

YEMENIS IN SAUDI PRISONS

A REPORT MONITORING THE DETENTION, ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE AND TORTURE OF YEMENIS IN SAUDI ARABIA OR IN YEMEN BUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SAUDI ARABIA



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A photograph of a soldier in a desert landscape. The soldier is wearing a tan uniform and a helmet, sitting on a sandbag. A green flag with white Arabic calligraphy is on a pole next to him. The background shows a vast, hazy desert with mountains in the distance.

The relationship between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is characterized by the depth at which it is difficult to reduce it to the confluence between the two countries. Yemen borders the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the north. The historical relationship has a cultural dimension and overlapping interests. Imposed by the geographical nature of southern Arabia, in addition to the geographical demography among the Arab people in general. Intermittently, the relations between the governing authorities have been tense, but this does not reflect significant implications on the relationship between the two peoples, even at the highest level of confrontation, and soon leads to agreements.

INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the country with the largest number of Yemeni expatriates (Around) and because of its prosperity, and its proximity to Yemen, KSA has become the most suitable destination for Yemenis since time immemorial. The borders of the two countries, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, have been experiencing ups and downs between the successive authorities and when any problem arises, the border surges and agreements or confrontations are concluded, Yemen and the Yemenis are the biggest losers.

In 1934, Imam Yahya bin Mohammed Hamiddin, King of Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen, and Imam Abduaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, concluded what was known as the Taif Treaty, and in article IV of the Treaty the boundary line was agreed upon. On June 12, 2000, Ali Abdullah Saleh, together with Saudi Arabia, signed the delimitation agreement, so that the geographical shape would appear to be contrary to historical data.

Geopolitical changes and the simmering conflict in the Middle East have caused some international powers to accelerate their ambitions in Yemen, given the importance of its geographical location as one of the most important countries bordering the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. Yemen also have the largest sea lines in the region, as It is bordered on the west by the Red Sea, and on the south by the Arabian Sea, and it has one of the most beautiful islands in the world: Socotra Island.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the main influencers in modern-day Yemen. After the Houthi militia took control of Yemen's provinces since late 2014, the internationally recognized legitimacy represented by President Abdrbbuh Mansour Hadi, asked Saudi Arabia for help, as a result, Saudi Arabia has formed a so-called Arab coalition in support of legitimacy, in which the most prominent participating countries are: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

During and before that, the Houthis were also focused on confrontation with the Saudi side, and in the six wars in Sadda, the confrontations were also between the two parties. However, after the storming of Sana'a in September 2014, the need for urgent assistance to save Yemenis from the Houthi crackdown increased and Saudi Arabia was the country closest to doing so.

Hence Saudi Arabia's establishment of Yemeni brigades under Saudi supervision

However many Yemenis were recruited at the border, they were not spared from Saudi detention. On the other hand, UAE which is the most prominent country in Yemeni politics, has taken advantage of the formation of the Arab coalition, and has entered the country by force and when internal conflicts are taking place, has begun to spread on Yemeni coasts, mostly where the Houthis have not been present, and greatly supported illegal components, such as its support for the so-called Southern Transitional Council and other Salafi groups. Moreover, it has invaded the quiet island of Socotra, which has no experience with the war and Houthis before. UAE and KSA where both there with more semi - sovereign control of the Emirati side, even though they were in the semi - sovereign control of the Emirati side. That was not enough so they jumped to the Palhaf oil facility in Shabwah, and stopped the exportation of gas from that port.

The geographical factor between the two countries has had the greatest impact of Saudi policy on Yemen as follows:

- **Waves of immigration and exorcism towards the Kingdom have escalated.**
- **War, and the politicians need for a place to start from.**
- **Borders, and the need to protect them.**
- **Wanting to use the Yemeni geography in various ways**

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REPORT

The war in Yemen exposed an escalation of serious and unprecedented violations to human rights as the crimes of enforced disappearance and the establishment of secret detention facilities, where the parties to conflict practice their violations to this day, have escalated.

SAM has highlighted these violations as it was the leading organization discussing the secret detention facilities through its statement issued on 24 May 2017 in which it highlighted illegal prisons and secret detention facilities supervised by the United Arab Emirates and its affiliated forces in Aden and Hadhramaut Governorate.

On September 7, 2017, SAM released a lengthy statement which revealed 180 secret detention centers and illegal prisons mostly supervised by the Houthi group, UAE supported forces, and forces loyal to the internationally-recognized government.

The prisons and secret detention centers disclosed by the organization are distributed to the following governorates: Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Hudaydah, Sa'ada, Hajja, Dhamar, Al-Bayda, Amran and Marib.

SAM organization issued a report on Al-Teen Prison in Hadhramaut which is supervised by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and where detainees are forcibly hidden and severely tortured.

The organization received numerous reports about detaining Yemenis in either Saudi prisons or in prisons supervised by Saudi Arabia, in both Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where the detainees are subjected to enforced disappearance and severe torture. These prisons hide a lot of detainees, some of whom are subjected to severe torture while many died due to torture as was the case with the detained soldier Ibrahim Mohammed Alshamsani

REPORT METHODOLOGY

Through this report, “SAM” sheds light on the violations committed against Yemeni detainees whether those detained in prisons located in Saudi Arabia or in prisons located in Yemen but supervised by Saudi Arabia.

The present report traces the most prominent prisons and finds names of some perpetrators of the violations. The report also concluded that there is cooperation between some Yemeni officers and Saudi military actors. These Yemeni officers are mainly military commanders affiliated with the internationally recognized Yemen government; nevertheless, they work directly under Saudi supervision. This cooperation has led to the extradition of Yemeni citizens to the Saudi authorities which resulted in torturing them brutally, sometimes to death.

A team of human rights researchers and a group of collaborators work for SAM under precarious security conditions and complex situations. The organization heard numerous victims, documented a lot of crimes, and could access a wide range of sporadic and scattered information in multiple places until they were able to structure this report which provides a picture of what Yemeni detainees have been suffering from in the prisons run or supervised by Saudi Arabia. The organization followed a methodology that is consistent with international standards of organizations’ work and special investigation teams on human rights violations. It also adhered to these standards and principles at maximum to reach the conclusions about the conflict in general and violations in particular.

The organization listened to more than 100 testimonies whether over the phone, through whatsapp or interviews with victims, witnesses, military and security leaders or activists. The organization has accumulated tens of documents, photographs, interviews, as well as technical and medical reports and analyzed them.

It is worth pointing out that SAM research team has faced many difficulties and worked in a difficult environment for prolonged periods of time because of the difficulty and complexity of the detainees file also because the responsible parties rely upon confidentiality in the first place and firmness.

SAM seeks in its report to shine a light on the violations and abuses committed against Yemenis inside the country and outside it through the statements collected by its field team which conducted an investigative research with the victims themselves or their relatives.

The organization conducted more than 70 direct and indirect interviews with former detainees or their relatives.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report begins with a general entry, which reviews through and in summary, the most prominent detention centres and those responsible for the violations. After the general entry, the report reviews examples of violations, in which models were distributed into windows where violations can be looked at from different prisons and they are as follows:

In the first window, SAM documents a tragic case of a Yemeni sergeant working in the coast guard, who died under torture inside the general prison in Saudi Jazan.

In the second window, the report reviews Al-Teen Prison, in Sayoune, an old prison abandoned since 2006 where detainees have been under investigation for long periods, by “cruel” Saudi investigators. In the prison located the First Military District, flagrant violations were reported including the arrest and torture of children as monitored by Sam.

In the third window, which was devoted to arrests in Al-Mahrah Governorate. This section lists details of some of the detainees, a mother says that her son’s ribs were broken in Aden and then was exited innocence from the facility and left to work in Al-Maharah to be arrested again and was informed by the military police officer that he had handed him over to Saudi Arabia, The brother of one of the detainees also confirmed that they had arrested his brother because of an old picture for him as a boy.

In the fourth window, the report takes a look at the detention in the southern border, where Saudi Arabia has established and supported brigades of Yemeni fighters fighting there at the border, some of whom are still subjected to arrest and forced disappearance.

It reviews two different models, the first from the Fatah Brigade, where any opponent of the policy and direction of Radad al-Hashemi, a precursor appointed by Saudi Arabia as Commander of the Brigade, is detained. According to information, there are secret prisons where detainees are tortured, whether in Kittaf or joint operations prisons. Or in the jails of joint operations in Njaran, the immediate supervisor of the torture of detainees is Abdulrahman al - Hashemi’s brother Radad al – Hashemi, a commander in the brigade’s intelligence, a relative of the Hashemi, was working with the Houthis, but today he has the ability to arrest and hide everyone who was seen in the past as his opponents

The second model: The detainees who are being transferred to the intelligence detention facility, from the southern border, where the 102nd Brigade, led by Qatarifi, and documents the story of the arrest of three commanders who worked for the brigade and were imprisoned and deported, after the charges were filed, and as the witness told SAM: Despite our innocence, our reputation, our service and the traces of bullets in our bodies, we have been deported with no benefits, no ID cards or even clothes.

The fifth Window is to talk about the hidden persons arrested from inside Saudi territory, reviews two models: Sam documents the detention of civilian leaders and journalists as well as military leaders, such as the member of the Provincial Resistance Command Council, Colonel Rashad Al-Hemayari who was summoned to a meeting at Prince Fahd bin Turki's office, then they hid him and started trying him secretly. His wife, who had been displaced from Ibb Governorate, died in Marb Governorate and left her eight children without a breadwinner. She died while he was in detention. Then comes the second model that talks about deportation prisons, where expatriates are detained and then deported.

In the sixth window, SAM documents the movement of Yemeni legal papers between the general prison in Jazan, the military police detention facility and the drug prison, even though they are legally employed, the arrest of Yemeni sailor officers and boat crew. One Yemeni died of torture at the hands of the Saudis.

ENTRY

SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties has obtained through its field team's search unofficial places of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture in Yemen. Some of these prisons are located in Yemen and supervised by Saudi forces. While some of these prisons in which Yemenis are held take place within the land territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The field team of SAM organization has concluded that the most significant prisons are the following:



- **The Coalition Prison** in Aden Governorate. It is located in Al- Buriqa area. It includes the Coalition Headquarter, and it is currently supervised by Saudi-affiliated forces.
- **Al-Teen Prison** in Sayoun of Hadhramaut Governorate, which is a small secret facility located south of Sayoun City in the headquarters of Yemen Armed Forces in the First Military District. The whole area is under the control of Government of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.
- **The Airport Prison** which is located in Al-Ghaydah Airport in Al Mahra Governorate where the UAE forces, which took control of the airport, has designated a part of the building for detaining its opponents.
- **The prison of Air Force**, which is located in Jazan City in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- **The prison of the Military Intelligence**, which is also located in Jazan and SAM already released a statement about it on 12 August 2020.
- **AL-Fatah Brigade Prison** in southern border of the Kingdom.
- **The 5th Brigade prison in southern border.**
- **State Security Service Prison** in Riyadh which belongs to the General Prosecutor which is considered to be an internal intelligence service that deals with internal security and counterintelligence.
- **Dahban Prison** and it is also called General Intelligence Prison in Dahban, Jeddah. This prison was built in 2015 as part of renovation of the Jeddah Prisons infrastructure. This prison is normally used for detaining political prisoners, members of Al-Qaida, and ISIS elements. Some sources indicate that this prison has prisoners in various categories including male and female prisoners as well as some children. By November 2018, it was reported that the female detainees were subjected to torture. Also Amnesty International indicated that some female activists were repeatedly electroshocked which was confirmed by Human Rights Watch. On the other hand, an unnamed Saudi official denied the allegations of torture and waterboarding, stressing that Saudi Arabia provides male and female prisoners with the best treatment.



