



Yemen Polling Center

المركز اليمني لقياس الرأي العام

Addressing Life Issues & Voicing Public Opinion

Client:



A Public Opinion Survey on:
**The Presence of Human Rights
Organizations in the Society**

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About the project

In collaboration with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), the Yemen Polling Center (YPC) implemented a project in 2009 with the aim of identifying the status and image of civil society organizations concerned with human rights as well as their relation to society. The project aims at strengthening human rights NGOs, linking their efforts more closely to society's needs and interests and helping to inform the public about the importance of their work.

The objectives of this project therefore are:

- Strengthening human rights NGOs, connecting their efforts to social needs and improving their presence in society;
- Informing the public about the significance of the work of human rights NGOs as a means to creating a social and cultural environment that enhances the ability of such organizations to carry out their activities and realize their goals;
- Strengthening the role of human rights organizations in lobbying decision-makers and legislators when drafting or amending legislations relating to human rights;
- Drafting an effective coordination (networking) mechanism among organizations concerned with democracy and human rights to enable them to work according to an agenda based on effort integration and the distribution of roles and responsibilities.

Project components

This survey is one of the main components of the project and sought to implement the first methodical study on the influence and performance of human rights NGOs, gauging society's awareness of their role and measuring the extent to which these organizations reflect people's concerns and aspirations. The project consists of three main components:

- Holding panel discussions attended by the representatives of human rights NGOs;
- Conducting a survey to assess public opinion on human rights organizations and their image as well as the level of awareness of their work and the extent of their presence in society;
- Organizing two workshops attended by international experts and lecturers as well as the representatives of human rights NGOs in order to boost the role of these organizations and develop their working mechanisms.

This survey

The survey was conducted from July 4 to August 9, 2009. It is the first methodical approach to studying this issue, whereas the discussions have so far been centered on the criticism of NGO activities being limited to the main cities and their adoption of issues that are of no priority to Yemeni society.

Moreover, the survey endeavors to elucidate the needs of Yemeni society, the society's attitudes towards human rights NGOs, its consciousness of their presence, the issues it believes should be prioritized, the society's interest in and familiarity with the issues that have been and are being adopted by human rights NGOs as well as the need for such organizations and their ability to make a difference in public life.

Society is not able to distinguish between human rights NGOs' activities and those of other organizations. This was clearly evidenced by the demands of the respondents which never relate to activities of human rights organizations.

Table (1): Governorates represented in the sample, their percentages and number of interviews

Governorate	Governorate %	Interviews
Sana'a, the Capital	12.4	124
Aden	6.0	60
Taiz	16.0	160
Ibb	14.3	143
Sa'ada	6.8	68
Mareb	3.6	36
Hadramout	7.0	70
Al-Mahweet	5.3	53
Al-Hodeidah	14.7	147
Abyan	4.9	49
Dhamar	9.0	90

Response rate:

The response rate for this survey was 96 percent. Table 2 shows that 4 percent of the main households in the sample were substituted, while 96 percent of the interviews were conducted with the main targeted households. Up to 87.6 percent of interviews were conducted in the first attempt, 7.3 percent in the second and 1.1 percent in the third attempt.

Table 2: Response Rate

The interview conducted during ... attempt	Male	Female	Total
1st	84.5	90.8	87.6
2nd	10.0	4.6	7.3
3rd	1.2	1.0	1.1
Substitution	4.4	3.6	4.0

Reasons for substitution, as shown in table 3, ranged between refusal by 32.5 percent, not finding the targeted gender at 25 percent, unavailability of household members (abandoned houses) at 40 percent and unavailability of the targeted respondent after making three callbacks at 2.5 percent.

Table 3: Reasons for substitution

Reason	Male	Female	Total
Refused to be interviewed	31.8	33.3	32.5
Not included in the sample	27.3	22.2	25.0
Nobody home (abandoned house)	36.4	44.4	40.0
Unavailable at home after three callbacks	4.5	0.0	2.5

Data collection mechanism

For the survey purposes, a survey questionnaire form was designed by specialists for collecting quantitative data. YPC employed the direct data collection method through face-to-face interviews with the respondents. The interviews were conducted by a team that had been extensively trained on administering this type of interviews. The questions were divided into three main sections outlined below:

Section 1: the questions of this section were developed to gauge respondents' perceptions as to human rights and fundamental freedoms in general, the institutions they believe to be abusing or protecting these rights, the authorities they resort to in order to defend such rights and freedoms and their attitudes towards public and private rights.

Section 2: these questions were designed to be administered to people who consider themselves to be familiar with organizations advocating human rights and fundamental freedoms. This section aims at assessing the level of familiarity with human rights NGOs, attitudes towards these organizations and what they stand for, sources of funding for these organizations, sources of knowledge about these organizations and the level of involvement in their activities.

Section 3: this section includes a brief introduction to civil society organizations active in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The questions here were intended for all targeted people irrespective of their knowledge about human rights organizations. This section focuses on elucidating the respondents' attitudes towards such organizations, the issues they embrace and the issues they believe the organizations should adopt as top priorities.

Characteristics of the study community

Male respondents made up 50.2 percent (502 respondents) of all the persons targeted by the sample and 49.8 percent were women. The following is a detailed explanation of the properties of the study community:

Age Group:

Most of the interviews were conducted with respondents ranging between 18 to 35 years, which is in line with the overall age "pyramid" according to official surveys consulted when designing the sample.

Table 4: Age Groups

Age Groups	Male	Female	Total
18 – 20	12.0	17.5	14.7
21 – 25	16.7	21.9	19.3
26 – 30	17.9	18.3	18.1
31 – 35	14.3	10.8	12.6
36 – 40	13.5	9.0	11.3
41 – 45	8.4	7.6	8.0
46 – 50	5.4	7.2	6.3
51 – 55	4.4	3.2	3.8
56 – 60	2.2	2.4	2.3
61+	5.2	2.0	3.6

Education

Almost 24 percent of the targeted persons said they were illiterate and 8.2 percent stated that they had not received any formal education (can read and write). Table 5 shows that most of the surveyed persons had secondary school education whether or not they had completed it and 20.7 percent went to university whether or not they had completed it. Only 0.7 percent of these persons had post-graduate degrees.

Table 5: Education

Level of education	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate	14.3	33.5	23.9
Can read and write	8.2	8.2	8.2
Basic education	12.9	17.1	15.0
Secondary school	26.1	18.9	22.5
Post secondary school diploma	11.0	7.0	9.0
University education	26.5	14.9	20.7
Post graduate	1.0	0.4	0.7

Marital status

About 32.7 percent of the respondents noted they were single and 59.5 percent (with a majority of men) said they were married (see table 6).

Table 6: Marital status

Marital status	Male	Female	Total
Single	29.5	35.9	32.7
Married	65.9	53.0	59.5
Divorced	1.4	4.4	2.9
Widowed	3.2	6.6	4.9

Professional status

Most respondents said that they are not employed. According to table 7, 52.5 percent stated they were jobless of whom 81.7 percent were women (since most women are housewives in Yemen) and 23.5 percent were men.

Table 7: Professional status

Professional status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	76.5	18.3	47.5
Unemployed	23.5	81.7	52.5

As shown in table 8, the percentage of those who work is higher in the capital municipality (Sana'a), Aden, and Dhamar, a little lower in Al-Hodeidah, and considerably very low in Mareb, Al-Mahweet and Taiz.

Table (8): Professional status per governorate

Governorate	Employed	Unemployed
Capital Municipality	55.6	44.4
Aden	55.0	45.0
Taiz	41.3	58.8
Ibb	46.2	53.8
Sa'ada	44.1	55.9
Mareb	38.9	61.1
Hadramout	45.7	54.3
Al-Mahweet	37.7	62.3
Al-Hodeidah	50.3	49.7
Abyan	46.9	53.1
Dhamar	53.3	46.7

As shown in table 9, 54.9 percent (mainly women) said the reason they did not work was that they were attending to domestic work, 24 percent stated they were devoting their time for study, 6.3 percent said their families were against them working, while 3.8 percent noted they did not need to work.

Table 9: Reasons for not working

Reason	Male	Female	Total
Student	48.3	17.0	24.0

Housewife	1.7	69.0	53.9
Pensioner	9.3		2.1
Family against me working	5.9	6.4	6.3
Need not to work	7.6	2.7	3.8
Can't work	11.0	1.7	3.8
No job opportunities	14.4	2.7	5.3
Too old to work	0.8	0.5	0.6
Other	0.8		0.2

As for those stating that they have work from which they can earn a living, 38.1 percent said they were working for the government, 14.5 percent worked in the private sector, 30.7 percent were self-employed while 16.6 percent said they were working for daily wages.

Table (10): Type of job of those who work

Type of job	Male	Female	Total
Government	37.0	42.9	38.1
Private sector	11.2	28.6	14.5
Self-employment	31.8	26.4	30.7
Work for daily wages	20.1	2.2	16.6

Most significant results – executive summary

Level of rights awareness

- For people, the phrase (human rights) brings to mind other phrases that are repeated by the media in the same context. However, there is no full perception of their connotations or what rights they include except for a small percentage of people. Most of them do not even think of the basic needs they demand or complain about their shortage as a single part of human rights. Some (though small percentage), never even heard about this phrase in the first place.
 - About 27.4 percent link the phrase with democracy, freedom of expression, justice, equality, security, right to education, right to work or most of the above.
 - About 18.2 percent chose one of the above rights.
 - Some 9 percent did not relate it to anything (I don't care).
 - About 6.7 percent never heard of the expressions "human rights" or "rights and freedoms".
- It is clear that people's awareness of human rights or human rights and freedoms are blurry when talking about abused rights; over 78 percent of the surveyed (mostly women) said that neither their own nor their relatives' rights had been violated despite the fact that most of them belong to governorates that suffer from shortage in public services, poor infrastructure or security problems and wars.

