

## **Yemen - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 27 October 2023**

### **Information on current human rights issues.**

A report issued by *Amnesty International* in October 2023 states that:

“Amnesty International raises concerns about the ongoing persecution of members of the LGBTI community, the application of the death penalty by ongoing executions and death sentences, the status of women's rights and increasing restrictions both in online and offline spaces, the situation of migrants including asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, the crackdown on freedom of expression and the use of defamation laws to silence dissent among journalists, as well as ongoing human rights abuses amidst the ongoing armed conflict.” (Amnesty International (19 October 2023) *Yemen: Ongoing violations amid conflict* (Submission to the 46th session of the UPR Working Group)).

*Impact News Service* in October 2023 reported that:

“Five staff members of a prominent Yemeni organization, Mwatana for Human Rights including its president, Radhya Al-Mutawakel, Mwatana 's Chairperson and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies Board Member, were arbitrarily banned from travel today, 30 September, at Sana ' a international airport.” [...] (Impact News Service (2 October 2023) *Houthis ban Mwatana for Human Rights Staff from Travel*).

The same document mentioned that:

“After subjecting them to all sorts of restrictions and harassment, the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group, are trying to punish high-profile human rights defenders with travel bans,” said Ziad Abdel Tawab, CIHRS deputy director.” (Ibid).

“Mwatana for Human Rights has been working on documenting violations of human rights committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen. They have provided the world invaluable independent reporting of airstrikes, ground attacks, extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, violations against minorities including women and religious groups and many other human rights issues in Yemen.” (Ibid).

The *Associated Press* in September 2023 points out that:

“The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, killing tens of thousands more...” (Associated Press (30 September 2023) *Fourth soldier from Bahrain dies of wounds after Yemen's Houthi rebels attack troops on Saudi border*).

A report published in September 2023 by *Amnesty International* states that:

“Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented how the Huthi de facto authorities use repressive tactics to suppress the right to freedom of expression and silence peaceful dissent in areas under their control by harassing, threatening, arbitrarily detaining and prosecuting journalists, political activists, human rights defenders, and other individuals for

peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression" (Amnesty International (29 September 2023) *Yemen: Wave of arrests by Huthi de facto authorities following demonstrations*).

The *Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)* in September 2023 reported that:

"On 05 September 2023, the Mayon Foundation for Artistic and Media Production released the new song "It's Not Wrong", which was received in the first hours after it was published with admiration by citizens, who shared it on their social media. Shortly after, journalist Sam Al-Buhairi, head of the Mayon Foundation for Artistic and Media Production, and his colleague Sinan Al-Tabai, who composed the song, also faced a widespread campaign of incitement, including serious death threats, and some gunmen began searching for them. A complaint was filed against them with the judiciary in the city of Taiz, where they live." (Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) (27 September 2023) *Journalists and activists among those facing serious violations of freedom of expression*).

The report further mentioned that:

"On 19 September 2023, the Specialised Criminal Court of First Instance in the capital, Sana'a, headed by Judge Yahya Al-Mansour, held its first hearing in the trial of human rights defender Fatima Saleh Al-Arwali, head of the Al-Habitat Organisation for Human Rights. She faces a charge of allegedly "aiding aggression," referring to authorities in the United Arab Emirates, and providing them with coordinates about the sites of the army and the popular committees. This trial hearing was marred by several clear legal violations, including the failure to record Al-Arwali's statement in the hearing's minutes that she was detained in a basement and had not seen the sun for a year and that she wanted to see her children. Likewise, the appointment of prominent human rights lawyer Abdulmajeed Sabra, who was defending her, was not documented in the hearing's minutes. Judge Al-Mansour also declared that there was no need for a lawyer, after members of the Security and Intelligence Service tried to force Sabra out of the courtroom when he advised his client Al-Arwali to request a copy of the case file against her. After all this happened, Sabra decided to leave the courtroom." (Ibid).

The report further points out that:

"On 24 August 2023, journalist Majali Al-Samadi posted the following on his Facebook page, accompanied by several photos of himself showing a number of cuts and bruises: "An armed gang of five people attacked me near my house now, they beat me up and threatened to come back if I didn't stop writing." The attack occurred in front of his house in the Al-Safia area in Sanaa." (Ibid).

"On 26 September 2023, prominent human rights lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra wrote on his Facebook page about the presence of approximately 1,000 detainees in police stations in the capital secretariat pending criminal investigation among citizens who raised the flag of the Republic of Yemen to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the Republic in Yemen on 26 September 1962. When asked by Sabra, a police officer claimed that they were arrested for allegedly "causing chaos", something the detainees denied." (Ibid).

The *Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime* in September 2023 notes that:

"Human trafficking is one of the most prevalent organized-crime activities in Yemen, and has been exacerbated by high levels of instability and poverty, weakening law enforcement and social disintegration, as well as widespread corruption." (Global Initiative against

Transnational Organized Crime (26 September 2023) *2023 Global Organized Crime Index – Yemen*).

