



REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The National Commission to Investigate
Alleged Violations to Human Rights

The 12th PERIODIC REPORT

on the Activities Carried out by the National
Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations to
Human Rights (NCIAVHR) in Yemen

from 01/08/ 2023 to 31/07/2024

Executive Summary

Through this 12th report, the National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR) continues its efforts in monitoring, documenting, and investigating all forms of human rights violations committed in violation of national laws and international conventions by all parties to the conflict in Yemen during the period extending from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.

Although the reporting period did not witness any direct military confrontations on the internal fronts, indicating the continuation of an undeclared truce and a significant reduction in casualties among both combatants and civilians, this 12th report is released amidst new developments and events on the regional and local political landscape, which have had a direct impact on the humanitarian situation and the peace process in Yemen.

During the reporting period, international and regional efforts continued to pursue a political settlement to end the conflict in Yemen. By the end of 2023, a Saudi-Omani mediation announced the drafting of a three-phase peace roadmap. This roadmap includes humanitarian and economic arrangements, political dialogue, the establishment of the state, elections, and a two-year transitional period.

However, the peace process in Yemen was hindered by the reported tensions in the Red Sea, such as the Houthi seizure of the cargo ship *Galaxy Leader* at the end of 2023, and their continued military attacks in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab. These actions led to the suspension of peace talks and mediation efforts to finalize the UN-sponsored roadmap.

A new round of negotiations between the Yemeni government and the Houthi group was launched on 1 July 2024, lasting for a week

without any notable progress on the prisoners of war and detainees. The talks concluded with an agreement to hold another round of negotiations in two months-time, leaving in limbo the prisoners, detainees, and forcibly disappeared persons and their families. The situation was further complicated by the Central Bank's decisions on Tuesday, 22 July 2024, related to restructuring the banking sector, the change of old currency to new one within two months and the disputed distribution of revenues from Yemania Airways. These decisions were all rejected by the Houthis. Additionally, there was an assassination attempt on the Chief of Staff of the legitimate government's army in Marib. His convoy was targeted by a car bomb, an act attributed by the legitimate government to the Houthi group.

Subsequently, on Tuesday, 22 July 2024, in response to the recent developments concerning the Central Bank's decisions, the office of UN Envoy Hans Grundberg announced an agreement between the legitimate government and the Houthi group on several measures to de-escalate tensions. In reality, there are so far no tangible indicators of the commencement of a comprehensive peace process in Yemen, with serious commitment to its implementation under UN auspices.

The Houthi group has continued to consolidate its security grip in the areas under its control, restricting freedom of opinion and expression. They enforce security control through direct punitive measures without regard to the due process of law. They continue intensifying mobilization of fighters, the recruitment of child soldiers and the use of the judicial institutions to legitimize the imposition of severe punishments on civilians,

including the death penalty, enforced disappearances and torture.

The security situation in areas controlled by the legitimate government remains volatile. Various security units on the ground have not been unified, and many do not fall under the authority of the Ministry of Interior of the legitimate government. There is a lack of official security coordination between these entities. Despite previous decisions to integrate military and security units under the Ministries of Defense and Interior since 2017.

During the reporting period, the NCIAVHR undertook various activities aimed at engaging with the parties to the conflict to uncover the truth behind the alleged violations by each side of the conflict and to strengthen cooperation in line with its strategy to create a conducive environment for protecting and promoting human rights.

During the reporting period, and in line with its mechanism for completing investigations through inquiries directed at the suspect entities, reviewing internal accountability procedures, and ensuring human rights protections, the Commission issued 51 official memorandums to the government and its affiliated institutions and agencies.

The NCIAVHR has continued to take investigative actions regarding incidents attributed to the Arab Coalition's air operations, occurring prior to the current ongoing truce. Communications regarding these incidents has been transmitted to the concerned parties. A meeting was held at the NCIAVHR office in the temporary capital, Aden, on 30 October 2023. This meeting included the Chairman and members of the NCIAVHR and the Joint Incident Assessment Team. They discussed

new incidents under investigation and their locations, aiming for collaborative efforts and coordination between the two sides. This cooperation ensures that all targeted victims are reached and internal accountability is upheld.

