



Euro-Med Monitor
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

28 July 2022

Subject: Urgent action required to save the life of detained journalist Tawfiq al-Mansouri, due to his deteriorating health

Mr. Hans Grundberg, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Dear Mr. Hans Grundberg,

I am writing on behalf of Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor regarding the deteriorating health of Yemeni journalist Tawfiq al-Mansouri, who has been arbitrarily detained for nearly seven years and sentenced to death by the Houthi group.

During the course of his detention, al-Mansouri has experienced the exacerbation of multiple health problems—some of which are now life-threatening—due to harsh prison conditions and lack of medical care. He shares his sentence with three other journalists who are also sentenced to death on charges that appear to be trumped-up, following a trial marred by many legal irregularities.

Family members of al-Mansouri told Euro-Med Monitor that he suffers from heart problems, shortness of breath, diabetes, high blood pressure, and benign prostate enlargement, as well as swelling of the face and limbs. His condition may worsen at any moment given the dire circumstances of his detention, including denial of medical care, physical and psychological torture, contaminated water, lack of food, and, on occasion, denial of access to the toilet.

Since his transfer to the Central Security Camp prison in Sana'a in 2020 May, the Houthi group has not allowed the family of al-Mansouri to bring him medicine, let alone visit him at all. Moreover, the prison administration illegally seizes a large proportion of funds the family sends to the journalist. Since the transfer, al-Mansouri's contact with family members has been limited solely to phone calls, which happen only intermittently, and often under surveillance.

We ask you to urgently intervene with the Houthi group to provide full medical care to al-Mansouri, including transferring him to a specialised hospital and lifting all restrictions that prevent his undergoing any medical procedure that could save his life, as well as exploring the possibility of his release for medical reasons. We believe that you can play a decisive role in this case, and urge you to promptly follow up with the Houthi group.



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We also hope to raise the issue of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance practised by the Houthi group in the areas it controls, in general, and help expose the harsh sentences it issues against its opponents—which in some instances amount to execution, as in the case of Tawfiq al-Mansouri and his three fellow journalists. These journalists must be permitted to enjoy their freedom, not arbitrarily sentenced to death.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration

Kindest regards,

Dr. Ramy Abdu

Euro-Med Monitor Chairman

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