sister Fatima reports that he "suffers from skin diseases and a permanent headache and that his health is greatly worsening inside the Political Security prison. His father died at the end of 2017, and the Houthis refused to allow him to pay final tribute to his father, who had waited for his son to be released for nearly three years and died with his sadness.

Fatima confirms that Al-Harith is the only breadwinner for the family, and she hopes that he will return soon to care for his grieving mother and his younger brothers, who are in dire need of him.

TRIAL DETAILS

SAM reviewed some of the litigation procedures in the records of the Specialized Penal Prosecution investigations that investigated the journalists, including the two sessions held on 1 January 2018 and 9 September 2018, which stipulated that the non-release of journalists in the prisoner exchange process requires bringing them from the Political Security Prison for investigation, which confirms that the investigation procedures are carried out according to the instructions of the Political Security, which is an agency affiliated with the Presidency of the Republic and is not subject to the supervision of the judiciary, and that the case has an abusive political implications aimed at restricting freedom of opinion and expression, and taking revenge on press voices opposing to the Houthis militia.

DETAILS OF ALLEGED LITIGATION

The Houthis-run court held four sessions against the ten journalists, and sentenced four of them to death, and here are some details of the sessions:

FIRST SESSION

Prejudice of the judge and the intent of the court

The first session was on December 9, 2019, in which the journalists were confronted with the indictment. As the lawyer of the journalists, Abdul Majeed Sabra, recounts: "As for the first session, it was clear that the court intended to hold it without our presence. Even though we followed up on the case file firsthand after it was referred by the Specialized Penal Prosecution to the Specialized First Instance Penal Court, we follow it on a daily basis to find out the date of the session, Although we were asked about the date on the same day that it was held, the secretary's response was that the date of the session was not decided, and after I left, the judge came and the session was held without us at the beginning, but the journalists insisted on their lawyer attending, so the judge assigned one of the soldiers to search for us, and indeed I attended, and I was surprised that it was the journalists' case, and I told the judge that I asked about the date of the hearing in the case, and the secretary replied that there was no session. We told the judge that this is the work an intelligence, because you know that I am their lawyer since the investigation with them in the Prosecution.

When the lawyers attend, the court confronted the journalists with the indictment and they denied it, then confronted them with the list of evidence and they referred the answer to the lawyer, and during the judge's attempt and insistence on the journalists to respond to the list of evidence and because of the journalists' insistence to leave the answer to their lawyer, the judge was angry, and said a word that revealed his prejudice in the case and his impartiality By telling them: "You are the enemies of the people."

At that time, the lawyer asked the judge to mention in the session minutes that, "We requested the judge's recusal because he had expressed his prejudice, but he refused, so we had to request that we be given a copy of the case file to present our defenses on their behalf, and the hearing was postponed."

During the postponement period, the lawyers submitted a written request for a response and the judge's recusal from hearing the case and handed that over to the chief of the court. The decision on our request was delayed until the second session was held, and during the postponement period, the lawyers tried to obtain a copy of the case file, to no avail.

THE SECOND SESSION

Removing lawyers and preventing them from pleading

In the second session, held on January 27, 2020, there was an unusually heavy and terrifying security presence, and public were not allowed to enter, except for lawyers, then two or three people were allowed to enter after the lawyers' objection.

The hearing session began and two of lawyer's colleagues were present next to him; lawyer Abdul Basit Ghazi and the lawyer Muhammad Ahmad Abkar, and in the session the journalists' lawyer explained to the court that he had submitted a recusal request against the judge, but if the court will follow fair procedures in the case, there is no objection to continuing in the procedures and the request for recusal will be waived, and in the meantime the judge was upset and told the lawyers: "Our procedures are fair and you have no competence." Then the journalists said, we adhere to the request for recusal submitted by the lawyers, and at that time the judge decided to remove the lawyers from the hearing room and prevent them from pleading before him.

THE THIRD SESSION

Afternoon without lawyers

The third session was held on March 9, 2020, without the lawyers' knowledge and without their presence, even though they were present that day in the court building to follow up on other cases.

The journalists' lawyer says: "The court no longer considers us lawyers for journalists, because Judge Muhammad Mufleh had previously issued a decision preventing us from pleading before him, and it is a violation of the law that the judge may not issue. In addition, the session was not held until late in the afternoon. After we left the court building, we did not know that it was taking place until the next day."

