



Hanish Prison:

the Houthi 'Dungeon'



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Introduction

More than five years ago, in September 2014, the Houthi group took control of cities and strategic sites in Yemen following clashes that erupted after protests against the Yemeni government's decision to remove subsidies on oil supplies broke out. The Houthis expelled the government authorities and took control of the security and military institutions and government ministries without any resistance from the security and the army, after the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh announced his support and alliance with the Houthis.

The Houthis took control of the capital, Sana'a, and then Aden, where the country's president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi is located, which prompted the latter to seek help to save Yemen from an impending civil war. A coalition composed of several countries (the Arab-Coalition) led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was formed as a result. The coalition announced the start of military intervention which it called "Operation Decisive Storm" to fight the Houthis. Since then, Yemen has been in a fierce war that has brought more than 20 million Yemenis into poverty and famine, as well as the violations committed by the Houthi group day after day against civilians including killing, displacement, detention in unofficial places without legal justification, enforced disappearance, and torture. Yemen had become among top countries facing violations of human rights in the world, in addition to being one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, due to the lack of basic services in all parts of the country, as well as the escalating economic crises, and the broken health, educational and judicial systems.

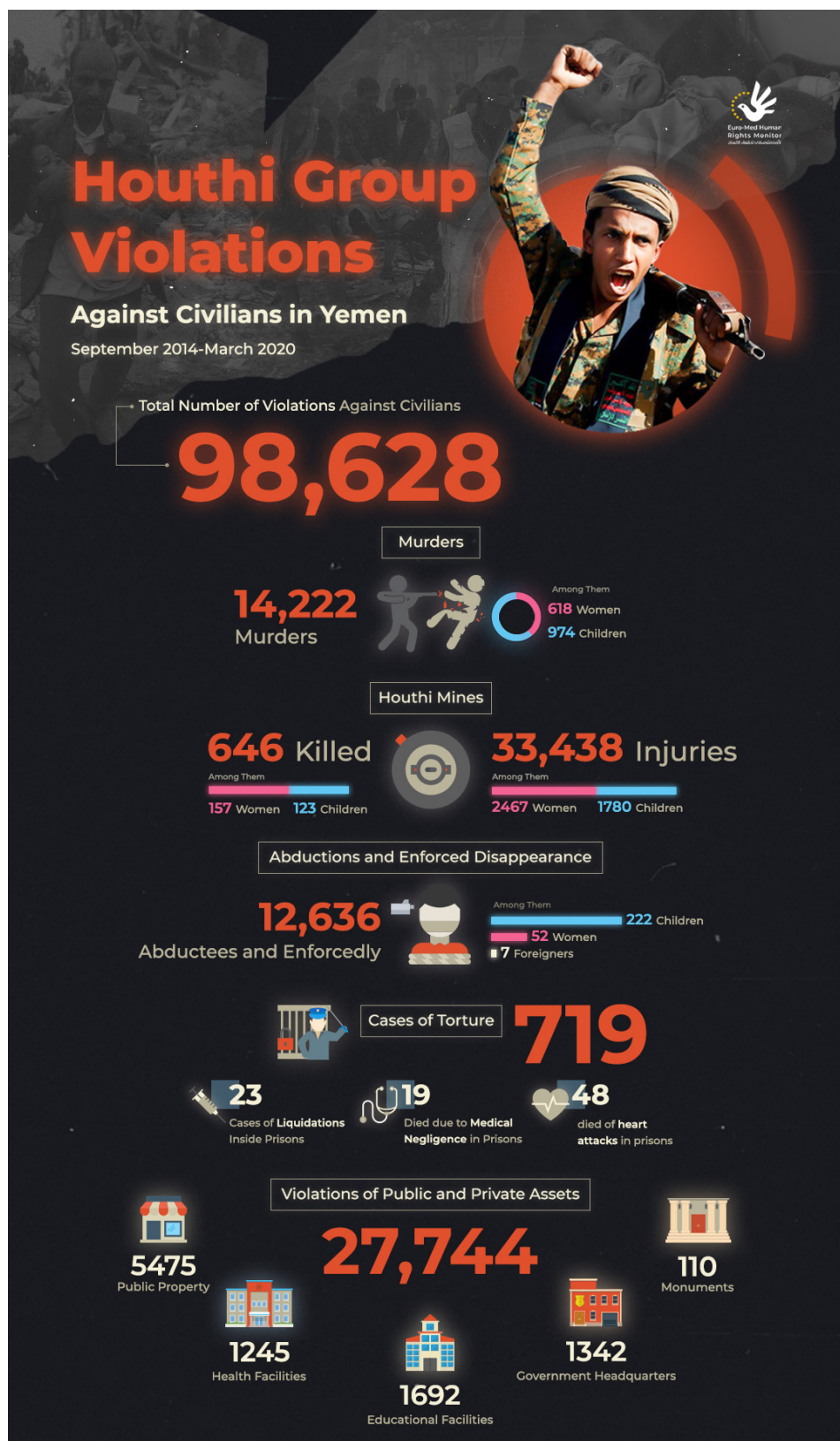
The Houthi group not only used the existing prisons in the country, but rather established unofficial and secret prisons and places of detention, to practice violations, notably enforced disappearance and torture, away from human rights organization and without any legal accountability. The Yemeni Abductees' Mothers Association documented about 244 prisons and places of detention used by the Houthi group spreading all over Yemen. According to field reports, the number of abductees and enforced disappearance cases by the Houthi group reached about 12,636 in 20 Yemeni governorates, including doctors, politicians, academics, activists, and educators.

