

# The Reality of Women's Interactions with Security authorities in Taiz Governorate. Policy Paper



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## Summary:

The access of women to security services is considered one of the prominent rights guaranteed by the Yemeni constitution to citizens. It contributes to providing protection and reducing the levels of violence and violations that women face. However, women in Taiz Governorate face problems and challenges in dealing with security authorities that affect their access to security protection services.

The main challenges include the modest infrastructure of security institutions, which has deteriorated due to the ongoing war, and the lack of supportive facilities that cater to women and respect their privacy. There is a shortage of services provided by security authorities in the governorate and a low number of female police officers. The protective legislation for women against domestic violence is weak, and relevant laws addressing protection from violence and cyber extortion are not adequately updated. Additionally, there is a significant gap between women and the security sector, reinforced by the social culture that hinders women from resorting to the police and considers it a male-exclusive institution. This is further exacerbated by the limited number of female police officers and their insufficient capabilities.

Despite the efforts made by the police leadership in partnership with civil society organizations to improve the interaction of the security sector with women, their impact remains limited. The war that took place in Taiz Governorate has led to the collapse of the security system, which was subsequently rebuilt amidst security challenges and limited resources. The security authorities were prioritizing the restoration of security and rebuilding the security apparatus, resulting in a lack of attention to women's needs. This was reflected in the weak focus on the women's police force, their empowerment, capacity building, and the absence of dedicated facilities for women within security institutions. Consequently, their performance in meeting women's needs has been affected.

The chaotic security situation in the city of Taiz, coupled with the economic downturn of families, the rise of incitement and extremist discourse against women, and the activity of civil society, has increased women's fears regarding approaching security authorities. This is especially true considering the limited number of female police officers and their inadequate capabilities.

Therefore, increasing women's participation in the police force and empowering them in leadership positions, along with developing police stations and their facilities, starting with the provision of dedicated departments for women within the Criminal Investigation Department and the three directorates in the city of Taiz, equipped with resources that cater to women's basic needs and staffed by qualified female officers capable of handling women's issues, are important proposals to address this problem. These measures serve as a real foundation for building women's trust in security authorities. Achieving this requires the collaboration of official and community efforts, while considering the security situation and the specific context of Taiz Governorate when implementing these proposed solutions.

**Key words:** Women – Security Institutions – Taiz Governorate – Civil Society



## Introduction:

Women in Taiz governorate face problems and challenges in accessing and dealing with the security authorities, and this exacerbates family problems and increases the marriage of minors between the ages of 10-19 years due to economic conditions, the persistence of injustice and violence against women, and the spread of exploitation and extortion of women and girls, due to the fear of informing parents and security authorities, and significantly affects women's access to justice and fairness and the growing sense of discrimination. In Taiz, as in Yemen, armed conflict has led to women's civilian and life environments such as homes, neighborhoods, farms and wells being targeted with missiles and mines, house searches, sexual harassment, forced displacement of families, and increased child marriage. In light of the inadequacy of legislation regulating marriage.

Restrictions on women's freedom of movement and interaction with men (as most police officers remain men) impede women's ability to report or report to the police. The absence of qualified female police in security facilities also contributes to weakening women's orientation to the security authorities, or leads to women's reluctance to give their statements and suffering, and to be reluctant to express their problems freely in front of male police officers during interrogations. Stereotypes lead to the fact that women have very limited space for individual participation or freedom in the family as well as in society, which affects economic independence, inequality and access to decision-making positions, and exacerbates women's vulnerability to violence.

In the context of alleviating the suffering of women in the security authorities, the Taiz Police Department and civil society organizations have made various efforts, most notably the reactivation of the Family Protection Department at the Taiz Governorate Police Department and raising the capabilities of police personnel to improve their dealings with women and vulnerable groups, but the problem remains.

