

“Yemen: Cracking down under pressure”

Case studies

Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad Khaloufa, aged 27, was arrested on 12 December 2009 outside his house in al-Hawk area in al-Hudaydah as he was chatting with friends. A group of plain-clothed security officers arrested him without a warrant and took him to an unknown destination. He disappeared for over a month. His family later discovered he was at Political Security in al-Hudaydah, where he remains held without charge or trial. The authorities have not explained the reason for his detention but have confirmed he is in custody, saying he is being held as a preventive measure because he knows someone who is wanted for “security reasons”.

Walid Sharaf al-Din, a 33-year-old accountant who works for the UN Development Programme (UNDP), was seized, by National Security personnel, on his way to the bank in August 2009. He went missing for two and a half months and was tortured during this time. He said he was suspended by his arms for two days, beaten, and guards threatened to post photographs of his wife on the internet to shame them both. He was transferred to Political Security in mid-November 2009, where he remains awaiting trial, accused of spying for Iran and financially supporting the Huthis. The prosecution promised to look into his allegations of torture, but his ‘confessions’, allegedly obtained under torture, have not been excluded from the evidence filed against him.

Faris Zaid Tamah, an active member of the southern movement, was killed on 1 February 2010, after he was arrested with two other men following a road traffic incident. He was detained at al-Mu’alla police station in Aden where it is believed he was questioned by Political Security officials about his links with the Southern Movement, beaten and then shot in the back of his head by a security official. Reports indicate that a parliamentary committee was established to investigate his killing but its outcome, if any, is unknown.

Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad Shaykh al-Harsha, a 35-year-old policeman, was killed along with at least 19 others when security forces began firing randomly during a demonstration in Zinjibar, on 23 July 2009. Hakim Salih Salim Muqri’ told Amnesty International that he was walking beside Abdullah during the demonstration when Abdullah was shot in the stomach. He said that Abdullah was not armed and was posing no risk to the security forces. Hakim added that he did not submit a complaint because “they will put me in prison”.

Qassem Askar Jubran, a 59-year-old former ambassador for Yemen, was detained from 16 April 2009 until the 17 July 2010. He was arrested in Aden while travelling between his brother’s house and the qat market. He was taken to Aden police station for about an hour, then to al-Mansoura police station for two hours, and then to the Criminal Investigation Department in Aden. He was held there for three days before being taken to Political Security in Sana’a. The family visited him on 18 and 19 April, but after that he was taken to Sana’a and visits were not allowed until June.

On 30 April 2009 the authorities confiscated every copy of al-Ayyam, one of Yemen’s largest-circulation daily newspapers, from distribution points in Sana’a and southern cities. This came after newspaper coverage of protests that took place in the south in the run-up to 27 April 2009, the 15th anniversary of the start of the civil war of 1994. On 13 May 2009 security forces attacked the al-Ayyam newspaper’s office in Aden.

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Premio Nobel de la Paz 1977. Declarada de utilidad pública (Acuerdo Consejo Ministros 31 julio 1981)

AMNISTÍA
INTERNACIONAL 

AMNISTÍA INTERNACIONAL
Sección Española

C/ Fernando VI, 8, 1º izda
28004 MADRID

T: +34 913 101 277
M: +34 630 746 802
F: +34 913 195 334
E: info@es.amnesty.org
W: www.es.amnesty.org

During the attack security forces killed two men, one a security guard, and wounded another. Security forces were trying to arrest Hisham Bashraheel, the newspaper's 66-year-old editor-in-chief. On 4 January 2010 Hisham Bashraheel and others began a sit-in at al-Ayyam's office to mark the eighth month since the authorities effectively silenced the newspaper, for covering protests in the south, when the security forces opened fire on the protesters. He and his two sons, Hani and Muhammad, both of whom work for al-Ayyam, were arrested on 5 and 6 January. Hisham was released on bail on 25 March 2010 and his sons were released on 9 May.

Ali Ahmad al-A'jam, a leading member of the Southern Movement, was killed by security forces at his home. According to information received by Amnesty International, security forces entered his house in the town of Lahj on 3 July 2009 and shot him dead in front of his family. He is said to have presented no threat to the lives of the members of the security forces who shot him. No independent investigation is known to have been carried out into the alleged unlawful killing. On 8 July 2009, Amnesty International wrote to the Yemeni authorities seeking clarification on the case, calling for an investigation, but has received no response to date.

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Gabinete de prensa de la Sección Española de Amnistía Internacional
Ángel Gonzalo, Carmen López, Rocío Carneros
Telf., 91 310 12 77 ó 630 746 802

Documentos y comunicados de prensa
www.es.amnesty.org

DOCUMENTACIÓN

AMNISTÍA
INTERNACIONAL 

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Sección Española

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