

URGENT ACTION

11 BAHÁ'IS DISAPPEARED FOR MORE THAN 100 DAYS

On May 25, armed Huthi forces stormed a peaceful gathering of Baha'is in Sana'a, Yemen. They detained and forcibly disappeared 17 individuals including five women and human rights and humanitarian workers. Following international pressure, six people were released – one man and three women in June, and two men in July. However, 11 individuals, nine men and two women, remain in Huthi custody and their whereabouts remain unknown. They are at risk of further violations at the hands of the Huthi authorities. They must be immediately and unconditionally released.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Third Urgent Action 60.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Spokesperson for the Huthi de facto authorities

Mohamed Abdelsalam

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Embassy of Yemen in the United States

Ambassador Mohammed Al-Hadhrami

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Phone: (202) 965-4760

Email: Information@yemenembassy.org

Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam,

I am alarmed that 11 **Baha'i individuals**, nine men and two women, remain forcibly disappeared by the Huthi de facto authorities following a raid on a peaceful gathering on May 25, 2023. This is another egregious violation of international human rights law in the Huthi de facto authorities' ongoing persecution of the Baha'i community - a religious minority in Yemen.

Huthi de facto authorities detained 17 Baha'i individuals in the raid. Days after the arrest of the Baha'is, the General Prosecutor denied a request for their release submitted by their lawyer. According to the lawyer, the authorities have failed to provide any information on where the Baha'is are being held and no lawyer has been able to communicate with them. Among the 11 disappeared is **Abdullah Al-Olofi**, a father of four and a human rights activist who has led programs training activists on peaceful coexistence and freedom of religion and belief. **Hassan Tariq Thabet**, father to a two-year-old toddler, is a humanitarian worker who worked in food distribution. **Abdul'elah Muhammad Al-Boni**, a father of two with another child on the way, is deeply involved in charity work and community service.

I call on the Huthi de facto authorities to urgently disclose the fate and whereabouts of the 11 Baha'i detainees in their custody and to immediately and unconditionally release them. I also call on you to end all forms of discrimination and persecution of the Baha'i minority and all others who are targeted solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of religion and belief.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented the situation of 82 members of the Baha'i community in Yemen who have been detained by the Huthi de facto authorities and subjected to enforced disappearance, torture, incommunicado detention or denied the right to a fair trial.

Five Baha'is arrested in 2016 were held without charge or trial and without any means to challenge their detention for over two years, until they were charged in September 2018 with various serious offences including espionage for foreign states, some of which can carry the death penalty. Their trial was part of a mass trial involving 24 Baha'is in total – the other 19 were charged in absentia, including the teenage daughter of a Baha'i detainee. The Huthi de facto authorities ordered the release of all Baha'i prisoners in 2020 on the condition of their exile from the country. However, the charges against the 24 Baha'is have not been lifted.

A Baha'i prisoner of conscience, **Hamid Haydara**, was released in 2020 after his initial arrest in 2013. He was sentenced to death in 2018, and then pardoned in 2020. Amnesty International raised its concerns with the Huthi de facto authorities regarding the basis for his detention, as well as the deeply flawed legal proceedings in his case, including prolonged pre-trial detention, undue delays in his trial, torture and other ill-treatment, and lack of access to counsel during his interrogations.

All parties to the armed conflict taking place in Yemen, including the Huthi forces, the internationally recognized government, the Sothern Transitional Council, Saudi Arabia led coalition, and UAE-backed Yemeni forces have committed crimes under international law and human rights violations, including willful killings, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment, and unfair trials.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic, English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: November 22, 2023

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: 11 Baha'i individuals (All); Abdullah Al-Olofi (he/him), Abdul'elah Muhammad Al-Boni (he/him), Hassan Tariq Thabet (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/7097/2023/en/>