This paper aims to examine the problems of women in dealing with the security authorities in Taiz Governorate and their effects on the rights of women and girls, and the existing policies, and to achieve this goal, (15) interviews were conducted with a number of women who deal with the security authorities, in addition to (8) interviews with a number of directors of security departments and police stations in the governorate, as well as (5) interviews with the official authorities concerned with women, civil society organizations and lawyers, to come up with a realistic diagnosis of the current situation of the problem, and to provide proposals for solutions and treatments necessary to improve the role of Security authorities in enhancing women's confidence in the police.



## The general context of the problem:

Taiz Governorate is located in the southwest of Yemen, with a population of 4,113,663 people, of which 836,715 people are in Taiz city, the center of the governorate, including 448,955 females. After the fighting reached Taiz in early April 2015, various levels of local authority witnessed institutional

collapse. The security sector collapsed, creating a security vacuum that was filled by unofficial security entities, and in July 2016, the

Table number (1): Reasons for women not reporting the assaults they experience.

The percentage	Reasons
55.20%	Weakness of systems and laws in protecting women from violence
30.20%	Social embarrassment and fear of the family
5.20%	No use in reporting
3%	Police departments not taking complaints of violence against women seriously
1.50%	Lack of assistance and services for the crisis
4.20%	Others, including victims of sexual harassment, face social stigma and disgrace

legitimate government began to rebuild the security sector in the governorate by resuming the payment of salaries and recruiting forces within different branches of the security sector.

Women in Taiz Governorate suffer from problems in dealing with various security entities, most notably the stereotypical social perception of women, weak related legislations, lack of trust in security service providers, in addition to the deterioration of the infrastructure of the security entities, the small number of female police officers, and their limited capabilities.

A recent survey showed that 83.7% of women did not report the violence they encountered. The main reasons included weak systems and laws for the protection of women from violence, social embarrassment and fear of family, the futility of reporting, a lack of serious handling of complaints of violence against women in police departments, a lack of assistance and services for crisis situations, and other reasons including victims of sexual harassment facing societal stigma and disgrace.

The data obtained by the researcher indicates a low turnout of women to the security forces in Taiz Governorate, ranging from 9% at the Criminal Investigation Department to 15–20% in other police departments. The women's issues that reach the police revolve around murder, domestic violence, electronic extortion, suicide, running away, disappearance, and harassment. The security leaders in Taiz agree that these are unrealistic percentages, given the special status of women in society.



## Dimensions of the Problem:

This paper addresses the issue of women's struggles in dealing with the security entities in Taiz Governorate during the current period. The problem has several dimensions that can be discussed as follows:

### **First: The impacts of the conflict on the security situation in Taiz Governorate.**

The ongoing war in Taiz province since 2015 has resulted in the collapse of state institutions, and the spread and proliferation of armed groups that impose their control over scattered parts of the city, disrupting the legal and justice system. In June 2015, armed confrontations west of the city led to the Taiz Central Prison being damaged and the escape of about 1200 prisoners. Two months later, control was regained over the province's police department building, but it remained dysfunctional due to being bombed and looted. For more than four years, the Taiz police department has been rearranging its situation and carrying out its tasks in alternative locations. In November 2018, the police department building was reopened. Three thousand members of the resistance forces were recruited into the police, but it still lacked essential structures, equipment, vehicles, and budgets; its authority was weak due to being undermined by armed groups that established temporary police centers and private prisons without supervision from official institutions.

The conflict in Taiz and the economic decline have significantly increased the violations against women and girls. During the first ten months of 2023, the Al-Thawra Hospital received (422) cases of assault on women by relatives, and most of these women do not go to the security authorities, choosing instead to obtain medical reports from the hospital and then receive compensation ('Ursh) from the local community leaders based on those reports.

