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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.

[21 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Extrajudicial Executions by Houthis

Since the Houthi movement took control of Yemen's capital, Sana'a, in September 2014. Since it became de facto a political authority over the capital, Sana'a, and a number of Yemeni governorates It commits significant human rights violations of civilians' right to life by carrying out dozens of executions, mostly outside the legal and judicial framework in summary, arbitrarily and publicly, without guaranteeing those sentenced to death the right to a fair trial or the right to seek amnesty and commutation of sentence, and other safeguards provided for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50.

In this regard, the Houthi movement has for the past years has been violating the right to life of civilians under its authority by carrying out a series of public executions of all, including children, following unfair trials. Through the assassination of political opponents, the targeting of human rights defenders, the killing of detainees in prisons and detention centers. In light of the foregoing, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, in this statement, provides an overview and detailed observations on all practices committed by the Houthi movement involving one form of extrajudicial and extrajudicial execution, arbitrary or summary executions, as follows:

Death Sentences after Unfair or Summary Trials

For years, the Houthi group continued to control Yemen's capital, Sana'a, by issuing and carrying out death sentences against children, political opponents and human rights defenders, including journalists, after unfair trials that lacked the lowest guarantees of justice or on the basis of summary procedures. In which Maat for Peace monitored several facts involving the Houthi authorities in the imposition and execution of death sentences against children, dissidents and human rights defenders without being able to obtain a fair trial or seek amnesty and commutation of punishment. On September 18, 2021, Houthi authorities publicly executed a shooting in a public square in the presence of hundreds of individuals, nine civilians.

The execution of the nine victims came nearly three years after the Sana'a Specialized Criminal Court sentenced them to death following unfair trials following their accusation of participation in the assassination of (S. A. S), president of the Supreme Political Council of de facto authorities in Sana'a, who was killed in April 2018 in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Maat for Peace noted that the stages of sentencing and execution of the nine victims involved numerous grave violations of safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of persons facing the death penalty and, in this regard. Maat for Peace found that the execution (E. A) was based on an offence allegedly committed by him while he was still a minor under the age of 18, which is contrary to article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and article 37 (a) the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons under 18 years of age. Maat for Peace also found that all victims had been denied their right to defense, appeal and legal assistance at several stages of the proceedings. and had to confess crimes they did not commit under degrading torture. Their death sentences were carried out publicly and collectively in a public arena and their families were notified of the date of execution only one day before the due date. This prevented their families from seeing them for the last time due to the distance of their places of residence from Sana'a. (1)

Since April 2020, four journalists: (A. K. A.), (T. Al-M.), (H. H.), and (A. Al-W). are still awaiting execution of the death sentences issued against them by the Houthi-controlled Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, despite international condemnations of the conditions of their trial. They were convicted on trumped-up espionage charges because of their journalistic work and activity in documenting human rights violations, without being able to obtain fair trial guarantees including the right to a defense, appeal and access to a lawyer in many stages of the trial proceedings. (2)

Since March 2020, a total of 35 Yemeni parliamentarians opposed to the Houthi group have been at risk of carrying out the death penalty on the basis of an absentee sentence handed down by the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a on the basis of politically motivated

charges The Court was directed at 138 deputies who supported the Yemeni Government. They participated in the parliamentary session held in Siwan, Hadramout Governorate, on 11 April 2019, on charges of actions threatening the stability, unity and security of Yemen. These provisions were used to legitimize the seizure of the defendants' assets and properties of the defendants (3), the same thing that was repeated with the human rights activist and head of the Women Empowerment Organization " Z. Z." "She was sentenced to death in absentia by the Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a on June 16, 2021, because of her human rights and humanitarian work. (4)

Arbitrary killing of dissidents, human rights defenders, children and detainees

The Houthis have committed numerous extrajudicial or extrajudicial killings and arbitrary executions of political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists, children and detainees over the years following their control of Yemen's capital, Sana 'a. In this regard, Maat for Peace has monitored numerous facts involving Houthi forces in the assassination of political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists and civilians, including children and detainees in Houthi prisons outside the framework of law or the judiciary arbitrary deprivation of life or arbitrary execution under international human rights law, On August 5, 2021, for example, the Houthi group assassinated a university professor on a street in Yemen's capital, Sana 'a, after demanding that it pay his colleagues (5). In January 2021, the Houthis launched attacks on civilians in several villages in the Haima and Taiz region, killing 17 civilians, including a child, and the number of children forcibly recruited into the Houthi movement from the beginning of 2020 to mid- 2021 was about 2,000 . (6) On 7 March 2021, 46 detainees were arbitrarily killed after Houthi soldiers set fire to one of their detention centres in Yemen's capital, Sana 'a (7). In August 2019, one of the 10 accused in the case of the killing of Houthi commander (S. al-S.) was killed by torture in a detention facility. On November 9, 2021, militants belonging to the Houthi group were assassinated by a popular press explosive device, which serves as a correspondent for the Al-Sharq channel "R. Al-H." and her embryo because of its journalistic activity in documenting human rights violations. On October 10, 2021, journalist A. A. S., press secretary of the governorate of Aden, photojournalist of the Aden governorate " T. M." team, journalist and media officer of the governorate team " A. H. B." were killed while their motorcade accompanying the governorate of Aden was bombed by Houthi members (9). All of these practices constitute a type of arbitrary execution prohibited under the provisions of international human rights law.

Recommendations

- Pressure the Houthi group to immediately halt its extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
- Pressure on the Houthi group to stop the killings and arbitrary executions of political and civilian opponents, including children, human rights defenders, journalists and detainees in Houthi prisons.
- Pressure on the Houthi group to stop the recruitment and use of children in armed operations, which could ultimately lead to arbitrary killings by the parties to the conflict.
- Strict international control over the sending of weapons used by the Houthi group in the arbitrary killing and execution of civilians.

(1): <https://bit.ly/3wdOcRh>

(2): <https://bit.ly/3lapn2a>

(3): <https://bit.ly/3syAF4c>

(4): <https://bit.ly/37JoKtd>

(5): <https://bit.ly/3wfGciF>

(6): Ibid

(7): <https://bit.ly/3PnjsEX>

(9): <https://bit.ly/3cePksT>