Unofficial prisons are known locally to be former government buildings and state institutions. Secret detention centers are usually located at checkpoints, homes of political opponents and citizens, places of worship, and schools, which were taken over by the group to hide and torture civilians. These places are managed by officers who support the group under nicknames and refuse to deal with legal mechanisms.

Hnaish prison is one of many prisons in Al Hudaydah, at which Yemeni civilians are subjected to various types of abuses, including physical and psychological abuse and torture, as well as food, medicine, and family visits deprivations, which are serious violations of the provisions, charters, and customs of international law.

In this report, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor and the Abductees' Mothers Association document these violations by the Houthis supported by many testimonies of detainees. The report reviews legal recommendations that the Houthi group must adhere to, relating to the prohibition arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance, and cruel and inhuman treatment.

Houthi violations in Yemen since 2014 in numbers





Map showing Houthi's control inside Yemen



• Introduction about Al Hudaydah governorate & most prominent events

Al Hudaydah Governorate is located in the western part of the Republic of Yemen, and overlooking the western coastal strip overlooking the Red Sea coast. It is about 226 kilometers away from the capital Sanaa.

The area of Al Hudaydah is about 117,145 km², divided by twenty-six districts. Its population constitutes around %11 of the total population of Yemen, and comes second in rank after Taiz, according to the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments.



Al Hudaydah is strategically important because of its ports. Al Hudaydah port is the main seaport for Yemen, which is the most important passage to all Yemeni strategic islands, the most important of which are Hanish Islands and Mount Saqr, which is more than 3,700 feet above the sea level.

Al Hudaydah port is responsible for %70 of Yemen's income. It has become the last port to fall under the Houthis' control, after pro-government forces recaptured the strategic ports of Mokha and Midi. It is also the only seaport through which food and medical assistance could be delivered to Yemenis in areas under the control of Houthis, being the main port to bring in most food supplies for Yemen's 30 million people.

In September 2014, the Houthi group took over Al Hudaydah and launched campaigns of arrests against academics, educators, students, engineers, doctors, workers, and everyone who opposes them, and established new prisons in most of its directorates to detain and hide them.

In mid-2018, violent armed clashes erupted between the Houthis and pro-government forces, which included the use of rocket and artillery fire. Meanwhile, large numbers of abductees in Al Hudaydah prisons were moved collectively to prisons in other governorates, to use them in prisoner swap deals in the future. They were exchanged for Houthi fighters captured by pro-government forces.