FOURTH SESSION

Execution

The fourth session was held on April 11, 2020, the lawyers were also, not informed of it despite their presence in the court building, but the judge was still adhering to his decision to prevent lawyers from pleading before him, as he thinks that he is not concerned with notifying them, but as the lawyer says: "I knew that the session was held and that the journalists are in the court, and I hesitated to enter the courtroom knowing that the judge may order me to be removed from the hall, then I decided to enter the hall on the basis that I am listening to the procedures that are being done and not as a lawyer for journalists. I entered and the judge said: "Sit as a listener" and I sat in one of the chairs and the judge was reading the verdict when I entered.

Thus, the journalists' case procedures took place even though the lawyers submitted a request for the judge recusal from hearing the case, also, the journalists were not allowed to have any lawyer present to defend them, and they were not able to photograph the case file, and they were not even allowed to appoint another lawyer to defend them.

ABDUL MAJEED ABDUL HAMED MUHAMMAD ALLOUS

Abdul Majeed Abdul Hamid Muhammad Allous, 56, father of three sons and two daughters, a staff colonel in the former Yemeni Ministry of Defense before the Houthis militia took control of the capital Sana'a on September 21, 2014, before his arrest he was head of the Department of Invention and Innovation at the Center for Strategic Studies of the Armed Forces in the Ministry of Defense, and he is the inventor of the security protection system in 2010.

He was arrested on March 17, 2016 while he was outside Al-Qasimi mosque after noon prayer in Old Sana'a, at gunpoint by members of the Political Security apparatus in civilian clothes on charges of communicating with the aggression. He was forced to disappear for two months before his family knew his whereabouts. Members of his family visited him twice, but the visit was banned from him last Ramadan. According to testimonies, Allous was tortured in the Political Security prison, where he was burned and severely beaten, and verbally abused. One of his relatives says; They told us in the third session of his trial, and they set the date for the next session, and when we go on the appointed day, we are surprised that the session was in the previous day, they were lying to us about the time of the hearings, and the prosecution was making false excuses like we changed the date and it was not we have no credit in the mobile phone to call you and inform you. Currently his health is very poor, as he got a stroke and internal bleeding in the brain and he suffers from hypertension and diabetes. The Political Security administration refused to take him to a physician, perhaps for fear that signs

of torture will be discovered, only after he went into a coma, they took to the hospital.

Lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra says on his Facebook page that: "Allous" was subjected to enforced disappearance and violent torture,

The prosecution and the court refused to document the torture in their records, but they decided to present him to the forensic doctor. The Political Security, now the Security and Intelligence Service, refused to allow the forensic doctor to examine him. His relatives saw burns and bruises on his body when they were allowed to visit him after three months of disappearance.

On the morning of Monday, July 13, 2020, his relatives were surprised by a call asking them to visit him in the Republican Hospital in Sana'a, and when they went to the hospital they found him there and the visit was limited to exchanging looks between them and him as he could not talk to them, in addition to his weak body, and they knew that he had been in hospital for twenty days

The doctors, including the doctor of the Security and Intelligence Service, told them that he was suffering from a stroke and internal bleeding in the brain in addition to his previous suffering from diabetes and hypertension. He was returned to the Security and Intelligence Detention Center at noon on Monday and his relatives asked his companions, including the doctor of the Security and Intelligence Service, to grant them a copy of the medical reports, hoping for the Political Council to intercede, to release him by pardon so that he would spend the rest of his life among his family, and obtain their care, but they refused and asked them to obtain an order for this from the Prosecution while they are in the process of doing that.

Details of the suffering after the arrest

After Allous was arrested, he was subjected to enforced disappearance and severe torture. His relatives were not allowed to visit him until three months after his detention, and they saw burns and bruises on his body.

On May 4, 2016, he was interrogated by the prosecution and when confronted with his statements, fingerprint and signature, he stated that it was taken under violent and inhuman beating. He denied this statement altogether and added; "They used violence, torture, and immoral and inhuman speech and insulted us in our honor and questioned our patriotism. I am a military and academic analyst and I have several interviews."

The prosecution did not document the traces of torture on his body despite his request, but decided to send him to a forensic doctor and wrote a memorandum to that effect to the Public Prosecutor's Office, but the Security and Intelligence services, did not allow the forensic doctor to enter to examine him.

