

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 31/02/95

UA 194/95

Fear of torture / Legal concern

9 August 1995

YEMEN

Mubarak Salih al-Zaydi, aged about 16
and others

At 9am on 6 August 1995, Mubarak Salih al-Zaydi was taken from his home in al-Safi area in Sana'a by members of *al-Amn al-Siyassi*, Political Security. Since then he has been held incommunicado, his whereabouts unknown. Amnesty International fears that he may be tortured.

Mubarak Salih al-Zaydi's arrest is believed to be connected with the visit to his house by about seven people suspected by the authorities of being linked with the National Front for the Opposition (MOG), a front for the opposition abroad. Mubarak Salih al-Zaydi himself is said to be connected with *Ittihad al-Qiwa al-Sha'biya*, Union of Popular Forces, a political party which has been recently suspended (see below).

On the evening of 6 August, the seven suspected of having links with the MOG were arrested. No further details about their detention are known at present.

Amnesty International fears that they too may face torture in custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary arrest, torture and prolonged detention without charge or trial of political suspects by Political Security is a serious human rights concern in Yemen. Political Security acts beyond any judicial control and is accountable only to President 'Ali Abdullah Saleh. Dozens of people arrested by Political Security in recent months in connection with the MOG are currently detained without charge or trial and without access to defence lawyers or judges to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. They include Nabil al-'Amudi, Kamal Muthana (known as Ibn al-Haj), Abbud Hashim, 'Adil al-Zaydi, Abdullah al-Wahshi, Jalal Talib Ba-Rahma, Husam al-Qubati, and Hani Badi. They were all arrested in Aden during the first half of May 1995. They were initially detained in the headquarters of Political Security in Aden, but are believed to be currently held in al-Fateh political detention camp in Aden. Most of these detainees are students at Aden University and are said to have been prevented from sitting their exams.

The Union of Popular Forces, a legal opposition party, was suspended by the Minister of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on 17 July 1995. The party assets were frozen and its weekly newspaper, al-Shura, suspended.

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

- seeking assurances that 16-year-old Mubarak Salih al-Zaydi and seven other people arrested on 6 August 1995, are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- urging that their whereabouts be made known and that they be granted immediate access to lawyers of their choice and to members of their families;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release unless they are to be charged with recognizably criminal offences;
- requesting the names and details of the seven detainees arrested on the evening of 6 August 1995.

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 251566
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 September 1995.