

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen
2319 Wyoming Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi,

The recent events in Yemen has concerned many people around the world. It really pains me to see peaceful Yemeni demonstrators my age being whipped, punched and shot at by Yemeni security forces There have been numerous videos and reported incidents where the Yemeni police and military fired at, tortured and executed demonstrators who were peacefully protesting in Sanaa. The use of machine guns and machetes against innocent civilians will strengthen the hand of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsular. I urge you to engage and negotiate with the opposition in order to avoid fueling the extremist insurgency.

These crusaders for democracy are currently risking their lives to bring about a new era in their beloved nation's history. I cannot stand by idly as your soldiers mutilate my innocent compatriots and harass local and foreign journalists. Many journalists have risked their lives to bring the truth to the world. It is only right for me to urge you to stop your campaign of terror against your own people and allow them to freely express their views in a peaceful manner.

In light of numerous firsthand accounts of human rights abuses, torture, unlawful detention and intimidation, we strongly urge you to implement the following measures before it is too late.

- Immediately and unconditionally release any remaining prisoners of conscience who have been locked up for exercising their right to freedom of expression.
- Disarm and deport all mercenaries working for or within the government
- Disclose immediately the whereabouts of those detained, allow them immediate access to their family members, lawyers of their choice and ensure they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.
- Ensure that protesters' rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly are fully respected and upheld, and that they are able to demonstrate free from fear of harassment or intimidation.
- Exercise maximum restraint when dealing with the protestors
- Protect the demonstrators and protestors
- Arrest thugs who are harming and killing of innocent protestors and swiftly bring them to justice
- Respect the rights and will of the people
- Increase the participation of the Shia minority in government
- Organize free and fair elections and begin taking steps towards a fully democratic form of government

Please treat your own people with respect and dignity and they will return your goodwill in kind. You just need to take the first step and see a different paradigm. The protestors are demanding reforms in the government and the political system. We believe that the government should immediately begin direct negotiations with the opposition before the people begin another revolution. Most importantly, we urge the government to avoid another bloodbath as this wave of democracy sweeps across the Gulf of Aden.

Deepest Regards,