On the Houthis side, and since commencing 2016, the NCIAVHR has consistently reached out to the Houthi leadership in Sana'a. Numerous memoranda were addressed to the head of the group's political office, requesting responses to inquiries about human rights violations attributed to the group. Additionally, the Commission has repeatedly asked for the designation of a liaison officer to respond to these inquiries. Despite the Commission's persistent efforts and multiple requests, no response has been received from the group to date. This lack of response mirrors the group's general approach towards most national and international human rights entities. Nonetheless, the Commission continues to monitor and investigate all human rights violations occurring in Houthi-controlled areas through its researchers and monitors present on ground.

During the reporting period, NCIAVHR successfully conducted direct monitoring and documentation through its observers for more than 3,055 alleged violations across various governorates of the country. These violations spanned over 36 different types of human rights breaches, affecting a total of 13,028 victims of both genders. Since its inception in January 2016 until the date of this report, the Commission has documented a total of 29,701 incidents of violations, with a cumulative number of 63,772 victims.

Throughout the reporting period, the Commission interviewed over 8,398 witnesses, informants, and victims, reviewed approximate-

ly 7,886 documents, and analyzed hundreds of photographs and video clips related to the violations. All this information has been systematically cataloged and stored in the Commission's database.

During the period covered by this report, the NCIHVHR monitored and investigated four alleged violations involving American drone strikes targeting civilians. Reliable information was gathered and documented indicating that seven victims, all of whom were civilians were the results of these attacks.

The judiciary is a cornerstone in protecting and promoting human rights. From this standpoint, the NCIHVHR is keen to periodically meet with the judicial authority and coordinate with it to strengthen efforts aimed at curbing human rights violations, activating accountability mechanisms, and guaranteeing non-impunity in accordance with the international instruments ratified by Yemen and the applicable national laws. In this context, the Commission conducted a number of meetings with representatives of different judicial institutions. These meetings addressed several important topics, reaffirming the ongoing cooperation and coordination between the Commission and the judiciary in protecting human rights.

Since its inception, the NCIHVHR has endeavored to strengthen its relationship with active civil society organizations. The Commission

Challenges and Difficulties

The period covered by this report was marked by numerous field obstacles and harassments faced by both international and local human rights institutions.

The key challenges encountered in documenting and investigating human rights violations

recognizes the pivotal role these organizations play in protecting and promoting human rights. Coordination and cooperation between NCIHVHR and civil society organizations in monitoring and documenting human rights violations remain a priority, aligning with the Commission's objectives to mitigate violations and alleviate their impact on victims. In this context, the Commission maintains direct and indirect communication with civil society organizations through various activities, including meetings, workshops, and victim referrals.

During the reporting period, the Chair and members of the NCIHVHR held a number of meetings with the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee team, the OHCHR and the diplomatic community. These meetings discussed the latest developments in human rights in Yemen, explored future cooperation prospects, and exchanged information on incidents that occurred on Yemeni soil. These incidents include the recruitment of children and women, depriving students of education and preventing them from taking exams prior to military training, and identifying units involved in such practices. Discussions also covered violations faced by civilians in conflict areas, such as sniping, landmines, and intermittent clashes, as well as the situation of families living in these areas who are unable to flee due to financial constraints.

and reaching victims include the following:

1. Continuous breaches and violations of the unofficial truce between the warring parties in Yemen, ongoing violence, targeting of civilians, landmine planting, and obstruction of humanitarian aid and relief efforts.

2. The persistent inactivity and dysfunction of the Yemeni Parliament, resulting in Yemen's failure to ratify several international human rights instruments and pass modern legislation to reduce violations.
3. Delays in responses from certain parties to the commission's memoranda and inquiries regarding allegations of violations attributed to their affiliates.
4. Fear among some victim groups and their reluctance to report due to campaigns of arrests and restrictions on freedoms.
5. The sensitive nature of some violations and the difficulty in providing conclusive legal evidence, particularly concerning gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women and children.

Recommendations:

Despite the recommendations provided by the NCIHVHR in its previous reports and its special report on prisons and detention centers in Yemen, several recommendations have not been implemented by the concerned parties. This has contributed to the persistence of numerous violations that the commission has investigated, some of which are detailed in this report and previous reports, delineating the responsibilities of each party for various types of human rights and international humanitarian law violations.

