



Enhancing International  
Accountability for Torture Issues in  
Yemen Project

“ **Human Rights and Accountability  
for Torture in Peace Agreements  
and Prisoner Exchange in Yemen** ”

The Role of Government, Political  
Parties and Civil Society

● **Online Panel Discussion**



**Concept Note  
Online Panel  
Discussion**

<b>Title:</b>	Human Rights and Accountability for Torture in Peace Agreements and Prisoner Exchange in Yemen: The Role of Government, Political Parties and Civil Society
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 30 March 2023, 02:00 - 04:00pm
<b>Platform:</b>	<a href="#">Mahlia</a>

## Background

This activity is carried out by Watch for Human Rights (Watch4HR), in partnership with Itar Foundation for Social Development (Itar), as part of the civil society initiatives in Yemen to enhance advocacy and awareness efforts through digital means on accountability for torture issues, peacebuilding and women participation.

Watch for Human Rights (Watch4HR) is a Yemeni CSO human rights that contributes to the preservation and defense of victims' rights, accountability, and achieving justice and peace. It documents human rights violations in Yemen and mobilizes support for efforts to curb violations, expose perpetrators and hold them accountable, also a local partner for Enhancing International Accountability for Torture in Yemen Project and partner of the Yemen Human Rights Forensics Lab (YHRFL) program.

And, Itar Foundation for Social Development (Itar), a Yemeni national and women-led NGO, a local partner for Displaced Women's and Girls' Humanitarian-Peace Dialogue in Yemen Project (#WomenIDPsDialogue), in partnership with the UN Women and funded by Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). Mahlia Platform, is a digital platform for civil society and local leaders to promote locally-led and gender-responsive humanitarian-development-peace and climate change initiatives. Mahlia is supported by the Displaced Women's and Girls' Humanitarian-Peace Dialogue Project.

## Objectives and Outputs

The key objective of this event is to strengthen understanding among different stakeholders of government, political parties, civil society, journalists and international organizations on the relationship between accountability for torture issues and peace agreements and prisoner exchange in Yemen; this is in order to streamline human rights documentation, advocacy, and awareness raising interventions during conflict and post-conflict that will contribute to combating impunity and achieving justice for victims of human rights violations in the context of torture in Yemen.

### Four background papers on

#### 1. Four background papers on

- a. International accountability for torture issues: what the concept, situation in Yemen, mechanisms, how to enhance advocate.
- b. Gender and accountability for torture issues: what gender analysis of the situation, what challenges and opportunities to enhance gender integration in accountability for torture including peace agreements, gender-responsive peace agreement implementation and mechanisms, transitional justice, etc.
- c. The role of the Netherland Government in enhancing human rights and accountability for torture issues in Yemen and Syria: what to learn and how to etc.
- d. Local Initiatives on reconciliation and justice: initiative of Taiz, what the background, objectives, main activities

#### 2. Recommendations to different stakeholders on enhancing accountability for torture issues in Yemen.

#### 3. A one or two-page position statement on the panel outputs and recommendation to be publicly shared.

## Structure and Format

- ▶ Participants: A list of 30 women and men participants was developed and included representatives from relevant local and international civil society organizations, government institutions, political parties, journalists and academic institutions (see annex 1: list of participants).
- ▶ Moderation: The online panel discussion will be moderated by Mr. Marwan Ali, an international senior advisor on peace, politics and human rights.
- ▶ Panelists: Four experts were identified to develop 2-4-page background papers and share facts, offer opinions, and respond to participants' questions.

### The panelists are:

#### Dr. Omar Bawazeer

Human rights professor in Hadramout University, will discuss the international accountability for torture issues.

#### Ms. Huda Al-Sarrai

Lawyer and human rights defender, will discuss the gender and accountability for torture issues.

#### Ms. Tessa Scholma

First Secretary Political Affairs, the Netherlands Embassy in Yemen, will discuss the role of the Netherland Government in enhancing human rights and accountability for torture issues in Yemen and Syria.







#### Mr. Basem Al-Hag

First Secretary of Yemeni Socialist Party in Taiz Governorate, will present discuss the peace agreements and prisoner exchange in Yemen from 2016 to 2023.

# Agenda

 <b>Speaker</b>	 <b>Suggested Speaking Time</b>
<b>Opening Remarks:</b>	<b>4-6 minutes</b>
Mr. Akram Al-Shawafi, Chairperson of Watch4HRs	2-3 minutes
Ms. Sumia Sallam, Officer of Mahlia	2-3 minutes
Brief Remarks and Introduction of Panelists: <b>Moderator: Mr. Marwan Ali</b>	<b>5-7 minutes</b>
<b>Presentations:</b>	<b>40-45 minutes</b>
Panelist: Dr. Omar Bawazeer	10 - 12 minutes
Panelist: Ms. Huad Al-Sarrari	10 - 12 minutes
Panelist: Ms. Tessa Scholma	10 - 12 minutes
Panelist: Mr. Basem Al-Hag	10 - 12 minutes
<b>Interactive Dialogue:</b> <b>Moderator: Mr. Marwan Ali</b>	<b>40-45 minutes</b>
Interventions of relevant government, political parties and civil society from the floor	10-15 minutes
Open dialogue with comments and questions and from the participants.	25-30 minutes
<b>Concluding Remarks and Closing:</b>	<b>10-15 minutes</b>
Conclusion by the moderator: <b>Mr. Marwan Ali</b>	5-7 minutes
Next steps by Watch4HRs chairperson: <b>Mr. Akram Al-Shawafi</b>	5-7 minutes
Thank you note and closing: by the moderator: <b>Mr. Marwan Ali</b>	5-7 minutes



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