

## Joint Statement on Hunger Strike by Yemeni Journalist Ahmed Maher

The undersigned organizations hereby express their solidarity with journalist Ahmed Maher, who is incarcerated at Bir Ahmed Prison under the custody of the Southern Transitional Council (STC). According to a credible and well-informed source, Maher initiated an open hunger strike the week before last demanding a prompt trial.

Since his arrest in August 2022, the Specialized Criminal Court in Aden has repeatedly postponed hearings in the Ahmed Maher case. Most recently, Maher was not included among a group of prisoners brought from Bir Ahmed prison to court, following a partial lifting of the judicial strike in Aden. These ongoing delays contravene directives from the Judicial Inspection Authority and the Supreme Judicial Council instructing the Specialized Criminal Court to conduct successive sessions in Maher's case, as per information provided by a credible and well-informed source. Furthermore, a STC-affiliated security force arrested Maher's lawyer earlier this month, and as of this statement's publication, the lawyer remains in custody.



[A new report by the Panel of Experts on Yemen](#) mentioned the case of Ahmed Maher as emblematic of the arrests, enforced disappearances, threats and coerced confessions faced by journalists critical of the STC.

The undersigned organizations urgently appeal to the Specialized Criminal Court and the administration of Bir Ahmed prison to cease the prolonged delays and apparent indifference in addressing the case of Ahmed Maher, given its significant impact on public opinion. Furthermore, these organizations implore the Presidential Leadership Council, the authorities in Aden, President of the Supreme Court Ali Al-Awash, and the Supreme Judicial Council to promptly intervene and rectify the blatant legal transgressions in the Ahmed Maher case, whether by expediting court sessions, transferring the case to the Press Court or another appropriate penal court, or releasing journalist Maher. His year-long imprisonment due to his political stances and journalistic activity demands urgent attention.

*December 03 2023*

### List of signatory organizations:

1. Arab Center for Media Freedoms, Development and Research (ILAM)	11. Yemeni Media Freedom Observatory	21. Masar Foundation for Development and Human Rights	31. Cultural Media Center
2. Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights	12. Alamal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation	22. Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development	32. Musawah Organization For Rights and Freedoms
3. Canadian Media Lawyers Association (CMLA)	13. SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties	23. Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP)	33. End Impunity Organization (EIO)
4. International Foundation for the Defense of Freedom of Expression	14. Journalists for Justice	24. Journalists for Human Rights Network - Uganda	34. Alliance Internationale pour la défense des droits et libertés (AIDL)
5. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism	15. No Peace Without Justice	25. Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children	35. Alakher for Peace and Development Center
6. Foundation Sahel	16. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)	26. Alliance for Journalists' Freedom (AJF)	36. Center for Constitutional Rights - Global
7. Abductees' Mothers Association (AMA)	17. Global Voices Organization	27. The Yemeni Coalition to Monitor Human Rights Violations- YCMHRV	37. Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI)
8. Musaala organization for human rights	18. Center for Independent Journalism (CJI)	28. Watch for Human Rights (Watch4HR)	38. Iraqi Observatory for Human Rights
9. Yemen Without Conflict Organization for Development	19. Confrontation Foundation for the Defense of Press Freedom	29. Mirrors Media For Development Center MDC	39. Rule of Law Centre
10. Bahth Foundation for Development and Human Rights	20. American Pen Center: To defend freedom of expression	30. Media Village for Development and Information	