These violent clashes raised global concerns that a full-scale attack might cause cuts to food and fuel supplies. In December 2018, UN-sponsored talks between the parties to the war began, resulting in a ceasefire in Al Hudaydah, but the warring parties have not reached an agreement in Al Hudaydah and its strategic port, which keeps the ceasefire agreement at risk.

For unknown reasons, the Houthis have designated specific prisons for the abductees from Al Hudaydah in which they are isolated from the rest of other governorates' abductees, such as Shamlan secret detention center in Sana'a, as well as prisons located in the governorates of Hajjah and Radaa.

- Prisons establishment in Al Hudaydah



The Houthi group had seized governmental and civil buildings and facilities and turned them into secret prisons now numbering 57 prisons. All those who oppose and disagree with them are being held in these prisons, which is a flagrant violation of their rights and freedoms. The timetable below shoes the distribution of these prisons:

Facilities	Number
The Political Security Building and the National Security Building	2
The security departments	17
Police stations	7
Governmental complexes and archaeological structures	6
Parties headquarters	1
Mosques	1
Quran memorization centers	4
Homes and farms	9
Associations	4
Schools	3
Camps	3

• **Bombing Prisons and detention Centers in Al Hudaydah**

Al Hudaydah has been subjected to many attacks and clashes between the Houthis and pro-government forces backed by the Arab Coalition forces led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The following are some of the most important bombings that occurred in Al Hudaydah, where Hanish prison is located:



- On 30 October 2016, the security headquarters of Al Zaydiyah in Al Hudaydah governorate was bombed, leading to the death of 70 people, among them were a number of detainees: Ahmad Masawi Haj, Ahmad Malhan, Hassan Hassan Yaqoub Al Khushm, and Salem Kanbash.
- On 25 October 2016, the Al-Zindani farm in Salif was bombed which used to be a Houthi detention center. Dozens of victims were killed and injured.
- On 8 August 2016, an Arab coalition aircraft bombed the Political Security building in Al Hudaydah and bombed it for the second time in 2017 and dozens of civilians were kidnapped during both years.

The fate of some of the abductees who were languishing in prisons and detention facilities of the Houthi group bombed by the coalition is still unknown, including Abkar Abdullah Abdo Barakhli, Tariq Ahmed Saeed Khalaf, and Ghazali Ali Hassan Al Mahdabi and others, due to the absence of an investigation into these crimes by the kidnappers.

• Brief introduction about Hanish prison

Hanish prison is located behind the central prison in Al Hudaydah in the Al-Hawk directorate. The prison is located within the walls of the central prison but is isolated from it. Because of that it was called «Hanish» in reference to its isolation from the rest of the central prison building, such as the remote island of Hanish in Yemen.

The prison area is approximately 15 x 20 m, which is more like a small L-shaped school, which was previously used as a Vice Squad prison. The door that connects it with the central prison building has been closed and another door has opened on the other side to the central prison square. However, a visitor to the prison does not pass from it and won't know that this prison exists.

