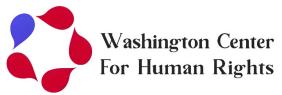
# 2024

# HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT Yemen

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# **Executive Summary**

In 2024, Yemen continues to face severe human rights violations amidst ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises. All parties to the conflict, including Houthi forces, the Yemeni government, and the Saudi-led coalition, are responsible for unlawful attacks that have led to civilian deaths. These attacks often target essential infrastructure, such as food and health facilities, further deepening the humanitarian crisis. Arbitrary arrests and disappearances remain widespread, with Houthi forces notably detaining individuals based on their religious beliefs, such as members of the Baha'i community. Migrants, particularly Ethiopian nationals, are subjected to mass killings and inhumane treatment by Saudi border guards, which may amount to crimes against humanity. Women face severe restrictions on their rights, particularly in Houthi-controlled areas, where they are unable to travel without a male guardian, limiting their access to work, healthcare, and humanitarian aid.

There has been limited progress in 2024, particularly in the area of humanitarian access. The new Houthi cabinet has expressed willingness to collaborate with UN agencies to address aid constraints, although these promises have yet to be fully implemented. However, bureaucratic obstacles, particularly in Houthi-controlled areas, continue to hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and restrictions on women's rights remain a significant concern. The lack of accountability, especially following the termination of the UN Group of Eminent Experts' mandate, has created a gap in oversight, allowing violations to continue unchecked.

To address these issues, it is recommended that the Yemeni government establish independent mechanisms to ensure accountability for human rights abuses and remove barriers to humanitarian aid. International bodies should reinstate independent monitoring mechanisms and exert pressure on all parties to respect international law and protect civilians. Civil society organizations are urged to advocate for the protection of vulnerable groups, including women and migrants, and collaborate with international entities to document violations and push for accountability.

# Methodology

The methodology used in collecting data for human rights reports on Yemen involves a comprehensive approach that integrates various data sources and collection methods. This ensures a robust analysis of the human rights situation in the country.

### Sources of Information

### 1. Primary Data Collection:

- Interviews: Both in-person and virtual interviews are conducted with affected individuals, local communities, and stakeholders. These interviews provide firsthand accounts of human rights violations and capture qualitative data based on personal experiences [1].
- Focus Groups: These discussions allow for a deeper understanding of community dynamics and collective experiences, offering insight into broader human rights issues [1].
- Surveys: Perception and opinion surveys are used to assess the sentiments of rightsholders regarding their experiences and the impacts of various policies [1].

### 2. Secondary Data Sources:

- Reports from NGOs: Local and international NGOs offer valuable documentation on human rights abuses, complementing primary data [2][3].
- Statistical Data: Existing statistics from governmental and international bodies help identify trends in human rights conditions [4].
- Desktop Research: This involves reviewing available literature, media articles, and reports to provide context to primary data collection findings [1].

### **Data Collection Methods**

- Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA): The HRBA emphasizes participation, transparency, privacy, and accountability in data collection, prioritizing the voices of those affected by human rights violations [1].
- Events-Based Data Collection: Incidents such as protests or government actions are documented through a mix of primary and secondary sources to establish event timelines and their impacts [1].

# **Limitations and Challenges**

- Access to Information: In Yemen, ongoing violence, governmental control, and fear among potential informants restrict access to reliable information [2][3].
- **Security Concerns**: Fieldwork in conflict zones like Yemen poses risks to researchers, often limiting direct data collection from affected populations [4].
- **Data Validity**: Self-reported data may introduce biases or inaccuracies, and ensuring testimony reliability is an ongoing challenge [1].

This methodology provides a comprehensive understanding of the human rights landscape in Yemen while addressing the challenges inherent to data collection.

[1]

https://www.humanrights.dk/files/media/document/Phase%202\_Data%20Collection%20and %20Context%20Analysis\_ENG\_accessible.pdf

- [2] https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/yemen/
- [3] https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/yemen/

[4]

https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/arabstates/550f105b5351fe-HRS Book Eng fulClr Latest.pdf

# **Human Rights Overview**

The human rights situation in Yemen in 2024 remains dire, shaped by a complex interplay of political, economic, and social factors amid ongoing conflict. The country continues to grapple with one of the worst humanitarian crises globally, exacerbated by years of war and political instability.

