

A LETTER TO MY DETAINED FATHER

A REPORT DOCUMENTING LETTERS FROM THE FAMILIES OF THE DETAINED AND FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED
INDIVIDUALS TO THEIR RELATIVES IN RAMADAN



April 2022

STATEMENT OF SAM

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Emotions mixed with a lot of grief, pain, deprivation and fear are the epitome of human suffering of the children and wives of detainees and those who are disappeared behind prison bars. Heart- rendering expressions that kill the soul with grief over children deprived of their parents for no reason. They found themselves alone without parental eyes protecting their childish dreams, and the warm, compassionate paternal laughter has faded. Their diaries turned into anxious questions looking for an answer that is not in the jailer's vocabulary, and only their tired and longing hearts feel its bitterness.



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Yearnings in letters sent by the families of the detainees are published in this report. Bone-chilling calls written in pain and tears.. Memories of what was once a festival of joy and happiness faded since the day many were detained and disappeared from their children and spouses.





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A Page from a Black Book!

Hisham Al-Yousufi

A journalist and former detainee

There, where we lived in an age beyond darkness, in the lowest level of that fortified castle whose tiny windows do not allow light in, and the breezes of air cross it with great difficulty. There, in the basement and solitary confinements of the political security, we lived chapters of injustice, repression and deprivation!

There, in the dark, you fumble around looking for a bottle of water. There is no difference between you and the blind except that your vision and your way of perceiving what is around you is at the hands of other human beings, rather monsters, devoid of the simplest human values!

The criminals enjoyed suppressing those who are here among the grave dwellers. Torture has become their daily routine and they are creative in inventing its means and methods. Around the clock, you can hear the groans of torturers, and the sounds of the whips of the jailers on the back of the innocent. Then you find your eyes, without realization, swell with tears of oppression and pain together from the horror of what you see and hear of the injustice that affects those who deserve to live but instead they are tortured at the hands of the enemies of life and humanity!

The cell door is opened 3 times a day in order to let you go to the bathroom that's of course if you are lucky enough to find your jailer in a good mood. You have to go fast; otherwise, the bathroom will be stormed by the jailers as the bathroom door can't be locked from inside!

The fastest shower you may take in your life, and you may even set a speed record with, is the shower you take there in prison, and at a fast pace, you will re-wear the same clothes that you have been wearing. You will not find time to dry your wet body before putting on your clothes only to find that your clothes were wet because you wore them fast as time and the jailer are ruthless!

You return quickly to your prison cell and your grave amid the indignation, humiliation, abuse and insult and sometimes beatings of the jailers. You go back to your cell looking for warmth and as hours go by you find out that your clothes have rotted because there is no air to dry them!

Have you ever heard about the noise of silence? You will find it there where you hear the noise of the deep silence that dispels the stillness of the place except for the groans and torment of the prisoners, who have to keep their voice low so that they won't be tortured again for being noisy.

In order to break your loneliness in the dark, you must ignite the glow of memories and remembrance to light up the corners of your grave!

In this place, you are denied food, water and medicine and only after their approval, you can get only a small amount of them!

Finally, you have to lose the ability to speak in these place, because according to the rules of this place those who are brought to it, are doomed to be dead, so how can you speak and be resurrected?!



Dear team members of SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties

Sheikh Waleed Ayash

A Baha'ai Yemeni citizen and head of the Nida'a Foundation for Coexistence and Construction

Greetings

First of all, allow me, on my own behalf and through the National Council of Minorities in Yemen, to express to you my deepest thanks and appreciation for your efforts in defending rights and freedoms, as well as for helping to release prisoners in Yemen, especially in Houthi prisons, and for shedding light on the suffering of the prisoners as I was one of these imprisoned by the Houthis and was released one year and a half ago. Therefore, I would like to point out that the suffering of the prisoners is terrifying, painful and tragic in all human aspects, whether in terms of treatment or the condition of the prison itself, as well as in terms of food and health. The situation is almost a graveyard for living people, especially in these days in the month of Ramadan when the suffering of prisoners exacerbate.

