

# URGENT ACTION

## YEMENI ASYLUM SEEKER RELEASED FROM PRISON

On 23 January 2025, Yemeni asylum seeker Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo was released after three years of unjust imprisonment. He was safely relocated and reunited with his family in Canada. Egyptian security forces had arrested Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo on 15 December 2021. A prosecutor then ordered his pre-trial detention on bogus charges of "joining a terrorist group" and "defamation of the Islamic religion". He was detained solely for exercising his rights to freedom of expression, conscience and belief.

**NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.**

Security forces arrested Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo from his home in December 2021, and forcibly disappeared him for two weeks, during which time the authorities refused to provide his family with any information about his fate and whereabouts. He was subsequently brought in front of the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP), where a prosecutor ordered his pre-trial detention pending investigations on charges of "joining a terrorist group with knowledge of its purposes" and "defamation of the Islamic religion". These charges were related to his conversion to Christianity, about which he regularly posted on his social media platforms after fleeing from Yemen to Egypt in 2014. Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo was released following sustained supporter mobilization and efforts from Egyptian and international civil society organizations.

In July 2022, the Egyptian authorities issued an order to deport Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo to Yemen where he would have been at risk of arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment and death including through the imposition of the death penalty or killing by armed groups or non-state agents.

Supporters around the world campaigned for Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo's release by sending letters to the Egyptian authorities. Following his release, his son Hossam conveyed this message to Amnesty International members and supporters:

"Thank you very much everyone for your efforts and we are grateful to our Lord and to you also for your help. May God bless you and bless your families. Thank you very much again."

Amnesty International will continue to campaign for the release of arbitrarily detained individuals in Egypt.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Abdul-Baqi Saeed Abdo (he/him).

**THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 87/23.**

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7173/2023/en/>.

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