# **Political Context**

The political landscape in Yemen is fragmented, primarily divided between the internationally recognized government and the Houthi movement, which controls significant territory. Despite a noticeable decline in armed conflict compared to previous years, serious human rights violations persist. These include unlawful attacks on civilians, arbitrary detentions, and restrictions on freedom of movement and humanitarian access. The lack of accountability for these violations has been a significant barrier to achieving lasting peace[1][4].

In October 2021, the UN Human Rights Council ended the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen, which had provided oversight of human rights violations. This decision has left a vacuum in international monitoring and accountability efforts, contributing to a climate of impunity among warring parties[5].

### **Economic Context**

Yemen's economy is in shambles, with over 21 million people requiring humanitarian assistance due to food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and crumbling infrastructure. The humanitarian crisis has been compounded by actions from all parties involved in the conflict that have further restricted access to essential services. For instance, the Saudi-led coalition has targeted food and water infrastructure, while the Houthis have imposed blockades that hinder humanitarian aid delivery[1][3][4].

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that migrants crossing into Yemen face severe human rights abuses, including detention under inhumane conditions and exploitation by traffickers. The economic situation is so precarious that many migrants become stranded without resources or support[2].

### **Social Context**

Socially, Yemenis face severe restrictions on personal freedoms. Women are particularly affected; they are often required to have male guardianship for travel and face systemic discrimination in accessing employment and humanitarian aid. Reports indicate that Houthi authorities continue to enforce these restrictions rigorously[3][4].

The situation for marginalized groups is equally troubling. Members of the Baha'i community have faced arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances solely based on their religious beliefs[1][4].

# **Significant Events**

In 2024, notable events impacting human rights include:

- **Continued Violations**: Reports indicate ongoing unlawful attacks by all parties involved in the conflict. Arbitrary detentions and torture remain common practices against dissenters and activists[1][3].
- **Humanitarian Crises**: The IOM highlighted that over 190,000 migrants require urgent assistance as they navigate a perilous journey through conflict zones[2].
- International Response: Amnesty International has called for an independent accountability mechanism to address human rights abuses but notes that the international community's response remains insufficient[5].

In conclusion, the human rights landscape in Yemen as of 2024 reflects a tragic combination of ongoing conflict, economic despair, and social repression. Without significant international intervention and accountability measures, conditions are unlikely to improve for the Yemeni population.

[1] https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/01/11/yemen-widespread-violations-no-access-justice

[2]

https://www.iom.int/news/human-rights-violations-against-migrants-yemen-increase-amid-soaring-arrivals-iom-warns

[3]

https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/yemen/report-yemen/

[4] https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/yemen

[5]

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/03/yemen-justice-remains-elusive-and-millions-still-suffering-nine-years-since-armed-conflict-began/

# Civil and Political Rights

The civil and political rights situation in Yemen during 2024 remains dire, with severe restrictions on freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, alongside widespread arbitrary arrests and instances of torture. The ongoing conflict and political fragmentation have exacerbated these issues, leading to a climate of fear and repression.

# Freedom of Expression

In 2024, the right to freedom of expression in Yemen has been heavily curtailed. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate reported **17 violations** against media freedom in the first quarter alone, including cases of arbitrary detention and attacks on journalists. These violations reflect the dangerous environment in which journalists operate, with many facing threats of imprisonment for covering sensitive topics or criticizing authorities[4]. The Southern Transitional Council (STC), which governs parts of southern Yemen, has imposed stringent regulations requiring civil society organizations to obtain permits for activities, effectively stifling dissent and public discourse[3]. This fosters a climate where self-censorship is common among activists and journalists, who fear repercussions for their work.

# Freedom of Assembly

The right to peaceful assembly is severely restricted in Yemen. Reports indicate that gatherings, particularly in Houthi-controlled areas, are often violently dispersed by security forces. The STC has also cracked down on civic space, prohibiting public demonstrations unless prior approval is obtained, which is rarely granted[3][7]. These measures not only limit public participation but also undermine fundamental democratic principles enshrined in international human rights agreements to which Yemen is a party.

# **Arbitrary Arrests and Detention**

Arbitrary arrests remain a significant issue. Human rights organizations have documented numerous cases where individuals are detained without charge or due process, often for expressing dissenting views or participating in protests. Women human rights defenders face particularly harsh treatment, including arbitrary detention and torture. Reports from UN experts highlight cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities, with some women subjected to forced confessions and sexual violence[5]. The lack of transparency and accountability in these arrests worsens the overall human rights situation in the country.