His case was referred to the court with another beside him on charges of participating in an agreement to commit criminal acts with the intent to prejudice the security and integrity of the territory of the Republic of Yemen, and the accusation of aiding aggression. He denied the charges and the confession, and it was extracted under torture, requesting to document the torture, but the court refused and instead, assigned forensic doctor to examine him, but the doctor has been prevented from examining him by the Security and Intelligence Service.

The trial procedures continued, and on Monday, July 10, 2017, and the ruling was declared, stating that "Firstly, the conviction of Abdul Majeed Abdul Hamed Muhammad Allous for the criminal conspiracy, the two crimes of pursuing and espionage with a foreign country, and the crime of assisting the enemy attributed to him in the indictment. Secondly, punishing the convicted, Abdul Majeed Abdul Hamed Muhammad Allous, with the discretionary death penalty.) The verdict was appealed, but the situation did not change, as the Appeal Division upheld the primary ruling in all of its clauses and its judgment was issued on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

Death Penalty and confiscation of property for 75 parliamentarians

The Houthis militia initiated a politically motivated litigation process against 75 MPs of the Yemeni Parliament, and in separate cases, the most known one is the 35 MPs case, which is the case that the Houthis Penal Prosecution initiated after the Yemeni Parliament convened in the city of Seiyun on April 13, 2019, which confirms that its political motivations, and sending political messages to opponents, and the judiciary was the platform manipulated, in addition to the militia's desire to confiscate the real estate properties of its opponents and give false legitimacy to its practices, even though a part of these properties was actually at the disposal of the Houthis for some time, which reinforces the prevailing belief that the lust of robbing this money is the main motivation for the case against the thirty-five MPs of the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Islah, and the Nasserite Popular Organization parties, and here are examples of the measures taken against the properties of MPs, who were sentenced to death by the Houthis:

BREAKING INTO AND LOOTING HOMES AND FORCING THOSE IN CHARGE OF THEM TO SIGN STATEMENTS WITHOUT KNOWING ITS CONTENTS

Saleh Al-Sanabani

Among the 35 MPs against whom the court issued a death sentence in discretionary terms, is the academician Saleh Al-Sanabani, and member of Parliament for the capital, Sana'a, from the Islah party, where the Houthis militia proceeded to storm two of his houses, tamper with their contents and force his family and guard to leave the two homes at gunpoint.

Dr. Al-Sanabani, 62, a member of the Higher Education, Youth and Sports Committee in the House of Representatives, a professor of educational psychology at Sana'a University and the dean of postgraduate studies and Open Education at the Yemeni University, and he has a family of 15 members, he told SAM: "On the morning of Wednesday, March, 4, 2020, six armed patrol arrived to storm my first house, located north south of the Shamlan Al-Hayat factory, broke the doors of the closed rooms and did not wait to open them, and tampered with all the contents of the house and took some precious items, then gave one of my guards and his family until tomorrow morning to hand over the house, after they counted everything in the house and forced the guard to sign a list, without reading what was on the list, then they moved to the second house where my elderly mother, my sisters and some members of my family live and broke the closed doors, tampering with the contents of the rooms and looting what they found. They counted what was in the rooms and gave a deadline for the family to leave tomorrow morning by consent or by force, and one of the family members who was in the house signed the list of contents without reading it."

According to the MP Al-Sanabani, storming of the Houthis gunmen to his home was barbaric and horrific and in large numbers. "They terrified the women and did not respect an elderly woman or a child. All of them want to rob whatever they found, they took an amount of money in one of the cupboards of the house, it was the monthly allocated expenses for the family. Finally, when the man who was in the house told them that they are tenants, they asked him to pay the previous and subsequent rents if he wanted to stay. And when one of the guardians asked them about the warrant of the prosecution, they responded by saying that "you go and get it from the prosecution. We only have orders to execute".

Dr. Al-Sanabani added: "On Thursday morning 5 March, 2020, the first security patrol arrived with the receiver to take the keys of the two houses and take out the family members, accompanied by groups of Zinabiyat, "an armed women's squad operated by the Houthis militia in its operations" to force women to vacate their homes, and upon entering one of the two houses, one of them brazenly collected all the wife's private possessions from the bedroom, including jewelry and the like, and as soon as the women were forcibly removed from the house, a car was brought into the yard of the house, and the door was closed and they did not know what happened. In the other house, five other security patrols came when there was resistance, however, they had to leave before they were exposed to harm and violence. "

ZINABIYAT ENTER THE HOUSE AND INSIST ON CONFISCATING IT ENTIRELY

Abdul Karim Al-Aslami

Member of parliament Abdul Karim Al-Aslami, 52, rapporteur of the Services Committee of the Yemeni Parliament, representing one of Hajjah Governorate constituencies, member of the Independents Bloc after he resigned from the General People's Congress. A father of five children four girls and a boy, left the capital, Sana'a, after the Houthis militia issued a warrant arrest against him in June 2015.