The *UK Parliament House of Commons Library* in September 2023 reported that:

“Around 2,500 civilians were killed or injured by armed violence in 2021, up 20% compared to 2020. One in five recorded civilian casualties was a child. The total for 2021 was lower than the annual peak of 4,836 in 2018. From January 2018 to July 2023, there have been an estimated 13,700 civilian casualties, including 5,770 fatalities.” (UK Parliament House of Commons Library (25 September 2023) *UK aid and Yemen's humanitarian crisis*).

The report further notes that:

“Increasingly, women and girls have struggled to access services, including for sexual and reproductive health. In 2023, the UN reported there had been increasing imposition of the mahram requirement, especially in Houthi- controlled areas. This requirement prevents women from travelling between different areas of the country without a male guardian or guardian permission, restricting access to education, public life, and services.” (Ibid).

“Child marriage rates in Yemen are high, and potentially exacerbated by declining attendance in schools : In 2021, Unicef reported that 73% of girls are married before they reach 18.” (Ibid).

“Only 20% of the country's remaining health services provide a functioning maternal and child health service. The maternal mortality rate in Yemen has increased from five women a day in 2013 to 12 women a day in 2019 (meaning 1 in every 260 women die in pregnancy or childbirth).” (Ibid).

The report further states that:

“As of 2023, an estimated 2.5 million children are out of school, with girls particularly negatively impacted.” (Ibid).

In August 2023 the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* states that:

“Since 2015, civilians in Yemen have suffered from recurrent war crimes and crimes against humanity. Fighting between Houthi forces, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and forces loyal to the internationally recognized government – as well as airstrikes by a Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE)-led international coalition – have resulted in the death of thousands of civilians since March 2015. More than 19,200 civilians, including over 2,300 children, have been killed or maimed as a result of coalition airstrikes alone.” [...] (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (31 August 2023) *Yemen*, p.1).

The *Baha'i International Community* in August 2023 mentioned that:

“Six members of the United Nations Security Council called for 11 Baha'is in Yemen—who were forcibly disappeared in a violent Houthi raid on 25 May, and who are still detained—to be released and for their religious freedoms to be respected by the de facto authorities.” [...] (Baha'i International Community (22 August 2023) *UN Security Council members "deplore" detention of 11 Yemeni Baha'is and call for their release*).

In August 2023 the *Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)* points out that:

"The continued enforced disappearance of 11 Baha'is by Ansar Allah forces (Houthis) is condemned by the undersigned organizations. The Baha'is were kidnapped on 25 May when armed men raided a peaceful gathering in Sana'a." [...] (Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) (21 August 2023) *Yemen: Houthis Still Forcibly Disappear 11 Baha'is Over Two Months after Kidnapping*).

## References

Amnesty International (19 October 2023) *Yemen: Ongoing violations amid conflict (Submission to the 46th session of the UPR Working Group)*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/yemen-ongoing-violations-amid-conflict-submission-46th-session-upr-working>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

Amnesty International (29 September 2023) *Yemen: Wave of arrests by Huthi de facto authorities following demonstrations*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/09/yemen-wave-of-arrests-by-huthi-de-facto-authorities-following-demonstrations/>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

Associated Press (30 September 2023) *Fourth soldier from Bahrain dies of wounds after Yemen's Houthi rebels attack troops on Saudi border*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crid=6ade0058-cc55-4329-a944-a59fc5b35f92&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A698Y-MXC1-DYMD-62YT-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=304477&pdteaserkey=sr7&pditab=allpods&ecomp=hwmvk&earg=sr7&priid=fe2ca195-2aa2-40d8-9656-4fe8c60a8805>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

Baha'i International Community (22 August 2023) *UN Security Council members "deplore" detention of 11 Yemeni Baha'is and call for their release*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/un-security-council-members-deplore-detention-11-yemeni-bahais-and-call>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) (21 August 2023) *Yemen: Houthis Still Forcibly Disappear 11 Baha'is Over Two Months after Kidnapping*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/yemen-houthis-still-forcibly-disappear-11-bahais-over-two-months-after>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (31 August 2023) *Yemen*

<https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/yemen/>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) (27 September 2023) *Journalists and activists among those facing serious violations of freedom of expression*  
<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/journalists-and-activists-among-those-facing-serious-violations-freedom>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (26 September 2023) *2023 Global Organized Crime Index – Yemen*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/2023-global-organized-crime-index-yemen>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

Impact News Service (2 October 2023) *Houthi ban Mwatana for Human Rights Staff from Travel*

<https://advance.lexis.com/document/?pdmfid=1519360&crid=b67d2f7d-880e-4e63-9524-5648f37ae2d3&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A699N-9XF1-JDG9-Y24R-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=438631&pdteaserkey=sr0&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=hwm-yk&earg=sr0&prid=d7ef9471-1cd5-4b30-bfc5-2963943be587>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

UK Parliament House of Commons Library (25 September 2023) *UK aid and Yemen's humanitarian crisis*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/uk-aid-and-yemens-humanitarian-crisis>

(Accessed on 27 October 2023)

This is a subscription database

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Report Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

### **Sources Consulted:**

Amnesty International  
BBC Monitoring  
BBC News  
Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)  
Danish Immigration Services  
Electronic Information Network (EIN)  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Google  
Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Lexis Nexis  
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
Relief Web  
UK Home Office  
US Department of State