# Instances of Torture and III-Treatment

Torture and ill-treatment are rampant in Yemeni detention centers. The UN has documented alarming trends showing that detainees face physical abuse, forced confessions, and other forms of cruel treatment[6]. This situation is compounded by a lack of accountability for perpetrators, creating a culture of impunity that discourages victims from seeking justice or

reporting abuses. The situation is particularly grim in areas controlled by different factions of the ongoing conflict, where law enforcement is minimal, and abuses often go unchecked.

# **Government Responses**

The Yemeni government has largely failed to address these human rights violations effectively. International calls for accountability have gone unheeded, with authorities often dismissing allegations or failing to investigate them thoroughly. Instead, the government appears more focused on consolidating power than on upholding the rights of its citizens[3][4]. The absence of any significant legal reform or action from government bodies has emboldened violators, worsening the situation for vulnerable populations.

# Impact on the Population

The impact of these rights violations on the Yemeni population is profound. Citizens live under constant threat of arrest or violence for expressing their views or participating in public life. The chilling effect of these policies has led to widespread disillusionment with the political process, as many feel that the risks of activism far outweigh any potential benefits[5][7]. This environment of repression has stifled individual freedoms and further hampers humanitarian efforts amid the ongoing conflict. Many citizens are either too afraid to speak out or are actively silenced by authorities, creating a pervasive atmosphere of fear and distrust.

In conclusion, the civil and political rights situation in Yemen during 2024 reflects a troubling trajectory marked by repression and violence against those who dare to speak out or assemble peacefully. The combination of arbitrary arrests, torture, and restrictions on basic freedoms continues to undermine any prospects for democratic governance or social stability in the country.

[1] https://yemen.un.org/en/225366-un-human-rights-report-freedom-expression-yemen

[2]

https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-freedom-expression-may-2021-december-2022-march-2023-enar

[3]

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/03/yemen-southern-transitional-council-must-end-crackdown-on-civic-space/

[4]

https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/category/press-releases/article/yemen-yjs-report s-17-cases-of-violations-against-media-freedom-in-the-first-quarter-of-2024

- [5] https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2024-10/yemen-71.php
- [6] https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-freedom-of-assembly-and-association
- [7] https://freedomhouse.org/country/yemen/freedom-world/2024

[8]

https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/electoral-year-2024-un-experts-call-strengt hening-democracy-and-reversing

# Rights of Specific Groups

In 2024, Yemen's human rights landscape remains deeply troubled, exacerbated by the ongoing civil war. Women, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and ethnic or religious minorities face systemic abuses, heightened by economic instability and societal discrimination. While some international conventions have been ratified, enforcement remains inconsistent, and progress is minimal.

# Women's Rights

### **Violations and Restrictions**

Women in Yemen continue to experience systemic discrimination and violence, particularly with restrictions on their freedom of movement. Both Houthi and government forces have implemented male guardianship requirements, preventing women from traveling freely. This practice violates international obligations, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Violence against women, including intimate partner violence (IPV), forced marriages, and honor killings, remains prevalent. The war has worsened the situation, leading to a rise in forced early marriages, with girls being married off to ease financial burdens. Yemen does not criminalize marital rape, leaving women without legal protections against domestic violence.

# **Legal Protections**

Despite ratifying international conventions, Yemeni law remains deeply rooted in Shari'a and tribal customs, which heavily favor men. Women are often deprived of their rights to divorce and child custody, exacerbating gender inequality.

### Case Studies

In May 2024, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) in Aden seized an independent women's shelter. This act of aggression highlights the increasing threats faced by women's rights activists and those seeking refuge from violence in southern Yemen .

# Children's Rights

# **Abuses and Exploitation**

Children in Yemen are subjected to various forms of exploitation, including being recruited as child soldiers by armed factions. Economic desperation has led to a rise in child labor, and children are increasingly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The war has severely disrupted access to education, with bombings and safety concerns forcing many children to drop out of school. The lack of security and infrastructure further contributes to their vulnerability.

### **Legal Protections**

Although Yemen is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the ongoing conflict renders these protections ineffective. Legal safeguards for children are poorly enforced, leaving many without recourse to justice.

# **LGBTQ+ Rights**

# **Legal Status and Violations**

LGBTQ+ individuals in Yemen face severe persecution under the law, which criminalizes homosexuality. Punishments for same-sex relations include imprisonment, flogging, and even the death penalty. In 2024, a court in lbb sentenced 13 university students to public execution for engaging in homosexual acts, underscoring the dire situation for LGBTQ+ individuals in the country .

