

URGENT ACTION

THREE BAHAI MEN IN ARBITRARY DETENTION

Three members of Yemen's Baha'i community have been arbitrarily detained since 10 August. One was held incommunicado for six weeks. All three remain detained without charge. They are prisoners of conscience.

Keyvan Qadari, 43, and brothers **Nadim al-Sakkaf**, 43, and **Nader al-Sakkaf**, 37, have been detained without charge since 10 August. Keyvan Qadari was held incommunicado at the National Security Bureau (NSB) intelligence agency for the first six weeks before he was allowed the first and only phone call to his family on 23 September. Since then he has been granted no further contact with his family or lawyer, placing him at risk of torture or other ill-treatment. Officials from the NSB have threatened Keyvan Qadari and his family with deportation to Iran. Nadim al-Sakkaf and Nader al-Sakkaf were allowed to call their family for the first time on 5 September and 18 October respectively and they were both allowed a family visit on 30 October. Amnesty International believes all three men have been arrested and detained solely for their religious beliefs or peaceful activities on behalf of the Baha'i community, who are a religious minority.

Keyvan Qadari was arrested along with 64 others on 10 August by armed officers in balaclavas from Yemen's NSB at a Baha'i youth workshop in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. Later that day, Nadim al-Sakkaf and Nader al-Sakkaf were called into NSB and were also arrested and detained.

Nader al-Sakkaf on 18 October informed his family during a phone call that he and his brother had been moved from the NSB to the Political Security Office (PSO), also in Sana'a, where they are currently detained. During a visit from his family on 30 October, Nader al-Sakkaf confirmed that Keyvan Qadari was also moved to PSO, where they now share a cell.

Please write immediately in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the de facto Huthi/Saleh authorities to release Keyvan Qadari, Nadim al-Sakkaf and Nader al-Sakkaf immediately and unconditionally, because they are prisoners of conscience detained solely on account of their religious beliefs;
- Urging them to ensure that, while detained, all three men are granted regular access to their families and lawyers of their choice and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to respect its commitments to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, guaranteeing the right of the Yemeni population, including the Baha'i community, to adopt and practice their religion publicly and privately.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 JANUARY 2017 TO:

Ansarullah Representative at Peace

Talks

Mohamed Abdelsalam

Email: mdabdalsalam@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Sir

Director of the Human Rights

Department at Ansarullah Office

Abdulmalik al-Ajari

Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1n1y4Mn>

Salutation: Dear Sir

Director of the Office of the Presidency

Mahmod Abdulqader al-Jounid

Fax: +967 1 274147

Email: mahmodaljounid@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Sir

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman Ahmed, 57 Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2ED, 020 7584 6607, Fax 020 7589 3350, <https://www.yemenembassy.co.uk/contact-us.html>

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Armed officers in balaclavas from Yemen's National Security Bureau (NSB), which works hand in hand with the Huthi authorities, [stormed a Baha'i youth workshop in Sana'a on 10 August](#) and arrested 67 people, including six children without an arrest warrant. Amongst the 67 people arrested were Ruhiyeh Thabet and Nafha Sanai, the wives of Nadim al-Sakkaf and Nader al-Sakkaf respectively. Ruhiyeh Thabet was released on 6 September after she was forced to sign a pledge stating that she "will not participate in any Baha'i inspired community service activities". Nafha Sanai was released on 21 August after she was also forced to sign a pledge stating that she "should not have any Baha'i activities and should practice religion at home".

The NSB have twice raided the homes of Nadim al-Sakkaf and Nader al-Sakkaf since their arrests, on 4 September and 23 September. During these raids, masked and armed men confiscated electronic devices, personal documents and files and Baha'i literature.

Nadim al-Sakkaf and Nader al-Sakkaf were previously detained by Huthi authorities in March 2015 and interrogated about their faith and other members of the Baha'i community. They were released without charge after two days.

Keyvan Qadari was previously arrested and held by the Yemeni authorities from 20 June 2008 for four months, during which time he was reported to be at imminent risk of being forcibly returned to Iran. He was held incommunicado for 40 days and released unconditionally without charge on 23 October 2008

In another case, Hamid Haydara, a member of the Baha'i religion, is currently on trial in Sana'a after being detained in December 2013 and accused of trying to convert Muslims to the Baha'i faith. He is also charged, among other things, with apostasy, working on behalf of the Israeli government and undermining the independence of the Yemeni State, all of which carry a mandatory death sentence under Yemeni law. The next hearing in his trial is due to take place on 4 December 2016.

The Huthis, mostly members of the northern Zaidi Shi'a minority, took over some army and security positions in Sana'a in September 2014. By the third week of January 2015 they had attacked military positions, the presidential compounds and government buildings. This led to President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his government resigning and the Huthis becoming the de facto administration of the capital and other parts of Yemen. Since then, the Huthis have maintained their hold on Sana'a and some parts of the country.

There has been [a surge](#) in arbitrary arrests, detentions and enforced disappearances by the Huthi armed group and allied forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh since the beginning of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's aerial campaign in March 2015. Hundreds of activists, human rights defenders and people of various political backgrounds perceived as opponents by the Huthis have been arbitrarily arrested, detained and, in some cases, tortured and otherwise ill-treated. Some have been forcibly disappeared.

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