

URGENT ACTION

WOMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AT RISK OF EXECUTION

Fatma al-Arwali, a 34-year-old human rights defender, is at risk of execution after the Huthi-controlled Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) in Sana'a, Yemen, convicted her of 'aiding an enemy country' and sentenced her to death on December 5, 2023, following a grossly unfair trial. Since her arrest in August 2022, the Huthi's security and intelligence service subjected Fatma al-Arwali to a litany of human rights violations, including enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention, in conditions violating the absolute prohibition of torture or other ill-treatment.

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 **Urgent Action 8.24**. 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

Email: mdabdalsalam@gmail.com

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

Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam,

I am deeply concerned that woman human rights defender, **Fatma al-Arwali**, is at risk of execution after the Huthi-controlled Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) in Sana'a sentenced her to death on December 5, 2023, following a grossly unfair trial. Fears for her life mounted after her brother received a phone call on January 18, 2024, from an unknown number and was told that she will be executed on February 21, 2024, in Tahrir Square in Sana'a. On January 21, 2024, he visited the security and intelligence service center in al-Siyasi neighborhood in Sana'a, and officials denied there was an order to execute her.

On August 13, 2022, Huthi security forces arrested Fatma al-Arwali at a checkpoint in al Manshour in Ta'iz governorate. They subjected her to enforced disappearance for about eight months, while authorities denied her family any information about her fate and whereabouts.

We urge the Huthi de facto authorities to immediately quash the conviction and death sentence and ensure that Fatma al-Arwali receives a fair retrial before a competent, independent, and impartial court without recourse to the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Fatma al-Arwali](#) was the former head of the Yemen office of the Women Leadership Union of the Arab League and was active in promoting women's rights.

Fatma al-Arwali's death sentence was marred by fair trial violations. In view of the irreversible nature of the death penalty, the proceedings in capital cases must scrupulously observe all relevant international standards protecting the right to a fair trial. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge must be treated in full compliance with Yemen's human rights obligations including rights to a fair trial. These include the rights to choose one's own lawyer; to access effective legal assistance from the time of arrest and throughout the pre-trial and trial proceedings; to be brought promptly before an ordinary civilian judge; to challenge the lawfulness of detention before an independent, impartial tribunal; to be presumed innocent; to remain silent and not to be compelled to incriminate oneself or to confess guilt; to obtain full access to relevant evidence; to not be detained on vague charges; to examine and cross examine witnesses; to receive a fair, public hearing before a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal; and to be provided with a public, reasoned judgment.

Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented the cases of over 60 individuals, who have been brought before the Sana'a-based SCC, including journalists, human rights defenders, political opponents, and members of religious minorities who were subjected to unfair trials on spurious or trumped-up charges by this court. Virtually all of them have been tried on spying charges, which are punishable by death under Yemeni law.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. The death penalty is a violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ultimate cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. Amnesty International has consistently called on all states that retain the death penalty to establish an official moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 28, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Fatma al-Arwali (she/her)