### **Lack of Protections**

There are no anti-discrimination laws or protections in Yemen for LGBTQ+ individuals. The societal stigma and legal framework foster an environment where violence and harassment against the LGBTQ+ community go unreported and unpunished.

# **Ethnic and Religious Minorities**

### **Discrimination and Violence**

Ethnic minorities, such as the Akhdam community, continue to face systemic discrimination, living in conditions of extreme poverty. Many are denied access to basic services, including education and healthcare, further entrenching their marginalized status. Refugees from Somalia and Sudan also face significant discrimination, experiencing violence and exploitation .

# **Legal Framework**

There is little to no legal protection for ethnic and religious minorities in Yemen. These communities remain marginalized, with little access to justice or basic services due to entrenched societal discrimination.

### Conclusion

Yemen's human rights crisis, exacerbated by the ongoing civil war, severely impacts women, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and ethnic or religious minorities. Despite international attention and some legal conventions, progress remains limited. Structural inequalities,

violence, and discrimination continue to define the lived experiences of these vulnerable populations, pointing to a critical need for stronger legal protections and humanitarian interventions.

- [1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT\_rights\_in\_Yemen
- [2] https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.08.01.24310001v1.full
- [3] https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/04/yemen-warring-parties-restrict-womens-movement
- [4] <a href="https://www.equaldex.com/region/yemen">https://www.equaldex.com/region/yemen</a>

[5]

https://timep.org/2024/06/04/2023-was-a-bad-year-for-lgbtq-rights-in-the-mena-region-2024-i s-set-to-be-even-worse/

[6] https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/18/yemen-uae-backed-group-seizes-womens-shelter

# Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Yemen continues to face severe challenges regarding economic, social, and cultural rights, particularly in the realms of health, education, and housing. The ongoing conflict since 2014 has exacerbated these issues, leading to significant barriers in accessing essential services.

# Right to Health

### **Access to Healthcare:**

The healthcare system in Yemen is in a state of collapse. Hospitals have been targeted during the conflict, leading to a significant reduction in available medical services. The United Nations has described Yemen's humanitarian crisis as one of the worst globally, with millions lacking access to basic health services . As of 2024, only about 50% of health facilities are functional . The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that many Yemenis face barriers to accessing basic healthcare services, including maternal and child health care .

### **Barriers:**

### Barriers to healthcare include:

### **Economic Instability:**

The ongoing war has led to widespread poverty, making it difficult for families to afford medical care .

### **Targeting of Facilities:**

Attacks on hospitals and medical personnel have created an environment of fear and insecurity for both patients and healthcare providers .

### Lack of Resources:

Essential medicines and supplies are often unavailable due to blockades and disrupted supply chains . The blockade on ports has severely restricted the importation of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, leading to increased mortality rates from preventable diseases .

# Right to Education

# **Educational Opportunities:**

Access to education has drastically declined due to the conflict. As of early 2024, approximately 2 million children are out of school, with significant disparities based on gender and geography . Rural areas face particularly acute challenges due to a lack of infrastructure and resources .

### **Barriers:**

### Key barriers affecting education include:

**Infrastructure Damage:** Many schools have been destroyed or rendered unsafe due to conflict .

**Economic Hardship:** Families prioritize immediate survival over education, leading children into labor instead of classrooms .

**Gender Discrimination:** Girls face additional challenges such as early marriage and societal norms that prioritize boys' education over girls'. Barriers include the destruction of schools, lack of trained teachers, and economic hardships preventing families from affording educational expenses such as uniforms or transportation.

# **Right to Adequate Housing**

# **Housing Conditions:**

Housing conditions in Yemen are dire. Many families live in makeshift shelters or are internally displaced due to the conflict, with over 4 million people currently displaced within Yemen . The lack of basic services such as water and sanitation compounds the housing crisis

### **Barriers:**

The primary challenges related to housing include:

**Destruction from Conflict**: Homes have been destroyed or damaged during airstrikes and ground fighting .

**Displacement:** Ongoing violence has forced millions from their homes, leading to overcrowded living conditions in temporary shelters.

**Economic Constraints:** High inflation and unemployment rates hinder families' ability to secure adequate housing . The economic situation has led to soaring rental prices in urban areas, making it difficult for families to secure stable housing .

