



**SAM**  
Rights & Liberties

# YEAR OF STAGNATION

Annual Briefing of Human Rights Situation in Yemen, 2022

continuation  
Suffering  
Humanity

Failure of the truce

Back off  
Combat intensity

Political permissibility

January 2023



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Rights & Liberties

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Annual Briefing of Human Rights  
Situation in Yemen, 2022

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## How We Are

An independent, non-profit human rights organization located in Geneva, started its activities in January 2016

It obtained a work permit in December 2017. It seeks to defend human rights in the Middle East and Yemen in particular, and to communicate human rights violations to decision-making institutions, and effective and influential international organizations. It has been subjected to many campaigns of distortion and incitement, as well as hacking of its platforms by the parties to the Yemeni war due to Expose them for the crimes they committed. It issued dozens of reports in Arabic and English and human rights statements documenting violations of the war and human rights in Yemen







وثقت ما يزيد عن

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واقعة انتهاك لحقوق الإنسان  
في اليمن

## BACKGROUND

The war entered its eighth year in 2022 while the in light of the parties to the conflict continuing to commit gross violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The year 2022 witnessed many grave violations, as well as political, humanitarian and international events related to the war in Yemen. The principle of impunity is the salient feature of the ongoing conflict in Yemen, as each party seeks impunity, especially after the talk of undeclared political negotiations. The year 2022 was an extension of the previous years and a harsh year in terms of human rights for Yemenis. Since the outbreak of the conflict

in Yemen on September 21, 2014 a taking control of the capital, Sana'a by the Houthi group, the grave violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law have not stopped. In addition, the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis, and many political and climatic incidents have contributed to making this year the year of stagnation without change on the military, human rights or humanitarian map. We documented in SAM documented more than 4,000 incidents of human rights violations in Yemen. These incidents included violations of the right to life, assaults on the right to physical integrity, arbitrary arrests and torture,



and restrictions on political and press freedoms and personal and civil liberties from January 1 until late December 2022.

These violations constituted an addition to the volume of violations documented in recent years, and their geographical scope included the Republic of Yemen. The organization added this was a disastrous result of the parties to the war ignoring international humanitarian law, human rights law, and the principles and customs applied during the war. The principle of impunity also contributed to the exacerbation of these violations, along with the silence of the international community on the adoption of an international mechanism to investigate these violations which threaten the lives of civilians. Consequently, all of this tempted the parties to the war in Yemen to continue to perpetrate more violations.

All parties to the conflict have been involved in these grave violations, which amount to war crimes, and the most prominent of these parties are the following:

First: The Iran-backed Houthi group, the “de facto authority”, which has been in control of the capital, Sana’a, since 2014, and the legitimate government that declared the city of Aden its interim capital. Second: The Arab Coalition led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Third: the armed groups loyal to the Arab Coalition, the “Southern Transitional Council,” the West Coast Forces, or the so-called “National Resistance.” The violations committed by these parties caused a loss of safety among citizens and a significant deterioration in public services, in addition to poor living conditions and deprivation of individuals of their fundamental rights.

The numbers of these violations monitored by the organization have reached “4015” violations during the year 2022 distributed as follows: (767) violations of the right to life, (1744) injuries, and (586) violations against civil objects. SAM also monitored (130) violations of digital rights during the period (May-December 2022).

The organization also carried out more than 210 human rights activities during the year 2022. These included the issuance of 14 human rights reports covering many pivotal issues during the year, the issuance of 110 statements that accompanied many of the events and violations in 2022, the issuance of one human rights study, holding 7 seminars that hosted many experts and specialists in the field of human rights, in addition to holding 8 coordination and introductory meetings with human rights organizations and activists.

“2022” was full of hope and pain, as the parties continued to violate international humanitarian law without any deterrence or scruples, in light of the continued absence of criminal accountability, which they were reassured of its continued absence,” said Tawfiq Al-Hamidi, head of SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties. He added, “the year also witnessed popular optimism after the declaration of a truce and a decrease in the level of the military operation, in the hope of reaching a comprehensive solution to the ceasefire.”

# PUBLIC EVENTS

*On April 7, 2021, the Saudi capital, Riyadh, witnessed a dramatic event under the auspices of Saudi Arabia itself, which was the removal of President “Abd Rabbo Mansour” from the presidency of the state, and the formation of a new presidential council led by Dr. “Rashad Al-Alimi” and seven others representing the armed forces on the ground. This change caused a wide debate among Yemenis about the legitimacy of such a change and its compatibility with the Yemeni constitution, as some believe this change, on which many hopes were pinned, contributed to the weakening of the legitimacy camp. Intra-divisions emerged among the members of the Leadership Council, as Rashad Al-Alimi expressed this disagreement in more than one meeting. It is believed that the absence of an independent Yemeni will and a sovereign decision has weakened the council’s role. Any political formula under an external party that expresses its continuous loyalty to it without moving to an equal relationship will remain one of the most important reasons preventing the emergence of a strong and effective political bearer, with the ability to move the political and military cards on the ground. Yemenis may be surprised by the announcement of a new political formula in which the Council is the weaker party.*

In August 2022, the city of Shabwa was the scene of an escalation of armed confrontations between the legitimate government parties, the “Special Forces” on the one hand, and the parties loyal to the United Arab Emirates, the “Giants Forces” on the other hand. These armed confrontations and the forces terrorized

the population, targeted civilian facilities, and stormed residents’ homes. They also caused the bombing of the government army by drones in both Shabwa and Al-Abr, in addition to arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings. The confrontation continued between the Giants Forces and other forces affiliated with the Transitional Council in Abyan.

Armed confrontations and military escalation continued in each of the governorates of Taiz and Marib between the main parties to the conflict (the legitimate government and the Houthi group), including during the truce period, albeit at a lower rate compared to 2021.

On October 22, 2022, the National Defense Council of the internationally recognized government issued Decision No. (1) of 2022 designating the Houthi group as a terrorist group in accordance with the Crimes and Penalties Law, Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, and international and regional agreements and treaties ratified by the Republic of Yemen and directed the relevant authorities to complete the necessary procedures in order to implement the decision. It also warned the entities and individuals providing support and assistance or facilities or any form of cooperation and dealing with this terrorist group, that strict measures and penalties would be taken against them. Saba news agency.

The discourse of the so-called al-Aqiyal movement also escalated, as a reaction to the failure of the political and governmental components to confront the Houthi group, and the number of its supporters grew on social media. The movement’s discourse

ranges from hard-line to the point of extremism, to rational discourse and sometimes impulsiveness. The movement has no clear political carrier or literature, except for individuals who see themselves as the theoreticians of it. The movement began announcing rituals corresponding to the Houthi rituals, such as the Yemeni Ibex Day, the beginning of the Yemeni year, and Al-Musnad Day. Regarding this matter, the writer and researcher in social and political affairs, Mustafa al-Jabzi, says in his commentary, "The Al-Aqiyal movement is a movement that mobilizes the concept of Yemeni identity on historical foundations rooted in pre-Islam. It relies more on historical narration, which is a mixture of historical facts and legends. Thus, it is a revival movement of national identity that is based on land or geography and goes beyond the idea of fission based on sanctity and bloodline clinging to a specific Islamic political narrative. In any case, it is a reaction, more active because of the character of the identity of the Houthi group and its monopoly on the concept of identity, and presenting its image in the form of the arrogance of identity. The movement keeps growing." However, it has so far been unable to become an institutional entity. There is no single father, there are many fathers. It ranges in spectrum from extremist to soft. In 2020, great reactions began, even at the level of the Houthi leadership, and Al-Mashat accused Al-Aqiyal of being collaborators and of being a Zionist conspiracy.

This entity, being incapable of becoming institutional, is highly vulnerable to hijacking and tensions locally. Yet it is a transnational entity that transcends the north and the south, transcends partisan

movements, and transcends even the movements of political Islam. Its presence is strengthening due to the absence of an ideological lever to confront the Houthi ideology because the current political forces that oppose the Houthi are divided and unable to present a national narrative.

Despite the fact that this movement fills this void, it fills it with a lot of impatience, exaggeration, and excitement. Furthermore, this movement ethnizes the conflict in Yemen. It makes the conflict more like an ethnic issue between a group that came centuries ago and seized the factors of power and strength in society, and now it wants to blow up the idea of the Hashemite political arrogance presented by this group from abroad."

In December, a delegation from the European Union visited the city of Taiz, the first visit of its kind since the outbreak of war in Yemen in September 2014. Before that, in March of the same year, European Union advisors from Germany, France, the Netherlands, Ireland and Sweden visited Sana'a, on a five-day visit from 4-9 of March. They looked at the projects funded by them in the capital, and this was the first visit of its kind since the beginning of the conflict.

The parties to the conflict in Yemen have committed various types of violations, including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, planting mines, indiscriminate shelling, siege, prevention of movement, recruitment of children, mobilization through hate speech, incitement against journalists and activists, looting of private property, and increased death sentences against opponents.





## **VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND ASSAULT ON PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**

The parties to the conflict in Yemen continued to violate the right to life, by various means, such as indiscriminate attacks, rocket and drone strikes, in addition to torture to death, direct killing, and anti-personnel mines. In 2022, SAM monitored the killing of 767 victims, including 229 civilians by indiscriminate shelling, 60 by sniping, 187 by anti-personnel landmines, 205 by gunfire, and 14 died as a result of torture, medical negligence and liquidation inside prisons.

