

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE FOUR ARBITRARILY DETAINED BAHÁ'IS

On June 21, 2024, the Huthi de facto authorities released Baha'i human rights activist, Abdullah al-Olofi, from over a year in arbitrary detention, yet are continuing to arbitrarily detain four other Baha'is. According to credible sources, the Huthis forced Abdullah al-Olofi to sign a pledge that he would refrain from engaging in any Bahá'í related activities. On May 25, 2023, armed Huthi forces stormed a peaceful gathering of Baha'is in a private residence in Sana'a and arbitrarily detained 17 people, including five women. They forcibly disappeared them for around four months until their families learned they were being held at Huthi-run security and intelligence detention centers in Sana'a. Between June 2023 and June 2024, 13 individuals, including Abdullah al-Olofi and all five women, were released following international pressure. The four remaining Bahai's are held without charge and denied their right to legal counsel.

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 **Sixth 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/X: [@abdusalamsalah](#)

Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam,

While I welcome the release of human rights activist, Abdullah al-Olofi – although he should have never been detained in the first place – I am extremely concerned about the remaining four detained Bahai individuals, **Abdul'elah Muhammad al-Boni**, 30, **Hassan Tariq Thabet al-Zakari**, 28, **Muhammad Bashir Abdel Jalil**, 25, and **Ibrahim Ahmad Jo'eil**, 49, and I demand their immediate and unconditional release.

On May 25, 2023, Huthi armed forces stormed a peaceful gathering of the Baha'is in a private residence in Sana'a and arbitrarily detained 17 people, including five women. They forcibly disappeared them for around four months until their families learned they were being held at Huthi-run security and intelligence centers in Sana'a. Between June 2023 and June 2024, 13 individuals, including all five women, were released following international pressure. The remaining four detainees are held without charge and denied their right to legal counsel.

I therefore call on the Huthi de facto authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all four Baha'i detainees in their custody. 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 to freedom of religion and belief.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On several occasions, public officials have [incited violence](#) and discrimination against the Baha'is in public speeches. Weeks before the arbitrary detention of the 17 Baha'is, Abdel Malek al-Huthi, the leader of the Huthis, renewed in a speech his attacks against religious minorities, including the Baha'is, accusing them of conspiring to destroy Islam. On June 2, 2023, the Huthi-affiliated Grand Mufti in Sana'a attacked the Baha'is in Yemen in his Friday sermon, accusing them of seeking to harm the country and inciting violence against them.

Since 2015, Amnesty International has [documented](#) the cases of at least 100 members of the Baha'i faith in Yemen, who have been detained by the Huthi de facto authorities and subjected to enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention, torture and ill-treatment, and denied fair trial rights.

In August 2016, the Huthi authorities [stormed](#) a peaceful Baha'i youth community event in Sana'a and arbitrarily arrested 65 people, including 14 women and six children.

In September 2018, 24 Baha'is [faced](#) trumped up charges, including espionage for foreign states, in flagrantly unfair proceedings. Earlier that year, in January 2018, the Huthi authorities sentenced the 52-year-old Baha'i prisoner of conscience, Hamid Haydara, to death for allegedly collaborating with Israel and forging official documents. This sentence came after Hamid Haydara had been detained since December 2013 in flawed proceedings on bogus charges, unfair trial and with credibly allegations that he was tortured and ill-treated.

The Baha'is were also persecuted on account of their faith [prior to the current armed conflict](#) under the rule of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: January 11, 2025

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Abdul'elah Muhammad al-Boni, Hassan Tariq Thabet AlZakari, Muhammad Bashir Abdel Jalil, Ibrahim Ahmad Jo'eil (all he/his/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/7826/2024/en/>.