



## **REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

The National Commission to Investigate  
Alleged Violations to Human Rights

# The 11th **PERIODIC REPORT**

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

from 1/8/ 2022 to 31/7/2023





## **REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

The National Commission to Investigate  
Alleged Violations to Human Rights

# The 11th **PERIODIC REPORT**

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

from 1/8/ 2022 to 31/7/2023



## Table of Contents

First: Introduction	05
Second: Methodology:	06
Third: The Context:	06
On the Political Level:	06
On the Security and Military Level:	07
On the Socio-economic Level:	08
Fourth: NCIHVHR's Relationship with the Parties to the Conflict and Other Relevant Entities:	09
The Government of Yemen (GOY)	09
Arab Coalition in Support of Legitimacy	11
The Houthi Group	12
Fifth: The most important tasks Carried out by the Commission during the Reporting Period:	12
Monitoring and Documenting the violations:	13
Investigating human rights violations:	15
A. Field visits to governorates and regions witnessing incidents of human rights violations	15
B. Public and Confidential Hearing Sessions	20
The Judiciary	21
Collaboration with local and international civil society organizations	22
Collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	25
Sixth: Findings of the investigations carried out by the Commission:	27
Section 1: Findings of the investigations conducted by the Commission on violations related to the International Humanitarian Law	27
First- Killing and injuring civilians	27
Second: Child Recruitment	37
Third: Planting Anti-personnel Landmines	41
Fourth: Assaults on cultural, historical, and religious sites and objects	44
Fifth: Targeting of medical Facilities and Staff	47
Section 2: Findings of the investigations conducted by the Commission on violations related to International Human Rights Law	49
First: Extrajudicial Killing:	49
Second: Arbitrary Arrest and Forced Disappearance	55
Third: Torture and Maltreatment	61
Fourth: House Bombing:	65
Fifth: Assault on freedom of opinion and expression	66
Section 3: Violations Against Women:	69
Section 4: Victims of US Drone strikes	72
Challenges and Difficulties	74
Recommendations:	74



## First: Introduction

The National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations to Human Rights (NCIAVHR) is responsible for investigating all violations that occur on Yemeni territory, committed by all parties to the conflict. This is in accordance with Republican Decree No. 140 of 2012 and its amendments, as well as resolutions from the United Nations Security Council, including Resolution 2051 of 2012 and Resolution 2140 of 2014. Additionally, it abides by resolutions from the Human Rights Council, specifically regarding the human rights situation in Yemen since 2011. The latest resolution, A/HRC/RES/51/39, was issued on 6 October 2022, which stressed that all parties should cooperate with the Commission, respond to its inquiries and facilitate its access to all areas. The resolution also emphasized that the office of the High Commissioner for human rights should continue providing support to the Commission in all advisory, legal and technical fields to help the Commission in achieving its objectives. NCIAVHR remains dedicated to monitoring, documenting, and investigating all forms of human rights violations that violate national laws and international conventions. This applies to all parties to the conflict.

This report is being released amidst an undeclared cessation of hostilities between the parties to the conflict, initially announced by UN envoy Hans Grundberg on 2 April 2022 for a duration of two months. It has since been silently renewed throughout the preceding period. The objective of this report by the Commission is to apprise the local, regional, and international public of the latest developments concerning the human rights and humanitarian situation in Yemen. It encompasses a brief overview of the noteworthy undertakings and activities carried out by the Commission between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023, encompassing the efforts in monitoring, documenting, and investigating infringements across all Yemeni districts. Moreover, the report presents statistics on the violations monitored, investigated, and referred by the Commission during the reporting period, in addition to outlining its interactions with relevant entities pertaining to its work. It showcases instances of violations pertaining to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which have been subjects of scrutiny and investigation by the Commission, along with the ensuing findings by the Commission. Furthermore, the report highlights the principal challenges and difficulties encountered by the Commission, and offers recommendations to all parties to the conflict and the international community, with the overarching objective of fortifying the safeguarding of human rights, mitigating violations, and ensuring accountability and justice for the victims.

This report complements and is an integral part of the previous reports issued by the Commission, particularly regarding the statement of mandate, legal framework, methodology, and working methods.

## Second: Methodology

The National Commission of Inquiry on Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR) reiterates its unwavering dedication to the methodology, standards, and principles upheld by akin international investigative commissions. This commitment encompasses a steadfast adherence to the values of transparency, independence, neutrality, objectivity, professionalism, and confidentiality. It is in strict accordance with the provisions outlined in Decision, No. 140 of 2012, on the Establishment of the Commission, specifically provisions stipulated in paragraph (c) of Article No. 2, which mandates the Commission to carry out its duties in alignment with globally recognized standards, national legislation, as well as relevant covenants and conventions ratified by the Republic of Yemen.

The Commission has made it a priority to monitor and document all violations committed on the territories of the Republic of Yemen by all parties to the conflict. The monitoring and documentation of these violations are carried out directly by the Commission's team of observers stationed across the various governorates in country. Additionally, reports of violations are received through civil society organizations operating in this field, as well as through direct complaints that reach the Commission's headquarters in the interim capital of Aden or its branches in Taiz and Marib Governorates, or through its official website.

The National Commission of Inquiry on Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR) places significant weight on conducting interviews with victims, their families, and eyewitnesses, while also acquiring statements from informants. Moreover, it actively seeks the valuable assistance of experts specializing in weaponry, forensic evidence, and forensic medicine, drawing upon the existing resources and capabilities at its disposal.

The Commission also adopts the mechanism of direct field visits, which involves visiting the sites where violations took place and zones of ongoing armed conflict. This includes direct visits by members of the Commission, assistant investigators, and observers in areas under the control of the legitimate government or through observers present in governorates outside the control of the legitimate government.

## Third: The Context

Human rights in Yemen are susceptible to the prevailing circumstances and crises unfolding in the country, impacting the situation of human rights both positively and negatively. Consequently, this report aims to address pertinent political, military, and socio-economic developments that have transpired during the reporting period, highlighting their implications on human rights. The developments outlined in this report include the following:

### On the Political Level:

It can be said that a state of political stagnation persisted throughout the reporting period, particularly in relation to the United Nations-mediated political negotiations between the legitimate government and the Houthi group, also known as Ansar Allah. Notably, no direct negotiations were conducted between the two parties, despite the numerous visits made by the Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to significant locations such as Sana'a, Aden, Riyadh, Muscat, and various other countries.

The UN Special Envoy conducted numerous meetings with political leaders representing the legitimate government and the Houthi group. However, it is worth noting that a series of meetings solely focused on the matter of “prisoners and abductees” occurred, as agreed upon by all parties under the Stockholm Agreement concluded at the close of 2018. Regrettably, this agreement, which mandated the release of all prisoners, was breached. Only a fraction of the prisoners, approximately 887 prisoners were exchanged on 14 and 16 April 2023 with the active participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Among the released prisoners was former Minister of Defense Mahmoud Al-Subaihi, whose release was mandated by a Security Council resolution. Additionally, Nasser Mansour Hadi, the brother of President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, was also released. Apart from these negotiations pertaining to prisoners, no direct negotiations were conducted or officially announced between the parties. Furthermore, no progress was achieved in implementing the remaining provisions outlined in the Stockholm Agreement, which encompassed the reopening of roads in Taiz city, salary disbursements to all state employees, and other relevant provisions.

Despite the halt in negotiations between the parties to the conflict in Yemen for some time, the political situation, specifically relating to the possibility of achieving peace in Yemen, has seen some promising developments during the period covered by the report. These advancements took the form of several undisclosed direct negotiation sessions between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Houthi group, which were ultimately marked by a visit by the ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Yemen to the capital city of Sana’a on 08.04.2023. Despite the Houthi group’s announcement that no agreement had been reached during the visit, there were subsequent visits by several Houthi leaders to Saudi Arabia for the purpose of performing the Hajj rituals in Mecca. This gesture suggests that the possibility of further meetings between the parties remains, holding potential for significant progress towards a lasting peace in Yemen.

Furthermore, on an internal political level, the Presidential Leadership Council and the legitimate government have continued functioning from Aden, the interim capital, since the power transfer was declared. Notably, the local political landscape has remained relatively stable, with no major developments taking place, apart from select political activities conducted by specific parties. Notably, on 3 May 2023, the Southern Transitional Council organized a conference known as the “Southern Reconciliation Conference” in Aden. Additionally, on 19 June 2023, the establishment of the National Hadhramaut Council was officially announced in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

## **On the Security and Military Level:**

### **The Truce:**

Throughout the reporting period, an unofficial truce, sponsored by the United Nations, has been relatively observed on all fronts. Despite the cessation of all military operations by the coalition air force during this period, there have been a number of violations on the ground, primarily committed by the Houthi group. The most significant of these violations include: The targeting of Al-Dhaba Port in the Hadhramaut Governorate between October and November 2022, leading to the suspension of oil exports from territories controlled by the legitimate government. Consequently, the incident has inflicted significant damage on the national economy causing a decline in public revenues denominated in foreign currency. Moreover, the governorate of Taiz has experienced multi-

ple incidents of sniper attacks and drone strikes within the city of Taiz, as well as in the districts of Jabal Habashi, Maqbanah, and Muza'a, resulting in civilian casualties. Similar violations have also taken place within the districts of Hays and Al-Tuhayta in the Hodeidah Governorate. Additionally, clashes have periodically escalated in the Al-Dhale and Marib governorates. The indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines has continued to claim the lives of civilians in the Al-Jawf, Marib, Hodeidah, Taiz, Al-Bayda, Lahj, Al-Dhale, and Hajjah governorates.

During the reporting period, the Commission documented a total of (609) instances where the Houthi group targeted civilians, leading to the unfortunate loss of (217) lives and causing (502) injuries. Additionally, the Commission recorded (161) occurrences of landmine explosions, resulting in the tragic loss of (55) lives and causing (124) injuries. Our forthcoming report will include cases investigated by the Commission, which serve as illustrations of these incidents.

On the security front, the Houthi group has tightened its grip on all security departments and agencies in the areas under their control, including police departments and neighborhood chiefs. The supervisors affiliated with the Houthi group now hold the real authority in these agencies and departments, dictating decisions and actions based on the group's ideas and beliefs.

As a consequence, there have been instances of encroachments on rights and freedoms, such as freedom of opinion, expression, assembly, as well as the formation and operation of organizations and associations, unless they align with the Houthi group's ideologies. Opposition activists and citizens face various forms of torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, as well as repression, intimidation, and threats. Movement and travel are also restricted, particularly for women who require a signed approval document from a "mahram" or a male guardian for inter-governmental travel. Women activists and journalists are targeted with systematic defamation campaigns through Houthi-affiliated websites and channels.

Areas under the control of the legitimate government and government-affiliated entities, on the other hand, suffer from a state of weak security. This can be attributed to the lack of unified leadership among the security agencies and their failure to fully adhere to the authority of the government, represented by the Ministry of Interior. Each faction affiliated with the legitimate government maintains control over specific territories, operating independently without coordination. As a result, numerous violations of citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms have been reported, including instances of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, acts of torture, travel restrictions, and encroachments upon the freedom of opinion and expression.

## On the Socio-economic Level:

Undoubtedly, the prolonged duration of the war, the ongoing degradation of security, and the resumption of military clashes in numerous districts across the nation have indisputably had an adverse impact on Yemen's economic and social landscape. Furthermore, the failure to activate the state's revenue resources and the government inability to export oil due to the Houthi group's deliberate targeting of oil facilities and the threat posed to ships, as exemplified by the incident at Al Dhabbah port in Hadramaut governorate, alongside the ongoing suspension of gas production and exports. The Houthi group's reliance on imported gas rather than procuring locally-produced gas from areas under the legitimate government's control, along with the failure to consolidate govern-



ment revenues from all governorates into a single central bank, are additional factors contributing to the exacerbation of Yemen's economic predicament. This is evident from the significant depreciation of the Yemeni currency with an exchange rate reaching approximately YR 1500 per US Dollar. Consequently, this has led to escalating prices of goods and services, imposing a burden on citizens, particularly in view of the closure of numerous private sector institutions and medium-to-small projects. Additionally, the consistent non-payment of salaries to government employees in areas under Houthi group control due to their inability to channel government revenues to the central bank in Aden further compounds the challenges faced. Furthermore, the persistent refusal of the Houthi group to circulate the currency printed by the legitimate government exacerbates the economic disparity between areas under government control and those under Houthi control, amplifying the hardships endured by citizens in Houthi-controlled regions. Moreover, they are subjected to unlawful extortion and illegal levies, intensifying the already dire economic situation prevalent in all regions. On February 21, the Yemeni government announced the signing of a financial agreement with Saudi Arabia to giving Yemeni government \$1 billion to help the country's economy.<sup>(1)</sup>

The overall economic decline has significantly impacted the provision of essential services by the state across various sectors including healthcare, education, environment, roads, and telecommunications. Consequently, the living conditions of citizens have deteriorated, leading to heightened suffering, increased burdens, and a rise in poverty and unemployment rates. Despite the presence of international humanitarian organizations aiming to alleviate the plight of Yemenis, their efforts have been hindered by concerns regarding corruption and mismanagement within many organizations operating in this field. Additionally, the obstruction, prevention, and seizure operations conducted by certain parties have further impeded the effective delivery of humanitarian aid.

## **Fourth: Communication with the Parties to the Conflict**

During the reporting period, the Commission engaged in various communication activities with the parties to the conflict, including the following:

### **The Government of Yemen (GOY) and Government affiliated entities:**

During the reporting period, the Commission engaged in various forms of communication and collaboration with the legitimate government on a range of matters. These included direct meetings and the exchange of official documents pertaining to the Commission's inquiries into incidents involving individuals and entities associated with the legitimate government. Furthermore, the Commission put forth multiple recommendations to government entities aiming to improve the human rights situation and create a more conducive environment for human rights in Yemen.

**Some of the key communication activities with the government and affiliated entities include the following:**

Direct meetings with the Yemeni government, ministers, and local authorities:

- The National Commission convened with Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi, the President of the Presidential Leadership Council, on 27/10/2022, to discuss the Investigation of Ma'ashiq Palace. During the meeting, the Commission presented its tenth report and highlighted the most

1- Yemen News Agency (saba).

significant challenges and difficulties facing the Commission. During the meeting, the PLC President issued instructions to the Prime Minister to order all government entities and ministries to cooperate with the Commission and facilitate its mandate.<sup>(2)</sup>

- The Commission held direct meetings between April, May and June 2023 with governors of governorates, local authorities, security directors, military commanders, directors of political security, and military intelligence in the governorates of Aden, Hodeidah, Al-Dhale, Taiz, Marib, and Shabwa. These meetings also included discussions with the commander of the fourth military zone, the head of the political security apparatus, and the leadership of the political office of the National Resistance. The purpose of these meetings was to address various incidents of human rights violations attributed to these entities, assess the human rights situation in these areas, and facilitate the work of the Commission by providing access to the areas and victims.
- Communication with entities affiliated with the Yemeni government to complete the investigation process into incidents involving individuals from various security and military agencies:

In the reporting period, the Commission followed its established procedure of investigating alleged violations by reaching out to relevant entities. This involved inquiring about internal accountability measures and the protection of human rights. The Commission sent (94) official written memorandums to the government and its affiliated institutions and agencies, which included the following:

No.	Entity	Subject of the Memorandum	Response
1	Minster of Defense	A memorandum regarding the detention of a child	No response received
2	Director of Political Security Agency	A memorandum regarding the disappearance of a victim	No response received
3	Governor of Taiz Governorate	A Memorandum regarding the Situation of Taiz Central Prison.	No response received
4	Governor of Taiz Governorate	A Memorandum regarding the Situation of Taiz Central Prison.	No response received
5	Governor of Al-Dhale Governorate	Memorandum Regarding Arbitrary Detentions and Property Destruction.	No response received
6	Aden Security Manager	Freedom restriction allegation	Responded to
7	Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council	A Memorandum regarding the Appointment of a Public Prosecutor in Shabwah to Review the Cases of Detainees Under Investigation.	No response received
8	Director of Aden Security		
9	Director of Police Security in Hodeidah	A Memorandum Regarding Arbitrary Arrest	No response received
10	Director of Al-Dhale Security	Memorandum Regarding Arbitrary Detentions and Property Destruction	No response received.

2- See the letter of the President of Yemen and Prime Minister, page (77,78)

11	Executive Unit for Internally Displaced Persons	A Memorandum Regarding Facilitating Field Visits to IDP Camps.	Response received
12	Branch Director of Political Security - Marib	A Memorandum Regarding 3 Victims of Arbitrary Detention	Verbal Response Regarding One Victim
13	Taiz Axis Command	Four Memorandums Regarding Extrajudicial Killings, Arbitrary Arrests, and Plundering of Properties Allegedly Committed by Members of the Taiz Axis	Response was received for only three memorandums
14	Director of Taiz Security	Three Memorandums Regarding Incidents of Arbitrary Arrests and Enforced Disappearances	No response received
15	Commander of Military Police, Taiz	A Memorandum Regarding Facilitating Researchers' Access	NCIAVHR's request was granted
16	Executive Mine Action Center in Taiz	A Memorandum Regarding the Provision of the data of the victims of landmines available to them	Response Received
17	Director of Al- Gumhu-riah [Republic] Hospital Authority in Aden	A Memorandum Regarding an incident of administrative arbitrary action	Response Received
18	Marib Public/ General Hospital	Facilitating the Meeting with Mine Victims	Response received
19	Commander of the Fourth Military Zone	Arbitrary Arrest	Response Received
20	Commander of the Security Belt Forces - Aden	Two Memorandums Regarding Arbitrary Arrests	Response received on one
21	Al Asifah [Storm] Brigade forces	Arbitrary Arrest	No response received

## Arab Coalition in Support of Legitimacy:

The Commission has continued to take investigative measures regarding the alleged incidents attributed to the Arab Coalition's airstrikes during the past period preceding the truce/ ceasefire declaration. To ensure the quality of the investigation, the Commission communicated with the Coalition's leadership through their designated liaison officer. They discussed several instances of airstrikes by the Coalition, and on 13th July 2023, the Commission sent a memorandum to the Coalition's command, requesting their response to the Commission's inquiries concerning 53 incidents of civilian casualties linked to Coalition airstrikes under investigation. The Commission received a response from the Coalition command stating that the cases in question were referred to the Joint Team, And relevant authorities to complete the procedures therein.

- Previously, the Commission several meetings with the Joint Incident Assessment Team in Riyadh to discuss the Commission's inquiries and gather information related to the incidents attributed to the coalition's airstrikes, which the Commission continues to investigate.
- Moreover, during the period of 23 to 27 December 2022, the National Commission held sev-

eral meetings at their office with the Joint Incident Assessment Team who had visited the Interim capital of Aden. The Commission facilitated a meeting between the team and 30 male and female victims from the governorates of Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden, and Lahj.

## The Houthi Group

The Commission has been tirelessly trying to establish communication with them in the capital city of Sana'a, so as the Houthi Group would assign a liaison officer for receiving the Commission's memorandums regarding inquiries about the violations attributed to the group. However, the Commission continued to send memorandums addressed to the Head/ Chairman of the Political Bureau of the Houthi Group, the last of which was sent on 12/7/ 2023, sent through the Commission's observer in Sana'a, Despite the Commission's efforts in this regard, the Houthi Group has not yet responded. It appears this is their typical approach when dealing with most national and international human rights entities

- Notwithstanding, ever since its establishment in January 2016, the Commission has persistently engaged in monitoring and investigating all instances of human rights violations within areas under Houthi control. This crucial endeavor is carried out by the Commission's researchers and observers stationed in the governorates of Sana'a, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Saada, Hodeidah, Ibb, Al Bayda, and other regions under Houthi jurisdiction. Between August 2022 and July 2023, the Commission has increased the size of its personnel conducting interviews with victims, their families, and eyewitnesses in aforementioned governorates. Additionally, on-site visits to the sites of these transgressions have also been conducted.

The Commission hopes for the cooperation of the Houthi Group's leadership and their prompt appointment of a liaison officer to respond to the Commission's inquiries regarding the allegations attributed to the group.

## Fifth: The most important tasks carried out by the Commission

from 1/8/2022 to 31/7/2023:

The Commission and its team, operating across multiple departments, have effectively carried out a wide range of tasks and activities in line with the Commission's mandate of monitoring, documenting, and investigating human rights violations. Additionally, the Commission has undertaken numerous initiatives to support its work, improve cooperation with the judiciary and civil society, promote human rights, alleviate the impact of violations on victims, and prepare for transitional justice mechanisms. This includes implementing mechanisms for accountability, providing reparations, and transferring/ referring completed investigation files to the public prosecutor's office. Furthermore, the Commission has carried out activities in collaboration with United Nations mechanisms and the international community, as outlined in its annual plan.

**The most significant activities carried out by the Commission in this regard include the following:**

### **First: Monitoring and documenting:**

The monitoring and documentation process carried out by the Commission's observers includes conducting personal interviews with victims and witnesses of human rights violations, capturing and documenting the information in accordance with the ethical and professional principles that the observers have received training on. This meticulous approach includes maintaining confidentiality, rigorously verifying the accuracy and reliability of the gathered information, and upholding objectivity and neutrality. The process of monitoring and documentation holds immense significance for the Commission, as it facilitates the Commission's wide-ranging presence across all governorates of Yemen and guarantees access to all victims.

During the reporting period, the Commission's 42 observers diligently carried out their daily, weekly, and monthly monitoring tasks to track human rights violations against victims, irrespective of their affiliations, across all governorates. In addition, they worked collaboratively with numerous volunteers in remote and far-reaching areas, with the objective of ensuring extensive coverage and monitoring of all violations affecting diverse categories and groups within society, across all regions and governorates of Yemen. The most significant achievements of the Commission in this regard include the following:

#### **- Findings of the monitoring and documentation process during the reporting period:**

During the reporting period, the Commission successfully monitored and documented over 2,997 reported cases of violations in different governorates of the Republic. These cases involved more than 3,287 victims from both genders. As of the release date of this report, the total number of violations monitored and documented by the Commission from January 2016 reached 25511 incidents, affecting 48866 victims.

The Commission listened to over 11,988 witnesses, informants, and victims during the reporting period and reviewed around 17,982 documents. Moreover, hundreds of photographs and videos related to the violations were reviewed, analyzed, and stored in the Commission's database.