STATISTICS AND FIGURES

There are no accurate statistics and figures for the number of the Yemeni detainees imprisoned in Saudi detention facilities or in prisons supervised by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia because these prisons are not subject to judicial oversight. Also the international organizations are not allowed to visit them and examine the numbers and conditions of the prisoners especially in the light of the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the last few years.

THE ACCUSED PERSONS

1. The detainees under the Saudi Supervision

SAM has documented the arrest of Yemeni citizens under Saudi supervision. The detainees are held in detention facilities located in Yemen but supervised by the Saudi forces while others are detained in prisons located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The detainees are arrested on various charges that are mostly unsubstantiated.

Sometimes the body that issued the detention order do not have clear charges to bring against the detainees, so the various charges depend on the various detention facilities and sometimes a specific charge is linked to a specific detention facility such as Al-Teen prison in Hadhramaut or Al Mahra which seem to be used to detain the members of extremist organization, Al-Qaida. The detainees can be distributed as follows:

- Accused of belonging to Al-Qaida
- Detainees to pressure the suspected of belonging to Al-Qaida to turn themselves in
- Detainees in Al Mahra whose charges never seem to stick
- The detention of those who oppose the Saudi policy in Al Mahara

2. The Direct Detainees

People who are arrested in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can be divided as follows:

- Civilians who normally work for the legitimate government and are based in Riyadh. The relatives of some of these detainees have no idea why they were arrested.
- Military leaders such as General Rashad Al-Hemyari, the leader of Ibb Resistance who was called to attend a meeting at the office of Fahd Bin Turkey. Then he was forcibly disappeared and prosecuted secretly and despite his family was displaced by the Houthi group. It is worth mentioning that his wife died leaving behind 8 children without a breadwinner.
- The third category is the majority of the detainees. It refers to the Yemeni expatriates who work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They have been deported under different pretexts such as violating public order. This group of detainees are subjected to negligence and then deportation.

3. The detainees at the border

The third group of detainees are the military personnel (officers and soldiers), most of whom are interns. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has established, and supervised military brigades to include these officers and soldiers on the border and appointed commanders loyal to Saudi Arabia as a frontline to protect the Saudi borders and to defend its lands from one side, and to stranglehold on the Houthi Militia from the other side. These detainees get arrested for some reasons, the most important of which are:

- Demands of the financial entitlement such as salaries
- Snitch of the Intelligence to the Saudi side.
- Accusing them of being mercenaries
- Charges of smuggling drugs
- Disagreements with some leaders they work for

THE PERPETRATORS OF VIOLATIONS

The file of the arbitrarily detained and enforced disappearance is regarded as the most complicated files during the years of conflict in Yemen. Moreover the parties carrying out these acts make sure these violations are committed far from law and judicial or human rights monitoring. Because the perpetrators are keen to hide, the authorities – military or security- they work for make sure to provide a safe environment for the ones responsible for these violations in order to protect them from accountability. Hence, it is difficult to reach all the perpetrators.

SAM issued previous reports and statements on the forcibly disappeared persons, one of them was Al-Saleh Detention Center, the residential area to the north of Taiz city which was transferred to a big prison by the Houthi Militia where people are detained and tortured. Some of the perpetrators were mentioned in that report. Based on the information collected by SAM in this report, the organization obtained the names of alleged perpetrators who committed violations against the Yemenis detained in quick places under the Saudi supervision of detention, some of these names that hide behind nicknames apparently in a fear of accountability

1. **Al-Khalidi..** a Saudi officer
2. **Bader AL-Otaibi..** a Saudi officer
3. **Abo Nawwaf ...** a Saudi officer
4. **Abdo Al-Marri...**a Yemeni Citizen the director of Al-Teen Prison
5. **Ahmed Al-Qatrifi,...** a Yemeni citizen, the commander of Falcons of Yemen Brigade
6. **Mohammed Al-Qatrifi....** Security officer, Falcons of Yemen Brigade
7. **Radad Al-Hashemi...** Yemeni citizen.... Commander of Al-Fatah Brigade, one of the Salafi leaders who fled to Saudi Arabia a year after the takeover of Dammaj by the Houthi Militia. Then he returned the fore after the Operation of Decisive Storm and the (formation) of Al-Fateh Brigade.
8. **Abo Obaida AL-Mabari,...** former officer in the Republican Guard, he is regarded as one of the Salafi leaders who emerged after Decisive Storm and the formation of the southern border brigades.
9. **AbdulRahaman Algharazi**
10. **Ahmed Muqbel Mueedh Farhan**

WINDOW 1

The story of Ibrahim Al-Shamsani- Yemeni Coast Guard soldier- is one of the most tragic stories which summarizes the details of violations perpetrated against Yemenis detained by Saudi Arabia.

He seized a contraband shipment on Yaklan Island where he delivered it to Saudi officers. After that, he went back to his village in Taiz to spend his vacation. Then he was summoned by the contingent he worked with to attend training offered by the Saudi side. He participated in the training and went back again to his village. Six days later, he was called up urgently, so he went to the island. He was extradited there to the Saudi side where he was arrested in his country before he was transferred to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after being tortured. The information and documents obtained by SAM show that Al-Shamsani's death is surrounded by the suspicion of deliberate killing through torture.

IBRAHIM AL-SHAMSANI

A Coast Guard Sergeant who seized a contraband shipment... they summoned him for a training... and tortured him to death

On 25 June 2019, SAM documented the death of Ibrahim Mohammed Mahyoub Saeed Al-Shamsani, a Yemeni coast guard sergeant. He is from Taiz, Mashra'a and Hadnan District. He died apparently as a result of severe torture in a Saudi prison, in Jazan in a breach of international humanitarian law. This crime also could amount to elements of war crimes in case this information is proven.

Abdulqawi Al-Shamsani, the victim's brother, said to SAM that his brother Ibrahim was able to seize a drug shipment on Yaklan Island near Midi, and he delivered this shipment to Saudi Officers. He confirmed: "My brother didn't tell us to whom this shipment belongs. I contacted with his fellow who told me that my brother seized a weed shipment on Yaklan Island."

After that, Ibrahim went back to his village to spend his vacation when the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Khaled Alqumali summoned Ibrahim to participate in training in Jazan. Ibrahim travelled from his village on

22 November 2018. Then he moved to Saudi Arabi to participate in the training. He was trained for about four months in naval tactics and naval mine clearance. After that, the commanding officer tasked Ibrahim and ten of his fellow soldiers with a mission to Maion Island. After serving on the island for twelve days, Al-Shamsani received an unofficial leave so he went back to the village.

Abdulqawi added: "It turned out that this leave was given to him to implement the plan of his abduction." And he confirmed that after he had been given the leave, he travelled to the village and stayed there only for seven days. Then he received a summon to return to the island, and they urged him. He was summoned by his commanding officer and his name is Dhaif Allah Saif Al-Salehi. After Ibrahim had returned to Maioon Island, he stayed there for five days. His brother said: "The last contact between us was that he arrived there. Then we did not know how he was kidnapped."

According to what the victim's brother said to SAM: "His death took place on 15 June 2019. Two days after his death on 17 June 2019 I received a text message from an

individual telling me my brother had been abducted by a barge from the island. I tried calling that number but nobody answered.”

Abdulqawi indicated that the Saudis are the ones who killed his brother. He continues asking, “Who kidnapped him from Maioon Island which is under the Saudi control?” He pointed out that he wanted to know the legal basis adopted by the Yemeni forces for extraditing his brother Ibrahim to the Saudi officers. He stressed, “They sent my brother’s body with signs of torture.”

The organization got in contact with Fares Al-Azab, the lawyer appointed to pursue the death case of Ibrahim Al-Shamsani, who reported that Ibrahim participated in the fighting against the Houthis in Mashra’a and Hadnan District in 2015, and he – Ibrahim- was a policeman prior to the war and worked at Al-Hudaydah Port. Then he joined the coast guard. He qualified due to his skill.

According to Al-Azab, Ibrahim’s relatives found out that their son had seized a boat with drug shipment. After he had taken a leave, he travelled to visit his family in the village. While on his leave, he was summoned by the coast guard to participate in a training that took place in Saudi Arabia. Then he returned to the island to serve there and to take a leave. He was summoned again to the island. After

he had returned, he disappeared, and his family didn’t know his fate. That happened around June 2019.

Al-Azab indicated that Al-Shamsani’s relatives tried to call in order to know the fate of their son and look for him. After searching for him, they found out Ibrahim was a dead body. They searched through the competent authorities. Then it turned out he was with the Saudi Forces. He add: “What we knew is that a Saudi boat arrived to Maioon Island and received Ibrahim by Yemen Coast Guard, which took him by force. According to the warrant issued by the naval forces general in Jazan Prison, Ibrahim was charged with having a memory which includes Houthi chants “Zawamel”, payroll of the coast guard, and location maps.” The lawyer indicated that they obtained this warrant after he had been tortured and liquidated.

In his testimony to SAM, the Lawyer Al-Azab said that Saudis stated in their warrant that Ibrahim committed suicide in the prison bathroom. They sent his body to Aden Airport after his death. Then his body was transported to the morgue of Alrawda Hospital in Taiz. Al-Azab said: “We made a request to the prosecution to bring in a forensic doctor. The doctor came to examine his body, and he submitted a detailed report confirming that Ibrahim had been tortured.”

Al-Azab mentioned that they processed a complaint to the Military Prosecution in Taiz where it should be sent to the Military Prosecutor because there are Yemenis who are accused of hiding him in coordination with the Saudi side. He said, "There are no procedures for investigating his death except for the warrant that reported he took his own life."

SAM looked at 4 pictures of the deceased's body and a number of reports including the criminal report and the forensics in Taiz which were presented to medical authority and reported there were bruises on his fingers indicating he was subjected to violence. He also was beaten on his lower legs. The report also pointed out the victim was subjected to torture before his death. The report didn't determine that Al-Shamsani hanged himself since there are no pictures of the victim while he was hanged and the tool tied around his neck wasn't enclosed as evidence, nor was there a noose knot. The means used to reach the rope wasn't enclosed either. All these elements made the report of the Saudi authority claiming that he took his own life inconclusive which is likely to prove that Ibrahim died due to torture.

In addition, SAM got a copy of the forensics report issued by the Department of Criminal Evidence in Taiz Governorate, as well as the coroner's report of the office of the Public Prosecutor. It also obtained a memorandum issued by the victim's father and addressed to Khaled Al-Qumali, Commandant of the Yemen Coast Guard, which wasn't responded. SAM also obtained two memorandum issued by the Saudi side about the victim. The first one describes how the victim had died, whereas the second one is related to transporting the victim's body to Aden Airport.

WINDOW 2

AL-TEEN PRISON

On April 11, 2018, SAM organization released a statement about the torture practiced against the detainees in Al-Teen Prison in Sayoun City, Hadhramaut Governorate, under the supervision of the Saudi forces. The statement said, "SAM received information that the detainees are kept in the so-called "Atl-Teen prison" which is an old abandoned prison since 2006 at Murima area in Sayoun about 500 feet far from the new prison. The detainees are interrogated for hours by Saudi interrogators supervised by Abu Salem and Al-Khaledi in addition to the commander of the first military district."

