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Studies and Economic  
Media Center (SEMCC)



# HE STILL REMAINS UNDER DETENTION

## DESPITE HAVING FULLY SERVED HIS SENTENCE

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HIS SENTENCE

The following is a human rights report that documents eight years of legal violations and transgressions against journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi



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## I was with him

I was with him in prison and my cell was right next to his. I first met him in solitary confinement cells in the Security and Intelligence prison. At that time, Nabil bitterly complained about being brutally beaten and continuously insulted. This is how Majid Al-Bazli began his testimony about the ordeal of the abducted journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi in the prisons of the Houthi group, "Ansar Allah".

His testimony that reflected the gruesome and tragic reality that Al-Sadawi has been living for eight years behind bars, was just one of many testimonies by former detainees who spent long periods of time near Nabil and saw firsthand how he was subjected to beatings, hung from iron poles, exposed to electric shocks, sprayed with ice-cold water, to name just a few methods of torture that are beyond human endurance.

Nabil's predicament is by no way unique as the press and journalists in Yemen are going through their worst times according to the latest report by Reporters Without Borders, which stated that "Yemen is still one of the most dangerous and least safe countries for reporters, being ranked 168th in the world, and 19th among Arab countries.

This investigative report explores the situation of journalist, reports from inside prisons and sheds particular light on the tragic story of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi, who works for the official Saba Press Agency, and the mistreatment to which Nabil is being exposed in violation of all local and international human rights laws and treaties.



# The summary

The Houthi controlled Security and Intelligence Agency still refuses to release journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi despite having served the unjust sentence issued against him on September 21, 2023. He still faces intransigence on the part of the Houthi controlled security authorities, which still evades the abidance by the sentences issued by their own courts. This requires that all regional and international efforts be joined and intensified to hold accountable the deputy commander of the so-called Political Security Agency, namely Major General Abdul Qader al-Shami, and the head of the Security and Intelligence Agency, namely Major General Abdul Hakim al-Khaiwani, for the grave violations to which journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi was subjected to as a result of his purely professional activity.



This tragic story begins with the illegal arrest of Nabil Al-Sadawi and his forcible disappearance, without even informing his family of the places where he was to be held under detention. This report also monitors the cruel torture he was subjected to during his lengthy forced disappearance.

In this investigative report, we provide a comprehensive coverage of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi's ordeal which was the result of his professional activity as a reporter, ranging from unfair trial to harsh treatment, physical and psychological torture, and forced disappearance, all of which are in blatant violation of the relevant national and international laws and conventions. It was only after more than four and a half years of unjustified arrest, that he was allowed to sit alone with his lawyer to discuss the charges against him. This investigative report has relied on the testimonies of fellow detainees, the testimony of family members, and the appointed defense lawyer.

Through this investigative report, we will try to understand why journalist Al-Sadawi was not released within the legally prescribed period under the Yemeni law, being 15 days as of the date of issuance of the ruling against Al-Sadawi. Indeed, despite the submission of an appeal petition, yet the prosecution department failed to respond thereto despite the passage of three hearings, and even requested a continuance, thus forcing the court of Appeals, after being informed by the defense lawyer at the hearing held on Sunday, November 2023, to uphold the ruling issued by the court of first instance and order his release.

Nabil's is not the only case that is dealt with in this way. Indeed, according to lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra, there were other such lawsuits in which the Public Prosecution and the Security and Intelligence Agency strived to obstruct and even rejected outright judicial release decisions on the pretext that the detainee will be exchanged in deals to be concluded between the internationally recognized government and the Ansar Allah.

This report has further documented the deliberate medical negligence inflicted upon journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi, based on a document issued by Ansar Allah controlled prosecution department.

This report also attempts to present a comprehensive documentation of the unlawful practices and blatant violation, including but not limited to killings, enforced disappearances, and torture that today have become one of the hallmarks of one of the most difficult times that Yemeni journalists have ever experienced. Such violations, according to documented testimonies, include trials conducted illegally, and not abiding by even the minimum acceptable legal procedures, whether in the conduct of investigations and/or trials.

At the end of this investigative report, we provided recommendations to the concerned authorities, whether domestic or international, in order to intervene and save journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi from the tragic situation he has been suffering through for more than 8 years.

