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**More than 100 were executed
in KSA this year**





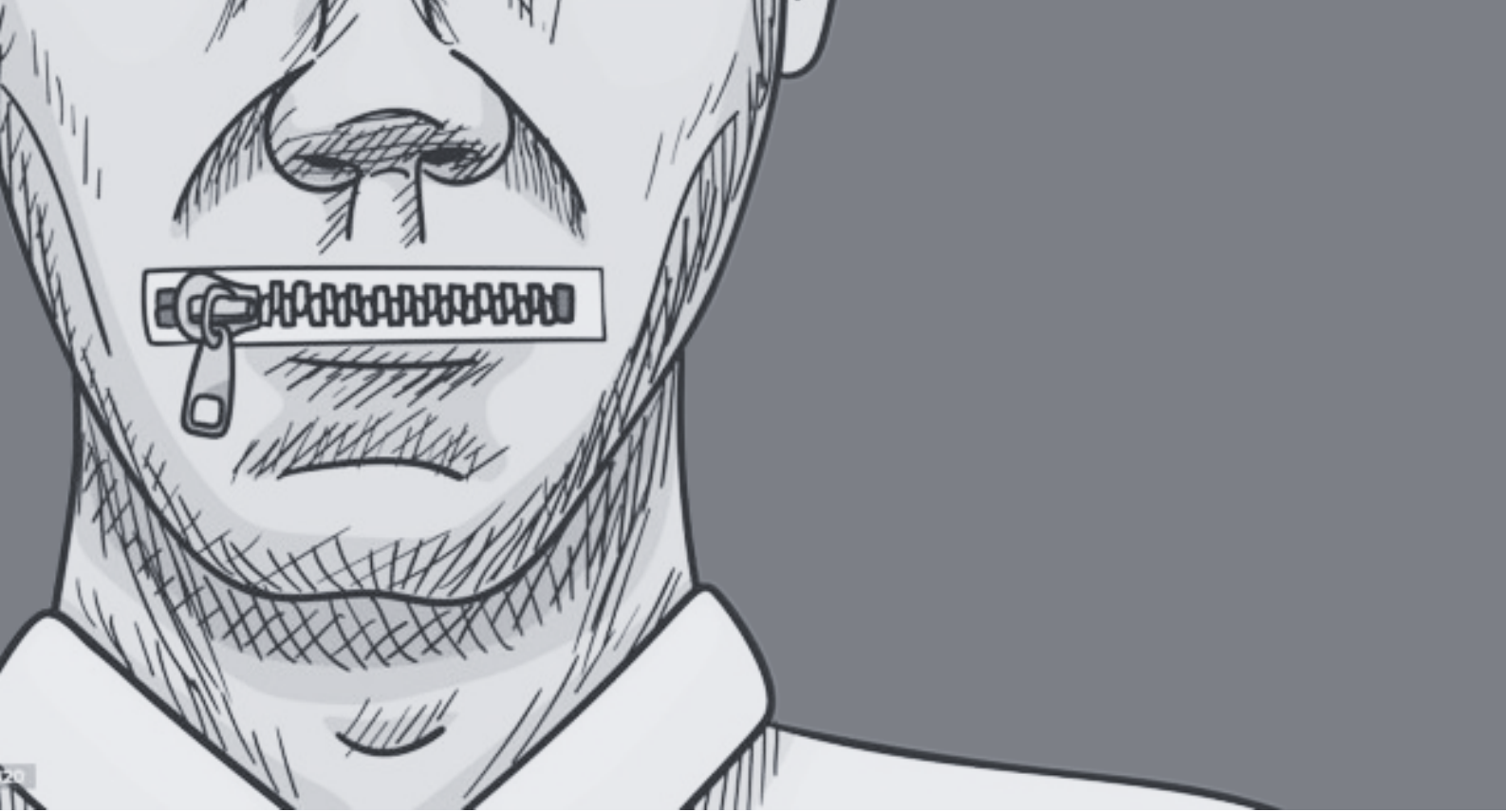
MASS HUNGER STRIKE SUSPENDED

September started in Jaw Prison with more than 800 political prisoners on hunger strike. The mass hunger strike had started on 7 August 2023 demanding access to basic rights, including medical treatment and enough time for family visits or prison's courtyard break.