There are detainees who are imprisoned in the Central Prison, and they are directly supervised by the Public Prosecution and others belonged to it. As for the old prison “Al-Teen”, it contained the hidden detainees about whom the prosecution and the courts know nothing. According to the report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen, Al-Teen Prison is a small secret facility located south of Sayoun City, within the headquarters of Yemeni Army Forces in the First Military District. The report also added that Al-Teen was an old prison before it was abandoned in 2006 in favor of the Military Prison. In 2016, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia re-established Al-Teen Detention Facility. After that, a wall was built to separate it from the Military Prison. These facilities are located in the northern part of Hadhramaut Governorate, and the whole area is under the control of the government and the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia.

The prison is surrounded by a circular fence, once someone enters the prison, there is a hall and four solitary confinements on the right side and four others on the left side. In the front, there are two wards, each of which consists of a small yard, two rooms and an unusable bathroom as it doesn't contain a door or window. Also, the walls are falling down. The other solitary confinements are behind the prison.

There is also a very small cell that is called al-Daghatah the “Pressure Cooker” where the undisciplined detainees or the detainees not liked by prison staff are sent.

According to the testimonies documented by SAM Organization, the officials responsible for the interrogation and torture are Saudi and Yemeni intelligence officers, working under Saudi supervision. Some of the names identified are: a Saudi officer called “Al-Khalidi” and another called “Badr Al-Otaibi,” as well as an officer named “Abu Nawwaf”, and the prison director is Abdo Al-Marri of Yemeni nationality. The testimonies confirm that Saudi officers have the authority to decide on the arrest and release.

SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties documented more than 15 cases, including two children who were arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared in Sayoun during the year 2016 after military units of the First District forces supported by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia arrested and detained them in Al-Teen prison in Sayoun.

Former detainees and families of detainees told SAM that their detained relatives were subjected to abuse and torture inside the detention centers, often by severe beatings with iron wires and sticks, and forcing them to flip flops until they throw up. One former detainee said: “We are treated like sheep; we

have no dignity. We are subjected to insults, beatings, solitary confinement, and electrocution and spraying with very cold water in the winter.”

The report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen indicated that all the detainees were subjected to what was described as a routine of random torture apparently inside the room on the facility ground including forced nudity while crawling on dirt with stones on their back, beating with sticks and rivals, the electrocution, mock execution and the long suspension from the ceiling by their hands.

The charges brought against the detainees were joining Al-Qaida, which had controlled Al-Mukalla in April 2015, before UAE-backed Hadhrami Elite Forces regained Al-Mukalla City on 25 April 2016, after which military forces-affiliated with the First Military District and supervised by Saudi forces-carried out arrests and raids by using excessive force.

On visitation, and health condition, SAM said that they had received many complaints from the families of the detainees, stating that they were denied visitation except after hard suffering and constant follow-ups with the First Military District and the Security Committee.

One of the detainees’ relatives told SAM he was allowed to visit his two sons only for half an hour during 3 years of detention, indicating to the poor conditions of the detainees where some suffer diseases and tumors and never receive proper medication by the prison authorities, while their relatives are unaware of their condition due to denial of visits.

Furthermore, SAM documented different cases as it received complaints from the relative of the detainees who confirmed that they didn’t know the fate of their relatives after not hearing from them. They feared that the detainees would be subjected to torture or be killed during torture. It also monitored the detention of a number of Yemenis for unknown reasons. Some of these detainees have been forcibly disappeared, while others have been subjected to torture, and some of them were transported from Al-Teen Prison to prisons in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SAM Organization received a report from one of the detainees’ relatives who stressed that his relative was transported from Al-Teen Prison to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 16 July 2019, after he had been detained in the prison supervised by the Saudi forces in Sayoun for more than three years. S.A confirmed that his son was transferred by a plane from Sayoun Airport to Saudi Arabia where he has never been heard from ever since.

WOMEN'S DETENTION AND THREATENING A CHILD WITH A GUN

In his testimony to the team of SAM, Fahmi Khamees, a former detainee since 2016, told SAM team: "My brother was accused of joining Al-Qaida and they raided our house, but they couldn't find my brother. So I've been detained along with my two brothers and my wanted brother's wife and we were kept as hostages. They threatened his wife with filming her, and a security man pulled a gun at the baby's head- the baby was 5 months old- and threatened her if she does not tell them where her husband is."

He added that this incident took place on the fourth day of Eid 2016 when a military force raided the family house at 3:00 am. Fahmi and his other brother were transferred to the first military district, whereas his brother's wife remained in Al-Katan Military Base. 40 days later, Fahmi's older brother was released. The wanted brother was arrested two months after his brothers' detention. In spite of informing the two brothers they were to be released since their brother was arrested, the two brothers remained in detention for 11 months.

The elder brother was released 40 days and detained again. Fahmi said

"They brought him back to prison and he has been imprisoned for two years without any charges or due process, just for security precautions"

Fahmi pointed out that there detainees imprisoned in the prison belonging to the First Military District and the Saudi-Led Coalition who have been detained for 3 years, while others have detained for two and a half years. Others have been detained for a year and half. These detainees haven't been brought to trial nor have they been released. Despite all the efforts made to release or to refer the detainees (including two of Fahmi's brothers) to the prosecution, all these efforts were met with total refusal.

Fahmi mentioned to the team of SAM, "During my period of detention, I was interrogated only once and I was asked only three questions. Then I was imprisoned unjustly. My relatives did the military, civic and tribal follow-up, yet the forces refused to accept the follow-up. My brother and I were released 11 months later. We still have detained brother who have been detained for almost two years and they haven't been released or referred to the prosecutor.

CHILDREN SUBJECTED TO TORTURE

In Al-Teen Prison, grave violations are committed including child detention and torture. These practices violate the conventions of special protection of children in international law such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on Protection of Children. The father of Sami Faraj Bakhit Al-Zubaidi said that his son was 15 years old when he was arrested four years ago. He confirmed that his son was severely beaten with iron wires and sticks in addition to insults, and submerged him in cold water in the winter.

The Children Sultan and Abdullah

In March 2015, the two children, Sultan Ghaleb Omar Ali bin Ali Jaber, 18, and Abdullah Wael Omar Ali bin Ali, were arrested. Sultan was 16 years old when he was arrested, while Abdullah was 17.

One of their relatives told SAM that they suffer in the detention center from a psychological disorder. Sultan and Abdullah complained of iron handcuffs that did not leave

their feet, in addition to being severely beaten and electrocuted. He confirmed that there are detainees aged 17 who have been subjected to all kinds of torture by the military command and the Saudi soldiers.

Some of these detainees have been detained for three years, without referring their case files to the Public Prosecution or even interrogating them. As has been confirmed by one of Sultan and Abdullah relatives, the detained are “confined in leg shackles.. there is lack of concern about the detainees’ health. They don’t contact their families.. they are not provided with adequate food.”

One of the detainees’ parents said, “I say this because I am one of the parents of those detainees. My son is 17 years old. He was charged with al-Qaida affiliation, and he was exposed to the worst torture methods by one of the Saudi soldiers.” The parent urged the authorities to immediately release his son or to bring him to courts.

THE PRACTICES OF TORTURE IN DETENTION

Fahmi Stated that the detainees are exposed to various forms of torture, abuse and persecution by the prison supervisors as the detainees were confined in iron leg shackles. He emphasized that some were having their legs confined with shackles for two years and a half or more. He added that the prison officers let the prisoners out at 11 at noon and they force them to run a lot and to flip on the ground to the point of throwing up, in addition to spraying them with cold water in the winter and forcing them to sweep the offices and the places where the officers chow qat as well as cleaning the warehouses.

Fahmi Revealed he was subjected to mock execution and he said: “They used to take us blindfolded, and tell us that a death sentence was issued against us, made us live under fear and horror, then they return us to the cell.”, indicating that he was among the detainees who went on a hunger strike.

Fahmi reported that one day, a military force led by officers Mustafa Al-Muhya, and Abdullah Al-Ashwal came to the facility. The police officers entered to the prison holding Kalashnikov and batons. They locked the inmates up in the cells by force. Then they pulled the detained individually. Fahmi says: “They brought the first detainee down. His name’s Ali Kalkali. After that 15 soldiers beat him with their sticks, batons, and electric wires until he fainted. Then they took Yeslem Al-Mansouri who was beaten the same way. After that they beat Julhum Al-Katheri, Mahmoud Al-Shameri, Sami Al-Zabedi, and Sultan bin Ali Jabir. The soldiers were beating each detainee till he fainted, and then they return him to his cell following by the second detainee. When they were done, they threatened to torture them again in case the detainees thought to go on a hunger strike again.

He also indicated that they and their families were robbed by the wardens by requesting them to bring money and original honey claiming that the detainees were requesting these things. Once the families send the requested things, the soldiers and officers stole them, stressing that the families were able to visit the detainees with the greatest of difficulty and in spite of the difficulty to visit the detainees, the ones in charge for the prison would allow the relatives to visit the detainees only for five minutes. After that, they return the detainees to their cells and demand the relatives –Fahmi says- to a sum of money because they were allowed to see the detainees.

SELLING FOOD

Fahmi described what used to happen during distributing food to the inmates when food was being sold by some individuals in the detention so that only little food left. Later, the detainees were given the chance to cook on their own. After that, the prison officials stopped supplying the kitchens at the prison with food.

THE “PRESSURE COOKER”

Saad, 22 years old, father of a child, turned himself into the security authorities in Sayoun city, after being pursued by the security forces on charges of al-Qaeda affiliation, they transferred him to the General Prison in the First Military district, he said to SAM. He told SAM that the inmates' number exceeds the capacity of the prison.

Saad said that they are being severely tortured by the Saudi officers, a person called Abu Nawwaf and his name is Bandar Al-Otaibi, and another called Abu Salem, and he confirmed that the Yemeni soldiers and those in charge of the prison are also not different from them, as they participated in the torture of the detainees, including a person named Al-Waeel, who is responsible and the supervisor of the prison that everyone suffers from, and another called Habib, and these are tasked with beating detainees even without reasons, according to Saad's account.

Saad narrated that on one occasion he and five of the detainees went on strike, and they refused lunch because of bad food: “After that, I was accused of being an instigator, and on the same night I was taken out at night and threatened by the

prison administration, they wanted me to turn around in the dirt as punishment; I refused. After that, a confrontation took place with the soldiers with hands in the presence of the director. He ordered them to throw me into the car designated for transporting prisoners, which is an armored “Dina” and very hot. This method of torture is used daily to harm prisoners. They left me in the cage till noon of the next day in the car without drinking water, then the director came and he placed handcuffs on my hands and feet, and they took me to the adjacent prison, which is the al-Teen prison. They immediately put me in a very narrow room called al-Daghatah the “Pressure Cooker”.

Saad confirmed that he did not see the sun for a month, and he mentioned that there are many inmates kept in the “Pressure Cooker” and there are detainees who are not allowed to visit for years, held in dark rooms, and they never go out, according to Saad: “few who can go out for certain hours in the yard, and if the prison door knocks, they flee in fear, according to the orders of the director and the prison supervisor, they flee as if they were a herd of sheep.”

SHAKER BIN HAMEL... SUFFERING FROM AN ILLNESS

On the first of September 2017, Shaker bin Hamel, 57, from the city of Sayoun, Hadhramaut was arrested by Yemeni forces and under Saudi supervision, and after he was imprisoned in Al-Teen prison, Hamel was severely tortured along with the rest of the detainees.

