



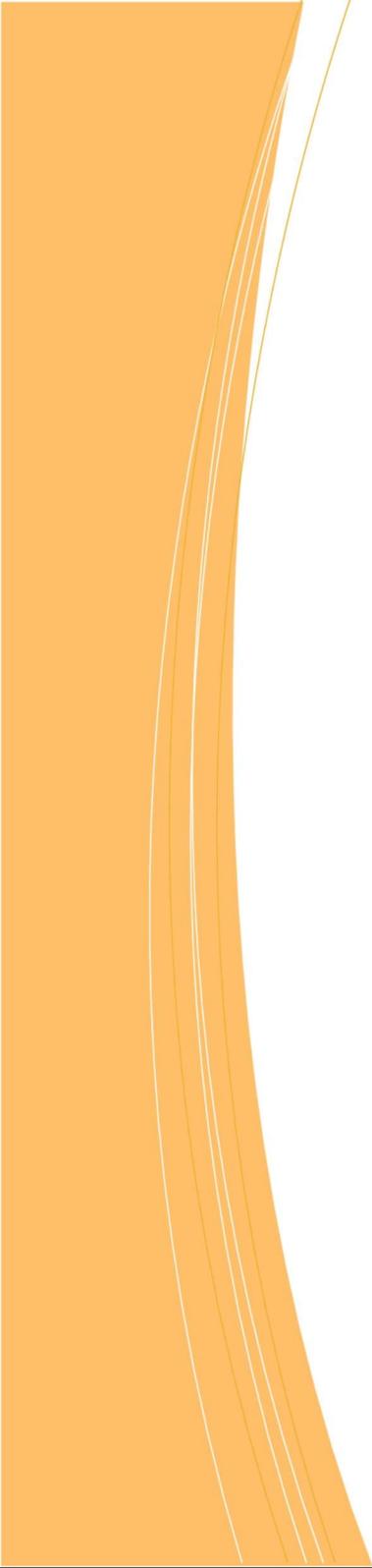
SAM

Rights & Liberties

Adduhai; Crossing to Death

Human Rights Report

monitors violations perpetrated by Houthis group and Saleh forces on civilians while passing through the only accessible crossing to reach Taiz city, which was under siege during the war in Yemen.



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Definitions

Houthis militia;

is the military wing of Houthis group which is centered in Sa'da. It is a sectarian Shiite group established in 1992, using its military wing to achieve their objectives. First armed appearance of the group was in 2004 during its fighting with government troops. Houthis were named after their founder Hussien Al-Houthi. Houthis also has political wing named "Ansar Allah".

Saleh Troops;

is a mixture of brigades and military formations that were affiliated to Yemeni army and former Republican Guards, in addition to Central Security forces, intelligence, members of People's General Congress and tribes allied with Houthis militia.

Taiz city;

a Yemeni city, 270 km northern Sana'a, and capital town of Taiz governorate, with the 600 thousand people, Taiz contains the highest number of population. Taiz is the third important city in Yemen following Sana'a and Aden.

Adduhai Crossing;

is a military check-point established by Houthis militia and Saleh troops in Adduhai area following its control over Taiz city, named after Adduhai area western Taiz city, where Houthis-Saleh militia assigned it as the only crossing for people movements and entrance for foodstuffs and drugs to the city and closed all other crossings.

Popular Resistance;

are armed group established at several Yemeni governorates following Houthis coup and when majority of army lined up with them. These group work with army loyal to legitimate president Abdorabo Mansour Hadi under his command to restore legitimacy.

Legitimate Army;

are the military brigades loyal to president Hadi and fight under his command to restore legitimacy against Houthis militia and Saleh troops.

Executive Summary

SAM monitors have documented 311 violations to human rights perpetrated by Houthis and Saleh armed elements at Adduhai crossing eastern Taiz city against unarmed civilians while passing through the crossing. Violations varies between (extrajudicial killings and injuries, abduction, torture, physical assaults, sexual harassment, looting of properties and personal belongings).

SAM monitors also documented general violations cases that targeted all city's population such as economic besiege imposed on all its forms as materialized daily by Houthis and Saleh militia in denial access of foodstuffs and other basic needs such as water, drugs, cooking gas, and oxygen gas.