Al-Aslami, said to SAM: "My house in the Al-A'nab neighborhood, three floors and its annexes. Houthis stormed it with several military patrols with the receiver, as they claim, and gave my wife and daughters a two-hour period to leave, otherwise they will call women police take them out by force. The wife refused to leave the house, but they insisted that my family leave the house, and in the morning, they entered with "Zinabiyat" and closed an apartment that was not inhabited. They did not take anything, but they insist on confiscating the entire house."

BREAKING INTO THE HOUSE AND SETTLING A HOUTHIS INSIDE

Abdel Wahab Maoudha

MP Abd al-Wahhab Maoudha, 55, head of the Public Freedoms and Human Rights Committee in the Parliament, representing one of Dhamar Governorate constituencies. Maoudha is a father of six children, five boys and one girl.

Maoudha told SAM: "I have two homes; the first is in Artil that was stormed and seized on February 12, 2017, in which a person from Sa'da lives, and the second in the Al-A'nab neighborhood was stormed by the Houthis on Wednesday 4 March 2020, by the Zinabiyat female squad and members of the "Houthis" gangs, and they gave a deadline until the next day after neighbors intervention. They have closed three apartments and the reception, leaving only one apartment, where my mother, my sister and her children reside.

MASS DEATH SENTENCES, INCLUDING FOR ASSASSINATED MILITARY COMMANDER!!

The weirdest verdicts in the history of trials

The Houthis-controlled prosecution in Sana'a initiated a lawsuit, No. 16, in Case No. 246 of the Appeals Prosecution for the year 2021, against 320 civilian leaders and military commanders of the legitimate government.

According to the defense team, the case file included publications from websites, social media and channels affiliated with what the Houthis militia calls the countries of aggression, and the Houthis-controlled court ruled all defendants with death sentence, including Brigadier Adnan Al Hammadi, who was assassinated on December 2, 2019, which is described by lawyer Abdel Basset Ghazi as "the weirdest verdicts in the history of trials", on his Facebook page. He added, "Because the verdict hearing session was held without the knowledge of the defense team, except for two who attended by chance."

DEATH SENTENCED TO SUSPECTS OF ASSASSINATING A POLITICIAN AND A JOURNALIST

On Tuesday, January 20, 2020, a court under Houthis militia ruled to execute three accused of assassinating the politician Muhammad Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakel and journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani in early 2015.

According to the Houthi-controlled Saba News Agency, the Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a ruled with the death penalty for retribution "Qisas" and discretionary penalty, by firing squad in a public square against Suhaib Al-Taj, Youssef Al-Banna and Sufyan Al-Fathi.

The court also ruled with a fine of twenty million riyals to be paid by the remaining defendants to the heirs of the deceased, in return for expenses and litigation fees.

VIOLATION AGAINST THE DETAINEES' RELATIVES

Women recruited by Houthis pull detainees' relatives out of the courtroom

SAM interviewed some of the relatives of the convicted to death, among them Muhammad Yahya Muhammad Akiri, 47, from Afalah Al-Yemen, Hajjah governorate.

Akiri, one of the detainees in the Political Security detention facility, according to witness's SAM interviewed, who refused to reveal their names, said that Akiri was tortured in the first two-month of his enforced disappearance, and that he suffers from kidney disease, and was tried in several sessions in the Specialized Penal Court under the control of the Houthis.

The first session was within the group of 36 detainees was held on April 10, 2017, his wife says: "We attended the first session, which was held under tighten security measures, and we were searched in the court yard in public with the presence of soldiers, and one of the wives of those detainees was beaten with the rifle butt. Then we entered the courtroom and at our entrance gate we were searched again, and were not allowed to enter except after the presence of the women police, we were surprised when we saw some girls occupying the seats beside us. We knew that they were spies to eavesdrop on our talks".