The means of killing used by the parties varied between direct killing with live bullets, indiscriminate shells, ballistic missiles, or drones, in addition to torture leading to death, or through indirect methods such as deprivation of food or medicine.

According to a report issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the war has already caused an estimated 233,000 deaths,

including 131,000 from indirect causes such as lack of food, health services, and infrastructure.

The war left a lot of physical damage to civilians, which greatly affected their daily lives, and psychological status, especially civilians with serious injuries that left a great impact on their lives, such as individual victims of mines, shelling, direct sniping, or torture. In 2022, SAM monitored the injury of 1,744 civilians, including 121 children, of whom (955) were injured as a result of indiscriminate shelling with ballistic missiles, drones, and mortar shells. Other (400) individuals were injured as a result of gunshots and clashes between parties, or raids and deployed points, while the organization monitored (257) injuries due to anti-personnel mines and (76) injuries due to sniping.

- At exactly 2:30 am, corresponding to January 22, 2022, the pretrial prison in Saada Governorate was targeted by rockets fired by the Saudi- led coalition warplanes, which killed and wounded more than 100 according to the Red Cross. The Houthi Ministry of Health confirmed it had monitored 77 deaths and 223 wounded while Doctors Without Borders confirmed that the targeting killed 70 and injured 138. The organization indicated that the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemned that incident, while the coalition spokesman, Brigadier General “Turki Al-Maliki”, denied that his forces had bombed the prison, despite his acknowledgment of the bombing. Al-Maliki said, “What had been claimed by the Iran-backed terrorist Houthi militia reflects its usual misleading approach. The alleged target (the prison) was not included in the (NSL) list according to the mechanism approved with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Yemen (OCHA) and was not reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Al-Maliki continued that the prison in question “does not meet the standards stipulated in the provisions of international humanitarian law and its customary rules related to detention centers as stipulated in Article (23) of the Third Geneva Convention for Prisoners of War and its preventive measures and signs of distinction.”
- On October 19, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., an explosive device exploded in a military vehicle belonging to the Fifth Presidential Brigade in the al-Qubbah area in the city center, causing the death of two passers-by, ““Bayan Fakhr al-Din Abdul Jalil,” 4 years old, with shrapnel in the head, and “Ibrahim Murshid Saeed” as well as the injury of two others and they are “Shukria Shukri Ahmed Hassan,” 35 years old, with shrapnel in the right arm and shoulder and “Khaled Waleed Muhammed Naji”, 20 years old, and he was wounded with shrapnel in the back and left arm. Their health condition was described as critical.

# INDISCRIMINATE “DRONES” ATTACKS

2022 witnessed the continuation of indiscriminate attacks with artillery shells and indiscriminate missiles by the Houthi group and the Giants Forces on densely populated areas, in the governorates of Taiz, Marib and Shabwa, which resulted in the death and injury of many civilians and damage to many civilian facilities, according to what was documented by SAM. The indiscriminate attacks by drones continued by the Houthi group on population centers, economic facilities and civilian objects, while Taiz was subjected to more than 30 attacks by indiscriminate shelling carried out by the Houthi militia positioned in the hills near the city, especially in the northern and eastern sides.

The Houthi group continued to use drones in its conflict with the legitimate government, as the group used drones on a large scale, including the governorates of Marib, Aden, Hadramout, Taiz and Shabwa governorates. For the first time in the history of the conflict, which extends from September 2014, the Houthi group targets the oil export ports in both Shabwa and Al-Dhaba in Hadramout and succeeds in stopping oil exports under the pretext of preventing the theft of the people's money. According to experts, Houthi's move to target oil ports to achieve internal political gains and to exploit the international energy crisis is to draw the world to its pivotal role in Yemen although these practices exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. It is believed that the Houthi group will use drones in the next stage on a large scale to paralyze the government and show it as helpless in the eyes of the Yemeni people.

On October 7, 2022, Houthi drones bombed a car carrying citizens in Wadi Hamar, the village of Hadana, injuring eight people, including serious cases. The injured are Abdul Rahman Muhammad Yusuf” (36) years old, “Muhammad Yusuf Ahmed Baqi” (70) years old, “Salem Hamid Ahmed Baqi” (70) years old, “Diwan Qayed Muhammad Ali” (45) years old, “Moti’ Fawaz Qaid Muhammad Ali” (13) years old, “Fawaz Qaid Qaid Muhammad Ali” (32) years old, “Salem Hamid Salem Al-Mujashi” (28) years old, “Khudri Qaid Qaid Muhammad Ali” (22) years old.



## ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Anti-personnel landmines planted by the Houthis, in flagrant violation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, continued to claim more civilian casualties, especially in Hodeidah, Taiz and Al-Jawf governorates. In 2022, SAM documented 444 violations, including 187 killings and 257 injuries, distributed on the gender level: 96 cases against children, including 36 death cases, and 21 cases against women, including 7 death cases.

The Houthi group has expanded the use of anti-personnel mines on a large scale, without accurate maps of the mine planting sites. The field reports investigated by SAM confirm the Houthi group used anti-personnel mines imported from abroad, which reach them through multiple smuggling routes, as well as locally manufactured mines.

On December 16, a Houthi-planted anti-personnel mine exploded in the area of Al-Maqani village, east of Hays, Al-Hodeidah Governorate, during the exit of civilians from Friday prayers, which led to the death of four citizens: (Khalil Wahib 11 years old, Saber Mashhour 17 years old, Mustafa Mashhour 17 years old, and Abdullah Al-Ahdal, 35 years old).

According to the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, landmines and unexploded ordnance have caused nearly 9,000 civilian casualties since the beginning of the conflict and 284 in 2020, including 55 children. Houthi forces have used antipersonnel landmines in violation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, to which Yemen is a party.





# ARBITRARY DETENTION, TORTURE, AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

The phenomena of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture continues by all parties to the conflict in Yemen, and there are many testimonies documented by SAM during the last period that confirm the spread of these phenomena in a disturbing manner. The organization issued a report entitled “Long Absence”, which documented the state of enforced disappearance on all sides, and contained names, evidence and shocking testimonies about the phenomenon of enforced disappearance and torture. It was proven through those testimonies collected by SAM that all those arrested - on grounds related to the ongoing conflict in Yemen - were subjected to torture in varying ways, as certain confessions were extracted or illegal evidence was obtained. Torture is often accompanied by enforced disappearance for long periods of more than two years in illegal prisons that are not supervised by the judicial authorities.

In 2022, SAM documented (539) cases of arbitrary arrest, disappearance, and torture, including (11) women, and 40 cases of torture, most of which were in the prisons of the Houthi group. The Abductees’ Mothers Association- a Yemeni organization specialized in monitoring and documenting cases of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and torture- said that 256 civilians were subjected to arbitrary arrest, including 52 cases of enforced disappearance, and 33 victims were subjected to torture.

The Houthi authorities are still holding four journalists who have been sentenced to death, in addition to the enforced disappearance of individuals arrested from the Battle of Al Jabara, who were fighting in the southern border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the south, there are still dozens in Al-Munawara prison in the city of Mukalla, who were acquitted years ago, and they finished their sentences for long periods of time. However, the prison administration refuses to release them and their excuse is that the Emirati authorities supervising the prison refused to do so. That’s what many families the organizations contacted said.

The Houthi group is still arbitrarily detaining a number of members of the Baha’i sect in arbitrary persecution of the members of this sect for reasons related to the difference of belief. Also, the detainee “Libi”, who is Jewish, is still detained by the Houthi group.

SAM organization monitored the arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of dozens of residents of Aden and Shabwa, the latest of whom was the journalist “Ahmed Maher”. The forces affiliated with the Transitional Council also carried out arbitrary arrests. A report issued by SAM in 2021 said that Houthi forces, forces supported by the Yemeni government, and forces backed by the UAE have tortured detainees to death in secret prisons they have controlled since the start of the conflict.

On August 27, 2022, the body of the detainee, “Mudhad Saleh Saad Rajeh”, was found in the “Al-Sha’ab Police” prison in the Al-Buraiqa district, two hours after his arrest. When his family went to receive his body, the Al-Sha’ab City police refused to hand over the body except after forcing the family to sign a document in which the family pledged that it would not take any measures.

- On the morning of 5/1/2022, ten fishermen from the Al-Rabsa neighbourhood, Al-Hawk district, Al-Hodeidah governorate, went out in their boat to fish in the waters of the Red Sea, and they are: (Hussein Abdullah Kanoon, Mukhtar Hussein Awad, Al-Sayaghi Ali Maqbool, Issa Salem Afash, Fouad Saleh Majmal, Abdullah Ismail Masra’i, Ali Hassan Yahya , Abbas Ahmed Othman and Anwar Hussein Kanon). Their boat broke down at five in the evening upon their arrival to the island of Al-Sawabe’, located west of Al-Luhyah district. Suddenly, Forces affiliated with the Naval Forces of the Fifth Military Region Command (Midi) arrested them from the middle of the sea and transferred them to an unknown destination. Their fate is still unknown

until this moment. The testimonies received by SAM stated that these forces are affiliated with Major General Yahya Salah (commander of the Fifth Military Region) and Colonel Commander of the Navy Forces in the Fifth Military Region. While another witness confirmed that “one of the boats broke down at five pm with 10 fishermen on board from the Al-Rabsa neighbourhood, Al-Hawk district, on the island of Al-Saba’a, Al-Luhyah district, when they were fishing. Then the naval forces of the Fifth Military Region kidnapped them and transported them to an unknown destination.”