The collapse of the police infrastructure has limited women's access to it. The ongoing conflict in Taiz continues to have an impact on the security of women. For instance, in April 2020, six women, including a child, were killed, and at least 11 others were injured when shells hit the women's section of the central prison in Taiz governorate. Most of those interviewed for this paper believe that the effects of the conflict on women's issues in Taiz have increased significantly, and the performance of the security authorities in dealing with women's cases has declined, particularly as the new recruits in the police lack knowledge of security procedures, such as investigation and evidence collection



## Second: Social culture.

The city of Taiz is home to a conservative community, predominantly dominated by men. Given this conservative culture, families are at risk of exploitation and abuse, and women's participation in decision-making is generally limited. According to community culture, police stations are considered male spaces and it is shameful for women to go there. Men often handle women's issues in front of security authorities. As a result, most women do not resort to police departments, and in most cases of domestic violence, matters are dealt with within the family and according to custom, rather than turning to the police and the official judicial system.

A report on gender roles and the conflict in Yemen documented that the impact of the conflict increases domestic violence. However, the reporting of domestic violence incidents against women in Yemen is influenced by the prevailing attitude, which tends to conceal such incidents due to fear of harming the family's reputation and honor. In some cases where women do reach the police stations, separation between the husband and wife may occur.

From 2018 until mid-2021, the court in West Taiz registered (377) cases for the annulment of marriage and validation of divorce. The request for marriage annulment is most often linked to domestic violence, and when a wife is subjected to beating by her husband, she does not resort to the police, but prefers to go to the court. This tendency is reinforced by the fact that some judges treat violence against the wife as justified grounds for annulment. The majority of those interviewed believe that society does not encourage women to go to the police. Likewise, security leaders believe that social customs and traditions classify women's recourse to the police as shameful. Nevertheless, it is important to note that women's roles in the conflict have not been limited to being victims; indeed, women in Taiz have been at the forefront of protest marches, and in the leading ranks of providing humanitarian services and human rights activism.



### Third: Legal frameworks related to women:

Although the Yemeni Constitution stipulates equality between men and women and does not include constitutional barriers that restrict women's access to security services, the texts of some laws provide pretexts for the police to act against women, as in the Personal Status Law, or place obstacles in the way of women during the implementation of certain laws, such as in obtaining an identity card and a passport.

According to security officials interviewed, domestic violence tops the list of women's issues recorded at police stations. The spread of social media channels and their ease of use have also helped create a deliberate methodology for verbal violence, slander, and defamation based on gender, especially against women active in the public sphere. Armed conflict has led to a significant increase in child marriage. However, there is no specific law against domestic violence; in fact, according to the law, a man has guardianship rights over a woman for life. A woman must obey her husband in all matters related to the household. Personal status law does not specify a minimum age for marriage, nor does the penal code contain any provisions specifically addressing violence against women and girls in cyberspace. As a result, women are often reluctant to turn to security authorities.

Although the law prohibits detention after the end of a sentence, prison authorities detain women who have completed their sentences in prison until one of their relatives comes to collect them, or they are released and sent exclusively to women's shelters if their families refuse to accept them. However, the law emphasizes the complete isolation of women prisoners for religious or civil cases. Similarly, Passport Law No. 7 of 1990 does not require a woman's guardian's approval to issue a passport. Women have the right to obtain an identity card. In practice, a woman's access to identity documents varies, and sometimes women are obstructed from enjoying these rights.



The absence of clear texts for the protection of women from domestic violence and the lack of understanding of the legislative frameworks necessary for an adequate response to complaints related to domestic violence results in discouraging women from dealing with the police and the legal system.



#### **Fourth: Lack of women's confidence in obtaining justice.**

The efforts of the security agencies in dealing with women are still below the required level and what women aspire to. In the eyes of the security agencies, the woman is always guilty, especially if the case is familial and the adversary is a husband, father, or brother. The police side with the man no matter how oppressed the woman is. If a family member slanders or insults the woman in the police station, it is considered his right under the pretext of disciplining her.

In addition to the lack of financial resources and the length of procedures, women fear police bias towards the offending party. They may also be subjected to harassment when they go to police stations to report domestic violence. The lack of confidence in obtaining justice, the failure of security agencies to consider women's concerns, the absence of a safe and confidential complaints mechanism within the Family Protection Department to ensure the ability to report electronic extortion cases affecting women and girls, and the prolonged procedures all contribute to women's reluctance to engage with the police, especially if they do not have an entity to follow up on their case.