Civil rights abusers and advocates

- Although the respondents consider government institutions as the main civil rights violators, they still turn to them for justice.
 - More than half of the surveyed whose rights had been abused said that they first resorted to government institutions despite the fact that these institutions could restore the rights of only 28.4 percent. (see table)
 - Up to 59 percent stated that government agencies were most capable of protecting their civil rights even though most of the respondents did not understand what civil rights were.
 - 60 percent noted that should their rights be abused they would resort to government agencies and 44 percent said they would seek tribal arbitration should the involvement of government institutions fail.

Influence of human rights organizations

- Human rights organizations were the choice for less than 1 percent of the people whose rights had been abused and only 7.2 percent of the surveyed said they would think about seeking such organizations' help as a second choice in case their first choices did not work.
- Human rights organizations came fourth (8.8 percent) as to the institutions most capable of protecting human rights issues.

- Although the interviewees had heard of a number of human rights cases (49.3 percent), such knowledge was generic and they had it from qat-chewing sessions and newspapers. Less than 27 percent said they had heard about such cases in their locality.
- From a list of the most important issues in Yemen, the cases spotlighted by human rights organizations and the media had a good percentage of familiarity with the interviewed persons compared to other cases.
 - Al-Ja'ashen case¹, for instance, was known to 34.4 percent, insolvent prisoners and cases of forcibly abducted persons were both known to 44 percent.
- Despite a high percentage of familiarity with other cases in which human rights organizations had been involved, only few respondents pointed out such organizations when asked about who had advocated for such cases.
 - Only 9.6 percent of those who had heard of and followed up the Al-Ja'ashen issue mentioned that human rights organizations had adopted it.
 - About 40 percent said such organizations were present in the case of early marriage.
 - About 30.7 percent said that human rights organizations were present in the case of insolvent prisoners.

Rights protection

- Only 8.2 percent stated that human rights are protected in Yemen, 12.7 percent said they are not protected at all, 35.8 percent said some of the rights are protected and others are not and 38.3 percent said such rights are protected for some, but not for all people.
- There was a change in the attitudes of the surveyed when asked about a number of rights individually; about 42.6 percent stated such rights were protected.
 - The right to education was considered a protected right by most (77 percent) followed by the right to elect local council members, elect parliament members, to join political parties (mostly men) and religious groups' right to practice their rites.

Familiarity with human rights organizations

- Only 26.5 percent said they are familiar with human rights organizations.
 - Most respondents who noted they knew human rights organizations referred to non-human rights organizations such as Bani Al-Shadid Tribe Development Society, Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development and Abu Mousa Al-Asha'ari Society.
- About 64 percent of the respondents who said they knew human rights organizations described them as "independent institutions that are interested in human rights", while 20 percent said they are "institutions that defend people's rights and advocate for the oppressed individuals".
- About 24.9 percent of the respondents knowing human rights organizations obtained their knowledge from qat-chewing sessions, relatives and friends, 20.8 percent from Arab media and 18.5 percent knew about them through newspapers.

¹ Al-Ja'ashen is a sub district in Ibb governorate. It is dominated by an influential Sheikhsh named Mohammed Ahmed Mansour. It is claimed that he forces residents out of their homes unless they abide by his strict conditions and pay the levied sums of money.

- Only 12.1 percent of the interviewees knowing human rights organizations stated that these organizations had offices in their areas and when asked about the names of such organizations, most of them indicated names of institutions and societies not related to human rights.

Importance and interest

- People are influenced by information presented by international, Arab and local media as well as human rights organizations, be they Yemeni or non-Yemeni.
 - Although they are not familiar with human rights organizations or their activities, over 80 percent of the surveyed said these organizations are important in Yemen, 13.2 percent noted they were relatively important and 5.7 percent said they were not important.
 - Up to 46 percent of the respondents believe that such organizations are independent and concerned with human rights and freedoms and 20 percent considered them as agencies that advocate for oppressed people's rights..
 - About 43.8 percent think that such organizations depend in their financing on grants from similar foreign organizations.
- About 26.8 percent of those knowing human rights organizations believe that they are active; more than half said they are relatively active, while 19 percent said they are ineffective.

Rights that should be addressed by human rights organizations

- The right to basic services such as education and health care came first with 95.2 percent as a priority concern to be adopted by human rights organizations.
- Although the surveyed did not undermine other rights, interests were different among sexes as to the following rights:
 - The right of women to work was important to 88.4 percent of women and 66.3 percent of men.
 - Girls' right to education was important for 96 percent of women and 88.5 percent of men.
- Percentage was low especially among men concerning women's political rights as well as among women respondents.
 - Women's right to assume public posts was important for 54.4 percent of women and 38.8 percent of men.
 - Women's right to run for parliament was important for 52 percent of women and 40.4 percent for men.
- In general, political rights were more important to men (86.7 percent) than to women (74.3 percent).

Ways and means of adopting civil rights

- 58.7 percent preferred awareness-raising campaigns.
- 24.1 percent opted for symposiums and seminars.
- 8.4 percent chose protests, demonstrations and sit-ins.
- 7.4 percent did not know the proper mechanism to achieve such rights.

Participation and interaction

- Up to 61 percent of the respondents expressed their readiness to take part in events and activities organized by human rights organizations if asked to do so, 20 percent said they would refuse that and 17.3 percent said they might participate depending on their function.
- Those participants who refused had their reservations about a number of political events, demonstrations and sit-ins; others also had reservations towards matters such as sex equality and women's rights.

General results

First: Level of awareness

Questions of this section were specifically designed to measure the respondents' awareness of the subject of human rights and freedoms in general, the institutions believed to abuse or protect these rights, ways sought to defend their human rights as well as their perceptions of a number of public and private rights in addition to other questions within the same framework.

Human rights (rights and freedoms) in the public conscience

Initial indicators

About 27.4 percent stated that the first things that comes to mind when hearing the phrases "human rights or human rights and freedoms" are democracy, freedom of expression, justice, equality, security, right to education, right to work or most of these terms.

Up to 20.5 percent said the first thing that comes to mind is democracy, for 23.2 percent it is the freedom of expression, 28.2 percent opted for justice, 22.1 percent said it is equality, 12.2 percent chose security as a synonym for human rights and freedoms, 12.4 percent said it is the right to education while 8.6 percent said it is the right to work.

Figures in table 11 show the level of awareness of human rights and freedoms in society, that need to be first understood in order to be demanded later on.

Table 11: What comes to mind when you hear about human rights or human rights and freedoms?

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Democracy	25.7	15.3	20.5
Freedom of expression	27.7	18.7	23.2
Justice	30.9	25.5	28.2
Equality	22.9	21.3	22.1
Security	13.1	11.2	12.2
Right to education	9.0	15.9	12.4
Right to work	7.2	10.0	8.6
All or most of the above	22.9	31.9	27.4
Western ideas	3.2	2.0	2.6
I don't care/ This does not stir anything	7.6	10.4	9.0
Never heard of this	4.0	9.4	6.7
Other	4.6	2.6	3.6
I don't know	2.8	2.8	2.8

Abuses

From chart 1, most of the surveyed (78.5 percent), mostly women, revealed that neither theirs, nor any of their relatives' rights had been abused. However, 21.5 percent stated that such a thing had occurred to them or one of their relatives.

Nevertheless, in view of the level of awareness of human rights and freedoms, many of these people's rights might have been abused without them being aware of it as will be shown more clearly throughout this survey.

Chart 1: Respondents' rights or one of their relatives' rights abused

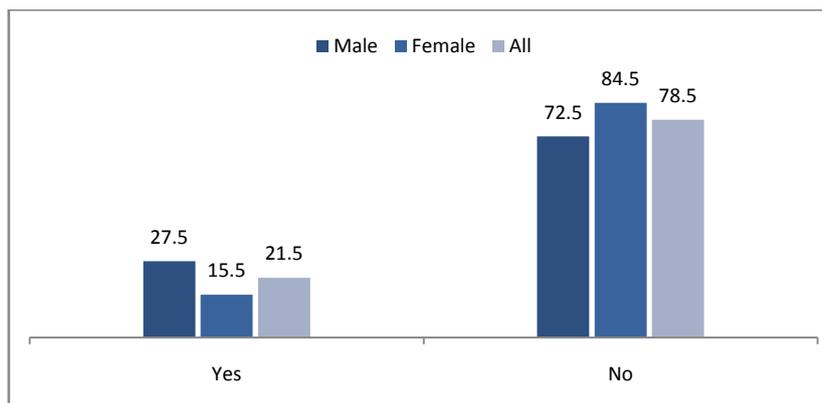
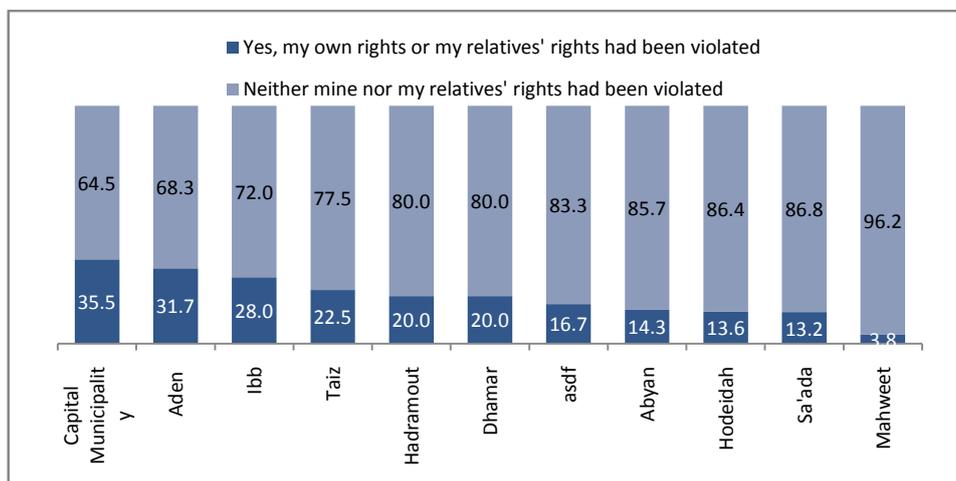


Chart 2 is structured according to governorates and displays the respondents' statements in regard to whether their own or one of their family members' rights have been abused. Most of those who said 'yes' (35.5 percent) were from the capital municipality, followed by 31.7 percent in Aden and 28 percent in Ibb.

