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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[03 June 2019]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## Extrajudicial killings in Yemen

### The Houthi Militia and Killing of Opponents

The situation in Yemen has been aggravated after the assassination of president Saleh, whereas the Houthi militia has killed many leaders of the General People's Congress party and some members of Saleh's family, as well as the raid on their homes, detention, forced disappearance and refusal to hand over the bodies of the dead. More than 200 people have been extrajudicially killed in the conflict between the Houthi militia and the supporters of the former president Saleh within one month of the assassination, as well as the arrest of almost 2,000 supporters.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Yemeni Penal Code, assassination is prohibited and deemed to be a premeditated extrajudicial killing in which the attack takes place by secret or by surprise against an individual or a group to achieve political objectives, in which the joint act is combined with a common intent of planning and logistical support for the original offender. The Yemeni Penal Code penalizes anyone who has made a previous or subsequent contribution to the crime, whereas Article (23) states that an accomplice is whoever provides collateral assistance with the intent of committing a crime and such assistance may be prior to the execution of the crime, concurrently therewith, or subsequently thereto, whenever as such agreed to prior to the implementation of the crime accordingly. However, subsequent assistance, which is not agreed to prior to the perpetration of the crime, shall be punished as a special crime.<sup>2</sup>

The Houthi militia carried out many assassinations in the areas which had resisted its military control, whereas it continues to target citizens, politicians, media professionals, human rights defenders and preachers. For instance, "Imran Obeid Al Sheikh", a citizen of Ibb Governorate, was killed in front of his mother and wife by one of the militants of the security point belonging to the Houthi militia on the main road of the Directorate of Al-Sabra on June 27, 2017. A relative of the victim said that "Imran Mohammed Obaid was passing in his car from a security point belonging to the Houthi militia before the entrance of the Mahwi market. According to the Yemeni customs and traditions, those who accompany women in their car do not subject to inspection so that Imran continued to drive, but suddenly one of the militants of the security point chased the car shooting fire. Imran immediately stopped and quarreled with him. The gunman reported that Imran passed from the security point without inspection, and forced him to return to the security point where it was agreed with the commander of the security point Abu Murtada to pay the value of the bullets fired. Imran continued to drive with his mother and his wife, but the same gunman followed him once again on the same motorcycle and fired a bullet that penetrated Imran's head while he was driving the car, Imran died instantly and the car headed off the road towards the valley, until it hit a pile of dirt".<sup>3</sup>

On August 25, 2017, in Taiz Governorate, gunmen of the Houthi militia executed the 65-year-old detainee "Ali Said al-Aghbari" by hanging, in Sakina School, after a month of abducting him. A relative of him said that "The Houthi militia has abducted Al-Aghbari from the Al-Ahaheq district in the Directorate of Al-Wazea'a west of Taiz. He was suffering from permanent disability due to the amputation of his leg many years ago, but this did not stop the Houthis from abducting him for a month before executing him."<sup>4</sup>

In March 2019, a mosque preacher in the village of "Kuliba", Alhada, Dhamar Governorate named "Mohammed Hussein Alkulibi" was killed by a gunman of the Houthi militia while reading the Holy Quran and before going up to the pulpit to give the Friday sermon. "The gunman had stormed the mosque and exceeded the worshipers, until he reached the first row

<sup>1</sup> صوت الطلقات على الباب، محامي صالح يروي تفاصيل مقتل الرئيس اليمني السابق، مصراوي، 4 ديسمبر 2018. <http://bit.ly/2DgOlav>

<sup>2</sup> قانون الجرائم والعقوبات اليمني رقم (12) لسنة 1994. <http://bit.ly/2v3PJsJ>

<sup>3</sup> حالة حقوق الانسان في اليمن لعام 2017، منظمة سام للحقوق والحريات، ص 59. <http://bit.ly/2VNVWEW>

<sup>4</sup> المرجع السابق، ص 60.

at the front of the mosque to commit such heinous crime in front of the masses of worshipers claiming that the mosque preacher was a supporter of the State”, according to witnesses.<sup>5</sup>

## Islamic Republic of Iran...killing based on identity

The Iranian authorities continue to extrajudicial killings based on identity. For instance, in June 2016, the Iranian security forces killed a citizen of Ahwaz named “Ali Mohamed al-Helali” from “Sarhaniyah” village of the city of Muhammara province Khuzestan in southwestern Iran. Al-Helali was shot in his leg without prior warning while he was riding his bicycle. The head of the police station 14 in the city of Muhammadah officer "Mohamed Amin Namdar" killed him with several shots after he had surrendered himself to the security forces. His body was not given to his parents until 20 days after his death, as well as the Iranian authorities have refused to try the officer who is accused of killing him. Furthermore, the intelligence service has summoned the dead's parents and asked them to stop pursuing the case of their son's death and threatened them with arrest and imprisonment if they continued their demands.<sup>6</sup>