It is important to notice that, figures and data contained in this report are only ones that the monitors managed to verify and document and does not represent all violations that have been committed daily in Adduhai crossing which could not be documented fully due to the security situation and risks on monitors or on anyone carrying camera or any monitoring and documenting tools. Also risks increases on journalists, activists and lawyers, who are considered as valuable hunt for Houthis and Saleh militia.



On 25 March 2015, Houthis group and troops loyal to former resident Saleh controlled the main street that divides Adduhai neighborhood into two parts, starting from the eastern entrance which is one kilometer far from Taiz university campus, till Hodeida-Taiz road. Asphalt road from the eastern side is the only entrance to the center of Taiz city where Houthis militia and Saleh troops have blocked all other points since 29 September 2015.

This report monitors humanitarian situation for people in Taiz city in Adduhai crossing which was under Houthis militia and Saleh troops before being liberated by Popular Resistance and national army on 11 March 2016 after one year.

Closure of the four main entrances of Taiz city, including the western entrance and creating Adduhai crossing as the only one to pass through, which was "part of systematic plan by Houthis and Saleh troops to impose comprehensive siege on Taiz one million inhabitants, following displacing 800 thousand others to Taiz village and rural areas" according to observers.

Since then, Houthis group and Saleh troops controlled movements of male, female and children pedestrians, in addition to visitors from other governorates. Furthermore, the militia specified time for entering and exiting through Adduhai crossing, and closing it at other times, as if it is a border crossing between two countries.

Houthis and Saleh elements practiced all forms of control over Adduhai crossing including control people's lives and foodstuffs, where they banned entrance of basic life needs including foods, water, oxygen and cooking gas. Unarmed civilians were also subjected to violations to movements and free-

doms, humiliation, collective punishment, amidst international silence and complacent, according to victims' testimonies.

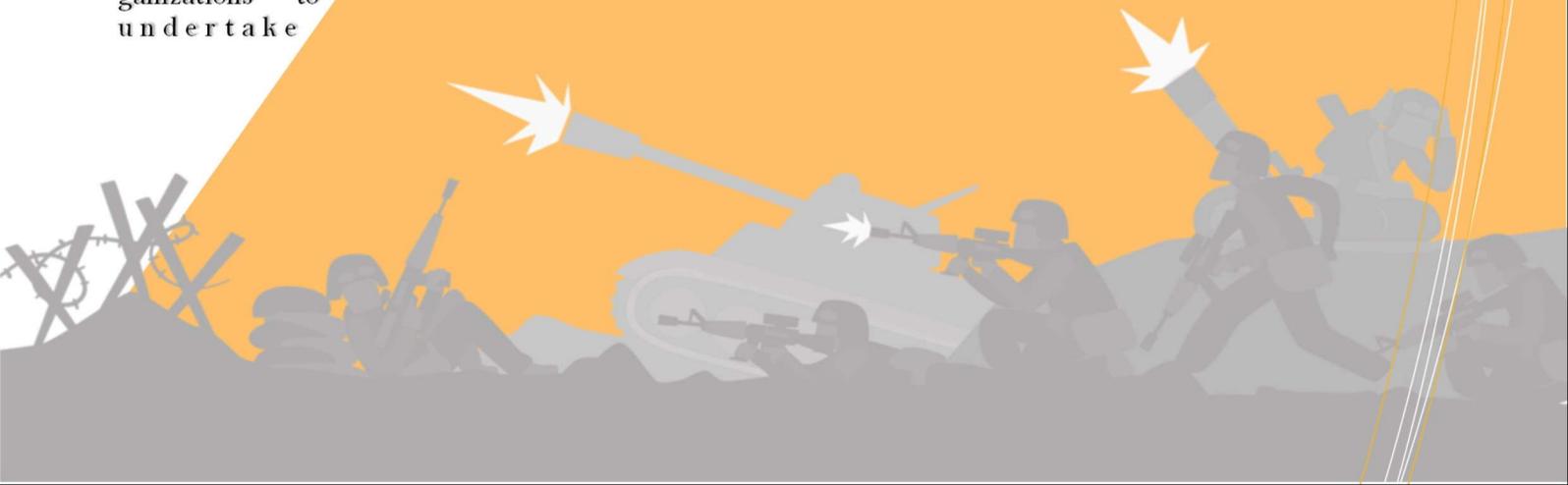
This matter puts local and international rights organizations before their legal and ethical responsibilities urges them to stand firmly against one of the serious issues that impact human dignity, economic, social rights and freedom of movement.

