

The Human Rights Landscape in Yemen

Introduction

During March 2025, SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties shed light on the escalating human rights violations in Yemen perpetrated by various parties to the conflict, which continue to affect civilians' fundamental rights.

The organization emphasizes the urgent need for immediate and effective interventions to protect civilians and hold perpetrators accountable. It underscores the importance of ongoing international and local efforts to safeguard human rights and break the cycle of impunity in Yemen.

SAM Organization Publications

Human Rights Statements

Escalating Arrest Campaigns in Yemen Reflect a Growing Strategy of Repression and Silencing Dissent

On March 29, 2025, SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties [issued](#) a statement expressing deep concern over the alarming increase in arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances carried out by various conflict parties across Yemen. The organization confirmed that these campaigns have targeted civilians, journalists, activists, academics, and military personnel, noting that such practices constitute grave violations of international human rights laws, undermine fundamental rights, destabilize the country, and further complicate the security and political situation.



The 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade Commits Serious Violations Against 4 Children in Lahj

SAM [expressed](#) serious concern over the grave violations committed by the 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade in Lahj governorate, including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and systematic torture. These violations affected civilians, including minors, who were detained in illegal prisons and denied contact with their families. Official documents confirm the detention of over 23 individuals, while the brigade's commander continues to defy court orders for their release. Testimonies revealed horrific physical and psychological torture inflicted on detainees.

Yemeni Women: Increasing Suffering and Grave Violations

On the occasion of International Women's Day, SAM issued a [statement](#) outlining the unprecedented suffering of women in Yemen due to war and the economic and social collapse. The organization highlighted that women and girls are among the most affected groups in the conflict, enduring severe violations in all aspects of life. It pointed out that Yemeni women face a harsh reality of gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, political marginalization, and economic exploitation, amid the absence of effective measures to protect or enable them to access justice and basic rights.

Arbitrary arrests and illegal raids in the Hays district on the West Coast

SAM [documented](#) a series of violations in the city of Hays from February 24 to 27, 2025, including arbitrary arrests of journalist Hossam Bakri and activist Abdullah Kzayeh due to their opinions. The organization also received complaints and verified testimonies regarding an unlawful raid on the home of citizen Saleh Al-Zubaidi. SAM regarded these events as part of a recurring pattern of repression and restriction of public freedoms.



Media Monitoring of Human Rights Violations

U.S. Airstrikes on Yemen

March 2025 witnessed a series of U.S. [airstrikes](#) targeting Houthi-controlled governorates in Yemen. The most intense occurred on March 15, when the U.S. Air Force conducted 40 air raids, killing 53 people and injuring 98 others, most of whom were women and children. Reports [indicate](#) that 55% of these airstrikes hit civilian sites, including a medical warehouse, a clinic, a school, a wedding hall, residential areas, and tents.

The Houthi group arrested writer Abdul-Wahhab Al-Harasi in Dhamar

On March 4, 2025, gunmen affiliated with the Dhamar City Police [assaulted](#) writer Abdulwahab Al-Harrasi, a member of the Yemeni Writers and Authors Union, in a city street and took him to a Houthi prison due to his critical writings against the group. He was released on March 17, 2025, after nearly two weeks of detention in the Criminal Investigation Department's prison.

Civilian Casualties Due to Landmines

On March 6, 2025, two beekeepers, Fouad Ahmed Qubaa (30) and Fawri Khalil Hakami (37), were [killed](#), and two others injured by a Houthi landmine in Al-Durayhimi district, Al-Hodeidah governorate. Later, on March 11, 2025, an elderly woman named Jameela Ahmed Aldareen, in her 60s, was [injured](#) by an explosive device in Dhubab district, Taiz governorate. Another civilian, Mahmoud Mohammed Abkar, in his 40s, was [killed](#) by a landmine on March 31, 2025, also in Al-Durayhimi, according to the Yemeni Landmine Observatory.



Raid on Garlic Trading Shops in Sana'a

On March 11, 2025, the Houthi group [stormed](#) garlic trading agencies in Sana'a with over 20 military vehicles. Armed men imposed severe restrictions on traders, forcing them to sell exclusively to a Houthi-affiliated institution with a mandatory commission. This followed farmers' protests against the group's levies and restrictions.

