

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 31/015/2003**

**UA 366/03**

**Fear of forcible return/Fear of Torture or Ill-treatment**

**18 December 2003**

**YEMEN**

**Abdul Rahman Ameer (m)  
Kamel Berkane (m), Algerian nationals**

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Amnesty International is concerned that Abdul Rahman Ameer and Kamel Berkane, both Algerian nationals, are at risk of being forcibly returned from Yemen to Algeria at the end of their prison sentences on 23 December 2003. Should they be returned, they would be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The two men were sentenced to five years' imprisonment in August 1999 for forming an armed gang and possession of weapons. Amnesty International has already made public its concern that Abdul Rahman Ameer, Kamel Berkane and at least eight others were sentenced to prison terms on charges related to "terrorist" acts following court proceedings which fell short of international standards for fair trials. The men were reportedly held incommunicado with no access to lawyers, and tortured.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International's assessment of the risk which the two men would face is based on its recent findings that torture remains widespread in Algeria and is systematically practised on detainees suspected of crimes categorized as "acts of terrorism or subversion". This and other human rights issues are described in the report *Algeria: Steps towards change or empty promises* (AI Index: MDE 28/005/2003), published on 16 September 2003.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- calling on Yemen to abide by its international obligations and ensure that Abdul Rahman Ameer and Kamel Berkane are not forcibly sent to Algeria or any other country where they might be at risk of serious human rights abuses, including torture;
- calling on the authorities to allow Abdul Rahman Ameer and Kamel Berkane the opportunity to challenge any decision on their expulsion.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

##### President

His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

Sana'a

Republic of Yemen

**Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**

**Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE**

**Faxes: + 967 127 4147**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

##### Prime Minister

>Abd al-Qader Bajamal

Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen

Sana'a

Republic of Yemen

**Telegrams: Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**

**Faxes: + 967 1 274 662**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Interior

Rashid Muhammad al->Alimi

Ministry of Interior

Sana=a

Republic of Yemen

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana=a, Yemen**

**Faxes: + 967 1 332 511**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Human Rights

Amat al Aeem al Suswah

Ministry for Human Rights

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

**Telegrams: Minister of Human Rights, Sana'a, Yemen**

**Faxes: + 967 1 419 700**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**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 29 January 2004.