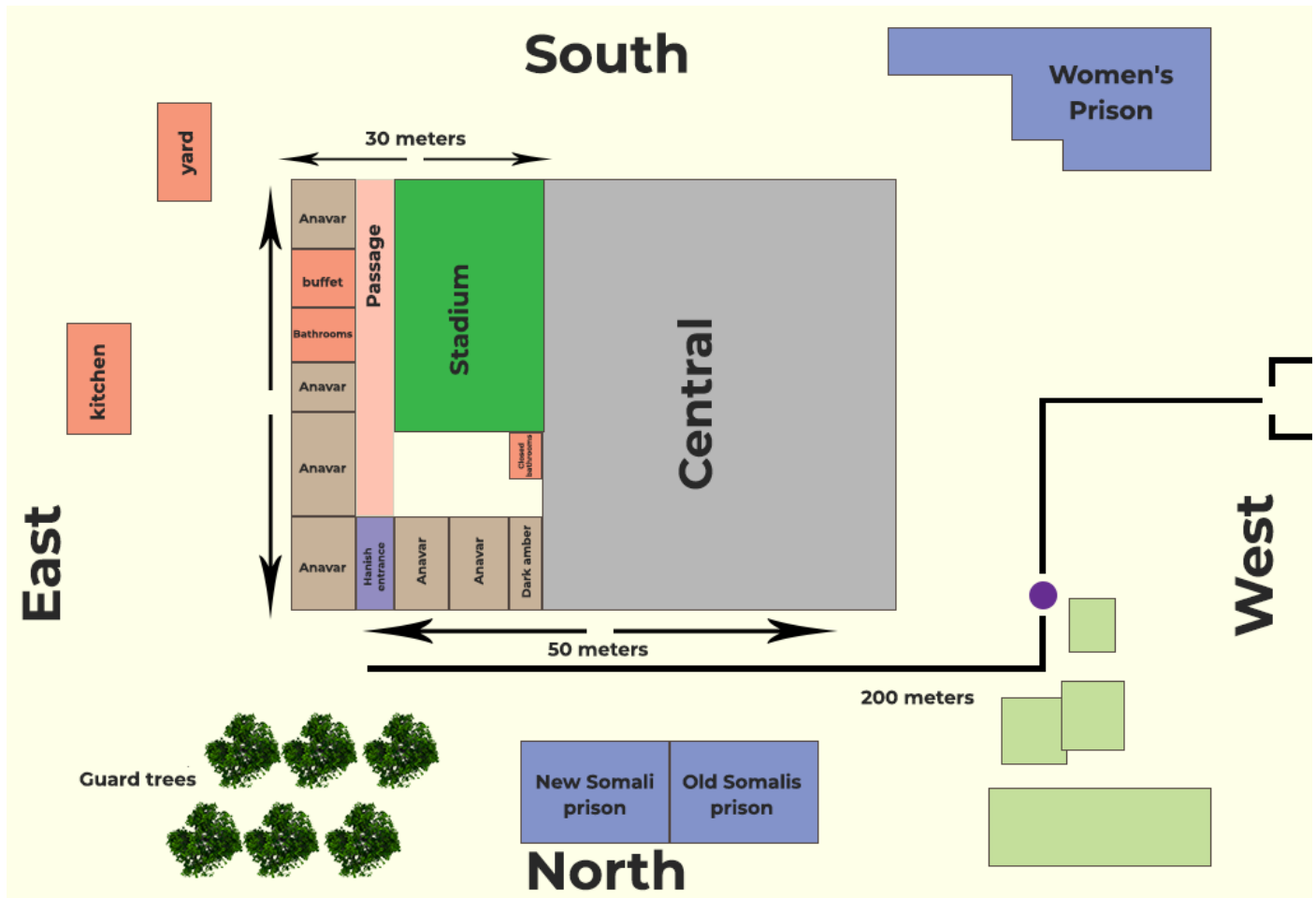


The prison consists of six rooms, three of which are relatively large, the three others are small, a square yard paved with cement (concrete), and three bathrooms that have undrinkable water. As a type of torture, detainees are deprived of drinkable water.

This prison is run by Abd al-Latif al-Sharafi al-Maknā (Abu Akram) from Hajjah governorate, assisted by his sons and some of his relatives who work as security personnel in the prison. In addition, a group of investigators, join the efforts and they attend on a daily basis to investigate detainees, threaten, and torture them.

Names and nicknames of investigators affiliated with the Houthis in Hanish prison	
Name	Code Name
Mohammed Al-Sudi	Abu Moataz (chief investigator)
Youssef Mohamed Ahmed Al-Kahlani	Abu Hilal
Nasser Mohammed Ahmed Al-Aqili	Abu Sakhr
Amr Ali Hassan Somaah	Abu Muhammad

- Hanish prison shape



- **General situation at Hanish prison**

Hanish prison is under a real risk for being very close to armed clashes between the Houthi group and the forces of the government of Abd Rabbu Hadi. It is only 3-2 kilometers away from the location of the pro-government forces, which makes the lives of detainees vulnerable to danger in if clashes erupt, which includes air and artillery shelling.

The Houthi group is keen to isolate the prison, because it has put a security checkpoint inside the central prison yard to separate between the Hanish building and the central prison building.

