

URGENT ACTION

ARBITRARILY DETAINED BAHA'IS MUST BE RELEASED

On May 25, armed Huthi forces stormed a peaceful gathering of Baha'is in Sana'a, Yemen, arbitrarily detaining 17 members of the Baha'i community. Since then, 11 individuals have been released following international pressure. However, six remain arbitrarily detained by the Huthi security and intelligence services and are denied their right to legal counsel. They are at risk of further violations at the hands of the Huthi authorities, including torture and other ill treatment. Amnesty International calls on the Huthi de facto authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the remaining six Baha'i detainees as they are detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

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 **Fourth 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

Email: mdabdalsalam@gmail.com

Twitter: [@abdualamalah](https://twitter.com/abdualamalah)

Embassy of Yemen in the United States

Ambassador Mohammed Al-Hadhrami

2319 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008

Email: Information@yemenembassy.org

Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam,

I am alarmed to learn that **six Baha'i individuals** remain arbitrarily detained by the Huthi de facto authorities following a raid on May 25, 2023, at a peaceful gathering of the Baha'i community - a religious minority in Yemen- in violation of their rights to freedom of religion and belief, and from arbitrary arrest. **Abdul'elah Muhammad al-Boni**, a 30-year-old father of two and a humanitarian worker, and **Abdullah Al-Olofi**, a 45-year-old father of four and a human rights activist, are held at the Huthi-run detention center in Hadda while the other four Baha'i detainees are held at the Huthi-run detention center in Sana'a. All detainees have been denied their right to legal counsel.

I welcome the release of the 11 Baha'i individuals, however, I am concerned that the remaining Baha'i individuals in custody are at risk of further violations, including torture and other-ill treatment.

I therefore call on the Huthi de facto authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all six Baha'i detainees. I also call on the authorities 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 human rights including rights to freedom of religion and belief.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On May 25, armed Huthi forces stormed a peaceful gathering of Baha'is in Sana'a, Yemen, briefly enforcedly disappearing and arbitrarily detaining 17 members of the Baha'i community, including five women and human rights and humanitarian workers.

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 without any means to challenge their detention for over two years, until they were charged in September 2018 with various serious offenses including espionage for foreign states, some of which can carry the death penalty. Their trial was part of a mass trial involving 25 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, their 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 international recognized government, the Southern Transitional Council, the Saudi-led coalition, and UAE-backed Yemeni forces have committed crimes under international human rights law and humanitarian law, including willful killings, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment, and unfair trials.

On October 17, 2023, the UN Human Rights Council passed a [resolution](#) calling on the Huthi de facto authorities to “remove the obstacles that prevent access by relief and humanitarian aid, to release kidnapped humanitarian workers and to end violence and discrimination against women and targeting based on religion or belief.”

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: February 14, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Abdullah Al-Olofi, Abdul'elah Muhammad Al-Boni, Hassan Tariq Thabet (All he/his/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/7232/2023/en/>