

URGENT ACTION

YEMENI ACADEMIC HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR 57 DAYS

Professor and political figure Mustafa al-Mutawakel has been held incommunicado by the internationally recognized Yemeni government forces in an unknown location for almost two months. He is in urgent need of medical care and at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Mustafa al-Mutawakel, 61-year-old father of five, professor of Economics at Sana'a University and Chairman of the General Authority for Investment in Sana'a, has been held incommunicado since 27 April. He was arrested that day at around 8am at al-Falaj checkpoint in the governorate of Ma'rib, north-east of the capital Sana'a, as he was on a bus heading back to Sana'a from Sey'oun airport, after having attended a conference in Morocco.

According to his family, Mustafa al-Mutawakel was allowed one phone call on the day of his arrest to his wife. During the brief call, he informed her that he had been detained by the internationally recognized Yemeni government forces (also known as *al-Shar'ia*) in the governorate of Ma'rib. He has since been held incommunicado with no access to a lawyer or any member of his family, raising fears that he might be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. According to medical reports reviewed by Amnesty International, Mustafa al-Mutawakel suffers from high blood pressure and blood clotting. Prior to his arrest, he received regular medical treatment and medication to manage his blood clotting including regular blood withdrawal (venesection). If this treatment is discontinued, he is at higher risk of more blood clots forming and higher blood pressure.

Mustafa al-Mutawakel was appointed in November 2016 as the Chairman of the General Authority for Investment, which is controlled by the de-facto Huthi-Saleh authorities. The reason for his arrest remains unclear. However, his family believes that his arrest might have been triggered by his perceived association with the Huthi-Saleh authorities by the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Calling on the internationally recognized government of President Hadi to release Mustafa al-Mutawakel immediately, unless he is promptly transferred to proper judicial authorities and charged with a recognizable criminal offence, in line with international law and standards;
- Urging them, in the meantime, to ensure that he is granted immediate access to the medical treatment he requires, prompt and regular access to his family and a lawyer of his choosing, and ensure he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

Contact these two officials by 3 August, 2017:

Director General of the Presidential Office of President

Hadi Abdullah Al-Alimi

Email: d.aa2013@hotmail.com

Salutation: **Your Excellency**

Ambassador Ahmed Awad Binmubarak, Embassy of the Republic of
Yemen

2319 Wyoming Ave NW, Washington DC 20008

Phone: 1 202 965 4760

Fax: 1 202 337 2017

Email: information@yemenembassy.org

Salutation: **Dear Ambassador**

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several parties to the conflict in Yemen have thus far arbitrarily detained, forcibly disappeared and tortured people.

Amnesty International has documented arbitrary arrests, detentions and enforced disappearances carried out by the Huthi armed group and allied forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh since the beginning of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's aerial campaign in March 2015. Hundreds of activists, journalists, human rights defenders, members of the Baha'i community critics and opponents of the Huthi armed group and people of various political backgrounds perceived as opponents by the Huthis have been arbitrarily arrested, detained and, in some cases, tortured and otherwise ill-treated. Some have been forcibly disappeared.

Amnesty International has also documented the arrest of members of the Baha'i faith by the internationally recognised government of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Heshmat Alah Ali Mohammad Sabet Sarvestani, 75, and his son-in-law Nadim al-Sakkaf, 43, were arbitrarily detained without charge on 11 January and subjected to enforced disappearance since the beginning of April. See Amnesty International's Urgent Action: Two men forcibly disappeared, 19 January 2017: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde31/5519/2017/en/>

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch has documented dozens of cases, including children, who have been arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared in the Aden and Hadramawt governorates of Yemen over the last year by Yemeni forces that are backed by UAE. See Human Rights Watch's Press Release: UAE Backs Abusive Local Forces, 22 June 2017: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/22/yemen-uae-backs-abusive-local-forces>

Name: Mustafa al-Mutawakel
Gender m/f: m

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