



**International
Federation
of Journalists**

JIM BOUMELHA
President

ANTHONY BELLANGER
General Secretary

Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed
United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Brussels, 27 May 2016

RE: Call for action to release 10 journalists on hunger strike in Houthi jails

Dear Sir,

We are writing on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) - the world's largest journalists' organisation representing over 600,000 members in 140 countries - to urge you to do your utmost for the immediate release of 10 journalists who have been on hunger strike for almost a month.

Taufik el Mansoury, Hasan Anab, Akaram am waledy, Essam belghayth, Hareth Hamid, haytham Shehab, Hesham Al youssify, Hesham tarmoum, Salah al Qaady and Abdelkhalek Omran have been detained by the Houthis in al Habra prison in Yemen's capital Sana'a for over a year. Their families informed the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) that the reporters had begun a hunger strike on 9 May to protest against the inhuman conditions they face in jail. They have been denied visits, healthy nutrition and access to medicines and have suffered from mistreatment and torture. Some of them have become ill.

We respectfully remind you that international law includes a considerable body of legal provisions on the protection of journalists, both as civilians and as members of a specific group of professionals. Moreover, under international human rights law, the right to life and a fair trial, as well as freedom from torture, are inalienable rights to which our colleagues are entitled.

The IFJ welcomes your recent declaration that peace talks in Yemen are moving closer towards reaching an agreement but as a matter of urgency we join the call made by our Yemeni affiliate and the devastated families in demanding justice for our jailed colleagues as a matter of urgency.

We therefore demand you to bring the full authority of UN and the powerful array of legal and diplomatic tools at your disposal to help release them and to address the serious risks to the life and physical safety facing journalists and media professionals in Yemen.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Boumelha
IFJ President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Boumelha'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

International Federation of Journalists, International Press Centre

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