

PUBLIC

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UA 266/07 **Fear of torture**

YEMEN **Mohammed Ali Nasser Mohammed (m)**

Former Guantánamo detainee Mohammed Ali Nasser Mohammed was handed over by the US authorities to the Yemeni authorities on 1 October and has been detained since then in the Political Security prison in the capital, Sana'a. He has not been allowed to see his lawyers, and is in grave danger of torture or other ill-treatment.

No charges are known to have been brought against him, and it is not clear why he is being detained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture is a criminal offence in Yemen, but it has continued to take place at the hands of the security forces as a result of the practice of incommunicado detention and impunity enjoyed by alleged perpetrators.

About 100 Yemeni nationals are still detained in Guantánamo. The authorities have publicly stated that they wish to have all their nationals returned to Yemen from Guantánamo Bay but it is unclear why only about a dozen have so far been returned and released.

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

- expressing concern that Mohammed Ali Nasser Mohammed is believed to be detained without charge, and asking why he is in custody;
- calling on the authorities to release Mohammed Ali Nasser Mohammed immediately unless he is to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and given a fair trial;
- urging the authorities to give him access to legal counsel of his own choosing, and to the courts, to challenge the legality of his detention.
- noting that approximately 100 Yemeni nationals are still detained in Guantánamo, and welcoming the Yemeni authorities' efforts on their behalf;
- calling on them to continue to discuss this issue with the US authorities, with a view to ensuring the release of all the Yemeni detainees in Guantánamo if they are not to be promptly charged and given a fair trial in full accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Fax: + 967 127 4147

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

His Excellency Dr Rashid Muhammad al-Alimi

Ministry of Interior
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Fax: + 967 1 332 511
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Human Rights
Her Excellency Houda 'Ali 'Abdullatif al- Baan
Ministry for Human Rights
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Fax: + 967 1 444 838
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs
His Excellency Dr Abu Bakr 'Abdullah al-Qurbi
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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 30 November 2007.