- At dawn on Saturday, July 5, 2022, a large number of security forces affiliated with “Saleh Al-Sayyid” surrounded the area where the lawyer “Abdullah Al-Yamani” lives. After that, they stormed his house and arrested his father, “Abdul Latif Al-Yamani,” and his wife when they did not find him at home. According to the testimonies obtained by “SAM”, the main dispute is due to the attempt of Major General “Saleh Al-Sayyid” to control part of the valuable lands owned by the “al-Yamani” family in Lahj. The General tried more than once to extend his control over some lands, but he faced resistance from the Al-Yamani family. In the last of these attempts, the lawyer “Abdullah Al-Yamani” confronted him through the law and his connections.

- The arbitrarily detainee “Adel Heilan”, 24 years old, who was detained in the prison of the security authorities in the city of Marib of the internationally recognized government, died in January 2022. According to a report received by the organization, forces affiliated with the legitimate government in Marib raided



the barber shop of (Ibrahim) on Friday, December 26, 2021, at exactly 1:30 a.m., under the pretext of searching for weapons. After searching the shop, they did not find anything, as (Ibrahim) told them that he was ready for investigation in case it was proven that he was involved in possession of any weapons. The report added that the military force took him towards one of their cars, and a piece of cloth was placed over his eyes. After that, he was taken to an unknown destination. They also refused to allow his family to visit him. The family filed a complaint to the Public Prosecution Office protesting his illegal arrest, but the Public Prosecution Office did not respond to the family's complaint. The situation remained the same until his family was surprised by the news of his death in a detention facility inside the 4th Region, which is under the control of the legitimate government. The body was sent to the Commission's hospital in Marib for an autopsy by the forensic doctor, and the family is now waiting for the results of the medical report."

In January 2022, SAM learned of the death of citizen "Ahmed Muhammad Abu Bakr" in a Political Security prison. The reports received by SAM showed that the Yemeni citizen "Ahmed Muhammad Abu Bakr", 36 years old, who had been working as a farmer in Marib since 2004, was informed by a representative of the Political Security Directorate to go to the Political Security Branch on February 20, 2021, to sponsor a prisoner named (Ahmed Al-Hitar), but when he arrived at the branch, he was detained. Despite the formation of a committee from the agency

to discuss the affairs of the detainees and the release of five detainees after two and a half months, (Ahmed Abu Bakr) was not among those released. One of the eyewitnesses added, "We continued to search and ask about Ahmed's fate, until we informed the governor that Ahmed was not among the people who were released or referred to the prosecution. In the end, we were informed that (Ahmed) had died inside the prison without further details." After the pressure of the people, it became clear that (Ahmed) had been buried four months ago under the pretext of his death from Corona disease, which raises many questions about the cause of his death and the legality of his arrest."

Another incident documented by SAM inside the Houthi prisons, as the family of the detainee "Abdul-Wahhab Al-Shagea" received the news of his death in the prisons of the Houthi group in the capital Sana'a. According to the testimony of his relatives, "Abdul-Wahhab" was arrested on October 30, 2021, at the Juba front, along with his colleagues, and we did not know anything about him until they showed him weeks later on Al-Masirah TV, while he was in a coma, and they were tying up his injuries. He added, "Abdul-Wahhab never communicated with us throughout his arrest, and what we learned was only through one of his fellow prisoners who told us he saw him lying on the ground and did not know anything after that. We were told he died by one of the mediators communicating with my uncle yesterday who told him that Abdul-Wahhab was a martyr. He sent him his picture and did not give him any further details.

# WOMEN RIGHTS

Yemeni model “Intisar Al-Hammadi” is still arbitrarily and degradingly detained and is subject to an unfair trial on charges of indecent acts. A Houthi-controlled court in Sana’a sentenced the model to five years in prison in September, and her case is still before the Court of Appeal, which will start its first session in January 2023. Many activists believe that “Intisar” pays a price for not following the Houthi group’s approach to Yemeni women.



In 2022, SAM organization documented many violations against women by the parties to the conflict in Yemen. On October 22, 2022, the citizen, Marwa Abdo Ali Amer Abdul-Wahhab, 30, from the village of Bani Khaila, was injured by shrapnel in her chest and face, as a result of a bullet fired by a Houthi sniper who targeted the victim while she was inside her house.

Also, hundreds of women are still arbitrarily detained in the prisons of the Houthi group. According to the testimonies of survivors, documented by “SAM”, women are subjected to systematic torture by the so-called Zainabiyat and members of the intelligence service of the Houthi group. Additionally, some women are detained with their children under inappropriate and inhumane conditions.

Lawyer” Abdul-Majid Sabrah” expressed in a post on his Facebook page his fear of the death of the detainee, “Asma’a Al-Omeisy” due to the absence of health care and the threats and ill-treatment she is subjected to in prison at the hands of the female prison official, “Um Al-Karrar Al-Marouni”, who threatened the inmates that they would only leave the prison as dead bodies, in addition to being verbally abused by the prison official al-Marouani.

Lawyer Sabra added that the health condition of “Asma’a Al-Omeisy” - who spent more than two-thirds of her prison term - is constantly deteriorating. Al-Omeisy suffers from a number of diseases, including diseases specific to women such as lupus erythematosus, as well as sebaceous cysts, which require an operation to remove them, while her blood rate has reached (6), which is low and dangerous to her life. He also indicated that he had mentioned his concerns to the Specialized Criminal Appeal Division in its session held on 12/07/2022. He added, “Al-Omeisy did not want to appeal the verdict again after she despaired of the judges, and hoped for her release, so that her health condition could be rectified with treatment.”

On August 14, 2022, a group of intelligence forces affiliated with the Houthi group arrested the activist “Fatima Saleh Muhammad Ali Al-Arouli,” 35, from one of Al-Hawban points in Taiz Governorate. She remained detained in the Al-Kumaim Hotel in Haddah in the capital, before being transferred to the Houthi intelligence prisons in the capital, Sana’a, without knowing the charges against her.

Women in Yemen suffer from many restrictions on freedom of movement, especially in areas controlled by the Houthi group. The group issued a circular to transport companies and armed points in this regard and stipulated that women wishing to travel should be accompanied by a Mahram (a male guardian), whether inside or outside Yemeni cities, and the same applies to their stay in hotels. Women also suffer from legal restrictions on their freedom related to issuing a travel document without the consent of a relative, which prompted activists in Taiz to form the “My Passport Without Guardianship” movement. The movement succeeded in issuing a decision by the Yemeni Prime Minister for the right of Yemeni women to obtain a travel document without obtaining the consent of their guardian.

Women still constitute the largest percentage of the internally displaced persons due to the war inside the shelter camps, as there are more than one million displaced women, according to statistics issued by the IDP Camp Management. Many of these women suffer from a severe shortage of basic and health needs and educational services.

The UN Panel of Experts reported the prevalence of gender-based and sexual violence by Houthi forces and UAE-backed forces. In September 2021, the United Nations Population Fund reported that one woman in Yemen dies every two hours during childbirth. It added that child marriage was on the rise as a coping mechanism by poor families with the continuation of the conflict.



## CHILDREN AND THE ARMED CONFLICT IN YEMEN

Children in Yemen are still the biggest victims of the conflict. According to reports issued by international or specialized institutions, more than half of the 20.7 million Yemenis in urgent need of humanitarian assistance or protection are children. In 2021, Save the Children reported that a quarter of all civilian casualties between 2018 and 2020 were children, and more than 1.5 million of the four million displaced in Yemen were children. Moreover, hundreds of thousands of children have become migrants or asylum seekers abroad.

During 2022, SAM organization monitored many grave violations against children, most notably: documenting (107) incidents of child recruitment carried out by the Houthi group during this year.

According to a previous report by SAM Organization and the Euro-Mediterranean Monitor - issued in February 2020, entitled "Militarized Childhood" - "the number of children recruited by the Houthi group is 10,333 children." The report showed that about 2039 recruitment incidents took place due to the intimidation of the Houthi group, 6745 for reasons related to enticement, especially financial aspects, 639 by using misleading means, while 832 children were kidnapped without their families knowing. The report also showed that 5,213 recruited children belong to extremely poor families, 2,839 to low-income families, and 1,843 to middle-income families.

On October 30, 2022, a shell fired by the Houthis fell on the Old Airport area, west of Taiz, injuring 3 children while returning from school, and they are (Muhammad Nasser Farea, 10 years old, whose foot was amputated, Bader Nasser Al-Majnahi, 8 years, whose foot was amputated, Hashim Nasser Al-Majnahi, 9 years old). The children suffer from serious shrapnel injuries in separate parts of the body, and all of them are in intensive care at Al-Rawda Hospital. It is worth mentioning that all the children are from displaced families.

Children of war suffer from a lack of rehabilitation after their return from the battlefield, whether voluntarily or through fighting on the battlefield. This resulted in many unprecedented incidents in which children killed their fathers due to intellectual differences, as the combat mobilization, or what the Houthi group calls "jihadism", contributed to endearing the culture of killing among children, and classifying those who oppose them intellectually as hypocrites and ISIS, and thus it is permissible to fight them and purify Yemen from them.

The children of the dead, detainees, and forcibly disappeared persons also suffer from harsh psychological and social conditions, some of which were revealed in a report issued by the "SAM" organization on the occasion of the month of Ramadan on April 19, 2022, entitled "A Letter to My Detained Father." The report published messages that showed the harshness of the war on Yemenis and the extent of psychological deprivation and insecurity in the hearts of children, in addition to forcing children - after the killing or arrest of their parents - to give up their dreams and engage in the labor market to provide the requirements of life and fill the void left by the father.