The hunger strikers' health deteriorated as they continued their hunger strike. One of them was Adnan Habib Abbas who was hospitalized on 1 September due to severely low blood sugar. The next day all of Hussein Ali Mahdi, Hassan Ali Al-Attayah, and AbdulAziz AbdulRedh were transferred to the hospital due to their ongoing hunger strike. Moreover, on the evening of 3 September, at least 8 other detainees were rushed to the hospital. And on 6 September, a group of unspecified count were transferred from the first ward of building 15 to the hospital. In addition, on 9 September, the wife of the hunger striker Saeed Al-Aali, after his visit, said "for the first time I see him like this, weak and emaciated, his face is yellowish and his limbs are blue, and he couldn't concentrate on my words."

The conditions in Jaw Prison kept worsening with more restrictions from the administration. On 5 September, the director Hisham Ibrahim Al-Zayani led a search of several cells where security forces destroyed the inmates' personal belongings.

The conditions kept as previously mentioned with a huge solidarity with them. Citizens kept participating in daily marches and sit-ins calling for the release of all prisoners of conscience. Moreover, on 5 September, the families of the hunger strikers gathered outside the Ombudsman Office to protest the lack of action in response to the mass hunger strike.



The solidarity with detainees was worldwide as Human Rights Watch Researcher of Bahrain and Yemen, Niku Jafarnia, called on Bahraini authorities to “take urgent steps to address the grievances of hundreds of prisoners.” She added that “many of the inmates on hunger strike in Jaw prison are being held after grossly unfair trials and have experienced years of abuse in custody.”

On 12 September, the political prisoners suspended their hunger strike, after the prison administration showed flexibility towards their demands. Their statement added that “officials have acknowledged that prisoners' demands are rights and promised to amend prison regulations without procrastination or delay, allowing them access to a private visit that includes fourth-degree relatives with increased duration of calls, as well as promises to negotiate with telecommunications companies to reduce the cost of calls while increasing the number of contacts the prisoner can call from five to seven. They also include canceling the implementation of security isolation, which used to happen randomly, affecting political prisoners, so the prison administration will set clear regulations for its implementation. Of course, the prisoners received these promises positively and as an initiative on their part, on the condition that all promises be implemented by September 30, and if not, they will resume the hunger strike.”



ANOTHER DETENTION CENTER IS WITNESSING A HUNGER STRIKE

The conditions at Dry Dock Prison were not better than those at Jaw Prison. This prompted the young detainees who are housed in Dry Dock Prison to start a hunger strike on 17 September. This hunger strike was the third after the prison administration broke promises to resolve their case.

A total of 30 prisoners are on hunger strike demanding improving detention conditions. They are calling for access to medical treatment, proper clothing, and education, as well as expanded rights for family visits. They also demand the application of the Restorative Justice Law, which guarantees exemplary treatment for children (minors).

The minors who are serving sentences ranging between 7 and 10 years are: Mohammad Ali Adel, Hussein Saeed Abdulkarim, Sayed Ahmed Majid, Firas Hussein, Fadel Mohammad Amin and Ali Mahmoud Mohammad. These sentences were handed down by courts when they were under the age of 18 without acknowledging their childhood. However, when applying the Restorative Justice Law, their sentences would be less.

BAHRAIN TO UN DELEGATION: YOU ARE NOT WELCOME

In mid-September, Bahraini authorities postponed a visit by a delegation from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights suddenly without mentioning reasons. The postponement popped up days before the scheduled visit to inspect the prisons.

A day before the postponement, the detained opposition leaders in Jaw Central Prison called on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights delegation to meet them, stressing that the delegation's efforts should not be limited to improving prison conditions.



On the other hand, the Bahraini authorities prevented the activist Maryam Al-Khawajh and several fellow rights activists from traveling to Bahrain. Maryam was planning to travel back to the kingdom where she risks life imprisonment in a last-ditch effort to try and save her father's life.

"My father is being denied access to urgent and critical medical treatment, part of the reason he is on a hunger strike. My father has a heart condition which means that the hunger strike puts him at further risk of a heart attack or a stroke at any time," she said.

Solidarity with Maryam was shown, where several fellows announced that they will join Al Khawaja on her trip to Bahrain, including Amnesty's secretary general Agnes Callamard, and Interim Director at Front Line Defenders Olive Moore.

Agnes Callamard said that "for 12 long years, Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja has been arbitrarily detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights. In the face of his grave health concerns, the Bahraini authorities have repeatedly denied him the essential healthcare he so desperately needs. He must be immediately and unconditionally released, along with the 11 other Bahraini prisoners of conscience languishing in prison. This travesty of justice must stop."