### **Building the capacity of the Commission's observers and investigators:**

During the reporting period, the Commission implemented various initiatives to build the capacities and legal expertise of its researchers. These measures were undertaken to ensure the production of high-quality investigative outputs. The activities carried out by the Commission during this period included the following:

- a two-day training workshop for the Commission's assistant investigators on gender issues in mid-December 2022, funded and implemented by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- A periodic meeting for 45 field observers to discuss various challenges in the fieldwork of documenting and using modern evidence system. This meeting took place from 13 to 15 March 2023, with funding from the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

- A training workshop funded and implemented by the International Center for Transitional Justice, held in Beirut, Lebanon from 5 to 8 September 2022. The workshop provided training to 39 male and female observers on the mechanisms of transitional justice.
- A seven-day training workshop on open-source investigation methods was conducted for 49 monitors and assistant investigators of the Commission. This workshop took place in Jordan from 19 to 26 July 2023. The International Center for Transitional Justice provided the funding and implemented the workshop.
- A training workshop on the privacy of investigations and accountability for human rights violations was organized for 45 observers. The workshop was held from 28 July to 2 August 2023, and it was funded by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

A Table illustrating the most important types of human rights violations monitored and investigated by the Commission from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

No.	Type of violation	No. of incidents	No. of victims	Classification of victims			Responsibility		
				Men	women	children	GoY	Houthi	Other
1	Killing and injuring civilians	782	945	673	73	199	94	609	79
2	Planting Anti-personnel Land-mines	161	179	130	9	40	0	161	0
3	Assault on Medical facilities and staff	6	-	-	-	-	2	4	0
4	Assault on religious, cultural and historical objects	23	-	-	-	-	3	18	2
5	Forced displacement	66	398	-	-	-	0	52	14
6	Child Recruitment	117	137	-	-	137	1	116	0
7	Blowing up Houses	20	-	-	-	-	0	20	0
8	Destruction and damage to public property	15	-	-	-	-	3	6	6
9	Destruction and damage to private property	697	-	-	-	-	99	507	91
10	Assault on physical integrity	24	25	22	1	2	3	19	2
11	Arbitrary Arrest	668	929	868	15	46	149	499	20
12	Enforced disappearance	21	22	22			3	17	1
13	Extrajudicial Killing	67	81	70	2	9	15	35	17
14	Torture	20	23	18	5	-	3	15	2
15	Restrictions on movement	9	-	-	-	-	4	5	0
16	Assault on schools	22	-	-	-	-	1	18	3

17	Assault on Peaceful Assemblies	6	8	8	-	-	6	0	0
18	Assault on journalists and media	6	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
19	Illegal trials	18	63	-	-	-	2	16	0
20	Obstruction and confiscation of humanitarian aid	5	-	-	-	-	0	5	0
21	Assault on organizations and unions	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	0
22	Administrative arbitrariness	19	-	-	-	-	1	18	0
23	Rape and sexual violence	2	-	-	2	-	1	1	0
24	US drone strikes	4	7	7	-	-	0	0	4
25	Terrorizing civilians	95	-	-	-	-	7	78	10
26	Using civilians as human shields	3	-	-	-	-	0	3	0
27	Infringement of freedom of opinion and belief	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	0
28	Planting anti-tank landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)	91	169	104	11	54	0	73	18
29	Other violations	22	301	-	-	-	4	17	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>2997</b>	<b>3287</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>2319</b>	<b>273</b>

## Second: Investigating human rights violations:

Since its establishment, the Commission has adopted various mechanisms in accordance with the Republican Decree to ensure the integrity of the investigation process. These mechanisms are specifically tailored to corroborate facts, determine the identities of perpetrators in compliance with national laws and applicable international conventions related to each specific incident. The overarching objective is to ensure that those accountable are held responsible, to address the grievances of victims, and to ensure that justice is served on their behalf.

**In pursuit of these goals, the Commission has carried out several investigative activities, including the following:**

### A. Field visits to governorates and regions witnessing incidents of human rights violations:

The Commission carried out extensive field visits to several governorates during the reporting period, with the primary objective of assessing the human rights situation and conducting on-the-ground investigations into various serious incidents taking place within those governorates. These visits entailed examining the locations where violations occurred, collecting available evi-



dence from the field, engaging with witnesses and victims, and inspecting prisons and detention centers to evaluate the extent to which the rights of prisoners and detainees, as guaranteed by national laws and international conventions, were being upheld. The Commission also diligently documented any violations that prisoners may have encountered, as part of the groundwork for subsequent investigations. It actively listened to the testimonies and demands of both male and female prisoners and detainees, subsequently forwarding their needs to the relevant authorities. In the following section, we outline the most significant field visits, inspections, and investigations that the Commission conducted during the reporting period.

### **Field visit to Taiz Governorate:**

During the reporting period, the Commission undertook multiple field visits to Taiz Governorate, where it conducted a series of on-site investigations, including the following:

#### **1. Conducting field visits to the conflict zones in the districts of Salah and Sabir Al-Mawadim:**

During the reporting period, the Commission's team documented and carried out extensive field investigations into incidents of indiscriminate shelling and the planting of landmines in three specific neighborhoods: Al-Dawa'a in Salah district, Bareed Al-Rawdah, and Al-Kamb. These investigations involved conducting personal interviews with numerous witnesses and victims residing in the affected neighborhoods, housing over 342 families.

#### **2. Field visit to Al-Silw District, southwest of Taiz Governorate**

Between 17th and 21st February 2023, the Commission's dedicated team conducted visits to the subdistricts of Al-Siyar, Al-Qabilah, Al-Houd, Al-Seratayn, Al-Muqatirah, and Al-Dhabbah in the Al-Silw District. During these visits, the team extensively documented a total of 180 cases involving violations and carried out inspections and reviewing of evidence at various locations, where severe human rights violations perpetrated against civilians, particularly women. These violations included indiscriminate shelling, obstruction of aid, landmine planting, forced displacement, shelling of schools, and arbitrary arrests.

#### **3. Visit to the Central Prison, Political Security Prison, and Women's Prison**

The Commission's team conducted an assessment of the situation in the prison facilities and the conditions endured by both inmates and detainees, amounting to approximately 1000 prisoners, of which 20 were female. During the evaluation, the team identified pressing issues related to insufficient food provisions, inadequate healthcare provisions, and a backlog of judicial procedures, resulting in overcrowding. Furthermore, the team documented the unlawful detention of approximately 86 detainees under the jurisdiction of the specialized criminal prosecution and 54 detainees under the jurisdiction of the military judiciary.

#### **4. Visit to the Detention Center for War Prisoners:**

The Commission members inspected the detention center, which is under the authority of military intelligence, where individuals captured during war are currently being held. During their visit, they inspected the conditions and reviewed the cases of 119 detainees from different governorates. Their assessment included an evaluation of the detainees' health status and the extent to which their legal rights were being upheld.



## Field visit to Hadhramaut Governorate:

### 1. Visit to the Central Prison, Criminal Investigation Prison, and Women's Prison

The Commission's team conducted a visit to the detention center operated by the Criminal Investigation in Mukalla, where a total of 22 detainees were being held during the visit. Additionally, the team visited the central prison in Mukalla, which currently holds 658 prisoners involved in diverse criminal cases, including 12 women and 26 individuals who have completed their sentences for terrorism-related charges. The Commission received subsequent information that 13 individuals had been released. During the visit, the team engaged with the prison administration and documented the prisoners' requests for prisoner rehabilitation and training programs. The Commission observed that the prison conditions and the welfare of the inmates were comparatively better in terms of nutrition and healthcare when compared to other prisons. However, it also acknowledged the issue of overcrowding caused by a backlog of cases.

### 2. Investigating the shelling of Al- Dhabbah Port:

On 31/1/2023, the Commission members visited the Petro Masylla facility to investigate the incident of the Al-Dabah port bombing that occurred on 22/11/2022. They opened an investigation report and listened to the testimonies of the incident from the company's management and workers. They also obtained photos and video footage of the aftermath of the bombing. However, the company's management did not cooperate with the Commission team in facilitating access to the site of the bombing.

### 3. Meeting with Victims and Victim- Representing Entities

During their visit to Al-Mukalla city, Hadhramaut Governorate, on 30 January 2023, the members of the Commission engaged with victims targeted by arbitrary detention, assault during peaceful assembly, and infringements upon the right to freedom of expression. The Commission members attentively listened to the grievances put forth by these individuals and directed the observers to meticulously document the incidents and submit them for the Commission's subsequent investigation.

## Field visit to Marib Governorate:

From 20 to 24 May 2023, the Commission conducted a field visit to Marib Governorate, which witnessed various violations during the reporting period. During the visit, the following activities were carried out:

### 1. Visit to the Central Prison, Criminal Investigation Prison, Political Security Prison and Women's Prison

The Commission members conducted an inspection of the prisons and detention centers in Marib Governorate to evaluate the condition of these facilities and assess the legal and humanitarian circumstances faced by the detainees and prisoners. During their visit, they examined the Central Prison, the Criminal Investigation Prison, and the Women's Section within the Central Prison. At the time of the visit, the Central Prison housed a total of 657 inmates and detainees, while the Criminal Investigation Prison held 135 individuals. Additionally, there were 17 female prisoners in the women's section in the Central Prison. Regrettably, the team observed severe overcrowding and unsatisfactory hygiene conditions in both of these facilities. In light of these findings, it is im-

perative that the prisoners and detainees be promptly transferred to the new building currently under construction.

The team further conducted a visit to the Political Security Prison with the aim of evaluating the conditions of 182 detainees, including 4 women, and ensuring the protection of their legal rights. Their primary focus was to determine if any instances of torture or mistreatment had taken place, if the detainees were receiving adequate nutrition and medical care, and if they had sufficient space and ventilation. In order to assess the situation, the team engaged in interviews with random cases of prisoners to gain insight into their circumstances and to evaluate their legal statuses.

## **2. Establishment of a Marib Office:**

In order to improve access to a greater number of victims in Marib Governorate, as thousands of displaced persons in their respective governorates have faced grave violations of international humanitarian law, the Commission has established an office in Marib on 23 May 2023. This action aligns with the Commission's plan to establish offices in multiple governorates. The opening event welcomed the participation of interested parties and members of civil society in the governorate. Moreover, all victims were strongly encouraged to approach and directly engage with the Commission's office to document the violations they have endured.

## **3. Meeting with Released Detainees from the Exchange Deal on 16 April 2023**

During the presence of Commission members in Marib from 10 to 23 May 2023, meetings were held with 11 civilian detainees who were released as part of the exchange deal between the parties under the auspices of the United Nations and ICRC on 16 April 2023. These detainees had spent over 6 years in the Political Security Headquarters in Sana'a, where they had been subjected to restrictions on their freedom and deprivation of basic rights, as well as torture and inhumane treatment. These facts were documented in the victims' files previously compiled by the Committee researchers.

### **Field visit to Shabwah Governorate:**

#### **1. Visit to the Central Prison and Criminal Investigation Prison in Shabwah Governorate:**

The members of the Commission conducted a visit to the Central Prison facility and the Detention Center affiliated with the Criminal Investigation in Shabwah Governorate on (insert British date system), in order to evaluate their appropriateness for housing the 217 detainees and prisoners who are currently facing a range of criminal charges. During the visit, they also engaged in discussions with some of the individuals and recorded their requests, which primarily focused on enhancing their living conditions and expediting the legal proceedings surrounding their cases, including the involvement of appropriate prosecutors and courts.

### **Field visit to Al- Dhale Governorate:**

The members of the National Commission and its observers paid a field visit to Dhale Governorate from 7 to 9 June 2023. The visit aimed to improve the conditions of detention centers and the situations of detainees and prisoners, as well as investigate various incidents that violated the rights to physical safety, freedom, and dignity.

#### **1. Visit to the Central Prison in Dhale:**

In order to evaluate the condition of detainees and prisoners in Dhale Governorate, a total of

243 individuals, the members and observers of the Commission conducted an inspection of both sections of Dhale Central Prison, situated within the premises of the Al-Dhale Security Department and Sanah area. Through this exercise, the Commission's members and observers identified the needs and grievances of the prisoners, particularly healthcare concerns. Furthermore, Commission members also held personal interviews with 13 detainees, who were awaiting trial for assassination charges, yet had not undergone any interrogation procedures.

## **2. Visit to the Detention Center affiliated with the Political Security Bureau:**

In order to assess the degree to which the Political Security leadership adheres to human rights principles and guarantees outlined in Yemen's domestic legislations and ratified treaties, the members and observers of the Commission conducted an inspection visit of the Detention Center affiliated with the Political Security Bureau, wherein four individuals were under detention. During the visit, Commission members and observers recorded pertinent legal conditions and humanitarian demands made by the detainees.

## **3. Meeting with victims and their families from Dar Al-Saqmah Village in Dhale:**

The members and observers of the Commission convened a meeting with individuals and their families hailing from Dar Al-Saqmah Village in Al-Dhale. These individuals have been subjected to grave infringements of their fundamental rights to freedom, integrity, and personal safety by a member of the 30 Brigade along with other personnel from the affiliated battalion. Subsequently, the Commission has taken proactive measures by initiating investigations into this incident.

## **Field visit to the west coast in Hodeidah and Taiz Governorates:**

From 17 to 20 June 2023, the Commission executed a field visit to the West Coast areas and districts in Hodeidah and Taiz Governorates, which had witnessed various violations over the past two years. The visit aimed to investigate incidents such as the shelling of residential areas, projectile attacks, targeting by drones, and individual mine explosions that resulted in the death of numerous civilians. The Commission also assessed the situation of detainees and detention centers. During the visit, the following activities were carried out:

### **1. Inspecting the government complex in Dhubab district, two medical centers, various civilian objects in Dhubab Center, as well as meetings with victims in the Al- Kahraba'a [electricity] neighborhood:**

The Commission's team assessed the impact of the conflict on the residential properties and assets belonging to citizens in the subdistricts of Dhubab district. Additionally, the team witnessed the destruction caused to both Dhubab Hospital and the new clinic, resulting in citizens being deprived of much-needed services and healthcare, particularly for women who have to be transferred to the city of Al-Mukha when experiencing difficult childbirth. This has led to fatalities, miscarriages, and other health risks to both mothers and infants. Furthermore, the team conducted interviews with several victims of landmine explosions, most of whom were children.

### **2. Visit to the detention center at the Security Department in Al-Mukha:**

The Commission's team conducted an inspection of the detention center in Al-Mukha under the supervision of the Security Department. At the time of the visit, there were 40 detainees who were

being held for various charges. However, it was observed that the detention center comprised of three rooms that were ill-suited to serve as proper detention facilities. This was particularly concerning given the well-documented climatic conditions of high temperature and humidity along the Yemeni coast.

### **3. Field visit to the detention center in Al-Khawkhah District**

The Commission's team inspected the detention center in Al- Khawkhah District, where 100 detainees were held for different criminal charges. The majority of the prisoners and detainees were facing delays in their legal proceedings, which led to overcrowding, rendering the detention facility inadequate to house this number of prisoners. The team highlighted the inhumane conditions for women held in this detention center and recommended the establishment of a central prison specifically for the West Coast districts.

### **4. Field visit to the detention center in Hays District**

The Commission's team conducted an inspection of the detention center located in the Security Department of Hays District. During their visit, they observed that there were 20 detainees being held at the facility. Additionally, the team took note of the complaints regarding the unsuitability of this detention center, which mirrors the issues faced by other detention facilities in West Coast districts.

### **5. Meeting with victims' families in Hays:**

While present in Hodeidah Governorate, the Commission's representatives conducted meetings with individuals and families affected by a range of violations in the first half of 2023 in Hays District. The victims included those who had their homes struck by drones and others who suffered from arbitrary arrests, property looting, and restricts on their freedom of movement.

### **6. Meeting with members of the judiciary:**

Members of the Commission met as part of their visit program to Hodeidah Governorate, with both the President of the Appeals Court in Hodeidah and the Deputy Prosecutor of Al-Khokha and Hays districts, as well as the liberated areas of Hodeidah Governorate. The Commission was briefed on the difficulties facing the members of the judiciary, including the following: The incomplete appointment of the remaining judges of the Court of Appeal and the decision made by the Judicial Council to appoint only a president of the court has resulted in the inability of the court to carry out its work or hold any sessions. The same issue applies to the Court of First Instance and the Public Prosecution, where the decisions made by the Judicial Council have been limited to appointing only a president of the court and a prosecutor, without appointing any other members. This has led to a backlog of cases and the impossibility of resolving them.

## **B. Holding hearing sessions:**

During the reporting period, the Commission conducted a series of investigations, including individual and group hearings with a number of victims of violations in different regions and governorates. The following are among the most significant sessions:

### **1. Hearing session with journalists on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day:**

To observe World Press Freedom Day and International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against

Journalists, the Commission arranged a meeting with journalists who had been victims of different forms of abuse. These violations included forced disappearances, illegal detention, torture, inhumane treatment, and censorship. Notably, four among these journalists had previously been condemned to death by the Houthi group in Sana'a but were ultimately freed through a UN-mediated exchange on 16 April 2023. The objective of this session was to examine the recurring patterns of violations and the strategies employed to harm individuals in this profession, ultimately impacting their freedom of expression.

## **2. Hearing session with victims of six grave violations against children:**

Between 18 and 25 October 2022, the Commission held confidential one-on-one meetings with ten children who had experienced injuries and trauma due to various incidents, such as mine explosions, sniper attacks, and shelling on schools. These sessions formed an integral part of the Commission's ongoing investigations into the six grave of physical violations against children, which contravene international humanitarian law.

## **3. Hearing session with women victims of human rights violations:**

During the reporting period, the Commission took necessary measures by conducting individual confidential hearings at its headquarters in Aden and office in Taiz for nine women who had suffered sniper attacks, landmine explosions, and forced displacement across different governorates namely Hodeidah, Lahj, Aden, Taiz, and Hajjah. Through these sessions, the Commission documented the violations committed against women by all the parties to the conflict, their personal encounters during the war, and their demands for justice and reparations.

## **4. Hearing session with victims of arbitrary arrest, torture, looting, and restrictions on freedom of movement:**

During the Commission's visit to Marib Governorate from 21 to 23 May 2023, the team conducted closed hearings for a total of nine victims who had experienced torture and arbitrary detention for over six years at the Political Security Prison in Sana'a. Additionally, separate hearings were held at the Commission's office in Taiz for victims from the governorates of Al-Mahweet, Hodeidah, Taiz, Ibb, and Sana'a, who had suffered arbitrary detention, property looting, and restrictions on movement. During these sessions, the victims shared detailed accounts of the violations they had endured and spoke of the significant impact these violations had on their lives. They also shed light on the policies implemented to perpetrate these violations and expressed their demands for accountability and compensation.

## **Third: In the field of operationalizing accountability and working with the judiciary**

During the reporting period, the Commission has tirelessly collaborated with judiciary entities to strengthen accountability measures and eliminate impunity. In pursuit of this objective, numerous activities and initiatives have been undertaken, including the following:

- A meeting was convened on 6 October 2022 at the Judicial Complex building, where members of the Commission and Chief Judge Mohsen, President of the Judiciary Council, convened a

meeting. During the meeting, both parties agreed to maintain cooperation and coordination between the Commission and the Supreme Judicial Council. This collaboration encompasses various areas, including the following: Guaranteeing fair trial procedures, promptly addressing the Commission's memorandums and recommendations, and providing regular updates to the President of the Supreme Judicial Council regarding accountability of perpetrators, initial discussions on the content and the participation of the Commission in building the capacity of the justice system through the Commission's international partners.

- A meeting took place at the Judicial Complex building on 31/07/ 2023, between the chairman, members of the National Commission, and the chairman, and members of the Supreme Judicial Council. The meeting addressed the issues that Commission members experienced during their field visits to several governorates, particularly Hodeidah, Taiz, and Shabwah. The topics discussed included the lack of quorum in the Hodeidah Court of Appeal, the inadequate number of judges and prosecution members in public courts and prosecutors' offices along the west coast, as well as the situation of detainees in the specialized criminal court at Taiz's Central Prison, and other significant issues.
- Meetings were held with members of the judiciary in Taiz, Hodeidah, Al- Dhale, Marib, Shabwah, Lahj, and Aden, including Heads of Prosecutors' Offices, Appeal Courts, First Instance Courts, and members of the Prosecutors' offices, to discuss the Commission's observations on its visits to prisons and the role of the judiciary in alleviating prison overcrowding and ensuring the principles of fair trial.

#### **Fourth: Promoting human rights and cooperating with local and international civil society organizations:**

The Commission recognizes the significant role played by a robust and engaged civil society in safeguarding human rights, promoting the rule of law, ensuring accountability for perpetrators, advocating for rights, and fostering collaboration with civil society organizations. Grounded in this conviction, the Commission has amplified its efforts to directly engage and collaborate with active civil society organizations that are involved in monitoring and documenting human rights violations, providing support to victims, and working towards mitigating the adverse effects of these violations. This approach has been integrated into the Commission's annual plan and activities during the reporting period, which include the following:

##### **Direct workshops:**

The Commission held a number of direct workshops with active organizations, both during its visits to various governorates and international participation, with the aim of reviewing the human rights situation, exchanging information, referring victims from local organizations to the Commission for documenting the violations, ensuring their rights to accountability, justice, and reparations. These included the following:

- A panel discussion with civil society in Geneva on 23 September 2022, with the aim of discussing the latest developments on the situation of human rights in Yemen and the work of the Commission in monitoring, documenting, investigating, and holding perpetrators ac-

countable, on the sidelines of the 51st session of the Human Rights Council. About 22 local, regional, and international civil society organizations engaged in documenting violations and advocating for victims participated.

- An extensive meeting was held on 30 January 2023, with several civil society organizations working on documentation in Hadhramaut governorate, where recommendations were made to activate the mechanism of referring victims from civil society to the Commission for further investigation of the violations.
- A panel discussion took place on 23rd May 2023 in Marib governorate involving multiple civil society organizations. The purpose of the discussion was to address accountability and the documentation of human rights violations, coinciding with the inauguration of the Commission's office in Marib. Furthermore, the aim was to strengthen collaboration with the proactive civil society in the governorate.
- Numerous meetings were held with the leaders and delegates of local and international organizations in the interim capital Aden, as well as in the Taiz governorate. These organizations included the Journalists' Union, Teachers' Union, Association of Mothers of the Disappeared, and various victims' associations.
- A joint statement was issued by 190 local and international human rights organizations, on 23 September 2022, advocating for accountability and transitional justice, to the Human Rights Council in its 51st session, calling for continued support to the Commission as an effective national protection mechanism in Yemen.
- A panel discussion took place at the headquarters of the Commission on 24/07/2023. The session, titled "National Mechanisms to Achieve Accountability and Justice for the Victims," was attended by 23 participants, representing official investigation and trial entities, as well as civil society organizations. During the discussion, various working papers were reviewed, and it concluded with recommendations highlighting the importance of accountability and justice for victims through national mechanisms.
- A virtual workshop under the title "Accountability and Respect for Human Rights as the Foundation for Peacebuilding and Preservation" was held on 28/07/2023. The workshop brought together 56 international and local organizations, UN offices, and several missions operating in Yemen. The workshop concluded with recommendations concerning the inclusion of victims in peace agreements, the activation of accountability mechanisms, and the establishment of a human rights court.