Allow me, on this occasion as we are witnessing a movement towards the desired peace through the signs of improvement shown by the talks currently taking place in Riyadh, to invite all parties to view the prisoners from a purely humanitarian prospective because they are simply dead men walking.



I also appeal to international and human rights organizations to make the issue of prisoners and detainees in various prisons a priority that should be handled seriously and responsibly, as their suffering in the prisons in which they are placed is intolerable, especially with these poor living conditions in general, let alone the situation in prisons.

The issue of the prisoners and prisons is a humanitarian one that should be addressed with greater attention and seriousness in order to succeed at releasing them and ending the suffering that is ruining their lives and the lives of their relatives outside prisons which is another story that needs to be focused on. The suffering of prisoners' relatives and families is no less important than the suffering of those in prison.

Finally, I wish to convey my sincere greetings, appreciation, and gratitude to you in my name and on behalf of the National Council of Minorities in Yemen in general, and on behalf of the Baha'i community in Yemen in particular, for your tireless efforts in defending rights and freedoms in general and on the issue of prisoners in particular.

Best regards to you and to all freedom advocates

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

To my father, my heart is filled with sorrow for your departure
and filled with longing for your return

O, God grant me the happiness of his release before Ramadan
so that this Ramadan will be the best and most joyful one
for me. The days have passed and I have grown up while
my father was away. I wish he was next to me. If you only
know how heartbroken I am for your parting and how happy
I become when I see you or hear your voice. I love you daddy
and I pray for Allah to spend this Ramadan with you...

May God release and relieve the distress of my father and all
the kidnapped people. Amen

Your daughter: Rua'a

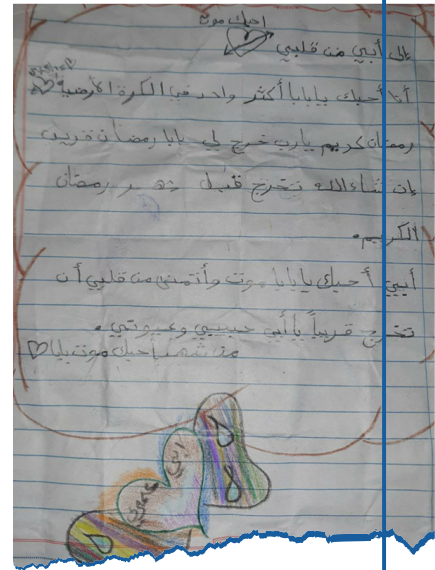
يارب رجع أبي
يسعدنا في الدينا الباقية
كم كنت اتمنى يجي
رمضان هذا العام
وأنت معنا ونفطر سوا

I love you so much

From my heart to my father

I love you dad more than anyone in this world. O, God release my dad. Ramadan is approaching and hopefully you will be released before Ramadan. I love you to death dad and I hope you will be released soon.

From Shahd to my beloved dad



The free abductee/ Mujahed Muhfel

Date of detention: 23/11/2015

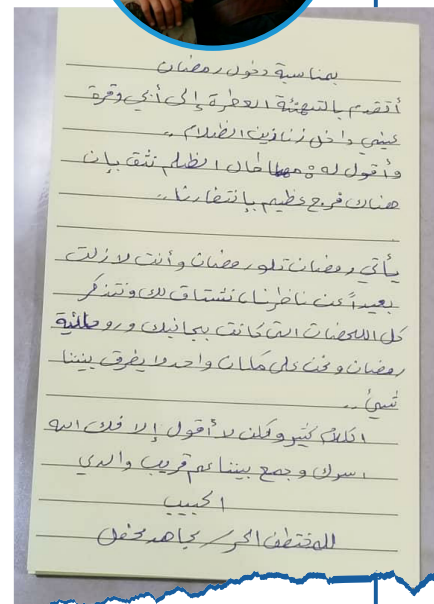
Peace be upon you.