A black and white photograph showing two hands gripping vertical metal bars. The hands are positioned on the left and right sides of the frame, with fingers wrapped around the bars. The bars are weathered and show some texture. The background is a solid dark color. The title text is centered in the upper half of the image.

# **The Report Methodology**



Data and information collected by the Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC) about the ordeal experienced by journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi, confirm beyond any doubt that Ansar Allah committed acts incriminated under the international humanitarian law, as well as under such laws as are applicable domestically under the Yemeni constitution, including but not limited to illegal arrest, enforced disappearance, grave and inhuman violations of human rights that Al-Sadawi has been subjected to since September 2015.

The data in the investigation was based on the testimonies of three former detainees, who lived for many long years in Ansar Allah prisons alongside Nabil Al-Sadawi, and were released as part of a UN-brokered deal and facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross on April 16, 2023, and further based upon the testimonies of the family members of journalist Al-Sadawi, as well as upon the interview the center conducted with lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra assigned to defend him before the Ansar Allah-controlled courts, through whom we were able to review the arrest and investigation records, the indictments, the rulings issued against him, submitted appeal reports and challenges, all of which revealed serious legal infractions in the course of the legal proceedings since the outset.

The report did not fail to include statements of solidarity and support issued by various international organizations concerned with defending rights and freedoms of journalists in general and journalist Al-Sadawi in particular, as it is one of the key documents monitoring the human rights situation in Yemen.

# **The Arrest and Enforced Disappearance**

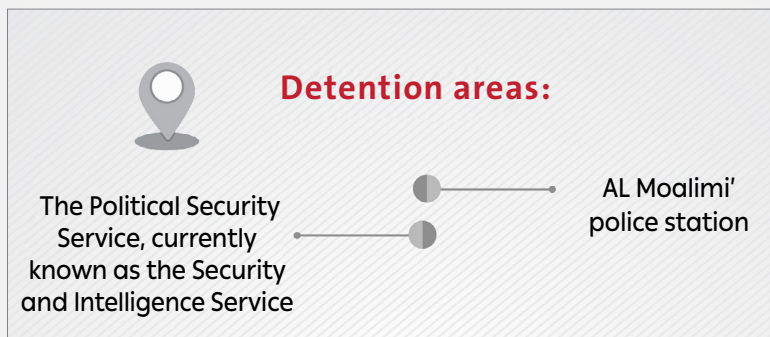


On Monday, September 21, 2015, journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi was arrested as he was leaving the mosque after the noon prayer by a force composed of armed men, of whom some were dressed in civilian clothing and others in military uniform, and thus Nabil's journey began in the Houthi prisons until the moment of writing this report.

On that day, Nabil went to perform the noon prayer at the Al-Shawkani Mosque in the Salah al-Din area on 60th Street, located within the Ma'in District of the capital, Sana'a. As he was leaving the mosque, he was grabbed by the said force and forced into a police car, according to what bystanders told Nabil's family.

Nabil was immediately taken to the Al-Mouallimi Police Station on the 16th Street, close to his residence. When his family tried to reach him as soon as they learned of his arrest from the residents, they were shocked by the bare-faced denial of his presence at the police station. They later learned that Nabil had been forcibly disappeared by the Political Security Agency. His disappearance constituted a clear violation **of the second paragraph of Article 1** of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which states:

**"No exceptional circumstance may be used as an excuse, whether related to a state of war or the threat of the outbreak of war, the lack of internal political stability, or any other exceptional situation." , to justify enforced disappearance," which was further clarified in Article 2 of the same Convention which states that: "Enforced disappearance means arrest, detention, abduction or any form of deprivation of liberty carried out by state agents, or by persons or groups of individuals acting with the permission, support or approval by the state, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of the person's liberty or concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, thus depriving him of the protection of the law."**



Thus, the suffering of Nabil's family became more intense as they began their search for Nabil from the moment of arrest and persisted for a long period thereafter. According to them the suffering first began during the period of enforced disappearance with the endless search at police stations, and questioning relatives, but to no avail. The worst thing, though, was not knowing his fate, what he did, or the reasons for his arrest. All authorities they approached flatly denied any knowledge of his whereabouts and even when he called them via a landline phone and from a Political Apparatus number, the latter denied any knowledge of his fate when his family went to ask about him.