#### - Reports by civil society organizations:

During the reporting period, the Commission reviewed reports issued by several local civil society organizations and the Journalists' Union, regarding violations and the human rights situation. Useful information was shared with the Commission's observers in the governorates to ensure their validity. Additionally, local and international civil society organizations participated in discussions on the Commission's periodic reports and press releases



## Collaboration in the field of transitional justice:

Cooperation and communication continued between the Commission and the International Center for Transitional Justice based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two parties in April 2021, to benefit from the comparative experience and institutional knowledge developed by the Center in supporting fact-finding, reparations, and national criminal accountability processes. The Center conducted several training sessions for the Commission's monitors and investigators. Additionally, a workshop was conducted in Amman, Jordan, for members of the National Commission and the judiciary in Yemen, focusing on: defining strategies for local prosecutions of violations to the international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and learning from the experiences of several countries in this regard, during the period from 9 to 12 January 2023.

In line with the Commission's commitment to promoting transitional justice opportunities in Yemen and actively participating in comprehensive and effective peacebuilding efforts, rooted in human rights principles, the Commission has engaged in various actions. These actions encompass discussions, peace agreements, and initiatives facilitated by the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, in addition to collaboration with other regional and international organizations. These initiatives included the following: The Commission held two meetings with the Reconciliation and Social Peace Commission to foster dialogue and collaboration. Moreover, the Commission shared crucial information with the Reconciliation Commission in Taiz governorate, with contact information of families affected by enforced disappearances during the war in various districts of the governorate. This data aimed to assist the Reconciliation Commission in its endeavors toward facilitating prisoner exchanges.

The Commission took part in the Conference on Justice and the Rule of Law, which was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Aden from 11th to 13th December 2022. During the conference, the Commission shared its expertise and perspective on accountability and transitional justice. Notably, the Commission was joined by representatives from the Reconciliation and Consultation Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, and the transitional justice expert from the Office of the High Commissioner in Geneva.

## Referral and Mitigation of the Effects of Human Rights Violations:

In view of the precarious circumstances observed by the Commission concerning a significant number of victims who have been victims of violations inflicted upon them – particularly those who have suffered injuries, disfigurement, and amputation due to projectiles and landmines – as well as the civilians in conflict areas with no access to humanitarian aid, and with the aim of implementing the outcomes of our engagement with civil society. Consequently, during the reporting period, the Commission referred a total of 60 victims, including 20 children, to Save the Children for comprehensive care. Additionally, 14 victims affected by landmines were referred to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in order to receive urgent assistance, while another 4 cases were referred to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Furthermore, 260 families residing in the neighborhoods of Al-Dawah and Camp Al-Rus in Taiz were referred to various relief civil society organizations, such as KSRelief and the Foundations of Risalati, Waqf Al-Waqifeen, and Darb Al-Noor.



## **Fifth: Working with UN mechanisms concerned with human rights in Yemen and the international community:**

### **1. Sanctions Committee under the Security Council**

The Chairman and members of the Commission convened a meeting with the sanctions committee in the Commission's Headquarters in the interim capital of Aden on 27 May 2023. The primary agenda of the discussion revolved around the progress of human rights in Yemen, particularly during the ceasefire period. Additionally, there was an exchange of information concerning the incidents investigated by the sanctions committee, encompassing economic infringements, child recruitment, and the laying of landmines.

### **2. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

Resolutions of the Human Rights Council concerning Yemen from 2015 to the 51st session in October 2022 emphasize the role of OHCHR in assisting the Commission for Capacity-Building and offering guidance, legal, and technical support as the entity responsible for implementing the Council's resolutions. OHCHR, along with its Secretariat, is tasked with promoting human rights globally, particularly in countries where OHCHR offices are established. As a result, a connection has been established between the National Commission and OHCHR in Yemen. Multiple meetings have taken place at the Commission's Aden office between Commission members and the Director of OHCHR's Office in Yemen. During the reporting period, OHCHR organized a workshop on gender for nine assistant investigators. Additionally, it financed two facilitation meetings between the Commission and its 44 monitors. The first meeting occurred from 13 to 15 March 2023, and the second from 28 to 30 July 2023. Moreover, an expert in international humanitarian law has been appointed for a six-month duration to support the Commission. Additionally, a military expert has been designated to provide technical expertise in weapons for the Commission's investigations.

### **3. Embassies and countries interested in the human rights situation in Yemen:**

To ensure that the international community is well-informed and up-to-date on the human rights situation in Yemen, as well as the Commission's efforts in documenting and investigating violations, and promoting accountability and justice, the Commission has aimed to strengthen its cooperation with relevant parties. Throughout the reporting period, the Commission organized multiple meetings with ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions who have a keen interest in the human rights landscape in Yemen. These meetings served as platforms for exchanging information and discussing important issues. Some notable examples of such meetings include the following:

- Meeting with the head of the Dutch diplomatic mission in Geneva on 22/09/2022: where the ambassador expressed the Netherlands' interest and understanding of the important work carried out by the Commission. He highlighted the importance of collecting information and preserving evidence, as they contribute to achieving justice and equity and expressed hope that the Commission's reports would help end the war and prevent future violations. On 20 July 2023, a meeting was held with the Deputy Dutch Ambassador and the Political Attache to discuss the Commission's work in the field of transitional justice.

- On 23/09/2022, a meeting was held in Geneva with Michelle Taylor, the US ambassador. The meeting centered around the discussion of human rights issues in Yemen and the role of the Commission in investigating violations and seeking justice for the victims. The significance of the Commission as a national mechanism in monitoring the human rights situation in Yemen and ensuring accountability was also emphasized.
- On 21/09/2022, a meeting took place in Geneva with representatives from the European Union mission. Attendees included representatives from the EU in Geneva, the Dutch mission, the Belgian mission, the Human Rights Specialist in the Dutch mission, the French mission, the Irish Embassy, the Portuguese mission, and Luxembourg.
- Meeting with the Arab mission in Geneva on 21/09/2022 on the sidelines of the 51st session of the Human Rights Council. The ambassadors asserted their support and appreciation of the work of the Commission.
- On 27/11/2022, an extensive meeting was held at the Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh. The meeting was attended by over 40 ambassadors and diplomats representing various countries in Yemen. During the meeting, the Commission's tenth report was presented, and an in-depth discussion took place on the Commission's operational procedures and mechanisms.
- Meeting with the Dutch ambassador to Yemen at his office in Amman on 11/01/2023 to discuss the nature and level of the current relationship between the judiciary and the Commission. Concerns about the delays in the judiciary's handling of the cases referred to the Commission were raised. The Netherlands expressed interest in enhancing documentation and accountability mechanisms, and recognized the Commission's competence and significant role in this field
- Meeting in Aden on 18/01/2023 with the political attaché of the British Embassy in Yemen and the Head of the Political Department at the British Embassy. The focus was on increasing the Commission's efforts to reach victims, especially in light of ongoing human rights violations despite the humanitarian truce/ ceasefire. The meeting also emphasized the link between investigations and the accountability process through cooperation with the judicial system to prepare for trials.

### **Sixth: Issuing monthly press releases and internal reports:**

The Commission continued to regularly engage the local and international public opinion by issuing monthly press releases and statements in conjunction with various international human rights events. During the reporting period, the Commission issued ten press releases, including those related to its monthly investigation work. It also published news related to field visits and inspections of areas affected by violations. Through these releases, the Commission emphasized the importance of respecting human rights, protecting the rights of children, combating violence against women, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable. Furthermore, a closing explanatory statement was issued by the Commission to clarify the outcomes of its work during 2022.

## **Sixth: Findings of the investigations carried out by the Commission:**

### **• Section 1: Violations related to International Humanitarian Law:**

The ongoing armed conflict in Yemen is classified as a non-international armed conflict. As a result, the national laws and legislations, along with the provisions of international humanitarian law, specifically the common Article No. 3 of the four Geneva Conventions, serve as the legal framework that must be followed by the parties involved in the conflict. This framework also encompasses the provisions of the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, which was agreed upon on 12 August 1949 and focuses on protecting victims of non-international armed conflicts. Additionally, all parties are obligated to adhere to the customary rules of international humanitarian law that are applicable to non-international armed conflicts. These rules include principles such as distinction and proportionality, humanity and the safeguarding of civilians, treatment of incapacitated individuals, regulation of warfare methods, and the recognition of protected individuals and objects.

The report will showcase examples of various violations related to allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law that the Commission has investigated and are attributed by all parties to the conflict.

### **Examples of the key investigations conducted by the Commission on violations related to the International Humanitarian Law:**

The Commission places great emphasis on protecting the well-being of witnesses, informants, and victims, recognizing the delicate nature of information concerning violations and maintaining confidentiality. In consideration of this, the Commission undertakes a meticulous selection process when including cases as examples in its periodic reports. Accordingly, the Commission has selected a collection of cases, in which the investigation process has been completed by the Commission in a range of diverse violations, which include:

#### **First: Killing and injuring civilians**

The Commission has given great importance to monitoring and documenting this type of violation, as it represents an attack on protected fundamental rights and has negative effects in terms of the number of casualties and the nature of the harm caused by indiscriminate and erroneous attacks on civilians and residential areas, resulting in killings, injuries, and terror among the population.

The Commission's commitment to monitoring and documenting violations of this nature cannot be understated. During the reporting period, the Commission conducted monitoring and investigation efforts, documenting a total of 782 incidents involving the killing and injuring of civilians. Of this total, there were 288 fatalities, including 21 women and 48 children, as well as 657 injured individuals, including 151 children and 52 women. The responsibility for these incidents was found to be distributed amongst the parties to the conflict as follows:

- 217 fatalities and 502 injuries were attributable to the Houthi group.
- 55 fatalities and 96 injuries were caused by airstrikes by the Arab Coalition and government forces.

#### A. Examples of incidents of killing and injuring of civilians attributable to the Houthi group:

##### 1. Shelling on the house of Abdul Basit Mohammed Abdul Latif in Mawza district, Taiz governorate, on 22/04/2023:

Based on the case file and accompanying documents, a projectile struck Mr. Abdul Basit Al-Hubayshi's house on the second day of Eid Al-Fitr at around 1:00 PM on 22/04/ 2023. This incident occurred in Al-Magash Al-A'la village, Mawza district, Taiz governorate. Tragically, three individuals, including two children, lost their lives, while eight others, including a child, sustained injuries.

Names of the deceased victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Mohammed Abdul Basit Mohammed Abdul Latif	20 years old
	2	Maryam Abdul Basit Mohammed Abdul Latif	6 years old
	3	Najwa Hassan Maqboul Bajash	10 years old
Names of the victims who sustained injuries	No.	Name	Age
	1	Osama Abdul Basit Mohammed Abdul Latif	22 years old
	2	Fikri Abdul Hafeedh Mohammed Abdul Latif	19 years old
	3	Saeed Taleb Ahmed	55 years old
	4	Amad Saeed Taleb	35 years old
	5	Osama Saeed Mahyoub	25 years old
	6	Shihab Saeed Mahyoub	30 years old
	7	Abdul Ghaffar Abdullah Mohammed	25 years old
	8	Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar Abdullah	3 years old

Based on the testimonies of the victims and their families, the field visit report conducted by the Commission's team, the photos and videos recorded by the team, and the testimonies of witnesses, including (H.M.B), (F.A.M.A), and (A.M.A.), it was confirmed that on the second day of Eid-Al-Fitr, at approximately 1:00 PM on 22/04/ 2023, while Abdulbasit Mohammed Abdul Latif was in the reception room of his house with his family and relatives who came to greet him, as is customary in Yemeni tradition during Eid occasions, a projectile struck the room where the family was present. The neighbours heard the explosion and saw smoke rising from the house. As a result of this incident, three individuals, including two children, were killed, and eight others, who were present in the house, were injured. The house also suffered significant damage. When the neighbours arrived at the scene, they were traumatized by the horrific scenes of the victims. They witnessed the remains of Mohammed Abdul Basit and fragments of his brain outside his head. They also saw the

dismembered body of Maryam, with scattered shrapnel throughout her body and blood flowing from her body. In addition, they found eight victims, including a child, with various injuries. Immediately, they called the ambulance belonging to the National Resistance and the wounded were rushed to the MSF hospital in Al-Mukha, while the deceased victims were transferred to the Saudi Hospital in Al-Mukha. The witnesses confirmed that there were no strangers or armed individuals in the village at the time of the explosion, and there were no military sites. The attack came from the northeast direction towards the Al-Barh area, which is under the control of the Houthi group.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission into the above incident, the field visit report, the examination of the site of the shelling, and the remnants of the projectile examined by the military expert of the Commission, as well as the testimonies of witnesses and statements from the victims, the Commission concludes that the weapon used was a guided shell fired by a 155/152mm howitzer.

The launch site was located northeast of the house, and the distance between the launch site and the house was not more than 2.7 km, which falls under the control of the Houthi group. It is likely that the shell used was of Russian Krasnopol type, which is produced by Iran under the name Bayrak, and it is possessed by the Houthi group.

Based on this and in light of the above, the Commission has determined that the responsibility for the incident lies with the Houthi group elements stationed in the Al-Barh area, led by Brigadier General Abdul Latif Hamoud Yahya Al-Mahdi, the commander of the fourth military zone affiliated with the group, and Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Sharafi, the commander of the Taiz axis, and Colonel Saeed Murshid Samnan, the artillery commander in Taiz. It should be noted that the shelling incident occurred during the declared ceasefire by the United Nations.

## **2. Targeting 38 civilian victims in Al-Matar Road area, Madinah district, Al-Rawdah region, Marib governorate, on 3/10/2021**

According to the case file of the Commission, along with the documents and reports attached to the file, on 3/10/2021, Sunday afternoon, the Al-Matar [Airport] Road area in Madinah district, Marib governorate, experienced several rocket attacks. These attacks resulted in 38 civilian casualties and caused damage to their properties.

According to the Commission's case file, as well as the statements of the victims and the testimonies of witnesses, including A.H., B.A.M., and M.H.A., it was reported that on 3/10/2021, Sunday afternoon, Al-Rawdah area in Madinah district, Marib governorate, was targeted. It is worth noting that all the residents in this area are civilians, and there are no military targets within its vicinity. The residents were taken by surprise when three ballistic missiles fell in the area. The first missile landed near the Al-Meel camp, where IDPs reside, while the other two missiles hit a residential neighbourhood in Al-Rawdah. This caused panic and fear among the civilian population in the area, resulting in the loss of three children's lives and severe injuries to 25 others. The victims were immediately rushed to Marib General Hospital, Al-Jufrah Hospital, and other medical clinics and dispensaries in the city for treatment. Furthermore, several houses and civilian vehicles were damaged as a result of these missile strikes.

### Names of the victims:

No.	Name	Age	status	No.	Name	Age	status
1	Raddad Faysal Ahmed	10	killed	20	Amani Ahmed Yahya	16	Injured
2	Ghuzlan Faysal Ahmed	15	killed	21	Ta'ifah Zayd Sinan	35	Injured
3	Rayyan Yahya Ali	1	killed	22	Ayah Ali Naser	35	Injured
4	Arif Ali Abdu Al- Oqabi	13	Injured	23	Aseel Khalid Saleh Mashoof	30	Injured
5	Abdul Majeed Abdullah Mo- hammed	12	Injured	24	Nusaybah Mohammed Has- san AL- Khidri	20	Injured
6	Naser Omayr Mujab Al- Salahi	12	Injured	25	Abdullah Yahya Mohammed Wathab	50	Injured
7	Sam Mohammed Hassan AL- Khidri	10	Injured	26	Mohammed Abdullah Yahya Wathab	20	Injured
8	Naseem Mohammed Hassan AL- Khidri	12	Injured	27	Rawa'a Ahmed Masuood AL- Bariq	35	Injured
9	Hamas Mohammed Hassan AL- Khidri	15	Injured	28	Asma'a Abdul Kareem Ma- suood	30	Injured
10	Ismael Ahmed Masuood AL- Bariq	13	Injured	29	Jihad Abdullah Yahya Mo- hammed Wathab	24	Injured
11	Faysal Ahmed Masuood AL- Bariq	10	Injured	30	Ahmed Hamal Hassan Muk- fah	42	Injured
12	Nabeel Hassan Qaed	12	Injured	31	Mulook Ali Saleh Wathab	45	Injured
13	Hassan Hussien Saleh Qassim	8	Injured	32	Abdullah Abdullah Saleh Wathab	18	Injured
14	Osama Mohammed AL- Khidri	10	Injured	33	Sumayah Hameed Ali Numan Lutf	22	Injured
15	Khaleel Abdullah Yahya Mo- hammed Wathab	12	Injured	34	Nidhal Ali Mahdi AL- Hamdi	24	Injured
16	Muadh Abdullah Yahya Mo- hammed Wathab	10	Injured	35	Mohammed Abdul Kareem Masuood	23	Injured
17	Safa'a Abdullah Yahya Mo- hammed Wathab	8	Injured	36	Mohammed Hassan AL- Kh- idri	55	Injured
18	Siham Suheil Mohammed Salman	5	Injured	37	Sayoon Abdul Latif AL- Barid	35	Injured
19	Areej Hamid AL- Amid	8	Injured	38	Mohammed Hussien Saleh Mashoof	25	Injured

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of witnesses and victims, as well as the photos, videos, and reports included in the case file, it is determined that the missiles were launched by the Houthi group. The leadership of the Houthi group, represented

by Ali Mohammed Tu'iyman, the Houthi- appointed governor of Marib Governorate, and Mubarak Saleh Al-Mashan Al-Zaydi, the military commander in the Governorate.

### 3. Shelling Attack of the Residence of Ahmed Abkar in Al-Ron village, Hays district, Hodeidah governorate, on 26/6/2022

According to the case file of the Commission, at around 07:00 PM on 26/06/2022, a projectile landed on the residence of Ahmed Abkar in Al-Ron village, Hays district, Hodeidah governorate, leaving one child dead, and six others injured including one woman and five children.

Names of the deceased victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Ayman Abdo Ahmed Abkar	7 years old

Names of the victims who sustained injuries	No.	Name	Age
	1	Muadh Ali Ahmed Abkar	7 years old
	2	Farah Mohammed Ahmed Abkar	5 years old
	3	Ra'uah Abdo Ahmed Abkar	4 years old
	4	Zahra'a Ahmed Abkar	50 years old
	5	Ramdhanah Abdo Ahmed Abkar	13 years old
	6	Wada'ah Abdullah Dawood Saleh	8 years old

According to the testimonies of the victims and their families, the field visit report conducted by the Commission's team, the photos and videos recorded by the team during the visit, and the testimonies of witnesses, including A.A.A.N, A.M.M.S, and S.M.H, at approximately 7:00 PM on 26/06/2022, Ahmed Abkar's children were playing in the courtyard of their house in Al-Ron village, Hays district (in GoY- controlled area), Hodeidah governorate. A projectile struck the house, resulting in the death of one child and the injury of five other children and a woman. The incident occurred during the declared ceasefire by the United Nations. Upon hearing the explosion, neighbors quickly arrived at the scene and provided assistance in transferring the injured children to the field hospital in Hays. Later, they were further transported to the MSF Hospital in Al-Mukha. Witnesses and residents of the village confirmed the presence of a drone hovering above the house during the shelling. The drone was heard to depart towards the Al-Garrahi district, which is under the control of the Houthi group. It is important to note that the targeted house is within a residential area predominantly inhabited by relatives and a few internally displaced persons (IDPs). There are no military targets in the village, and the nearest military point is approximately 5 kilometers away.

#### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission regarding the incident in question, including the field visit report, examination of the shelling site, analysis of photos, videos, and testimonies from witnesses and victims, it is clear that the Houthi group stationed in the Al-Garrahi district of Hodeidah governorate is accountable for the incident, particularly Yousef Al-Madani,



Houthi- appointed area commander, and Mutahar Yahya Hassan Al-Hadi, Houthi- appointed as the supervisor of the southern square of the districts south of Hodeidah.

#### 4. Shelling on Al- Rawdah Neighborhood, Al- Qahirah District, Taiz governorate, on 23/7/2023:

According to the case file and the accompanying documents and reports, on the 23/7/2022, at approximately 05:30 pm, an artillery shell struck Al-Rawdah neighborhood in Al-Qahirah District, Taiz governorate, leaving one child dead and eleven others injured.

Names of the deceased victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Al- Bara'a Murad Abdullah	7 years old

Names of the victims who sustained injuries	No.	Name	Age
	1	Layan Murad Abdullah Al-Shareef	8 years old
	2	Yousuf Tameem Ahmed Mohammed	8 years old
	3	Bushra Tameem Ahmed Mohammed	4 years old
	4	Huda Tameem Ahmed Mohammed	3 years old
	5	Sondos Ahmed Muhi Al-Din	11 years old
	6	Ahmed Hamza Abdul Wasea Shaddad	12 years old
	7	Malak Aans Abdul Wasea Shaddad	6 years old
	8	Mohammed Aans Abdul Wasea Shaddad	3 years old
	9	Rahaf Osama Abdul Wasea Shaddad	3 years old
	10	Mohammed Omar Abdo Qasim	2 years old
	11	Turki Ammar Mohammed	6 years old

Based on the testimonies provided by the victims and their families, the field visit report conducted by the Commission's team, recorded photographs and videos gathered at the scene shortly after the shelling, and testimonies from witnesses, including T.A.M.S, M.M.A.H, and W.K.Q, it has been established that on 23/7/2022, at approximately 5:30 PM, a distressing incident occurred in Al-Rawdah neighborhood. A group of children, while innocently playing near their homes, were suddenly subjected to the impact of a mortar shell that descended upon the area. Tragically, this resulted in the loss of one young life and left eleven other children wounded.

The explosion caused great panic and fear among both passersby and residents residing in nearby houses. The Commission's team, during the field visit, verified the accounts of witnesses and observed that the neighborhood is predominantly a residential area, with no military presence or armed groups. It is located approximately two kilometers away from the frontlines and ongoing clashes. Prior to the shell strike, the atmosphere was relatively calm, with no sound gunfire or armed clashes in the outskirts of the city, owing to the UN- mediated ceasefire agreement that has been in effect since April 2022.



## Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission regarding the incident in question, which included the field visit report, examination of the shelling site, analysis of collected shrapnel by the Commission's military expert, as well as the testimonies of witnesses and statements by the victims, it is evident that the Houthis group's elements stationed to the east of the city of Taiz are responsible for the incident. Specifically, this responsibility is attributed to Brigadier General Hamoud Yahya Al-Mahdi, the commander of the fourth military zone, Brigadier General Hamoud Mudehesh, commander of the 22nd Mika Brigade within the group, and Hussein Al-Dhila'i, the military commander of eastern Taiz.

### B. Examples of incidents of killing and injuring civilians that have been investigated by the Commission, with responsibility attributed to government forces and the Arab coalition airstrikes.

#### 1. Shelling of the residence belonging to Abdullah Abdo Hamoud in Al-Sharaf Village, Al-Silw district, on 29/10/2016

Based on the details provided in the case file, and substantiated by the accompanying documents and reports, a projectile landed on Abdullah Abdo Hamoud's residence in Al-Sharaf Village, Al-Silw district, Taiz governorate at precisely 05:30 a.m. on 29/10/2016. As a result, 11 individuals, including 4 children, lost their lives. These victims were all part of a single family and were present within the house at the time of the incident.