One of the most prominent threats to the lives of the abductees held at Hanish prison is its location next to the central security camp of the central prison. It is obvious that when any clashes take place, these camps become a major target.

This scenario could happen in any armed clashes that may occur in Al Hudaydah, as the central security camp will be subjected to bombing – and it has been bombed before. This threatens the nearby Hanish prison building and the central prison in general. However, the deteriorating situation at Hanish prison due to isolation is continuing to get worse by the day. It is not known if parties to war exchanged information about the prison through neutral parties in line with the Geneva Convention.



Photograph showing how close Hanish prison is inside the walls of the central prison

• Testimonies about life at Hanish Prison



The Euro-Med Monitor and the Association of Abductees' Mothers documented testimonies of former detainees at Hanish prison. Testimonies described circumstances inside the prison, Houthi armed group violations, including deprivation of basic rights like food, water or medicine and violating prisoners' rights in contradiction to agreed healthcare requirements stated in the international conventions.

- «Houthi militant group transferred us from Al-Qala prison to Hanish prison. Houthi's officers told us that Hanish prison is the governmental official prison and we will get our rights as other criminal prisoners do. However, they isolated us and did not keep their promises,» said a former detainee.
- Another detainee at Hanish prison said: «I was among the first kidnapped group that moved from Al-Qala prison to Hanish prison, including 96 people who arrived at Hanish prison in March 2017. The prison was in a



very bad condition and full of bugs while communications and visits were prevented. Besides, food was served to us badly, as breakfast and dinner were two pieces of bread and lentil. As for lunch, it was made of rice and boiled potatoes and the amount wasn't enough for the detainees. Prison officers did not allow prisoners' families neither to bring food or money in to buy what they need, and we used to spend many days hungry.”

- In another interview with a former detainee at Hanish prison, he said: “Hanish prison lacked public health requirements. Prison officers did not provide us with medicine, nor did they help patients. They gave sick prisoners painkillers although they suffered from severe illnesses, causing the spread of diseases and epidemics among prisoners. Fungi and ulcers spread in our bodies due to the high temperature during summer which reached 40c. Besides, Cholera epidemic spread among a number of kidnapped prisoners who were treated with Oral Rehydration. Basic medical care was not provided and the necessary procedures for preventing the spread of the epidemic were not be taken, causing the infection of two prisoners, who almost lost their lives before they were treated at the prison's clinic. The clinic was not equipped with medical care, as they were given nutrient solutions then were returned to prison.”
- Fadia, the wife of a former detainee at Hanish prison said in an interview «I went to search for my husband in the central prison after I learned of his transfer from Al-Qala prison. 96 detainees were crammed into buses carrying the prisoners. When I asked about my husband, the prison officer denied his presence. I searched for him repeatedly and one of them told me that he was in Dhamar, and again they took my food and fruit promising to search for my husband and give it to him, but they did

not. During one of my attempts to find my husband, I managed, along with my husband's mother, to sneak in and look for him in the central prison yard (Hanish prison). One of the kidnapped prisoners saw my husband's mother and called my husband who jumped to see us. It was an unspeakable moment. I rushed towards my husband, but I could not give him anything as the prison window was very tight. I asked him about his condition, and he reassured me, but we could not talk more as one of the security officers saw us and he hurried towards us. He shouted at us and pushed us away from the place. He called on gatekeepers to close the gate in order to capture us. We rushed with all our strength to get out of the gate. My husband mother did not stop crying of pain over her son.»

- In another interview with Yahya Al-Haij, 50, the director of Al-Thwrah Secondary School in Al-Hudaydah governorate, he said: “I was kidnapped while working on November 2016 ,24. I was placed in solitary confinement for 45 days in the Military Police Club prison in Al-Hudaydah. Then, I was moved to Al-Qala prison on January 2017 ,10. Afterwards, they transferred me to Hanish prison in the mid of March 2017. Finally, I was released on November 5,2017, in an exchange for another Houthi soldier held by the government forces in Sadaa governorate.”