Shaker suffers from many diseases in the urinary tract, as he suffers from seizures sometimes resulting in the intoxicating of his body, and because of that, he suffers from tumors in his foot. Last visit to Shaker was in December 2018 in Sayoun, and after

that nobody heard of him, or his whereabouts and his family follow up with concerned authorities, but in vain, and according to the testimony of one of those who were with him in detention, they parted in Sayoun airport in 2019, and that is according to what he heard, "he was transferred with others to Dhahban prison in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

It is worth mentioning that Shaker investigation file is ready for the Mukalla Prosecution office for his trial, while his family is calling for justice and his release.

DHAHBAN

A former detainee who was held at Dhahban Prison in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia told SAM: "I was detained for five years in Dhahban in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I met a lot of Yemenis there. Some of whom have been detained for more than ten years. Most of them are subjected to brutal torture at the hands of the prison officials belonging to the State Security Service." He adds: "I was beaten, electrocuted, beaten with cables as well as being put in solitary confinement to force me to confess to false accusations. Before the trial, they appoint a lawyer for

us, but this doesn't change the facts and prejudgement as judges always make their decisions based on the confessions extracted under torture." He emphasize "There is a large number of Yemenis detained in Dhahban Prison. I can't count them thoroughly, but I can say the numbers ranged from 200-250 Yemenis detained in a separate section of the prison which contains four sections. Each section consists of 13 halls, and each hall contains 6-9 persons. Most of the detainees are held on charges electronic dissemination.

WALEED AND ALI AL-KALKI

Ali Abdo Al-Kalki was born in 1986. He was detained on 5 March 2015 in Sayoun in Hadhramaut Governorate by an army patrol belonging to the First Military District. He was forcibly disappeared and he wasn't allowed to receive visits until after many demands. He was exposed to torture, was severely beaten with electrical wires, electrocuted, and forced to roll on thorns as he was imprisoned for four years.

Waleed Al-Kalki, Ali's brother, was also arrested. Waleed was born in 1992. He was arrested in 2015 by a helicopter belonging to the Saudi-led Coalition and the First Military District. He has been subjected to various practices including torture and physical assault.

One of the witnesses met by SAM said: "while waleed was exposed to various forms of torture including severe beating with iron wires, sticks, and flip flops until he throws up. He was also abused and insulted, in addition to being submerged in cold water during winter season.

It is recalled that the Coalition in the First Military District in Sayoun is the party responsible for arresting Waleed and his brother after surrounding him and his brother in (Wdi Heen) area. One of their relatives said to SAM: "The truth is it was agreed with the official of the Arab Coalition the Military Commander Sultan Al-Khalidi that they – Waleed and his brother- would turn themselves in and halt the clashes between them provided that they wouldn't be hurt by the Saudi and Yemeni soldiers. However, Sultan Al-Khalidi tortured our sons in the prison."

The family of the two detainees demanded to amplify their voices the First District leadership and the Saudi military personnel which supervise the investigation in the hopes of releasing their relatives.

KAMEL ALI MOHAMMED BIN TALEB

Kamel Ali Mohammed Taleb, aged 42, married with kids. He have been detained for nearly three years and half, specifically in 2017 by the army forces in the First Military District.

Kamel was subjected to torture, beatings and electrocution. He was denied visits at the beginning of his detention. When he was last visited in July 2018, as been confirmed by one of his relatives: “He told us that he was in the Coalition prison, and he wasn’t referred to the Prosecution office to be investigated.” It is worth noting here that there is no charge against Kamel. Moreover, his family confirms that he has been detained to be pressured to hand over his son who is Al-Qaida suspect. He suffers from a tumor in the head, and the doctors decided to operate on him, but this surgery was postponed because he hasn’t been released from his detention. One of his relatives said: “Currently we do not know anything about his health status since we have been unable to visit him for five months.” He mentioned that they communicated with deputy governor for the Valley affairs who told them that the party responsible for the arrest is the security committee.

YASLAM ALI SALEM AL-MANSOURI

Yaslem Ali Salem Al-Mansouri, 25 years old, was detained in 2015 when a military vehicle belonging to the First Military District in Sayoun hit him while he was driving his motorcycle. Then they took him to an undisclosed location. Yaslam was severely beaten, electrocuted, sprayed with cold water, psychologically tortured, assaulted and ill-treated. Yaslam said to SAM after his release: “We were humiliated as we were beaten and electrocuted inside the prison in Murayma area in Sayoun. The primary responsible was someone called “Tumais”, and there are Saudi officers who showed no mercy.”

WINDOW3

AL MAHRA GOVERNORATE

Bassam Shoukry Ahmed Motahar

On June 2019, Saudi forces in Mahra governorate arrested Bassam Shoukry Ahmed Motahar, from Abyan governorate, Khanfar district. Bassam was arrested after he came to Al - Ghaydah, the capital of Al - Mahra gov, and joined a fish company. SAM organization met Bassam's mother and she said that her son had been imprisoned by the coalition in Aden governorate, but after three years of detention without legal grounds, he left. Bassam's mother added to her statement: "My son and I decided to get out of Aden and Abyan and avoid trouble, and for my son start a new life. My son, his wife and I went to Al-Mahra, and we rented a small, traditional two-room house without ventilation".

Bassam's mother stated that they were forced to sell their house in Abyan to pay the rent for the house in Al-Mahra, and asserted that her son was ill after being tortured in the Coalition Prison and was unable to work, because his ribs were broken due to torture. Bassam tried to work as a driver in a fish company, and then got sick for a while, after which, in Ramadan, a military relative called and told him that "Marsaa" - the military police commander in Al-Mahra - is creating a military battalion and will recruit him".

His mother says: "My son went with my cousin and registered in the military and they gave him forms to sign from the neighborhood headman. He was contacted by the Military Police Commander's Monitor in Al-Mahra "Marsaa", who asked him for the recruitment file." His mother adds: "He and my cousin went and then they arrested my son that night on 06/06/2018, I tried to call Bassam more than once, but he didn't answer until the second morning. They caught my son and posted pictures of him in all channels".

Bassam’s mother went to the camp, but the chief of the police “Marsaa” refused to meet her, but, she didn’t give up, and tried to meet the commander to find out why her son was arrested. Until she intercepted Commander “Marsaa’s” car one time, he informed her, “I delivered your son at the airport and he’s now with the coalition forces”.

AHMED MUBARAK

“They arrested my brother for a picture.”

Ahmed Mubarak, 35, from Abyan governorate, was arrested in Al Mahra by the military police on May 2019. Ahmed worked for a fish company, and was arrested by the police and put in “Almehwar” prison and then at the airport prison supervised by the coalition forces. According to his brother, Ahmed’s arrest was due to a charge of working with Al Qaida. According to the police report, and to his brother’s account, the reporting came from the leader of the coalition in Abyan, which, in his words, is an invalid accusation.

Ahmed’s parents knew nothing about his arrest. After a while, they got word of his deportation to Saudi Arabia. “We knew nothing of him. He was unfairly arrested on a false charge, where he was investigated in a criminal search and they found nothing against him” his brother said. His brother asserted that whoever arrested Ahmed had taken one of his pictures as an evidence of his membership of Al Qaida , it’s nonsense for God sake “This is an old picture they took as evidence and it’s for friends, from the same city , same age, but everyone went on his way. “ Photo of a sports team showing Ahmed, a team of friends from the school, Ahmed’s brother said it was a childhood memory.

According to information provided by his brother, during the Al Qaida War, Ahmed was at the Sahel Company in “Qasayar” , Mukalla from 2010 to 2012, then moved to Ibb Governorate in 2013 until the Houthis entered Ibb when he returned with a group of young people all were working together at “Retag” restaurants in Ibb Governorate. Then he moved to Al-Mahra to work for the Tamimi fish company where he was arrested. “Ahmed’s whole life is a work from one place to another to build a future.” He added: “Many young people have suffered and been imprisoned on unjust charges, more than one from the same village and place and have been imprisoned in Abyan for the same charges”.



ARRESTS BY SAUDI FORCES

- In early May 2018, a Yemeni websites revealed that citizen Ahmed Ben Break Al Tamimi had been arrested by local Yemeni forces, and then handed over to Saudi forces, which in turn deported him to Saudi Arabia, where he was forcibly disappeared, before information we obtained indicating that he was later released.
- On 10 December 2018, Citizen Hazem Mohamed Kadda was arrested and subjected to investigation at the Saudi Arabian forces' prison at Al-Ghaydah airport and released by Saudi forces after a tribal mediation.
- On 9 March 2019, Saudi forces arrested citizens Mohammed Abdullah Muslim and Ali Saad Bakhit Keddah at night, they were taken from their tent in the village of "Yerup", 30 km east of Al- Ghaydah, and taken to the Saudi-controlled Al Ghaydah airport, following the deployment of a video footage of a relative expressing his rejection of Saudi forces' presence in the governorate and the conversion of grazing areas into camps. According to the statements Sam obtained, the purpose of the arrest was to force them to guide to their cousin. "We were imprisoned and insulted inside the airport prison for 15 days, and only released after tribal intervention during the visit of the Presidential Committee to Al Mahra".
- On 10 June 2019, armed and hooded men raided the house of Younis Saif Saleh Saeed Al-Radfani, 28 years old, and transferred him to the Saudi forces prison at Al Ghaydah

airport. He remained in prison for three days. He said he'd been tortured for two days, and he'd seen horrifying scenes of torture, and then they let him go and simply said: "We made a mistake, we didn't mean you. Go home." Younis described what happened as mockery and recklessness.

- On July 2, 2019, a female citizen was shot while a security force raided her home in al-Nur neighborhood, in Al Ghaydah, and was taken to Al Ghaydah hospital. The security force raided the house without a warrant and arrested two people, who were later released and stated they had been tortured in a secret Saudi prison.
- On July 2, 2019, Nasser Mahmoud Mbruk and Saleh Mohamed Hassan, from Abyan governorate, said that their home in the city of Al- Ghaydah had been suddenly attacked by members of the "military police" of the governor and Saudi forces, and had been taken to a secret prison. They said they had been tortured, beaten and humiliated for three days and their personal belongings, clothes and money had been stolen.
- On 9 September 2019, a pharmacist, Suleiman Al-Alamri, was abducted by a military force of the Mahra governor, the police force raided his place, handcuffed him and covered his eyes before he was transferred to a secret prison. He said that in prison he was subjected to electrocution shocks to the point where he lost consciousness, and then thanks to tribal mediation, they handed him over to the Criminal Research Department, which later released him.
- On 2 July 2019, a Saudi force arrested the journalist and photographer Yahya Al-Sewari and moved him to an unknown location. Al Sewari remain kidnapped and disappeared until 27 August, when he posted a recent photo of himself on his Facebook page and said that he was kidnapped in a Saudi prison and confirmed, "Throughout the arrest I didn't know where I was, I was transferred to more than one prison blindfolded with my hands tied to my back and added: "In the investigation I was severely tortured emotionally and physically, I reached the point of electrocution and threatening to kill my young brother Badr." Al - Sewari worked for "Sana'a Centre for Strategic Studies" before being arrested and forcibly hidden in the Saudi jails in Mahra.
- On 18 July 2019, an armed force raided an apartment of 25-year-old Badr al-Sewari, in Al -Ghaydah city, the younger brother of journalist Yahya al-Sewari. The armed force abducted Badr and moved him to an unknown location. He remained hidden until 3 September 2019, when a tribal mediation succeeded in releasing him after a graphic and written appeal by his brother Yahiya who offered to surrender in exchange for his brother's release.