In October of 2022, approximately 19 children died in hospitals in the capital, Sana'a, due to being injected with smuggled and expired medicines, 10 of whom died in Kuwait Hospital. The Houthi group attributed the causes of this disaster to what it called "aggression",

in an immoral attempt to evade legal responsibility for this crime, which must be investigated by a neutral party.

While UNICEF warned - on July 5, 2021 - that an entire generation of children would lose the opportunity to realize their potential if the challenges facing the education system were not adequately addressed at the present time. In the medium to long term, more than 523,000 displaced children of school age suffer from difficulty in accessing education due to the lack of sufficient space in the current classrooms. Schools have been damaged, used by armed forces or settled by displaced families. Teachers and students have lost their lives and have been injured or traumatized.

On 12 February 2021, four United Nations agencies warned that nearly 2.3 million children under the age of five in Yemen were projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021. Of these, 400,000 were expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and could die if they did not receive urgent treatment. The statement added, "Today, Yemen is one of the most dangerous places in the world for children to grow up. The country has high rates of communicable diseases, limited access to routine immunization and health services for children and families, poor

infant and young child feeding practices, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene systems."

In the response of the "Masam" project to SAM organization's inquiry about the mines that were cleared during 2022, the response was that the project, "removed 78,753 mines and explosive devices during 2022, which were planted by the Houthi militia in a number of Yemeni governorates, distributed between 33,084 anti-tank mines, 1,697 anti-personnel mines, 42,576 unexploded ordnance, and 1,432 explosive devices. The total disinfected area was 13,711,165 (m<sup>2</sup>) in the same year." The project confirmed that Taiz governorate ranked first with 17,259 mines, from a total area of 1,390,730 square metres, followed by Marib governorate with a total of 17,106 mines, explosive devices and non-explosive shells that were cleared from a total area of 3,515,459 square metres. Shabwa governorate came third, the districts of Beihan, Asilan and Ain, with a number of 16,378, out of a total area of 6,899,705 square meters.



## VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISM

According to a report by the International Federation of Journalists (October 2020), Yemeni media professionals suffer daily from injuries and arbitrary arrests. They face threats, restrictions, suspension of salaries, and continuous attacks on the headquarters of their media organizations, and they practice self-monitoring for fear of reprisals. The warring factions have come to regard journalists as their enemies in light of the political and sectarian polarization that the Yemeni media is going through.

The Observatory for Media Freedoms issued a report on violations against freedom of expression in Yemen during 2022, which included 89 violations, including 17 against institutions and 72 against individuals. These violations included: two killings, one injury, 9 trials, 13 arbitrary detentions, 18 assaults and 13 threats. The legitimate government topped the list of violators with 46 violations, followed by the Houthi group

with 19 violations, 16 by influential people and 7 violations documented by unknown persons.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate also issued its report on violations against journalists in 2022. It said that it had monitored 104 cases of violations against media outlets, journalists, photographers and their belongings, from January 1 to December 31, 2021. Violations were distributed among 30 cases of detention at a rate of 28.8% of the total violations, 19 cases of prevention and confiscation of journalists and their belongings by 18.3%, 12 cases of threats and incitement by 11.5%, 12 cases of trial of journalists, by 11.5%, 11 cases of assault, by 10.6%, and 6 cases of depriving detained journalists of the right to medical care by 5.9%, in addition to 5 cases of torture, at a rate of 4.8%, 5 cases of suspension of media outlets and journalists' dues, at a rate of 4.8%, and 4 cases of murder, at a rate of 3.8%. Regarding the violators, the



report indicated that the Houthi group committed 46 cases of violations, or 44% of the total violations, while the legitimate government committed 26 cases, or 25%, and the Southern Transitional Council committed 18 cases, or 17%. The Saudi authorities committed two cases against journalists inside Saudi Arabia, at a rate of 2%, and a media services office committed one case, at a rate of 1%.

The journalists “Al-Mansouri”, “Abdul-Khaliq” and “Al-Shuja”, who were sentenced to death after a mock trial that lacks the most basic standards of court formation and the availability of fair trial standards in April 2020, while the prosecutions, arrests and trials of journalists continue. On September 29, 2022, SAM organization monitored the issuance of a court ruling in West Mukalla, Hadramout Governorate, against the journalist, “Mohammed Saeed”, who was sentenced to six months in prison and fined one million five hundred thousand riyals, on the grounds of publishing cases. In June 2022, the West Mukalla Court issued a ruling against the journalist, “Awad Kashmir,” who was sentenced to one year in prison, suspended, against the backdrop of a malicious case filed by the governor of Hadramout, member of the Transitional Council, “Faraj al-Bahsani,” on the pretext of publishing false news. In Aden, the journalist “Ahmed Maher” was arrested on the ground of his writings, which criticize the Transitional Council. He appeared in a video footage with signs of torture and was not brought before the judiciary despite holding two sessions to consider the malicious and fabricated charges against him.

On 15/6/2022, a correspondent for a Chinese channel, Saber Noman, and Muhammad al-Haidari, who works for the

Ministry of Information, were killed, and two others were injured when an explosive device exploded. The device was planted in his car, which was located on al-Tiseen Street, Mansoura District. Eyewitnesses confirmed that the explosion caused a huge shock. The eyewitnesses also said that the victims were in a Hyundai car, and that three of the four people who were traveling in it were killed, while the fourth suffered burns.

Journalist “Ahmed Maher” and his brother were arrested from their home in Dar Saad, Aden, on Saturday at 12 noon, corresponding to August 7, 2022, on the grounds of his journalistic activity without legal justification. According to an exclusive statement from a relative of the journalist, “Masked elements Forces in military uniforms, who did not disclose their party, raided the house of journalist “Ahmed Maher” and arrested him - in house clothes - with his brother, without declaring the place to where they were taken. On September 8, 2022, the journalist, who was kept hidden by the security services of the Transitional Council, appeared in a state of exhaustion and showed signs of torture to confess of having committed serious crimes. The journalist was then referred to the Criminal Court, which is a court that hears serious cases. His trial was postponed five times because he was not brought by the security services.

In addition, the Supreme Judicial Council of the legitimate government in Aden, at its meeting in August, approved the establishment of the Press and Electronic Publication Prosecution, which SAM considers to be a real threat to freedom of opinion in the future. SAM also regards this decision as an attempt to silence dissenting voices.

## SIEGE AND AID ACCESS

Although the year 2022 witnessed a major breakthrough regarding the blockade imposed on Sana'a Airport and the port of Hodeidah, which facilitated the arrival of food aid and the basic needs of the population and reduced the restrictions on freedom of movement of citizens, especially those with emergency cases, from Sana'a airport, the Houthi group continued to besiege the city of Taiz. Even though the truce stipulates lifting the siege on the city of Taiz, the Houthi group rejected all proposals that were developed in the Amman/Jordan negotiations. According to Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, the head of the negotiating delegation of the Houthi group regarding the crossings of the city of Taiz, "Yahya Al-Razami", threatened to open the cemeteries in Taiz instead of the crossings. That's what was reported by Al-Masirah TV, the group's media arm, in reference to the rejection of the UN proposal, which Grundberg hoped would convince the militia leaders after the end of the two negotiating rounds in the Jordanian capital, Amman.





## MINORITIES

Many members of the Baha'i sect are still suffering from the harassment practices of the Houthi group, and five others are still forcibly exiled outside Yemen. They were deported by UN mediation on August 27, 2020. The Group of Experts says they documented cases of Baha'is deprived of their liberty or improperly detained. Depriving a group of individuals of their liberty because of their religious activities is a violation of several human rights norms.

The Houthi group has been detaining a Libi Marhabi, who belongs to the Jewish minority in Yemen, since 2016 due to allegations related to the smuggling of the Torah manuscript from Yemen to Israel, despite the expiry of the sentence decided by the Public Funds Court in Sana'a on .... and which was upheld by the Court of Appeal in 2016. 2019.

The Jewish community in Yemen has been persecuted by the Houthi group since the beginning of the conflict. Yemeni Jews were forced to leave its homes in the Saada governorate, the holdout of the Houthi group, before they were forced to leave Yemen and migrate to the occupied land after the Houthi group took control of the capital, Sana'a.



A large group of black people, or who are known as the “Akhdam”, still suffer from social, cultural and political discrimination. In the ongoing war, the Houthis used the term “grandchildren of Bilal” to exploit the children of this group in order to force them to fight alongside them, in addition to exploiting the deteriorating economic situation in Yemen to recruit dozens of children of this group to their side. In the areas under the control of the legitimacy, many minor girls from this group are subjected to sexual harassment and rape, whether in Taiz or Aden, and law enforcement bodies neglected such cases.

On March 21, 2022, the “National Council of Minorities” was announced in the presence of representatives of ethnic and religious minorities in Yemen and a representative of the United Nations. According to the statement of the declaration, “The Council aims to promote equality and freedom on the basis of citizenship that embraces diversity, eliminates all forms of marginalization, discrimination, intolerance, racial and sectarian abolition, advance religious and ethnic minorities socially, economically and politically, and to support the right of their members to political, developmental, cultural and religious participation, to practice their devotional rites, to build their temples, and to celebrate their religious and cultural events freely and safely within an inclusive legal and cultural framework that embraces social diversity, respects cultural pluralism, and protects equal rights and freedom of opinion, religion and belief.”





