

Report on a visit to political detainees at WASHA Prison

Visit by Mr. Laurent Vust, ICRC Delegate, accompanied by Dr. Max Becamier and Dr. Pascal Grallety.

<u>Date of visit</u>	: April 14 and 16, 1984
<u>Previous visit</u>	: November 28, 1983
<u>Prison superintendent</u>	: SAYED MOHAMED AHMED
<u>Detaining authority</u>	: Royalist armed forces of the Yemen
<u>Number of prisoners</u>	: About two hundred
<u>Nationality</u>	: Yemenite
<u>Accommodation</u>	: The prisoners are housed in five rooms of different sizes. They are more like cellars than living quarters. The prisoners sleep on the bare ground except those who have the straw mats which the ICRC delegate distributed during a previous visit.

Diet

According to the prisoners, their only food is bread and salt.

Hygiene

There is no possibility of personal cleanliness.

Medical care

In view of the large number of prisoners and especially of the difficulty of carrying out proper medical examination in the cellars where the prisoners live, Dr. Becamier and Dr. Grallety were only able to give scant reports. It was not possible for them to make any proper diagnosis. However, it is quite certain that the general state of health of the great majority of the prisoners is affected by inadequate diet. It was also observed that many prisoners were suffering from pulmonary disorders. A still greater number are suffering from skin diseases due to the unhygienic conditions in which they have to live.

Relief

The ICRC delegate delivered the following to the prisoners :

- 30 blankets
- 10 cartons of cigarettes
- 45 tins of food
- 4 pairs of trousers
- 2 pullovers