# Improvements Noted

Despite these challenges, some improvements have been observed:

### **International Aid:**

Humanitarian organizations continue to provide essential services where possible, although their operations are often hampered by security concerns and access restrictions.

# Awareness Campaigns:

There is a growing awareness among local NGOs about the importance of economic, social, and cultural rights, which may lead to increased advocacy for these rights moving forward.

### **Conclusion:**

In summary, Yemen's economic, social, and cultural rights landscape remains critical as of 2024. Access to healthcare is severely limited by infrastructural collapse and resource shortages; educational opportunities are drastically reduced due to conflict-related barriers; and housing conditions are precarious for millions displaced by war. Without significant international intervention and a resolution to the ongoing conflict, these rights will continue to be systematically violated.

1. [Mwatana Report on Human Rights

Violations](https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/submission-united-nations-committee-economic -social-and-cultural-rights-mwatana-yemeni-government-has-failed-protect-rights-its-citizens-enar)

- 2. [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\_Covenant\_on\_Economic,\_Social\_and\_Cultural\_Rights">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\_Covenant\_on\_Economic,\_Social\_and\_Cultural\_Rights</a>)
- 3. [Human Rights Watch on

Yemen](https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/01/19/pakistan-submission-un-committee-economic-social-and-cultural-rights)

4. [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Overview](https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cescr)

5. [Amnesty International on Economic

Rights](https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/economic-social-and-cultural-rights/)

# Refugees and Migrants

The situation of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrant workers in Yemen during 2024 remains precarious, shaped by ongoing conflict, humanitarian crises, and systemic challenges in accessing basic services and protection.

# **Living Conditions**

Living conditions for refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen are dire. Many live in overcrowded shelters or informal settlements with inadequate access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare. The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** reports that significant numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants face severe hardships, including food insecurity and lack of basic services[3][4]. Humanitarian agencies have identified that approximately **4.5 million people are displaced** within the country, with many experiencing multiple displacements over the years[4].

# **Access to Asylum Procedures**

Access to asylum procedures has improved slightly but remains limited. According to the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, around **85.7% of people seeking international protection** were able to access asylum procedures in 2023, but this figure masks significant regional disparities [1]. In the north of Yemen, registration efforts for new asylum seekers have faced challenges, such as no-shows for appointments due to various barriers [1]. Although there is a partnership agreement in place aimed at improving registration processes, bureaucratic hurdles and ongoing conflict complicate these efforts [1] [6].

# Instances of Exploitation or Abuse

Instances of exploitation and abuse are prevalent among migrant workers and refugees. Many migrants from the Horn of Africa endure dangerous journeys and face human trafficking risks upon arrival in Yemen. The IOM has highlighted the vulnerabilities of these populations, particularly women and children who are at risk of gender-based violence [5]. Reports indicate that migrants often lack legal status, making them susceptible to exploitation by employers and human traffickers [6].

# **International and Domestic Responses**

International responses have included coordinated efforts by UN agencies and NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance. The **2024 Humanitarian Response Plan** aims to assist **11.2 million vulnerable individuals**, focusing on integrated multi-sectoral responses that address both immediate needs and long-term solutions [4]. The UNHCR continues to advocate for better protection conditions and has been involved in developing a Joint Vision on Refugee Protection with local authorities [1][6].

Moreover, the IOM is actively working on voluntary humanitarian return programs for stranded migrants, providing essential support such as medical care and reintegration assistance [3][5]. However, funding shortages pose significant challenges to these initiatives; approximately \$2.7 billion is required to meet the humanitarian needs effectively [4].

In summary, while there are some efforts to improve conditions for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrant workers in Yemen, substantial obstacles remain due to ongoing conflict, inadequate infrastructure, and systemic exploitation. Continued international support is crucial for addressing these challenges effectively.

- 1. (https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/MENA%20-%20Yemen%20ARR%202023\_0.pdf)
- 2. (https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/regional -refugee-response-plans-0)
- 3. (<a href="https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/yemen-crisis-response-plan-2024">https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/yemen-crisis-response-plan-2024</a>)
- 4.(https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-response-plan-hrp-2024-january-2024-enar)
- 5.(https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-yemen -and-southern-africa-2024)
- 6. (<a href="https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/operations/yemen">https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/operations/yemen</a>)
- 7.(https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-complex-emergency-fact-sheet-5-fiscal-year-fy-2 02)
- 8. (https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1193)

# Legal Framework and Accountability

Yemen's legal framework regarding human rights is severely undermined by ongoing conflict and political instability. Although Yemen has ratified several international human rights treaties, enforcement remains weak due to fragmented governance and a dysfunctional judiciary. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has emphasized the urgent need for a strategic framework to prevent further collapse of national capacities and to support peacebuilding efforts [5].