He added, «I suffered from many violations at Hanish prison. When we were in Al-Qala prison, we complained about abuses there. They promised to move us to a better prison where we would be treated well, allowed to contact our families and receive money and medicines. However, they never kept their promises and once we arrived at Hanish prison, the treatment was much worse than it was in Al-Qala prison as food and water were the worst

and never enough for all detainees. This caused the loss of weight due to malnutrition. We asked officers repeatedly to fulfill their promises, but their harsh treatment was always the answer. Investigations were usually held at midnight. I asked them to provide me with medicine or allow my family to give it to me as I suffer from high blood pressure, but they refused. Many detainees were suffering from many diseases like diabetes and went into a comma occasionally. However, prison officers prevented medicines to enter. Besides, water was polluted and not suitable for human consumption and electricity was constantly cut off. Temperature degrees exceeded 45c in the summer and we were thirsty for a long time following the cut off water. The shower water was too salty and mixed with wastewater, so we suffered from fungi and ulcers after washing. I still suffer from ulcers and still take medicine for it. We kicked on the doors of the prison demanding improving our conditions in the prison. As a result, a prison officers called Mohammed Al-Sodi fired at us, wounding six prisoners with live bullets. Then they moved us into a separated cell which was too narrow, with a very poor toilet which was not fit for human use. We faced many threats and violations, especially at the end of the night.»

- **Physical abuse testimonies from inside the prison**



The Euro-Med Monitor and the Abductees' Mothers Association documented a number of testimonies of people who were subjected various practices by the Houthis like physical and psychological torture and persecution in all its forms at Hanish prison.

A former detainee at Hanish prison, who asked to be identified by his initials (R. Sh. H), said in an interview, "I was kidnapped on 19 March, 2016, and detained in the infamous Al Qalā'a Prison in Al Hudaydah where I stayed until March 2017. After that, all prisoners were transferred to Hanish prison. We stayed there for two months and it was a period of torture as all food, clothes, and money sent to us by our families were banned.

A new period of suffering and malnutrition began as we were denied access to the prison's shop in order to buy any necessary items. We decided to go on

a hunger strike until our demands are met, which included bringing us before court, allowing our families to visit and phone call us, and stop chaining us. The hunger strike was in vain because the prison officers didn't respond to our demands even though the strike lasted for two long weeks. Abu Mohammed and Abu Moataz attacked us and ordered locking us inside the wards. Then, Abu Moataz entered the cell at six in the morning and wanted to take one of the members of the committee that we formed to represent us and transfer our demands to the Houthi group. We refused to let Abu Moataz take our representative and we told him that the conversation must be inside the prison as we were afraid that he might be transferred to another prison or tortured. Abu Moataz tried to drag our representative from his hand, so we pulled him back, which lead to a fight. Abu Moataz hit another detainee with a wire and then pulled a gun and shot directly at us. Four of us were injured and two were seriously injured.

Afterwards, an anti-riot force was called in and surrounded the place. We made an agreement to transfer those who were injured to the military hospital, while they brought another military force to break into the prison. The force forced us into the cells and sealed the doors. Later in the afternoon, they chained us while isolated some others.

Intransigence continued for two months until the detainees became vulnerable due to the malnutrition. Then, they summoned me and 15 others and informed us of the decision of our release, which was on 24 May, 2017. Then, we were transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department. I was isolated with two others where they put us in a solitary cell for four days. There, we were being insulted and tortured. We only had only one meal of rice and potatoes a day while we had to get out drinking water from the

bathroom. on 28 May, 2017, we were taken to Sana'a. There were fifteen of us from different directorates.

We reached Sana'a under heavy guard and threats, as they transferred us to the central prison. There, they told us that we were transferred for the purpose of a prisoner exchange deal.

On Wednesday, 31 January, 2018, I was released in a prisoner exchange deal, even though I am a civilian who was kidnapped from my workplace.”

In another interview, (A. M. S) another former detainee said, “Hanish prison in Al Hudaydah has been established for the remaining detainees in Al Qalaa Prison which is an open prison with a number of cells, an open hall in front of it, and a high wall. We were taken there chained. The cells were small 3 x 4 and some are 4 x 5. There was a large ward which is about 10 x 4.