# TRIALS

The Houthi group continued to try its political opponents before the Specialized Criminal Court, “which is an exceptional court for crimes affecting state security.” According to SAM’s monitoring and documentation of political trials, it found a serious defect in the principles of justice. The Specialized Criminal Court under the control of the Houthi group issued 494 judgments against political opponents during the previous years, 51 judgments in 2022, 114 judgments during 2021, 257 judgments during 2020, and 36 judgments in 2019, including 7 judgments against women. Criminal courts are divided into four courts: The Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance in the capital Sana’a, the Central Military Court in Sana’a, the Fifth Military Region Court, the Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance in Al-Hodeidah Governorate, which holds its sessions in the capital Sana’a, and the Specialized Criminal Court of First

Instance in Saada Governorate.

SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties has documented that the Specialized Criminal Court unfairly continues to issue death sentences against opponents of the Houthi group. On December 7, 2022, it issued varying sentences against 32 residents of Saada governorate who oppose the Houthi group, including 13 people who were sentenced to death by firing squad on a broad and ready-made charge of “aiding aggression.” On December 31, the same court issued a death sentence for three residents of Al-Mahweet governorate by firing squad on charges of aiding the aggression.

Political trials are a heavy burden on the families of the victims, and a direct threat to the violators of the Houthi group because these trials often include rulings to confiscate the litigants’ money, including their homes, real estate, and bank accounts.



## LOOTING MONEY AND LANDS

The organization documented the continuation of the Houthi group's policy of looting the money and property of its opponents and dissent by armed force and under the banner of the so-called judicial receiver who is protected behind the judiciary, which in turn obeys the group's orders. During the past (7) years of the armed conflict, this behaviour was practiced on a large scale, but much of it and its effects were hidden from the public sphere.

According to a report by the SAM organization titled "Feudalism of the Receiver and the Deception Machinery," the value and/or revenues of these assets, companies, corporations and associations that were seized by the receiver only, exceeds (1.7) billion dollars, while the value of the assets and revenues seized by the Ansar Allah group is estimated at more than (2) billion dollars and that there are more than (38) companies, corporations, universities and hospitals, which were seized and managed by the receiver, in the capital, Sana'a only, with their branches in the governorates controlled by Houthis.

In 2022, the organization documented the looting of civilian lands in Al-Hodeidah Governorate when the Houthi militia launched a fierce military campaign with dozens of pickups, committed terrible and serious violations, and arrested more than 30 people - including women - from those areas. Most of the victims were detained in buildings belonging to Al-Taqwa Mosque in the south of the city of Bait al-Faqih. According to SAM field testimonies, the Houthi group, in November 2020, confiscated 11,000 square meters of land in the Al-Jarrahi district. In May 2020, it confiscated 400 square kilometers of lands and farms of citizens in Al-Zaydiyah and Al-Maghlaf districts. In August 2021, it confiscated 13 square kilometers of citizens' lands in Al-Zahwaniya area in Bajel district. In December 2021, it confiscated 200 items in the Al-Marawaa district. In December 2021, vast lands were confiscated in the Bab Al-Naqa area in the Bajel district by the Houthi group. This looting deprived five hundred thousand families who benefited from that money.



## CIVILIAN OBJECTS

Civilian objects are subjected to systematic destruction by the parties to the conflict, some of them deliberately, and without respect for international humanitarian law. The indiscriminate bombing resulted in widespread destruction of both private and public property. That included the population's infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, bridges, government institutions, cultural objects, roads, farms, and factories.

During 2022, the SAM organization monitored (586) incidents of violations of civilian objects, including homes, farms, vehicles, civil, vital and commercial facilities, places of worship and bridges. The violation consisted of partial and total destruction, bombing, seizure, storming, round ups and looting, where the organization documented the total destruction of about 33 houses about (90) houses were partially damaged.

The organization confirms that the testimonies it documented in the city of Taiz indicate that the Houthi group bombed, in an organized and deliberate manner, the neighbourhoods of Al-Hawdh, Zaid Al-Mushki, and the city center throughout the year, with mortar shells stationed in the hills near the city. The shelling caused great damage to civilian property, in addition to the panic it created, especially among children and women, who are often the victims of these shells.

According to the Human Rights Watch report for the year 2022, On January 20, a coalition airstrike hit a telecommunication building in Hodeidah, destroying it, in an apparently disproportionate attack targeting critical infrastructure. Internet monitoring tools reported that from approximately 1:00 a.m. on January 21 until January 25 there was a near-total internet blackout in Yemen. The attack killed five civilians who were nearby, including three children, and injured 20 others, including two children, according to relatives of victims.



## ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Economic conditions continue to deteriorate, and the acute humanitarian crisis persists. The bifurcation of economic institutions by conflicting parties and uncoordinated policy decisions have further compounded the socio-economic crisis stemming from active conflict, now in its seventh year. Donor fatigue, soaring global commodity prices, and adverse climate conditions will continue to pose serious threat to the already dire socio-economic conditions... Non-oil economic activity continues to suffer from hostilities, interruption of basic services (electricity, telecommunications), and acute shortages of inputs, which were compounded by double taxation and distortions created by uncoordinated policy decisions by the two authorities. The war in Ukraine triggered further increases in commodity prices, heightening threats to Yemeni's already dire food access and socio-economic conditions. The World Bank- April 14, 2022.

Higher global commodity prices have compounded inflationary pressures and exacerbated food insecurity. Annual inflation in August was estimated around 45 percent, with food inflation around 58 percent. Yemen has also faced a decline in wheat import volumes and has been unable to fully substitute for imports from Russia and Ukraine, which constituted around 40 percent of Yemen's wheat. Meanwhile, humanitarian assistance has continued to fall short of Yemen's needs. As a result, food insecurity is on the rise with the UN projecting the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to reach 23.4 million by end-2022, with 19 million facing acute food insecurity. International Monetary Fund- October 25, 2022.

Yemen's economic prospects heavily depend on the evolution of the conflict and overall security conditions on the ground. On the downside, episodes of hostilities coupled with persistently high import





prices could further undermine conditions for the private sector. On the upside, the aforementioned renewed hopes for peace, together with rising remittances, and the potential for increased hydrocarbon exports, could accelerate growth over the medium term. The World Bank- 13 June 2022.

The researcher in Yemen's economic affairs, Abdul Wahed Al-Obaly, considered that, "2022 is merely a continuation of previous years because Yemenis still suffer from the lack of basic services such as health care, education, and safe drinking water. In addition, many families lose their jobs and sources of income, and there is a major shortage of food. The poverty rate in Yemen is around 80% and unemployment is estimated at 45% despite the formation of the Presidential Leadership Council in 2022.

In the past year, there has been a decrease in the operations and activities of foreign organizations and humanitarian work in Yemen due to reduced funding and lower confidence in organizations operating in the country. In addition, the global economic crisis has caused many donors to reduce their contributions to humanitarian work in Yemen.. The United Nations also refuses to provide aid to the Central Bank of Yemen in Aden to support the national economy, and instead goes to the Houthi bank accounts in Sana'a, making billions of dollars at their disposal.

He adds that the three parties to the conflict have played an important role in what the Yemeni economy has reached. "The Houthi militia had a major impact on the collapse of the Yemeni economy. The group destroyed major industries, disrupted the buying and selling of goods, and imposed unfair taxes on the transportation of goods. One of the main factors that contributed to the economic collapse was the theft of Yemen's hard currency reserves estimated at about \$5 billion.. The Houthis' monetary division, which currently stands at more than 100%, has had a significant impact on the exacerbation of the economic crisis in the country. Moreover, the group's attacks on the oil export port of Al-Dabbah in Hadhramaut have greatly affected the country's economic situation by disrupting oil exports, lowering government revenues, causing lower economic growth and increasing the cost of living for the population.

The legitimate government and the Presidential Council were also unable to fulfil their promises to improve living conditions, stimulate the economy, and address the imbalances that led to the collapse of the local currency. They could not control the country's sovereign revenues and failed to rid the monetary system of the Houthi group's control. The government also did not take any action to reduce corruption in various sectors, including the oil sector and the sale of OMV's stake in the S2 sector. In addition, the government did not address the issue of the dollar-paid jobs the legitimate

employees abroad. Rather, they opened embassies in many countries that have no relations with the country or with Yemeni expatriates. The government did not take any action against the corruption scandals regarding the scholarships that were provided entirely to the sons and daughters of officials and the powerful, and instead they only formed a committee to dilute the issue and forget it. The Council lacks political will and competent leadership, and Yemen is on the verge of a comprehensive economic collapse if action is not taken soon.

Not to mention the third party, the Arab coalition, which continued to impose a blockade and disruption of Yemeni ports, airports and resources during the past year due to the blockade imposed on Yemen by land, sea and air. The thing that created impossible conditions for ships to dock and unload their cargo and caused disturbances in the port of Aden and other ports, which impeded revenues. The coalition also applies the same policy of blockade and restrictions on other airports.

The researcher Al-Obaly believes that there are solutions which he proposes to stop the deterioration of the economy urgently regarding revenues and expenditures. Firstly, the revenues: The Presidential Council and the government should restore the port of Balhaf, resume the export of liquefied natural gas produced in Marib, and find a solution to the oil sector issues that led to a decline in the volume of oil exported as a result of corruption and negligence. Troubled sectors, such as the Janna sector (5), must also be addressed. It is necessary to stop the Austrian company "OMV" from selling its stake in the S2 sector and merge it with a Yemeni company. They should ensure that oil revenues sent to the Central Bank of Yemen. They should also take control of Yemen's ports and airports, and end coalition control over them to increase revenues.