Men dominate the legal system, and the majority of police officers view women with suspicion, partly due to the social stigma associated with women's presence in police stations. This is reflected in the manner in which police departments handle women's cases, favoring social solutions. With the exception of criminal cases, where evidence is collected and forwarded to the prosecution, the resolution of women's issues at the police level is approached socially and often involves family members' participation, particularly in cases of family and domestic disputes.

**Preferring social solutions offers flexibility, speed, and ease in resolving issues. However, relying heavily on such solutions can jeopardize women's rights, especially given the disparities in social authority between men and women and the often-biased police officers in favor of men. This bias may deter women from approaching the police.**



### Fifth: The infrastructure of women's police:

Women face institutional challenges when approaching security agencies, rooted in the infrastructure of the security centers; there are no separate offices for women, no private resting places, or even separate bathrooms or specific uniforms for them. According to those interviewed, there are no special areas for women in the security entities they dealt with, and if there are any, they do not provide auditory and visual privacy for women. There are no guidelines specifically for women in security headquarters, and the women and girls who were interviewed mentioned that they were not received by a female officer.

Table number (2) The number of women in the security agencies - Taiz		
Number of policewomen.	The security agency	
20	Criminal investigation.	1
9	The Central jail.	2
6	Media and Guidance Management.	3
4	Planning and Statistics Management.	4
0	Traffic Police Department.	5
1	"Sala" District Police Department.	6
1	"Hawd Al-Ashraf" Police Department.	7
0	"BirBasha" Police Station.	8

In Taiz Governorate Police Depart-

ment, there are 198 policewomen. Among them, four hold the rank of captain, and ten are second lieutenants. According to the information obtained by the researcher, women are distributed in various security administrations. Table (2) provides a sample of the presence of policewomen in some security facilities. However, most of them do not perform police duties and are assigned administrative tasks.



**The lack of policewomen in police stations, the absence of independent offices for policewomen, and the modest infrastructure of the police departments, along with their limited capabilities, are the most significant obstacles the police face in meeting the needs of women.**



Furthermore, the capacity building of policewomen in security fields is almost non-existent; security agencies do not offer training related to dealing with women, and the trainings provided to policewomen are limited to administrative aspects, communication and liaison skills, and the nature of interactions with female inmates and their visitors in the central prison.

Even before the conflict in 2015, police stations were not architecturally designed to meet security services, let alone accommodate the privacy needs of women and

vulnerable groups. Currently, most police stations are essentially rented shops and do not provide special areas for receiving women and handling their issues. Since interrogation and investigation procedures can take many hours, especially in criminal investigation, there is a need for spaces that respect women's privacy and include private rooms and bathrooms.



## The consequences of women's weak interactions with security agencies:

The interviews conducted by the researcher with a sample of women, security agencies, and civil society representatives revealed a significant weakness in women's dealings with security entities, which resulted in several negative social consequences, the most prominent of which are:

- 1 - Exacerbation of family problems and the marriage of minors aged 10 to 19 years due to economic conditions and violence against women.
- 2 - Increase in injustice and violence against women, and the escalation of their exploitation and blackmail, due to fear of informing families as well as security authorities.
- 3 - Stereotypical perceptions entrench the marginalization of women's status and role, confining them to a very limited space for participation or individual freedom within the family and society, which affects their economic independence and obstructs their access to decision-making positions.
- 4 - It negatively affects women's access to justice and equity, and contributes to the growing sense of discrimination.
- 5 - Women's reluctance to submit complaints or provide their statements, and their preference to keep silent out of fear of the stigma that may follow them from society.
- 6 - The restrictions imposed on women's freedom of movement and their interaction with men – considering that most police officers are still males – hinder their ability to report to or approach the police.
- 7 - Continuing weakness of trust between women and security entities and law enforcement institutions.
- 8 - Negative stereotypical perceptions about gender roles, patriarchal attitudes, the legal system, and economic inequality exacerbate the precarious situation of women regarding their exposure to violence.



