

Urgent Action Office 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 urgentaction@amnesty.ca  
First UA: 16/24 Index: MDE 31/7728/2024 Yemen of February 16, 2024

## YEMEN RELEASE ARBITRARILY DETAINED JUDGE

On January 2, 2024, Abdulwahab Mohammad Qatran, a Yemeni judge known for criticizing the Huthi authorities, was forcefully taken from his home in Sana'a by Huthi security forces. They threatened his family, questioned them for hours without a lawyer, and then made the judge disappear for three days. He's now held alone in a Huthi detention center in Sana'a, without access to legal representation. He should be released immediately without conditions.

### Write to the Huthi de facto authorities urging them to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release judge Abdulwahab Mohammad Qatran as he is detained solely for peacefully exercising his human rights.
- Pending his release, ensure he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that he has access to legal representation, regular family contact and adequate healthcare.

### Write to:

Ansarullah Spokesperson Mohamed Abdelsalam

Email: [mdabdalsalam@gmail.com](mailto:mdabdalsalam@gmail.com)

Salutation: Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam,

X: @abdusalamsalah

### And copy:

His Excellency Jamal Abdullah Yahya AL-SALLAL

Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen

54 Chamberlain Avenue

Ottawa, ON K1S 1V9

Tel: (613) 729-6627 Fax: (613) 729-8915

Email: [yeminfo@yemenembassy.ca](mailto:yeminfo@yemenembassy.ca)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Judge Abdulwahab Mohammad Qatran was vocal in his opposition to the Huthi de facto authorities. He had published several posts on X (previously Twitter) criticizing Huthis' human rights violations and policies including their Red Sea maritime attacks. On 31 December 2023, he wrote on X that 30 million Yemenis did not authorize the Huthis to fight the US. According to one of his sons, he then received several threats from Huthi affiliated figures.

Following his arrest, his family submitted official complaints to the Supreme Judicial Council, the parliament and the Ministry of Human Rights calling for the release of the judge, but they have not received a response to date.

Arbitrary detention violates the Yemeni Criminal Procedures Law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Yemen is a state party. Judges are also entitled to the rights to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. The UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary provide that: "In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, members of the judiciary are like other citizens entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly."

The Yemeni Judicial Authority Law of 1991 provides judges with additional legal protections from the High Judicial Council. According to the judge's lawyer, the public prosecutor informed them on 10 February that the judge's legal protections have been waived but only following his arrest which is in violation of article 87 of the Yemeni Judicial Authority Law which states that "a judge should not be arrested or detained until there is a permission from the Supreme Judicial Council".

All parties to the conflict, including the Huthi de facto authorities, the internationally recognized government and the Southern Transitional Council have carried out arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, harassment, torture and other ill-treatment and unfair trials.

Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented the cases of scores of journalists, human rights defenders, academics, members of the Baha'i community and others perceived as opponents or critics who were subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture and other ill-treatment, enforced disappearance and unfair trials with recourse to the death penalty by the Huthi de facto authorities. All were targeted because of their work as journalists or for peacefully exercising their human rights including their rights to freedom of expression, association and belief.

***Please take action as soon as possible until April 12, 2024! The UA will be duly updated should there be the need for further action.***