Akiri's wife recounts: "We sat on the benches and all the detainees came to the hall. They sang the national anthem and it was a magnificent scene that our tear burst out. The courtroom was full of "blood avengers", with their lawyer Abd al-Wahhab al-Khail, who threatened the detainees and slandered them in inappropriate terms and treated them as if they were war criminals.

"After that, each detainee was identified by his name and their fingerprint, and the judge treated them toughly. The detainees spoke about what they had suffered and the torture that they were subjected to. A film was shown containing each detainee and the charges against them. Dr. Yousef Al-Bawab spoke with passion." Dr. Nasr Al-Salami spoke about the torture that he had been subjected to, and the judge was speaking with one word: "Be quiet, boy, or he will take you out of the courtroom." We were waving to the detainees, and one of the mothers was waving to her son and suddenly one of the girls in the hall got up, and pulled out everyone who waves or spoke with the detainee out of the room."

The first session ended, and the session that followed, and the humiliation continued, according to Akiri. According to the account of Akiri's wife: "The

rest of the detainees were identified and the charges against them were declared... and security measures were even tighter, we were not allowed to look at the other side. One lawyer was beaten in the courtroom, because one of the female police officers said that he gave one of the detainees a paper, and one of the soldiers shouted at the detainees "where the paper" and they said they do not know. He threatened them, we were worried, but the judge said he will do nothing, unfortunately we trusted him".

In the third session, the detainees were stripped of their clothes in front of each other, looking for the paper. Akiri added: "They were punished and dealt with them as if they were animals and even worse, and they said that they received the ugliest words and treatment."

The families of the convicts said that they were surprised by the detainees' statements that they were subjected to the most horrific forms of torture, including suspension, pulling nails, drinking sewage water, and beating in kidneys side, and thighs in a severe way, which caused diseases for some of them, including: kidney failure and nerve rupture.

Akiri says about the fourth session: "We were not allowed to enter the courtroom, and verbally abused, and told us if you knew how to raise your children, they won't be here." She added: "We used to come to the courtroom, and we were not allowed to enter and we were sitting in the street for long hours. We asked the judge to allow us to attend the sessions, because it is our rights, but they refused, and it every day they had an excuse to prevent us from entering."

The trial lasted from April 2017 until July 2019, and the militias issued death sentence against the 30 abductees, including the Muhammad Akiri, this ruling came after the abductee was subjected to enforced disappearance and torture for four years and the date of the verdict was on July 9, 2019, and he is still in the Political Security prison until today. Without allowing him to appeal the ruling.

Regarding the media distortion campaign by the Houthis, Akiri says: "When the film (The Other Side) was published by the Houthis, it affected me and our children negatively, as the children refrained from mixing with the children of the neighborhood because they were hurting them and even in schools, our children suffered from bullying by some of their colleagues, that their father is imprisoned, but they realize that their father is innocent."

Fahd Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad Al-Salami

43, headmaster of Al-Nahda Modern School. Detained in the Political Security prison.

Al-Salami was abducted, on October 6, 2015, near his house in Rabat Street, in Sanaa, and forcibly disappeared for five months, during which he was tortured and brought before the prosecution four years after his abduction, and he was subjected to an unfair trial in the Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a. The first session was on January 12, 2020, and the second session on April 18, 2020, his family did not know, as they told SAM, they were not notified of the date. We learned from the lawyer who was surprised in the courtroom that Fahd Al-Salami and his colleagues were present in the court.

Mujahid Ali Muhammad Salih Mahfil,

46, who is detained in the Political Security, was abducted on November 23, 2015, from his workplace. Mujahid used to work as a teacher at Martyr Mukhtar School, in Qaa Al-Qaidi, in Sana'a

Armed men raided the school at 8:30 a.m. on November 23, 2015, he was forcibly disappeared for five months, and he is still subjected to intermittent periods of enforced disappearance and a visit ban.

After three years of abduction, enforced disappearance, psychological and physical torture, and deteriorating health, the Houthis militia started the trial of Mujahid Mahfil, and the first session was on October 29, 2018, where his family were not notified about, nor did the defense lawyers, after which, according to one of his relatives; "We were attending some sessions and we were surprised either by the presence of the judge without the detainees, or the presence of the detainees without the presence of the judge, or the detainees being brought with al-Qaeda suspects, who are being tried while the abductees are watching and then time ended and they returned to prison."