Secondly, the expenses: the government should restart the Aden refineries, which were subjected to deliberate sabotage in favor of the influential people who benefit from the continued import of oil derivatives. This would reduce the cost the state spends to obtain derivatives, which is in hard currency. It should also stop paying officials abroad in hard currency and appoint caliber staff in the Yemeni government, which will result in them being paid in local currency. The government should also reduce diplomatic representation and close all embassies in countries that do not have Yemeni citizens or even relations with Yemen. It must follow an austerity budget, reduce the number of ministries, prepare the budget and publish it to the public, and submit quarterly and annual financial or technical reports on the government's performance and achievements.

## POLITICAL FREEDOMS

The parties to the conflict continue to restrict fundamental freedoms without justification, in particular, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion, which the de facto authorities have unlawfully restricted, in violation of their human rights obligations. The parties imposed unlawful restrictions, including harassment and intimidation of individuals or groups, and banning or suspending the media.

The war wiped out the democratic margin the Yemenis enjoyed, and each party imposed its security grip in its areas of control. Each party set itself up as adversary and arbiter, taking advantage of the absence of institutions to enforce and protect the law. The pace of ready-made charges accelerated for each opponent, and arrests were carried out by forces mostly established after the war. These forces are not armed with a minimum knowledge of human rights. Besides, they have illegal prisons that are not subject to judicial supervision. The judiciary was designed to be a ready tool in the hands of the parties, especially in the capital, Sana'a.

The year 2022 was nothing but an extension of the previous years that afflicted political life with desertification and Yemenis lost their popular will and democratic achievements because of this war. Political institutions have turned into headlines to cover violations committed by armed parties. The de facto authorities, backed by weapons and foreign support, have the upper hand. The Riyadh Conference, which was held on April 7, dismantled what remained of the authority expressing the popular will to the de-facto authority between the parties controlling the land.

On December 27, 2022, Asaad Jaafar Abdullah Sukaina, a member of the political bureau of the Revolutionary Movement in the city of Aden, was arrested by an armed force affiliated with the Transitional Council. The Revolutionary Council said in a statement, "The Council holds the security authorities fully responsible for the life and safety of the leader, Sukaina, and calls on them to release him and respect political rights and freedom of expression guaranteed by international human rights laws and conventions. The council also holds them fully responsible for any health or psychological harm he is exposed to, as he suffers from chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes."



On 21/6/2002, the youth activist “Mohammed Ahmed Nasser Abdullah” (38) years old was arrested from his house in Khor Maksar in the evening by an unknown security force. The force raided his house, opened fire and smashed his private car before taking him to an undisclosed location. It is worth mentioning that “Mohammed” is a youth and political activist and is popular among young people. The reason for the arrest has not been known and he has not even been contacted.

On 15/06/2022, a security force arrested the researcher and economic analyst, “Waheed Al-Foudai”, after raiding his house at 4:00 pm in the Khor Maksar district, and he was imprisoned in the Criminal Investigation Prison in Khor Maksar. One of the eyewitnesses said, “Members of the Criminal Investigation Department arrested the economic analyst, Waheed Al-Foudai, after raiding his house in Khor Maksar, in the interim capital, Aden. This happened after he had accused the CAC Bank management of speculation and manipulation of the value of the national currency, and after Al Foudai submitted an integrated file to the Public Prosecution Office against former officials of the Central Bank, accusing them of committing crimes that affected the national economy. He was released two days after his arrest.

On Saturday, January 22, 2022, a military intelligence force in Hadramout governorate arrested the head of the sit-in, which was implemented to protest against the living conditions. They also arrested a large number of peaceful protesters and used unjustified force with them. According to eyewitnesses who spoke to SAM, “Large forces of up to 500 soldiers were sent to the sit-in site after midnight where they started shooting in the air after the entry of a large force and a naval landing. The forces arrested the sheikh and the protesters and took them violently. Until now, there is no news about the condition of Sheikh “Ben Hariz” or his place of detention, except for the leaked news circulating about his presence in the Rabwah camp, near the building of the second military region.” He added, “I called one of my relatives who is in the second region prison and he said that the number of detainees was 48.”

On December 28, 2022, a Houthi force arrested four social media activists: Ahmed Hajar, 43, Mustafa Al-Moumri, 29, Hammoud Al-Misbahi, 32, and Ahmed Allaw, 32 on the grounds of posting videos on YouTube about the negative impression of citizens and their complaints about the living conditions, and the extortion practices they are subjected to by the Houthi group.

## THE TRUCE AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE

On April 6, the UN envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, announced a UN ceasefire aimed to “Provide an enabling environment for a peaceful settlement of the dispute. It is not intended to allow any party to reconstitute its groups or resume military operations. The terms of the two-months truce include facilitating the entry of 18 fuel ships into the ports of Hudaydah and allowing two commercial flights a week to and from Sana’a airport. The terms also include convening a meeting between the parties to agree on opening roads in Taiz and elsewhere to improve civilians’ freedom of movement inside Yemen. the Secretary-General of the United Nations said, “This truce which coincides with the start of the holy month of Ramadan. It opens the

door to addressing Yemen's urgent humanitarian and economic needs and creates a genuine opportunity to restart Yemen's political process." The United Nations.

On June 2, 2022, at exactly 7:00 pm, Yemen time, the second two-month truce came into effect, and the United Nations spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, announced to reporters that the renewal of the truce for two additional months." "This is all positive momentum and good news for the people of Yemen who have suffered so much from this man-made crisis."

On October 2, 2022, the UN envoy to Yemen announced the failure of extending the truce between the two parties and expressed in a statement his regret that an agreement had not been reached, as the extended truce would provide additional important benefits to people.

the multiple reasons for the failure of the truce were mentioned in a report by SAM Organization entitled "Fragile Truce" issued in September 2022. The report indicated that the most important reasons were the absence of a clear mechanism for implementation, the absence of the guarantor party, the weakness of the legitimate government, and the continued siege imposed on Taiz by the Houthi group. The report monitored more than 90 violations during the UN truce. As a result, 15 civilians were killed and 69 others were wounded, in addition to 4,370 violations, according to official sources. The violations included multiple abuses, including: launching attacks, firing missiles, overflights, drones, and sniping of civilians. These violations included attacks on army sites, neighbourhoods, and villages.

Despite the announcement of the failure to extend the truce, the unannounced negotiations, which are being run under regional and European auspices, are continuing, and have resulted in mutual visits and a visit by a delegation from the Houthi group to Riyadh. Also, a delegation from the Sultanate of Oman visited Sana'a, which announced that it had proposals related to some negotiation clauses, the "salary clause". Despite the relative tranquillity in the front lines, we believe that the closed-door negotiations may be the last chance for the Yemenis to reach a comprehensive peace solution that leads to a transitional phase. Otherwise, the war will return to achieve military gains on the ground that enhance the negotiating power, taking into account the disaster that military operations represent for the humanitarian and human rights conditions of civilians.



# FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The war caused the division of Yemen into military and security squares under the control of the parties to the conflict. This led to the proliferation of armed checkpoints that contributed to obstructing the smooth movement and caused great restrictions on patients, the elderly and the young due to searches and stopping for long hours under the pretext of checking, in addition to other concerns related to malicious reports and extortion practiced by armed parties or checkpoints.

The blockade and the closure of cities contributed to turning travel into an exhausting, expensive and risky journey. In Taiz, travel still poses a great challenge, whether towards the capital, Sana'a, which is controlled by the Houthi group, or the city of Aden, the interim capital of the legitimate government. The Taizi citizen spends more than 500,000 hours on detours to reach his destination. Al-Hawban road - from the city of Taiz to the Al-Hawban area- which used to take about 10 or 15 minutes before 2015, has turned into six or eight hours. The residents are forced to take the unpaved Al-Aqrud mountain road, which is a 60 kilometre detour around the city. Al-Aqrud road is winding and narrow, with many sharp turns and many government and Houthi checkpoints. The Aden-Taiz Road, which used to take only two hours, has now turned into 10 hours through gruelling dirt detours.



According to estimates by the Transportation Office, the siege caused a tenfold increase in people's movement than it was before the war, with approximately 100,000 people moving daily. Because of the high transportation fees between the governorate districts or between the governorate and other governorates, the citizens in Taiz have spent nearly 50 billion Yemeni riyals of their own money, which is equivalent to fifty million dollars. They also lost nearly 500,000 hours on detours to reach their destination. This is in addition to the increase in cases of kidnapping, illegal royalties, and extrajudicial killings, which made movement and travel fraught with danger and fear, especially for activists, journalists, and businessmen.

Human Rights Watch said in a statement issued on August 29, 2022, entitled, "Yemen: Houthis Should Urgently Open Taizz Roads." Following negotiations in Amman on July 3, the Office of the Special Envoy published plans for a phased reopening of roads in Taizz to help alleviate civilian suffering. However, the Houthi authorities rejected the proposal, which sparked rare criticism from the "European Union" delegation to Yemen, which said: "EU 'deeply regrets' Iran-backed Houthi's rejection of UN proposal to reopen Taiz road."