WINDOW 4

Detention at the southern border

Some Yemenis are fighting to defend the Saudi Arabia southern border, but they are subjected to arbitrary arrests and forced disappearance in the Saudi intelligence prisons. Some may be hidden from six months to an unknown date, and some of the disappeared may be deported to Marib governorate in Yemen. SAM organization has obtained information about detention facilities established on Yemeni- Saudi borders to punish Yemeni fighters who wish to return to Yemen, or who claim their financial benefits, some of which are located in camps maintained by Saudi Arabia, including:

- The Fifth Brigade prison, which is run by Abu Obaydah al - Harthi, a commander who is close to, and has been appointed by Saudi Arabia "Thubalah" detention.
- Detention of Al Fatah Brigade run by Radad al-Hashemi. The most important of these are: Military police prison, special forces camp and intelligence camp in command.

It is important to point out here that these camps were founded on haphazard and fragile foundations, unrelated to the military side, or to the laws imposed in the military service. In these brigade detentions are places for persecution, racism, zoning, violation of rights, insults, beatings, and torture of certain individuals and for prolonged detention.

Former detainees, who were within brigades, told SAM that "Those who lead these brigades are young guys who have not joined the military service beforehand, and have not been properly trained, or qualified in the art of command, or how to deal with individuals, especially in the battlefields. "They imagine that the driving is by wayward and parade, and the salary of an individual's that comes only after they test the bitterness of life while waiting are also defrauded by them"

One detainee said: "Recently, a number of individuals have been drawn, who report that they are experienced in leadership, and when they have been able to lead , they have created a unit called "The Intelligence Unit, "found that they understood nothing, but rather some of those were supervisors of the Houthi and were more familiar with the art of torture than their predecessors, they brought them to complete the course as they had experience in fabricating charges against those who opposed such acts against individuals and those who objected were hidden in prison or deported without pay or benefits, for incitement."

SAM also found some detention places inside Saudi Arabia, where Yemeni soldiers are detained, such as Khamis Mushait, Al Dahran South detention, General Prison detention, Military Police Prison, Najran General Detention and Military Police detention

AL FATAH BRIGADE

According to information obtained by SAM's team, any opponent of the policy and direction of Radad al - Hashemi, a Salafi man appointed by Saudi Arabia as commander of the Fatah Brigade, is arrested. According to the information obtained, there are secret prisons where detainees are tortured either in Kittaf hub prisons or in joint operation prisons in Njaran. The immediate supervisor of the torture of detainees is Abdulrahman Al-Hashemi, brother of Radad Al-Hashemi.

Colonel Abdulrahman Al-Khrzzi, is considered to be the secret prison officer in Kittaf hub, Sa'dah governorate, along with other positions he holds. The chief officer in carrying out the arrests is Fares Ahmed Muqbil Farhan, a witness said that most of the detainees were from Taiz Governorate and mentioned that there were reportedly leaders who had been hidden and no one knew their fate until the moment.

Salim

“A former Houthi supervisor who is arresting soldiers and officers and report them to the Saudi side”.

He was a sector commander in the Fatah Brigade led by Radad al-Hashimi, one of the brigade's former detainees. In his testimony to SAM Salim, revealed a lot of information, including that there were people working as supervisors with the Houthi group and suddenly became leaders of the Fatah Brigade, including the brigade's intelligence colonel, which had the power to arrest any soldiers, according to Salim's testimony.

Salem said, “I was arrested by Mr. Abu Mohammed Abdulrahman Al-Khrzzi, who was a supervisor with the former Houthi, currently the intelligence colonel after I posted on my Facebook page on the ninth

anniversary of the February 11 revolution. Salim was detained for 70 days because of the post, which was about military commanders in the brigade who were subjected to forced disappearance and no one knows about them. Among them as stated by Salim was Colonel Alaa Abd al-Jabbar Mohammed, (nicknamed as) Abu Salem, Sector Commander, and Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Siddiq Al Najashi, Commander of the Secret Intervention Battalion, Captain Amr Al Omari, liaison officer with Saudi Forces, and Major Mohammed Al-Adini. Salim confirmed that approximately 20 commanders remain hidden.



MALICIOUS CHARGES

Salem said he was driving the crew (a military vehicle), to be surprised with intelligence crew intercepted him on the line, and another Axis police crew, stopped him, took him down and informed him he was wanted by the intelligence unit. Al-Ahrabi confirmed that he was admitted to “a two-metre-wide, 3-metre-long ground prison, and there were about 20 prisoners inside”. He continued: “I stayed in it for 50 days without any investigation, so I went on a hunger and drink strike, so the intelligence officer was called and told me “you are wanted to Riyadh”. When I asked about the charge, he said I was an Al-Qaida member, and “I told him to prove it on me and I will take the sanction”. The Intelligence unit told Jalal that it already requested Radad al - Hashimi, the brigade commander, to pursue his case in Riyadh. Al - Arhabi said the intelligence also told him “We will not extradite you.” He added: “I knew it wasn’t true and I wasn’t wanted by the Saudis.” He adds: “At first you are arrested by the Yemenis and then they torture you, and then they bring up cases to the Saudi’s that we are from Al Qaeda or the Muslim Brotherhood, or working agents them, and then transferred to Saudi Arabia”.

alim met a man named Abu Mohammed Abdulrahman Al-Khrzzi, a cousin of Radad Al - Hashimi. He asked by Al-Khrzzi to stay where he was and that he would review his case with the Saudis. After that, he continued 10 days in prison. “I was told by Radad Al-Hashimi, you are form “Eslah” the reform party and you are the one who ruined the country. There was a tough talk between me and Radad Al-Hashimi, and I was imprisoned for 20 days.”

THE SNITCHING TO THE SAUDI SIDE

Most of the detainees are released at 9 p.m., tortured until 5 a.m., electrocuted, kicked, slapped with their eyes covered, and their bodies sprayed with diesel. Some prisoners are unconscious inside this prison. The prisons inside the Axis are overseen by Abdulrahman Al-Hashemi's brother of Radad Al-Hashemi, and Abdulrahman Al-Khaled Al-Hazemi "Radad's cousin", who was a supervisor with the Houthi militia in Hodeida governorate. Jalal considers that the Saudis do not know the prisons of Radad al - Hashemi. After being tortured, the detainees make a mess inside the prison. Then Radad al - Hashimi will file reports against prisoners that they are Houthis, or working with Al Qaida and then hand them over to Saudi intelligence.

Salim said he had not been tortured, but threatened to be killed. After Jalal al-Arhabi's colleagues informed his father, his father reached out to the commander of the third military region and explained

the story to him. The commander of the third military region sent a note to the Vice-President of the Republic, and the news reached Radad al-Hashemi before he got a note from the Vice-President. The news reached Radad Al-Hashimi before he received a note from the Vice-President. He brought out Jalal and asked him to guarantee that he would not talk about what was going on inside the prisons and about the concealers and the torture to which they were subjected.

Salim says that when he got out of prison, there were demonstrations inside the Axis, and Saudi officers came to them to look at what they were suffering. "We told them our colleagues inside the secret prisons of Radad Al-Hashimi, and they set up a committee to go to the secret prisons. Radad al-Hashimi removed the prisoners before the Saudi Commission arrived in all prisons and they found only 10 of the 200 prisoners who had been removed."

Colonel Mohammed Taha Al-Asbahi

Colonel Al-Asbahabi served for 50 years as a former Yemeni Navy officer, before he established the 5th Frontier Brigade in the southern border cans of Saudi Arabia, where he also served as a supply officer and as commander of the 2nd Battalion. In addition to his previous involvement in the war against the Houthi militia, he was known for his discipline and dedication to his work. At the end of 2019, Colonel Al-Asbahabi was summoned by General Mohammed Al - Bahly, commander of the 5th Border Guard Brigade, and was arrested and hidden by Saudi forces on the orders of Saad Al - Jaber, the brother of the Saudi ambassador, in Yemen. According to the testimony obtained by Sam, Al-Asbahi was arrested from the front lines for reasons believed to be related to a snitching from a senior officer, who Al-Asbahi was opposed to his appointment. From the moment he was abducted by Saudi forces, no information was known about him, nor were his parents allowed to visit him, contact him or even know his exact whereabouts. News of his place of arrest is conflicting between Najran prison or the general prison in Asir.

INTELLIGENCE DETENTION

The solitary cells are located within six adjacent rooms, located within yards about 12 meters long and two and a half meters wide, and inside the outdoor there are two recording rooms, because the surveillance cameras are distributed in different parts of the intelligence prison. There is also a small cell with two rooms, one of which is five meters wide. The two rooms with the little outdoor are collective detention facility.

The detainee is kept in a dark cell, shackled by feet, with a room area of two meters by one, and a small bathroom of half meter by half meter. One of the detainees says he stayed in the cell for two months without seeing anyone.

A former detainee who was released says: “The administration of this detention facility, don’t know what humanity means and they have no mercy. Every now and then, they hit us with copper cables, based

on the mood of the soldiers who were torturing us. Sometimes they would arrest 10 captured soldiers, beat them until bleeding, insult and threaten them.

Jamal is a (nickname) of one of the soldiers in the southern border says to SAM in his testimony that Saudi intelligence attacks are rife among us in civilian dresses, and no one can use his cell phone freely for fear of arrest. When they want to arrest someone, they come to him without making him feel he is wanted, and when he doesn’t come back to us, we realize that he has been arrested. “Jamal confirmed: “I know someone they asked for by name, and then he went from here to the Saudi headquarters, and from there they took him to prison, and when we asked about him, they said they took him to the intelligence prison, and we don’t know about him yet.”

Battalion commander, security officer, war staff... Imprisonment and deportation

“Despite our innocence, our reputation, our service and the effects of bullets in our bodies, we have been deported with no money, no IDs, and not even clothes”.

“M.A”, 27 years old, was serving in the 102nd Brigade, “Bagem” Front, Saada governorate. He worked as an assistant in the operations of the Azal Axis. The Commander of the Rapid Intervention Battalion in Dhahran South was arrested on 11 May 2019 at the “M.A” Front in Jazan and transferred to Saudi Intelligence, in Jazan City. “M.A” said that the commander of the Yemen Hawk Brigade, Ahmed Al Tairafi, General Mohammed Al Tairafi security officer and a Saudi major working in the Saudi detachment, coordinated among themselves and pointed out that Al-Masah was sneaking around on individuals and running away with hashish. So they managed what he described as an ambush sale to arrest him.

Jamal, who is the brother of Jamal, was also a security officer for the “maymana” starboard sector, and Salah Al - Ariqi, the sector’s warlord, were taken by Saudi intelligence in the Jazan force. After a month, 20 members of the sector in which they worked were attached to Saudi intelligence, without charges, and some were deported later.

Jamal informed SAM, that he had been under investigation after 13 days of arrest and confirmed: “The whole investigation was in my favour and all the charges against me were not proven, and immediately after the investigation, me, my brother and officers were entered solitary confinements, tied in the legs. The cell was one and a half meters by 50 centimeters, without light”.

Commander of the Rapid Intervention Battalion Jamal, and his brother, Starboard Sector Security Officer Jamal, and Sector Warriors Saleh Al - Ariqi, were remained two months in these solitary cells. Ali says that he met a lot of detainees in prison. “We were about 50, but we can’t talk to each other.” They described the treatment they received as “one that is not equal to human beings”.