## Causes of the problem with the most impact:

According to the results of interviews and published desk research, the issues faced by women and girls in dealing with the security authorities in Taiz Governorate stem from the following reasons:

- 1** - Armed conflict, the collapse of the security system, division, the siege imposed on Taiz Governorate, and the lack of training for the police officers who have been recently recruited into the police force.
- 2** - The pattern of social customs and traditions and the cultural frameworks derived from the male-dominated nature of Yemeni society are key barriers to women's access to the police.
- 3** - The negative stereotype and perception of the police contribute to the reluctance of citizens, including women, to engage with them, especially since the majority of those employed in the force are men.
- 4** - The lengthy security procedures and women's feeling of not achieving justice.
- 5** - The locations of security entities are not suitable for women, and security headquarters do not provide privacy for women.
- 6** - The scarcity of female police officers, the inadequacy of their qualification and training, the nature of security work which requires round-the-clock service, and the difficulty for policewomen to work outside their residential areas.
- 7** - The failure to update legislation related to violence against women and girls. For example, there are no legal provisions to protect women from domestic violence, and legal texts related to cyber violence are still scattered and in need of comprehensive cybercrime legislation. Additionally, the roles and responsibilities of the Family Protection Department remain unclear.





## General policies and the role of official entities:

In the context of its efforts to alleviate the issue of women's interactions with security agencies in Taiz, the police administration in the governorate has implemented a number of measures, some in collaboration with civil society organizations. We will review the most prominent of these policies and discuss them analytically.

### Reactivation of the Family Protection Department.

Within the new restructuring carried out by the Ministry of Interior, a new department, the Family Protection Department, was established, concerned with women's issues. This unit receives complaints from women related to family matters and is managed by a team of female officers. In Taiz, the operation of the Family Protection Department was suspended during the war but has been gradually reactivated. Its office was refurbished and made operational in January 2023. The department houses a section for receiving reports and complaints, a detention room with its facilities, and a guard room staffed by female police officers. Furthermore, in September 2023, the Family Protection office at the Republican Police Station was opened after its rehabilitation. Despite the importance of the Family Protection Department, it lacks many needs, most notably: training and qualifying the department's staff, especially in dealing with women, as the female officers lack training related to security work, and there is a need for the appropriate staff.

### Decision to appoint female officers in leadership positions.

On January 30, 2023, as part of the police department's strategy in Taiz to enhance security work and improve performance, the Director-General of Taiz Police issued a decision to appoint five female police officers to leadership positions, (including Assistant Director of Al-Muzaffar Police, and Deputy Directors for the police departments of Al-Madina, Al-Qahirah, Al-Jumhori, Al-Gudeiry, and the Training and Qualification Department.) However, this decision was subsequently reversed, with another order issued assigning the female officers as heads of the Women and Children Departments in the police stations. This was considered a stereotype, confining the female security leaders to traditional roles and deemed insufficient for their full participation in all aspects of security work.

The decision to retract was considered by some as a regression from the Taiz police's commitments to include women, and several entities, including the National Women's Committee, demanded that the decision not be reversed. The police department management did not disclose the reasons for the retraction; however, information indicates that they received pressure from "religious men," which led to the reconsideration of these decisions.



## Coordination with civil society organizations.

Taiz governorate police administration is working on coordinating and cooperating with civil society organizations to enhance the capacities of security personnel and to improve the infrastructure damaged by the war. It also coordinates with the Women and Girls' Protection and Rehabilitation Center to rehouse women released from the central prison into the center's shelter, providing them with economic empowerment courses in addition to psychological support and legal services. There is a good level of coordination with the Yemeni Women's Union, which offers shelter to women who approach the police and do not have a suitable place to stay, and the union adopts amicable solutions between some women and their families. Nevertheless, crime rates have increased, and the performance of the union has declined due to the conflict and institutional division, along with the loss of its main headquarters in Taiz, which is controlled by military forces affiliated with the legitimate government.