Names of the victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Duriayah Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	55 years old
	2	Omar Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	9 years old
	3	Aishah Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	8 years old
	4	Mansour Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	26 years old
	5	Faizah Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	35 years old
	6	Mirvat Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	22 years old
	7	Katibah Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	25 years old
	8	Manar Abdo Saeed	8 years old
	9	Khayriah Abdo Sharaf	55 years old
	10	Abdullah Abdo Hamoud Al- Shihab	60 years old
	11	Naser Abdullah Abdo Hamoud	12 years old

Based on the testimonies provided by the relatives of the victims and witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, including A.M.Q.A., Q.A.A., and A.M.A.S., it has been determined that on Saturday, 29/10/2016, at around 05:30 am, the house owned by Abdullah Abdo Hamoud was hit by an airstrike conducted by the Arab Coalition. This incident occurred in Al-Sharaf Village, where the aforementioned house served as the residence for Mr. Abdullah Abdo Hamoud, his wife, his

children from his first and second wives, as well as his son's wife. Upon hearing the explosion, neighbors rushed to the scene, only to find the victims were reduced to pieces amidst the wreckage of the two-story house, which had been completely razed to the ground. The field visit report submitted by the Commission's team, in conjunction with the testimonies provided by the village residents who were interviewed by the Commission, establish that no military installations were present in the vicinity. It is noteworthy that the nearest military outpost, which belonged to the Houthi group militants, was located roughly 500 meters away from the targeted house.

### Findings:

Based on the investigation conducted by the Commission, the field team's report, testimonies by the relatives of the victims, witnesses, and paramedics interviewed by the Commission, along with the documents, reports, and photos included in the file, it is concluded that this violation did occur. It is determined that the responsibility for this violation lies with the aircraft of the Arab Coalition forces supporting the legitimacy.

## 2. Shelling of the construction building belonging to the Ministry of Communications, Districtcenter of Al-Mahweet District - Al- Mahweet governorate, on 24/12/2021

According to the information included in the case file, at 9:45 pm on 24th December 2021, the aircraft of the Arab Coalition bombed the construction building belonging to the Ministry of Communications located in Al-Mahweet city, Al-Mahweet governorate, Ajamah area, where a number of employees and their families were present. As a result, three individuals were killed, seven others were injured, and the building was completely destroyed:

Names of the deceased victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Hanah Abdullah Al-Houry	31 years old
	2	Ahmed Hisham Al-Houry	One year old
	3	Ahmed Saif Ghalib Al-Humaydi	25 years old
Names of the victims who sustained injuries	No.	Name	Age
	1	Hanan Yahya Al-Hadhli	35 years old
	2	Mansour Awadh Al-Jalali	51 years old
	3	Hisham Ahmed Al-Houry	46 years old
	4	Khalil Ahmed Al-Jaadi	2 years old
	5	Ali Hisham Al-Houry	2 years old
	6	Aminah Yahya Al-Talai	50 years old
	7	Shifa'a Ahmed Al-Jaadi	2 years old

Based on the field visit report by the Commission's observer, along with the attached photographs, the statement of the informant (M.A.M.J.), and the testimonies of witnesses, including A.A.A. and A.M.A., it has been reported that on 24/12/2021, at approximately 9:45 pm, the sound of

hovering aircraft was heard, followed by the immediate bombing of three missiles targeting the warehouses and the guard's residence within the construction branch building owned by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in Al-Mahweet governorate. The explosions took place simultaneously. One missile specifically targeted the two-story guard's building, where his family was present. The missile struck the building horizontally, resulting in significant damage to the first floor and partial damage to the second floor. The second missile was directed at the large warehouse, which housed communication cables, spare parts, and equipment related to telecommunications and communication towers. Consequently, the warehouse and its contents were completely destroyed. The third missile aimed at the small warehouse, penetrating it without detonation, leaving a deep hole in the floor where the missile fell. The airstrike left three individuals dead and seven others, including children and women who primarily resided with the guard, injured. The airstrikes also caused the complete destruction of the guard's residence, total destruction of the large warehouse and its contents, and partial destruction of the small warehouse and the building's fence.

Both the informant and witnesses have confirmed that no missiles or weapons were stored inside the building. Instead, the building housed telecommunications equipment.

### Findings:

In view of the investigations carried out by the Commission, including the field visit paid by the Commission's observer, witness testimonies, and the photographs documenting the victims and the site of the airstrike, it has been determined that the incident in question did occur. The responsible parties for this violation are identified to be the aircrafts belonging to the Arab Coalition and the government forces.

### 3. Shelling of the residence of Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah Shumayl in Al-Wadh'i district, Al Shumayl village, Abyan governorate, on 1/8/2016

Based on the details included in the case file, at 11:00 pm on 1/08/2016, the planes belonging to the Arab Coalition launched an attack on Al Shumayl village in the Al-Wadh'i district, Abyan governorate. Two missiles hit the residence of the victim, Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah Shumayl. As a result, three individuals were killed, and one woman sustained injuries.

Names of the deceased victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah Hussein Shumayl	40 years old
	2	Alkhader Abdullah Ahmed Hussein Shumayl	13 years old
	3	Amjad Abdullah Ahmed Hussein Shumayl	11 years old
Names of the victims who sustained injuries	No.	Name	Age
	1	Fatimah Mohammed Ali Mohsen	37 years old

The investigation was initiated by the Commission through field visits and interviews with relatives of the victims. Testimonies were gathered from witnesses and first responders, including A.S.A.S. and N.H.M.A. These individuals confirmed that on Monday, at 11:00 pm, Arab Coalition

planes were heard flying over the Al-Wadh'i district, specifically Al Shumayl village. Everything appeared to be normal, as reported by local residents, until they were suddenly startled by the impact of two missiles hitting Abdullah Ahmed Hussein Shumayl's residence. This incident resulted in the devastating loss of Abdullah Ahmed Hussein Shumayl and his sons, Al-Khadhar and Amjad. Moreover, Abdullah's wife, Fatimah, suffered severe injuries that have left her disabled and confined to a wheelchair.

### Findings:

In view of the investigations carried out by the Commission, the report of the field team, the testimonies provided by the relatives of the victims and eyewitnesses, as well as the statements provided by the first responders interviewed during the Commission's inquiry, alongside reviewing the death certificates of the victims and the medical reports regarding the injured individual, it is determined that the responsibility for perpetrating this violation rests upon the aircraft under the jurisdiction of the Arab Coalition and government forces. This attribution is primarily ascribed to the exclusive authority exerted by the Arab Coalition forces over the airspace of the Republic of Yemen throughout the entire duration of the war.

#### 4. Targeting a civilian's car in Al-Rawdah area, Harib District, Marib governorate by the war-planes of the Arab Coalition on 24/01/2022.

According to the information included in the Commission's case file, supported by the accompanying documents and reports, the incident took place on 24/01/2022 at 2:00 PM. The individuals directly affected by this occurrence were Mohammed Salem Ateq Al-Masri and some of his family members, who were traversing from their residence in Al-Rawdah towards the market in Harib. On their way back home, a missile struck their vehicle, resulting in the demise of three passengers and causing injuries to six others. The car itself was left utterly demolished.

Names and details of the victims	No.	Name	Age	Type of violation
	1	Mohammed Salem Ateq Al- Masri	47 years old	killed
	2	Hussien Mohammed Salem Ateq	17 years old	killed
	3	Ahmed Nashat Salem Ateq	17 years old	killed
	4	Hussien Salem Ateq Al- Masri	32 years old	Injured
	5	Sadiq Ateq Salem Al- Masri	32 years old	Injured
	6	Adel Ateq Salem Al- Masri	30 years old	Injured
	7	Akram Nashat Salem Al- Masri	16 years old	Injured
	8	Saleh Nashat Salem	17 years old	Injured
	9	Nabeel Mohammed Salem Ateq	12 years old	Injured

Following the incident, the Commission promptly launched an investigation, commencing with on-site visits and inspections of the site where the incident took place. Additionally, the Commission proceeded to interview the relatives of the victims, as well as key eyewitnesses, including M.M.A.A. and A.N.A.A. These witnesses testified to having personally observed and heard aircraft traversing the vicinity, coinciding with the return of the victims' vehicle - transporting a total of

nine individuals, including one child - en route to their residence in Al-Rawdhah. The witnesses further attested to hearing an explosion ensuing from the targeting of the vehicle by a missile. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, local residents promptly rushed to the scene, recovering the remains of the deceased and delivering immediate medical assistance to the injured. The witnesses stated that there were no military installations or ongoing hostilities in the targeted area.

### Findings:

Following the investigation conducted by the Commission, the report of the field team, and the examination of death certificates and statements by the victims' relatives, alongside the testimonies of witnesses who corroborated the presence of aircraft sounds and observed the airstrike targeting the vehicle in the absence of any military barracks in the vicinity, the Commission has substantiated the occurrence of the incident. Consequently, the responsibility for this violation lies with the Arab Coalition's air forces in support of the legitimacy and government forces.

## Second: Child Recruitment

The recruitment of children is regarded as a grave transgression that is explicitly prohibited by both domestic laws and international convention aimed at protecting the welfare of children, notably the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" ratified by the Republic of Yemen and the "Optional Protocol to the Convention." These legal instruments, as well as Yemen's legislation concerning the rights of child, in alignment with the Convention, strongly forbid the use and recruitment of children in armed conflicts.

Consequently, the Commission has paid a special attention to addressing this particular violation, given the prevalence of instances wherein child recruitment and utilization have occurred throughout the armed conflict. These instances encompass direct engagement in combat as well as providing assistance to combatants, thereby putting these children at a considerable risk. During the reporting period, the Commission documented 117 cases of alleged child recruitment under the age of 18, including 116 cases in which responsibility lies with the Houthi group and one case in which responsibility lies with the government and its affiliated entities.

**The following are examples of some incidents investigated by the Commission:**

### A. The Houthi group:

#### 1. The recruitment of child "A.S.L" in Al-Qafar District, Ibb governorate, on 01/10/2017.

The incident, as described in the case file with the Commission, involved the Houthi group recruiting a minor named "A.S.L," born in 2004, from Al-Qafar District to join their ranks on 01/10/2017. The child was sent to the frontline in Hodeidah governorate without his family's consent.

Based on the testimonies of the victim's family and witnesses, it is alleged that a Houthi supervisor named Abu Dhahyan Al-Omari visited schools in Al-Qafar District and encouraged children to join the frontline. He allegedly promised them military ranks, salaries, and delivered lectures on using weapons. The victim, a child named "A.S.L," was convinced to join the recruitment due to his family's poor financial condition, as his father's salary had not been paid since the start of the war. On 01/10/2017, the child was recruited without his family's knowledge and taken to a training camp affiliated with the Houthi group in Ibb governorate. He was trained in using weapons and later

sent to the frontline in Hodeidah governorate. Since then, his family has had no information about him, and their inquiries to the Houthi group regarding his fate have gone unanswered.

### Findings:

In light of the investigations conducted by the Commission in this incident and the statements provided by the witnesses, it becomes apparent that the entity responsible for this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group in Ibb governorate, particularly Abu Dhahyan Al-Omari.

#### **2. The recruitment of child “S.A.M.Y,” aged 15, in Bani Hushaysh District, Sana’a governorate, on 02/07/2021**

According to the case file, the Houthi group recruited a minor named, “S.A.M.Y”, aged 15, from Al-Kharbah village, Bani Hushaysh District, Sana’a governorate, on 02/07/2021, through their leader Abu Ali Al-Mashbak. The child was sent to the frontline without his family’s consent.

In accordance with the statements provided by the informant (A.M.H.A.) and the testimonies of witnesses, namely A.A.S.H. and N.A.A.H., it has come to light that Abu Ali Al-Mashbak, a leader within the Houthi group, employed blackmail tactics against the father of a child. The purpose behind this coercion was to secure permission for the child to accompany Al-Mashbak and take part in what the group referred to as “cultural courses” held within areas under their control. These courses served as a platform for the promotion and dissemination of their ideologies and beliefs. In the face of the child’s father’s reluctance, Al-Mashbak resorted to issuing threats, indicating that he would withhold food aid allocated by certain relief organizations, as well as deprive the family of access to household gas, which was conveniently sold by the group through representatives operating within the neighborhood. Given the precarious living conditions endured by the child’s family and the repeated threats made by Al-Mashbak to the child’s father, he reluctantly consented to his son attending the courses. However, this consent was granted contingent upon the assurance that the child would not be recruited or dispatched to the frontline. On 2/7/2021, the child was dispatched to the frontline in Marib governorate. Ever since, the family remains bereft of any updates regarding the child’s well-being, with no communication established between them. Their state of uncertainty extends to not knowing whether the child is still alive or has succumbed to an unfortunate fate.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission and the testimonies of the informant and witnesses, there is compelling evidence to conclude that the culpable entity behind this violation of human rights is the leadership of the Houthi group in the Sana’a governorate, specifically in Bani Hushaysh District, under the leadership of Abu Ali Al-Mashbak.

#### **3. Recruitment of a minor, named (M.N.A), aged 12, residing in Shumaylah neighborhood, Sabeen District, Sana’a Governorate, on 4/11/2022.**

On the 4th of November 2022, the Houthi group engaged in the recruitment of a minor by the name of (M.N.A.A), residing in Shumaylah neighborhood within the Al-Sab’een District of the Sana’a Governorate. It is worth noting that the child in question is a 12-year-old who is enrolled as a sixth-grade student. The Houthi group subsequently deployed him to the frontlines.

Based on the information contained in the case file held by the Commission, as well as the statements provided by the informant (A.A.B) and the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, including (Y.M.A.A) and (S.T.A), it has been established that the Houthi group, under the leadership of Abdul Hamid Al-Dhamari, engaged in the recruitment of the child (M.N.A.A) and several other minors from the local neighbourhood. The purpose of their recruitment was for the children to attend cultural courses that aimed to disseminate the group's ideology. The group enticed the children with promises of regular salaries and access to weapons, exploiting their vulnerable circumstances and dire living conditions. This was particularly the case for the victim, who had not only lost his father but relied solely on his mother for support. After the child completed what was referred to as a three-week cultural course, the Houthi group proceeded to officially recruit him on 4 November 2022. Abdul Hamid Al-Dhamari himself, accompanied by a personnel transportation vehicle, arrived at the Shumaylah neighborhood, where the child resided. From there, he enlisted the victim alongside four other children whose identities remain unknown to the Commission. Subsequently, they were dispatched to the battlefronts, specifically the Murays front located in the Dhamar Governorate. The child remains engaged in active combat on behalf of the group.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission in relation to the incident in question, coupled with the statements provided by the informant and witnesses, it is affirmed that the sole party held accountable for this violation is the Houthi group, particularly Neighborhood Chief of Shumaylah neighborhood, Abdul Hamid Al-Dhamari, responsible for overseeing the recruitment and deployment activities within the area.

#### 4. The recruitment of 12 Children in Barat Al-Anan District, Al-Jawf Governorate, on 15/6/2022

Based on the case file of the Commission, along with the photographs and statement provided by the informant (A.M.M.G), and the testimonies of witnesses including (A.M.M.G) and (N.A.S.A), the incident occurred on 15/6/2022. The Houthi group, under the supervision of Sadeq Hassan Mohammed Al-Ghareebi, a supervisor in Al-Jawf Governorate, enticed 12 children from the Martyr Mohammed Abdullah Jarrad School in Wadi Salbah, Barat Al-Anan District, Al-Jawf Governorate. Some of these children were orphaned as a result of losing their fathers, who died fighting for the Houthis. Al-Ghareebi transported the children in two Hilux pickup trucks to the group's recruitment camps in Maran area, Haydan District, Sa'adah Governorate. Upon completion of combat training, the children were deployed to the frontlines. The child victims are as follows:

Names of the victims	م	الاسم	العمر
	1	(T.S.H.M)	12 years old
	2	(A.H.H.M)	16 years old
	3	(Y.S.H.M)	14 years old
	4	(A.M.H.S)	12 years old
	5	(B.A.M.M)	15 years old



	6	(A.M.M.Gh)	12 years old
	7	(H.M.M.Gh)	12 years old
	8	(A.M.M.F)	10 years old
	9	(A.S.A.N)	9 years old
	10	(Z.A.A.M.Q)	9 years old
	11	(H.R.W.H.Gh)	13 years old
	12	(S.S.Gh)	12 years old

### Findings:

In light of the investigations conducted by the Commission in this incident and the statements provided by the witnesses, as well as photographs of the victims, it has been established that the entity responsible for this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group in Al- Jawf governorate, particularly Sadeq Hassan Mohammed Al-Ghareebi, the Houthi- appointed supervisor in the district.

#### 5. The recruitment and death of a minor, named (M.M.T.F), aged 17, Dhu Wasil, Al- Madan, Amran Governorate

Based on the information contained in the case file of the Commission, the statement provided by the informant (S.A.Q.F), and the testimonies provided by witnesses who have been interviewed by the Commission, including (N.A.Q.N) and (A.A.Q), it has come to light that the Houthi group recruit a minor named (M.M.T.F) hailing from the Al-Madan Dhu Wasil area, Amran Governorate. The minor, aged 17, was lured into joining their ranks with the promise of acquiring a military identification number, a monthly remuneration, and access to weapons. Upon the child's acquiescence, he was promptly enrolled in cultural courses, subsequently being transported to training camps belonging to the group in Amran Governorate. Upon the completion of the training, he was dispatched to the battlefronts situated in Al-Jawf Governorate, where he met his demise on 22 August 2020. His dead body was returned to his family.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission and the testimonies of the informant and witnesses, there is compelling evidence to conclude that the culpable entity behind this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group in the Amaran governorate.

#### B. The legitimate government

##### 1. The recruitment of a minor, named Salahuddin Abdullah Ali Muhsin Al- Amri, aged 15, Al- Madinah District, Marib Governorate, on 15/7/2018.

According to the case file with the Commission, the statement of the informant (A.S.A), and the testimonies of the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, including (A.A.H) and (M.M.H), on 15 July 2018, a 15-year-old minor, named (S.A.A), who resides in Al Madinah District, Marib Governorate, was recruited by the 310th Brigade leadership, affiliated with the legitimate government. Young and naive, he was convinced by his father, who is an officer in the brigade himself, to join ranks against the Houthi group. The child victim is still serving within the brigade until now.



## Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission and the testimonies of the informant and witnesses, there is compelling evidence to conclude that the culpable entity behind this violation is the leadership of the 310th Brigade affiliated with the legitimate government, under the command of Mohammed Al-thifany.

### Third: Planting Landmines

Planting anti-personnel landmines is considered a violation of international humanitarian law and the relevant conventions, specifically the “Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines.” The Republic of Yemen ratified this convention in 1998. The Commission has designated landmine planting as one of the violations it monitors and investigates, According to the figures released by Masam Demining Program , a total of 408,633 mines were removed since mid-2018.<sup>(3)</sup>

Throughout the reporting period, the Commission monitored and documented 161 incidents of explosions of anti-personnel landmines, leaving 55 people, including 3 women and 11 children, and 124 individuals, including 6 women and 26 children, injured. All attributable to the actions of the Houthis group.

**Examples of investigations conducted by the Commission into incidents involving planting anti-personnel landmines:**

#### 1. Injury of two girls, Nada and Nida’a Mansour Mohammed Abdul Wahab, in Al Daawah neighborhood, Salah district, Taiz governorate, on 7/10/2022

Based on the Commission’s case file, along with the attached documents and reports, an anti-personnel landmine detonated precisely at 11:30 on Friday, 7/10/2022. This incident resulted in injuries to two girls, namely Nada and Nida’a Mansour Mohammed Abdul Wahab, in the Al Daawah neighbourhood, Salah district, Taiz governorate.

Names of the victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Nada Mansour Mohammed Abdul Wahab	10 years old
	2	Nida’a Mansour Mohammed Abdul Wahab	16 years old

Based on the accounts provided by the families of the victims, the field team report submitted by the Commission, the attached medical reports, and the testimonies of witnesses such as M.M.A, S.Q.A, and K.M.Y, it was established that on the morning of Friday, 7/10/2022, at 11:30, two girls named Nada and Nida’a Mansour Mohamed Abdul Wahab were engaged in collecting firewood in a yard that was filled with trees and bushes. This location was opposite the house where they were temporarily residing in the Al Daawah neighbourhood, Salah district, Taiz governorate. The girls, along with their father, mother, and two sisters, had sought refuge in this neighborhood after their house in Jabal Habashi district was targeted by shelling. While they were in the process of gathering and stacking the firewood, which was to be used to cook lunch for the family, a landmine suddenly detonated. As a result of the explosion, Nida’a sustained fractures in her left leg, shrapnel wounds on her thigh,

abdomen, and various other parts of her body. Her sister, Nada suffered the amputation of her right hand. She also suffered injuries to her right foot, shrapnel in her left eye, and wounds on her face. Upon hearing the explosion, concerned neighbours rushed to the scene and found the two girls lying on the ground, bleeding. They quickly came to their aid and immediately rushed Nada to Al Thawra General Hospital, while her sister, Nida'a was rushed to Al Rawdhah Private Hospital.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, including testimony from witnesses, statements from the victims' families, photos, medical reports, the report from the field team, and the expert opinion on explosives, it has been determined that the responsible party for this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group in Taiz governorate, particularly Colonel Ahmed Al Sharafi, the commander of the Taiz axis, and Hussein Al Dhulai, the commander of the military front in the eastern part of Taiz city. The Houthi forces has planted numerous landmines in the area before their withdrawal.

## 2. Landmine explosion resulting in the injury of Dhikra Mohammed Dawood and Aman Mohammed Ukaysh in Bani Ukaysh, Hays district, Hodeidah governorate, on 4/2/2022

According to the case file with the Commission, along with the attached documents and reports, an incident occurred on 4/2/2022 at precisely 12:30 PM. During this time, an anti-personnel landmine detonated, resulting in severe injuries to Dhikra Mohammed Ahmed Dawood and Aman Mohammed Ghalib Ukaysh in the village of Bani Ukaysh, Hays district, Al Hodeidah governorate.

Names of the victims who sustained injuries	No.	Name	Age
	1	Dhikra Mohammed Ahmed Dawood	12 years old
	2	Aman Mohammed Ghalib Ukaysh	35 years old

Based on the statements provided by the victims' relatives, as well as the field assessment report conducted by the Commission's designated field team and the testimonies of the witnesses, including (S.A.D.K), (M.D.A.A.N), and (A.M.H.A), it has been established that on the afternoon of Thursday, 4/2/2022 at 12:30 PM, Dhikra and Aman were engaged in collecting grass for livestock in Al- Zahhi area of Bani Ukaysh, Hays district in Hodeidah governorate. It was during this activity that they were subjected to an explosion caused by a pre-planted landmine by the Houthi group prior to their withdrawal from the area. As a result, Dhikra suffered the amputation of her leg above the knee, along with scattered shrapnel wounds to her right hand. Furthermore, significant injuries were inflicted upon Aman's right hand, with shrapnel dispersed across various parts of his body.