The detainees were called back to the investigation. This was an admission by Saudi intelligence that there was no charge against the detainees. According to Jamal, the investigation team indicated that they were performing their duty under reports. Intelligence said it had informed the brigade’s command that no charges attributed to Jamal, his brother, the sector security officer, and the sector staff had been established, and that they were waiting to respond whether to return them to the brigade in front positions or to deportation, yet they stayed for another month in the cell, after which, as Jamal points out: “I was deported to Yemen without any benefits, even personal belonging such as uniforms, passports, IDs, mobails and clothing in the brigade”.

Jamal confirmed that they gave him nothing despite his innocence, reputation and service in the axis of Azal and in the brigade in which he works. “This is the first sanction, and now charges have been fabricated for my third brother, who is detained with the Jazan military force inside the intelligence prisons, and this is the second sanction on which they punish us”.

RADI ABDO MUHAMMAD ALI MUHSIN AL WAHIDI... FROM CROWD TO THE KINGDOM TO THE KINGDOM PRISONS

Al-Wahidi, 37years old, who was working as a teacher in Shabwa , Al jauf and Marib governorates was arrested in 2015 by Houthi forces in the capital, Sana'a. He was released and moved to Marib. Al - Wahidi was placed in the crowd in the Southern Border Brigades, continued his work for three months, and suddenly lost contact with him. He was arrested from the Alwadeaa outlet. His parents were not told until he got a text message from him via the Red Cross. His father was informed that he was being held in a Saudi prison, "Prison of the joined forces in the Sharora district," without knowing the reasons or giving rise to a court order. His parents were also prevented from visiting him or contacting him.

In his testimony to Sam's team about the circumstances that accompanied his brother's disappearance, "Hossam" Al - Wahidi brother reported that "in 2016, we entered an area called Al - Darb to assemble

and train combatants." As the number of individuals was complete, my brother called me "Al - Radi" and said: Today I'm going to come to you with 15 people, and I'm going to call you back from the phone of the Indian driver who was delivering the personnel from the deposit to a training place, and I told him he had to call me so he could tell me where he was and told me he was going do it. The time of that call was in the afternoon and I stayed waiting for him to call until late at night but he didn't call. "

Hossam adds, "Then I was texted by an escort who was with my brother at Al wadeaa and told me that my brother had moved after Maghreb prayer, and then we lost track of him and we knew nothing about where he was, until his message got through the Red Cross." Hossam confirmed that his brother, Radi, called him from a local number, telling him that they needed to move to release him from Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar.

It should be noted here that the statement of the relatives of Al-Radi confirms that he has been detained for four years, and that his health situation is deteriorating and that they fear for his life in the context of his continued detention without any legal justification.

THEY TREAT US LIKE ENEMIES.

Yemeni soldiers fighting battles against Houthi militants along the border strip with Yemen are constantly arrested and taken to unknown places to begin a journey of forced disappearance, torture and violations. On May 2, 2020, Saudi forces arrested 19 Yemeni recruits from the border, for protesting soldiers over the ill-treatment they were facing.

M.A., one of the soldiers arrested, in his testimony, reported: "We were 19 individuals, from different governorates, members of a brigade called "Duty" and its Saudi leader, we all went to prison together, but they went out and I stayed in detention and tortured, which caused me diseases in my body that I'm still affected by.

He also asserted that "the arrest was due to the circulation of video clips showing soldiers protesting against the abuse by Saudi military officers and personnel, the Saudi military personnel are treating us more as enemies than as friends or fighters who came to defend our country and theirs at the same time." Stating that they had been on a street for two full days, under siege, prevented from eating and drinking, with 60 "patrols" surrounded them. MA said that the number of protesters was between 600 and 700, from the brigade and other military brigades.

Following the end of the protest, Saudi forces arrested 19 recruits, including M.A., who was tortured from his first entry, beaten and kicked and put pressure on the iron handcuffs, in the hands and feet. He pointed out that what happened was not so much an investigation as a retaliation. His right leg was affected, in which he suffered from a "warp" because of the extreme pressure on the Iron Constraints.

After the first investigation of the M.A., he was completely separated from the others, and he entered a solitary prison, handcuffed, in addition to a daily torture, which he describes as "crucifixion," where he remains on his feet without movement, and if he moves, the soldier in charge comes to guard him, kicks him from behind, and that repeated with him several times.

A month after the M.A. was investigated again, the summons were repeated almost daily, for the purpose of torture using a cable, a painful rubber substance, saying, "The executioner was ready with a cable, when the investigator started to say the question, he would beat my body in any area except the face, he'd hit me before I spoke. He added that they didn't know where they were forced "detainees," because they went to jail, and then the cells after their eyes were covered, and

he didn't see the light until hours later, he found himself in four walls, didn't know where it was on the ground, that's what he was afraid of.

M.A. knew where the detainee was by accident. He said: "We discovered where we were by chance, after seeing in writing in one of the places in the prison, when we were taken out for investigation, we were in the prison of the Jazan Forces Command, in its military intelligence," and commander of which is Mohamed al-Shahrani.

M.A. suffered in prison from kidney pain. "Prison water has salts and soil and I wasn't alone suffering from kidney pain. We were 5 prisoners suffering from it, because of their deliberate contamination of water. I had new stones, and that doubled my kidney dysfunction. I gave them an earlier report, but they further tortured me," he said. "There's no cure in prison other than tranquilizers, which they give us, and the pain is sweeping through my body, yet they refuse to give me treatment under the existing medical reports.

Sometimes doctors come to tell them they need treatment or their health is affected, but they don't take the words of doctors. "As for the food, the intelligence prison distributes it to the detainees "so that they don't just die." In addition to the prison authorities' intentionally keep it half cooked, which is why we're allergic, anyone who got out of the prison was allergic.

About the detainees identified in the prison, M.A. says that they are many, and they are imprisoned for trivial matters, he remembers, that one has been detained for 11 months, because of his daughter's name, which they found written on his passport, her name was " Hamas ". He add, I was in the cell hearing the sounds of torture from the cells next door, the sounds were incessant day and night sometimes.

The former detainee, M.A., who was later released, asserted that the Saudi leadership had deprived him of his personal rights, and his material rights, namely, his salaries, for five months, after having tortured him and deprived him of his human rights, to be deported from their territory after pressure on the crowd leader, Saad Al Jaber, from figures who had learned of the story MA came out humiliated, and he was also kicked in the cuffs, until Al Wadeaa outlet.

WINDOW 5

Disappearance within the Kingdom

Rashad al - Hemayri... Subpoena followed by disappearance

In mid - June 2016, Colonel Rashad al - Hemayri, a member of the Member of the Military Council of Resistance in Ibb governorate , was hidden by Saudi authorities after calling him for a meeting at Prince Fahd bin Turki Al Saud's office, according to a relatives talked to SAM. His family stated that their son was betrayed when he arrived in Saudi Arabia, tried in secret courts and had not yet been allowed to visit him. The family confirmed that his health had been unstable prior to the disappearance as a result of suffering from heart disease as well as diabetes.

The family drew a telephone call from Rashad, in which he told them about the Saudi authorities' willingness to start prosecuting him, asking them to make his case public, then he hung up and they did not allow him to continue talking to his wife, who died On Friday, October 12, 2018, leaving eight children without a breadwinner, his family is reported to be experiencing the tragedy of being displaced from Ibb governorate because they were pursued by the Houthis after they broke into the governorate.

JOURNALIST MARWAN AL MARISI... RUTHLESS CONCEALMENT

Marwan works as a journalist, who was forcibly disappeared on 1 June 2018, after being abducted by Saudi security while returning from the medical specialist hospital in Riyadh. The security services informed Al Marisi family of his presence with them for several days, pledging to release him soon after, and asked his family not to raise the issue of his abduction on the media for his own safety. Witnesses familiar with the details of Marwan's abduction told SAM in their testimony: "Although his family has repeatedly reviewed the Saudi security services and the Ministry of Interior, to date they have no information about him and were not allowed to contact him, his family was allowed to visit him on 3 August 2019.

It is worth mentioning that Yemeni journalist Al-Marisi is the father of three children, the older is 8 years. Since 2003, he and his family have been officially residing in Saudi Arabia and have been working in more than one Saudi media organization, including Al-Majid, Al-Resala, MBC and The Al sabak Newspaper. As a result of his activity, which focuses mostly on digital media, creative content and electronic marketing, he has been able to attract many social media followers.

The Saudi authorities have denied journalist Marwan al - Marisi the right to attend the funeral of his son and sister, who died while he was in detention.

ABDUL KARIM THAEL, THE ARREST OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Journalist Abdulkarim Hussain Ali Ahmed Thael, 35 years old, Senior Secretariat for the Capital Sanaa, married with a baby, was arrested from Jeddah Airport on March 12, 2020. In his testimony to SAM, his brother Bassam said: “My brother returned from Marib Governorate after a visit to the wounded army and resistance, accompanied by his wife and baby son Mohammed, returned from Sayoun Airport to Jeddah Airport at 11 noon, he was arrested by the Saudi authorities in front of his wife and infant son.”

Abdul Karim’s brother confirmed that they don’t know any details about him. He added: “We were unable to communicate with him. I reached out to Alalimy, the head of the Office for the President of the Republic, and he told me that he had addressed the Special Committee twice for his release. I also contacted the Saudi Ambassador and the Saudi authorities and they did not give us the reason for the arrest, nor did they allow us to visit him, nor did we receive any answers from them “. Moreover, the community and tribal larders of Sana’a have met in Marib and raised several letters to launch “Abdul Karim.” the sent letters to the leadership of the coalition, the Presidency of the Republic, King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. “We delivered the letters and received no reply. We reached out to the Yemeni Ambassador in the Kingdom, but he ignored all of our demands and gave us no information about my brother and the reason for his arrest.

He added that “his brother Abdulkarim had brought a case against Hamoud Al-Ashabi in Riyadh; as he and his children assaulted my brother, and the case is still pending in the prosecution, I reached out to my brother’s lawyer in the kingdom and he assured me that he had not been sentenced, and if that happened it will be in favour of my brother, and against Al-Ashabi and the case had nothing to do with his arrest, and that there were administrative differences between the Secretary of the Capital, Abdalghni Jamil . According to my brother’s wife that Jamal is the one who pass the info to the Saudi Intelligence”. Thael was released on 29 May 2020, after a tribal and official intervention from the Yemeni government, via the Saudi ambassador to Yemen, Mohammed Al Jaber.

Mohammed Ali

Mohammed Ali, Ibb governorate, born in 1995, is the Director of the Princess Hall of Events in Riyadh. On Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 8:30 p.m., three cars were presented with more than 10 people dressed in uniform and carrying their weapons. Hisham was at the home of a relative in Riyadh, during the Saudi ban against the Corona epidemic.

Mohammed Ali's brother Saif said: "My brother was contacted by a person as being from the Ministry of Health and informed him that he has to come to the hall where he works to sterilize the hall. Mohammed Ali told them that he had no exit permit because of the ban. They told him that it was necessary to come so he gave them his sponsor's number to communicate with him, and he would open the hall. When they arrived, they took Hisham to the car and 5 people went up to search the place where he was staying". Mohammed Ali's brother stated that "We tried to ask about him at the police station, passport authority and elsewhere. We did not find him. We tried, through people at the Yemeni embassy, to look for him at the Saudi side, but they did not find him at all departments. The last place the Saudi Public Investigation Service, which is responsible for State security and serious issues. It is important to mention here that Hisham al - Jabri's relatives confirmed that they had not received any response from the Saudi side, and did not know if there was access to security services in Saudi Arabia. A relative said that the Embassy had not received any response.

