



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

YEMENI PRISONERS SUBJECT TO SEXUAL TORTURE BY UAE OFFICERS



Room where Yemenis are believed to have been detained and tortured by UAE forces

Hundreds of Yemeni prisoners were subject to sexual abuse in southern Yemen. Some 15 UAE officers ordered Yemeni prisoners to undress and lie down for anal cavity checks, claiming they were looking for contraband mobile phones. The Yemeni prisoners who resisted were beaten until they bled, and threatened with barking dogs. Worse-off, some Yemeni prisoners were electrocuted and rocks hung from their testicles, and others were abused with steel and wooden poles. UAE forces even recorded the abuse on their mobile phones.

Hundreds of other detainees suffered similar sexual abuse earlier this year, on 10 March, at Beir Ahmed prison in Aden according to testimonies given to international media by seven witnesses.

Human Rights Watch last year also accused the UAE of running private torture chambers across Yemen, and documented 49 cases including those involving children who have been arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared in the southern regions of Aden or Hadramaut.



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Despite countless human rights reports detailing abuse in Yemen, Marine Major Adrian Rankine-Galloway, Pentagon spokesperson, said: “US forces are required to report credible allegations of detainee abuse. We have received no credible allegations that would substantiate the allegations put forth in your line of question/story.”

US officials have acknowledged that American forces receive intelligence from UAE partners and have participated in interrogations in Yemen.

US personnel have been seen at the Buriqa base, along with foreign mercenaries, according to two prisoners and two security officials. The detainees could not say whether the Americans, some of whom wear military uniforms, were members of the US government or mercenaries.

UN Human Rights Office spokeswoman, Liz Throssell, said that they have tried to engage with the UAE government on this issue and requested access to UAE-run prisons in the country but they have not been granted access.

“From the initial information that our office in Yemen has managed to gather, we have reason to believe that a number of Yemeni detainees have been subjected to ill-treatment, torture and sexual abuse by UAE soldiers,” she said.

The UAE continues to deny operating prisons in Yemen, claiming that the internationally recognised government of Yemen is in full control of the prison service. However, Yemen’s Interior Minister Ahmed Al-Maysari claims he has no control over the prisons.

The UAE entered Yemen in March 2015 as part of the Saudi-led coalition war in Yemen. The UAE’s foreign policy is prominently focused in southern Yemen, where it supported the political set up of the Southern Transitional Council (STC). It is now leading a battle to retake the strategic city port of Hodeida.

Families in Aden and the southern city of Mukalla have been holding daily protests for more than a year calling on the Saudi-led coalition to implement Yemen’s judiciary orders and free male family members after they were cleared of all charges.

Despite sporadically some prisoners being eventually released, UAE interrogators continue to commit systematic sexual torture against Yemeni prisoners in the south of the country. The US and the UK are in multiple ways accomplices to these horrific crimes to take place and keeping on being perpetrated against the Yemeni people. While having knowledge of the facts on the ground these countries continue to fund, arm and back the Saudi-led coalition war in Yemen and all their crimes.



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ICSFT condemns all the crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition in their war against Yemen and in this special case the sexual torture reports committed by UAE officers in prisons in the south of the country and calls the international community to take action to put an end to the systematic violation of human rights and humanitarian law that has become the registered trademark of the foreign coalition intervention in Yemen.

We also condemn all the supporters to this coalition, namely the US and the UK and urge them to stop providing them arms and funding to commit these heinous war crimes.