

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE ARBITRARILY DETAINED EDUCATION EXPERT

Moujib al-Mikhlaifi, a Yemeni education expert and trainer, has been arbitrarily detained by the Huthi de facto authorities since October 10, 2023 in Sana'a, Yemen. On September 1, 2024, a Huthi-affiliated TV program featured him in what was portrayed as a "confession" video indicating that he was a member of "a spying network" aimed at targeting the education sector in Yemen. If charged with spying, Moujib al-Mikhlaifi would face the death penalty. Since his arrest, Moujib al-Mikhlaifi was subjected to a litany of human rights violations including enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention, and denial of his right to legal counsel. He was held in solitary confinement for at least three months, which constitutes ill-treatment and may amount to torture. He must be immediately 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 **Second Urgent Action 40.24**. 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.

Ansarullah Spokesperson Mohamed Abdelsalam

Twitter/X: [@abdusalamsalah](#)

Email: mdabdalsalam@gmail.com

***There is no domestic target for this UA**

Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam,

We are extremely concerned about the recent developments on the case of **Moujib al-Mikhlaifi**, a 49-year-old education expert and trainer on the rights of the child, peace building, dialogue, and nonviolent communication, who has been arbitrarily detained since October 10, 2023. Moujib al-Mikhlaifi was featured in a video published on September 1, 2024, which Huthi authorities portrayed as a "confession" video indicating that he was a member of a "a spying network" aimed at targeting the education sector in Yemen.

However, to date, Moujib al-Mikhlaifi has not been transferred to the prosecution or formally charged and is still denied his right to legal counsel. If charged with spying, he would face the death penalty under Yemeni criminal law. He was held in prolonged solitary confinement for at least three months in violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

We urge the Huthi de facto authorities to immediately release Moujib al-Mikhlaifi. Pending his release, the authorities must ensure he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that he has access to legal counsel, regular family contact, and adequate healthcare.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Moujib al-Mikhlafi is an education expert and trainer who has been working at the Ministry of Education in Sana'a for 24 years until he was detained on October 10, 2023. His work included trainings targeting education staff at schools on the rights of the child, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution, dialogue, and nonviolent communication.

Following his arrest, his family submitted an appeal to the head of the Supreme Political Council and the head of the security and intelligence service, and a complaint to the head of the legal unit at the office of the Huthi leader, Abdul Malik al-Huthi; they have not received a response to date. Arbitrary detention violates the Yemeni Criminal Procedure Law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Yemen is a state party.

His family's concerns about his health mounted after they learned, in March 2024, that his health was deteriorating. Moujib al-Mikhlafi suffers from pre-existing health conditions including diabetes and high blood pressure. According to Amnesty International's research, detainees at the Huthi-run security and intelligence detention centers are often held in horrific and punitive conditions and are denied access to adequate healthcare.

On June 10, 2024, the Huthi security and intelligence service announced the "discovery" of what they called "a spying network". Since then, they have been broadcasting a series of videos on the Huthiaffiliated Al Masira TV featuring a number of detainees "confessing" to spying. Moujib al-Mikhlafi was featured in one of those videos, published on September 1, 2024, and titled "The US targeting of education in Yemen".

Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented scores of cases involving journalists, human rights defenders, political opponents, and members of religious minorities who were subjected to unfair trials before the Sana'a based Specialized Criminal Court on trumped up spying charges, which are mandatorily punishable by death under Yemeni law. In all these cases, the Huthis' prosecution authorities appeared to have brought the spying charges as a means to persecute political opponents and silence peaceful dissent.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: December 25, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Moujib al-Mikhlafi (he/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/8037/2024/en/>.