Although results indicate a relative difference in rights awareness between urban and rural areas and the extent of exposure to media, promotional campaigns and the higher level of education, it becomes clear that there is generally a poor awareness of human rights; e.g. despite the fact that the war in Sa'ada has been recurring for six years, only 13.2 percent of this governorate's respondents stated that their own or one of their relatives' rights had been abused.

Results show the foggy understanding in regard to what human and civil rights are. Those living in the main governorates with more and better services, public departments, hospitals, schools, infrastructure, public service and NGOs and saying their own or one of their relatives' rights have been abused outnumbered those who are less privileged and live in governorates with political, security and educational problems, etc. This means that many rights are not part of the public awareness of 'human rights' and 'civil rights'.

Chart 2: The respondent's own right or one of his relatives' rights violated, according to governorates.



Justice

Table 12 shows that more than half of those who said their rights had been abused resorted to state authorities (judiciary, police, etc.) to demand justice. More women than men chose to resort to these authorities. About 33.5 percent of the abused people opted for traditional means of arbitration (sheikhs of the tribe, chief of the area, tribe, etc.) and only few directed their complaints to religious scholars and friends (3.3 percent respectively). About 6.5 percent (especially women) said they did not pursue the issue themselves; rather they left the matter of demanding justice to men and elder members of the family.

Table 12: Party to which abused people go

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Authorities	52.9	55.8	54.0
Sheikhs/head of zone/tribe	34.7	31.2	33.5
Religious scholars	2.2	5.2	3.3
Friends	2.9	3.9	3.3
I leave it to the family senior members	4.3	10.4	6.5
The party I belong to	1.4	0.0	0.9
Human rights organizations	1.4	0.0	0.9
Media	1.4	0.0	0.9
I wait until the problem solves itself	4.3	3.9	4.2
I don't know	0.7	0.0	0.5
No comment	0.7	0.0	0.5

As displayed in table 13, only 29.3 percent of the surveyed whose rights had been abused were able to have these rights restored. About 26.5 percent revealed that only part of their rights had been restored. 33.5 percent of them said they had not had any of their rights restored and that they had abandoned demands for them, while 10.7 percent stated that they were still trying to have their rights returned.

Table 13: Result of demanding the restoration of violated rights

Answer	Male	Female	Total
I had them back in full	30.4	27.3	29.3
I had part of them back	26.1	27.3	26.5
I had none back	33.3	33.8	33.5
Not yet	10.1	11.7	10.7

Chart 3 shows the relation between the agency or person to which those whose rights had been violated resorted and the result of their attempts to restore back these rights. According to table 12, about 28.4 percent of those who resorted to authorities had their rights restored in full, 25.9 percent had some of their rights restored, 26.2 percent said they had not had justice and 9.5 percent were still working to restore their rights.

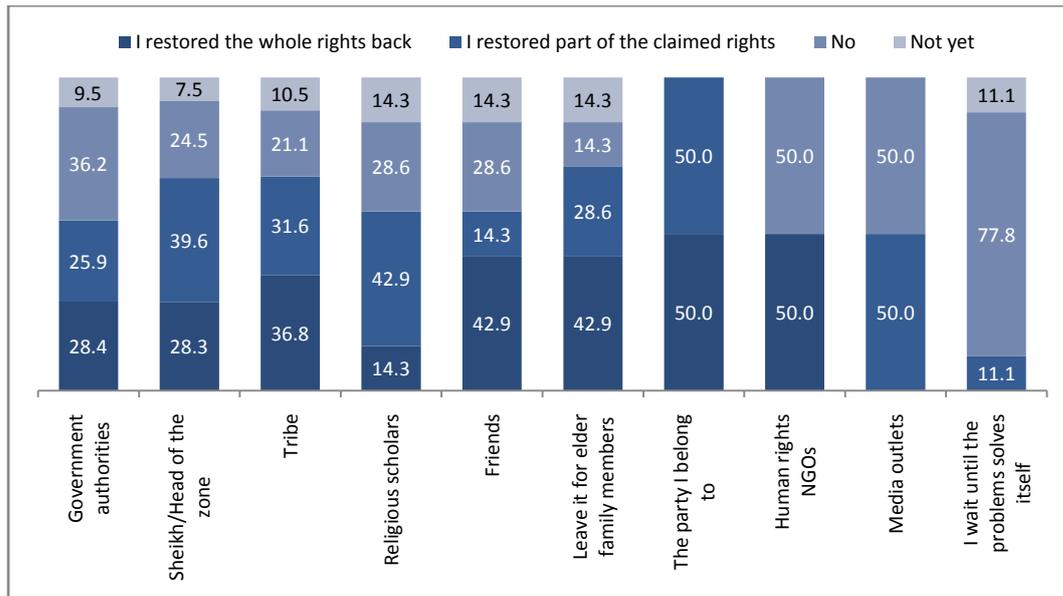
The results were not very different for those resorting to their sheikh or head of zone. However, the average of those partly retaining their rights was higher (39.6 percent), due to compromises this type of arbitration tends to make. 24.5 percent pointed out they did not have their rights restored and 7.5 percent noted they were still trying.

As for the persons who had recourse to their tribes, 36.8 percent received full justice. It ought to be clarified here that the difference between resorting to the sheikhs and/or head of the zone and to the tribe is that the latter makes the demand act collectively and not individually.

Those persons seeking help from religious scholars were very successful in having their rights restored partially (42.9 percent). This might be because these scholars are more inclined to adopt strategies of reconciliation. However, the average of those who did not receive justice was 28.6 percent.

As for the persons who waited for their problems to be eventually resolved, 77.8 percent of them did not have their rights restored, 11.1 percent said they are still waiting and another 11.1 percent said they had restored part of their claims.

Chart (3): Result of claiming rights according to agency/person resorted to



Agencies/persons most capable of protecting human rights and freedoms

When asked about possible options in case their rights have been violated, 60 percent said they would turn to authorities, 20.6 percent stated that their first option would be tribal arbitration, while the rest (7.5 percent) said that would either opt for waiting their problems to be solved by themselves, ask their friends to help or resort to force or other options.

As for the second option in case the first failed to restore their rights, tribal mediation came first (44.2 percent), followed by leaving the matter in the hands of the family's senior members (11.7 percent) as shown in tables 14 and 15.

Table 14: First agency/person respondents would turn to in case their rights were violated

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Authorities	66.9	53.2	60.1
Sheikhs/chief of zone/tribe	17.3	23.9	20.6
Leave it to senior family members	4.2	15.3	9.7
Religion scholars	1.2	3.0	2.1
Other	10.4	4.6	7.5

Table 15: Second agency/person respondents would turn to in case their rights were violated

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Sheikhs/head of zone/tribe	46.8	41.5	44.2
I leave it to senior family members.	6.0	17.5	11.7
I wait for the problem to solve itself.	7.8	9.0	8.4
I leave it to Allah	9.0	7.8	8.4
Human rights organizations	9.6	5.6	7.6
Authorities	6.2	8.2	7.2
Friends	3.6	3.0	3.3
I take the law in my own hands	5.2	1.0	3.1
Media	3.2	2.6	2.9
Other	2.8	3.6	3.2

Respondents were asked to choose the three most important agencies/persons capable of helping them if their rights were violated in Yemen and to order them from 1 to 3 according to their presumed effectiveness. As can be seen from table 16, the authorities came first with 58.8 percent, followed by tribal sheikhs and religious scholars, while human rights organizations ranked fourth with 7.3 percent.

In second rank came sheikhs and heads of zones with 37 percent followed by the authorities (16 percent), religious scholars (12.8 percent) and human rights organizations (10.8 percent).

Religious scholars had the highest average (19 percent) as the third body to which people would turn, followed by sheikhs and heads of zones and then by members of parliament (14.3 percent). The authorities came fourth with 13 percent.

Calculating the voting results as to the three ranks, authorities rank first with 29.2 percent, sheikhs and zone chiefs rank second with 25.3 percent, religious scholars rank third with 13.3 percent, human rights organizations rank fourth with 8.8 percent, and then came parliamentary and local council members, the media and political parties.

The rest of the votes (5.8 percent) were distributed among other options including the UN, businessmen, social dignitaries, family and friends. Some said they did not know, they would leave it to Allah or they would take the law in their own hands at an average of 0.5 percent each.

Table 16: Agencies those are most capable of protecting human rights and freedoms

Agencies	First	Second	Third	Average
Authorities	58.8	15.9	12.9	29.2
Sheikhs/ heads of zones	20.7	37.1	18.0	25.3
Religion scholars	7.3	12.8	19.7	13.3
Human rights organizations	5.5	10.8	10.1	8.8
Parliament/local councils	1.1	7.6	14.3	7.7
Media outlets	1.5	4.6	10.1	5.4
Political parties	1.6	6.9	5.3	4.6
Other	3.5	4.3	9.6	5.8

Knowledge about human rights

The subject of girls education came first in the respondents' knowledge on human rights (70 percent), followed by the right to freedom of expression, which the surveyed said they had known, heard or read about (61 percent). Over 58 percent (mostly men), said they had known, heard or read about the right of women to work. Those who said they were familiar with the rights of marginalized groups were 31.8 percent and 51 percent said they understood the concept of the rights of journalists in writing and publishing in a free environment.