# **Recent Legislation and Reforms**

In 2024, Yemen's human rights record is set to be reviewed by the United Nations Human Rights Council through its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. This review is crucial as it provides Yemen an opportunity to report on measures taken since previous assessments and to highlight new developments in human rights legislation [2]. However, significant reforms remain elusive. The ongoing humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by armed conflict, has led to widespread violations, including unlawful killings, arbitrary detentions, and restrictions on freedom of movement [1][3].

# Role of the Judiciary

The judiciary in Yemen is largely ineffective due to the protracted conflict. Courts are often non-functional, and legal proceedings are marred by corruption and political interference. As a result, there is little recourse for victims of human rights violations. For instance, despite numerous documented abuses by various factions in the conflict—including arbitrary arrests and torture—there has been virtually no accountability for these actions [1][4].

# **Impunity for Human Rights Violations**

Impunity remains a critical issue in Yemen, with all parties involved in the conflict—including Houthi forces, the Yemeni government, and the Saudi-led coalition—committing serious violations without facing consequences. The absence of independent monitoring bodies since the UN Human Rights Council disbanded its Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen in 2021 has further entrenched this culture of impunity [1][3].

# **Examples of Accountability (or Lack Thereof)**

- Case of Arbitrary Detention: In May 2023, Houthi forces detained 17 members of the Baha'i community in Sanaa without due process. Despite international condemnation, no accountability measures have been taken against those responsible for these detentions [1].
- 2. **Attacks on Civilians**: Reports indicate that Saudi border guards have killed hundreds of Ethiopian migrants attempting to cross into Yemen. These actions may

- constitute crimes against humanity; however, no investigations or prosecutions have been reported [1][3].
- 3. **Women's Rights Violations**: Women continue to face severe restrictions on their freedom of movement due to laws requiring male guardianship for travel. These regulations not only restrict women's rights but also impede their access to humanitarian aid [3][4].

### Conclusion

In summary, Yemen's legal framework surrounding human rights is characterized by significant challenges, including ineffective judiciary processes, pervasive impunity for violators, and a lack of meaningful reforms or accountability mechanisms. The upcoming UPR presents an opportunity for Yemen to address these issues; however, historical patterns suggest that substantial changes may be difficult to achieve without international pressure and support.

- 1. [https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/01/11/yemen-widespread-violations-no-access-justic e.]
- 2. [https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/yemens-human-rights-record-be-examined-universal-periodic-review]
- 3. [https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/yemen]
- 4. [https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/yemen / ]
- 5. [https://www.undp.org/yemen/legal-framework]
- 6. [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Yemen-Cooperation\_Framework-202 2-2024.pdf]
- 7. [https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-fact-sheet-january-june-2024]
- 8. [https://freedomhouse.org/country/yemen/freedom-world/2024]

# International Relations and Human Rights

Yemen's international relations regarding human rights in 2024 have been characterized by significant engagement with United Nations bodies and ongoing scrutiny from international organizations. The situation remains dire, with pervasive human rights violations exacerbated by the ongoing conflict and lack of accountability.

# **Engagement with UN Bodies**

In April 2024, Yemen's human rights record was scheduled for examination by the \*\*Universal Periodic Review (UPR)\*\* of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This review is a critical mechanism through which member states assess each other's human rights practices, providing a platform for Yemen to report on its compliance with previous recommendations and outline recent developments in its human rights situation[2]. The UPR is expected to generate recommendations aimed at improving conditions in Yemen, although the effectiveness of such recommendations remains to be seen given the historical context of non-compliance by Yemeni authorities.

### International Pressure and Sanctions

Despite the ongoing humanitarian crisis, there has been a notable lack of effective international pressure or sanctions specifically targeting human rights violations in Yemen. Reports indicate that all parties involved in the conflict—namely the Houthi forces, the Yemeni government, and the Saudi-led coalition—have committed serious violations of international humanitarian law[1][3]. The absence of an independent international monitoring mechanism since the termination of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen in 2021 has hindered accountability efforts[3].

