

*When it comes to Human Rights Violations and Abuses in Yemen:  
Its Saleh's regime vs. the people of Yemen and the international  
community*

**Sanaá**

**September 18, 2011**



المجلس الوطني  
لقوى الثورة السلمية  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
THE PEACEFUL  
REVOLUTIONARY FORCES

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*National Council of the Peaceful Revolutionary Forces*

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On behalf of the people of Yemen in all freedom squares, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and deep appreciation for the tremendous efforts and work performed by the Mission of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (**OHCHR**) mission to Yemen, led by H. E. Hanni Mejalli. We are now at liberty to say that for the first time, we have a fairly accurate perception by an internationally recognized august body of the awesome tragedy that is unfolding in Yemen under the suppressive regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh and his family. In fact, as the Human Rights Council is about to discuss the report, the remaining elements of the Saleh regime continue to unleash their ugly bloodletting temptations on the peaceful protesters demanding for legitimate regime change and a return to a civilian democratic government. On this tragic day of Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, the regime forces led by Ali Abdullah Saleh's sons and nephews, carried out another bloody massacre in the City of Sana'a killing nearly 30 peaceful demonstrators and wounding nearly a thousand. Using live ammunition, RPGs, ant-aircraft machineguns, water cannons, armed armored personnel carriers, as well as automatic rifles and tear gas, the Republican Guards, Central Security troops and plainclothes elements of the ruling party (thugs), randomly, indiscriminately and wildly fired their lethal weapons against unarmed peaceful demonstrators marching in a narrow street near the Change Square area. The demonstrators, who were mostly youth in their teens and twenties, were met with a random wobble of fire from all these weapons, which clearly underscores the Saleh's regime's insistence to respond to the legitimate aspirations of the Yemeni people for change from a family dictatorship to a civil democratic government with merciless impunity and disregard for any human rights. The deadly massacre today is clear testimony that the remaining elements of the Saleh regime have only contempt for any report that underscores their gross human rights violations, whether against peaceful demonstrators, or against citizens, who are barred from regular electricity service as collective punishment and so as to bar access to media channels reporting on the unending crimes of the regime's military and security organs.

We believe that today's bloody sadism of the sons and nephews of Ali Abdullah Saleh surely underscore the need for immediate and direct condemnation by the international community, including the honorable OHCHR, the United Nations and all regional and bilateral organizations, civil society advocacy groups for human rights, and all bilateral friends of Yemen. We also believe that today's crimes and all the infarctions cited in the report of the mission led by the Honorable Hanni Mejalli should be considered as crimes against humanity, which would require that the perpetrators of such crimes be identified and brought to trial and duly punished for their unforgivable crimes against their fellow Yemeni citizens, without regard to the Yemeni Constitution, the International Conventions and Treaties on Human Rights, which Yemen is party to, as well the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Yemen has yet to sign, which would mean that such criminal behavior should be presented to the United Nations Security Council for appropriate action, and referral to the International Criminal Court.

Please take note of the enormous suffering that the Yemeni people have gone through for nearly three and a half decades and help bring an end to the misery and agony of the Yemeni people consummated by the Saleh Regime. The following are the detailed areas that require the attention of the Human Rights Council, the OHCHR, the United Nations, as set out in the relevant international conventions and agreements, as well as those highlighted by the OHCHR Mission to Yemen.

**While the report's findings indicate the severity of the human rights violations, these findings only represent a snap shot of the regime practices in the entire country over three decades and confirm the enormous reports by media as well as local and international human rights organizations.** It is important to stress that the OHCHR Mission report focused on the human rights situation and government violations during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> of January to July 6<sup>th</sup> and covered only three cities. It goes without saying that there were many other cities and governorates that also suffered massacres and other human rights violation in the remaining 17 governorates. These include Hodeida, and the governments use of aircraft, tanks, rockets and artillery on the tribal villages of Arhab, North of Sana'a, just to mention a few. Therefore, the human right violations and crimes committed by the regime outlined in this report and documented by several independent, reputable international organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Alkarama, (*see attached*) represent only the tip of the iceberg and provide only a glimpse of the true extent and nature of human right violations and brutal practices committed by this regime. To date, little action has been taken to respond to all these human rights violations and **the time has come to bring justice to the perpetrators of these gross crimes.**

Saleh and his regime continue to show total disregard of their legal obligations and commitment to human right values and the treaties they signed. According to the report, several international human right treaty bodies, **as indicated by the report.** On more than

one occasion in the report, the Saleh regime and its cronies was shown to display contempt for any human rights that their fellow Yemeni citizens are entitled to and for the Yemeni Constitution and international human rights conventions and agreements.