After Maryam Al-Khawaja was barred from boarding a British Airways flight to Bahrain, her father was also denied from being transferred to his appointment with a cardiologist. Abdulhadi faces a high risk of getting a heart attack and he needs to see a cardiologist. He also faces a risk of eye sight loss and blindness if his glaucoma is not treated by an eye doctor.



SUMMONS AND ARRESTS OVER POLITICAL REASONS CONTINUE

On 7 September, a group of citizens were summoned for investigation for participating in peaceful protests calling for the release of the political prisoners who were on a mass hunger strike. The group included women, Abdulhadi Mushaima, Abdulnabi Al-Hawaj, and Munir Mushaima.

On 11 September, a raid on several homes took place in different regions. The raids resulted in the arrest of two boys, Abdullah Bu Humaid and Mohammad Abbas Darwish. There has been no official explanation for the arrests.

On the same day, several citizens were ordered for investigation, including the mother of the political prisoner Mohammad Al-Daqqaq, the activists Ali Muhanna, Munir Mushaima, and Ali Hammam. They spent several hours being interrogated for demanding the release of political prisoners, including their beloved ones, during a peaceful protest.

On the day following, four citizens were arrested, including minors. Hussein Ahmad Hussein, Mohammad Mirza Ali Abu Hassan, Hassan Mansour, Jassim Mohammad Taher and Mohammad Khalil Ibrahim were taken from their homes in Karzakan.



MOHAMMAD BIN SALMAN BLAMES BAD LAWS

In an interview with Fox News on 20 September, the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman confirmed that retired teacher Mohammad Al-Ghamdi was sentenced to death over tweets.

Bin Salman blamed bad laws for Al-Ghamadi's death sentence, as he said "The judiciary system has to follow the laws and I cannot tell the judge [to] do that and ignore the law because that's against the rule of law. But do we have bad laws? Yes. Are we changing that? Yes." However, he forgot to mention that the counterterrorism law which led to this death sentence was reissued in 2017, after Mohammad Bin Salman rose to power.

MBS also neglected to mention that no execution could be implemented unless he ratified it, so he bears responsibility for all executions that have occurred under his rule. Dozens were executed after he rose to power over social media posts or for expressing their opinions.

A group of UN experts commented "It is alarming that Saudi Arabia's punishments for online expression include the death penalty or prison sentences of several decades under anti-terrorism laws. These punishments are completely inconsistent with international law and human rights standards."

MORE THAN 100 WERE EXECUTED IN KSA THIS YEAR

Since the beginning of the year, 109 announced executions have been carried out, mostly after unfair trials. Moreover, some of those executions were over politically-motivated charges.

Amnesty commented: "In clear contrast to Saudi Arabia's repeated promises to limit its use of the death penalty, the Saudi authorities have already executed 100 people this year, revealing their chilling disregard for the right to life. The authorities' relentless killing spree raises serious fears for the lives of young men on death row who were under 18 at the time of the crimes.



During September only, 14 were executed, including 2two militarians. On 14 September, the Saudi defense ministry announced the execution of two military personnel who were accused of committing treason and not protecting the national interest and military honor, as the ministry claims.

The two men, the pilot Majed Bin Moussa Al-Balawi and the sergeant major Youssef Bin Rida AL-Azoni, were arrested in 2017. Activists said that their arrest was over refusal to carry out a raid on a civilian place in Yemen. After the two arrived at the place where the military task should be done, they realized it was just a civilian goal, so they refused to target it.

MORE THAN 100 WERE EXECUTED IN KSA THIS YEAR

Saudi Arabian authorities use enforced disappearance as a tool of torture against political prisoners and opinion-makers. Most families of the victims of enforced disappearance are unaware of the fate of their beloved ones after their arrest, as they are denied access to legal representation (lawyer) or to communicate with their families.

The Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) see that Saudi Arabian authorities legalize the use of enforced disappearance as it has not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance on one hand, and has not reformed the broad laws that allow the use of enforced disappearance in some cases. Article 20 of the Saudi law allows the authorities to isolate the detainee from his family and the outside world for a period of ninety days if the interest of the investigation requires so, and if the investigation requires a longer period of prevention, the matter is referred to the competent court to decide what it deems appropriate.

