

# Human Rights Landscape in Yemen

## Introduction

The human rights situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate amid the ongoing conflict and escalating severe violations. This creates an atmosphere of fear and instability, with increasing repression and systematic targeting of civilians. The February 2025 report by SAM Organization documents the continuation of unlawful arrests, rising violations against humanitarian workers, journalists, and human rights activists, as well as restrictions on public freedoms, which have become part of a systematic policy to silence dissenting voices.

## SAM's Activities

### SAM Participates in a Geneva Seminar on an International Investigation Mechanism for Human Rights Violations in Yemen

SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties participated in a seminar on “The Importance of Establishing an International Investigation Mechanism for Human Rights Violations in Yemen,” held on the sidelines of the 58th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on February 28, 2025. The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, the Yemeni Archive, and the Cairo Center for Human Rights, with support from the British, Dutch, and Belgian embassies. Tawfiq Al-Hamidi, President of SAM, emphasized that the absence of justice has exacerbated the humanitarian catastrophe, necessitating urgent international action. He added that reactivating the Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) represents a crucial step in bringing the Yemeni crisis back into international focus and sending a clear message to victims that the international community is concerned with their issues.

### SAM in a Human Rights Watch Report

In its report, Human Rights Watch addressed Houthi violations, including the detention of humanitarian workers and United Nations staff, drawing on documentation from SAM Organization. SAM's findings indicated that the Houthis are using these detentions as a political pressure tactic.



## **Tawfiq Al-Hamidi: The Houthis' Targeting of UN Employees Reflects Their Strategy of Control and Blackmailing the International Community**

In an interview with Belqees News, Tawfiq Al-Hamidi (President of SAM Organization) stated that the Houthis' targeting of UN employees and international organizations aims to control humanitarian and relief work in Yemen. He added that these arrests serve as a means of blackmailing the international community due to its silence.

## **SAM's Publications**

### **Human Rights Statements**

#### **Ramadan: An Opportunity for Justice and Ending the Suffering of Detainees in Yemen**

SAM affirmed that the month of Ramadan should serve as an occasion to promote the values of justice and mercy. It stressed the urgent need for the immediate release of individuals arbitrarily detained in Yemen, noting that thousands of prisoners endure harsh conditions, systematic torture, and deliberate medical neglect. This situation, the organization stated, makes their release a humanitarian priority.

#### **Continued Violations Against Humanitarian Workers in Yemen Require Urgent International Action**

SAM denounced the escalating violations targeting humanitarian workers, asserting that such actions directly hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid. The organization called for swift international intervention to safeguard those working in the relief sector.

#### **Houthis Must Immediately Release UN and Civil Society Employees**

SAM strongly condemned the continued detention of UN employees and civil society workers by the Houthis, stressing that these arrests constitute a violation of international law and pose a serious threat to humanitarian work in Yemen.



### Assault on Journalist Imad Al-Dini: Ongoing Suppression of Press Freedoms

Journalist Imad Al-Dini was brutally assaulted by security forces in Hadhramaut, where his home was raided, he was beaten in front of his family, and he was detained under harsh conditions. This attack followed his reports exposing corruption and human rights violations in Hadhramaut.

### Authorities in Marib Must Immediately Investigate the Death of Poet Rashid Al-Hattam

SAM called on local authorities in Marib to conduct a transparent and independent investigation into the death of poet Rashid Al-Hattam in prison and to hold all those responsible accountable.

### Joint Statement Condemns U.S. Support for Ethnic Cleansing in Palestine

In a joint statement issued on February 2025 ,8, by several human rights organizations, SAM emphasized the need for a firm international stance to hold those responsible for violations accountable and to support Palestinian rights in the face of Israeli expansionist policies.

## Human Rights Reports

### Systematic Looting: Undermining Yemen's Economy Through Confiscations and Seizures

A report by SAM revealed systematic looting of economic resources carried out by the Houthis and other conflict parties, involving the confiscation of property, takeover of companies, and strategic control over the economy.



### Hanakah Al Masoud: Grave Violations Against Civilians

The report highlighted crimes committed by Houthi militias in the Hanakah Al Masoud area in Al-Bayda Governorate, including arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, and the forced displacement of families.

## Research and Studies

### Journalists in Yemen: From Silence to Murder

The report examined the systematic attacks on journalists in Yemen, including arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, and unfair trials.

### Enforced Disappearance in Yemen: A Repressive Tool to Terrorize Society

The report revealed the increasing cases of enforced disappearance in Yemen, where activists and dissidents are detained in secret locations without trials in an attempt to silence free voices.