One day, the Houthis came to chain us like the way we were at Al Qalaa Prison. We totally refused that, so they wanted to chain us by force. They put us inside the cells by force. We were 98 detainees and they added eight other persons to us. When we showed our refusal, the anti-riot police came and they started shooting at us. Abu Mutaz, the investigation officer in Al-Hudaydah, came with an wire and started to beat the detainees. He took a weapon and started shooting at the detainees. He wounded five on that day, two of them were in serious condition and one of them was wounded with shrapnel in his head, another was injured in his hand and his vein was cut off, another was injured in the hand, and another in the stomach, who was taken to the hospital, but his family has ties with the Houthis, so they released him, fearing that he would die.

At first, the prison officers refused to aid the detainees until we gave up and allowed them to enter the cells. They told us if we did not enter our

cells, they won't not aid the wounded and let them die before your eyes. One of the detainees was a medical assistant, he provided some first aid to the wounded, but they were severely bleeding. Houthi gunmen went up the prison roof, threatened us with their weapons, entered us the cells, and chained all detainees with each other. They accumulated us inside our cells and prevented us from leaving. We could not do anything in that situation, while they prevented us from going to the bathroom, so we had to pee in bottles.

Many were suffering from diseases inside the prison. I had cholera and they took me while chained to the hospital at a time I was about to die. They instructed the doctor to inform me that I had no disease, but he did not listen to them and gave me an I.V. (nutritious solution).

I was yelling to the Houthi security officers who brought me to the hospital, saying: "Have mercy on me. I am sick. Remove my chains." Then a nurse came, and after I talked to her, she helped me by providing me with a bed. She also gave me more nutritious solutions as my body needed them.

The Houthi officers refused to enter me to the cholera center where some of the agencies sometimes came to prison and gave us sedatives which are usually provided by the central prison clinic or from parties that we do not know. Some of the detainees inside the prison had cholera. The bodies of some of them were red due to the intense temperature they had. However, the prison supervisors did not allow them to receive any treatment, as well as others who were suffering from chronic diseases such as blood pressure and diabetes. The supervisors actually used to make them think they are going to receive the treatment they need, have them go the hospital, and make them come back without getting even one tranquilizing injection.

There were also people suffering from slipping bones, and rheumatism. As for the fungus, especially in Hanish, it was very common. We used to ask them for a fungus ointment and they used to give us a white ointment and say it treats fungus, but it never helped at all.

Due to torture, the detainees' condition just got worse and worse, especially that Hanish prison is a fertile environment for epidemics and diseases. As a result, some of the detainees in Hanish have suffered from heart disease while inside the detention facility, and they are still suffering from it even after their release as a result of the torture they were subjected to inside the detention facilities



The psychological torture was also used often in Hanish prison. They used to take us out of our small cells to the hall, and then redistribute us again for no reason. In addition, they would say obscene words that violate religion and morals. We were completely isolated from the outside world without any kind of communication. We were even prevented from standing by the window. And after one year and a half, the negotiations began and they brought us a TV screen to watch Almasirah channel, which belongs to the Houthis, and their sectarian lectures. They also asked us to repeat the Houthis' slogan -- "God is the greatest! Death for America! Death for Israel! God's curse on the Jews! Victory for Islam" -- We said that until we receive «amnesty». They were actually using all means that lead to the torture and abuse of detainees.

Legal background

There is no doubt that the practices of the Houthi group in Yemen since 2014 include a variety of violations and abuses against defenseless civilians, as murder, torture, kidnapping and enforced disappearance, in addition to other practices that violate all international conventions, provisions and norms.

The term “kidnapping” mentioned in this report which many Yemeni civilians have been subjected to and still are, is intended only in cases where an armed group that does not belong to the official state bodies – as is the case with the Houthi group – forcibly deprives a person from his freedom, according to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which defines enforced disappearance in Article 2 as «For the purposes of this Convention, ‘enforced disappearance’ is considered to be the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law”. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court regards this act as a «crime against humanity», it does not lapse by statute of limitations.