GIDHR highlighted cases of dozens of victims of enforced disappearance in the Kingdom, including the retired officer Nawaf bin Shaifan Al-Azma who was arrested in October 2016, and from that time there was no news about him, as no information was available about his location or conditions of detention.

In late September 2017, Saudi authorities arrested Dr. Razeen Al Razeen, who was a former head of the Executive Board of the Consumer Protection Association. There was no news of him since that time, and there was no information about his detention conditions. Same with Dr. Mohammad Al-Barrak who has been forcibly disappeared since his arrest in September 2017.

Ahmad bin Zaher Al-Muzaini is still under enforced disappearance since his arrest in September 2017, over his human rights activism. In addition, Abdullah Hajjaj Al-Arini has been subjected to enforced disappearance since 2018 after being arrested over tweets expressing his views.

The engineer Dr. Sultan Al-Jumairi was arrested in September 2018 upon his arrival to the Kingdom returning from Canada. As a result, Al-Jumairi was forcibly disappeared, and no information was announced about the place or conditions of his detention.

After prisoner of conscience Aya Al-Juhani completed her 3-year sentence, the Saudi authorities re-tried her in August 2019 in an attempt to extend her detention period, and since that time, no information has been known about Aya.

Moreover, the Palestinian writer and journalist Mahmoud Kallam has been subjected to enforced disappearance since his arrest on 26 September 2019. Mahmoud was arrested while he was in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.

In November 2019, the Saudi authorities arrested Zaid Al-Rouqi, and was subjected to enforced disappearance, where no information was known about his place or conditions of detention. Zaid's arrest was over a video he talked about the suffering of Saudi youth with unemployment.

Others were subjected to enforced disappearance after the end of their sentences, including human rights defenders Muhammad Al-Qahtani and Issa Al-Nukhaifi. There was no news of Al-Qahtani and Al-Nukhaifi days before the end of their 10-year sentence in October 2022.

Detainee Jaber Al-Omari finished his 7-year sentence two years ago, but he is still subjected to enforced disappearance. The Saudi authorities had arrested him in April 2014, over his demand for the release of detainees, especially his brother, who had been detained since 2002.



UN AGENCIES: 17 MILLION PEOPLE IN YEMEN ARE FOOD INSECURE

A joint statement of more than 90 organizations, including 7 UN agencies, warned about the humanitarian situation in Yemen. It highlighted the suffering of Yemenis such as food insecurity, lack of access to safe water and sanitation, quality health care services and high risk of cholera and other deadly diseases, said the statement. The statement confirmed that after 8 years of war, over 21.6 million people, 75 percent of the Yemeni population, are grappling with humanitarian needs. It further detailed that 17 million people are food insecure, including 6.1 million people in the emergency phase. Moreover, nearly 15.4 million people require access to safe water and sanitation to avoid being at risk of cholera and other deadly diseases. On the other hand, an article published by the British medical magazine “The Lancet” spotted the light on the health situation in Yemen. It explained how health care workers are struggling to provide services as hospitals and clinics have been destroyed, and medical supplies and equipment have become scarce. “In addition to the collapse of the healthcare system, Yemen is suffering from a famine that has led to one of the current highest rates of malnutrition among children in the world,” it said.



RESTRICTIONS ON SANAA AIRPORT ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

The Transport Minister, Brigadier General Abdulwahab Al-Durra, confirmed that Yemenis can no longer accept restrictions imposed on their travels. The limitation of both number of flights and flights destination bear citizens extravagant costs. He explained how Yemenis are in persistent need of ending all forms of siege imposed on Sanaa Airport, where within only one hour, all seats on the three additional flights to Amman were booked.

The Deputy Minister of Public Health, Dr. Mutahar Al-Marouni, further explained that a large part of the suffering in the health sector is related to the closure of Sanaa Airport as it is a vital passage for patients and for life-saving medications to enter the country.

ICRC: 20% OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED

Throughout all years of war on Yemen, the coalition countries targeted hundreds of schools and education centers. Therefore, thousands of Yemeni children were forced to be outside their schools.

According to a statement published recently by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), more than two million Yemeni children are unable to enroll in schools. The committee confirmed that 20% of primary and secondary schools are closed in Yemen due to the war.

“Education is severely disrupted due to armed conflicts and other forms of violence, especially attacks and threats to students and teachers,” the statement added. ICRC further explained that at least one in four educational facilities were destroyed, damaged or used for non-educational purposes.