**The regional and international leaders demanded Saleh to start a peaceful and smooth transfer of power. This regime has thus lost its legitimacy & right to maintain its leadership of Yemen and has failed to carry out its obligations toward the people of Yemen.** The report also confirms what the people of Yemen have been saying and reported widely by the international media and other human right organizations. That Saleh's government has lost its legitimacy within its own constituency and is no longer capable of providing the necessary leadership to ensure Yemen's unity, security and stability and has proven itself incapable of leading Yemen's transition to a vibrant democracy. The international pressure on Saleh and his regime must continue to carry out this peaceful transition immediately and to return government to be for the people and by the people.

**The OHCHR report confirms the peaceful nature of the protesters despite the use of excessive and deadly force against them by the regime and its security and military organs.** The **OHCHR** report confirms that the pro-democracy demonstrations have been and remain peaceful and commends the peaceful protesters for insisting on non-violent means to achieve their objectives, notwithstanding the reliance by the regime on brute force to quell the peaceful protests..

It is vital to differentiate between the clashes occurring between armed tribesman and government forces and the attacks against peaceful protesters. These are separate issues and should not be linked together. The peaceful protesters remain peaceful despite all the attacks against them. For example, a recent attack by central security forces and 4<sup>th</sup> brigade members on September 17, left 11 injured from live ammunition shrapnel.

In addition, the two official intelligence agencies, the "Political Security" and the "National Security", which are under the control of the president and his sons and nephews, operate with minimal parliamentary or judicial oversight and continue to work actively to use intimidation, unlawful detention and torture as means to try to silence and punish journalists, prodemocracy activists and human right defenders. Many activists are in danger of being kidnapped and detained by security apparatus, as this has become a regular occurrence even without the knowledge of their families.

**As a result of using excessive and deadly force, hundreds of civilians were killed, and thousands injured in addition to the torturing and arbitrary detention of children activists and journalists.** The OHCHR report speaks of multiple, reliable accounts and reports received by the Mission that consistently show that the government security forces resorted to excessive use of force in response to peaceful demonstrators, including the use of live ammunition, a variety of expired tear gases, batons, electronic stun guns and polluted water spraying

The OHCHR report also exposed the true face of this regime and the extent to which it is willing to use its intelligence and security forces as well as its military and air power against its own people. It notes serious and credible allegations of human rights violations and abuses that were committed by government forces and affiliates, including the killing of civilians, excessive use of force, arbitrary detention, and torture of civilians, children, activists and journalist. In a number of documented instances Government security forces prevented wounded demonstrators from accessing hospitals or turned away doctors or ambulances.

**The regime's claims that it has ordered its forces to exercise restraint and/or protect the protestors were unsubstantiated.** While the government continues to claim that it has asked its forces to exert restraint and "promised" to hold those who committed crimes against the peaceful protestors accountable, the report by OHCHR delegation clearly indicates otherwise. There was no substantiation of these claims by the report whatsoever.

**Even the elderly, women and children were victims of the barbaric practices of the regime.** Children have also been subjected to injury, arbitrary detentions, torture, and killing by the security forces noting that at least 63 children were among the victims killed by Government forces.

**Saleh's regime is failing to carry out its obligations in providing basic services like power, gas, water and food supplies and is deliberately applying measures of collective punishment on the entire population.** Today, as confirmed by this report, Saleh's government *"has lost control of the majority of the country, including major cities"* and is failing to protect its citizens and provide them with access to basic service (health and education) and adequate standards of living. Furthermore, the regime is systematically implementing policies and practices aimed at restricting freedom of movement and limiting access to basic services, including fuel, water, electricity, and food, as means of collective punishment against the people of Yemen. According to the report, collective punishments

have led to indirect suffering of people, who rely on important services, as electricity, water supply and fuels, especially the sick and ailing.