The Human Rights Watch report for the year 2022 confirms that Houthi forces continued to close the vital roads, violating freedom of movement and further contributing to the already grave humanitarian crisis in Taizz. The main roads in and out of the city of Taizz have been closed since 2015 by Houthi forces, severely restricting freedom of movement for civilians and impeding the flow of essential goods, medicine, and humanitarian access to the city's residents.

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

With three out of four Yemenis relying on agriculture and livestock for their survival, the climate crisis is pushing communities already reeling from almost eight years of conflict to the breaking point. Yemeni farmers have seen their livelihoods destroyed by extreme draught, devastating floodings and grinding conflict, making it harder for them to make ends meet. Flooding in recent months has had a devastating impact on the agricultural sector, destroying crops and moving explosive remnants of war to agricultural areas. With Yemen facing a devastating food security crisis, this will only further exacerbate an already alarming situation. According to a press release issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross, on November 16, 2022.

War-damaged urban infrastructure, as well as water shortages, flood damage, and limited government capacity has left two-thirds of a population of about 30 million without access to safe water, sanitation, and other essential services. These are compounding a humanitarian crisis fueled by extreme poverty, food and water shortages, a cholera epidemic, and disrupted healthcare services. The World Bank July 21, 2022.

The need - coupled with high unemployment - has also led some former

farmers whose land is no longer arable to resort to cutting down trees in order to support themselves. Deforestation and desertification are exacerbating Yemen's already devastating food insecurity, wiping out what was once farmland and draining sources of safe drinking water. In addition, people and livestock are at risk of dying from a lack of water and fodder across Yemen, and the reduced coverage of arable land deprives those who depend on it of a steady means of supporting themselves and their families. 75% of Yemen's population lives in rural areas and is highly dependent on stable climatic conditions to sustain their livelihoods. Islamic Relief- 25 March 2022.

According to the Holm Akdar website, the year 2022 witnessed climate changes in Yemen that affected livelihoods. 2022 was recorded as the third driest year during the past four decades, after 2014 (the driest) and the year 2000, when it witnessed a decrease in precipitation, at a rate of 0.3 mm per year, and high temperatures, droughts, and floods. In the first half of 2022, most of the local farmers lost their first planting season. Two-thirds of households reported a decrease in cultivated area. The floods during the months of July-August constituted unexpected shocks, affecting more than 40,000 people in the country.

Since July 2022, several governorates have witnessed heavy rains, causing widespread floods, affecting tens of thousands of residents, most of whom are displaced. According to the local authorities, at least 29 people died as a result of the floods in the governorates of Abyan, Al-Mahweet, Dhamar, Raymah, Sana'a and Shabwa. Residential homes, property and infrastructure were damaged, including roads, water sources and sanitation systems. Public services were damaged. Reports indicated that more than 28,000 families (about 201,000 people) were affected by the floods across the country. Due to the sudden floods, nearly 10,000 people have been displaced in Marib governorate and parts of Al-Jawf. In August 2022, about 20,000 people were affected by flash floods in lowland and plain areas. Holm Akdar- 24 December 2022

Climate expert, Dr. Abdul Qadir Al-Kharraz indicated that the Yemeni coasts are still affected by climate change, but there are no actual assessments as the government side suffers from deterioration, corruption, and the lack of qualified specialists. He pointed out that the unresolved issue of the Safer tanker might cause a disaster that would be the largest in the world. Furthermore, the coasts of Aden witnessed many pollution incidents in 2022, through the sinking of oil ships, the stranding of some of them, oil leaks into the sea, and the burning of one of them. All of these ships belong to Overseas Company, a subsidiary of Al-Essy Group. This was accompanied by government silence and

lack of accountability or intervention to deal with the damage, the effects of which will appear soon. This is despite the fact that the government, through the Ministry of Water and Environment, has received many funds for preserving the environment and adapting to climate changes. However, due to corruption, lack of transparency, and the empowerment of the unqualified, it is not known how these funds were used, and they have no tangible effects. Corruption in international organizations operating in Yemen has also exacerbated this problem, whether in the environment or at the level of humanitarian aid.

Discussing climate action in Yemen may seem untimely given these crises, but the country is highly vulnerable to the most dangerous extremes of a changing climate. Water scarcity, heat waves, dust storms, landslides, flash floods and fluvial floods, sea-level rise, and coastal flooding are expected to increase in Yemen as climate change accelerates. The projected rise in the intensity and frequency of extreme temperatures will exacerbate the heat island effect in urban areas. Meanwhile, Yemeni cities struggle to provide even basic services. In them, disadvantaged communities are more likely to live in areas more affected by climate extremes and the lack of services and are thus affected disproportionately. The problem will only worsen: A recent escalation in violence in the country is driving more people to the relative safety of cities, creating pressure on urban infrastructure, services, and the country's social fabric. The World Bank-former source.



23,7 Million

in need of humanitarian assistance

13 Million Child

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Yemen has witnessed the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with about 23.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including about 13 million children.

According to the World Food Program, 23.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 17 million people are food insecure, and 4.3 million people are displaced. Malnutrition rates among women and children in Yemen remain among the highest in the world, with 1.3 million pregnant/breastfeeding women and 2.2 million children under 5 requiring treatment for acute malnutrition. Of these children, 538,500 are at risk of dying without treatment. Access constraints continue to pose a serious challenge to WFP in several areas especially where conflict is intense. Despite access and security challenges, WFP and its partners manage to deliver assistance to the vast majority of vulnerable people in the country.

According to a survey conducted by the Executive Unit for the Displaced, the total number of displaced persons reached 2,827,686. 1,395,381 of them are males, and 1,432,305 are females, distributed in 548 camps in the governorates of the internationally recognized government, 902 population centers while 1967 families live in the open air, 19830 families live in transitional shelters, 3949 families live in rented apartments within the site, 4036 families live hosted within the site, 5449 families live in a completed building, 5870 families live in an unfinished building, and 37567 families live in emergency and temporary shelters.



The number of children of school age reached 491,600, including: 246,499 males and 245,101 females. The number of displaced students in homes who are not enrolled in education is 67,204 i.e., 18% of the total number of displaced children in homes. The number of children not enrolled in education in the camps is 47,237 i.e., 42% of the total number of children in the camps.

It seems that the humanitarian crisis will continue with the continuation of the war, and will worsen in the future in light of the failure of humanitarian response plans and the transformation of the humanitarian file into one of the political cards in the conflict. We believe that neutralizing the humanitarian file, and creating a new mechanism far from the parties to the conflict, managed by the international community in partnership with the local community, in a relationship based on transparency and accountability, can create an atmosphere of trust.

## MIGRANT CRISIS

In its latest statistics, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that DTM recorded 73,233 migrants from the Horn of Africa and 65,737 Yemeni migrant returnees to Yemen. The migrant caseload was around 97 per cent Ethiopian nationals, and around three per cent Somali nationals. The migrants are predominantly male (73%), with (19%) women, five per cent boys and three per cent girls also among the travellers. The report indicated that due to the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the challenges in moving towards KSA, many migrants opted to return to the Horn of Africa.

# 73,233

migrants from the Horn of Africa

# 65,737

Yemeni migrant returnees to Yemen

19%  Woman 73%  men

## PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT

Multiple internal and external parties are involved in the Yemeni conflict, all of which practice widespread violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law to varying degrees. Some parties solely commit special violations. For instance, the Houthi group is the only party that commits some violations such as planting mines, recruiting children and looting property, especially of their opponents. The Houthi group ranks first in human rights violations in 2022, with 2,768 violations while the legitimate government ranks two with 442 violations, followed by the forces of the Arab coalition with 357 violations. The UAE-backed Transitional Council, which is led by Aidarous al-Zoubaidi, committed 313 violations, in addition to the so-called National Resistance Forces, led by “Tariq Saleh,” a member of the Presidential Leadership Council, and the Hadhrami Elite, which is supervised by a member of the Presidential Leadership Council, “Faraj al-Bahsani.” Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also play a major role in the conflict in Yemen, and their forces practice gross violations of human rights, especially with regard to arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, economic blockade, and the establishment of armed forces outside the supervision of the Yemeni authorities.