SAM Organization, has assigned its monitors team in Taiz who visited Adduhai crossing and verified and documented all alleged human rights violations, and prepared this report which summarize enormous effort and hard work of many months, in monitoring and documenting violations committed at Adduhai crossing to expose them to the international public opinion, and local and international rights organizations to undertake

their responsibility in exerting pressures to remove this inhuman siege and held all Human rights violators, in Yemen and in Adduhai, accountable for their acts.

Noting that Adduhai crossing is a contact point between warring parties where many snipers were deployed, our monitors have encountered many security issues, challenges and obstacles, that have been passed with great patience, tolerance and determination to accomplish their mission with success.

This report is the first of its kind that documents human rights situation in Adduhai crossing, the only crossing that allows people to enter the heart of Taiz city where hundreds of people gather waiting permission to enter or exit the besieged city.



Context & Geographical Domain

Adduhai, 23km² according to 2014 survey, is a population gathering western Taiz city and administratively affiliated to Al-Muzaffar district, bordered by Al-Hasab and Habeel Suliman neighborhoods in the north, Taiz university in the south, Al-Moror and Bir Basha in the east.

Main Entrance:

Taiz city has three main entrances as follows;

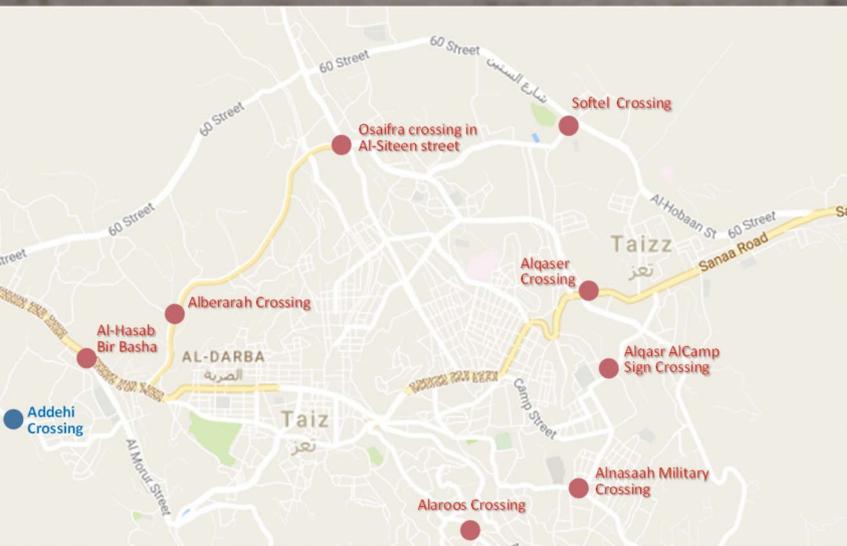
1. Eastern entrance:
From Sana'a Bus/Taxi Stand to Alqasr Roundabout – Al-Houban crossing point, where two roads branch out, one leading to (Lahej, Aden, Abyan, Addalie') governorates, and other to Ibb and Dhamar governorates and Sana'a.
2. Western entrance:
In Al-Hasab through Bir Basha, to asphalt road links Taiz with Mocha port and Hodeida governorate.
3. Northern entrance:
In Osaifra and extends to Al-Siteen street that links Hodeida – Taiz road from the western direction with Hodeida – Sana'a road in Al-Zikra cross from the eastern direction.

Houthis group and Saleh troops have established Adduhai crossing after closing all three main entrances in order to besiege Taiz city.

Adduhai crossing is a narrow passage between two hills, with no branch roads that people can pass through, furthermore Houthis and Saleh elements control these two hills thereby directly control and supervise all passers-by.