Table 17: Human rights issues heard about by respondents during the last six months

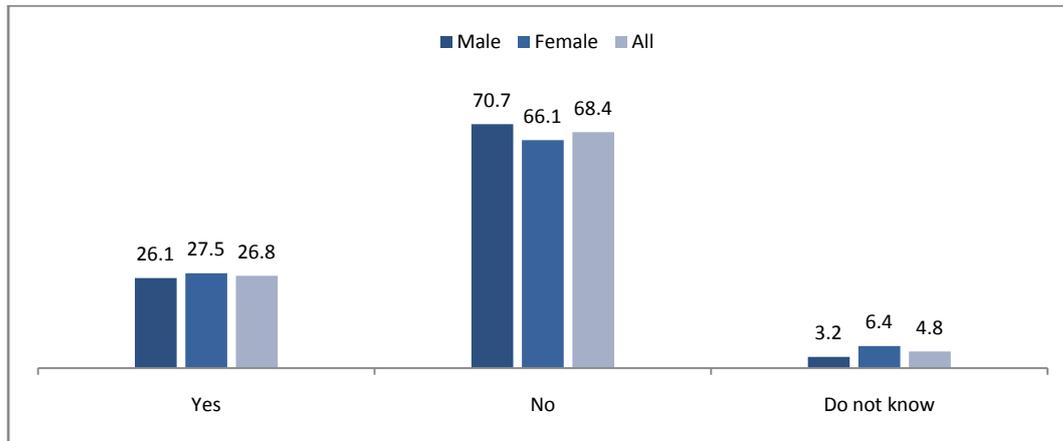
Answer	Male	Female	Total
Girls' right to education	70.5	69.5	70
Freedom of speech	66.7	55.2	61
Women's right to work	60.8	56.6	58.7
Democratic and political rights	68.9	46	57.5
Children's rights	58.4	56	57.2
Rights of people with handicaps	57.2	50.8	54
The right of journalists in writing and publishing freely	61	40.4	50.7
Foreigners' rights while in Yemen	50.8	44	47.4
The right to basic services	50.8	44	47.4
The right of women to run for parliament	52.6	34.9	43.8
The right of women to assume public posts	43.4	32.9	38.2
The rights of refugees in Yemen	42.0	30.7	36.4
The freedom of religion	41.4	29.9	35.7
The rights of marginalized groups	35.5	28.1	31.8

Table 17 shows that the average familiarity with human rights issues is relatively high with an average of 49.3 percent. Most of those who said that they had followed up on these issues, heard or read about them were men (54.3 percent) versus 44.2 percent of women.

However, the results in the table refer to general knowledge on domestic or international issues attained through the media or at qat-chewing sessions. But when asked if they had heard about such issues in their area, the answers were not the same. As displayed in chart 4, only 26.8 percent of the

surveyed had followed up on or heard about such issues in their area, 68 percent said they had not heard about them and 4.8 percent said they were not sure they had heard about it.

Chart 4: Those who heard about human rights issues in their area:

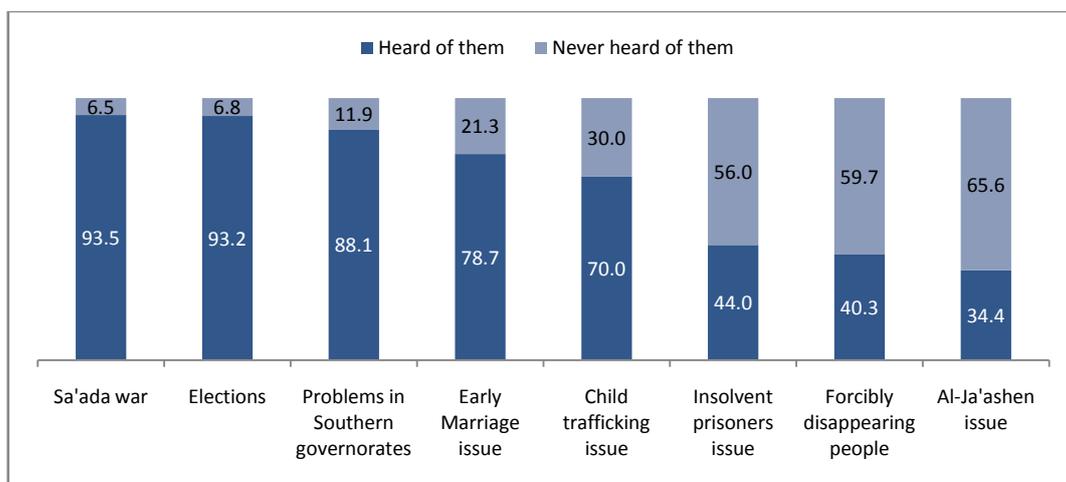


The respondents were asked whether they knew about human rights and other issues and those who answered in the affirmative were then asked about the agency or person who had adopted such issues. According to chart 5, only 34.4 percent stated that they had heard about the Al-Ja'ashen issue although it was adopted by human rights organizations and covered by the media, but up to 65.6 percent said they had not heard about it.

About 88.1 percent of the interviewees stated that they had heard about or followed the events in the southern governorates versus 11.9 percent (mostly women) who said that they had never heard of them. It is worth mentioning that field interviews were conducted between July and August 2009, when demonstrations, sit-ins, and protests were escalating. About 78.7 percent of the interviewed said that they were conversant with issues like early marriage, 70 percent said they were either familiar with or had heard about child trafficking, over 93 percent had followed the debate over the last parliamentary elections and almost the same percentage had followed reports on the Sa'ada War.

The chart below shows the issues and the level of awareness towards them. While most of these issues were raised by the media and human rights organizations, those surveyed did not associate these issues with human rights organizations and the media. The Ja'ashen case was widely covered by media and human rights organizations, yet 65.6 percent of the respondents did not associate the issue with the media or with human rights.

Chart 5: Level of knowledge about human rights and political issues



About 29.8 percent of the total average of those who said they knew about or had followed such issues believed that the parliament was the institution adopting them, 19.9 percent noted that it was human rights organizations, 18.5 percent chose political parties, 24.5 percent said they had heard of those issues but did not know who adopted them and 7.4 percent indicated other agencies.

Table 18: Proponents of the following issues as viewed by respondents

Issue	Parliament	Human rights organizations	Political parties	Other	Don't know
Al-Ja'ashen	43.6	9.6	7.3	5.5	34.0
Problems/events in the South	26.2	7.2	34.6	12.4	19.6
Early marriage	34.6	39.9	3.3	5.5	16.8
Child trafficking	32.4	38.0	5.6	4.3	19.7
Insolvent prisoners	16.6	30.7	9.1	7.0	36.6
The forcibly disappeared persons	17.9	22.6	16.1	5.0	38.5
Election	32.7	4.9	54.4	0.0	7.9
Sa'ada war	34.1	6.1	17.5	19.4	22.9
Total average	29.8	19.9	18.5	7.4	24.5

About 43.6 percent who had heard about or followed the Al-Ja'ashen issue noted they believed the parliament had adopted the case, 9.6 percent said it was human rights organizations, 7.3 percent said it was political parties and 34 percent stated they did not know who embraced such issues.

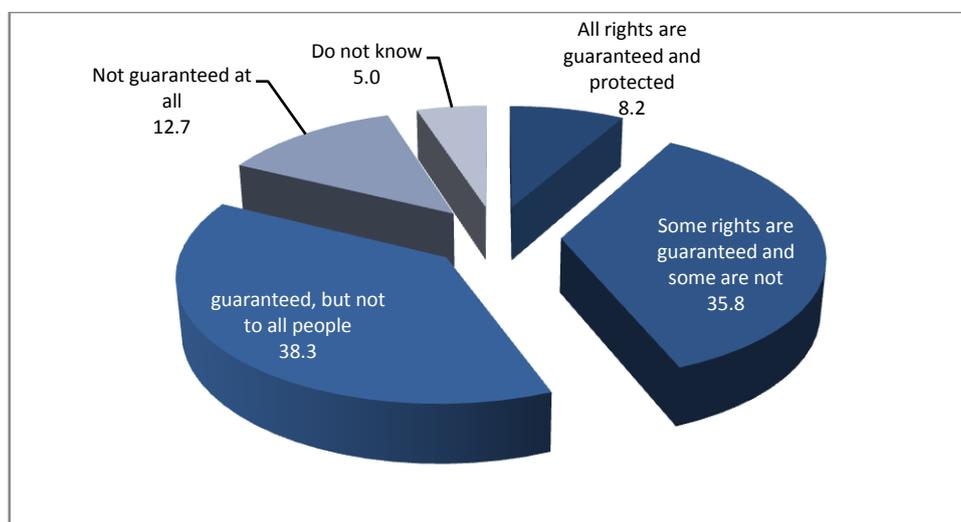
Despite the intensive coverage of the insolvent prisoners issue by media, 16.6 percent stated that it was the parliament that adopted the issue, 30.7 percent opted for human right organizations and 36.6 percent did not know which institution embraced the issue. From those who chose other bodies, the media was only mentioned three times. Persons who knew about the problem of early marriage said it was either taken up by Parliament or human rights organizations.

Protected and not protected rights in public awareness

Initial attitude

Only 8.2 percent believe that human rights are protected in Yemen, 12.7 percent believe they are not, while 35.8 percent said some are protected and some are not and 38.3 percent said that human rights are protected to some but not to all.

Chart (6): Human rights and freedoms in Yemen



Public rights

Shifting from public to private rights and asking the surveyed about some public rights resulted in a change in their position: 46.3 percent stated those rights were protected, 24.5 percent thought they were relatively protected, 23.6 percent considered them not protected.

Table 19 shows that the right to education had highest votes among the rights considered as protected (76.8 percent), followed by the right to voting in local council elections (72.2 percent), the right to voting in parliamentary election (71.3 percent) and the right to join political parties.