My innocent father has been kidnapped for 7 years.

Ramadan is gloomy and dark without my father. It is tasteless. How long does he have to suffer from our separation and the bitterness of the prison, the jailor and the enforced disappearance? We have been denied visiting rights for more than 8 months. We couldn't check on his health and they didn't allow us to visit him even though my father is sick and his health condition deteriorates day by day.

It is so painful and heartbreaking. Oh my dad, they didn't even allow us to visit or hug you. How can I fast while you are still away? How can we enjoy the spirituality of Ramadan while you are not with us? We haven't enjoyed Ramadan because you are still away. I am speechless father. I can't describe how your absence affects me. There are a lot to say but I trust Allah and I believe that with hardships come ease

Gloom of night will left and vanish. Fetters will break open



Sadeq Al-Majedi

Date of arrest: 25 October 2015



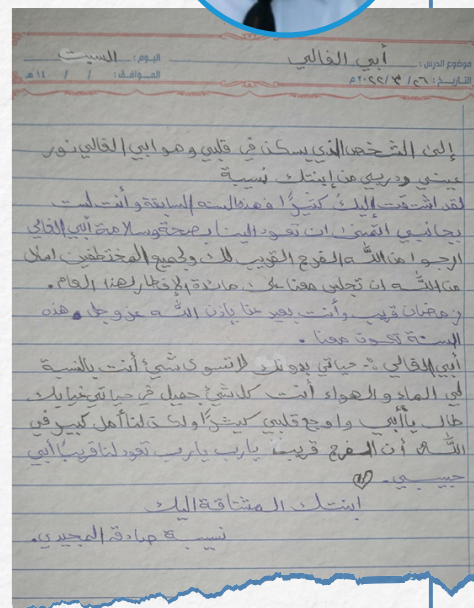
To the person who dwells in my heart, my dear dad, the light of my eyes and my path, from your daughter Nusaiba.

I miss you very much. You have been away for 7 years. I hope you come back to us safe. My dear father, I pray to Allah to release you and all the abductees. I ask Allah to give us the chance to sit with you at the same table in Ramadan. Ramadan is approaching and you are still far away. I hope you can join us this year.

My dear father,

My life is worthless without you. You are the air I breathe and the water that quenches my thirst. You are everything beautiful in my life. You have been away for too long and this long absence broke my heart, but I still trust Allah. I pray to Allah that you will come back soon my beloved dad.

**You daughter who misses you,
Nusaiba Sadeq Al-Majedi**



Kidnapped/ Bahij

Date of detention: 25 June 2018

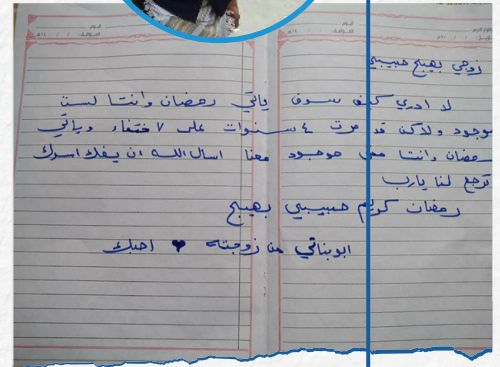


My beloved husband Bahij,

I don't know how to spend this Ramadan while you are still not here. 4 years have been passed since you disappeared. Ramadan is returning while you are still in detention. I ask Allah to release you to come back to us.