Two years ago, the Community Safety Committee was formed in Al-Gudeiry department's neighborhoods of Al-Mudhaffar directorate, consisting of 7 members from the Al-Jadairi police department and 8 from the community. In November 2021, they began implementing an initiative to conduct some renovations and rehabilitation for the Al-Jadairi police department, not to mention furnishing a special room for women, equipping it with lighting, and inaugurating the work in January 2022. The experience was well received by both the women and the police. Almost all the departments in the Al-Mudhaffar directorate have reached out to us to replicate the Al-Jadairi department's experience and to rehab other police departments, adding special areas for women, such as the 26th police department, Bir Basha police department, and Sina' police department. However, coordination and communication between the security agencies and components of the local community, including women, remains weak.

By analyzing the reality of the existing policies, it can be said that:

**security is not solely the duty of the police but rather a broad social process in which the community, its components, and various institutions participate, as well as different official authorities.**

Therefore, the ineffectiveness of the current policies may be attributed to the influences of the overall context, characterized by the armed conflict and its political, economic, cultural, social, and military impacts. The continued division among political, legislative, executive, and judicial institutions, and the military split within Taiz Governorate, in addition to the weakness of the government and the central security institution represented by the Ministry of Interior in the temporary capital Aden, contribute to this situation. There is also a lack of coordination with the community and stakeholders, and the entrenched perception of the police and its facilities as male-dominated spaces, which limits community and women's engagement with them.



## Recommendations:

### For the Governorate's Police Administration:

- Rehabilitate police stations and departments to accommodate the needs of women, men, the elderly, and people with disabilities, and maintain a decent level of humanitarian conditions that enhance respect for human rights.
- Increase the number of female staff and establish a family protection unit in security agencies and police stations to enhance accessibility and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of women seeking assistance and their cases.
- Adopt training and qualification policies for female police and male police officers in dealing with women's and girls' issues.
- It's essential to establish a secure and confidential complaint mechanism within the Family Protection Department to ensure the possibility of informing security authorities about the cyber extortion that women and girls face.
- It is necessary to work on mitigating the negative behaviors of security personnel in police stations and checkpoints to improve the prevailing image of the police in public consciousness. This can be achieved through the implementation of a code of conduct, obligating police personnel to adhere to it, and conducting regular monitoring of police actions and their commitment to professional ethics and the code of conduct.

Activate communication channels between the police and the community through meet-

- ings, conferences, joint events, and enhance the presence and participation of women.



### For civil society organizations:

- Focus on the impact of the conflict on the security institution and building the operational capacities of the police and the skills of the security personnel.
- Continue training in gender concepts and their relevance to the police sector on a large scale. Intensify efforts in community awareness regarding domestic violence and violence against women and girls, and educate the community to accept the idea of women turning to security agencies.
- Intensify interventions aimed at enhancing the role of shelters and safe spaces for abused women and girls.
- Educating women about their legal rights and acquainting them with the responsibilities and services of security authorities, and when to resort to them.
- Adoption of programs to support the police's efforts in empowering the participation of women and girls.
- Intensify the interventions related to cyber security and enhance the capabilities of police-women in all aspects of technology and digital security.
- Enhance community oversight on the work of security agencies and enforce the rule of law and gender equality .Work on enhancing the participation of women in decision-making positions and the formation of community safety committees composed of the community and police members, as has happened in the community safety committee for the neighborhoods of Al-Gudeiry Police Department.



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<sup>3</sup>Violence Against Yemeni Women, Survey Results, Media Network for Peace and Security in cooperation with the E-Organization for Human Media, November 28, 2020, Link: <https://eohm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Violence-against-Yemeni-women-results-of-a-survey.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>An interview conducted by the researcher with the Director of Criminal Investigation in the Governorate on December 3, 2023.

<sup>5</sup>Interviews conducted by the researcher with both the Director of Planning and the Director of Media in the Taiz Governorate Police, dated December 6, 2023.

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<sup>7</sup>Taiz.. The Perplexed Security, "Report," SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties, 2022, p78.

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<sup>12</sup>The Researcher's Interview with the Director of Criminal Investigation in Taiz Governorate, Previous Source.