In his testimony, Abdul-Ilah Silan, one of the released detainees, who occupied the cell next to Nabil's for six years, recounted the details of the arrest incident as journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi mentioned it to him, and quoted Nabil as saying: "As I came out of the mosque after the prayer, I was surrounded by a number of armed men, some of whom were wearing military uniforms and others were in civilian clothes, including the head of the neighborhood and others who were known as being affiliated with Ansar Allah. Despite the fact that they did not have a warrant for my arrest issued by the prosecution, they blindfolded me, tied my hands, and took me to the police station. It wasn't until several hours later and only after being transferred to the Political Apparatus prison located in Haddah Area, did they allow me to contact my family to inform them of my whereabouts. "

# The Security and Intelligence Agency



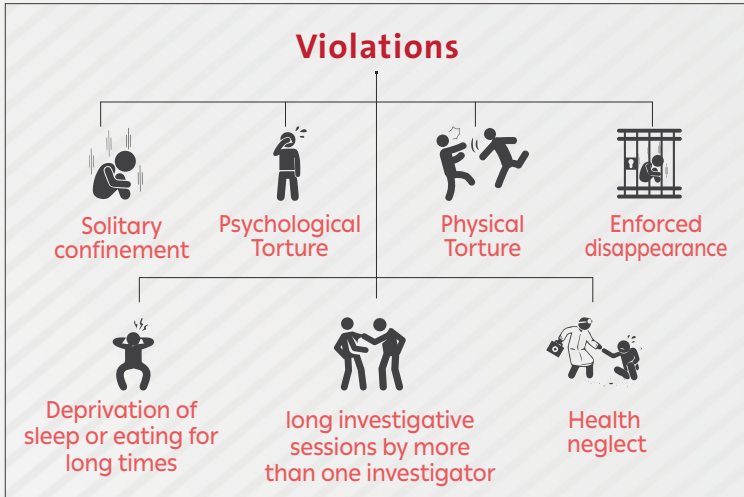
Journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi was transferred hours later from Al-Muallami Police Station to the notorious Security and Intelligence Agency prison, where he was subjected to horrific physical and psychological abuse, as reported by his family and substantiated by the testimonies of former detainees. Needless to say,

**that such abuse was in violation of Paragraph (B) of Article 48 of the Yemeni Constitution, which states and prohibits torture and other forms of inhuman treatment, as well as of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its two additional Protocols of 1977, which contain a number of provisions that categorically prohibit cruel or inhuman treatment and outrages upon personal dignity.**

Accounts of eyewitnesses affirm that Nabil Al-Sadawi remained in a solitary confinement cell for a period ranging between five to six months, and that he was subjected to severe physical torture both during interrogation and outside the interrogation rooms. Witnesses further affirmed that Nabil was subjected to beatings, prolonged suspension in an upside-down position, electric shocks, starvation, and medical negligence, in addition to psychological torture in the form of insults, name-calling, and various threats made against himself and his family.

Majed Al-Bazli – an abductee who was released in a UN-brokered deal on April 16, 2023 – gives a painful testimony about journalist Al-Sadawi being subjected to torture inside the Security and Intelligence Agency prison, saying: “I was in the cell next to Nabil’s cell. I did not know Nabil before my imprisonment and I first met him in the solitary confinement cells in the “Southern Internal Section” of the Security and Intelligence Agency Prison in November 2015. We only spoke surreptitiously so as not to be brutally punished by our jailers. The cells were narrow, unventilated, and dark, and we could not see anything around us. Many times, when Nabil returned to his cell after lengthy interrogation sessions, he





complained to me of having been beaten and insulted."

Al-Bazli says: "One time, after having spent around two months in solitary confinement cells, Nabil returned in extreme pain and told me that he had been mercilessly tortured and severely beaten because of his refusal to make televised acknowledgments of charges that he knew nothing about. He also mentioned that they had offered to remove him from the "compressors," as they named solitary confinement cells because of its harsh conditions, in return for a confession but that he refused. However, after a few days, he submitted to them and accepted to make the televised confessions they wanted him to make but only after they threatened to harm his family and children."