Importance of Adduhai Crossing:

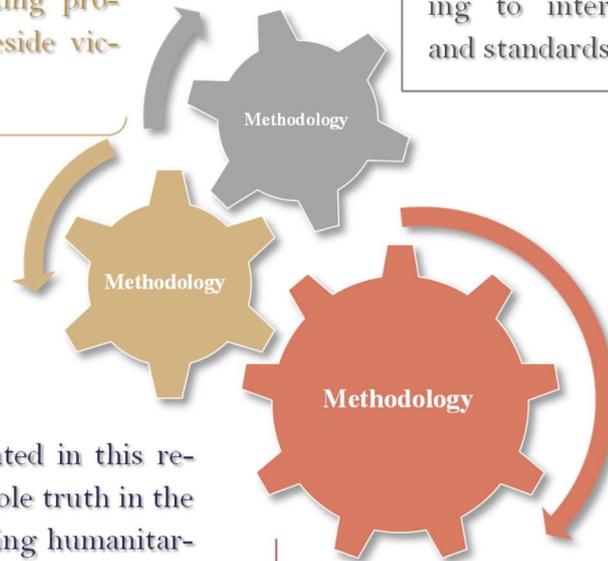
Adduhai crossing is the lifeline that links Taiz city with all main lines that lead to northern, southern and western governorates, noting that Houthis militia and Saleh troops have closed all entrance and exit points of the city, also it controls the only road leading to Taiz university southern to the crossing in Habeel Suliman neighborhood.



Methodology

Each and every single case has been verified and relevant data was collected, compared and analyzed and authenticated, also the monitors, in monitoring and documenting process, used photography beside victims' testimonies.

Information and data contained in this report have been monitored, compiled and documented by SAM monitors, who are a well-trained and professional team trained on monitoring human rights violations during armed conflicts and according to international mechanisms and standards.



Information and figures stated in this report does not reflect the whole truth in the ground, particularly regarding humanitarian situation, however we may confirm that these information and data included this report has documented the most important part of the crimes and exposed great part to the sufferings and damages that people has sustained as a result of such crimes.

SAM monitors exist in Taiz governorate and work under very complicated and difficult conditions, particularly at hot conflict areas, making it difficult to reach all cases and expose them to high risks.

Legal Framework

Siege could be described, according to experts, as a military operation practiced by certain force against fortified area or city in order to occupy such area.

Military operation and collective penalties

Siege imposed on Taiz city Houthis militia and Saleh troops is a military operation against civilians and clear manifestation of collective punishment which is banned by the international law and humanitarian law in particular, where article 33 of Genève fourth convention bans collective penalties as it violates the principle that penal liability is personal in character.

Also collective siege of people is violation to the additional protocol of 1977 that prohibit starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, and closure crossings and denial of access of foodstuffs needed for sustaining people's life is also a method of warfare that is incriminated by customary rule which is part of the international humanitarian law.

Crime against humanity

In addition, this siege is a crime against humanity and oppression crime according to article seven of Rome Statute, as it violates freedom of movements for the habitants of the city, and their right to

reach their workplace and practice their life needs in easy and normal way.

Genocide crime

Taiz siege inflicted sever living and health conditions on Taiz that might deprive people from their right to life and cause death of many people due to shortage in medications, which is considered as a genocide crime, whose perpetrators shall be prosecuted according to item 25, clause b of article eight of Rome Statute of the ICC, where conditions under which the city is living will lead to real disaster.

General violations to human rights

Siege of Taiz city has negatively impacted child and women rights inside the city, being the most vulnerable and fragile groups and the group that suffered most. Also siege has deprived habitants from their political, economic and cultural rights, as provided for in the international conventions and covenants issued by the UN on political, economic, and cultural rights, such as the right to health, education, food and work, thereby forcing people to smuggle foods and drugs through long burdensome roads and carrying them on donkeys' back, the matter that shows extent of sufferings of people in Taiz.

