

Fatma al-Arwali

Fatma al-Arwali, a 34-year-old advocate for human rights, is facing the death penalty in Yemen. Fatma was the former head of the Yemen office of the Women Leadership Union of the Arab League and was active in promoting women's rights.



She was convicted by the Huthi-controlled Specialized Criminal Court (SCC). Her conviction on December 5, 2023, followed a trial marred by significant irregularities, including the denial of her right to legal representation. Fatma has been subjected to numerous human rights abuses by the Huthi's security forces with her arrest in August 2022, including abduction, incommunicado detention, and torture.

Fatma was not allowed to choose her own lawyer or to access effective legal assistance from the time of arrest and throughout the pre-trial and trial proceedings. There was also evidence of torture in prison.

Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented the cases of over 60 individuals, who have been brought before the SCC, including journalists, human rights defenders, political opponents, and members of religious minorities who were subjected to unfair trials on spurious or trumped-up charges by this court. Virtually all of them have been tried on spying charges, which are punishable by death under Yemeni law.

TAKE ACTION:

Ansarullah Spokesperson

Mohamed Abdelsalam

Email: mdabdalsalam@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Mohamed Abdelsalam

Ambassador Mohammad Al-Hadhrani
Embassy of the Republic of Yemen
2319 Wyoming Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20008
Nhashem@yemenembassy.org

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Ambassador Al-Hadhrani,

I am concerned over the arrest and detention and death sentence for Fatma al-Arwali. Fatma was targeted for her work around the human rights of women.

Fatma al-Arwali's death sentence was marred by fair trial violations. International law requires that anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charges must be given the right to choose one's own lawyer; to access effective legal assistance from the time of arrest and throughout the trial proceedings; to challenge the lawfulness of detention before an independent, impartial tribunal.

Additionally, the death penalty is a violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

I ask that Fatma be released from detention, as she is peacefully working for human rights. In the meantime, ensure that she has regular access to her family and lawyer and is held in conditions meeting humane treatment of prisoners.

I will be watching this case closely,

Sincerely,