Table (19): Protected and not protected public rights

Right	Protected	Relatively protected	Not protected	I don't know	No comment
Right to education	76.8	17.4	5.3	0.5	0.0
Right to vote in local councils elections	72.2	18.3	7.4	2.1	0.0
Right to vote in parliamentary elections	71.3	17.0	8.5	3.0	0.2
Right to join political parties	62.3	21.1	10.2	5.8	0.6
Right to run for elections	60.0	25.1	11.7	2.8	0.4
Right to cast votes in governors' elections	48.6	23.9	22.5	4.9	0.1
Right to work	48.1	34.4	16.6	0.8	0.1
Right to security	45.9	26.9	23.4	2.8	1.0
Right to freedom of expression	42.6	31.7	22.7	2.8	0.2
Right to changing one's sect	37.0	13.8	26.8	21.0	1.4
Right to stage demonstrations	27.3	30.8	34.8	5.8	1.3
Right to sit-ins and strikes	27.0	31.3	31.8	8.4	1.5
Right to litigation before independent and impartial judiciary	19.2	32.9	42.3	4.9	0.7
Holding corrupt officials to account	10.4	18.5	66.9	3.3	0.9
Total average	46.3	24.5	23.6	4.9	0.6

While political rights were the highest in terms of protected rights, holding corrupt officials accountable was the highest unprotected protected right (66.9 percent) versus 10.4 percent who stated such right is protected and 18.5 percent said it was relatively protected. Only 19.2 percent believed that litigation before independent and impartial judiciary was protected, 32.9 percent said it was relatively protected and 42.3 percent pointed out it was unprotected.

Private rights

The result did not quite change concerning rights of certain groups when the respondents were asked about them: 45.6 percent said such rights are protected, 25.4 percent said they are relatively protected and 18.5 percent stated they are not protected.

Table (20): Private protected and unprotected rights according to the sample group

Right	Protected	Relatively protected	Not Protected	I don't know	No comment
Women's right to education	68.3	23.9	7.3	0.5	0.0
The exercise of religious groups of their worship	54.1	24.7	9.4	11.3	0.5
Women's right work	50.3	34.2	14.7	0.8	0.0
Child rights	49.9	30.5	18.1	1.5	0.0
Foreigners' rights while in Yemen	48.4	26.1	14.7	10.5	0.3
Handicap rights	48.2	33.2	15.8	2.8	0.0
Democratic and political rights	48.1	29.8	15.0	6.5	0.6
Right to freedom of expression	44.8	34.0	17.6	3.1	0.5
The right to have basic services	37.4	35.3	24.1	2.8	0.4
The rights of refugees in Yemen	37.3	30.0	18.6	13.9	0.2
The right of women to run for Parliament	35.0	39.9	19.2	5.8	0.1
The right of journalists in writing and publishing	31.4	35.3	21.9	11.3	0.1
Women's right to assume public posts	29.8	36.6	28.1	5.5	0.0
Rights of marginalized groups	16.9	27.3	48.4	7.3	0.1
Total average	42.6	25.4	18.5	4.1	0.3

Neither knowledge, nor hearing about such rights affected the respondents' evaluation of the existence and protection of these rights. Although a high percentage of persons were familiar with a number of rights (see table 17), this did not prevent these from being ranked at the bottom in table 20.

Women's right to education was considered by 68.3 percent of the respondents as protected in Yemen (mostly men) and 64.3 percent of women versus 72.3 percent of men considered it protected. About 23.9 percent considered that right relatively protected.

The exercise of religious groups of their worship came second, followed by women's right to work and child rights.

The most unprotected rights were those of marginalized groups that were considered protected by only 17 percent versus 48 percent who said they were not, followed by women's right to assume public posts that was considered protected by only 29.8 percent (mostly men) and the right of journalists in writing and publishing (21.9 percent).

Key abusers

For the respondents, government authorities were the first option to which they would turn to in order to restore their violated rights. Such authorities were voted by most of surveyed as the first agency to turn to. However, when it comes to the institution most involved in the violation of rights, the government and its agencies were generally ranked first (32.9 percent), too, followed by the security forces (22.1 percent), and then tribal sheikhs, politicians and senior officials.

When asked about the second institution violating human rights, the respondents indicated senior officials (26.4 percent), tribal sheikhs (19.3 percent), followed by influential persons and security forces.

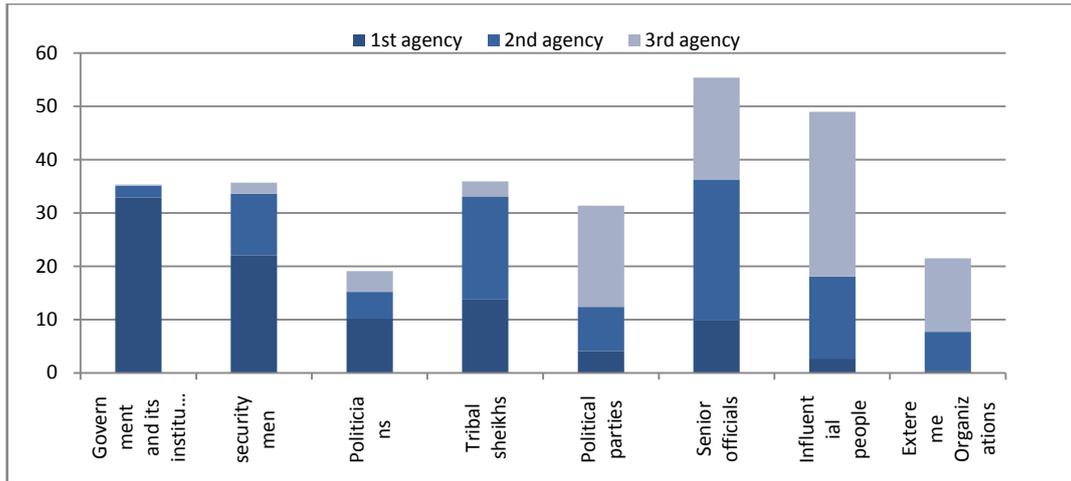
The institution third most involved in human rights violation were powerful persons with 30.9 percent, senior officials with 19.1 percent, political parties with 19 percent and extremist organizations ranked fourth.

By calculating the total average of the respondents' votes, the order of the most human rights violating agencies/persons in Yemen was as follows: officials, influential persons, tribal sheikhs, security forces. Government departments ranked fifth.

Table (21): Institutions most involved in human rights abuse

Agency/person	First	Second	Third
Senior officials	9.9	26.4	19.1
Powerful persons	2.7	15.4	30.9
Tribal sheikhs	13.8	19.3	2.8
Security forces	22.1	11.5	2.1
The government and its institutions in general	32.9	2.2	0.2
Political parties	4.1	8.3	19.0
Extremist organizations	0.4	7.3	13.8
Politicians	10.2	5.0	3.9
No comment	2.9	3.0	3.0
Other	0.2	0.6	3.3
I don't know	0.8	1.0	1.9

Chart (7): Institutions most involved in human rights abuse



Second: Image of human rights organizations

The questions in this part of the study were designed to be asked to those who believe that they know civil society organizations concerned with advocating human rights and fundamental freedoms. This sections aims at elucidating the level of such knowledge, the interviewee's position on these organizations, their nature, and their source of funding as well as uncovering the sources of information on human rights organizations and the response towards their work and possible interaction..

Familiarity with Human Rights NGOs

The knowledge:

About 26.5 percent of the respondents said that they know human rights organizations or that they know something about them. Therefore, the questions of this section were restricted to these only. As shown in table 22, among the persons who said they know about civil society organizations were more men (31.7 percent) than women (21.3 percent).

Table (22): Those who know about human rights organizations interested

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Yes	26.5	21.3	31.7
No	68.3	78.7	73.5

About 46 percent of those who said they know human rights organizations or that they know something about them, know that they are independent entities that are concerned with human rights and freedoms, about 20 percent described them as organizations that advocate rights of the oppressed, 10 percent said they belong to the government, 6 percent said they are independent institutions that are interested in politics, 10 percent considered them to belong to the West, 5 percent said they do not care, 4 percent said that such organizations belong to the opposition and 2.6 percent of the persons who said they know these organizations believed that they provide financial support to the people.

Table (23): Definition of human rights organizations

Definition	Male	Female	Total
Independent entities that are concerned with human rights and fundamental freedoms	47.2	44.3	46.0
Organizations advocating the rights of the oppressed	18.2	22.6	20.0
Belong to the government	7.5	13.2	9.8
Independent institutions that are interested in politics	6.3	5.7	6.0
Institutions belonging to the West	5.0	7.5	6.0
I hear and I don't care/ This stirs nothing in me	6.3	2.8	4.9
Belong to the opposition	6.3	0.0	3.8
Provide financial support to the people.	2.5	2.8	2.6
Other	0.6	0.9	0.8

Sources of knowledge

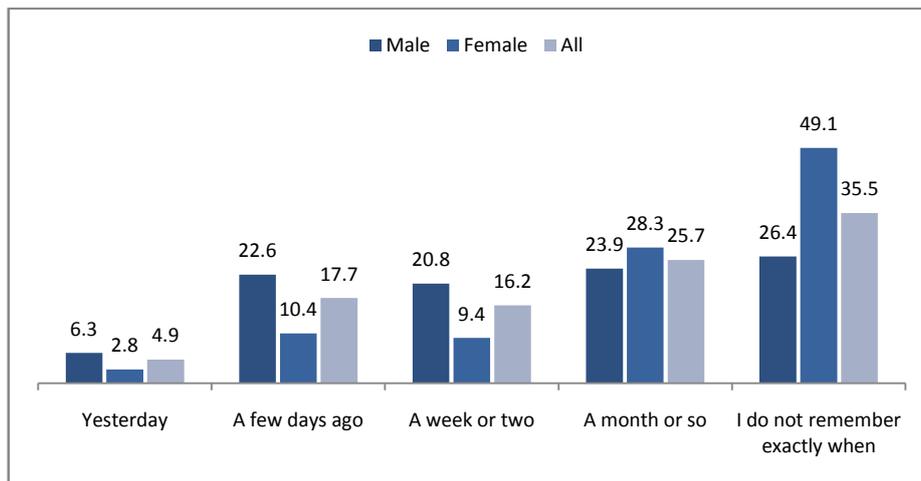
Chart 8 shows that most of the respondents did not remember exactly when they last heard of, followed or took part in an activity by civil society organizations (this was especially the case among female respondents). About 50 percent of the women interviewed stated that they did not know when they last heard about human right organizations (versus 26.4 percent of men). About 28 percent of the female respondents and 24 percent of the male said the last time they had heard of or followed a talk about this matter was a month or more ago. Up to 9.5 percent of the women and 20.8

percent of the men pointed out that they had heard about or followed a talk on the topic a week or two before the interview.