According to the testimony of his close associates, in one of the sessions that they were able to attend: "We were surprised by the question asked by the judge, one naive question: "Are you with the aggression or not?" Lawyers are prevented from pleading for their clients, and they were attending the abductees, shackled each with the other, the last session was in April 2020.

Mahfal's wife said: "When I attended the first session, my feelings were mixed with sadness. When I see my husband inside the cage and he is innocent, and I know that there is no charge against him, I was crying. I never imagined my husband was inside the cage. She added: "while he is being tried. I was seeing my husband smiling and my heart breaking in pain, why is the innocent being tried and he did nothing, and the traitors and criminals are outside the cage, and my son looking at his father and crying, he could not stand the situation, his father looked at him and tried to hide his feelings for fear of his son."

Ahmed Abdullah Ahmed Al-Qata'a

Abducted by the Houthis militia from 27 September 2015, he was disappeared for four months and ten days, then they transferred him to the prosecution after a detention period that lasted for four years, and then the case was transferred to the court and charged with false charges. In the first session he accused of being the head of the cell, and others in the same group are the members, even though he did not leave Sana'a during the Houthis control over the city.

A relative of Al-Qata'a confirmed that the court held the sessions without informing us, and we did not know the news except from the lawyers, as it happened on 18 April 2020, where the session was held and it was the last until now, and the lawyers were not even notified, so Al-Qata'a and the others in the group kept silent because their lawyer did not attend, and the session was postponed until after Ramadan without giving a specific date.

One of Al-Qata'a's sons said: "What the abductees are experiencing, including my father Ahmed, in terms of injustice, lies, falsehood, violation and false accusations that are untrue, is reflected in their psyche, and we notice this at times of visits, and when my father kept silent during the trial, they respond to him during the visits with insult and prevention of all what is allowed for others and accusing him of being the planner and the manager of the rest of the group, as happened in the last visit, when we were not allowed to greet my father because of his commitment to silence during the trial, and we do not know what he is subjected to in terms of torture inside prison and all these bad treatment give us a lot of anxiety, questions and fear of the unknown. But the Lord of Heaven exists, he is the righteous judge, and he is the wisest of the rulers."

THE TRIAL OF TRUMP AND MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN



On Monday, August 24, 2020, the Specialized Penal Court of First Instance in the city of Hodiedah issued its ruling against 62 defendants, the first of whom is Donald John Trump and the last of whom is Moaz Abdulrahman Abdullah Abbas on charges of participation and conspiracy, and targeted the motorcade of the President of the Supreme Political Council, Mr. Saleh Ali Muhammad Al-Samad, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, by blowing up his motorcade, with three Mark 82 bombs that were bombed using the aircraft of defendants; from number one to the forty-seventh defendant, in the July 7th neighborhood next to Al-Aqrai's roundabout, in the city of Hodiedah, killing President Saleh Al-Sammad and others and setting a fire in one of the motorcade cars, destroying the other, charring their bodies and inflicting extremely serious burns, which led to their death and material damage to buildings and neighboring facilities, and the crime was based on that

conspiracy, when our country was subjected to fierce aggression by the countries of the Saudi aggression coalition, as detailed in the reports. The organization documented that the ten detainees, from 53 to 62, were subjected to enforced disappearance after their arrest in the months of September and October 2018 and until April 17, 2019, during which they were severely tortured, according to what was written by the defendant's lawyer, Abdul Majeed Sabra, on his Facebook page on 27 August 2020. Their relatives know nothing about them, only when the media circulated their names and pictures after the first session of the case was held on 17 April 2019, being accused, and the signs of torture were still visible on the bodies of some of them during the trial period, and they were examined by the forensic doctor and he issued a report on that. All of them spoke about the torture and enforced disappearance they were subjected to, and we quote some of them about the forced disappearance and torture

they were subjected to. As stated, in the investigation report p.87, dated 7 April, 2019, by one of them during his response to the Prosecution's question if he has other statements.

One of the detainees was quoted as saying that his statements were not true. He confessed in order to get rid of death and the torment he was subjected to, including deprivation of sleep for eight days. The interrogators used to take turns on his investigation, as well as suspension by hands, lifting one of his legs and beating the feet with a cable, even if they asked him if he killed the Messenger of God he would have confessed. He had received forms of torture, including a spraying with cold water, tied him to a ladder, and then set the ladder upright for long hours from dawn to noon, and that he was subjected to torture that he never knew."