The report has shown without any doubt the regime's attempts to use excuses as sabotage and armed opposition groups as being baseless and unsubstantiated, as well as reflecting a weakness on the part of government to protect public property and assets.

**The regime is applying continues to attack and harass journalists, media reporters and human rights activists.** Consistent with previous reports by international human right organizations, the OHCHR report demonstrates that Saleh's regime is committed to take extraordinary measures to suppress freedom of speech, silence the truth by attacking local and foreign journalists and suspend the licenses of journalists representing international media and the expulsions of foreign journalists. The OHCHR reported that it observed a declining aura of free speech and access to information.

**The track record of Saleh and his family shows that they cannot be trusted and are incapable of leading or participating Yemen's transition to a democratic society. Saleh and his family must go and they must go now.** No two would disagree, that Yemen today is run by Saleh, his family and close associates. While it can be argued that Saleh was elected to his post, despite the questionable nature of the electoral system in Yemen, none of his family members who have assumed the leadership over all major branches of the military and armed forces were elected by the people or even competed for these jobs with other ordinary citizens. In any democratic society, appointment of family members or close relative to such posts would be sufficient grounds for dismissal or impeachment.

More than two months since the departure of the UN mission, the regime, led by Saleh's son, nephews and their associates, continues to ignore its legal obligations and carry out brutal assaults and commit human rights violations and abuses against peaceful protestors in more than 17 Yemeni governorates and cities, with Sanaa', Taiz, Aden, and Al-Hudaydah, with Arhab and the Abyan governorate being the most affected. The regime is also using the national army and security services, which exist to protect the people and the country, to engineer chaos and spread fear among the people. This has led to greater loss of lives and the displacement of thousands of families that have been living in schools without proper shelter, medical care and access to basic services since May

The people of Yemen are bewildered by the silence of the international community and the lack of response to the daily calls for help by millions of peaceful protestors across the country. The continued aggression of the regime, currently under the control of Saleh's sons and relatives, against the people of Yemen, its failure to honor international human right treaties and fulfill its commitments to reform makes it an undesirable and unreliable ally. These facts also demonstrate that this regime cannot be trusted to oversee a truly

transparent and fair election and ensure Yemen's transition to a democratic society. For these reasons, Saleh and his family must go and they must go now.

**The incapable and failed regime of Sana'a is surviving only on the claim that they are countering the threat of terrorism in the region, but the fact show that this regime has release and created more terrorists than it ever arrested.** Even if western powers choses to continue to view Yemen only through the prism of security and counterterrorism, the world should not turn a blind eye to the crimes and violations perpetrated by Saleh and his family against our people. More importantly, a partnership with the people of Yemen, not dictators such as Saleh, is the most effective way to uproot and defeat extremis. Saleh has proven himself again to be an incapable and unreliable partner in the global efforts to promote regional security and combat terrorism. It is no secret to the people of Yemen and intelligence community that Saleh and high ranking members of his regime have strong ties to extremist elements in Yemen, including Al-Qaeda, and has been willing to accommodate and use extremist elements to fight his local enemies and as a mean of extorting the west. The truth is that Saleh and his regime have created more terrorists then they ever arrested and will continue to do so, because this is essential for their survival. Only a strong central government that enjoys the trust and support of its people and the respect of its neighbors would be capable of contributing to regional stability and serve as an effective partner in the global fight against terrorism. Under the current circumstances, Saleh and his regime do not qualify. This regime continues to extend one hand to the west and the other hand to extremists and terror groups. The people of Yemen peace loving people and are offering their hands, hearts and brains to global efforts for peace.

**The people of Yemen are calling on members of the international community to fulfill their obligations, stand by respect their choice, bring an end to this oppressive regime, and take the necessary measures to prevent a humanitarian crisis and the country from sliding into a civil war.** Today, we call on the UN, Human Right Council, and the international community to stand by the people of Yemen, respect their demands and aspiration of the people of Yemen and take strong and immediate actions to end the attacks against civilians. Our people continue to demand that Saleh and his family step down immediately and ensure peaceful and orderly transfer of power.

For the sake of Yemen's economy, the well-being of our people and the future of the country, we call on the international community to stop any military and financial support to Saleh's regime. Instead of using these resources to support the economy and secure the nation, this dictator and his regime are using this aid for their own personal gain and ambitions; perpetrate more crimes and crimes against humanity, and to pay public relations

firms and experts to cover up all their human rights violations and crimes against the people of Yemen.