Raed Al-Rumaish - a former abductee - stated that he was jailed in the cell next to that of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi for nearly four years, during which he witnessed many of the violations that were committed against him, including the horrific interrogation methods that were used by the Security and Intelligence Agency to extract false confessions from Al-Sadawi. Al-Rumaish says: "I saw Nabil while he suffered from agonizing pains in his shoulders, left hand, and back and generally involving all the joints of his body.

When I asked him about the reason for such extraordinary pains, he said that he was suspended in an upside-down position from a chain tied to a pole fixed to the wall for several days during the lengthy interrogations to which he was subjected by "Abu Aqeel", the director of investigations department of the Security and Intelligence Agency at that time. This put enormous pressure upon his entire body for the top of his head to the tips of his toes."

Raed Al-Rumaish added: "Nabil was subjected to other methods of torture by the Houthis during the interrogation session, including being forced to stay awake for several days while being suspended in an upside-down position, as the investigators took turns questioning him in successive six or seven hour shifts and that went on for days to prevent him from sleeping and when he finally fell asleep, he was beaten with cables and copper wires, or he was electrically shocked with a high voltage electric current. At the start of each interrogation session, he was blindfolded and was not given any food or water apart from a few sips that barely kept him alive, until he became delirious and did not understand what he was saying, but all the time he kept hearing them calling each other by nicknames and names that he knew were not their real names, such as (Abu Kadhém, Al-Sharaabi, Abu Hashim, Othman, Shihab).

Raed Al-Rumaish recalled an incident where he and Nabil Al-Sadawi along with a third cell mate called (A.S.S.) were subjected to excruciating torture in 2020, and suddenly (A.S.S.) became feverish and went into a convulsive seizure. When called for help, we received no answer. Quite the contrary. We called out repeatedly for help, but the only person who responded several hours later was Yahya Saree, an officer at the detention facility of the Security and Intelligence Agency, who was known to many of the abductees by his brutality. He that **I along with Nabil Al-Sadawi, and Issam Al-Zindani be taken out** of our cells and out to the prison yard, visibly angered by the fact that we dared ask for help for a sick inmate who was about to die. He started shouting in our faces, and ordered his thugs put us in large iron leg shackles and spray water all over us and then we remained in the cold until morning."

# His Health Status



Nabil Al-Sadawi's family reported that his health started deteriorating from the very first year of his forced disappearance as a result of the brutal physical and psychological torture he was subjected to during the interrogation sessions, the deliberate medical neglect, and being prevented from going out into the yard to exercise in the open air and take in the sun. Nabil's family even says that he has since developed diabetes and is continuously suffering from severe pain in the back, lower spine, neck and shoulders, and in his left hand, in addition to frequent toothaches and skin diseases, particularly athlete's foot, noting that he was in good physical condition and did not suffer from any diseases before his forced disappearance.



The request to transfer him

**This document submitted by Nabil's lawyer, Abdul Majeed Sabra, to the concerned authorities proves that the Houthis-controlled Security and Intelligence Agency refused to transfer the detained journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi to the prison hospital despite his failing health and only agreed to such transfer years later.**

This hospital transfer request was submitted to Khaled Al-Mawari, head of the Specialized Criminal Prosecution department affiliated with the Houthis, on July 6, 2019, i.e. four whole years later, Khaled Al-Mawari instructed the deputy head of the Specialized Criminal Court, Abdullah Ali Al-Ku-maim, to transfer Nabil to the prison hospital, who in turn issued the official letter No. (33-22) and dated July 10, 2019, to the Political Apparatus (currently the Security and Intel-

ligence Agency) to transfer Nabil Al-Sadawi to the prison hospital to receive treatment for his lower back pains and to undergo a tooth extraction operation.

Nabil Al-Sadawi's family says that a CT scan showed that Nabil was suffering from a herniated disc in the first, fourth, and fifth vertebrae but that when they tried to obtain a copy of the medical report from the hospital to which Nabil was transferred for treatment, they failed to obtain such a report due to the strict secrecy shrouding all procedures related to the transfer of detainees in Ansar Allah prisons to hospitals.