The danger of kidnapping or enforced disappearance is that it represents a constant torture for the victims and their families, as this raises concern regarding the lives of these victims. In addition, a detainee is not provided with his legal rights, such as a fair trial, the appointment of a lawyer, and other basic rights that a prisoner should have.

All these reasons prompted the international community to enact many international agreements and treaties that absolutely prohibit these acts, when looking at the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is one of the pillars of international human rights law, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Treatment or Punishment, or Inhuman or degrading. We find that the Houthi group's practices of torturing civilians and inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment against them are absolutely prohibited, without exceptions or reservations. Article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that «all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person».

When looking at the Minimum Model Standards for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1957, updated in 2015 and whose name was changed later to the «Mandela Rules», we find that it contains many articles that provide for the human rights guaranteed to people who have been deprived of their freedom, as is the case for unarmed civilians deprived of their liberty in Hanish prison. Although Mandela's rules fall within the category of customary international law, its strength lies in the fact that they are accepted by most countries, and countries have followed them as law. We can mention some of these rules (the basic principles) to name just a few, which the practices of the Houthi group are violating, and they are as follows:

- **Rule 1:** All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings. No prisoner shall be subjected to, and all prisoners shall be protected from, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, for which no circumstances

whatsoever may be invoked as a justification. The safety and security of prisoners, staff, service providers and visitors shall be ensured at all times.

- **Rule 13:** All accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular all sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation.
- **Rule 15:** The sanitary installations shall be adequate to enable every prisoner to comply with the needs of nature when necessary and in a clean and decent manner.
- **Rule 22:**
 1. Every prisoner shall be provided by the prison administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served.
 2. Drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he or she needs it
- **Rule 25:** Every prison shall have in place a health-care service tasked with evaluating, promoting, protecting and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special health-care needs or with health issues that hamper their rehabilitation. The Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment included many texts prohibiting all forms of unlawful detention, as the first principle of these principles stipulated that “All persons under any form of detention or imprisonment shall be treated in a humane manner and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person”.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also give the prisoner his right to enjoy physical and mental health, as Article 12

of it stipulates that “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”.

Committee for the Prevention of Torture, which is the United Nations Convention against Torture monitoring body, confirmed the need to provide adequate health and medical care to prisoners, and confirmed that any dereliction or failure to provide health and medical care is undoubtedly a clear violation of the provisions of the agreement.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture has enacted a system for a periodic inspection of detention sites, with the aim of preventing any degrading torture or punishment against prisoners. Article 4 of it stipulates that “Each State Party shall allow visits, in accordance with the present Protocol, by the mechanisms referred to in articles 2 and 3 to any place under its jurisdiction and control where persons are or may be deprived of their liberty, either by virtue of an order given by a public authority or at its instigation or with its consent or acquiescence (hereinafter referred to as places of detention). These visits shall be undertaken with a view to strengthening, if necessary, the protection of these persons against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Recommendations

Based on the facts presented on this report, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor and the Association of Mothers of Abducted Persons recommend the following:

1. The Houthi group must immediately release all detainees inside Hanish prison, and end the arbitrary detention against them, especially as their lives are at risk at every moment due to the possibility of an outbreak of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) inside the prison.
2. The Red Cross should visit Hanish prison to address the level of the suffering that detainees are suffering in Houthi prisons.
3. United Nations Human Rights Council Member States should condemn all violations committed by the Houthis in Hanish prison, such as kidnapping, enforced disappearance, torture, and the denial of the rights of the kidnapped and the minimum requirements for health care.
4. The international community, especially the Security Council must carry out its legal and moral responsibilities established by the UN Charter, and take the necessary steps to close Hanish prison and all prisons belonging to the Houthi group, to stop the flow of violations, which worsens day after day without a true legal deterrent.
5. The international community must pressure the Houthi group to take real steps to end its human rights violations, including ensuring that Houthi leaders are held accountable for the forced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment of unarmed civilians.

6. The Houthi group must abide by international agreements and laws that absolutely prohibit all violations against unarmed civilians in Hanish prison, and hold perpetrators accountable.



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