Main Violations to Human Rights:

SAM monitors documented a number of violations against civilians in Adduhai crossing, in different forms and shapes that could be summarized in the following examples and testimonies;

#	Violation	No.	%
1	Murders	29	8%
2	Wounds	181	48%
3	Physical Assault	93	25%
4	Abduction and Torture	25	7%
5	Looting of property	21	6%
6	looting personal property	19	5%
7	Harassment against Women	8	2%
	Total	376	%100





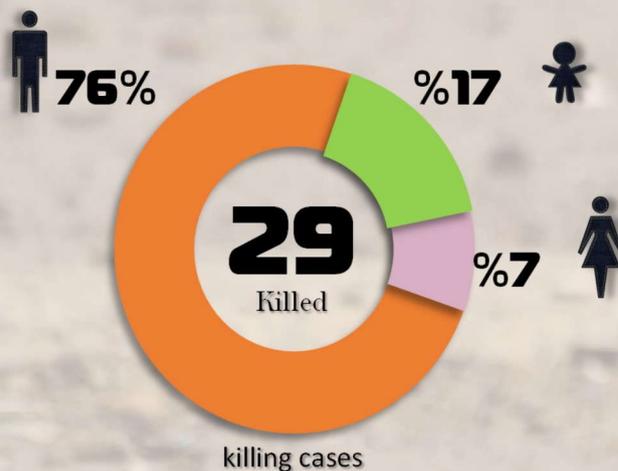




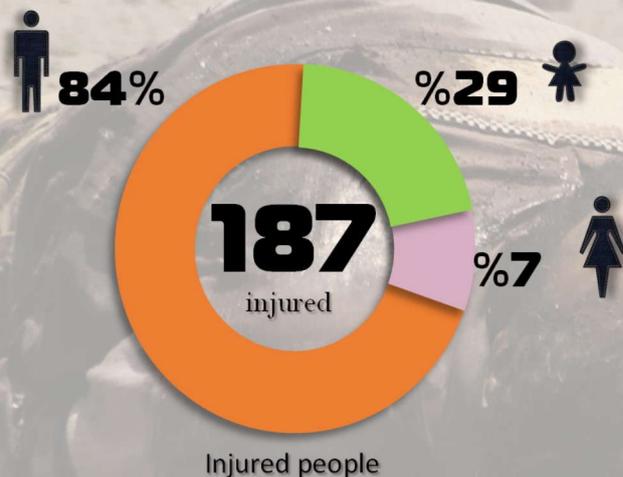
Murders and Wounds

SAM Monitors have documented repeated using of firearms by Houthis and Saleh armed men, under the excuse that they regulate passengers' movements in the crossing, killing and injuring many civilians. Also others fall victims of Houthis sniper shootings who were deployed throughout the road from the crossing to last check point controlled by Houthis and their allies Saleh troops.

SAM monitors have documented 29 killing cases against civilians including two women, 5 children,



Also have documented 181 injured people, including 14 women, 56 children.



Hanan

Ms. Hanan Abdulkhakeem Abdullah Olwan, 25 years, died on Monday 11 January 2016 at Arroudha hospital in Taiz city, two days after being shot by Houthis sniper at Adduhai crossing.

Hanan's father told SAM monitors that "at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday 9 January 2016, while at work I received a phone call telling me that my daughter was shot by Houthi sniper, while she was passing through Adduhai crossing towards Bir Basha to receive our ration of aids that have been denied access to the city", "my daughter was admitted at Arroudha hospital and entered the ICU following surgery, but she died two days later" he added.

According to medical report, sniper's shot hit her in her left leg and sustained deep injury below her knee causing sever bleeding

Witness to murder case

Abdulkareem Ali Sa'ad, an eyewitness to murder case told monitors team that "on Monday 25 January 2016, I saw one of Houthis-Saleh armed elements pointing his rifle at one civilian's head who wanted to pass through the crossing to prevent him from doing that, and shot him directly at his head to fall down and bleed to death"

Salaheddin

"Salaheddin Khalifa Abdu Muslih, 10 years, shot dead by Houthis sniper on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at Adduhai neighborhood"

Physical Assault

93

Where 93 instances of beating on civilians, including women and children by Houthis and Saleh elements were reported by the monitors at Adduhai crossing, also the team has documented by video clips cases of assault by these elements on the crowd of people while passing through the crossing loaded with cooking gas cylinder and other daily needs.

Daggers, Sticks, & Iron wires

It has been proved to the team that Houthis group and Saleh troops have been using daggers, sticks, blackjacks and iron wires in attacking civilians who are waiting beside the crossing to enter or exit the city.