<sup>13</sup>Interview conducted by the researcher with Professor Sabah Al-Sharabi, Chairwoman of the National Women's Committee in Taiz Governorate, on December 3, 2023.

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<sup>15</sup>The Office of the Resident Coordinator and the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Taiz Central Prison Attacked, Resulting in Many Killed and Wounded, (Sana'a: United Nations, 2020), <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files>, "Taiz" Urban Profiling file, p19.

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<sup>17</sup>Interview conducted by the researcher with the Director of the Media Department at the Taiz Governorate Police.

<sup>18</sup>CARE International, Gendercap, Oxfam, Gender Relations and Conflict in Yemen. November 2016. <https://www.care-international.org/files/files/YemenGenderReport171116.pdf>

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<sup>22</sup>Interview with one of the female lawyers in the city of Taiz on November 23, 2023.

<sup>23</sup>Article (31) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen states, "Women are the sisters of men, they have rights and duties guaranteed and required by Sharia and stipulated by law," and Article (41) states, "All citizens are equal in public rights and duties."

<sup>24</sup>Interview with one of the female lawyers in Taiz city on November 23, 2023.

<sup>25</sup>Article (16) of the Presidential Decree by Law No. (20) for the year 1992 regarding Personal Status.

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<sup>29</sup>The Republic of Yemen: Gender Equality and the Law, a study issued by the United Nations Development Programme in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and others, 2022, p.21.

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<sup>32</sup>Suffering Under the Weight of Violence, "Report", Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children, Taiz, November 2023, p.9.

<sup>33</sup>An interview conducted with Ms. Sabah Rajeh.

<sup>34</sup>The researcher's interviews with security leaders at the level of directorates and police stations.

<sup>35</sup>Interview with Ms. Sabah Rajeh, President of the Yemeni Women's Union – Taiz, previous source.

<sup>36</sup>Interviews conducted by the researcher through an electronic form dated December 13, 2023, with 15 women and young ladies in the directorates (Al-Qahirah, Al-Mudhaffar, Sala).

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<sup>38</sup>Interviews conducted by the researcher with security leaders at the Taiz Governorate Police, previous source.

<sup>39</sup>The researcher's interviews with security leaders at the level of directorates and police departments in the city of Taiz.

<sup>40</sup>Interview with the Director of Criminal Investigation, previous source.

<sup>41</sup>Interview with the Director of the Media Department at Taiz Police, previous source.

<sup>42</sup>An interview conducted by the researcher with the Deputy Director of the Central Prison in Taiz Governorate, dated December 4, 2023.

<sup>43</sup>Interview with the Director of Criminal Investigation, previous source.

<sup>44</sup>Interview with the Director of the Media Department at Taiz Police, previous source.

<sup>45</sup>Interview conducted by the researcher with the Deputy Director of the Central Prison in Taiz Governorate, on December 4, 2023.



<sup>46</sup>Interview with the Director of the Media Department at Taiz Police.

<sup>47</sup>Interview with Ms. Sabah Rajeh.

<sup>48</sup>Interviews conducted by the researcher with security leaders, women, lawyers, and activists in the city of Taiz during the months of November and December 2023.

<sup>49</sup>Interviews conducted by the researcher with security leaders, women, female lawyers, and activists in Taiz city during November and December 2023.

<sup>50</sup>Article (2) of the Republican Decree No. (50) for the year 2013 regarding the components of the organizational structure of the Ministry of Interior.

<sup>51</sup>The director of Taiz police inaugurates the building of the Family Protection Department after its restoration and rehabilitation, Aden Al-Ghad, January 25, 2023, [<https://aden-gad.net/posts/662490>](<https://adengad.net/posts/662490>).

<sup>52</sup>Security Media Center-Taiz, Tuesday | December 12, 2023.

<sup>53</sup>Interview with Professor Sabah Al-Sharabi, Head of the National Committee for Women's Branch in Taiz Governorate, previous source.