In July 2017, the Iranian Police killed a 46-year-old man named “Asghar Nahibur” tried to defend a girl who was harassed because of her clothes at a Tehran metro station. Whereas a video clip showing the Iranian police shooting a passenger at a metro station; state media narrated that the man was "abnormal" and assaulted a man of religion and wounded another person with a knife. This narration was denied by eyewitnesses, who confirmed that “ The man of religion was rebuking a girl because of wearing clothes that he considered incompatible with the Islamic Iranian government, which led Nahibur to defend the girl against the man of religion and his companions who tried to pursue the girl. Nahibur tried to stop the man of religion, but Nahibur's try turned to be a quarrel in which the man of religion was injured. Then, Police officers shot Nahibur to be taken to a hospital before he died as a result of bleeding.” The Iranian security forces have threatened the family of Nahibur to not to hold a funeral oration to him, and teared down signs of his funeral.<sup>7</sup>

In September 2018, the Iranian security forces killed a young man of Ahwas working as a peddler while they were confiscating his merchandise. Video clips were posted on social media sites showing a police officer tying the young man on the ground. Citizens were trying to free him by appealing to the policeman who insisted on arresting the young man and sitting on his back. Suddenly the policeman fired a bullet, from his fiery weapon, that killed the young.<sup>8</sup>

On June 18, 2018, the Iranian authorities executed “Mohammed Thlath” of Darwish-Kanabadi minority under a summary trial that ended a few weeks after his arrest. In addition to allegations of police torture to extract forced confessions. Thlath has been accused of killing three policemen by a truck during the clashes that broke out after the violent suppression of the security forces for a demonstration of members of Drawich Kanabadi in February 19-20, 2018. The court based its judgment on Thlath's confession, which was forcibly extracted whereas he had been severely beaten by police officers. Thlath said that he was severely beaten by the police before the accident, causing serious head injuries.<sup>9</sup>

On September 8, 2018 the Iranian authorities executed three Kurds named "Zanyar, Luqman Maradi and Ramin Hussein Bnahi", who were accused in a summary trial of taking part in an armed conflict against the government. The summary executions was carried out, however serious claims of torture and judicial procedures violations at the same day in which the

<sup>5</sup> مليشيا الحوثي تاريخ اسود في قتل الخطباء وتفجير المساجد، موقع مندب برس اليمني، 16 مارس 2019  
<https://mandabpress.com/news54987.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://bit.ly/2Xe8mpJ> السلطات الإيرانية تقتل مواطنا أحوازيًا في المحمرة، صحيفة الوثام الإلكترونية، 4 يونيو 2016.

<sup>7</sup> بسبب ملابسها.. مقتل رجل حاول الدفاع عن إيرانية، موقع الحرة الاخباري، 24 يوليو 2017.  
<https://www.alhurra.com/a/iranian-man-killed-for-defending-a-girl/379331.html>

<sup>8</sup> قوات الامن الإيرانية تقتل شابا أحوازيًا يعمل بائعًا متجولاً، موقع التغيير الاخباري، 29 سبتمبر 2018.  
<http://bit.ly/2UmWSyV>

<sup>9</sup> إيران: إعدام عضو من "دراويش كئابادي"، هيومن رايتس ووتش، 18 يونيو 2018.  
<https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2018/06/18/319282>

Iranian forces have attacked centers of Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, an opponent party, in The city of koysinjq in northern Iraq. <sup>10</sup>

The Iranian authorities have executed, at least, 255 persons till 2018.<sup>11</sup> Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights considers that the trials in Iran, including trials leading to death sentences, are always unfair, also there are no independent mechanisms to ensure accountability within the judiciary. In addition, there are serious concerns about the appointment of judges in Iran, especially those who are heads of revolutionary courts, whereas they are appointed on the basis of their political views and affiliations to the intelligence services, and they lack legal qualifications. The trials, especially before revolutionary courts, continue to be secret and summary, sometimes they only take a few minutes.

## Recommendations

We call on the international community, including the United Nations and multilateral and regional institutions, to take immediate steps to hold accountable the Houthi militia for committing systematic violations against human rights, particularly with regard to extrajudicial killings.

We call on the international community to pressure the Iranian authorities to investigate extrajudicial killings and to hold accountable the perpetrators of these crimes.

To necessarily pressure the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty and stop targeting the opponents and minorities on the basis of identity.

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<sup>10</sup> التقرير السنوي لعام 2019، هيومن رايتس ووتش. <https://www.hrw.org/ar/world-report/2019/country-chapters/325426>

<sup>11</sup> المرجع السابق.