We support the mission's recommendation for independent and impartial international investigations into human rights abuses committed against our people. Those responsible who have committed or ordered human right violations and unlawful killings against innocent and peaceful protestors in Yemen must be held responsible for their acts and not to be given any opportunity to evade accountability. Dictators and those who commit crimes against humanity should never be given the immunity from prosecution.

**Without international intervention, Yemen will explode and disintegrate. This explosion will spell over to the neighboring region and intentional trade routes.** The current impasse and continued aggression by Saleh and his regime have brought the suffering and frustration of the people in Yemen to dangerous and unbearable levels. The people of Yemen have refused to carry arms and foiled every attempt by the regime to drag the country into nationwide violent conflicts. However, in the absence of immediate resolutions that meet the people's demands and aspirations, address the dire and deteriorating humanitarian situation, and alleviate people's suffering, there are real risks for a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and the country to slide into a civil war at any moment. This is not only our own assessment, but one that is shared by the **OHCHR** report, other UN organizations and international agencies and observers. We call on the UN, its agencies and the international community to follow the recommendations of the OHRCH and take immediate actions to address the humanitarian crisis and prevent the country from falling into further chaos.

For Yemen to transition to a democratic, stable and vibrant democracy, the UN and international community must not only bring an end to decades of oppression and human rights violations and abuses by Saleh and his regime, but also stand by the people and provide the necessary financial, training, and logistical support to help the people of Yemen rebuild their economy and establish democratic institutions and political reforms that ensure Yemen's unity and stability.

## Reports on the government response to the peaceful pro-democracy protests in Yemen

**By Amnesty International Since February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Report</b>
12 September 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Further information: Five men close to execution</a>
16 August 2011	<a href="#">Yemeni man at risk of execution</a>
31 May 2011	<a href="#">Yemen must stop killings of protesters or risk slide into civil ...</a>
13 May 2011	<a href="#">Amnesty International Report 2011: State of human rights in the ...</a>
28 April 2011	<a href="#">Deadly attack on Yemeni protesters undermines reform plans ...</a>
27 April 2011	<a href="#">Yemeni president must be held accountable over rights violations ...</a>
20 April 2011	<a href="#">Yemeni activist at risk as death toll mounts   Amnesty ...</a>
6 April 2011	<a href="#">Decisive moment for Yemen. Act now.   Amnesty International</a>
6 April 2011	<a href="#">International community must help probe Yemen's protest killings ...</a>
5 April 2011	<a href="#">International community must help probe Yemen's protest killings ...</a>
24 March 2011	<a href="#">Yemen warned over use of deadly force ahead of fresh protest ...</a>
18 March 2011	<a href="#">Yemeni authorities must act over sniper killings of protesters ...</a>
14 March 2011	<a href="#">Yemeni protesters killed in violent attacks   Amnesty ...</a>
9 March 2011	<a href="#">Yemen urged to halt deadly attacks on protesters   Amnesty ...</a>
26 February 2011	<a href="#">Security forces in Yemen block access to hospital   Amnesty ...</a>
26 February 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Security forces block access to hospital   Amnesty ...</a>
23 February 2011	<a href="#">Yemen urged to halt escalating crackdown after two reported killed ...</a>
22 February 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Further information: Southern movement leader detained ...</a>
18 February 2011	<a href="#">Protesters attacked as Yemen steps up crackdown   Amnesty ...</a>
17 February 2011	<a href="#">Yemen must halt attacks on protesters   Amnesty International</a>
17 February 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Protesters detained in Yemen, risk of torture</a>
14 February 2011	<a href="#">Yemen must rein in security forces as protests are violently ...</a>