This was confirmed by the three abductees whom we interviewed who testified that journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi suffered for many years from a total lack of health care, which caused him to develop several chronic diseases and physical disabilities that can become chronic. This constitutes a violation of **Article 12, Paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, which provides that all individuals, including prisoners have a right to healthcare, stipulating that:

**"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health." Al-Houthi practices also constitute a clear violation of Principle 9 of the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, which states: "Prisoners should be provided with access to health services available in the country without discrimination on the basis of their legal status."**



# **The Judicial Procedures**



Journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi was forcibly disappeared for many months and was not brought before any court or a competent judicial body for trial, nor was any charge brought against him. Indeed, the first hearing of his trial was only held on January 13, 2020, as evidenced by the official trial petition that we managed to obtain, and this unto itself is considered a violation of all relevant international treaties and conventions and in particular of the second paragraph of Article Nine of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Yemen, which states:

**"Any person who is to be placed under arrest must be informed of the reasons for this arrest when it occurs, and he must be promptly informed of any charge preferred against him."**

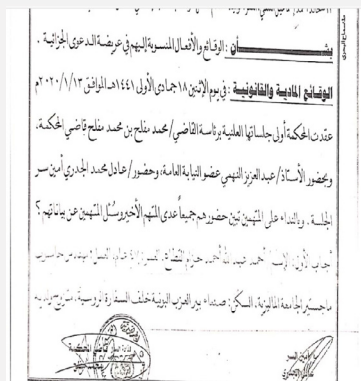
The third paragraph of the same article also stipulates:

**"Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or an employee legally authorized to exercise judicial functions. He shall have the right to be tried within a reasonable period of time, failing which he must be released. The detention of persons awaiting trial may not be the general rule, but their release may be subject to guarantees to ensure their attendance at trial at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and to ensure the execution of the sentence when necessary."**

These procedures also violated the law in force in Yemen, as Article (73) of the Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates:

**"Everyone who is arrested shall be immediately informed of the reasons for this arrest and given the right to review the arrest warrant and contact whom-ever he sees fit to inform him of what happened and seek the assistance of a lawyer. He must be informed promptly of the charge brought against him."**

No charges were brought against Nabil from the moment of his arrest, and despite the Houthi-controlled judicial bodies desperate attempts to come up with a charge to justify the arrest and confer a modicum of legitimacy thereupon and even though the Public Prosecution department officially took over Nabil's file on November 24, 2018, it failed to initiate the prescribed judicial procedures or even question the defendants until February 16, 2019, after which date no further action was taken until July 2, 2019, according to the appeal petition submitted by lawyer Abdel Majeed Sabra.



A document that shows the  
outset of legal proceedings

At that time, the Municipality Specialized Criminal Prosecution department finally decided to issue an indictment against Nabil Al-Sadawi along with a number of other detainees. The indictment was officially issued by the Prosecution department as document No. (541) of 2018, whereunder Nabil was charged of "cooperating with the countries of aggression" and of committing crimes adversely affecting the security of the country. This is the blanket charge that was usually preferred against most of the detainees opposed to Ansar Allah.

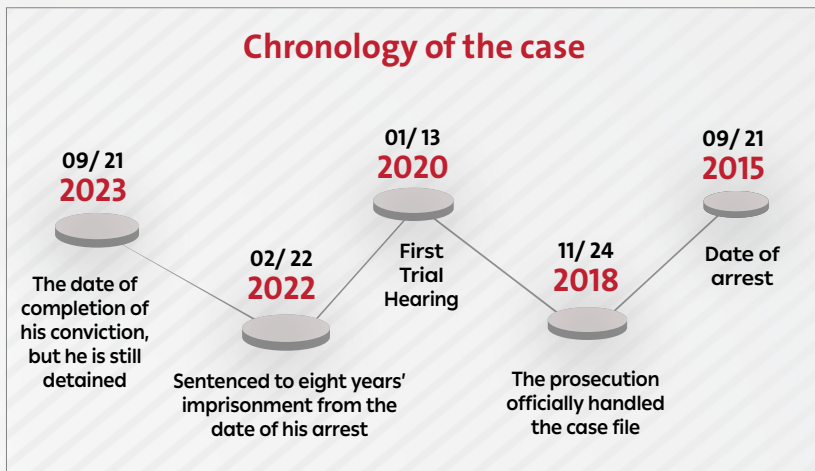
Merely reviewing the appeals submitted by lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra before the court of appeals makes it amply clear that the trial procedures explicitly violated the Code of Criminal Procedure, which according to the Yemeni Constitution, sets out the powers of judicial officers, the Public Prosecution, and courts of all levels, pursuant to Article (129/1) of this law, which stipulates that:

**"The investigation procedures must be completed within a maximum of two months from the date of opening the file, and the investigation procedures must be expedited in connection with which the pretrial detention order was issued against the accused."**

Contrary to this provision, Nabil's case was only referred to the prosecution department for investigation more than four and a half years after his arrest and even then, he was not allowed to confer privately with his lawyer to discuss the charges preferred against him.