Omer Al-Duba'i

40 years, an eyewitness who told the monitors about assaults at the crossing said that "when the crossing gate is opened to pass, Houthis elements start beating people who are lined up in

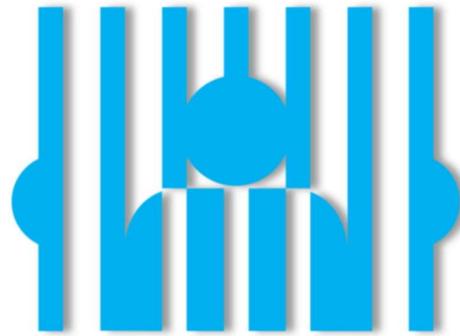
queue, and shot fire at air or at the civilians and beneath their legs", "I saw a Houthi element shot fire at a young man at his 20s hitting his head, he was taken to Al-Karama hospital, but he died", he added.

Abduction & Torture

25

Our team has documented 25 abduction cases of civilians while passing through Adduhai crossing and other check-points leading to the crossing, in addition to detention of yens of passersby on daily basis making it difficult to monitor and document.

Information and facts received by the team confirm that Adduhai and other entrance to Taiz turned into big jail that feeds into other Houthis-Saleh prisons and detention facilities with detainees and abductees among politicians, media and rights activists opposing Houthis, and any suspected person either in Taiz governorate or other governorates.



300

According to certain reports on human rights issued by local NGOs in Taiz, about 300 civilians were abducted and detained, most of them were arrested at the entrances and crossings of the city, including Adduhai.

Mansour Al-Radhi, Ice Maker

25 years, ice vendor, victim of abduction and torture by Houthis – Saleh elements, while controlling Adduhai crossing. Mansour's mother told her story saying that "my son left home on Friday night, 26 February 2016, and never show-up since then, I was expecting that he is

selling ice at his shop as usual in Al-Aginat south-west Taiz city, I was very worried so I went on Tuesday searching for him in vain". Following long journey, she found her son, who suffers from psychological disorder sustained during the burning incident of protesters tents in

2011 in Taiz, detained by Houthis. However, Houthis did allow her to see him, nor did they explain reasons behind detention, as she said. "I told them he suffers from psychological disorder, they asked me to provide medical report proving that, I went back and brought the

report on 5 March 2016, only then he released him, but he was in state of coma with signs of torture all over his body, and they claimed that he did that on himself and attempted to commit suicide" she added.



Human shield

Houthi militia and Saleh troops use civilians at the sides of Adduhai crossing as human shields and block them at containers to be targeted by Arab Coalition airstrikes,

as confirmed by eyewitness Abduljaleel Mohammed, who stated in his testimony that Houthis and Saleh elements detain civilians and put them inside "containers" leaving them nearby their check-points in Adduhai crossing and use them as human shield to protect them from airstrikes.

Harassment against Women

Sexual harassment against women is a new and highly provocative behavior to the norms and customs of Yemeni community, as it has been portrayed in the violations against civilians at Adduhai crossing

SAM team has documented 8 cases of harassment among tens others which remain concealed due to social restrictions and tribal norms that deter women from reporting or testifying on the harassment that they've encountered, as a matter of honor.

Documented testimonies by SAM monitors prove that Houthis and Saleh armed elements prevent women from entering and keep them stuck till late hours forcing them to spend night in nearby houses far from their families.



A.M.A.H, 31 years' female, one of tens of harassment victims, interviewed by monitors team near the crossing, she said "on Sunday 24 January 2016, I tried to pass through Houthis check-point at Adduhai crossing, when one of Houthis elements; Abulhasan Al-Khawlani, attacked me and removed my veil exposing my face and my hair and pushed me. He took my foodstuff and released my cooking gas cylinder to the air". "several times I saw Houthis attack women at Adduhai and sexually harass them, they do so with children also" she added.

