



Justice4Yemen Pact  
ميثاق العدالة لليمن



## Press Release: Following Al-Qaeda's Announcement of the Execution of 11 Yemeni Hostages We Should Not Wait Until We Hand Over Yemeni Lives to Terrorism

Justice4Yemen  
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Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition has closely followed the statement issued by "Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula" on December 27, 2024, regarding the execution of 11 Yemeni hostages outside the law, some of whom have been held for nine years. In light of this heinous crime, the Justice4 Yemen Pact Coalition and the organizations signing this statement demand the Yemeni government to take urgent action to pursue the perpetrators and bring them to justice, as well as to rescue the remaining hostages from the grip of extremist organizations. The Justice Charter Coalition emphasizes that failing to act today means surrendering our lives to terrorism tomorrow.

Among those executed outside the law was journalist Muhammad Qaid Al-Maqri, who worked as a correspondent for Yemen Today in Hadhramaut. Al-Maqri is the husband of human rights advocate Dr. Abha Abdullah Owaydan, the head of the Women's Cultural and Social Development Foundation (AWSF) and a member of the Justice4Yemen Coalition. In this painful tragedy, we express our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to Dr. Abha, her family, and the families of the other victims. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the perpetrators do not escape punishment.

The Al-Maqri family revealed to the Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition that armed individuals kidnapped him on the evening of October 12, 2015, while he was sitting on the 22 May platform in the Fowah area of Mukalla, following protests by citizens against Al-Qaeda's rule in the city. The victim reported that five armed members of Al-Qaeda, including a fully armed woman, violently stormed the house after detaining her husband, creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among the family. This woman took Dr. Abha and her infant son to the kitchen, where they were held under inhumane conditions, while the armed men ransacked the house, looting documents and papers, leaving chaos and destruction in every corner.

On that painful day, Dr. Abha received news of her brother Amir Ba'oydan's detention; he was a correspondent for Azal TV, which compounded her suffering. He was later released when Al-Qaeda withdrew from Mukalla, but her hopes remained focused on the release of her husband, which did not happen, leaving a deep wound and unbearable isolation in her heart.

Dr. Abha endured despair and uncertainty regarding her husband's fate, constantly accompanied by anxiety and insecurity. Furthermore, she faced her small child's innocent question: "Where is my father?" — a question that encapsulates the depth of loss and pain she experiences.



A witness close to the Al-Maqri family stated that they contacted Al-Qaeda in Mukalla to secure his release, but to no avail. During the expulsion of the organization's members from the city in March 2016, they received information that Al-Maqri was transferred to the Azan area in Shabwa. According to the witness, Al-Maqri was not allowed to communicate with his family throughout his abduction, and his family made tireless efforts over nine years to reach or find him until they received the shocking news of his execution in the Al-Qaeda statement.

The extrajudicial execution committed by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula "Yemen Branch" constitutes a violation of all human rights charters and Yemeni legislation, an affront to Islamic law, and the sanctity of humanity, and is primarily an act of terrorism. Al-Qaeda, through its heinous crime, reinforces the bloody approach it has adopted for itself, which should not be tolerated or overlooked regarding its crimes against the Yemeni people.

This tragic incident has shed light on the "extremist" Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which emerged from the merging of its cells in Yemen and Saudi Arabia and found a safe haven in Yemen where it can operate. Reports confirm the flourishing of its local branch in Yemen amidst a collapsing state, rising sectarianism, shifting alliances, and a booming war economy.

Amid the UN-brokered truce between the legitimate government and the Houthi authorities, there has been an increasing number of reports of the spread of Al-Qaeda militants in Abyan, Shabwa, Hadhramaut, and Al-Dhali. Numerous attacks have been carried out against UN personnel, civil society, and military forces. Five UN staff members were abducted in Abyan on February 11, 2022, believed to have been orchestrated by Al-Qaeda, and the UN announced their release after a year and a half of captivity. Additionally, an attack in August 2023 resulted in the death of a military commander in the Security Belt Forces and three fighters in an explosion while traveling in Abyan. Notably, Al-Qaeda's activity has increased in provinces controlled by the Yemeni government and its allies. This situation places them at the forefront of responsibility to address the organization's threat seriously and prevent it from finding any presumed safe havens.

While chaos, ongoing war, and multiple military structures have allowed the extremist Al-Qaeda to increase its activity, reports have indicated that accusations have frequently been exchanged among the conflicting parties in Yemen regarding cooperation with Al-Qaeda during the war, sometimes based on a kernel of truth. Moreover, the delay in a comprehensive political settlement increases opportunities for the activity of extremist organizations. Therefore, all parties involved in the conflict must adopt strict stances against the ideology and approach of the organization and ensure a comprehensive political settlement that eliminates opportunities for extremist organizations to operate.



### Recommendations:

- The Yemeni government must pursue those responsible for the extrajudicial executions of the 11 Yemeni hostages, including the leader of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, and ensure that they do not escape punishment, while urgently working to remedy the situation of the victims' families.
- The Yemeni government should adopt a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to confront the threat of extremist organizations, particularly addressing intellectual, developmental, and security aspects.
- All parties to the conflict must secure a comprehensive political settlement that is accepted by all Yemeni parties and factions, addressing all issues, thus ending all concerns and opportunities for the increased activity of extremist organizations.
- All Yemeni parties should terminate any cooperation with extremist organizations and cease using them for political gain against opponents.
- The international community must provide all forms of technical and financial support to the Yemeni government to enable it to confront the threat of extremist groups and enhance its capacity to develop a comprehensive strategy to rid Yemen of these organizations.
- We call upon all international and local donor agencies to intensify their developmental, educational, and intellectual programs in areas believed to serve as social incubators for extremist organizations.

### Signed Organizations:

1. Musaala Organization for Human Rights
2. Abductee's Mothers Association (AMA)
3. The Al-Amal Women's and Socio-Cultural Foundation (AWSF)
4. Strategic Studies Center for Supporting Women and Children (SSC)
5. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
6. Ma'rib Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF)
7. SAM for Rights and Freedoms
8. Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)
9. Watch for Human Rights (Watch4hr)
10. Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)