

Secretary-General António Guterres,
United Nations Headquarters
760 United Nations Plaza,
New York, 10017, USA.

Brussels, 15 April 2020

World journalists' community urges you to stand up for journalists in Yemen.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We are writing to you on behalf of journalists in Yemen and around the world to express our pain and anguish following the ruling of the State Security Court in Sanaa, under the control of Ansar Allah/the Houthi Movement, condemning four of our colleagues in Yemen to death. They were convicted of treason and aiding the enemy, when their only crime was to do their job as journalists.

Abdulkhaleq Amran, Akram Al-Waleedi, Hareth Humaid and Tawifq Al-Mansoori were arrested together with five other journalists in July 2015 at the Palace of Dreams Hotel in Sanaa, where their media had moved to access communications and utilities. Since their arrest, they have been subjected to physical and psychological torture and deprived of their basic rights guaranteed under international law.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) and numerous groups defending human rights and freedom of expression have documented and exposed such incidents over the past five years.

This ruling comes during one of the most difficult times the modern world has ever faced, the Covid-19 pandemic. Journalists have risen to the challenge to provide accurate information and fair coverage of the crisis to empower people and policy-makers to take the right decisions. Every day, hundreds of thousands of journalists around the world are putting their lives on the line to save lives! They are not only facing the dangers of disease but also misconduct by politicians and centres of powers who try to cover their failings or exploit the misery of humanity for their own benefit.

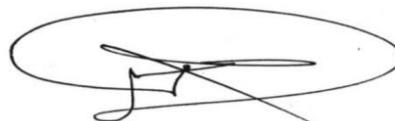
Today, we urge you to use your good offices to resolve this matter and secure the release of these journalists and all other [journalists jailed in Yemen](#).

Today, we need to hear you stand up for journalists and unequivocally tell Ansar Allah and the de facto government in Sanaa that torturing and executing journalists is a war crime and that the UN do not and will not work or cooperate with war criminals.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Bellanger
IFJ General Secretary



Mohammed Shubaitah
YJS General Secretary