International organizations have documented various abuses, including unlawful attacks on civilians, arbitrary detentions, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement and humanitarian access. For instance, Human Rights Watch highlighted that Houthi forces have imposed abusive sieges and restricted humanitarian aid, contributing to one of the world's largest humanitarian crises[1][3]. Furthermore, reports of mass killings of migrants at the Yemen-Saudi border raise concerns about potential crimes against humanity[1].

# Impact on Domestic Human Rights Situation

The international community's tepid response has had profound implications for domestic human rights conditions. The lack of accountability for past abuses has fostered an environment where violations continue unabated. Yemeni women, in particular, face severe restrictions under both Houthi and government controls, including limitations on their freedom of movement and participation in public life[4][5]. The situation for women human rights defenders is especially precarious; they often encounter threats, harassment, and arbitrary detention[4][6].

Moreover, humanitarian access remains critically limited due to bureaucratic impediments imposed by both the Houthis and the Yemeni government. Aid organizations have reported numerous incidents where their operations were obstructed, further deepening the humanitarian crisis affecting millions[3][5].

In summary, while Yemen engages with international bodies like the UPR to address its human rights record, the lack of effective international pressure or sanctions has allowed systemic violations to persist. The ongoing conflict continues to undermine any potential improvements in human rights conditions domestically.

- 1. (https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/01/11/yemen-widespread-violations-no-access-justice)
- 2. (https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/yemens-human-rights-record-be-examine d-universal-periodic-review)
- 3.](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/yemen)
- 4. (https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/un-security-council-briefing-yemen-linda-al-obahi-12-septe mber-2024-enar)
- 5. (<a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/yemen/report-yemen/">https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/yemen/report-yemen/</a>)
- 6. https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15972.doc.htm )

# Recommendations

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# Conclusion

The human rights report on Yemen for 2024 paints a troubling picture of a country in crisis, with ongoing violations by various factions exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. Widespread violations committed by Houthi forces, the Yemeni government, and the Saudi-led coalition have resulted in significant civilian casualties, arbitrary detentions, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement and humanitarian access. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is one of the largest in the world, affecting over 21 million people who are in dire need of assistance due to the conflict's impact on food security, healthcare, and essential services.

Women and vulnerable groups continue to endure severe restrictions on their rights, particularly in areas controlled by the Houthis, where patriarchal systems limit their autonomy and expose them to increased violence. The lack of accountability for human rights abuses perpetuates a cycle of impunity, as independent monitoring bodies have been dissolved, leaving victims without any means of justice. Moreover, the international community's response has been inadequate, with minimal progress in addressing the systemic issues at the heart of Yemen's human rights crisis.

Given these circumstances, the need for continued monitoring and proactive engagement is paramount. The international community must not only acknowledge these violations but also take tangible steps to hold perpetrators accountable and support humanitarian efforts on the ground. Sustained advocacy for human rights is crucial to amplify the voices of marginalized groups and ensure their protection. As Yemen faces this complex landscape of conflict and humanitarian disaster, fostering an environment conducive to peace and justice is essential. Only through collaborative efforts can there be hope for a future where the human rights of all Yemenis are respected and upheld.

# **Appendices**

# **Appendix A: Statistical Data on Human Rights Issues**

- **Population**: The estimated population of Yemen is 33.7 million.
- Humanitarian Needs: Over 21 million people in Yemen are in need of assistance.
- **Civilian Casualties (2023)**: Thousands of civilians have been casualties of unlawful attacks by warring parties.
- **Arbitrary Detentions**: There have been reports of hundreds of arbitrary detentions across both official and unofficial detention centers.
- **Women's Rights Violations**: Women in Yemen face systematic restrictions on their movement and employment opportunities.
- **Migrants Killed**: Between March 2022 and June 2023, hundreds of Ethiopian migrants were reported killed at the border.

# Appendix B: Glossary of Legal and Human Rights Terms

- Arbitrary Detention: Refers to the arrest or detention of individuals without legal justification or due process.
- **Crimes Against Humanity**: This term denotes serious violations of human rights that are committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians.
- **Humanitarian Access**: The ability of humanitarian organizations to provide aid to those in need, which is often restricted by the parties involved in a conflict.
- Mahrams: Male guardians required by certain authorities for women to travel, which restricts their freedom of movement.
- Universal Periodic Review (UPR): A process through which the human rights records of all UN Member States are reviewed.