### Findings:

Through the investigations conducted by the Commission in this incident, the testimonies of the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, the statements of the victims' families, the photos, and the medical reports attached to the case file, as well as the report of the team responsible for field visits and the expert opinion on explosives, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the party responsible for this violation is the Houthi group's leadership in Hodeidah governorate, particularly, the so called Yousef Al Madani, the Houthi-appointed commander of the Fifth Military Region, and the so called Abdul Khaleq Badraddin Al Houthi, the Houthi-appointed Commander of the Republican Guards in Hodeidah.

### **3. An explosion of a landmine, leaving Rashid Mohammed Saleh Al Ramadi dead in Al-Ramadah village - Maswarah Center - Nihm District - Sana'a Governorate on 22/6/2023**

Based on the contents of the case file maintained by the Commission and the statements provided by the informant and the witnesses, including (H, R, R, A) and (M, A, S, A), it was determined that on approximately 22 June 2023 at around 12:00 PM, a landmine detonated beneath the victim Rashid Mohammed Saleh Al Ramadi while traversing the Khurashea area in Al-Ramada village, Maswarah subdistrict, Nihm district of Sana'a governorate. This explosion resulted in the severance of his left leg and inflicted scattered shrapnel wounds throughout his body, ultimately leading to his demise. The landmine is war remnants, which were originally planted by the Houthi group more than five years ago, at a time when the area served as a frontline zone between the forces of the legitimate government and the Houthi group. The area has not been entirely cleared by mine clearance teams following the withdrawal of the Houthi group from the area after taking control over it at the beginning of 2020.

#### **Findings:**

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission in this incident, as well as the case file and testimonies of witnesses, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the responsibility of the Houthi group in Nihm District, Sana'a Governorate, led by Mubarak Al Mashan, the Houthi-appointed Commander of the Third Military Region, for this violation.

### **4. An explosion of an anti-personnel landmine leaving (R, D, M, H) injured in Bani Fadel - Hiran District - Hajjah Governorate on 14/2/2021**

Based on the case file maintained by to the Commission, as well as the accompanying photographs and the testimony of the individuals (A, H, M, H) and the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, namely (M, J, A, H) and (A, A, A, M), it has been determined that numerous citizens have been displaced from areas of conflict as a consequence of the war and military clashes between the legitimate government forces and the Houthi fighters in the Haradh district of Hajjah governorate. Among these displaced individuals is the victim (R, D, M, H) who sought refuge in the Bani Fadhel center, located in the Hairan district of Hajjah governorate. On 14/2/2021, while the victim was walking near his temporary residence, a landmine planted by the Houthi group in the area exploded. This area was previously a frontline between the legitimate government forces and the Houthi forces before their withdrawal. The landmine had not been cleared by the mine clearance teams when they had cleared most of the mines in the area. The explosion resulted in amputation of the victim's right leg above the knee and caused multiple shrapnel wounds to his body. He was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment and currently suffers from disability due to the amputation of his right leg as a result of the explosion.

#### **Findings:**

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of the informant and witnesses, as well as the photographs of the victim, it has been established that the Houthi group bears responsibility for committing this violation, led by Yousef Al Madani, the Commander of the Fifth Military Region.

## Fourth: Assaults on cultural, historical, and religious objects:

The Commission has paid great attention to monitoring and documenting violations against cultural objects, including historical artifacts and precious cultural assets that constitute a historical heritage of the Yemeni people. Damaging or attacking these properties is considered a crime according to national legislation, as well as a serious violation of international conventions, including the Hague Convention ratified by the Republic of Yemen. Moreover, such acts are contrary to the provisions of Article 16 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Convention, which prohibits any hostile acts against historical artifacts and artworks that represent the cultural and spiritual heritage of peoples.

In this context, the Commission has monitored and investigated 23 reported cases of attacks and damage to cultural and historical objects in various areas, including Hodeidah. Of the total 23 incidents, 18 incidents have been proven to be the responsibility of the Houthi group. Additionally, three incidents involved joint responsibility between the National Army forces and the Arab Coalition's airstrikes, while the parties to the conflict shared responsibility for two of such incidents.

Examples of investigations conducted by the Commission in cases of assaults on cultural, historical, and religious objects:

### A. The Houthi Group

#### 1. 1- Bombing of Al-Maqah Historical Temple - Sarwah - Ma'rib Governorate on 14/1/2016.

#### A Historical background overview of Al Maqah Temple: -

Al Maqah Temple, also known as the Mocha Temple or Mahram Bilqis in Marib, is recognized as one of the most ancient and significant temples in the Arabian Peninsula. It served as the primary pilgrimage site for the Sabaean tribes and holds high archaeological importance as a relic of the Sabaean civilization. Situated in the district of Sirwah, which held considerable political and religious influence as the secondary center of the Kingdom of Saba, extensive archaeological research indicates its construction during the early phases, dating back to at least the middle of the second millennium BCE. Notably, Al Maqah Temple boasts the largest repository of inscriptions discovered in ancient Yemen, totaling approximately 600. Its architectural composition comprises various units, such as the oval wall, the entrance courtyard, the northeastern annex of the columned courtyard, the southeastern shrine located outside the oval wall, and the southern cemetery, positioned beyond the whitewashed enclosure. As an integral part of the ancient city, specifically connected to Harunum Temple via the sacred Masba Owam road, the temple likely served its purpose uninterrupted until the 4th and 5th centuries CE. The inscriptions attest to the temple's multiple expansions, transforming it into an opulent complex suitable for hosting festivities dedicated to the Sabaean deity Maqah, revered as the moon god among the ancient Yemenis. The temple retained its significance as a pilgrimage destination for centuries, attracting devotees from far and wide. Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed the endangered World Heritage status of the ancient civilization of the Kingdom of Saba in Marib governorate, tracing its origins back to the 11th century BCE.

According to the case file with the Commission, the field visit report, and the attached photographs, as well as the statements of the informant (Y. N.) and the witnesses (H. A. S) and (F. S. M), on 14/1/2016, when the Houthi group took control of Sirwah District, , they occupied several cultural

sites, including the Al-Maqah Historical Temple, where they have positioned their forces with all their gear. As a result, the temple was targeted by an air strike from the Arab Coalition using an air-to-ground missile, causing partial damage to the temple's columns and artifacts.

### Findings:

Based on the Commission's investigations and inspections, as well as the inspection report submitted by the team appointed by the Commission, and the testimonies presented by witnesses, it has been ascertained that the Houthi group unlawfully entered the temple and repurposed it as a military facility. Consequently, the temple was subjected to an airstrike by the Arab coalition's air force. In light of this, and in accordance with the principles of international law governing the protection of cultural and historical assets, the Commission deems that both the Houthi group and the Arab coalition's air force bear joint responsibility for this violation.

## 2. Entering and using the Art House as a weapon depot - Mahweet City, Mahweet Governorate, on 30/09/2019

### A brief background about the cultural object:

The Art House, situated in the city center of Mahweet Governorate, is considered a significant cultural site in the region. It was established in the middle of July 2007, thanks to financial support from the Yemeni government. The Art House serves as a gathering place for visual artists, including painters and sculptors, from various districts within Mahweet. It aims to cultivate their skills and foster their creative potential, facilitating the exchange of new artistic endeavors among them. Moreover, the Art House regularly hosts periodic exhibitions and cultural events to showcase the works of painters, sculptors, and other talented individuals from Mahweet Governorate. The administration of the Art House undertakes the responsibility of selecting participants for both local and international exhibitions held within Yemen.

### Summary of the incident:

On Monday, 30/9/2019, the Houthi group forcefully stormed into and seized control of the Beit Al-Fann Center [Art House] located in Mahweet City. They proceeded to expel its occupants and convert it into a weapons depot under the control of the group.

According to the statements provided by the informant (Y, Y, R, SH) and the testimonies of the witnesses, including (A, A, A) and (M, M, Y), on the above date, the Houthi group, led by Rashed Marwan, who goes by the alias Abu Abdullah, and who was appointed by the Houthi group as the supervisor of security squares in the center of the governorate, along with Abdul Hamid Abu Shams, the Houthi-appointed deputy governor of Mahweet, and a group of armed individuals, forcibly entered the Beit Al-Fann Center [Art House] located in the heart of Mahweet City, adjacent to the central market and the youth and sports building. Once inside, they proceeded to gather the photographs and artistic paintings within the premises and indiscriminately threw them on the ground, while tampering with the contents of the center. Subsequently, the center was converted into a headquarters for the Houthi group and used as a weapon depot facility, which were placed on top of the artistic paintings, despite the significance of such artefacts. It should be noted that the Art House houses more than thirty valuable artistic paintings that have been previously exhibited and presented in numerous international exhibitions.

## Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of the informant and witnesses, as well as the photographs and documents in the case file, the responsible party for this violation is the Houthi group's leadership in Mahweet Governorate, specifically Rashed Marwan, also known as Abu Abdullah, who was appointed as the supervisor of security squares and is currently the director-general of Mahweet City, and Abdul Hameed Abu Shams, who was appointed by the Houthi group as the deputy governor, as well as Magahid Shaker, the director-general of the Culture Office in the governorate.

## B. Legitimate Government forces:

### 1. Assault on Al-Noor Mosque - Al-Qattaba Subdistrict - Al-Khawkhah District - Hodeidah Governorate on 8/7/2022.

#### A Background overview about the historical artefact/ object:

Al Noor Mosque is located in the village of Al-Qataba, in the Al-Khawakha district of Hodeidah governorate. It was built during the Ziyadi dynasty era (204-420 AH), which ruled over large parts of Yemen, including the Tihama region. The mosque was expanded during the Ayyubid dynasty era (569-626 AH), and during the Rasulid dynasty era, it was transformed into a school where famous scholars taught, in addition to being a mosque. The mosque's area is estimated to be 30 meters x 15 meters, consisting of the main prayer hall with an area of 15 meters x 5 meters, as well as three historical domes on top. There are also two rooms to the north and left of the mosque, in addition to 12 bathrooms.

According to the information provided in the case file, along with the accompanying photos, videos, and the testimonies of witnesses interviewed by the Commission, including S.A.A. and B.A.S., it is established that at around 2:00 AM on 8 July 2022, Ali Hassan Qadi, the commander of the second battalion of the Ninth Giants Brigade, and Hussein Al-Salami, the commander of the first battalion of the Ninth Giants Brigade, along with more than ten military vehicles belonging to the Ninth Giants Brigade led by Yahya Al-Wahishi, the brigade commander, deployed in the village of Al-Qataba in the Al-Khawakhah district of Hodeidah governorate. They were accompanied by a piece of equipment, which was a bulldozer or shovel. After preventing the village residents from entering or leaving and accessing Al Noor Mosque, an order was issued to the bulldozer operator to demolish Al Noor Mosque to the grounds that it was built on a cemetery and that the mosque contained shrines, which is religiously prohibited. When the villagers tried to stop the destruction of the mosque, they were threatened at gunpoint. The mosque was completely demolished, leveled to the ground, and its sound systems, solar panels, various books, and contents were looted and destroyed.

## Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of witnesses, the report of the team assigned to investigate the incident, and the photos and video footage of the mosque and its demolition, it has been determined that the responsibility for this violation lies with the National Army forces affiliated with the legitimate government in Hodeidah Governorate, specifically the commander of the Second Battalion in the Ninth Giants Brigade, the commander of the Ninth Giants Brigade, and the commander of the First Battalion in the Ninth Giants Brigade.



## **Fifth: Targeting medical facilities and staff:**

Targeting and assaulting medical facilities and staff during armed conflicts is considered a serious violation of national laws, international conventions, and treaties, specifically the provisions of the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions and the common Article 3 of the Four Geneva Conventions ratified by the Republic of Yemen. During the reporting period, the Commission has monitored and investigated six cases of alleged targeting of medical facilities and staff in various areas, of which (4) cases have been proven to be the responsibility of the Houthi group, while (2) cases had joint responsibility between the National Army forces and the Arab Coalition's airstrikes.

- The following are examples of incidents investigated by the Commission:

### **A. Examples of incidents attributed to the Houthi group:**

#### **1. Targeting of Field Hospital - Hays District - Hodeidah Governorate on 18/4/2023**

According to the information included in the case file maintained by the Commission, on 18 April 2023 at 11:30 AM, the field hospital belonging to the Tihama Resistance was targeted and shelled. The hospital is located on the main street in the Hays district, Hodeidah governorate. The shelling resulted in the death of one child, Jihad Ali Abdus Saeed (12 years old) and damage to the hospital.

Based on the documents attached to the file, the report of inspection submitted by the Commission's assigned team, the pictures and videos, testimonies of witnesses, and statements from various members of the medical staff working in the hospital, including F.S.A. and H.M.A., it was established that on Tuesday, 18 April 2023, at 11:30 AM, the Houthi group targeted the field hospital affiliated with the Second Tihama Resistance Brigade. The hospital is located at the Al Udayn Junction, Hodeidah-Taiz road, Hays district. The hospital is used for medical care and ambulance services for both civilians and military personnel. The Houthis launched a mortar shell using a drone during the shelling. At the time of the attack, the child Jihad Ali Abdus Saeed Handj (12 years old), a resident of Hays, Hodeidah governorate, was near the field hospital, collecting scrap plastic water bottles, which he usually sells to support his family. He was hit by shell fragments and was killed instantly. Witnesses confirmed that the attack occurred during a declared ceasefire by the United Nations, and there were no military operations at that time.

### **Findings:**

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of witnesses, the report from the assigned team, and photos and video footage, it has been determined that the responsibility for this violation lies with the Houthi group's leadership in Hodeidah Governorate, particularly the commander of the Fifth Military Zone, Yahya Al-Madani, and the supervisor of the Houthis in Hodeidah Governorate, Ahmed Al-Bishri, and the director of Hays District, Marwan Yousef Hulays.

### **B. Legitimate Government forces and the Arab Coalition:**

#### **1. Bombing of the Rural Sirwah Hospital - Sirwah Area - Sirwah District - Marib Governorate on 24/4/2015**

According to the documents enclosed in the case file held by the Commission and the report from the Commission's designated team, as well as the photographs and video footage, along with



the testimonies of the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, including (H. A. S) and (F. S. M), it is established that on the 24 April 2015, subsequent to the Houthi group's seizure of villages and the subdistricts of the district of Sirwah, the group's members forcefully entered several public institutions, including schools and hospitals. Specifically, they took over the Sirwah Rural Hospital, desecrating its contents, and transforming it into a military barracks. Consequently, it was subjected to multiple airstrikes by the Arab coalition, with the sound of aircraft flying being detected, promptly followed by the impact and explosion of a missile at the Sirwah Hospital. This merciless targeting occurred on multiple occasions, leading to the complete destruction of the hospital premises, thereby depriving civilians of essential healthcare services.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the report from the assigned team, the testimonies of witnesses, and the photographs and video footage, it has been determined that the responsibility for this violation is jointly shared between the government forces and the Arab Coalition's airstrikes, on one hand, and the Houthi group on the other.

### Sixth: Forced displacement

During the reporting period, the Commission has investigated 66 incidents of forced collective and individual displacements in various areas across Yemen, of which 52 incidents have been proven to be the responsibility of the Houthi group, while 14 incidents had joint responsibility between the government forces and the Houthi group.

### Incidents attributed to the Houthi group:

#### 1. Forced displacement of the residents of Al-Maqatirah, Al-Muthafi, Al-Sayrateen, and Al-Hawd villages - Al-Silw District - Taiz Governorate on 30/09/2016.

Based on the information included in the case file of the Commission and the accompanying documents, including ten lists detailing the names of the displaced victims. These lists provide details such as the name of the head of the family, the number of family members, their gender (males/females), and their age groups. The testimonies of the victims and the witnesses, namely (H.A.T.Z), (S.A.A), and (A.A.M.T), confirm the following: On 30/9/2016, armed Houthi militants forcefully entered the homes of the residents in the villages of Al-Maqatirah, Al-Muthafi, Al-Siirateen, and Al-Hawd in the Al-Silw District. The militants threatened the residents, including women, children, and men, demanding that they abandon their homes and leave. When the residents, particularly the women, resisted leaving, the militants threatened them at gun point and fired shots into the air. Consequently, a significant number of residents were compelled to leave on foot without being permitted to carry any of their belongings or possessions. The remaining residents who chose not to leave were subsequently besieged by the Houthi militants on the following day. The militants demanded that these residents vacate all the villages, accusing them of being members of ISIS. Those who refused to leave were subjected to physical assault, beaten with the butt of firearms, and forcibly expelled. The total number of families displaced from the villages of Al-Maqatirah, Al-Muthafi, Al-Siirateen, and Al-Hawd is 150 families. The Houthi militants occupied the abandoned houses of these villages, looting a notable portion of them and vandalizing their contents after the displacement and departure of the residents to distant areas across the directorates of Taiz, Lahj, and Ibb.

## Findings:

Based on the information obtained from the investigations carried out by the Commission and the statements provided by the witnesses and victims, it has been established that the Houthi group, and specifically their leadership in the Al-Silw district led by Colonel Hamoud Al-Sheibeh, the commander of the Al-Silw front, and their leadership in Taiz governorate led by Brigadier Abdullah Yahya Al-Hakim (Abu Ali Al-Hakim), who was appointed by the group as the commander of the fourth military zone from 2015 to 2017, are responsible for this violation.

- **Section 2: Findings of the investigations carried out by the Commission regarding violations related to international human rights law.**

In accordance with the provisions of the decree on the establishment of the Commission, it is based on the seven core conventions that have been ratified by the Republic of Yemen, which include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as all other conventions ratified by the Republic of Yemen. The Commission also considers relevant national legislation associated with these rights as the legal foundation for its monitoring, documentation, and investigation activities concerning human rights violations. Consequently, the Commission monitors and investigates various types of violations, of which the following are among the most significant:

### First: Extrajudicial killing::

During the reporting period, the Commission has observed and investigated a total of (76) alleged cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various parties across different regions of the Republic of Yemen. After completing the investigation of each case, the Commission has determined that the Houthi group is responsible for (35) cases, while the army forces and government-affiliated security entities are responsible for (15) cases.

## A. Incidents attributed to the Houthi Group:

### 1. Killing of the victim Abdul Fattah Amin Abdul Majid Habeeb - Ibb Governorate on 30/5/2017.

On 30 May 2017, at 10:00 AM, an armed member affiliated with the Houthi group fired shots at the child victim, Abdul Fatah Amin Abdul Majid Habib (aged 12), leaving him dead instantaneously.

According to the information included in the case file maintained by the Commission, including photographs and video footage, reports, statements from the victim's family, and witness testimonies such as those of M.A.L, A.M.A, and Y.A.S, it was established that on the 30 May 2017, at 10:00 AM, an armed individual affiliated with the Houthi group, stationed at the military checkpoint of the group in the Dhi Rashid area of the Hubaysh district in the governorate of Ibb, stopped passengers and bypassers on the road and began firing shots in an indiscriminate manner towards vehicles and the vicinity of the checkpoint on the pretext that one of the drivers refused to comply with inspection procedures conducted by the checkpoint. The gunfire resulted in Abdul Fatah Amin Abdul Majid sustaining multiple gunshot wounds, leading to his immediate demise.

## Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of witnesses, the photographs, reports, and medical evidence, it has been determined that the responsibility for this violation lies with the Houthi group's leadership and its members stationed at the military checkpoint in the Dhi Rashid area of Hubaysh District in Ibb Governorate, led by Abdul Raqeeb Ali Al-Udayni, the supervisor of the security checkpoint.

### 2. Killing of Iyad Mohammed Al-Gahshi in Damt District, Al-Dhale Governorate, on 13/03/2018:

The incident, as outlined in the case file held by the Commission, involves an armed group from the Houthi group, based in the Damt district of Al Dhale governorate, carrying out an attack on March 13th, 2018, at 12:00 a.m. near Hadramout restaurant. The victim, Iyad Muthana Mohammed Al- Gahshi, was leaving the restaurant with his 5-year-old son when he was shot multiple times in the head and hands, resulting in his immediate death.

According to accounts given by the victim's family members, as well as several witnesses who examined the victim's body after it was handed over by the Houthi group (referred to as individuals M, M, T, S and S, N, S, A), it was reported that an armed group from the Houthi group was present near Hadramout restaurant in Damt district on 13 March 2018. The victim was shot without any legal justification, despite being known as a peaceful resident of the area with no political involvement or affiliations. After the shooting, the victim was left to bleed until he succumbed to his injuries. His son, who was present at the time and is a young child under the age of five, was left frightened and panicked upon witnessing his father's murder before his eyes.

## Findings

Based on the findings of the Commission's investigations and the accounts provided by the victim's relatives and witnesses, it can be determined that the entity responsible for this violation is the Houthi group's leadership and individuals stationed in the Damt district of Al-Dhale governorate, under the leadership of Hisham Abdul Hamid Al-Ghurbani.

### 3. Incident: Killing and injuring of the two victims, Saif Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai and Abdullah Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai, on 25/06/2023, in Al-Arsh District, Al-Bayda Governorate.

According to the case file, at approximately 1:00 AM on Sunday, 25/06/2023, a group of armed individuals associated with the Houthi group, led by Abu Hussein Al-Harman, the head of Investigations in Rada'a District Security, unlawfully opened fire on the two victims, Saif Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai and Abdullah Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai. This resulted in the immediate death of Saif Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai and severe injuries to Abdullah Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai, who was subsequently rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Victims' Details: Deceased:	No.	Name	Age	Type of violation
	1	Saif Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai	32 years old	Homicide

Victims' Details: Injured:	No.	Name	Age	Type of violation
	1	Abdullah Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai	32 years old	Injury

According to the statements provided by the victims' family members and several witnesses, including S.S.A. and A.A.S., in the early hours of Sunday, 25 June 2023, a group of armed men affiliated with the Houthi group arrived onboard a military vehicle at Aurayb Market, located on the main street of Al-Arsh District. While the two victims, Saif Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai and his brother Abdullah Ibrahim Ali Al-Zaylai, were loading khat onto their vehicle for sale, the armed individuals approached them and demanded levies to allow them to load and sell their khat. When the two brothers refused to pay anything, the armed individuals dragged Abdullah in an attempt to forcefully detain him. When he refused to comply, the gunmen directly opened fire at Abdullah and Saif, resulting in serious injuries to Abdullah, while Saif sustained a fatal gunshot to the heart, which left him dead on the spot. The armed individuals then left the scene without offering any assistance to the victims. As local residents heard the gunfire, they rushed to the scene to find the two victims covered in blood, with Saif already dead. Abdullah, who sustained severe injuries, was immediately rushed to a hospital in the district for urgent medical attention. The body of Saif was taken to Al-Rahma Mosque for funeral prayers and burial procedures.

The incident, according to the information included in the case file maintained by the Commission, can be summarized as follows: On 22/8/2020, a faction of armed individuals belonging to the Houthi group opened fire on Mohammed Ahmed Talib Al-Zubairi and Hamid Ahmed Talib Al-Zubairi, leading to their demise. This act was prompted by the victims' refusal to grant the militants access to their residence.