For his part, Nabil Al-Sadawi's lawyer, Abdel Majeed Sabra, says that the conduct of his client's trial was not legal from the moment of his arrest till date, as he was not informed of the charges pressed against him, nor was he referred to the public prosecution department until nearly four years thereafter, in addition to the lack of jurisdiction of the Criminal Court in journalism-related cases. He further pointed out the fact that the investigation proceedings were held on July 2, 2019, in violation of Article (76) of the Code of Criminal Procedure in force in the Yemeni courts and prosecution offices, which stipulates:

**"Anyone who is temporarily held on suspicion of having committed a crime must appear before the court within not later than twenty-four hours as of the time of his arrest, and the judge or member of the Public Prosecution must then inform him of the reasons for his arrest, and after completion of interrogation be enabled to express his defense and objections. He must then either immediately issue a reasoned order to place him under pretrial detention or release him. In all cases, it is not permissible for the accused to remain in pretrial detention for more than seven days unless by a court order"**



On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, the Municipality Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance, headed by the judge Muhammad Mufleh and in the presence of Public Prosecution member Abdul Malik Ishaq and the court secretary, Adel Muhammad Al-Jadari, issued ruling No. (219) of 1443 AH in connection with the case No. (541) of 2018, filed by the Public Prosecution department. Under the aforementioned ruling, Nabil Al-Sadawi among other people was convicted of the charges which is punishable by penalties ranging from imprisonment for different periods to the death penalty. Nabil Al-Sadawi was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment and to be placed under surveillance for three years thereafter by Ansar Allah-controlled security and intelligence services.

But despite journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi having fully served the sentence issued against him by the court on September 21, 2023, he still remains in detention.

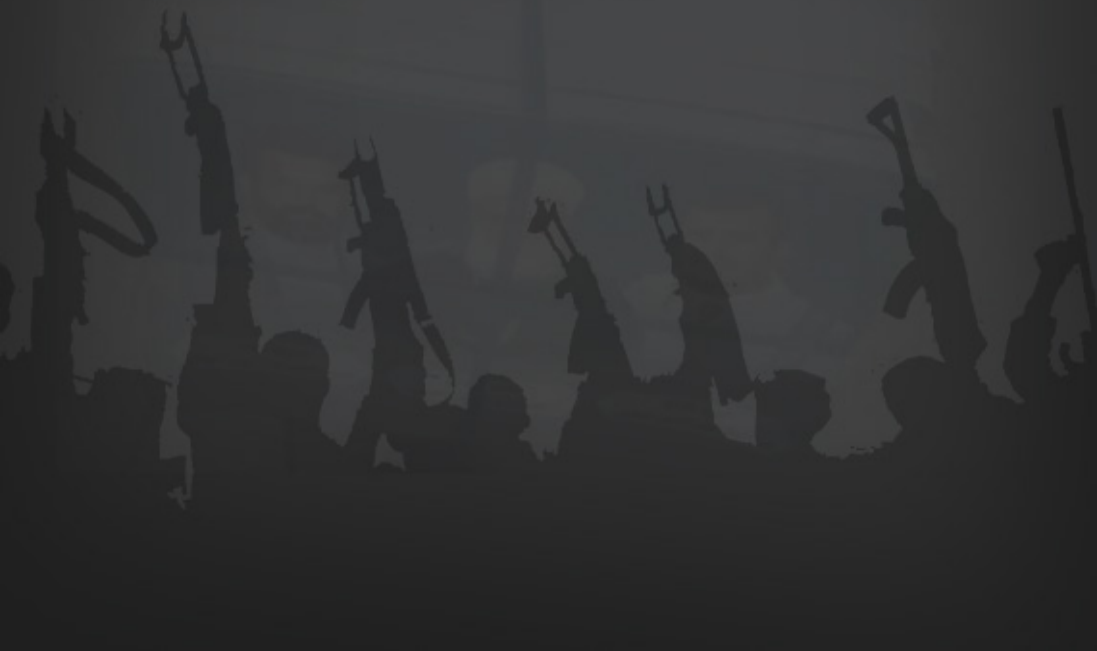
The reason why Nabil Al-Sadawi was not released by the Ansar Allah group-controlled authorities even after the elapse of the 15-day period prescribed under the Yemeni law, lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra explains, was that the ruling was challenged before the Specialized Appeals Division, where trial procedures took place. De-