Up to 22.6 percent of the men heard about or followed a talk of human rights organizations a week from the interview (started in August 2009) versus 10.4 percent of the women. 6.3 percent of the men and 2.8 percent of the women said they had heard or followed a similar talk one day before the interview.

In general, human rights activities are more important to men than women, especially during the period prior to the conduction of the interviews.

Chart 8: Last time the interviewee heard about human rights organizations



As displayed in table 24, about 24.9 percent of the Yemenis interviewed obtain their information on human rights organizations from qat-chewing sessions, conversations with family and friends, 20.8 percent receive such information from Arab satellite channels followed by local television and newspapers.

Ordered by gender, 26 percent of the men interviewed get their information on these organizations from newspapers, followed by qat-chewing sessions, conversations with family and friends, Arab satellite channels and local television. As for women, 29.2 percent depend on local television to obtain information, followed by conversations with family and friends and Arab satellite channels.

Table (24): Sources of knowledge on human rights organizations

Source	Male	Female	Total
Conversations with family and friends	23.9	26.4	24.9
Arab satellite channels	22.0	18.9	20.8
Local television	14.5	29.2	20.4
Newspapers	26.4	6.6	18.5
The organization's publicity or posters	3.8	6.6	4.9
I or a relative of mine has participated in this organization's functions	5.0	4.7	4.9
Radio	2.5	4.7	3.4
Other	1.9	1.9	1.9
A human rights organization took up a case of mine or one of my relatives	0.0	0.9	0.4

Relationship between human rights organizations and society

Level of knowledge

Only 12.1 percent of the surveyed in this section stated that there was a head office or a branch of a human rights organization in their area, while 81.1 percent said there were no such head offices or branches in their area (see table 25).

Table (25): There is a head office or branch of a human rights organization in my area

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Yes	8.8	17.0	12.1
No	88.7	69.8	81.1
I don't know.	2.5	13.2	6.8

Although the questions of this section were asked to the respondents who said they know human rights civil society organizations, a large percentage of them (especially women) could not differentiate between human right organizations, charities, and other organizations.

When asked about the names of human rights NGOs active in their neighborhoods, nine respondents only stated the correct names of NGOs out of 32 respondents who originally said to know of NGOs in their neighborhoods. Table 26 shows a list of the names of organizations and societies indicated by these persons as human rights organizations.

Table (26): A list of the organizations indicated by the surveyed as human rights organizations

Organization	Male	Female	Total
Yemen Youth Union	1	1	2
Bani Al-Shadid Tribe Development Society	1	0	1
Abu Mousa Al-Asha'ari Society	0	2	2
Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development	0	2	2
Handicap Society	1	0	1
Yemen Red Crescent	0	1	1
Women Development Committees Society	0	3	3
Mada Foundation	0	3	3
Dialogue (Hiwar) Center for Human Rights Development	2	1	3
LifeMakers Forum	0	1	1
Representative of Democratic School	1	0	1
Representative of Women Journalist without Chains Organization	1	0	1
Dhabab Cultural Forum	1	0	1
Representative of HOOD Organization	1	0	1
April 27 th for Women Development	0	1	1
Society Rights Organization	1	0	1
Care Organization	0	1	1
Organization for Human Rights Care	0	1	1
Educators Syndicate	1	0	1
Pharmacists Syndicate	1	0	1
Lawyers Syndicate	1	0	1
Teachers Union	1	1	2
	14	18	32

When the above table was restricted to persons who said they have human rights organizations or their representatives in their area, table 27 displays the statements of all persons to whom the questions of section 2 (those who said they know civil society organizations) were asked.

It becomes clear that besides remembering some human rights organizations (regardless of giving or not giving the names correctly), some indicated names of non-human rights organizations, institutions and societies. Also, 19.2 percent said they know some human rights organizations, but they could not remember any names.

According to table 27, The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) was named by 31.7 percent (mostly men) of those who said they knew something about human rights organizations.

The Yemen Observatory for Human Rights (YOHR) came second with 27.2 percent and again, most of those who mentioned it were men. The Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) ranked third with 21.5 percent as well as the Civil Development Foundation (CDF) with 21.5 percent. The last society was mentioned mostly by women.

About 4.6 percent mentioned non-human rights organizations, international organizations or even nonexistent institutions such as the Yemen Youth Union, the Manarat Center, the National Democratic Institute, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

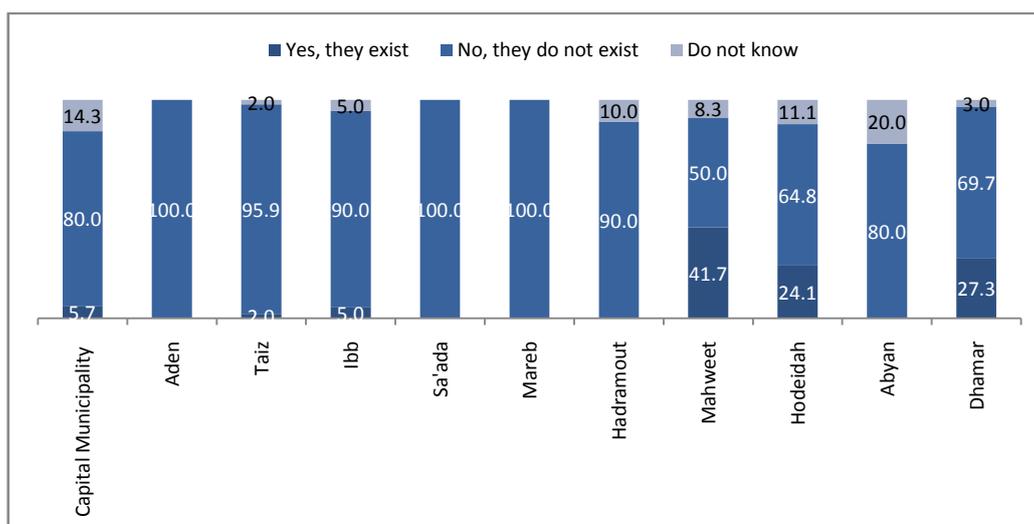
Table (27): Human Rights Organizations referred to by the surveyed

Organization	Male	Female	Total
National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD)	43.4	14.2	31.7
Yemen Observatory for Human Rights	30.2	22.6	27.2
Women Journalists without Chains	25.2	16.0	21.5
Civil Development Foundation	15.1	31.1	21.5
Human Rights Information and Training Center	13.8	17.0	15.1
Democracy School	15.7	9.4	13.2
Media Women Forum	8.2	16.0	11.3
Youth Leadership Development Foundation	6.3	17.9	10.9
Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights	7.5	16.0	10.9
Arab Foundation for Human Rights	9.4	12.3	10.6
Al-Tagheer Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms	6.3	10.4	7.9
National Organization for Society Development	6.9	8.5	7.5
I don't remember the name of any organization at the moment.	22.6	14.2	19.2
Other	3.0	6.2	4.6

Interest and Interaction

The most important indicator that can be read from the results of table 25 is the poor presence of human rights organizations in society. Considering the answers to the question on the presence of such organizations even in those governorates where such organizations exist, only 5.7 percent of the respondents who said that they know human rights organizations in the capital municipality stated they exist or are represented in their area, 14.3 percent said they do not know whether they exist or are represented and 80 percent said they do not exist or are not represented in the Capital Municipality. In Aden, all persons asked said such organizations do not exist in their area, nor do they have offices or representatives there.

Chart (9): The respondents' statements on the existence of a human rights organization head office, a branch or a representative in their area



The situation was not better in Taiz and Ibb governorates. The percentage of those who noted that human rights organizations exist in their area was higher in Al-Mahweet governorate, which is

the same place where most cases of confusion between charities and human rights organizations occurred, followed by Al-Hodeidah and Dhamar.

We can say that this confusion in public consciousness between charities, other similar organizations and human rights organizations can be connected to the order of priorities (i.e. the public interest is different from the interests of NGOs. The NGOs have failed to draw the society's attention to the issues they adopt. This will be become clearer in the second part of the study results).

In regard to the participation in and interaction with human rights organizations, 24.5 percent of the surveyed (mostly women) who know these organizations or something about them observed that they or one of their family had taken part in the activities of such an organization, while 75.5 percent noted they had not (see table 28). Taking into account the regular occurrence of confusion between human rights organizations and charities, it has to be noted that participation in human rights organizations' activities was probably even lower than these numbers indicate.

Table (28): I or one of my family participated in human rights organizations' activities

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Yes	23.3	26.4	24.5
No	76.7	73.6	75.5

Table 29 shows the nature of activities in which these persons participated. About 37 percent said they or one of their relatives had participated in a training workshop, 18.5 percent pointed out they had taken part in a sit-in or a demonstration, 13.8 percent noted they had participated in a public campaign, 21.5 percent participated in a symposium, 4.6 percent took part in a study and 4.6 percent could not remember the nature of activity they or one of their relatives had participated in.