Seizure of WFP Warehouse in Saada

On March 15, 2025, Houthi militias in Saada governorate began [seizing](#) food stocks from a World Food Programme warehouse containing over 2.5 million kilograms of aid designated for Yemeni civilians. This illegal act reflects the group's disregard for the suffering of the Yemeni people.

Raid on Tribal Sheikh's House in Saada

On March 16, 2025, Houthi gunmen led by Abu Batoul Abdullah Yahya Jubran, appointed director of security in Munabbih district, [raided](#) the home of Sheikh Ali Farhan Farah Al-Jalhawi in the Jilha area of Saada governorate. The armed campaign imposed a siege on the house before storming it and opening fire. They then looted money, vehicles, jewelry, and other possessions under the pretext of searching for escaped prisoners.

Kidnapping of Judge Abu Al-Fadl Al-Shaoush in Raymah

On March 22, 2025, a masked armed group [stormed](#) the home of citizen Abu Al-Fadl Al-Shaoush in Raymah governorate and abducted him, taking him to an unknown location without any legal justification.



Enforced Disappearance of Journalist Ahmed Awadah

Reports indicated that journalist Ahmed Awadah was forcibly [disappeared](#) in Sana'a on March 10, 2025, after receiving threats from a Houthi intelligence officer. He was released on March 26, 2025, after more than two weeks of enforced disappearance, with no explanation for his detention.

Historian Arafat Al-Hadhrami Arrested

On March 27, 2025, Houthi militias [raided](#) the home of historian and researcher Arafat Abdulrahman Al-Hadhrami, director of the Manuscripts Office in the city of Zabid, Al-Hodeidah governorate, and took him to an unknown location without any legal grounds.

Mass Arrest Campaign in Sana'a and Saada on Charges of "Espionage"

On March 26 and 27, 2025, the Houthi group [launched](#) a wide-scale arrest campaign targeting more than 75 civilians in Sana'a and Saada, [accusing](#) them of "espionage for the U.S. air force" following airstrikes on Houthi positions in several areas.

Kidnapping of Bank Employees in Sana'a

On March 27, 2025, Houthi militias [abducted](#) five bank employees while they were leaving Sana'a, taking them to an undisclosed location. Reports suggest the incident is part of a broader policy to clamp down on the banking sector and extort workers under flimsy pretexts.



Arrest of Abdelrahman Al-Maqdi in Marib

On March 6, 2025, security forces in Marib [arrested](#) the wounded Abdelrahman Al-Maqdi after he provided humanitarian aid to other wounded individuals. He was detained in the military security prison. His wife reported he was treated harshly, denied medicine, food, and clean clothing. He was released on March 27, 2025.

Arrests in Sana'a Over Passport Applications in Aden

In March 2025, activist Mansour Al-Jaradi [reported](#) that counterterrorism forces in Sana'a arrested his cousins Mahmoud and Ali after raiding their family home in Habra, accusing them of attempting to travel to Aden to obtain passports. A friend accompanying them, whose father is linked to officials in the legitimate government, was also arrested.

Previous Reports

[“What’s Left for Us”](#) - A Human Rights Report on Houthi Violations Against Detained Women in Yemen

On July 3, 2019, SAM Organization issued a report documenting systematic violations against women in Yemen following the Houthi takeover of Sana'a. These included arbitrary detention and physical torture of women during the war.

The report is based on firsthand testimonies from victims, relatives, and eyewitnesses, shedding light on the abuse women face in Houthi-run detention centers. The report identified several detention and hiding sites, including



abandoned facilities used for interrogation and psychological torture, as well as police stations under Houthi control.

The report revealed that the Houthis had formed a special female security unit assigned with tasks outside the legal framework.

From a legal standpoint, the report stressed that women's rights must not be violated or compromised under any circumstances, including armed conflict, as affirmed by the UN General Assembly and all international agreements.

The report concluded that women in Yemen have lost the status they once held before the Houthi takeover of Sana'a and have become victims of severe violations that contravene human values and directly breach the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).



Recommendations by the Organization:

To the Houthi Group:

- Immediate release of all detained women in their prisons.
- Allow human rights and women's organizations to visit female detainees and monitor their conditions.
- Cease public defamation of detained women and remove any defamatory videos.

To the internationally recognized government:

- Amend laws that are discriminatory against women, particularly those related to so-called "honor crimes," ensuring women's dignity and right to life.

To investigation committees working on the Yemen issue:

- Conduct a thorough investigation into the violations committed against Yemeni women at all levels and in all forms.