Based on the testimonies of the victims' families and multiple witnesses, namely B.A.N, A.A.M.A, and N.N.M.B, it has been established that a group of armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group attempted to forcibly enter the victims' residence, situated in the village of Gabrah, Al Qurayshiyah District, Al-Bayda Governorate, on 22/8/2020, on grounds of conducting a search. When denied entry due to the presence of their family, the assailants proceeded to discharge fire-arms at Mohammed and Hamid Al-Zubairi in the vicinity of their home, in full view of their relatives. The perpetrators subsequently vacated the premises without making any attempt to provide medical aid to the victims.

### Findings:

According to the investigations conducted by the Commission and the information provided by the victims' families, as well as the testimony of witnesses and the documents and reports in the case file, it has been determined that the party responsible for this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group in Al Qurayshiyah District of Al-Bayda Governorate, led by the Houthi- appointed governor, Hamoud Mohammed Shattan Shumaylah.

#### **4. Killing of the child Qais Salem Al-Munabhi in Al-Khamis area, Manbah city, Saada Governorate, on 16/03/2023**

The incident can be summarized as follows: According to the information included in the case file of the Commission, the accompanying photographs, the statements of the informant (A, Y, S, Sh), and the testimonies of the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, including (A, M, A, Sh) and (A, M, A), it was reported that on Thursday at approximately 10:00 am on 16 March 2023, while Qais Saleem Musfir Al-Munbah was heading to the hospital to medical care for his sick sister, he was stopped at a checkpoint under the control of the Houthi armed group at the entrance

of Munbah district. They asked him for his ID card, and when he responded that he didn't have any, and that he was taking his sister to the hospital, they refused to allow him to pass despite his pleas to consider his sister's condition and the necessity to get her to the hospital. They insisted that he should return from where he came and not enter the Munbah district to seek medical care for his sister. When the victim attempted to bypass the checkpoint to save his sister's life, the armed individuals present there shot him, leaving him dead instantaneously.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission and the information provided by the informant, witness testimonies, photographs, and reports attached to the case file, it has been determined that the responsible party for committing this violation is the Houthi group in the Manbah district, particularly the leader of the group known as Abu Nasr Al-Sahat, who is the commander of the entrance point to Manbah city, in addition to the other armed elements under their control.

## B. The legitimate government and its affiliated bodies and entities.

### 1. Killing Anwar Abdul Fattah Hassan Al-Soufi in Al-Noor City, Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate, on 18 February 2023.

The incident can be summarized as follows: On 18 February 2023, a member of the 170th Air Defense Brigade, Omar Abdul Basit Ha'il Al-Qadsi, fatally shot Anwar Abdul Fattah Hassan Al-Soufi while the latter was en route to conduct the Maghrib prayer. The brigade's leadership has refused to surrender this individual for accountability and a fair trial.

Based on the case file, which consists of photographs, medical reports, memorandums from the Criminal Investigation Department, the Public Prosecution, and the Police in Taiz, as well as statements from the victim's family and various witnesses including (S.B.A), (R.A.M), and (M.A.Y), the incident occurred at approximately 5:18 PM on Saturday, 18th February 2023. Anwar Abdul Fattah Hassan Al-Soufi, aged 56, left his residence in Al-Nour city, Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate to attend the Maghrib prayer. As he was approached by citizen Abdul Samad Mohammed, who expressed interest in purchasing land from him, he was shot in the head by soldier Omar Abdul Basit Ha'il Al-Qadsi. Al-Qadsi, a member of the 170th Infantry Brigade, was present at the scene with other soldiers and militants under the command of Khattab Al-Yasiri. Following the incident, witnesses present at the location transported the victim to Taiz hospital and subsequently to Al-Thawrah hospital. The victim's family continued to pursue the involvement of the security authorities and the leadership of the 170th Brigade in apprehending the perpetrator, given that his identity was known. Despite extensive efforts and support from numerous activists, who were compelled by the victim's highly esteemed position as the vice principal of a school in Al-Mudhaffar, the military prosecution merely issued an arrest warrant for the accused. This warrant was circulated amongst the security administration in Taiz, including all security checkpoints, police stations, and district directors. Additionally, various entities approached the leadership of the 170th Brigade, urging them to surrender the accused for further investigation. However, both the brigade's leadership and the commander of the battalion, to which Omar Abdul Basit Ha'il Al-Qadsi is affiliated, failed to respond to these communications. The Commission also contacted the Taiz Axis Command, emphasizing the importance of handing over the accused to the judiciary, yet no response has been received as of the present.

## Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission and based on the statements of the victim's family, witness testimony, and official documents, regarding the incident, it has been found that the soldier Omar Abdul Basit Ha'il Al-Qadsi, affiliated with the 170th Infantry Brigade, is responsible for this violation. Additionally, Khattab Al-Yasiri, the Battalion commander, and Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Mikhlaafi, the brigade commander, are also held accountable for refusing to hand the accused over to the judiciary for further investigation.

### **2. Killing Mohammad Khadr Wa'ees, took place in the village of Khadr Wa'ees, Khanfar district, Abyan Governorate, on 2/1/2022**

According to the information provided in the case file held by the Commission, on 2 January 2022 at 7:00am, a security force belonging to the Security Belt under the leadership of Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al-Shanini, raided the residence of the victim, Basam Mohammed Khadr Wa'ees in the village of Khadr Wa'ees. He, along with his wife and children, were asleep at the time of the incident. The intruders proceeded to physically assault them by kicking them with their legs and firing gunshots inside the house, which resulted in the children's cries being heard. During the course of these actions, the armed individuals shot the victim, Basam Mohammed Khadr Wa'ees, causing his immediate fatality in the presence of his wife and children.

According to the testimonies given by the family members of the victim and witnesses, including A.A.H and A.M.M.A, it was noted that a group of soldiers belonging to the Security Belt in Abyan governorate, led by Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al-Shanini, were observed at precisely 7:00am on the 2nd of January 2022 in military vehicles en route to the residence of the victim, Basam Mohammed Khadr Wa'ees. Upon their arrival, they forcibly entered the house with the pretext that the victim had been collaborating with Al-Qaeda operatives. Subsequently, the sounds of the children, the victim's wife, and other members of his family screaming were heard from inside the residence upon the entry of the armed assailants into the house. Moreover, intensive gunfire originating from within the house was audible, along with the victim's voice as he cried out from within the premises. Within moments, the victim's screaming ceased as a result of sustaining multiple gunshot wounds to his chest and other parts of his body, leading to his immediate demise. Subsequently, he was pulled out of the residence by the assailants while being covered in blood amidst the cacophony of his family's wailing and mourning.

## Findings:

According to the investigations conducted by the Commission and the findings of the field researcher's report, as well as the testimonies of the witnesses, it is concluded that the responsible party for committing this violation is the members of the security belt in the Khanfar district of Abyan governorate, under the leadership of Abdul Rahman Al-Shanini.

### **3. Killing of Walid Mohammed Al-Ramli Muneef, Al-Fao area, Al Madinah District, Ma'rib Governorate, on 29/5/2021**

According to the information included in the case file of the Commission, on 29 May 2021, an individual from the security checkpoint under the authority of the Special Security in the Al-Fao area, Al Madinah District, Ma'rib Governorate, discharged his weapon aiming at the head of the victim,



Walid Mohammed Al-Ramli Maneef, leaving him dead instantaneously. In addition to this, the victim's brother, Abdul Karim Mohammed Al-Ramli, sustained an injury to his hand, as a consequence of a confrontation that erupted between them and the individuals manning the checkpoint.

Based on the testimonies provided by the victim's family and witnesses to the incident who were interviewed by the Commission, including (A.S.) and (A.N.A.), it has been established that on 29 May 2021, whilst Walid Mohammed Al-Ramli Maneef, and his brother, Abdul Karim, were traveling in their vehicle passing through the security checkpoint belonging to the Special Security in the Al- Fao area, a few meters after passing through the checkpoint, the victim halted the vehicle to allow two of his cousins to get down, as they intended to travel to the Al-Jawbah District. This course of action incited the anger of the checkpoint personnel, due to their claim that they were not informed of the victim's intention to stop and permit the passengers to get down from the vehicle. When the victim exited the vehicle to elucidate the reason for his relatives' getting down and requested that they present their identification documents to the checkpoint personnel in order to ascertain their identity, the checkpoint personnel refused to understand and an altercation ensued between them and the victim, which culminated in one of the checkpoint personnel shooting the victim in the head, resulting in his immediate demise and causing injury to his brother, Abdul Karim, in his hand.

### Findings:

According to the investigations conducted by the Commission, and as stated in the field researcher's report and the testimonies of the witnesses, the party responsible for committing this violation is the Special Security forces in Ma'rib Governorate, led by Colonel Suleiman Al-Sayyaghi, in addition to the command and personnel of the security checkpoint belonging to the Special Security in Al-Fao area.

#### 4. Incident: Killing of the victim Abdullah bin Abdullah Abd Rabbuh Al-Bani on 21/04/2023, in Biyhan District, Airport Street, Shabwah Governorate.

According to the case file with the commission, on 21/04/2023, at approximately 7:30 AM, members of the 6th Brigade affiliated with the Shabwah Defense Forces fired upon Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdullah Abd Rabbuh Al-Bani, aged 49. Abdullah was an imam at a mosque and served as the director of the health office in Biyhan District. The incident took place after Abdullah had finished delivering the Eid sermon and prayer at the airport's Eid prayer yard. He was in his car with family members and others at the time of the attack. This resulted in Abdullah's death and injuries to six other individuals in the car.

Names of the deceased victims	No.	Name	Age
	1	Sheikh/ Abdullah bin Abdullah Abd Rabuh Al-Bani	49 years

Names of the victims who sustained injuries	م	الاسم	العمر
	1	Khaled Abdullah Abdullah Al-Bani	18 years
	2	Abdullah Mohammed Nasser Shoban	43 years



### Names of the victims who sustained injuries

3	Khaled Abdullah Mohsen Qawbar	50 years
4	Abdul Kareem Mohammed Abdullah Al-Bani	27 years
5	Mahdi Abdullah Nasser Hammaman	24 years
6	Saleh Ahmed Abdul Qader Sylan	28 years

According to the testimonies of the victim's family members and witnesses, including A.N.M. and A.A.S., on the morning of 21/04/2023, on the day of Eid al-Fitr, residents arrived at the airport's Eid prayer yard at around 7:30 AM. To their surprise, armed individuals from the Shabwah Defense Forces were present inside the yard, armed with light and medium weapons, along with military vehicles. When Sheikh Abdullah Al-Bani, who had been the sermon preacher for many years, entered the yard and sat at his usual spot before the sermon, two soldiers from the Shabwah Defense Forces forcefully attempted to remove him, claiming that they had received instructions from the Office of Endowments to assign someone else to deliver the sermon. However, the residents intervened and expelled the armed individuals from the yard. As a result, the armed individuals surrounded the prayer yard from all sides.

After Sheikh Al-Bani finished delivering his prepared sermon and completed the Eid prayer, the gathered worshippers greeted him and offered their Eid wishes. Meanwhile, one of the soldiers instructed those who had finished praying to leave the yard. As most of the people had left, Sheikh Al-Bani, accompanied by his son, brother, and others, exited the yard towards his car. However, as their car approached the gate of the airport's Eid prayer yard, one of the armored vehicles blocked their path and gunfire erupted from the soldiers' weapons and other vehicles present at the scene. This led to Sheikh Al-Bani's death and injuries to the six others. The residents immediately rushed to assist the victims and transported them to the hospital. Sheikh Al-Bani had already succumbed to multiple gunshots to his chest, totaling 28 shots.

### Findings:

In view of the commission's investigations and witness testimonies, the 6th Brigade of the Shabwah Defense Forces, led by Brigadier Ahmed Hussein Al-Harithi, along with other members of the Shabwah Defense Forces, were found responsible for this violation, unlawfully causing the death of Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdullah Abd Rabbuh Al-Bani. The Attorney General has commissioned a team to investigate the case, and several suspects have been referred to the judiciary for trial.

### Second: Arbitrary Arrest and Forced Disappearance

During the reporting period, the Commission has monitored and investigated 689 cases of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance carried out by various parties across Yemen. The Houthi group has been found responsible for 516 incidents of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, while the government forces and the affiliated security entities have been found responsible for 152 incidents.

The following are examples of incidents investigated by the Commission:

#### **A. Incidents attributed to the Houthi group:**

##### **1. Arbitrary arrest of 17 members of the Baha'i sect in Al Giraf, Capital City of Sana'a, on 25 May 2023**

According to the case file with the Commission, on 25/5/2023, armed gunmen affiliated with the Houthi group raided the house of the victim Abdullah Al-Olafi during a regular meeting of 17 members of the Baha'i community and arrested them.

According to the victims and their families, on 25/5/2023, armed gunmen affiliated with the Houthi group raided the house of Abdullah Al-Olafi during a regular meeting of 17 members of the Baha'i community, which included other members participating via Zoom. During the meeting, the house was raided by a large number of masked armed individuals, accompanied by seven women (known as Zainabiyat) who arrived in several armored vehicles, buses, and cars. Upon their arrival, the four-apartment house was searched, and the attendees were separated and interrogated in the house that was raided from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Their personal phones were confiscated, and they were transported to prison, including two children who were released on the same day. In addition to five women, the victims reported being subjected to insults, verbal abuse, and humiliation during their arrest and interrogation. They were also denied visitation rights after being transferred to the prison and were asked to sign undertakings not to engage in any activities related to the Baha'i community as a condition for their release.

#### **Findings:**

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, along with the evidence provided in the case file, the testimonies of the victims' relatives, witness statements, and the report of the monitoring and documentation team, it has been found that the above violation against the Baha'i community occurred. The Houthi group, more specifically the leadership of the Security and Intelligence Apparatus under the command of Abdul Karim Al Houthi, the Houthi-appointed Minister of Interior, and Abdul Hakim Al Khaiwani, bears responsibility for this violation.

##### **2. Arbitrary Arrest and Enforced Disappearance of (N, H, A, I) in Al-Mashtal Neighborhood, Musayk, Capital Sana'a, Sana'a, on 20/5/2022:**

According to the information included contained in the case file of the Commission, armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group are reported to have arrested the victim (N, H, A, I) in the qat market of Musayk, situated within the administrative region of the Capital Sana'a, Sana'a, on the 20 May, 2022, and subsequently, the victim's whereabouts remain unknown.

Based on the testimony of the informant (Z, H, A) and the witness statements provided by (S, A, L, A) and (M, A, A, M), it is alleged that around 1 pm on the 20 May, 2022, armed gunmen affiliated with the Houthi group, under the command of a supervisor Majed Al-Sada, forcibly abducted the victim (N, H, A, I) while the victim was present at the qat market in Musayk area of the Capital Sana'a, Sana'a. This act of abduction is believed to be in response to a Facebook post by the victim, criticizing the Houthi group and the Houthi leader, Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi. Subsequently, the victim is reported to have been transferred to the security department of Azal area, which is currently under the control of the Houthi group. When the victim's family became aware of his arrest, they imme-

diately approached the department of Azal area, where the appointed security director, identified as Abdul Karim Al-Siraji, informed them that the victim had been transferred to the Intelligence and Security Agency, an entity affiliated with the Houthi group. The decision to transfer the victim was reportedly made due to his social media posts, which were accused of incitement and collaboration with the enemy. However, upon returning to the Houthi group's leadership, specifically the Intelligence and Security Agency, the victim's family was met with denial over the presence of the victim within their custody and a lack of any information regarding his whereabouts. As a result, the victim remains under enforced disappearance, and his family has no knowledge of his current location or any updates since his initial arrest.

### Findings:

Through the investigations conducted by the Commission and the testimony of the informant and witnesses, the Commission found that the party responsible for this violation is the Houthi group, specifically their supervisor named Majed Al-Sadah, as well as the Houthi-appointed security director of Azal area, named Abdul Karim Al-Siraji, in addition to the leadership of the so-called Security and Intelligence Agency affiliated with the Houthi group, led by Abdul Karim Al Houthi, the Houthi-appointed Minister of Interior, and Abdul Hakim Al Khaiwani.

### **3. 3- Arbitrary arrest of the victim (M, H, A, A) and his son (H, M, H, A) in Al-Hada District, Dhamar Governorate, on 28/9/2022**

According to the case file with the Commission, on 28 September 2022, armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group in Al-Hadda District, Dhamar Governorate, apprehended the victim (M, H, A, A) who is 50 years old, as well as his minor son (H, M, H, A), and forcibly took them to an undisclosed location.

According to the testimony of the informant (Z, H, A) and the witnesses, including (M, A, A, A) and (A, Z, H), armed individuals from the Houthi group illegally occupied a significant portion of land in Al-Duais village, located in Amas subdistrict, Al-Hada District, Dhamar Governorate. The purpose of this occupation was to establish a military site under the control of the group and to use it as a check-point for inspecting travelers, given the village's proximity to the border of Marib Governorate. In response to the resistance of the victim (M, H, A, A), who is 50 years old, and several other residents who refused to relinquish their lands, the Houthi group arrested the victim's minor son (H, M, H, A), aged 15, on 27 September 2022. The following day, on 28 September 2022, the group launched a military operation by deploying three armed vehicles, stormed the victim's house, and apprehended him. He was subsequently taken to an undisclosed location. As of the present date, both the victim and his son remain in the custody of the Houthi group, and their exact whereabouts remain unknown. No communication or information-sharing has been permitted between them and their relatives.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, as well as the testimony of the informant and witnesses, it has been found that the party responsible for the violation is the Houthi group, particularly their security leadership in the Dhamar Governorate, including Mohammad Nasser Al-Bukhayti and Nasser Nasser Al-Bukhayti, both of whom were appointed by the group as the governor and district director respectively. Additionally, Fadhl Al-Harib, the security supervisor in the district, is also held accountable for this violation.

## **B. Incidents attributed to the legitimate government and affiliated entities:**

### **1. Arbitrary arrest and disappearance of the victim Mohammed Sheikh Fadhl in Al Mansoura District, Aden Governorate, on 26 May 2021.**

The incident can be summarized as follows: According to the case file held by the Commission, on 26 May 2021 at 6:00 PM, elements belonging to Security Belt Forces, arrested, Mohammed Sheikh Fadhl Haitham (56 years old), in the Cabona area, Mansoura district, Aden governorate, and took him to an unknown location.

According to the information included in the case file held by the Commission, as well as the testimonies of the victims and the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, including (B.A.R), (S.A.A), and (H.M.A), on 26 May 2021, during the victim's return to his house after participating in a protest against hunger, while he was riding in a taxi with his son and other passengers, including women, an armed group in military uniform aboard a military vehicle intercepted and stopped the bus. They then asked Mohammed Sheikh Fadhl Haitham to get off the bus and surrender himself to them. When questioned by the other people present in the bus about their affiliation and the reason for the arrest, the gunmen refused to identify themselves and insisted that the victim should get off the bus, causing fear and panic among the remaining passengers. After the victim's family learned about what had happened to him, they began to investigate and search for his location. They contacted the official security, military, and local authorities, but received no response. After a while, they received some news from a security leader in Al- Sha'ab district stating that those who arrested him were members of Security Belt Forces, and that they would interrogate him and release him. The victim is well known for his opposition to corruption in Aden, as he is one of the leaders of the protest movement. The victim's sons and daughters have requested written memoranda to the Attorney General and the Prosecutor General in order to take legal action to disclose his fate and the reason for his disappearance, and to allow them to visit him. The Commission has also sent a memorandum to relating entities but as of the time of writing this report, the Commission has not received any response.

#### **Findings:**

According to the findings of the Commission's investigations, based on the testimonies of the informants and witnesses, it has been found that the entity accountable for the perpetration of this violation is the Security Belt forces.

### **2. The enforced disappearance of the victim, Omar Ahmed Mohammed Ghalib Al-Nadhari, Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz Governorate, on 26 February, 2022:**

The incident can be summarized as follows: At 12:00 on Saturday, 26 February 2022, a team belonging to the Political Security Forces in Taiz governorate arrested the victim, Omar Ahmed Qaid Al-Nadhari (28 years old), near his home on 24 Street, below Al-Nour City in Al-Mudhaffar District, Taiz governorate, while he was leaving to go to the Friday prayer. He was then taken to the headquarters of Al- Mustaqbal Hospital building in Usayfrah, which is used as a detention center by the Political Security Forces. After seven months of his detention and allowing his family to visit him, the victim was subsequently disappeared and his fate or location was not disclosed to his family.

According to the information included in the case file with the Commission, as well as the state-

ment and complaint filed by the victim's family and the testimonies of the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, including A.Y.L and N.S.L, at 12:00 on Saturday, 26 February 2022, a military team consisting of 10 armed individuals affiliated with the Political Security Department in Taiz governorate, arrested Omar Ahmed Qaid Al-Nadhari (28 years old) near his home on 24 Street, Al-Nour City in Al-Mudhaffar District. He was on his way to the mosque to perform the noon prayer. He was taken to the Al- Mostaqbal Hospital building in Usayfrah, which is used as a temporary detention center by the branch of the Political Security Forces. He was not allowed to communicate with his family or receive visits from them until two months of searching and following up. When his parents inquired about the reason for their son's detention, one of the military personnel on duty at the detention center replied that it was due to their son's trip to Aden and his association with Al-Qaeda. The family continued to follow up on the release of their son and demanded that he be referred to the judiciary for a period of seven months during which they were allowed to visit him regularly and provide him with food and clothing. However, on 22 November 2022, the victim was transferred to the Police Department in Taiz and then his whereabouts became unknown. When the victim's mother submitted a written memorandum to the Police Director to know the whereabouts and fate of her son and to allow her to visit him, she was informed that it was requested by the Minister of Interior without specifying his place of detention. The Commission has drafted a memorandum to both the Police Director in Taiz to disclose the location and reason for the victim's disappearance and the procedures followed by the administration. However, there has been no response to their memorandum. A query memorandum was also drafted to the Head of the Political Security Agency, but the Commission has not received any response regarding the information and procedures related to the victim's disappearance, as of the date of writing this report.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission, the testimonies of the witnesses, and the complaint and statement of the victim's parents, as well as the written response from the Security Department to the victim's mother, it is found that the parties responsible for this violation are the Taiz Police Department led by General Director of Police Brigadier Mansour Al-Akhali and the Political Security Agency in Al-Mudhaffar District led by Colonel Abdul Wahid Sarhan.

### **3. The arrest and disappearance of the victim Dawood Ibrahim Hassan Qabsah, Al-Khawkhah District, Hodeidah Governorate, on 18 May 2022**

The incident, as detailed in the case file held by the Commission, can be summarized as follows: On 18 May 2022, at 12:00 PM, individuals belonging to the Hodeidah security Department, arrested, Dawood Ibrahim Hassan, and forcibly took him to an undisclosed destination.