Other forms of violations

Degrading Citizens' Dignity

Restriction of movements and transportation

Economic Siege and Ban of Foodstuffs

Depriving of Education



Degrading Citizens' Dignity

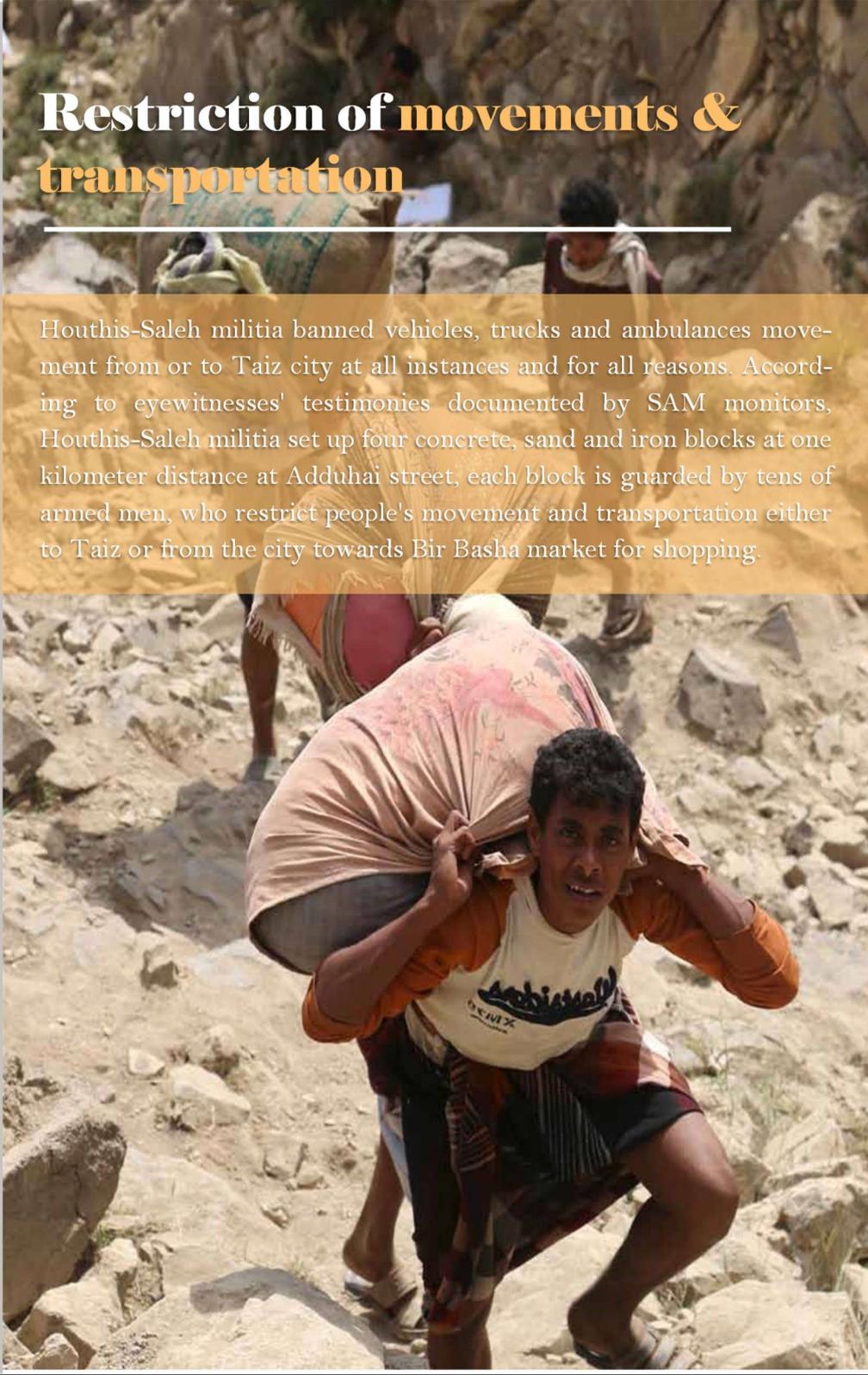
Degrading human dignity is one of the worst violations perpetrated by Houthis-Saleh armed elements at check-points, where they force pedestrians to wait unnecessarily for longer period, sometimes for two days, forcing some of them, particularly women and children to sleep public places such as mosques or at nearby houses.