<sup>54</sup>From the same source, January 30, 2023,

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0hRBHBaXtCbNkMpX5SPrXWXUQ4S9q3Sy8kmDjryuqY3kVRxw1hERo9CyGhWqCsYdfI&id=100058110697443&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0hRBHBaXtCbNkMpX5SPrXWXUQ4S9q3Sy8kmDjryuqY3kVRxw1hERo9CyGhWqCsYdfI&id=100058110697443&mibextid=Nif5oz)

<sup>55</sup>Security Media Center-Taiz. Tuesday | February 7, 2023 AD

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02vWJRNggG6hQa15J6Xz5eEfzWZwmByescnAgcqoE7awjnF2Ppdk1iFSsN9Xkafi75I&id=100058110697443&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02vWJRNggG6hQa15J6Xz5eEfzWZwmByescnAgcqoE7awjnF2Ppdk1iFSsN9Xkafi75I&id=100058110697443&mibextid=Nif5oz)

<sup>56</sup>Saeed Nader, Backtracking on the Appointment of 'Female Leaders' in Taiz Police, Almushahid Net, February 14, 2023, <https://almushahid.net/111276/>

<sup>57</sup>Statement issued by the National Women's Committee - Aden, February 8, 2023, "Document."

<sup>58</sup>From the previous source.

<sup>59</sup>Interview with Ms. Sabah Rajeh, head of the Yemeni Women's Union - Taiz, previous source.

<sup>60</sup>Interview with Ms. Sabah Al-Sharabi, previous source.

<sup>61</sup>The initiative is supported by the Berghof Foundation and the Political Development Forum, link: <https://csyemen.org/ar/news-and-activities/%d8%a8%d8%ad%d8%b6%d9%88%d8%b1-%d9%85%d8%b3%d8%a7%d8%b9%d8%af-%20/>

<sup>62</sup>Interview with Ms. Sabah Al-Sharabi, previous source.

<sup>63</sup>The researcher's interview with a lawyer from the Abductees' Mothers Association, who preferred to remain anonymous, dated December 8, 2023.





<sup>64</sup>Interview with the Director of Criminal Investigation in Taiz Governorate, previous source.

<sup>65</sup>Interview with Ms. Sabah Al-Sharabi, previous source.

<sup>66</sup>Interview with Mr./Ms. Sabah Rajeh, previous source.





## About the researcher:

Researcher and consultant in preparing public policy papers, holds a preliminary master's in public law from the Faculty of Law at Taiz University, a human rights and civil activist, and the executive director of the Path Foundation for Development and Human Rights. Consultant and trainer in areas of preparation and writing public policy papers, peace building, gender, inclusive governance and community accountability, advocacy, and lobbying. He has received several local and regional human rights courses. He has numerous papers in the fields of rights and service. Public policy papers he has published include: "The humanitarian and developmental file in Taiz governorate – Weak coordination and missed opportunities" by Saba Youth Foundation – July 2021, "The role of national reconciliation in achieving stability in Yemen" by the School of Peace Organization – January 2022, "Priorities for the return of electricity to Taiz governorate" by Develop Your Society Organization – October 2022 .



## Siyaq Organization:

Siyaq Organization for Youth and Development is a non-governmental development organization that operates with a license number 10 from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. It was established on February 5, 2020, by a group of women with special needs and a selection of young people. It aims to contribute to the building of a developmental society that believes in the principle of coexistence and peace, where women and young people effectively participate through adopting innovative programs that include individuals with special needs, as well as realistic studies in partnership with local and international entities.



## Project Description:

"Watan Project" aims to build the capacities of young men and women in the field of advocacy, develop strategies for mobilizing support, facilitate access to international mechanisms, and prepare and implement advocacy campaigns at the national level. The project aims to draw attention to and advocate for social issues that enhance the role of women in civil society, with the aim of positively influencing peace building in Yemen. It is implemented by the Civil Peace Coalition and funded by the Dutch organization, Pax. This research paper is part of this project and focuses on the challenges faced by women in dealing with the security aspect. It presents a set of important recommendations to enhance the role of women.

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