Based on the testimony provided by the informant (B.R.A) and the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, including (N.K.B) and (B.A.A), it was reported that the victim, Dawood Ibrahim Hassan, departed from his residence in Al-Khawkhah City, located in Hodeidah Governorate, riding his motorbike. While standing near the Arab Summit Station to the north of Al-Khawkhah, individuals in military uniform and under the command of Colonel Najib Waraq, the director of Hodeidah Security, approached and apprehended the victim, subsequently transporting him to an undisclosed location. When the victim's brother and family members embarked on a search for him and implored the security director to disclose the whereabouts of Dawood Ibrahim, they were threat-

ened that should they persist in their quest, they would meet the same fate as him. As of the time of compiling this report, the victim remains forcibly disappeared, and his fate remains unknown.

### Findings:

Through the investigations conducted by the Commission, and the testimonies of the witnesses who were interviewed, it has been found that the party responsible for this violation is the Hodeidah Police Department, under the leadership of Colonel Najib Waraq.

#### **4. The arrest of Abdul Moein Ali Omar Al-Rami, in the area of Al-Madinah, Al-Madinah District, Marib Governorate, on 10/7/2021**

In accordance with the case file held by the Commission, on 10th July 2021, security personnel affiliated with the Political Security Agency - Marib branch apprehended a minor named Abdul Moein Ali Omar Al-Rami, who was employed as a labourer in a workshop. Subsequently, he was placed in the Political Security prison in Marib governorate unlawfully.

Based on the victim's account during the Commission's visit to the Political Security premises in Marib, as well as the testimonies provided by the victim's father and witnesses (M.A.A and M.A.M.A), on 10 July 2021, Abdul Moein Ali Omar Al-Rami, a 16-year-old individual from Tiyyab village in Dhi Na'im District, Al-Bayda governorate, departed from Bayhan District where he had been working in a workshop that was later closed. He relocated to Marib governorate to seek employment at another workshop, following the advice of his acquaintances. Through a relative, an arrangement had been made for him to work in a workshop in Marib city. However, upon his arrival, the victim was apprehended by security personnel and subsequently taken to the Political Security Agency headquarters in the governorate. He was detained there without the opportunity to inform his family about his whereabouts, disregarding his status as a minor. As his family completely lost contact with Abdul Moein and received no updates, they inquired about his location with acquaintances in Marib. After an extensive search, a resident from the victim's village informed them that their son was held in custody at the Political Security Agency. The victim remains detained to this day, and the Commission has drafted a memorandum regarding his case, addressed to the leadership of the Political Security Agency in Marib governorate. A response has been received.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission, as well as the testimonies of the victim and the witnesses, and the documents contained in the case file, it has been found by the Commission that the party responsible for this violation is the security personnel in Marib governorate, specifically the Political Security Agency in Marib, under the leadership of Colonel Naji Hatroom.

#### **5. The Arrest of Citizen Mohammed Ahmed Ali Bahidra in Al-Mukalla City, Hadramout governorate on Oct. 23, 2021**

The incident can be summarized as follows: At 7:00 PM on Oct. 23, 2021, a military checkpoint affiliated with the General Security arrested citizen Mohammed Ahmed Ali Bahidra and detained him for two weeks in Ba'aboud prison. According to the documents attached to the file with the Commission and the statements of the victim's family and the testimonies of witnesses who were heard by the Commission, namely (A.S.B) and (A.M.A), at exactly 7:00 PM, Oct. 23, 2021, the victim Mohammed Ahmed Ali Bahidra was returning from his work at the oil refinery where he works



while there were riots in Al-Mukalla. He was unaware that there was a search campaign being conducted by security forces. Upon reaching Al-Dalla roundabout, a military checkpoint stopped him and searched him. They found a smell of petrol on him due to his work at the refinery. However, they arrested him and placed him in Ba'aboud prison for two weeks without interrogating him. He was later released.

### Findings:

Based on the testimony of witnesses and the case file with the Commission, it was proven to the Commission that the Director General of Police in the Mukalla District in Hadhramaut Governorate was responsible for the arbitrary arrest to which the victim was subjected.

### Third: Torture and Ill-Treatment:

During the reporting period, the Commission has monitored and investigated a total of 20 cases of alleged torture, inhumane and degrading treatment committed by various parties in different regions across Yemen. The responsibility of the Houthi group has been proven in 15 cases of torture, while the responsibility of the army forces and security agencies affiliated with the government has been proven in 3 cases of torture, and two cases are attributed to other parties.

**The following are examples of some of the incidents that have been investigated by the Commission:**

#### A. The Houthi Group

##### 1. Torture Leading to the Death of the Victim Ibrahim Yahya Hashoul Al-Thamani - Sahar District - Saada Governorate on 27/12/2022

According to the case file and the attached photos and reports, and based on the testimony of the informant (F.D.A.S), as well as the witnesses (A.H., A.S., H.S., and F.D.A.S), on 27/12/2022, armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group, led by Abu Mohammed Al-Faheed, who was appointed by the Houthi group as the director of the Talh Security Department in Sahar District, along with eight armed individuals, abducted the victim Ibrahim Yahya Hashoul Al-Thamani while he was on his way to work at the Al-Ja'amlah Market in Majz Subdistrict, where he was selling vegetables. He was then taken in a military vehicle to the Security Department of Al- Talh Market in Sahar District, Saada Governorate, which is under the control of the Houthi group. According to the informant and witness testimonies, the victim was subjected to severe forms of torture, including beatings, flogging, and electric shocks for 48 hours until he died on 29/12/2023. The Commission has obtained multiple photographs of the victim's body showing evidence of brutal torture all over his body, which are kept in the case file.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations, the testimony of the informant, witnesses, reports, and photos held by the Commission, it has been determined that the responsible party for committing this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group in Saada Governorate, particularly Abu Mohammed Al-Faheed, who was appointed by the Houthi group as the director of Al-Talh Department in Sahar District, Saada Governorate, and the armed individuals who participated in the abduction and torture of the victim.



## **2. Torture till death of: Abdrabu Abdullah Saad Raji, Al-Barqa village, Al Salim Subdistrict, Kitaf District, Saada Governorate on 05.02.2022**

According to the case file held by the Commission, on 2/7/2021, armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group kidnapped the victim, Abdulrahman Abdullah Saad Raji, from the village of Al-Barqa, Al Salim Subdistrict, Kitaf District, Saada Governorate, and transferred him to the preventive security prison in Saada Governorate, where he was tortured to death.

According to the statement of the informant (Y.A.F.Z) and the testimonies of the witnesses heard by the Commission, including (S.M.M.N) and (N.A.S.M), it was revealed that while the victim, Abdul Rahman Abdullah Saad Raji, was inside the qat market in the Dares area, Sanaa Capital Sana'a, he was attacked by a number of armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group, who abducted him and forcibly disappeared him for four months without his family knowing any information about him, neither the reason for his abduction nor his whereabouts. After conducting a search and investigation by his family through some of their friends who had relationships with some of the leaders affiliated with the Houthi group, the family managed to obtain some information about him, indicating that he was transferred from Sanaa Capital Municipality to the preventive security prison in Saada Governorate, affiliated with the Houthi group. According to the informant and the witnesses, the victim was subjected to severe torture there, which resulted in his death. On 5/2/2022, the leadership of the Houthi group contacted the victim's family and requested their presence to receive his body from the Republican Hospital in Saada Governorate.

The informant and the witnesses also reported that the victim had been an opponent of the Houthi group since 2004 and had been displaced from his hometown in Al Salim Subdistrict to the center of the province, Saada City, until the group took control of the provincial center. In 2011, he fled to Sana'a City out of fear for himself and his family, settling in the Bani Al-Harith District, Dares neighborhood, Sanaa Capital Sana'a, where he remained until the date of his arrest.

### **Findings:**

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission and the testimony provided by the informant and witnesses, the Commission has found that the Houthi group, specifically the leaders affiliated with the preventive security in Saada Governorate, and the armed individuals involved in the abduction are responsible for the violation.

## **3. Torture of the Victim Abdul Hamid Jaafar - Al-Ganad Village - Al-Ta'aziyah Subdistrict - Taiz Governorate on 24/8/2016**

The incident can be summarized as follows: On 24/8/2016, armed individuals affiliated with the Houthi group arrived in the Al-Jandiyah area of Al-Ta'aziyah Subdistrict, Taiz Governorate. They stormed the house of the victim, Abdelhamid Mohamed Jaafar, in Al-Jand and opened fire on him, causing injuries. They then transported him to the Salih Prison in Al-Houban, where he was tortured. The incident resulted in permanent disability, and he remained in detention for three years.

According to the case file, the testimony of the victim, the medical reports, and the testimonies of several witnesses (M.Kh.H, M.S.S, M.S.A, H.D.S, F.S, and R.A.Y), at 6:30 PM on 24/8/2016, armed individuals affiliated with the Houthi group in the Al-Ganad area of Al-Ta'aziyah Subdistrict besieged the house of the victim, Abdul Hamid Mohammed Jaafar (56 years old), who worked as a

teacher in the education sector. They demanded him to come out of his house because he was ordered to be arrested by orders of the supervisor of the Houthi group in the Al-Howban area, Mansour Ali Al-Lokomi, due to his writings criticizing the group on social media and his continuous criticism of the group. The armed individuals fired shots at the victim's house to instill fear in him and his family. After the victim came out to them, one of the armed individuals shot him in the knee, while another hit him on the head with the butt of his rifle. When his wife tried to help him, she was also attacked, and they took the phone belonging to her husband, which she was holding. A group of armed individuals entered the house and looted several possessions, including gold, cash, and the victim's personal weapon. They then took the victim, who was injured, and put him in the Salih Prison, which is under the supervision of Ali Hamdan Al-Kumayl. He was kept there for six months in a dark room without any source of light. This room is known among the prisoners as the "Aden Room." The victim suffered severe vision impairment due to the lack of light. Since the first day of his arrest, the guards and investigators had been inflicting pain on his injured leg and beating him with sticks. This happened despite him undergoing a quick knee surgery at the hospital and being returned to the prison on the same day. The torture of the victim continued for a long period, including electric shocks, suspending him from a ceiling fan, and beating him with sticks all over his body, which caused bleeding from his head and nose. The torture resulted in several complications related to the knee injury, and he became unable to stand, even to go to the bathroom, except by crawling. The victim was also threatened with the arrest of his daughter, who is a journalist named Ruba.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of the informant, witnesses, and medical reports, it has been found that the party responsible for this violation is the Houthi group's leadership in Taiz Governorate, led by the person appointed by the Houthi group as the director of Security in Taiz, Abdul Khaliq Al-Gunaid, the supervisor of the Houthi group in the Al-Howban area, Mansour Ali Al-Lokomi, and the supervisor of the Salih Prison, Ali Hamdan Al-Kumayl.

## B. The legitimate government and its affiliated entities

### 1. The torture of the victim, Ali Mohamed Saleh Al-Doukah, in the District of Sheikh Othman, Aden Governorate, on 8 July 2022

According to the findings of the Commission's investigations, on 8 July 2022, a group of police officers from Sheikh Othman arrested the victim, Ali Mohammed Saleh Al-Doukhah, and transferred him to the Sheikh Othman Police Station, where he was subjected to torture and lost his life four months later due to the torture.

According to the information provided by the informant and the documents and reports included in the case file, as well as the testimonies of witnesses, including H.M.Y.A and A.A.A.A, on 8 July 2022, officers from the Sheikh Othman Police Station arrested the victim, Ali Mohamed Saleh Al-Doukah, and took him from a building in Sheikh Othman area, where he worked as a guard, to Sheikh Othman Police Station in a military vehicle belonging to the Al- Masharee Camp. During his four-month detention in the police station, the victim was subjected to torture and was not allowed to communicate with his family, who were searching for him. Social media sites circulated

a photo of the victim showing him handcuffed with signs of torture and being lean due to deprivation of food and water. When his family received the news and went to visit him at the Sheikh Othman Police Station, they were informed by the station's leadership that they could not see him at the moment. The next day, it was revealed that the victim had died in Sheikh Othman Police Station due to torture.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of witnesses, the documents and attachments included in the case file, it has been found that the party responsible for this violation is the leadership and personnel of Sheikh Othman Police Station, led by the acting director, Mohammed Ahmed Maqboul Al-Sakrah, who was appointed on 5 July 2022.

## **2. Arrest and torture of the victim, Awadh Ahmed Al-Duqeil, in the District of Mukalla, Hadramout Governorate, on 25 November 2022**

The incident can be summarized as follows, according to the case file of the Commission: On 25th November 2022 at 5:00 PM, the military checkpoint in Al-Shiqeen area in Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate, arrested the Awadh Ahmed Mohammed Awadh Al-Duqeil (56 years old) and took him to the detention center at Rayyan Airport.

According to the case file of the Commission, the testimony and complaint of the victim's family, the testimony of witnesses, including A.A.S and A.S.R, and the statements of the victim interviewed by the Commission, on 25 November 2022 at 5:00 PM, while the victim was passing through Al-Shiqeen checkpoint in Mukalla District, Hadramout Governorate, the checkpoint personnel stopped the bus carrying the victim and several other passengers returning from Aden to their homes in Mukalla. They got them down, searched them, and checked their ID cards before allowing the bus to proceed after detaining the victim, Awadh Ahmed Al-Duqeil, and informing him that it was a procedural matter and mere suspicion. He was told that he would be taken to his home once the procedures were completed. However, after some time, the victim was surprised by the presence of a military vehicle instructing him to get on board. He was then transported to Rayyan Prison in Mukalla. As a result, the victim's family followed up with the security authorities and met with the governor of the governorate to inquire about his situation. The governor assured them that he was in good health and not accused of anything, and that the matter was a mere suspicion and They must file a complaint to the entity responsible which arrested him. However, the victim remained in detention for about two months, during which he was deprived of the right to see his family and communicate with them and According to the statement of the victim's wife, he was arrested on 10/06/2016 AD and not released until 14/03/2019 AD

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission regarding the incident, along with the evidence and testimonies presented in the case file and the statements given by the victim, it has been found that the entity responsible for the violation is the leadership second military zone.

## Fourth: House Bombings:

During the reporting period, the Commission monitored and investigated 20 cases of house bombings. It should be noted here that this type of violation is only committed by the Houthi group, as mentioned in the findings of the Commission's investigations in some of the examples mentioned in this report.

### 1. **bombing the house belonging to Abdrabuh Mohammed Abdu Al-Bukhayti, in Hubaysh District, Ibb Governorate, on 4 January 2020**

The incident can be summarized as follows: On 4 January 2020, at 4:00 PM, armed militants affiliated with the Houthi group placed explosive devices in Abd Rabbo Mohammed Abdo Al-Bukhayti's (44 years old) house, located in the village of Adhakum, Hubaysh District, Ibb Governorate. Subsequently, the militants detonated the house and levelled it to the ground.

According to the enclosed photos and reports, as well as the testimonies of the victims and witnesses, including (Y.A., A.A., and K.A.M.A.), it was determined that on 4 January 2020, at 4:00 PM, the armed Houthi group conducted a security operation by deploying a group of militants in military vehicles to the village of Adhakum in Hubaysh District. The purpose of this operation was to apprehend the victim, Abd Rabbo Mohammed Abdo Al-Bukhayti (44 years old), on charges of rebellion against the group. However, upon their arrival at the village, the local residents rejected the arrest of the victim, given his status as a village sheikh. Consequently, the Houthi group reinforced their military campaign with another group of militants who stormed the village after shelling it and forcibly displacing its inhabitants from their residences. The militants then planted several explosive devices in the aforementioned victim's house, subsequently detonating it entirely and levelling it to the ground.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, the testimonies of the victims, the statements of witnesses, and the photos attached to the case file, it has been found that the party responsible for the violation is the leadership of the Houthi group, led by their security supervisor in Hubaysh District, Abu Nawaf Al-Hitari, as well as the leadership of the group in Ibb Governorate, headed by Brigadier General Abdul Wahid Mohammed Salah, the governor of the governorate.

### 2. **bombing of victims' houses: (G, Y, S, S) and (N, A, G, S), Zawqar village - Al-Ashah District - Amran Governorate, on 29/6/2022.**

According to the case file of the Commission and the testimony of the informant (A, A, G, S) and the witnesses (A, M, M, A) and (S, A, A, A), on Wednesday, 29/6/2022, armed elements from the Houthi group, led by the so-called Hamid Kraa, the Houthi-appointed as the director of the Al-Ashah District Security, stormed Zowqar village in the Al-Ashah District of Amran Governorate with a number of armed vehicles. They then surrounded the village, raided the houses of the victims (G, Y, S, S) and (N, A, G, S), forcibly evicted their families, looted and confiscated their belongings, planted explosives in its corners, and detonated and completely destroyed them.

### Findings:

Through the investigations conducted by the Commission in this incident and the testimonies of

the informant and witnesses, it has been found that the party responsible for the violation is the Houthi group and its security chief, Hamid Kraa, the Houthi-appointed director of Al-Ashah District, Amarn Governorate.

### **Fifth: Attacks on the Freedom of opinion and freedom of expression**

#### **Introduction:**

During the reporting period, the Commission has investigated six cases of assault on freedom of opinion and expression, committed by various parties in different areas across Yemen. The responsibility of the Houthi group has been proven in three cases, while the responsibility of the army forces and the security authorities affiliated with the government has been proven in three cases.

**The following are examples of some incidents investigated by the Commission:**

#### **A. Incidents attributed to the Houthi group:**

- 1. The detention of the media influencers: (1) Ahmed Hajr (2) Mustafa Al-Mawmari (3) Ahmed Yahya Allaw and (4) Mohammed Al-Misbahi, Capital Sanaa on 25 and 27 December 2022 and 1 January 2023**

Based on the investigation carried out by the Commission and the data, information, and evidence collected by its field monitoring team, the Houthi group, represented by its so-called Security and Intelligence Agency, arrested the four activists, Ahmed Ahmed Hajr, Mustafa Mohamed Ahmed Al-Mawmari, Ahmed Yahya Allaw, and Mohammed Ahmed Al-Misbahi, from various locations in Sana'a. Some of them were abducted from the street, while others had their homes directly raided and were arrested in front of their children. This was due to their criticism of the situation in areas under the control of the Houthi group on social media. After their arrest, the victims were taken to the so-called Security and Intelligence Department, where they were kept for a period of time. They were then referred to the so-called Public Prosecution and the specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, on various charges that aimed to intimidate the victims and suppress freedom of opinion and expression. The mentioned court is under the authority of the Houthi group. After a trial that lasted for two months, separate sentences ranging from six months to three years were issued against the victims, followed by what is known as "pardoning" and their release.

#### **Findings:**

The Commission has concluded its investigation into this incident and has confirmed that the actions inflicted upon the four mentioned media activists constitute a violation of the freedom of opinion and expression. Furthermore, it has been found that the Houthi group, under the leadership of the Security and Intelligence Apparatus, headed by Abdul Karim Al Houthi, the Houthi-appointed Minister of Interior, and Abdul Hakim Al Khaiwani, as well as the President and members of the Special Criminal Court in the Capital City of Sana'a, are responsible for perpetrating this violation.

- 2. Arrest and torture of journalist (A, W, A, L), Mif'ah Ans District - Dhamar Governorate, on 30/7/2022.**

According to the incident files in the Commission, on 30 July 2020, armed elements from the Houthi group arrested the journalist and human rights activist (A, W, A, L) from the Al-Maifah district in Dhamar governorate, due to his opposition to the group and his posts on social media.

According to the testimonies of the witnesses (H, S, M, A) and (M, A, M, A) interviewed by the Commission, the victim (A, W, A, L) was a journalist and practiced his media activities on social media. Due to this, members of the Houthi group were constantly harassing him and threatening him through various individuals from his area. Because of these threats, he was forced to go into hiding and move between his own house and the houses of relatives for several months. Then, on 30 July 2022, armed elements from the Houthi group raided the victim's house and arrested him in front of his children and wife. He was then transferred to the security department in Al-Maifah district, where he was detained for three hours. Afterward, he was transferred to the unit department in Dhamar city, where he was interrogated. Then he was again transferred to the so-called security and intelligence agency under the authority of the Houthi group in Dhamar governorate, where he was forcibly disappeared from his family for three months. He was allowed to contact them after that. During his detention in this facility, he was held in a solitary cell, only allowed to use the bathroom twice a day. He was continuously interrogated for three months, during which he was subjected to verbal abuse and physical torture, including beating, slapping, kicking, and death threats. The supervisors of the investigation were Yahya Abdullah Al-Sharafi and Wassim Al-Washli, who directed several allegations against him, including spying for the legitimate government and the Arab coalition. After three months of imprisonment in solitary confinement, he was transferred to a cell with over 30 prisoners from different provinces. Due to the terror and torture he experienced, he suffered a stroke that caused a severe illness which nearly killed him. The Houthi group responsible for the detention did not provide him with medical treatment. Furthermore, he was forced to record confessions to several fabricated charges during the investigation, which were recorded on video and signed by him in the investigation reports. After that, after eight months of his arrest and through mediation and tribal guarantees from respected figures and social personalities from his region, and after paying large sums of money as bribes and extortion to supervisors affiliated with the Houthi group by the victim's family in order to release him, he was subjected to house arrest and prevented from publishing, and was forced to stay under surveillance in his own house.

### Findings:

In light of the investigations carried out by the Commission into the incident, and the testimony of the informant and witnesses, the Commission has found that the Houthi group and the leadership of the security and intelligence agency in Dhamar Governorate, led by Yahya Abdullah Al-Sharafi, as well as Wasim Al-Washali, the head of investigations, and Abu Abdul Malik Motahar Sharaf, the security supervisor for the group in Mifaa Ans district, are responsible for this violation.

### **3. Arrest of the activist journalist Majed Ahmed Hassan Al-Bazli, on 8 February 2015, in Habrah, Shu'ob district, Capital Sana'a [Capital Sana'a]**

The incident can be summarized as follows: Armed elements affiliated with the Houthi group arrested the media activist, Majed Ahmed Hassan Al-Bazli, on 2/8/2015, and took him to the detention center in the political security in Sana'a, where he was detained for approximately eight years.

According to the testimony of the victim, who was interviewed by the Commission after his release, and the testimonies of the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, including A.H.S, A.A.S, and M.M.Y., at 12:00 pm on 2/8/2015, while Majed Ahmed Hassan Ali Al-Bazli (24 years old), was leaving his house in Al-Hafah Street in the Habrah district, Sana'a governorate, two



cars arrived, one of which had taxi license plates and the other was a Hilux vehicle, with armed individuals affiliated with the Houthi group on board. They stopped the victim, tied his hands behind his back, blindfolded him to prevent him from seeing, and took him to the political security prison located in Haddah. They then placed him in a solitary cell and interrogated him on charges of writing against the group on social media, inciting against it, and supporting legitimacy and the coalition forces. He was also a member of the so-called “Anti-Coup Movement” that was formed and active since the Houthi group took control of the capital, Sana’a, in September 2014. The victim was subjected to torture and beatings during the interrogation, including on his legs and hands. He was also suspended and tied for long hours, and his legs were chained for three months. In addition, he was deprived of visits and his family was not informed of his whereabouts until six months after his detention. The victim remained in detention for a period of seven years and eight months until he was released on 16/4/2023 through an exchange deal facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission, as well as the victim’s testimony and the testimonies of the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, it has been found that the Houthi group, along with the leadership of the Security and Intelligence Agency in the Capital Sana’a, and the leader within the group known as Yahya Serai, is responsible for this violation.