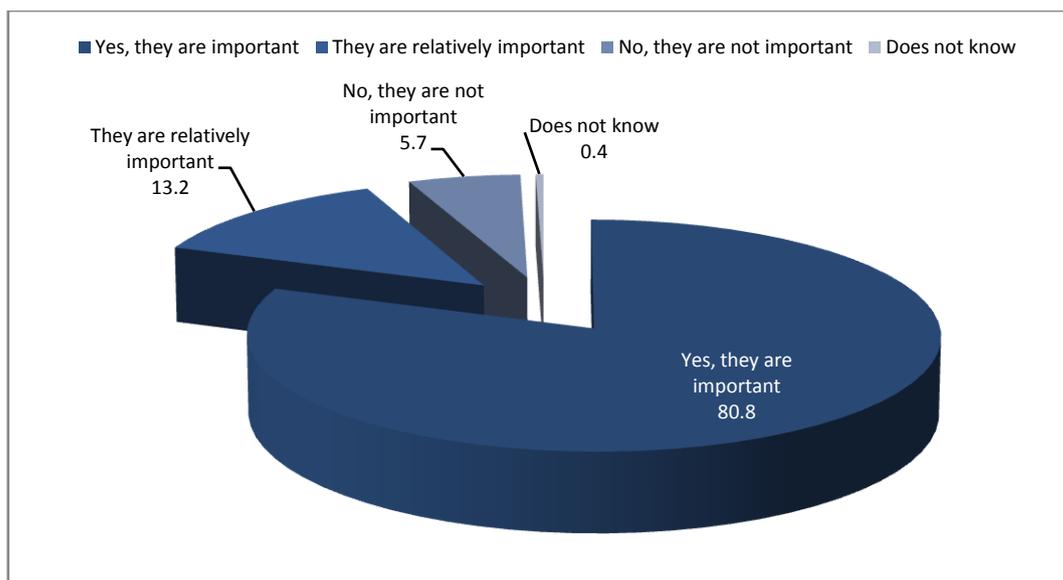
Table 29: Nature of the activities in which the respondents participated

Activity	Male	Female	Total
Training workshop	32.4	42.9	36.9
Symposium	16.2	28.6	21.5
Sit-in/ Demonstration	29.7	3.6	18.5
Study	16.2	10.7	13.8
I don't remember.	2.7	7.1	4.6

Significance and effectiveness

Over 80 percent of the respondents who noted they know human rights organizations believe that these organizations are important in Yemen, 13.2 percent believe they are relatively important, and 5.7 percent believe they are not important (see chart 10). When those persons who said they believe that such organizations are not important were asked about the reason for holding this opinion, 39.2 percent stated that they did not see their services, 31.4 percent said such organizations are merely a means to obtain money from foreign institutions and 23.5 percent said that the organizations are ineffective (see table 30).

Chart (10): Significance of human rights organizations



From the survey's results, 46 percent understand these organizations to be independent entities concerned with human rights, 20 percent consider them as advocates of the people and the oppressed (see table 23) and 43.8 percent know that they rely for their financing on grants from similar foreign organizations (see table 34). However, these persons confuse the organizations in question with other institutions, organizations and societies and they determine priorities according to their needs, not according to the objectives and speciality of these organizations.

Table (30): The reasons why civil society organizations are considered not important or relatively important

Reason	Male	Female	Total
I don't see their services.	25.0	56.5	39.2
They are just a means to obtaining money from abroad	39.3	21.7	31.4
Inactive and ineffective	28.6	17.4	23.5
Belong to foreign bodies	21.4	13.0	17.6
Adopt ideas that contradict with Islam	21.4	4.3	13.7
Oppose customs and traditions	14.3	8.7	11.8
Belong to the government and do nothing	7.1	13.0	9.8
Adopt issues that are of no interest to the public	10.7	8.7	9.8
Belong to the opposition	10.7	0.0	5.9
I don't need them.	7.1	0.0	3.9
I don't know.	3.6	0.0	2.0

As shown in table 31, about 26.8 percent of those who said they knew that human rights organizations believed they were effective, more than half of them said they were relatively effective, and 19 percent considered them ineffective.

As shown in table 32, these organizations are believed to be operating freely in Yemen by 37 percent, relatively freely by 40 percent, and not freely by 15.8 percent. 7.5 percent said they do not know whether or not such organizations operate freely.

Table 31: Evaluation of human rights effectiveness

Answer	Men	Women	Total
Effective	18.9	38.7	26.8
Relatively effective	56.0	47.2	52.5
Ineffective	23.3	12.3	18.9
I don't know.	1.9	1.9	1.9

Table 32: Human rights organizations freedom of activity

Answer	Male	Female	Total
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Yes. They operate freely.	34.6	40.6	37.0
They operate rather freely.	37.7	42.5	39.6
No. they do not operate freely.	22.0	6.6	15.8
I don't know.	5.7	10.4	7.5

Of those who said that human rights organizations do not operate freely in Yemen or only with inadequate freedom, 54.4 percent (mostly men) believed such organizations are hunted and/or harassed by the government, 10.9 percent said this is because political parties influence these organizations, 10.2 percent said they do not work freely because their concepts contradict with social customs and traditions and 8.2 percent said that is because these organizations attend to the priorities and needs of non-Yemeni organizations. Also included in the answers was the lack of a law to grant them that right, the organizations' shortage of sufficient funds. 2 percent mentioned other reasons.

Table 33: Reasons why human rights organizations do not enjoy freedoms

Answer	Male	Female	Total
Hunted and harassed by the government	60.0	44.2	54.4
Influenced by political parties	11.6	9.6	10.9
Their ideas contradict with customs and traditions	7.4	15.4	10.2
Follow non-Yemeni organizations' priorities and needs	6.3	11.5	8.2
The law does not grant them the right to operate	11.6		7.5
They lack sufficient funds	1.1	13.5	5.4
Other	1.1	3.8	2.0
I don't know	1.1	1.9	1.4

As for the human rights organizations sources of funding, 43.8 percent believed it comes from foreign donor organizations, 14 percent said financing is obtained from subscriptions of members or revenues from the organizations' activities, 13.2 percent mentioned they are financed by the government, 12.1 percent said funding comes from donations, 10.2 percent said the administrators of such organizations are wealthy enough to finance their organizations and 6.4 percent said they do not know the sources of funding.

Table 34: Human rights organizations' sources of financing

Answer	Male	Female	Total
From the government	10.7	17.0	13.2
Their administrators are wealthy	8.2	13.2	10.2
Subscriptions/Activities	17.0	9.4	14.0
Donations	9.4	16.0	12.1
Donor organizations/Foreign countries	45.9	40.6	43.8
Other sources	0.0	0.9	0.4
I don't know.	8.8	2.8	6.4

Third: Human rights organizations after being introduced

The questions of this section were asked to all respondents (1,000 households) after the organizations had been defined to them as "institutions founded by some people for the purposes of defending human rights, training, and raising awareness of such rights within society through holding courses, workshops and lectures in addition to organizing functions to demand such rights, monitoring abuses and pressing various authorities to protect such rights and to pass laws that protect and regulate rights."

This section aims at elucidating society's stance towards the priorities of human right organizations and those of the society itself as well as what are believed to be the most effective mechanisms and to measure the society's willingness to cooperate in the organizations' programs and activities.

Human rights organizations' concerns and the society's priorities

Demands of the people

Most people's priorities relate to their basic needs, the provision of health and other basic services, security, justice and resolving the problem of revenge killing. All answers given (whether provided as options by the questionnaire or mentioned by the interviewees themselves) are included in table 35 and are repeated in all questions in regard to what human rights organizations ought to focus on.

Table 35: People's other human rights-related demands

Demand	Frequency	percentage
Improving economic conditions and providing job opportunities	9	0.9
Banning qat	1	0.1
Free education	1	0.1
Combating beggary	1	0.1
Fighting corruption	8	0.8
Stopping wars	6	0.6
Helping the poor and providing aids	7	0.7
Improving the political state	2	0.2
Solving the problem of too high dowries	2	0.2
Equal citizenship	5	0.5
Stability and security	21	2.1
Raising awareness	1	0.1
Right to healthcare and free medicines	7	0.7
The right to file suitcases	1	0.1
The problem with tribalism	1	0.1
Justice, equality and improving the judiciary	5	0.5
Provision of water	1	0.1
Education on religious teachings	1	0.1
Settling the crisis in the South	5	0.5
Solving the country's problems	1	0.1
Solving the problem of revenge killing	8	0.8
Protecting girls against early marriage	1	0.1
Protecting rights of the vulnerable	1	0.1
Right to work	6	0.6
Right to access free food	1	0.1

Reducing prices and providing a living	10	1
Addressing the problem of terrorism	1	0.1
Total	114	11.4

We can see that the highest voting percentage in table 35 is for the right to have basic services.

Most important human rights issues

In order to assess priorities of respondents in regard to human rights issues, a list of these was read out to them and they were asked about each top separately. (See table 36).

Table (36): Most important human rights issues to respondents

Right	Important	Rather important	Not important	Don't know
Women's right to work	77.3	14.1	8.5	0.1
Rights of marginalized groups	72.1	17.4	8.4	2.1
Journalists' right to writing and publishing freely	76.7	16.6	4.7	2.0
Refugees' rights in Yemen	60.6	22.4	14.1	2.9
Foreigners' rights while in Yemen	61.6	20.6	15.3	2.5
Girls' right to education	92.2	6.6	1.2	0.0
Child rights	93.3	4.7	1.8	0.2
Women's right to assume public posts	46.6	24.8	27.8	0.8
Rights of people with handicaps	92.7	5.6	1.5	0.2
Women's right to run for parliament	46.2	27.6	25.0	1.2
Religious groups' right to exercise their belief freely	68.1	17.9	10.4	3.6
Democratic and political rights	80.5	11.4	5.8	2.3
Right to freedom of expression	88.7	9.1	1.6	0.6
Right to basic services	95.2	3.1	1.2	0.5
Average	76.3	13.8	8.6	1.3

The major differences between the positions of men and women towards the above-mentioned rights were in the point of women's right to work which was prioritized by 88.4 percent of the women and 66.3 percent of the men. Girls' right to education was prioritized by 96 percent of the female respondents and 88.5 percent of the men.