H. A.A a 30 years' female lives in Sabir mountain, southern Taiz summarizes what people face at Adduhai crossing saying "we try daily to enter or exit Taiz city through Adduhai cussing, but Houthis and Saleh armed elements force us to wait for hours and assault us physically and verbally"

Restriction of movements & transportation

Houthis-Saleh militia banned vehicles, trucks and ambulances movement from or to Taiz city at all instances and for all reasons. According to eyewitnesses' testimonies documented by SAM monitors, Houthis-Saleh militia set up four concrete, sand and iron blocks at one kilometer distance at Adduhai street, each block is guarded by tens of armed men, who restrict people's movement and transportation either to Taiz or from the city towards Bir Basha market for shopping.

A.A.M, female 42 years
"I'm a bus driver always try to reach Bir Basha neighborhood, western Taiz city, but Houthis elements built four concrete blocks with domes of sand in the middle of the main street also blocked the roads with metal doors, and banned movements of people and vehicles". "first block is located near Desalination Station, second is near Taiz university gate, third near Gaza street leading to Al-Hasab, fourth at the end of Gaza street at Adduhai neighborhood entrance. Houthis and Saleh elements at these blocks ban people's movements in and out Taiz city, attack them and ban foodstuffs, aids and drugs from entering the city.



Economic Siege & Ban of Foodstuffs



Houthis and Saleh militia imposed tight siege on Taiz city and banned water supplies, foodstuffs, and medication from accessing the city. SAM monitors have documented many cases, major ones when Houthis release cooking gas from gas cylinders and oxygen cylinder at air to prevent supplying them to the city.

Also certain Houthis elements urinated inside water tankers to make it useless according to documented testimonies. They also destroy other food supplies such as wheat, rice and sugar and fuels and pour them in the ground.

Siege and Ban

A.A. a female resident of Adduhai, says that "Houthis – Saleh deny access to foodstuffs such wheat, rice, ice, vegetables, even small quantities and for one household needs for one day, also they ban cooking gas entry, and they release cooking gas at air and pour whet in the ground, to make sure that no one will take such stuff into the city"

M.H.A resident of Adduhai and an eyewitness to many violations said that Houthis elements deny access most if the time and confiscate foodstuffs and oxygen from people.

Depriving of Education

Houthis and Saleh militia attacked Taiz university, few meters far from Adduhai crossing, on 31 August 2015 and turned it into a military barracks closing it before students and staff for about one year.

30

Thousand Students

Also three roads leading to the university were blocked; Adduhai, Al-Hasab, and old airport, where Houthis snipers were deployed throughout university premises and the surrounding hills to tighten Taiz siege.

Such arrangements deprived 30 thousand students from university education for two years, who could not continue at Ibb university due to road blockade.

Barrack In University

In statement dated 25 November 2015, Taiz university Student Association, held Houthis-Saleh militia accountable and responsible for storming the University changing it into barracks and exposing it to airstrikes, urging

them immediately evacuate it. Houthis – Saleh militia also looted University's labs, equipment and furniture and destroyed its archive and students' documents and files, except that kept in a safe that they failed to open, according to monitor's surveillance. Monitors team could not document all looted and dam-

aged equipment and furniture in Taiz university during Houthi – Saleh militia's control, due to the strict security measures imposed by legitimacy army on the campus and denial of access pending formation of an inventory committee to identify left stuff and looted/destroyed ones.

Recommendations

- Oblige Houthis – Saleh militia to comply with international law and human rights law principles; as represented by Genève fourth convention on civilian protection during armed conflicts and that bans civilians and cities siege;
- International community shall undertake effective measures that prevent cities and civilians' siege and depriving them of basic materials, foodstuffs and medical supplies;
- Prosecute human rights violators at Adduhai crossing and bring them into justice;
- Calling upon international human rights and humanitarian organizations and entities to visit Taiz, to review closely the mount of violations and the humanitarian consequences;
- Call upon the National Commission to Investigate Alleged Human Rights Violations, to investigate the crime perpetrated by Houthis – Saleh militia and documented by this report.

Appreciation and gratitude for photographers:

- Ahmed Basha
<https://www.facebook.com/yemenstarz?fref=ts>
- Rod Waddington
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