## B. Incidents attributed to the legitimate government and its affiliated authorities:

### 1. Assault on the building of the Yemeni Journalists Union - Al Tawahy District - Aden Governorate, on 1/3/2023

The incident can be summarized as follows: Forces affiliated with the Security Belt in Al-Tawahi District in the governorate of Aden stormed the building of the Yemeni Journalists’ Union branch in Aden, seized it, expelled the journalists present at the Union headquarters, and prevented them from entering. This occurred on 1/3/2023.

Based on the case file with the Commission, the report of the Commission’s team responsible for investigation, the documents pertaining to the ownership of the Journalists’ Union building, and the testimonies of the victims and witnesses interviewed by the Commission, including (A.K.N), (M.S.A), and (F.Q.A), it has been found that on 1/3/2023 at 10:00 AM, elements affiliated with the Security Belt forces in the interim capital of Aden, , stormed the building of the Yemeni Journalists’ Union branch in Aden, located on the main street in Al-Tawahi District near Victoria Park, using military force. They surrounded the building, threatened the branch director, journalist Mahmoud Thabit, with physical harm, expelled him from his office and the Union building. Afterwards, Arafat Al-Wakala and his armed elements removed the Union sign from the building, and seized the building that has been owned by the Yemeni Journalists’ Union since before 1990.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations carried out by the Commission, the statements provided by the leadership of the union, the testimonies given by the witnesses, and the information and documents included in the case file, it has been ascertained that the entity responsible for this violation is the Security Belt operating in the interim capital of Aden.



## • Section 3: Violations related to women:

### Introduction:

In its previous reports, the Commission clarified the legal framework through which it investigates human rights violations, including those related to women's rights and their protection. This includes national legislation, as well as international conventions and agreements, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified by Yemen. Additionally, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions on the protection of women's rights during armed conflict, especially protection from gender-based violence. Due to the dangerous situation women are experiencing in Yemen, amidst the weakened authority of the state and the escalation of war in many Yemeni regions, resulting in violations affecting all sectors of Yemeni society, particularly the most vulnerable groups, including women, the Commission has given significant attention to this aspect.

To further emphasize this, in addition to addressing human rights violations against women within the various types of violations documented in the Commission's reports, the Commission presents the following examples related to women's rights violations to illustrate the level and forms of violations perpetrated against them in all regions and by all parties involved.

#### **1. the arrest, torture, and disappearance of the victim (Y.S.A) in Musayk neighborhood, Azal District, Sana'a, from 8/4/2020 until 10/10/2022**

The incident can be summarized as follows: At approximately 2:00 PM on 8/4/2020, armed elements affiliated with the so-called Zainabiyyat, belonging to the Houthi group, raided the residence of the victim (Y.S.A) in Musayk neighborhood, Azal District, Sana'a, and arrested her. She was forcibly disappeared for two years and released on 13/7/2022. Then, she was arrested again and forcibly disappeared on 10/10/2022, and her whereabouts remain unknown to this day.

Based on the statements of the informant (A.M.S.A) and the testimonies of the witnesses heard by the Commission, including (H.A.S.H) and (A.A.A), on 7/4/2020 at 8:00 pm, when the victim asked the neighborhood chief for an extra gas card seller, Yahya Al-Olafi, in Musayk neighborhood for an extra card for her family's additional gas cylinder needs, a verbal altercation ensued between them. The altercation escalated due to her criticism of him and the actions of the Houthi group, including their leader Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi, after Al-Olafi responded by stating that the gas was a gift from the leader and threatening her for criticizing the group and its leader.

The next day, at 2:00 PM on 8/4/2020, an armed military vehicle carrying several armed elements of Al- Zainabiyyat, led by Amat Al-Haqq, raided the victim's house. She was asked to go with them without any objection or raising her voice, or else she would be subjected to physical assault. After she got into the vehicle, she was taken to an unknown location.

Without informing her family of her place of detention and without providing any information about her, the Houthi group forced her into disappearance, and the victim's family searched for her through all the security agencies affiliated with the group and with the help of individuals and friends who had connections to the leadership of those agencies. However, they did not receive any information about her until about two years later, specifically on 13/7/2022, when the victim reappeared at the doorstep of her house. She was in a difficult and poor condition, showing clear

signs of exhaustion and physical fatigue. Her body was frail, her hair had been shaved, and her nails were removed. Immediately, the victim's family rushed her to the hospital while she was in a delirious state, with her mind almost disturbed, unable to recognize even her own family members. She remained hospitalized for two days before being discharged to her home after her condition stabilized. According to the informant and witnesses, the victim stated that she had been subjected to severe torture throughout the investigation period, including electric shocks, nail removal, having her hair shaved, and being forced to lick dirt off the ground with her tongue, all because of her criticism of Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, the leader of the Houthi group. She was also forced to work in bread production for the group's members from morning until late in the evening. The victim mentioned that she was held captive in a building called the Preventive Security Apparatus affiliated with the Houthi group in the Capital city of Sana'a.

Approximately two months after the victim's release, specifically on 10/10/2022 at 7:00 PM, a group of Zainabiyyat elements, led by the commander Sukaynah Al-Aqeeli, raided the victim's house again, arresting her from her home and taking her away in a military vehicle to an undisclosed location where she remains forcibly disappeared by the Houthi group without her family knowing any information about her or her whereabouts as of the writing of this report.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission into the incident, and the statements of the informant and witnesses, the Commission found that the party responsible for this violation is the leadership of the so-called Security and Intelligence Apparatus affiliated with the Houthi group, the leader Amat Al-Haqq, the member Sukinah Al-Aqeeli, as well as the neighborhood chief of Musayk neighborhood, Yahya Al-Olafi. Additionally, the individuals and elements involved in the arrest and torture of the victim within the Preventive Security Apparatus, affiliated with the Houthi group in Capital city of Sana'a, are also responsible.

## 2. The incident of a landmine explosion and the injury of the victim Amal Mohammed Ali in Maqbanah District, Taiz Governorate, on 22/6/2023

Based on the case file of the Commission, and the documents and reports attached to the file, an anti-personnel landmine exploded leaving Amal Mohammed Ali injured while returning to her residence in the AL-Abdullah Subdistrict of Maqbanah District, Taiz Governorate, at exactly 6:30 pm on 22/06/2023.

The name of the victim:	No.	Name	Age
	1	Amal Mohammed Ali Moqbil	34 years old

According to the testimonies of the victims' relatives, and the report of the field investigation team appointed by the Commission, as well as the testimonies of the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, including (M. A. N. T.), (M. A. S.), and (H. M. A. M.), on Thursday, 22 June 2023, at 6:00 pm, while the victim, Amal Mohamed Ali Maqbil, was returning home after being forced to go out to graze her livestock, even though she had given birth just twenty days ago. While she was herding her cow and three sheep, which she owned and depended on for her livelihood, the cow stepped on a landmine, causing the death of the cow and sheep. The shrapnel from the ex-

plosion also hit Amal, causing fractures in her back and legs, as well as several injuries on various parts of her body. After hearing the explosion, her brother and some villagers went to help her. However, armed Houthi militants present nearby opened fire on them, preventing them from assisting the victim. After a long time, the neighbors managed to pull her out and transport her to the health center in Hamir Subdistrict, Muhabinah District which is closest to their area for initial medical treatment. She was later transferred to Al-Thawrah Hospital in Taiz City, which took about 7 hours due to the closure of major roads, forcing the medical staff to take rough mountainous routes to reach the city.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission in this incident, the testimonies of the witnesses interviewed by the Commission, and the evidence attached to the case file, the Commission found that the responsible party for this violation is the leadership of the Houthi group, stationed in Muhabinah District, under the leadership of Ameen Humaydan, the General Supervisor of Coastal Affairs, and Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Sharafi, the appointed commander of the Taiz Axis by the group. They planted anti- personnel landmines in areas where women are present, such as pastures and water sources.

### **3. Forced Displacement of Galilah Moqbil Ha'il in Al-Hawd Village - Al-Silw District, Taiz Governorate, on 28/9/2016**

The incident, according to the investigation file of the Commission, can be summarized as follows: On 28/9/2016 at 8:00 am, Galila Moqbil Ha'il and her family, consisting of 14 members, were threatened and forcibly displaced from their home in Al-Siyarah Village, Al-Silw District, Taiz Governorate.

According to the testimonies of the victim and the witnesses heard by the Commission, including (J. S. A.), (A. A. M. A.), and (H. A. A. S.), at 8:00 AM on 28/9/2016, Houthi militants came to Al-Siyarah Village in Al-Silw District, specifically to the house of the victim, Galilah Moqbil Ha'il (60 years old), and demanded that she and her children, a total of 14 family members, including her sons, daughters, sons' wives, and grandchildren, leave the house. They threatened to blow up the house if she didn't comply, despite Galilah's attempts to convince them that she and her family had no other place to live and could not afford to rent another place. However, they insisted on her evacuation along with her family. Galilah was forced to evacuate her family while she remained in the house that she built herself on the land where she lived throughout her married life, to safeguard it from any attacks or looting. But the Houthi militants returned the next day, fired shots at her house, and demanded that she leave her house without taking any belongings, only her personal clothes.

### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission and the testimonies of the witnesses who were interviewed by the Commission, it is found that the Houthi group, led by the appointed commander of Al- Silw Front, known as Colonel Hamoud Al-Shaibah, is responsible for forcibly displacing the victim and her family from their home, in violation of all rules, customs, principles, and provisions of international humanitarian law, particularly concerning the protection of civilians, especially women.

#### 4. Landmine Explosion affecting the victim Maryam Alawi Abdul Kareem Al-Hishami in Tayyab area - Dhi Na'im District - Al-Bayda Governorate, on 1/9/2021

The incident, according to the case file of the Commission, is summarized as follows: On 1/9/2021, at 5:00 pm, an anti-personnel landmine exploded, injuring the victim, Maryam Alawi Abdul Kareem Al-Hishami, who is of unknown age, in Tayyab area - Dhi Na'im District, Al-Bayda Governorate. The explosion also resulted in the death of a number of her sheep.

According to the testimonies of the victim's relatives and the witnesses heard by the Commission, including (M. A. M.) and (S. A. S.), on Wednesday at 11:00 am, on 1/9/2021, the victim was grazing her sheep as usual in the surrounding mountains of her village in an area known as Henkat Al-Abeed. These sheep were her only source of livelihood. While she was herding, several landmines planted by the Houthi group on the outskirts of Tayyab village, to protect their positions in the area, exploded. The explosion resulted in the death of 25 of the victim's sheep, while miraculously she escaped imminent death after being startled and shocked by the explosion. The local residents immediately rushed to assist the victim after hearing the explosion but were prevented from approaching or taking photos of the area by Houthi group members.

#### Findings:

Based on the investigations conducted by the Commission and the evidence obtained, it was found that the party responsible for these violations is the Houthi group, led by the supervisor of the group in Al-Bayda Governorate, Hamoud Mohammed Shattan, the supervisor of the group in the district, Abdullah Mohammed Al-Riami, and Murad Abdullah Al-Riami.

#### • Section 4: Incidents of US Drone Strikes

During the reporting period, the Commission completed the monitoring and investigation of four incidents of alleged violations related to US drones targeting civilians. These incidents were documented, and information was collected about them and investigated by the Commission. Figures indicate the death of seven victims, all of whom were civilians.

#### The following is an example of the incidents investigated by the Commission:

##### 1. Drone strike of civilians, Al-Sum'a District - Al-Bayda Governorate, on 29/3/2018.

The incident, according to the case file of the Commission, can be summarized as follows: On 29/3/2018 at 2:00 PM, an American drone launched a missile at a Toyota Land Cruiser carrying five civilians from Al-Mandhari family in Al-Sum'a District, Al-Bayda Governorate. Three people were killed immediately, and two were injured. The injured were immediately taken to the hospital, but one of them died, while the other, who was the driver of the vehicle, underwent treatment for serious injuries.

Names and details of the victims	No.	Name	Age	Type of violation
	1	Hajj Salem Mohammed Al Mandhari	72 years old	killed
	2	Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Al Mandhari	55 years old	killed
	3	Abdullah Saleh Ahmed Al Mandhari	47 years old	killed

	1	Nasser Ahmed Omar Al Mandhari	50 years old	killed
	3	Adel Abdullah Al Mandhari	42 years old	Injured

The Commission monitoring team moved to the location of the bombing and listened to the statements of several victims and eyewitnesses, including Mr. Y. M. and Mr. A. A. M., who testified that at 2:00 PM on 29/3/2018, a car carrying five civilians was bombed. They were headed to one of the sheikhs of Al-Sum'a to resolve a land dispute, as is customary among tribes. While passing through the public asphalt road connecting Al-'Uqlah and the center of Al-Sum'a District, it was targeted by a missile from an American drone. Immediately after the incident, residents rushed to the scene and witnessed three charred bodies as a result of the fire that broke out in the car due to the missile. Two of the passengers were seriously injured, and residents transported them for medical treatment at Al-Sum'a Hospital. One of the victims died upon arrival at the hospital, while the fifth victim underwent treatment. The car was completely destroyed due to the bombing. According to the testimony of witnesses and the statements of local residents, all the victims were civilians known in the community to have no affiliation with any terrorist organizations.

### Findings:

Based on the Commission's investigations into this incident and other related incidents involving US drone strikes on civilian individuals, the Commission concluded that the responsibility lies with the US forces, in cooperation with the Yemeni government that allowed such interventions leading to these violations.

## Challenges and Difficulties

After over 8 years of field work investigating human rights violations, the Commission has managed to overcome various challenges typically encountered in documenting and investigating serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. However, like any effective work in protecting human rights and seeking justice for the victims, especially in the midst of war and multiple parties involved, the National Commission, along with other local and international institutions and organizations, has faced challenges, including:

1. Non-compliance with humanitarian ceasefires, continuous acts of violence, targeting of civilians, landmine planting, and resulting casualties, all of which have hindered the Commission's efforts.
2. Lack of cooperation from some parties to the conflict, delayed responses to the Commission's inquiries and queries regarding allegations of violations committed by their affiliates.
3. Reluctance of certain groups of victims to come forward and report violations, due to the sensitivity of the violations and the difficulty of providing evidence, particularly gender-based violence.
4. Difficulty of movement in districts affected by the war, due to blocked main roads, minefields, and rough secondary routes.
5. Deterioration of public services in most areas of the Republic, especially communication, electricity, and roads, which made it challenging for the monitors to reach remote areas, communicate with locals, and receive information from them.

## Recommendations:

Despite the recommendations presented in the Commission's previous ten reports and its special report on prisons and detention centers in Yemen, several recommendations have not been implemented by the parties involved, which has contributed to the continuation of ongoing violations that the Commission has investigated. In the present report, the Commission further clarifies the responsibility of each party for various types of human rights and international humanitarian law violations. The Commission puts forth the following recommendations to all parties to the conflict and individually:

### To All Parties:

1. Implement all recommendations previously provided by the National Commission in its reports.
2. Renew the humanitarian ceasefire initiated in April 2022 and abide by its provisions, including cessation of war, violence, and military operations, lifting the siege on Taiz, and reopening major roads between governorates to reduce violations and uphold human rights.
3. Facilitate and support the work of international, regional, and local humanitarian organizations to ensure the delivery of aid to all deserving individuals across the Yemeni Republic.
4. Enable safe access to resources for all citizens in all areas.

5. Cease extrajudicial killings, unlawful arrests, forced disappearances, and restrictions on freedoms. Immediately and unconditionally release all detainees and forcibly disappeared individuals, refraining from using exceptional circumstances as justification.
6. Protect children, prevent them from experiencing the six grave violations, and prevent violence and discrimination against women and marginalized individuals.
7. Stop any repressive practices against activists, human rights defenders, and journalists, safeguarding their rights and the society's right to access information.
8. Collaborate with the National Commission, facilitate their work, and provide them with all necessary information in accordance with resolutions issued by the Human Rights Council since 2015, including the latest resolution in October 2022.

### Recommendations to the Legitimate Government:

1. Cease all illegal arrest operations in areas under government control and immediately release all detainees without any legal grounds, in all unlawful detention centers and prisons.
2. Enhance the capacities of the justice and security sectors, urging the judiciary to fulfill its essential role in law enforcement and human rights protection, establishing specialized courts and prosecution offices to address human rights violations, ensuring accountability.
3. Provide protection and care services for children and women, especially survivors of violence and internally displaced persons from war-affected areas.
4. Adopt a comprehensive economic policy to halt the currency deterioration and alleviate the suffering of citizens, ensuring the timely payment of salaries to employees in all governorates of the Republic.
5. Activate all public service institutions, such as health, electricity, water, and sanitation, ensuring that citizens receive their social rights as stipulated in national laws and international conventions ratified by Yemen.

### Recommendations to the Houthi Group:

1. Cease violence against civilians, including sniper attacks and targeting with drones, and abide by the humanitarian ceasefire.
2. Stop targeting civilian properties, economic and vital facilities, oil ports, and threatening ships.
3. Cease recruiting and using children in the war, take measures to prevent their recruitment, and ensure non-recurrence of such practices.
4. Halt sectarian amendments in the curricula, refrain from using schools and government facilities for sectarian cultural workshops and summer camps.
5. Refrain from harassing and extorting traders, confiscating the properties and assets of citizens.
6. Cease arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and intimidation of international institutions and civil society organizations. Release all detainees and restrict measures that impede



freedom of opinion and expression, particularly targeting political opponents, activists, and civil society organizations.

7. Immediately stop all forms of gender-based violence, both within and outside detention centers, and restrictions on women's movement and mobility.
8. Stop planting landmines and provide clear maps of mined areas.
9. Appoint a communication officer to respond to the Commission's inquiries and cooperate with them to ensure they carry out their investigative tasks regarding all violations.

### **Recommendations to the Arab Coalition in Support of Legitimacy:**

1. Contribute to the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in Yemen, based on respect for human rights, holding perpetrators of violations accountable, and seeking justice for the victims.
2. Support the Yemeni government in unifying security agencies and military forces, placing these agencies and forces under the legitimate government's control to ensure the establishment of its authority throughout the Republic's territories, achieving security, stability, development, and well-being for all Yemenis.
3. Increase cooperation with the Commission, promptly respond to their inquiries regarding allegations attributed to the air forces, which have occurred in recent years and are still under investigation by the Commission.

### **Recommendations to the International Community:**

1. Support comprehensive and effective peacebuilding processes in Yemen, endorsed by the United Nations, engaging civil society, women, and victims' associations in various stages, with a focus on justice approaches that ensure accountability, non-recurrence of violations, compensation for victims, and institutional and security reforms.
2. Provide technical support to state institutions in Yemen to strengthen them, particularly the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.
3. Exert pressure on the parties to the conflict in collaboration with the National Commission for Investigation, facilitating their work, and enhancing the level of support provided by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the Commission fulfills its obligations to conduct professional and transparent investigations.

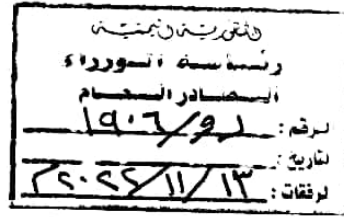
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



الجمهورية العربية الفلسطينية  
رئاسة مجلس الوزراء

الرقم: .....  
التاريخ: .....  
الموافق: .....

المحترم  
المحترم  
المحترم  
المحترم  
المحترمون



الأخ/ وزير الدفاع  
الأخ/ وزير الداخلية  
الأخ/ رئيس جهاز الأمن القومي  
الأخ/ رئيس جهاز الأمن السياسي  
الأخوة/ محافظي المحافظات

تحية طيبة ..

مرفق بهذا صورة رسالة الأخ/ مدير مكتب رئاسة الجمهورية رقم (740/م ر/2022)، بتاريخ 2022/10/29م، المتضمنة توجيهات فخامة الأخ/ رئيس مجلس القيادة الرئاسي، بالأخذ بتوصيات اللجنة الوطنية للتحقيق في ادعاءات انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان، التي تهدف إلى تحسين وضع حقوق الإنسان ومحاسبة مرتكبي الانتهاكات المحسوبين على الجهات العسكرية والأمنية، وتحسين بيئة السجون، وكفالتها لحقوق السجناء والمحتجزين، كما هو موضح بالمرفق.../.

يتم التوجيه لكافة المؤسسات والأجهزة التابعة لكم؛ بتنفيذ التوصيات الواردة في تقرير اللجنة الوطنية للتحقيق في ادعاءات انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان، والرد على استفساراتها الموجهة لهم، والتشديد على عدم ممارسة أي انتهاكات تتعارض مع مبادئ القانون الدولي لحقوق الإنسان، والقانون الإنساني الدولي، ومحاسبة مرتكبي انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان من المحسوبين على الجهات العسكرية والأمنية، وتحسين بيئة المؤسسات العقابية، وضمان حصول السجناء والمحتجزين على حقوقهم المكفولة وفقاً للتشريعات الوطنية والمواثيق الدولية.../.

وشكراً،،،

د. معين عبد الملك سعيد

رئيس مجلس الوزراء



صورة مع التحيّة :-  
- مدير مكتب رئاسة الجمهورية  
- وزير الشؤون القانونية وحقوق الإنسان  
- وزير العدل  
- النائب العام  
- الأمين العام لمجلس الوزراء

الرقم: ١٦٤/د.م.د.٢٠٢٢  
 التاريخ: ٢٩/١٠/٢٠٢٢  
 الموافق:



الجمهورية اليمنية  
 مكتب رئاسة الجمهورية

دولة د. معين عبد الملك سعيد

المحترم رئيس مجلس الوزراء

تحية طيبة وبعد،،

امنياتنا لكم بالتوفيق الدائم في مهامكم واعمالكم، تقضي توجيهات فخامة الأخ رئيس مجلس القيادة الرئاسي (حفظه الله) بمخاطبتكم لاتخاذ الإجراءات اللازمة لتوجيه المعنيين في الحكومة والمؤسسات بسرعة التجاوب مع توصيات اللجنة الوطنية للتحقيق في ادعاءات انتهاكات حقوق الانسان الواردة في تقريرها العام والتي تهدف الى تحسين وضع حقوق الانسان ومحاسبة مرتكبي الانتهاكات المحسوبين على جهات امنية وعسكرية اضافة الى تحسين بيئة المؤسسات العقابية المتمثلة في السجون وكلماتها لحقوق السجناء والمحتجزين، وتوجيه كافة الوزارات والأجهزة العسكرية والأمنية التابعة لوزارتي الدفاع والداخلية بتعامل البناء وسرعة الرد على استفسارات اللجنة الوطنية للتحقيق في ادعاءات انتهاكات حقوق الانسان الموجهة اليها.

وتقبلوا تحياتنا،،

أ.د. يحيى محمد الشعبي  
 مدير مكتب رئاسة الجمهورية







## **REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

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.