

lowing his return from a conference abroad during which he had criticized the government; at least 18 persons reportedly sentenced to amputation, noting that it was unknown whether the sentences had been carried out; one person sentenced to having his eyes gouged out, despite the fact that the Penal Code contains no provision for such punishment, in addition to a sentence of amputation of the right hand, left foot, and death, noting the verdict was said to be under appeal; the editor of the opposition newspaper, *al-Shura*, and his brother, also a journalist, who were reportedly sentenced by the Court of First Instance in Sana'a to 80 lashes each on charges of

libel, allegedly as a consequence of having written and published a series of articles critical of a leading politician in the al Islah party, noting the government's reply that the sentence had been appealed and therefore not executed at the time the case had been transmitted; two members of the opposition party, the League of the Sons of Yemen (LSY), both journalists, and two other persons who were reportedly kept in incommunicado detention following their arrest; and two members of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), and at least 28 others, who were reportedly arrested following protests against a government proposal to divide Hadhramout into two provinces.