## Human Rights Stories

### The Chemist Who Considered Suicide to Escape Torture

This story recounts the testimony of a detainee who endured severe torture in Houthi prisons, where brutal practices—including severe beatings, denial of medical care, and continuous psychological pressure—led him to contemplate suicide.

## Media Monitoring of Human Rights Violations

### Child Killed Under Torture in a Houthi Educational Center

On February 2025, 20, child Raddad Saleh Ghalib died under torture in a Houthi-run educational center in Nihm District, east of Sana'a, after refusing to continue studying under the group's curriculum. The Houthis concealed the child's body in a private hospital for a week before revealing the incident.



### Journalist Ahmed Al-Hediani Faces Security Pursuits

Journalist Ahmed Al-Hediani faced security persecution by the de facto authorities due to his reports exposing violations and corruption, as part of a continuous crackdown aimed at silencing him.

### Court Orders the Confiscation of Journalist Taha Al-Maamari's Assets

The Special Criminal Court in Sana'a, controlled by the Houthis, issued a new ruling that included additional fabricated charges, directives to operate his private companies under the de facto authorities, and the persecution of 14 journalists and employees associated with him, in a broader campaign to silence free media.

### Government Prisoner Dies After Years of Detention and Torture in Houthi Prisons

Government officer Mohammed Ali Saleh Abad Al-Naseem, 60 years old, died after four years of detention and torture in Houthi prisons. Captured in 2020, his health deteriorated due to medical neglect, and he was denied the chance to see his wife before her death. He was released on January 2025 ,20, but died while being transported for medical treatment.

### Death of a Prisoner Days After His Release Due to Torture in Houthi Prisons

On February 2025 ,19, detainee Jamal Al-Mahmoudi died ten days after his release from Houthi prisons. A close source reported that Al-Mahmoudi succumbed to the effects of torture and medical neglect he endured since his arrest on January 2020 ,12.

### Houthis Prevent Detainee Rabab Al-Mudwahi from Bidding Farewell to Her Deceased Mother

The Houthi group refused to allow detainee Rabab Al-Mudwahi to attend her mother's funeral. Her mother passed away on February 2025 ,18, after her health deteriorated due to the prolonged detention of her daughter since June 2024 without trial.

### Yemeni Businessman Sentenced to Prison in the UAE

Yemeni businessman Abdullah Ali Abdulwahab was sentenced to 15 years in prison in the UAE due to a Facebook post criticizing the UAE's airstrikes on the Yemeni army. Reports indicate that Abdulwahab is being held under obscure conditions and has been denied access to legal representation, in clear violation of fair trial standards.

For communication and suggestions

[info@samrl.org](mailto:info@samrl.org)



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### Arrests of Activists in Aden by Transitional Council Militants

On February 2025 ,15, armed militants from the Southern Transitional Council in Aden launched a campaign of arrests against activists who participated in peaceful protests condemning the deteriorating living conditions, currency collapse, and rising prices. The arrests included several local residents.

### Deterioration of a Detainee's Health in Houthi Prisons

On February 2025 ,10, the Association of Abductees' Mothers reported that it received an urgent notification from the family of detainee Ismail Abdullah Al-Batina (43 years old), who has been held in the Central Security Prison in Sana'a since his abduction by the Houthis on October 2017 ,20. His health has deteriorated critically; he suffers from severe stomach inflammation, persistent diarrhea, and a testicular tumor amid deliberate medical neglect and deprivation of necessary healthcare, as well as being denied family visits.

### Yemeni Journalist Recounts Torture in Houthi Prisons

According to a report published by The National on February 2025 ,19, journalist Tawfiq Al-Mansouri revealed horrifying accounts of torture and abuses he endured in Houthi prisons, including severe beatings, sleep deprivation, and electric shocks.

### Humanitarian Workers in Sana'a: Living in Fear Under Tight Surveillance

According to a report by Belqees TV on February 2025 ,13, humanitarian workers in Houthi-controlled areas live under strict surveillance and restrictions on movement and communication. Workers confirmed that this monitoring exposes them to threats and detention, as the Houthis increasingly target them and infiltrate organizations with intelligence operatives.

### Report Unveils Houthi Intelligence Apparatus and Its Repressive Tools in Yemen

A report issued by P.T.O.C Yemen revealed that the Houthis follow a repressive strategy to control society through covert intelligence agencies. These include espionage networks comprising children and women, a female intelligence unit known as the Zeinabiyat, a "soft war" division, along with widespread arrests and torture.