JAMAL AL GHURAB

Jamal Al-Ghurab, a Yemeni journalist, 40, was arrested in Aden on 26 August 2019 by Saudi Arabian forces, as he confirmed, and was transferred to the Saudi capital Riyadh on 3 November. In his testimony to SAM, Al-Ghurab said that after he was transferred to Riyadh: "They put me under house arrest at the Muhidib Hotel in Al Olaya," he said. And then they moved me into the basement for months, then put me under house arrest again at the Plaza Inn in Al Olaya district, and then brought me back to the same room. Al-Ghurab remained in detention for three months alone, in his own words, he continued: "I had severe spinal pain because there was no proper bedding in one of the rooms, a suppuration showed up in my skin, sometimes I slept on the ground because of the heat, sometimes they increased the air conditioning temperature, and I got so cold, and even though I begged them for treatment, they offered nothing."

Jamal Al-Ghurab said his arrest was based on his media coverage regarding a “bus in Dhayan Sa’ada, which was targeted by Saudi aviation on 9 August 2018 and in which a number of civilians were killed” he added I was being subjected to constant night - time investigations from evening to dawn, about my newspaper activities, my work, my reports in the Lebanese news newspaper and the Lebanese- Arabic website, about the news on the “Al fajer al jaded” sites, and who was financing me, my relations with Qatar and a lot of questions.” It is noted here that before the release of Jamal Al-Ghurab from the Centro Hotel, they placed him in the basement of “Fla” approximately close to the embassy district, and continued in the basement for weeks, according to him. He also mentioned that, after his deportation to Aden, “I reached out to Free Press unillemtd , a Dutch organization, where I was sent an emergency grant, including the tickets cost and an allowance in person, that helped me flee Aden to Ethiopia on 24 January 2020.”

ALI AL-HIJJOURI

On 11 February 2019, the police of the southern Saudi Arabian city of Jizan, arrested the Yemeni artist Ali Al-Hijjouri, For the background of opinion and dissemination issues Al-Hajjouri’s cases aggravated as there was allegedly report by a Yemeni resident of Saudi Arabia alleging against him for atheism and criticism of religion and scholars, and “SAM” learned that the artist Al-Hijjouri was being treated inappropriately. On 17 April 2019, Al-Hijjouri was released, and details of the release were not known because of their refusal to talk about it.

AL-SHAMISI PRISON

According to S. S., a Yemeni expatriate in Saudi Arabia, he was imprisoned in Al-Shamisi, a prison he described as one for criminal case involving perpetrators of the Kingdom's residence system. He says to SAM, "My story started when I disagreed with my sponsor who asked me for SR 10,000 to renew my residence. That was difficult so I thought that I can only get out of the border illegally, so if there's a rollback of decisions, I can go back again instead of a final deportation, and before I arrived in the area near Yemen, I was arrested by a Saudi soldier on the pretext that it was a restricted area.

They sent me to investigate and verify who I am and who I follow, so I showed them my residence, which is a valid legal residence. They put me four months in detention and then I was deported on charges of breaking the border. They sent me to several prisons. At the end of the three months, they continued to delay my release, and after 25 days

I was deported with a number of Yemenis, tied with iron from the city of Jazan to the port of Al wadeaa, every two people in a joint restriction of the hand and the leg. "

"A S" Mentioned that there is no good eating in the prison, and that dirt and skin diseases are spreading in it, he also stated that the doctor comes in once a week and gives the patients pointless pills, adding: "If you object or claim your rights, you get hit with a cable and they tell you: You're all Houthis . The prison is also very crowded, it's a pool of people who come from different places, one of the prison wards, 11 rooms and a five-by-five-metre lounge, almost 1,800 people, people are sleeping in the lounges and hallways, between the garbage and under the stairs, and most people scattering the floor, and their condition is very difficult, Nobody can stand it, the prison bathrooms are bad, they're disqualified.



AL-DABRA PRISON “IF HE DIES, TELL US”

Mustafa Mohammed Ahmed Al-Nahari, was deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 7 months ago. He passed by Aden-Abar line where he was insulted. Al-Nahari mentioned that he lived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He needed to renew his resident permit (Iqama) and pay the fees. However, he couldn't pay the fees. So he decided to travel across the borders where he was arrested and put in Al-Dabra prison.

In this prison which belongs to the sector of the border, Al-Nahari says he remained there for three months. Also he confirmed: “We were exposed to the worst forms of torture as we were beaten to death, and we never

thought that we would return to our families. We were slapped on face and beaten with sticks.”

Al-Nahari said that whoever gets sick in prison, simply dies. He narrated: “I remember a friend of us who was detained due to cow smuggling to Saudi Arabia. He got very sick, and we were screaming “the man is dying”, but nobody came. After a while, someone came and said, “If he dies, tell us.” He was taken to the hospital after he had almost died. Then they told us that he died.” Al-Nahari added” “After that, they released us and we returned to Yemen where we fall into the hands of the elements of Southern Transitional Council who unspeakably insulted us.”

WINDOW 6

We made this window the conclusion of the models of Yemenis who are detained behind bars of the Kingdom as the victims are relocated between the different prisons and are falsely accused of various charges. One of the seven detainees was tortured to death. They were detained before the war broke out in 2014, when they were released, they were shocked at the tragic situation.

The incident extended from peace to war, and Torture varied. In spite of the memorandums proving they were at sea legally, the security authority in Saudi Arabia tried to create a legal gap or make accusations to prove the legality of detention. All attempts were in vain. Neither allegations of drug trafficking nor allegations of carrying weapons without permit worked. Also there was no official report from the international waterways. Because the details summarize the situation of the detainees in general, we put this story at the end of the windows, even though it is not the end of the story of detaining Yemenis.

ARBITRARY DETENTION OF YEMENI NAVAL OFFICERS

Names of the Victims

1. Adeeb Ahmed Fadhl Yahiya – a naval officer working for a security guard company
2. Nibras Aydarous Abdulrahman Bahraq – a naval officer working for a security guard company
3. Zaid Ali Abdo Al-Qaderi – a coast guard sergeant working for a security guard company
4. Ali Ahmed Muthana Faid – a representative of Golden Star for Public Services and Maritime Security
5. Ahmed Ibrahim Muqri – a Yemeni fisherman
6. Salem Musa A'aish-a Yemeni Fisherman
7. Adel Khalwfah – a Yemeni fisherman from Midi “died of torture at the hands of the Saudi services

On 11 November 2014, Sergeant Zaid Ali Abdulqader – officer at Yemen Coast Guard- and two of his fellow officer were out on official mission to protect a merchant ship coming from the United Arab Emirates. They set off from Al Mahra and were headed for the Suez Canal in Egypt. The first security team that accompanied the Emirati ship contained: Adeeb Ahmed Fadhl Yahiya, a naval officer, Nibras Aydarous Abdulrahman, a naval officer and Zaid Ali Abdo Al-Qaderi, a coast guard sergeant.

This team was assigned also by “Golden Star Company”, which is the company that worked on providing the team with permits issued by the Ministry of the Interior, and it is a security company with duty stations in different countries around the world including Yemen. This company is permitted to work by the Ministry of Interior and Coast Guard Command in Sana’a.

After the task of accompanying the Emirati ship was done, the team returned from the Suez Canal on a Yemeni boat rented by the company after taking the approval of the coast guard as well as the security team. There were four members of the crew of the fiber / boat and these members: Ali Ahmed Muthana Qaid, a coast guard soldier from Sana’a, Ahmed Ibrahim Abdo Magree, from alLuhaiia of Al-Hodieda Governorate, co-captain and a fisherman. Salem Musa A'aish, from Midi in Hjjah Governorate. The fourth member was Adel Khalwfa coming from Zabid in Al-Hodieda.

During return, they were intercepted by the Saudi Coast Guard which detained the seven individuals mentioned above, the security team, and the boat crew. The Saudi Coast Guard detained them for prolonged periods. They went to prison and Adel Khalwfa died as a result of torture.

Sergeant Zaid Al-Qaderi described the details of the incident to SAM and said: "On our return from the mission after spending four days on the boat that were rented by the company after getting the approval of the coast guard, we were surprised that we ran out of fuel because of the wind and rough seas. That is why we notified the representative of the company and the coast guard command in Al Hodieda, and the company informed the leadership of the International Coalition against Piracy in order to inform the Saudi side."

The Yemeni side and the coast guard forces sent a distress call two days later and notified the Saudi forces as well as the Saudi border guard of the memorandum of the international coalition which included the numbers of the coordinates of the Yemeni boat which was in the international watercourse in front of Jazan and an operational report from the coast guard command in Al-Hodieda. Events followed officially when the Saudi Coast Guard informed the sector of the Saudi island of Farazn, and then the Coast Guard of Farazn Island saved the Yemeni team and

transferred their fiber / boat to the island.

Al-Qaderi said: "When we arrived to the island, they told us that they received a report from Yemen, the company and the international coalition whose content was to save us and hand us over to Yemen. They also said that the Yemeni authorities had sent a fiber / boat to save us, but it hadn't arrived due to the wind. At the beginning, they treated us hospitably and as we were hospitalized for three days and were allowed to carry our weapons and phones."

On the third day, according to Zaid's account, the Saudi side restored the fiber / boat. The Saudi side made them feel they were going to return to Yemen in the morning. However, they were surprised when they were taken along with the four members of the crew of the boat, three ordinary citizens and one coast guard soldier to the captain at 2:00 am. The only ones left were the three who accompanied the Emirati ship to the Suez Canal. Zaid confirmed: "we kept asking the Saudi soldiers on the island about them- the four Yemenis taken by the Saudis- while they said that they were not there, and they are being interrogated. During that period, we were contacting with the company and Yemen Coast Guard and tell them about our conditions. They reassured us that they received promises of returning us to Yemen by the Saudi side."

TORTURE TO DEATH

On the Sixth day, Zaid Al-Qaderi and his two companions were surprised when they were summoned to the sector of the Saudi island of Farzan and received by the sector manager, Lieutenant Colonel Abo Abdullah who told them these were normal procedures of security check, and then they would return to Yemen. Zaid said: "After that, they took us to hospital in handcuffs. Then they examined us and brought us back to the sector. They told us they would take us to the Guidance, and they informed us that there was a committee from Riyadh to interrogate us."

The mentioned committee met Zaid and his companions and informed them that one of their friends named Adel Khalwfa had died. Khalwfa was a fisherman from Zabeed of Al-Hodeida Governorate and he was a crew member of the boat. It was a huge shock that made Sergeant Zaid and his companions enquire about the cause of death since Adel was in good health. The committee said that he died as a result of violence used against him by officers of border guard. They mentioned that

Al Watan daily newspaper in Saudi Arabia reported on this incident to prevent the sector of border guard from beating the Yemenis. The Saudi side also mentioned to them that the investigations were still ongoing.

Adel Khalwfa was beaten because the Saudi guards suspected him of smuggling. That is what the Saudi committee, which came from Riyadh to interrogate the seven Yemenis, mentioned. Yet, when they checked the fiber / boat, they didn't find evidence to show that he worked in smuggling. Then they apologized on behalf of the border guard. According to Zaid's confirmations, the fishermen were threatened to meet the same fate as their fellow fisherman Adel Khalwfa and were tortured to the point that they were forced to sign accusations of weed trafficking while being interrogated. The Saudis put Adel's body in the morgue and buried it in Jazan in 2017. According to Zaid, the family of the deceased didn't attend, while the one who attended the funeral was the head of Yemeni community in Jazan and his name is Abdo Al Shaokhi.