Another difference was recorded concerning women's right to assume public posts, which was considered important by 54.4 percent of the women and 38.8 percent of the men. Women's right to run for parliament was supported by 52 percent of the women and 40.4 percent of the men. Democratic and political rights in general were supported by 86.7 percent of the men and 74.3 percent of the women.

Three important issues to be focused on most

The previous results are repeated with almost the same percentages when it comes to the respondents' belief of the most important three issues human right organizations should focus on (table 37).

When calculating the average of the sample group's answers, the right to basic services ranks first followed by women's rights to education, child rights, the rights of people with handicaps and women's right to work.

When looking at the details, we can see that the women's right to work was the most important right human rights organizations were required to focus on although men did not support this, for only 13.5 percent of the men voted for it as the most important issue in contrast to 48.4 percent of the women interviewed. Women's right to education came second with only 8.4 percent of men prioritizing it, but 26.5 percent of women. The third most important right was that of marginalized groups with a male majority (18.7 percent) and only 8.2 percent of the women emphasizing the need to work on this issue.

In regard to the issue considered as second important, i.e. women's right to education, the decision was again highly influenced by female interviewees (34.5 percent), while only 9 percent of

the men emphasized the need of this problem to be addressed. Child rights came second with 21.1 percent of the votes (again mostly women).

The right to basic services ranks third in the issues that human rights organizations should focus on with 36.5 percent, which is generally the highest of all and was prioritized by the men (46.2 percent) versus 26.7 percent of the women.

The rights of people with handicaps came in second in regard to the third most important issue that should be focused on by human rights organizations with 15.6 percent, followed by the right to freedom of expression with 12.8 percent (mostly women). Up to 13.2 percent was distributed among other options such as the rights of foreigners while staying in Yemen, religious groups to exercise their belief freely, the rights of refugees, women's right to run for parliament and their right to assume public posts.

The influence of female answers on the results of this section clearly indicates a consensus among women on what rights are important to them.

Table 37: The three most important issues human rights organizations should focus on

Right	1 st issue	2nd issue	3rd issue	Average
Right to have basic services	0.9	8.0	36.5	15.1
Women's right to education	17.4	21.7	2.2	13.8
Child rights	9.0	21.1	10.3	13.5
Rights of people with handicaps	2.3	13.7	15.6	10.5
Women's right to work	30.9	0.0	0.1	10.3
Right to freedom of expression	1.7	10.4	12.8	8.3
Rights of marginalized groups	13.5	4.0	0.0	5.8
Democratic and political rights	6.5	7.0	2.8	5.4
Journalists rights to writing and publishing freely	9.7	4.1	0.8	4.9
Other	8.1	10	18.9	12.3

Mechanism of enhancing the above rights

A majority of the surveyed (58.7 percent) said they prefer awareness-raising and education campaigns to raise awareness of and defend these rights. 24.1 percent opted for symposiums and seminars, 8.4 percent for protests, demonstrations and sit-ins, and 7.4 percent said they do not know the proper mechanisms or means.

About 1.4 percent of the sample group (mostly women) proposed other mechanisms such as establishing projects and training institutes, field visits, holding workshops in institutions and centers.

Table 38: Preferred mechanisms and means for enhancing human rights

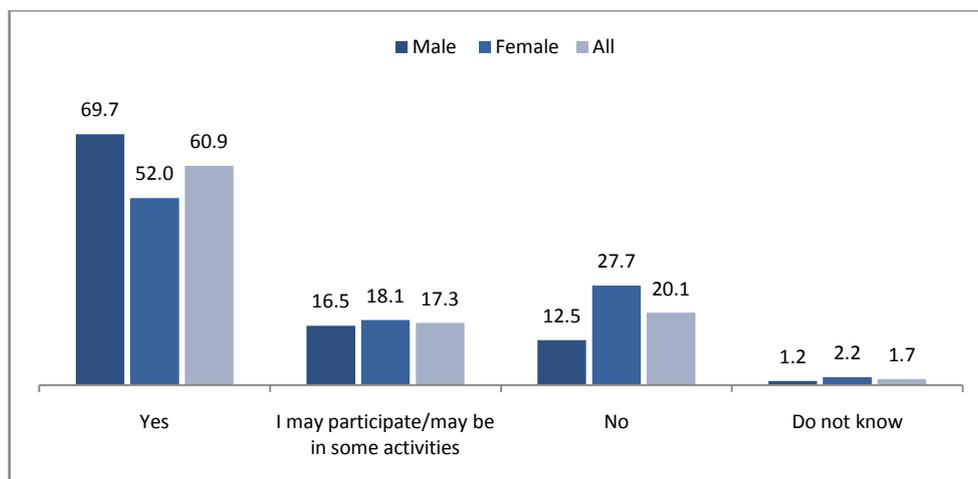
Mechanisms and means	Male	Female	Total
Education and awareness raising campaigns	60.6	56.8	58.7
Symposiums and seminars	26.5	21.7	24.1
Staging protests/demonstrations/sit-ins	9.8	7.0	8.4
I do not know	2.6	12.2	7.4
Other (give examples)	0.6	2.2	1.4

Interest and participation

Attitudes towards participation in activities of human rights NGOs

When asked what they would do if a human rights organization asked them or one of their family members to participate in one of its functions, a majority of 60.9 percent (mostly men) stated they are ready to participate (see chart 11), 17.3 percent noted they might participate in some but not all functions, 20.1 percent said they will not participate and 1.7 percent stated that they do not know whether or not they would participate.

Chart 11: Attitude towards a person's own or one of his/her family members' participation



With respect to the respondent's participation or one of his family relative in an activity by Human Rights NGOs, the answers given by many of them changed considerably according to the type and nature of the activity as shown below. According to the interviewers' field reports, a high percentage of women said the decision was not theirs concerning participation and that they might have wished to take part in such activities, but they might be denied that wish. All women in the sample group were asked to express their views whether or not they were able to make such a decision themselves.

According to table 39, about 44.8 percent of those surveyed who said they would not or might only participate in some activities of human rights organizations said they would not participate in awareness raising campaigns. The percentage was higher among women. However, 60 percent of the refusing respondents said they could allow one of their family members to participate.

As for training on women's rights, the participants were evenly divided: 49.9 percent said they would participate while the same percentage said they would not participate in such a function. Refusal to participate was higher among men. As for the participation of a family member, 55.8 percent (mostly women) said they would agree to that.

The majority, especially men, agreed to participate themselves or to allow a member of their family to participate in child rights functions.

Refusing to participate in functions related to political rights such as elections was as high as 64 percent, especially among women, but they were divided concerning the participation of one of their family members.

The majority of men and women (75.2 percent) stated they would not participate in activities on gender equality and 60.9 percent, mostly men, said they would not allow one of their family members to participate in such an activity.

This position did not change considerably when asked about taking part in demonstrations to support people whose rights were abused. Yet, about 58.6 percent of men said they would do that; the interviewed persons were however divided again about the participation by one of their family members.

Table 39: Position on personal participation or that of a family member in human rights organizations' activities

Activity/ Function	Gender	Personal participation			Participation by a family member		
		Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Awareness campaign	Male	26.3	26.3	0.0	33.6	59.9	5.9
	Female	56.5	56.5	0.4	33.5	61.5	5.0
	Total	44.8	44.8	0.3	33.5	60.9	5.4
Training on women's	Male	63.2	63.2	0.0	53.3	40.8	5.9

rights	Female	41.4	41.4	0.4	30.5	65.3	4.2
	Total	49.9	49.9	0.3	39.4	55.8	4.9
Activity relating to child rights	Male	26.3	26.3	0.0	25.0	69.1	5.9
	Female	41.4	41.4	0.4	28.5	67.4	4.2
Activity relating to political rights (elections, etc.)	Total	35.5	35.5	0.3	27.1	68.0	4.9
	Male	43.4	43.4	0.0	45.4	48.7	5.9
Activity relating to gender equality	Female	77.0	77.0	0.4	52.7	40.6	6.7
	Total	63.9	63.9	0.3	49.9	43.7	6.4
Demonstration to support persons whose rights were abused	Male	79.6	79.6	0.0	72.4	21.7	5.9
	Female	72.4	72.4	0.4	53.6	39.3	7.1
Sit-ins to demand amendments to laws relating to human rights	Total	75.2	75.2	0.3	60.9	32.5	6.6
	Men	41.4	41.4	0	47.4	46.7	5.9
Sit-ins to demand amendments to laws relating to human rights	Women	69.9	69.9	0	49.0	46.4	4.6
	Total	58.8	58.8	0	48.3	46.5	5.1
Sit-ins to demand amendments to laws relating to human rights	Male	50.7	50.7	0	54.6	39.5	5.9
	Female	72.8	72.8	0	52.3	40.6	7.1
Sit-ins to demand amendments to laws relating to human rights	Total	64.2	64.2	0	53.2	40.2	6.6

About 64.2 percent of the respondents pointed out that they would refuse to participate in sit-ins to demand amendments to human rights-related laws and 53.2 percent noted they would not allow one of the family members to do that.

Generally, the results in table 39 give some indications for the reasons behind the participants' initial refusal or hesitation to take part in activities by human rights organizations; political concerns are clear and so are social stances towards rights and terms such as gender equality.

Attitudes towards working for human rights organizations

As shown in table 40, most of the respondents gave conditional agreement on voluntary work with human rights organizations, while 20.8 percent refused the idea of voluntary work altogether, but 27.8 percent agreed to it unconditionally. The participants' concerns about work with these organizations are indicated in the high percentage of conditional consent, which is consistent with their position on participating in the organizations' activities.

Table 40: Position on voluntary work for human rights organizations

Position	Male	Female	Total
I agree.	32.5	22.1	27.3
I agree, if I have the time.	18.3	17.7	18.0
I agree if I'm convinced of the idea.	34.9	28.9	31.9
I definitely reject participation.	12.9	28.7	20.8
I don't know.	1.4	2.6	2.0