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## **Conflict and Economic Crisis Push Yemen Toward Worsening Food Insecurity and Malnutrition**

According to FAO, the ongoing conflict and economic crisis in Yemen have severely impacted food security and malnutrition levels, affecting millions of Yemenis. This is due to import restrictions, inflation, and rising prices, exacerbating malnutrition among children and women.

## **IMF Delegation Visits Yemen**

In a statement issued in late January 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced the conclusion of a mission to Yemen to discuss the country's economic conditions and challenges. The statement highlighted that severe economic decline, soaring inflation, and the devaluation of the local currency are significantly reducing purchasing power and worsening the humanitarian crisis.

## **UN Envoy Warns of Escalation in Yemen**

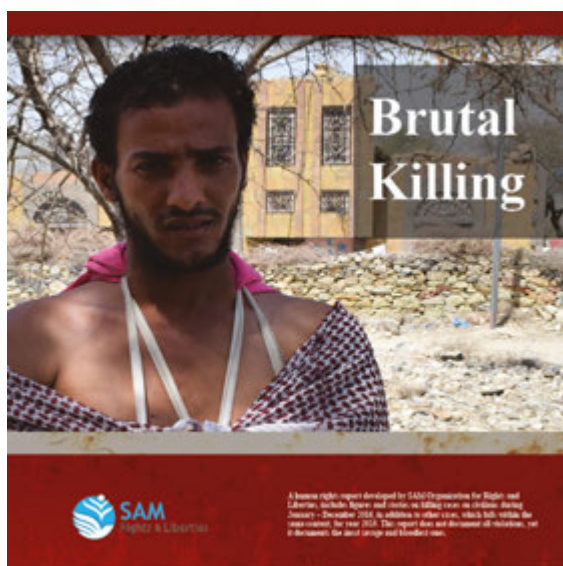
Hans Grundberg, the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, warned in a statement in February 2025 that the escalation of military operations and ongoing violations threaten fragile peace efforts, emphasizing that the humanitarian situation in Yemen cannot withstand further violence and conflict.

## **Halting Foreign Aid to Yemen Worsens the Humanitarian Crisis**

A human rights report issued by DAWN indicated that the suspension of U.S. aid to Yemen is exacerbating the suffering of millions. The halt in food, medical, and emergency relief assistance has led to increased famine, the deterioration of healthcare services, and a rise in the number of displaced individuals.



## Previous Reports by SAM Organization



### Brutal Killings: A Human Rights Report Documenting the Atrocities Committed Against Civilians (July 2017)

**A 50-page human rights report prepared by SAM Organization examines extrajudicial killings in Yemen. The report highlights the brutality of violations committed during 2015-2016, affecting over 150 cases involving extrajudicial executions, deaths under torture, and the use of civilians as human shields.**

The report found that these killings occurred in areas under Houthi control, including Dhamar, Al-Hodeidah, and Ibb, and were not conducted during active combat. It documented 150 violations related to extrajudicial killings, including 74 cases of executions, 58 deaths under torture, and 18 cases where individuals were used as human shields. It also recorded the different groups targeted by these violations, including victims, political activists, community leaders, journalists, academics, and various professionals, detailing the methods used by Houthi and Saleh militias to carry out these crimes.

The report emphasized that extrajudicial executions and arbitrary killings without trial are considered crimes under international law, and no exceptional circumstances, including war, can justify them. Additionally, international law strictly prohibits torture and all forms of cruel treatment under any circumstances, categorizing them as crimes warranting prosecution before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The findings indicate that the rise in executions and field liquidations by all armed parties in Yemen reflects systematic policies, particularly in the absence of security and judicial institutions. The law and justice system has effectively become controlled by military commanders, leading to widespread terror among Yemeni families. Fear of these military leaders and their brutal practices has become a dominant sentiment within society.

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The report urged the international community to pressure all warring parties to halt violations and hold perpetrators accountable. It called on the legitimate Yemeni government to release detainees and restore judicial institutions. Furthermore, it recommended that the Houthis allow human rights organizations to visit the areas under their control and conduct independent investigations into human rights violations, while also encouraging international organizations to support human rights efforts in Yemen.

## Conclusion

This summary presents a grim picture of the human rights situation in Yemen, reflecting ongoing violations and the absence of accountability. Journalists and human rights defenders face increasing risks due to systematic targeting. SAM Organization for Rights and Freedoms stresses the importance of intensifying human rights efforts to stop violations, protect affected individuals, and achieve justice for victims.