spite having challenged the first instance ruling, the prosecution department failed to respond for three sessions, and then requested a continuance, thus forcing the Appeals Division in the hearing held on Sunday, November 26, 2023, to order the release of Nabil Al-Sadawi and to uphold the ruling issued by the court of first instance.

The lawyer further says that even after the decision to release Nabil Al-Sadawi was issued by the appeal division and duly notified to the Public Prosecution department towards its implementation, bring the authority concerned with addressing the Security and Intelligence Agency towards that end, the Public Prosecution department refused to implement the court decision under the pretext that the prosecution department was appealing the said ruling even though the Public Prosecution had failed to notify such appeal beforehand, and we did not know of the said appeal until after the release decision was issued, which can be regarded to have been filed for malicious purposes and to avoid instructing the Security and Intelligence Agency to release the accused.

Lawyer Sabra states that based upon his experience, Nabil's was not the only case where both the Public Prosecution and the Security and Intelligence Agency obstructed the implementations of release decisions on the pretext that the detainee will be part of an exchange deal between the legitimate government and the Ansar Allah.

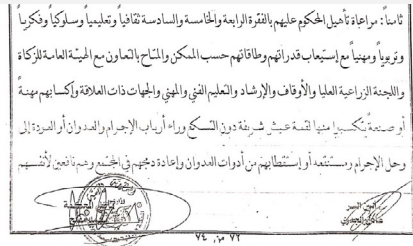
# Sectarian "Cultural" COURSES





Since it has taken control of the capital, Sana'a, in September 2014, Ansar Allah has made no secret of its intent to impose its cultural programs on various sectors of the state and society as a whole using various means, ranging from inducement to intimidation and taking full advantage of its control over both official and private media.

Indeed, detainees in Houthi prisons, including journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi, had their fill of Houthi's sectarian cultural courses, but still went along against their will, knowing that if they refused or resisted such courses, they would be punished or at least harassed. This situation was confirmed by those lucky enough to be released in their testimonies submitted to SEMC.



Part 8 of the ruling against journalist Nabil and others

According to Raed Al-Rumaish "All detainees were indiscriminately subjected to sectarian programs, but because Nabil Al-Sadawi was a highly educated journalists, he was exposed to more intensified sectarian programs, because the Houthis were determined to use every means at their disposal to convert detainees whether by outright coercion, gentle persuasion, or subtle pressure. Sometimes we had heated discussions with the Houthi lecturers where we expressed our rejection of such thoughts which were alien to us. We would ask them some questions that we knew they disapprove of and although they would remain silent, we would then be treated badly, prevented from receiving visitors or going out to the sunroom, or the worst scenario: being placed in solitary confinement cells. Repeated inspection rounds were a milder form of punishment, during which all our clothing items would be confiscated as a punishment for discussing things that they considered taboos

or for showing our lack of conviction in those lectures, which discussed incidents that took place during the time of the prophet and his companions which we did not live in and from a historical perspective which we didn't share. This was a common occurrence as can be confirmed by Abdul-Ilah Si-lan and Majid Al-Bazli.

Upon examining the documents we obtained, including the ruling issued against Nabil Al-Sadawi and the other defendants, we found something that clearly demonstrates the blatant exploitation by the Ansar Allah of the judiciary and its bodies in imposing cultural programs based upon sectarian ideology, as the ruling issued by Judge Muhammad Mufleh provided in the eighth paragraph thereof "Taking into account the cultural, educational, behavioral and intellectual rehabilitation of convicts." Obviously, there can be nothing more malicious and outright dangerous than exploiting the judiciary to impose intellectual, ideological and political convictions. Indeed, this constitutes a violation of personal rights and of relevant domestic and international laws.