He also referred to the lack of standards of a fair trial stipulated in the international convention, as he said, "The court proceeded in its first sessions without the presence of a lawyer with all of them. After that, the defense team consisting of lawyers Abdulaziz Al-Samawi, Nashwan Al-Rimi and Abdul Majeed Musleh Sabra attended, but the situation did not change much during the trial procedures. The defendants are still languishing in prisons unknown to their relatives and lawyers, and the trial sessions were not public. What added to the concern of the lawyers is that the court changed the indictment in its session held on 9 September 2019 on the pretext of amending the record and description, but many charges were not mentioned in the indictment against our clients. The charge against them was the criminal conspiracy with the rest of the defendants, so the court changed the charges to the criminal

accomplice and assassination of the President of the Supreme Political Council, Saleh al-Sammad, as if they were the ones who carried out the airstrikes.

This proves the prior prejudice of the court towards these defendants, therefore, the defense committee, in view of all this, presented a justified memorandum in the court session held on 10 September 2019, to withdraw from this case for not guaranteeing the right to a fair trial for their clients, and then there was contact with the defense team by the prosecution and the court to retract the withdrawal warrant which made the defense team backtracking on the decision to withdraw, but on the condition that they ensure a fair trial for their clients, and we attended the next session. A memorandum of the defense committee's conditions was presented to attend the trial sessions and among those conditions was the transfer of their clients to the central prison as a penal facility instead of staying and being held in solitary confinement in an unknown location, and the defense team being treated equally with the prosecution, regarding the time allocated to present their argument and conduct the trial sessions publicly and in a reassuring manner, according to Article (318) a-c, and that the court retract its decision to amend the indictment, as it constitutes a new accusation and is not an amendment to the legal description. Also, to allow the defense to videotape the sessions, on equal foot with the prosecution. However, these conditions were rejected, forcing the defense to submit a recusal, which was also rejected, and the court continued the hearing sessions without the defense committee until the aforementioned ruling is issued.

EVEN THE DEAD WERE NOT SPARED FROM DEATH SENTENCES

The Houthis militia-controlled penal courts in Sana'a, issued death sentences for military and civilian figures who died, whether by assassination or during the fighting of the Houthis militia, within this context, and SAM organization has monitored and documented the death sentence issued against Brigadier Adnan Al-Hammadi, commander of the 35th Armored Brigade, in Taiz Governorate, on March 2020. He was killed on December 2, 2019, by his brother. Also, Rabish bin Wahban, who was sentenced to death by the court after his death on September 8, 2020, who was killed on September 2, 2020 in confrontations with Houthis fighters on the outskirts of Marib Governorate

MILITARY MEN EXECUTION

On September 8, 2020, the Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a issued a death sentence against 110 of the 113 opponents of the Houthi militia, among them prominent personalities, including the legitimate president of the Republic, Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi, and the chief of staff of the army of the legitimate government, Saghir bin Aziz, and Muhammad al-Yadoumi, the head of the Islah party, and his deputy Abdel-Wahab Al-Ansi "for the second time" and the cleric Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani belonging to the Yemeni Gathering of Reform "Islah", the head of the religious Al-Eman University, the cleric Abdullah Sa`tar, leader in the Islah party, and Tariq Afash, commander of the Western Coast forces, the nephew of the late President Ali Abdullah Saleh who was killed by the Houthis militia in December 2018, in addition to two MPs loyal to the legitimate government, Ibrahim Al-Fashiq, Abdul Karim Al-Aslami and

Muhammad Abdulaziz Al-Shaleef, all of them on charges of facilitating the entry of the enemy into the territory of the Republic of Yemen and impersonation and other charges. The court also sentenced them to the precautionary seizure of all movable and immovable funds and property of the defendants in any possession whatsoever and under any name inside or outside the country.

SAM organization noted that all trials in which military leaders are involved, end with the death penalty, the confiscation of property, and the confiscation of money is often carried out in an expedited manner, even if the verdict is not final, and is subject to appeal before the appeal court, which explains the purpose of most of these rulings that are carried out in an expedited manner, and without commitment to the minimum fair trial standards stipulated in international laws.