## **Reports on the government response to the peaceful pro-democracy protests in Yemen**

**By Human Rights Watch Since February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011:**

Jul 9, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Dozens of Civilians Killed in Southern Fighting</a>
Jun 26, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Probe Deadly Attack on Marchers</a>
Jun 20, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Reveal Opposition Figures' Whereabouts</a>
Jun 4, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: States Should Freeze Officials' Assets</a>
May 12, 2011	<a href="#">Gulf Cooperation Council: Revoke Immunity Promise to Saleh</a>
Apr 28, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Deadly Attacks Follow Saleh Immunity Pact</a>
Apr 14, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Stop Using Children in Armed Forces</a>
Apr 4, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Stop Shooting Protesters</a>
Mar 23, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Emergency Law Does Not Trump Basic Rights</a>
Mar 18, 2011	<a href="#">US: Suspend Military Aid to Yemen</a>
Mar 12, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Suspend Aid After Attacks on Protesters</a>
Mar 11, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Police Fail to Stop Attacks on Protesters</a>
Mar 10, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Investigate Killing of Protesters</a>
Mar 9, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Excessive Force Used Against Demonstrators</a>
Mar 5, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Halt Attacks on Peaceful Protesters</a>
Mar 1, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Reveal Opposition Figures' Whereabouts</a>
Feb 26, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Security Forces, Gangs Attack Reporters</a>
Feb 25, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Security Forces Kill Aden Protester</a>
Feb 24, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Two Protesters Die in Sanaa, Aden</a>
Feb 24, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Bring Attackers on Rights Group's Guard to Justice</a>
Feb 23, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Protect Protesters From Attacks by Armed Groups</a>
Feb 20, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Tenuous Calm in Sanaa</a>
Feb 18, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: End Deadly Attacks on Protesters</a>
Feb 14, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Security Forces Assaulting Activists</a>
Feb 13, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Don't Use Stun Guns on Peaceful Protesters</a>
Feb 13, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Crackdowns on Protesters Continue</a>
Feb 11, 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Pro-Government Forces Attack Demonstrators</a>

## **Reports by Alkarama**

July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Journalists suffer persecution for reporting on protests</a>
July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Alkarama provides information about the regime's crimes to the UN Human Rights Mission</a>
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: extra-judicial executions on the rise</a>
April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Assassination attempt against Alkarama spokesperson in Yemen</a>
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2011	<a href="#">Yemen: Scores killed, thousands injured in ongoing protests</a>

**Names and Titles of Members of Saleh’s Family Who Hold Key Military and Governmental Positions In and Outside the Country**

During the last two decade, Saleh main concerns have centered on his own survival and concentrating national wealth and power in the hands of members of his immediate family, close relatives and strongest allies. Saleh has made every effort to consolidate power in the hands of his family at the expense of diminishing the influence of government institutions and the country’s progress towards democracy. This partial list illustrates how Saleh has filled his government with members of his family.

NAME	TITLE	Relationship to the President
1. Ali Abdullah Saleh	President	
2. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh	Commander - Republican Guards and Special Forces	Eldest Son
3. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh	Chief of Staff - Central Security Forces	Nephew
4. Tarek Mohammed Abdullah Saleh	Commander - Special Guards	Nephew
5. Ammar Mohammed Abdullah Saleh	Deputy Director - National Security Bureau	Nephew
6. Ali Saleh Al-Ahmar	chief of staff of the general command	half brother
7. Mohamed Saleh Al-Hamar	Commander - Air Force	Half Brother
8. Khaled Ali Abdullah Saleh	Commander – Brigadier 101	Son
9. Yahya Dowaed	Director - Government Land Authority	In-laws
10. Khalid Alarhabi	Deputy Chief of The Presidential Palaces	Son in-law
11. Tawfeek Mohammed Abdullah Saleh	Chairman - National Corporation for Matches and Tobacco	Nephew
12. Abdulrahman Alaquah	Minister of State & Mayer of Sana’a	Brother in law to third wife
13. Kahlan Mujahed Abu Shawarib	Governor - Amran Governorate	In-laws
14. Noaman Dowaed	Governor - Sanaa Governorate	In-laws
15. Ahmed Al-Kuhlun	Governer of Aden	Brother in-law of Saleh
16. Ahmed Al-Hajri	Governor - Ibb Governorate	Inlaws
17. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajry	Governor of Taiz	Brother in law to second wife
18. Abul-Khalik Al-Qadi	Commander of Almajed Forces in Taiz	Uncle
19. Abdulwahab Al-Hajri	Ambassador to the USA	Brother in law to second wife
20. Khalid Abdul-Rahman Alkwaa	Under Secretary, Foreign Ministry	Son of The Brother in-law



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