

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 31/09/97

UA 263/97 Fear of torture / Possible prisoners of conscience 8 August 1997

YEMEN **Muhsin Ahmad al-'Amudi, Secretary of the LSY in Hadhramout**
'Alwi 'Abdullah bin Samid, a correspondent of al-Ayyam, a bi-weekly newspaper
Dr Ahmad 'Abdullah bin Bubakar from Si'un
Muhammad 'Umar Zin, Secretary of LSY in Aden
Fuad Qa'id, a journalist from Aden
 Bader Tindus, from Lahj
 And many others

Scores of people have been detained following waves of arrests since 30 July 1997 in Aden, Hadhramout, Lahj, Abyan and other provinces. The detainees are feared to be at risk of torture in incommunicado detention.

All the detainees are reported to have been arrested, without judicial warrant, by members of the Political Security (PS) and possibly other security forces. They have not been allowed access to family and lawyers and their families have reportedly not been informed of the reasons for the arrest of their relatives.

The arrests followed two bomb explosions in Aden but most of those detained are said to have been targeted as members of opposition parties. Most of them are said to be members of Rabitat Abna al-Yemen (the League of the Sons of Yemen) (LSY), but they are also reported to include members of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and possibly members of other parties. All these parties are legally registered. Amnesty International is concerned that some of the detainees may be prisoners of conscience.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in SPANISH or your own language:

- urging that all those detained since 30 July 1997 be granted immediate access to family members, lawyers, and doctors;
- seeking assurances that the detainees are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- acknowledging the duty of the authorities to bring to justice those suspected of violent crimes, but expressing concern at reports that most of those arrested have been targeted because of their political affiliations;
- urging that all detainees be promptly charged with recognizable criminal offences or released.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
General 'Ali Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a, The Republic of Yemen
Telegrams: President 'Ali Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Faxes: +967 1 262 017
Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior
Husain Muhammad 'Arab
Ministry of Interior
Sana'a, The Republic of Yemen
Faxes: +967 1 251 566

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice
Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir
Ministry of Justice
Sana'a, The Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 September 1997.