CROSS-BORDER EXECUTION ... PRESIDENT TRUMP AND KING SALMAN

On Wednesday, September 30, 2020, a court in Sa'da Governorate, northwestern Yemen, the main stronghold of the Houthis militia, sentenced to death the Yemeni Presidents Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, American president Donald Trump and Saudi King Salman, to death, in addition to the Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Yemeni Vice President Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, Turki bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, James Norman Mattis, Giselle Norton Ansquartz, Ahmed Obaid bin Dagher, former Yemeni prime minister, Muhammad Ali Ahmed Al-Maqqishi, Minister of Defense in the legitimate government, in the case of the killing and wounding of 100 people in an Arab Coalition airstrike in August 2018.

CONCLUSION

SAM Organization concluded, after investigating the violation of the principles of fair trial in Yemen, that the right to secure a fair trial according to the principles stipulated in the principles of fair trial, for the defendants, tried by courts under Houthis control in Sana'a, were not respected. The major violation monitored, is that the trial was based on confessions obtained under duress, during the interrogation by the Public Prosecution of the Houthis militia, the organization confirmed that many of the defendants denied the charges against them, claiming that their testimony was extracted under torture. Reliable statements also indicate that many of them have been subjected to ill-treatment and torture in various detention centers, including the Political Security Organization, police stations, and the CID office in Sana'a, where security forces interrogated them upon their arrest. The detainees mentioned during the various public hearings before the so-called specialized penal courts, that they had been subjected to continuous ill-treatment by the security services of the Houthis militia, including, Dr. Saad Al-Bawab, for example, and the organization also noted that the trial of some defendants commenced without being able to see their lawyer before their first appearance before the prosecution. Lawyers and defendants were not allowed to hold private meetings. Some defendants were questioned by prosecutors in the absence of lawyers. Even during the hearings, defense attorneys were not permitted to speak to their clients. They were not informed sufficiently about the schedule of hearings, nor were they given time to prepare their defense or to intervene in court hearings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

First, the Houthi group

- Immediately refrain from arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance, and the use of torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment.
- Ensure that detainees have easy and swift access to available health care, allow visitation to families, and provide healthy food.
- Ensuring the right of defense for the detainees by defending themselves or through legal counsel.
- Ensure full access and cooperation with the lawyers and human rights defenders and human rights organizations, who work with detainees, the disappeared and victims of torture.
- Ensure the independence and impartiality of judicial authority.
- Ensuring the independence of the judiciary and the formation of independent and impartial courts, that guarantees the standards of fair trials to all defendants
- Investigate the alleged torture against arbitrarily detained persons in accordance with Article 13, of the Convention Against Torture, which states that all allegations of torture are carried out promptly and impartially.
- Stop illegal trials in the Specialized Penal courts against political opponents, journalists, members of religious minorities, and the annulment of sentences previously issued after unfair trials.

To the judiciary: -

- Commitment to the principle of "Presumption of innocence", and the accused is innocent until proven guilty by a final judgment, and this "Presumption of innocence" shall exist and continues from the moment of arrest of the suspect until his conviction is proven and confirmed by a final judgment, after all stages of appeal have been exhausted.
- Not to invoke statements, statements and confessions extracted under torture, and not relying on them as evidence of prove and conviction against the accused.
- Guaranteeing the right of arbitrary detainees to equality before the law, and not trying them before exceptional courts in contravention of the principles of penal trials that must be followed for the public.
- Guaranteeing the right to a public trial, ensuring that the press, the media and the public opinion provide real surveillance over trial proceedings and

proceedings and not violate the rights of the defendants in fair trials.

- Ensure that all evidence is discussed by the arbitrary detainee himself or through his lawyer, while ensuring that witnesses and evidence denying the accusation are presented, with the same conditions applied in the case of witnesses and evidences of prosecution
- Stop using the media to distort and defame the arbitrary detainees, and press the judiciary through the media

International community

- Pressing all parties to implement Stockholm agreement provisions related to the exchange of prisoners and detainees, to release all detainees
- Pressing the Houthis militia to stop arbitrary detention, and all forms of torture and ill-treatment
- Pressuring the Houthi militia to stop unfair trials against civil activists, politicians, and journalists, minorities and the abolition of sentences issued





CAPITAL PUNISHMENT **“AS DISCRETIONARY PENALTY”**

EXECUTION OF THE LAW .. EXECUTION OF OPPONENTS

**A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT MONITORS AND DOCUMENTS THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF FAIR
TRIAL AND DEATH SENTENCES ISSUED AGAINST OPPONENTS BY THE HOUTHIS MILITIA**