TRANSFER TO A NEW PRISON

They were six while being transferred from Farzan Island to the Saudi city of Jazan. They were six people with their weapons, phones, passports and money. Six Yemenis (the security team and the crew of the boat) as for the seventh person, he died of torture. While being transferred, Zaid noticed that the members of the boat crew were subjected to severe beatings. He saw signs of beat and bruises on their faces and their back as been told by the crew of the boat.

Zaid said: "When we arrived to Jazan, we were admitted to the military police prison. We told them that we're Yemeni soldiers, and the said this place was temporary and then we would be deported. They took our weapons after we had arrived. They told us: "after three days, you will be deported to Yemen." But on day two, we were summoned and they said that they would examine and fingerprint us to check whether we use drugs or anything else or entered to Saudi Arabia before."

All tests came clean and the fingerprints too. Nevertheless, the Saudi side didn't deport them after three days as promised which required the six Yemenis to ask about the reason. They found no answers but stalling. Zaid says: "They stalled day by day, so we remained there for the second week, and the second month until the third month and so on. We used to tell them that we wanted to talk to our families and they continued to stall. So we couldn't communicate with our families, the embassy or the Yemeni community for three months and we did not know what was happening in Yemen."

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

After three months, the six detainees were surprised at issuing a decision to imprison them for penetrating the Saudi border. This decision was imposed by the legal affairs of the Saudi military police. The detainees refused this decision, and they were summoned to the legal affairs on the next day where they were asked about the reason behind refusing the decision and not to signing on it. Al-Qaderi confirmed: "We told them that we hadn't penetrated the border. You can check up through the documents you have. We were on a ship in the international waterway. You have the memorandums already and you were the ones who saved us."

The Yemeni detainees requested to inform the Yemeni authorities about the deceased, and they requested a lawyer or the presence of the ambassador. They told their detainers that Yemenis will not die in vain. Zaid indicated to: "the security team told the legal affairs of the military police in Jazan the truth regarding the torture that the crew of the boat were subjected to which included electrocution and the fact that they remained unconscious in hospital for almost three days."

Because of this openness as Zaid thinks, they returned them to prison. Again and prevented them from contacting their relatives or the embassy. Al-Qaderi says: "after seven months, we called our families secretly after being helped by Saudi prisoners when we met Saudi officers and soldiers who had phones smuggled into the prison so we called our families using their phones." The six detainees were subjected to ill-treatment in prison. They were denied going to the bathroom except during times of prayer. They were also abused and assaulted and kept in solitary confinement without light. They also forced us to sleep on the floor without mattresses.

THE PRISON OF DRUGS AND THE PUBLIC PRISON

After seven months, the detainees were transferred to the prison of drugs in Jazan, but the prison administration refused to receive them since they had no drugs or qat. So they were brought back to the prison of the military police again. On the next day, they sent them again to the prison of drugs and convinced the prison administration to accept the detainees. In this prison, the detainees were able to call their relatives and they were informed about the situation in Sana'a and that president along with the government members were detained by the Houthi militia. On the next day, they were sent to the public prosecution.

In the prosecution, the Saudi soldiers informed the detained Yemenis that the interrogator confirmed they were aggrieved and without charges. Despite this, they had been imprisoned for almost two months before the prosecution called them again and the public prosecution met them. Al-Qaderi says: "He [public persecutor] asked us specific questions related to the weapons, the permit and ammunition we had. We answered him. He said "fine". We told him that we wanted to return to Yemen, and he said that the decision is in the hands of the committee that came from Riyadh. Then we stayed there for a week before we were transferred to the public prison in Jazan."

In the public prison, the head of Yemeni Community in Jazan, Abdo Al Sawkhi met the six detainees and heard the issue and its details. He called the prison administration which in turn informed him that the detainees were charged with the weapons possession. The detainees told him their weapons were licensed by the Yemen's interior ministry. So then the head of the community told them they penetrated the Saudi water border. They replied to him with the legality of what transpired and emphasized on the memorandum they had.

Zaid said that they appealed to the head of Yemeni community in Jazan because they were placed in prison among criminals and they were being abused and ill-treated. Abdo Al Shawkhi told them, "You are in Saudi Arabia and not in Yemen. There is nothing we can do about it." As Zaid confirms: "They put us in prison. The prison administration shaved the heads of the prisoners. We refused to have our heads shaved, but they forced us and used cruel methods against us and abused us verbally." The six detainees remained in the public prison in Jazan for nearly two years. They didn't contact their relatives except by calling them secretly using the prisoners' phones.

After two years, the Saudi Arabia released the Yemeni security team that accompanied the Emirati ship. It released Zaid Al-Qaderi, Adeeb Ahmed Fadhl Yahiya (a naval officer) and Nibras Aydarous Abdulrahman

(a naval officer). The release was in July 2018. The Saudi sides didn't return their possessions that included their weapons, passports, phones and money. Zaid says: "We went out of Al-Wadea land border on the last Friday of Rmadan 2018. We arrived Yemen as if we were unknown and displaced while the situation of the country was tragic."

After approximately six months, the crew of the boat that was sent to save the security team was released and they were: Ali Ahmed Faid Muthana, Salem Musa A'ish, and Ahmed Ibrahim Muqri. Adel Khalqfa died of torture and was buried in Jazan without the presence of his family.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

Thousands of Yemenis are subjected to arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance where the victims are deprived of their fundamental rights since their detention. The detainees are arrested without warrant and detained incommunicado without allowing them to communicate with their relatives or their lawyers. They are put in solitary confinements for prolonged periods where they are exposed to torture to extract confessions from them. They are also brought before special courts which lack independence. The Houthi group in many times resort to detaining and prosecuting the dissident voices such as human rights defenders, political opponents, journalists, and peaceful protestors in reprisal for exercising their right of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association. Also, thousands of ordinary citizens are victims of arbitrary detention and they are deprived of their right to a fair trial.

Firstly: Arbitrary Detention

According to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, detention is regarded arbitrary when authorities don't invoke any legal basis justifying the deprivation of liberty. The deprivation of liberty results from the exercise of the rights or protected freedoms such as freedom of belief or freedom of expression, or when there are widespread violations of international fair trial standards which makes the deprivation of liberty arbitrary.

Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits arbitrary arrest or detention of individuals. This article states: "No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such

procedure as are established by law.” In addition, any one arrested should be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and should be promptly informed of any charges against him. Also, any one arrested or detained on criminal charges shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within reasonable time or to release. Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful. The term “arbitrary” should be considered on the basis of proportionality, appropriateness and reasonableness. As for the legality of detention, what should be taken into account is its legality in accordance with the local law as well as the international law.

The constitution of Yemen states that “The state shall guarantee its citizens their personal freedom, preserve their dignity and their security.” The constitution prohibits arrests, searches or detention unless caught in the act or served with a summons from a judge or the Public Prosecutor. The constitution which includes the fundamental elements of the criminal justice process also states that the Public Prosecutor shall press charges against any person arrested and inform him of the reason for his detention within 24 hours from the time of his detention. And only judges are entitled to extend the arrest to seven days maximum. The Yemeni Penal Code states that any official who deprived citizens of their liberty by mistake shall be imprisoned for up to five years.

Secondly: Enforced disappearance

The Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons prohibits forced disappearance of persons as it is “grave and abominable offense against the inherent dignity of the human being.” And it mentions that it “violates numerous non-derogable and essential human rights”. The Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced

Disappearance which was adopted by General Assembly, states that “enforced disappearance constitute a violation to the right to recognition as a person before the law, the right to liberty and security of the person and the right not to subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also violates or constitutes grave threat to the right to life.”

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2006, states that the widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity. It also gives victims’ families the right to seek reparation. The convention also states the right of any person not to be subjected to enforced disappearance, and the right of the victim’s family to know the truth. The convention contains several article concerning the prohibition of this crime and investigating it as well as its punishment. It also focuses on the rights of the victims and their relatives and the wrongful removal of children born during the captivity of a mother subjected to enforced disappearance. The convention further sets forth the obligation of international cooperation both in the suppression of the practice and in dealing with humanitarian aspects related to the crime. A Committee on Enforced Disappearances shall be established to carry out the functions provided for under this Convention.

In addition, article 5 of The Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance states, “The widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity as defined in applicable international law and shall attract the consequences provided for under such applicable international law”

FINDINGS

1. Based on the monitoring and documentation conducted by the research team belonging to “SAM” with some victims or their relatives, many cases of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance took place in the facilities of the southern border in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and governorates like Hadhramaut and Al Mahra where unknown facilities have been used to hide the detainees arrested by the Saudi forces. This applies to Al-Teen Prison, which is supervised by forces loyal to the government of Yemen and the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces. It also applies to the detention center of Al Ghaydah, which is supervised by Saudi forces, as well as the detention centers of Saudi intelligence located inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabi, in Jazan area.
2. Arbitrary detention is the dominant feature of the detention centers where persons are deprived of their right to a fair trial as they are detained without any legal proceedings or are not informed of the charges against them for prolonged periods of time. The detainees also suffer from lack of access to legal representation and the failing of the detaining forces to comply with release orders issued by the public prosecutors or the governmental officials in case there are no charges. Similarly, when there is delay in execution of release orders. Some of the documented cases have witnessed the direction of the policy of arbitrary detention when the detainees are being arbitrarily arrested and detained for voicing their opinions or expressing their opposition to controlling authority.
3. Yemeni government is denied access to the detainees, and it has no authority to release them. Some captives have been detained for four months and 2 years and half without formal charges or taking legal proceeding in Al-Teen prison. After three years, they were transferred to Al Munoara prison. Some of them were detained because of their opposition to the Emirates’ policy in Yemen or their objection to the way Southern Transition Council handles the situation in the area.
4. The detainees have been subjected to torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, verbal abuse and other prohibited practices under the international human rights law and the international humanitarian law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From what has been reviewed in the present report by SAM , it recommends the following:

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must immediately cease its practices in violation of fundamental rights and international laws against Yemenis and release all detainees on political grounds or right claims
- SAM calls upon Saudi Arabia to refer all those involved in the crimes of arbitrary detention, forced disappearance and torture of the Yemeni people in its prisons or prisons under its supervision to the criminal matter.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must respect Yemeni sovereignty, by supervising legal prisons and contributing in coordination with the Yemeni Government, to the return of judicial institutions and to the application of the relevant rules , and to put the rights of civilians prevail over political and economic aspirations
- SAM urges the Security Council to carry out its mandated tasks, the most important of which is the maintenance of international peace and security and the protection of human rights in Yemen, which have been violated for years without taking any real action to protect those rights or to halt the consequences of such violations.

SAM calls the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen to include the file of the Yemeni detainees who have been held in Saudi prisons due to war in its annual report.

- The establishment of fact-finding and research commissions to identify the secret places of detention where the majority of violations take place, to identify their extended effects and to submit their supervisors to international justice.
- SAM calls on the Prosecutor of the Criminal Court to examine the Yemeni case file and to initiate preliminary investigations in order to bring the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice for their crimes.



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DISAPPEARANCE AND TORTURE OF YEMENIS IN SAUDI ARABIA OR
IN YEMEN BUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SAUDI ARABIA