### Human Rights Violation in Yemen Year 2022

By Governorates

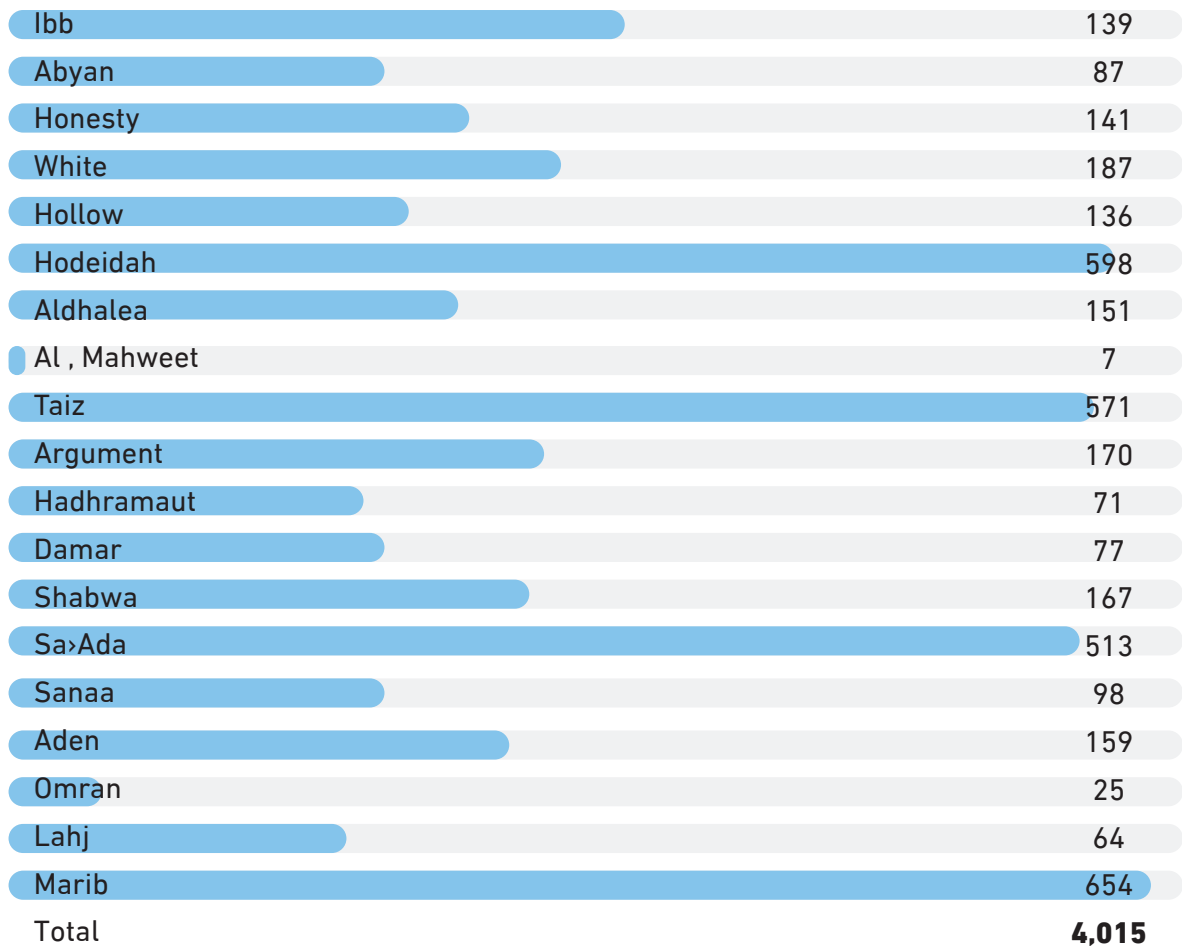
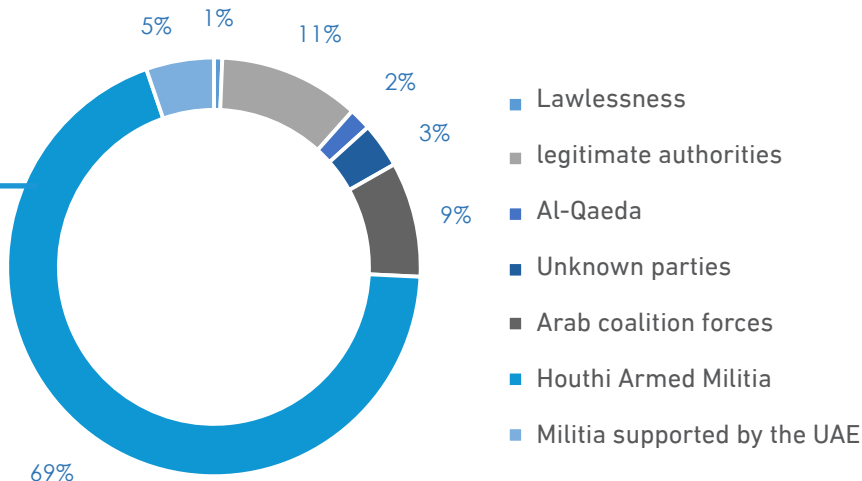


Figure showing violators for human rights in Yemen in 2022

4,015

Total Human Rights Violations in Yemen In 2022



**Human rights violations  
According to the cases of violation**



**1,744**  
injured Cases



**767**  
Killing Cases



**273**  
Individuals Assault



**492**  
Private Property Damage



**106**  
Child Recruitment



**94**  
Public Property Damage



**539**  
Abductions Cases




**Table showing the distribution of violations for 2022 by cases of violation**

| Name                    | Lawlessness | legitimate authorities | Al-Qaeda  | Unknown parties | Arab coalition forces | Houthi Armed Militia | Militia supported by the UAE | Total       |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Individuals Assault     |             | 98                     |           | 3               |                       | 117                  | 55                           | 273         |
| Child Recruitment       |             |                        |           |                 |                       | 106                  |                              | 106         |
| Abductions              |             | 146                    | 20        | 31              |                       | 284                  | 58                           | 539         |
| injured Cases           |             | 59                     | 22        | 20              | 263                   | 1360                 | 20                           | 1744        |
| Killing Cases           | 26          | 37                     | 27        | 68              | 91                    | 496                  | 22                           | 767         |
| Private Property Damage |             | 96                     |           | 14              | 3                     | 333                  | 46                           | 492         |
| Damage to public        |             |                        |           |                 |                       |                      |                              |             |
| Public Property Damage  |             | 6                      |           | 4               |                       | 72                   | 12                           | 94          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>26</b>   | <b>442</b>             | <b>69</b> | <b>140</b>      | <b>357</b>            | <b>2768</b>          | <b>213</b>                   | <b>4015</b> |




### Classification of entities responsible

for violations by age groups

26

| Lawlessness   |  |  |  |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| Killing Cases | 03  | 18   | 05  |




340

| legitimate authorities |                     |  |  |  |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
|                        | Individuals Assault | 01  | 96  | 01  |
|                        | Abductions          | 04  | 142   |   |
|                        | injured Cases       | 04  | 12  | 07  |
|                        | Killing Cases       |   | 36  | 01  |

69

| Al-Qaeda |                     |  |  |  |
|----------|---------------------|---|---|---|
|          | Individuals Assault |   |   |   |
|          | Abductions          |   | 20  |   |
|          | injured Cases       |   | 22  |   |
|          | Killing Cases       |   | 27  |   |

122




| Unknown parties |                     |  |  |  |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
|                 | Individuals Assault |   | 03  |   |
|                 | Abductions          | 01  | 22  | 08  |
|                 | injured Cases       |   | 19  | 01  |
|                 | Killing Cases       |   | 66  | 02  |






354

| Arab coalition forces |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| injured Cases         |  |   | 263   |   |
| Killing Cases         |  |   | 91  |   |

2,363

| Houthi Armed Militia |    |  |  |  |
|----------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Individuals Assault  |    |   | 117   |   |
| Child Recruitment    |    |   |   | 106   |
| Abductions           | 05 | 266   |   | 13  |
| injured Cases        | 48 | 1,200   |   | 112   |
| Killing Cases        | 14 | 421   |   | 61  |

155

| Militia supported by the UAE |    |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Individuals Assault          | 05 | 48  |   | 02  |
| Abductions                   | 01 | 56  |   | 01  |
| injured Cases                | 01 | 18  |   | 01  |
| Killing Cases                | 02 | 18  |   | 02  |

## Human rights violations affecting public and private property 2022

### Blowing houses

Unknown parties 02

Houthi Armed Militia 14

### Seizure, and confiscation

Houthi Armed Militia 35

### Total destruction

Unknown parties 06

Arab coalition forces 02

Houthi Armed Militia 82

Militia supported by the UAE 02

### Occupation of houses

Houthi Armed Militia 03

### Shop Closures

Houthi Armed Militia 33

Militia supported by the UAE 04

### Partial destruction

legitimate authorities 35

Unknown parties 01

Arab coalition forces 01

Houthi Armed Militia 107

Militia supported by the UAE 12



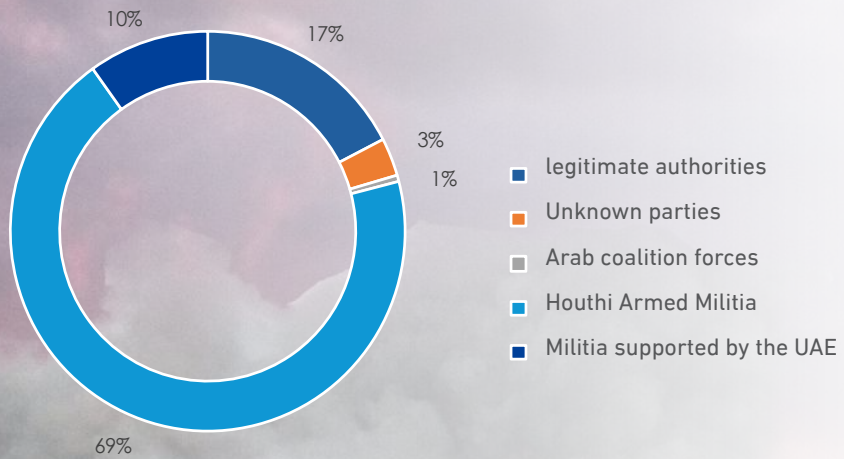


### looting

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| legitimate authorities       | 18 |
| Unknown parties              | 06 |
| Houthi Armed Militia         | 28 |
| Militia supported by the UAE | 10 |

### Raid and storming

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| legitimate authorities       | 49  |
| Unknown parties              | 03  |
| Houthi Armed Militia         | 103 |
| Militia supported by the UAE | 30  |











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Rights & Liberties

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# YEAR OF STAGNATION

Annual Briefing of Human Rights  
Situation in Yemen, 2022

January 2023

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