## The Organizations



The plight of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi didn't pass unnoticed by many international organizations. Indeed, such organizations condemned his arrest, forced disappearance, torture, cruel treatment, and medical neglect in the harshest of terms. Amnesty International has never ceased calling upon the "de facto Houthis authorities" to release him without delay.

In its report dated December 10th, 2022, Amnesty International said: "The Houthis continue to use the Specialized Criminal Court – a court usually reserved for security-related crimes and whose hearings are mostly secret – to prosecute journalists who criticize the authorities or express opposing opinions."

Amnesty International also described the sentences handed down to journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi among many others as "harsh sentences that came after unfair trials on charges related to their professional work and based upon forced confessions extracted through torture and other forms of ill-treatment."

The International Federation of Journalists, pursuant to a report by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, demanded the immediate release of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi and other abducted journalists unjustly held in the prisons of Ansar Allah.

Anthony Bellanger, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Journalists, said: "We condemn the unsafe working conditions in which journalists and media professionals are forced to work under in Yemen, which puts their safety and lives at risk. We reiterate our call for the release of all detained colleagues, and we call upon the Yemeni authorities to implement the recommendations issued in the report of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate."



Amnesty International Campaign

calling for Sadawi's release

# Recommendations



After ample research and close scrutiny of the arrest file of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi, it became abundantly clear to us that he was subjected to many human rights violations, including arrest, enforced disappearance, psychological and physical torture, ill-treatment, and deliberate medical neglect, in clear violation of Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states:

**"No one may be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,"**

It has also been proven beyond any doubt that he was subjected to illegal violations during the course of the trial procedures, up to and including failure by Ansar Allah to implement the release order issued by the court despite Nabil Al-Sadawi having fully served his 8-year sentence issued by the Houthi controlled Specialized Criminal Court on September 21, 2023.

### **Accordingly, SEMC demands the following:**

#### **First:**

The immediate release of journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi and to put an end to his illegal detention, based on rulings issued by the Houthi controlled court.

#### **Second:**

Second: That the deputy head of the so-called Political Apparatus, namely Major General Abdul Qadir Ahmed Qasim Al-Shami, and the head of the Security and Intelligence Agency, namely Major General Abdul Hakim Hashem Ali Al-Khaiwani, be held fully accountable for the serious violations that journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi was subjected to and which can only be regarded as retaliation for pursuing his work as a professional journalist.

#### **Third:**

Third: That all bodies concerned with human rights and freedom of speech and expression – whether domestic, Arab or international – take



due cognizance of the horrific testimonies given by witnesses about the tragic ordeal that journalist Nabil Al-Sadawi is still suffering up to this day, issue unequivocal statements of solidarity and condemnation against the leaders of Ansar Allah and call upon them to ensure his quick release and to compensate him both financially and morally for the serious damages he incurred.

#### Fourth:

That an immediate and serious investigation be launched in order to find practical and effective mechanisms that decisively ensure that those responsible for such crimes committed against journalist Al-Sadawi can't escape with impunity.

#### Fifth:

That an independent joint international and domestic committee be established to investigate the crimes committed against journalist Al-Sadawi by Ansar Allah.

#### Sixth:

That all international organizations make regular visits to prisons in Yemen and meet journalists to learn closely about their dire living conditions in those prisons.

#### Seventh:

That Ansar Allah stop its transgressions against the press and journalists, and put a long-awaited end to their systematic persecution, and provide a safe and secure working environment for journalists.

#### Eighth:

That all parties to the conflict in Yemen stop trying journalists before criminal courts rather than before courts specialized in publication offenses.



**Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)** is one of the Civil society organizations that works on economic field, awareness and promote the economic issues transparency, good governance and participated citizens in decision-making. Also, It works to find a professional media

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**Yemen Media Freedoms Observatory (MARSADAK)** is a monitoring and information platform aimed at disseminating all matters relating to freedoms of opinion and expression in various Yemeni regions in a professional and independent manner, as well as, analyzing and advocating for journalists' issues at the local and international levels.

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