A. Recommendations to All Parties:

2. Implementing all recommendations provided by the NCIHVHR in its previous reports.
3. Renewing the humanitarian truce initiated in April 2022 and adhere to its terms regarding the cessation of warfare, violence, and military activities, lifting the siege on Taiz, and opening major roads between governorates to help reduce violations and uphold human rights.
4. Facilitating and expedite humanitarian relief efforts by international, regional, and local organizations to ensure the delivery of aid to those in need across the entire Yemeni Republic.
5. Enabling safe access for all citizens to resources in all areas.
6. Taking all reasonable measures to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law by all parties to the conflict. Cease all extrajudicial killings, unlawful detention, enforced disappearances, and restrictions on freedoms. Promptly and unconditionally release all detainees and forcibly disappeared individuals without invoking exceptional circumstances as justification.
7. Protecting children and ensure they are not subjected to the six grave violations and preventing violence and discrimination against women and marginalized groups.
8. Ending repressive practices against activists, human rights defenders, and journalists, which infringe upon their rights and the community's right to information.
9. Cooperating with the National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights and its field staff across

all governorates, facilitating all their activities, and providing all required information in accordance with the resolutions of the Human Rights Council issued since 2015, the latest being the resolution from October 2023.

B. Recommendations to the Legitimate Government:

1. Ceasing all unlawful detentions in areas under government control, and immediately releasing all detainees held without legal justification in all unauthorized detention centers and prisons.
2. Enhancing the capacities of the justice and security sectors and urging the judiciary to fulfil its primary role in law enforcement and human rights protection, ensuring justice for victims and preventing impunity.
3. Providing protection and care services for children and women, particularly survivors of violence and those displaced from conflict zones.
4. Completing the unification of security and military forces under the legitimate government and continuing capacity-building activities within the security and military sectors to ensure these agencies effectively enforce the law and protect human rights.
5. Implementing a comprehensive economic policy aimed at putting an end to currency depreciation and alleviating citizens' suffering. Continuing to pay salaries to public employees across all governorates of the Republic.
6. Adopting institutional reform plans and activating all state service institutions, including health, electricity, water, and sanitation, ensuring citizens' access to

their social rights as stipulated in national laws and international agreements ratified by Yemen.

C. Recommendations to the Houthi Group:

1. Ceasing acts of violence against civilians and their targeting, particularly sniper attacks and drone strikes, and adhering to the terms of the humanitarian truce.
2. Refraining from targeting civilian objects, economic and vital facilities, oil ports, and threatening ships.
3. Ending the recruitment of children with the aim of using them in warfare and taking measures to prevent their recruitment and ensuring its non-reoccurrence.
4. Ceasing sectarian changes to the curriculum and refraining from using schools and government facilities for cultural courses and sectarian summer camps.
5. Refraining from harassing and extorting traders and stopping levying illicit taxes and confiscating citizens' money and property.
6. Ending arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances of citizens, ceasing harassment of international organizations and civil society organizations, releasing all detainees, and reducing measures that restrict freedom of opinion and expression, particularly against political opponents, activists, and civil society organizations.
7. Immediately ceasing all forms of gender-based violence, particularly against women, including violations in various detention facilities, and restrictions on women's freedom of movement and travel.
8. Refraining from planting landmines and

providing detailed maps of areas where landmines have been planted.

9. Appointing a liaison officer to respond to the commission's inquiries and cooperating with the Commission to ensure it can fulfil its mandate to investigate all violations.

D. Recommendations to the Arab Coalition Supporting Legitimacy:

1. Contributing to establishing a comprehensive and just peace in Yemen, based on respect for human rights, accountability for perpetrators of violations, and redress for victims.
2. Supporting the Yemeni government in unifying security and military forces, to achieve security, stability, development, and well-being for all Yemenis.
3. Increasing cooperation with the commission and expediting responses to its inquiries regarding incidents attributed to airstrikes over the past years, which the commission continues to investigate.

D. Recommendations to the International Community:

1. Supporting effective and comprehensive peace-building operations in Yemen and the agreements sponsored by the United Nations. Engaging civil society, women, and victim associations in various processes, ensuring they follow a justice-based approach that guarantees accountability, prevents recurrence of violations, compensates victims, and reforms institutions and security.
2. Providing technical support to Yemeni state institutions, particularly the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, to enhance their capabilities.



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**The National Commission to Investigate
Alleged Violations to Human Rights**

A national mechanism for monitoring and investigating allegations of human rights violations committed on the territory of the Republic of Yemen by all parties established by the Republican Resolution No. (140) for 2012 and its amendments, based on the texts of the Gulf Initiative and its executive mechanism, and Security Council Resolution No. 2051 of 2012 and Resolution No. "2140" for 2014 and other related Human Rights Council resolutions.