Have a blessed Ramadan my sweetheart Bahij, the father of my daughters

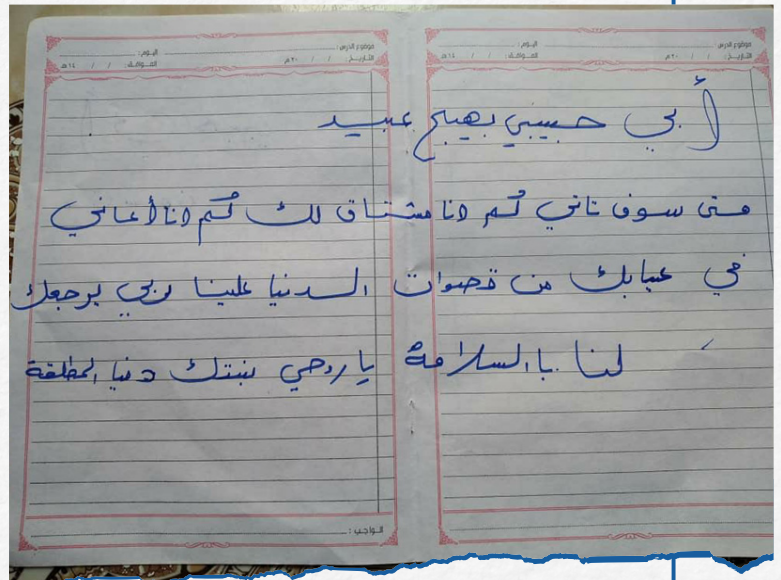
Your loving wife



My beloved father Bahij Aubaid,

When will you come back home? I miss you terribly. I suffer a lot in your absence from the harshness of life. May you come back soon.

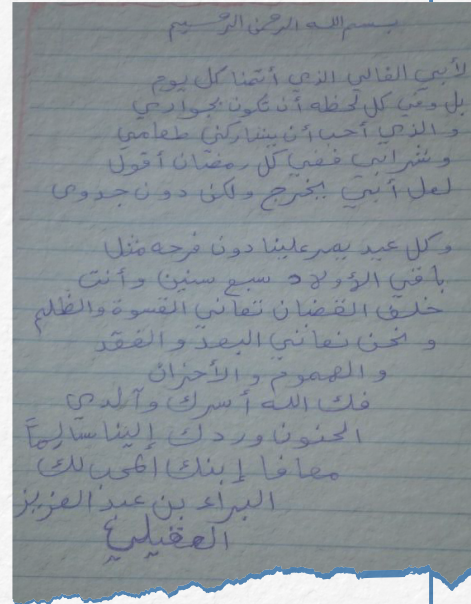
Your divorced daughter Donia



In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

To my dear Father, who I everyday wish to find by my side and with whom I would love to share my food and drink. Every Ramadan I keep saying that my father might be released this year, but alas! We never enjoy Eid like other children. You have been behind bars for seven years, suffering from oppression and injustice whereas we feel deeply sad. May Allah release you my dearest father and bring you back safe.

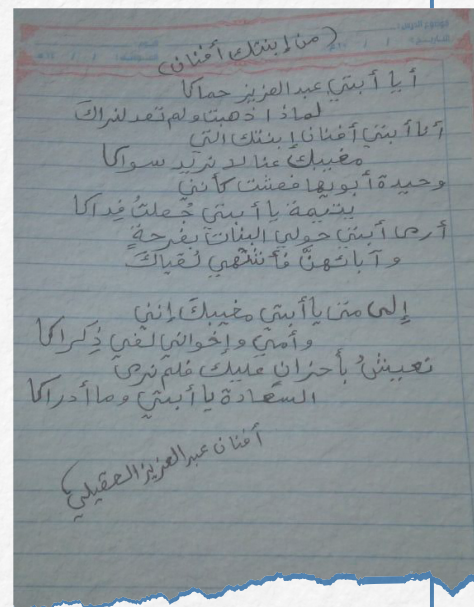
Your loving son, Al-Bara'a bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Aqili



from your daughter Afnan

Oh my father Abdul-Aziz may you be protected
Why have you gone and never come back?
This is your daughter Afnan who only wishes
To see you since the day you left
I am a lonely daughter so
I live as if I was an orphan
I would scarify my soul for you
I see girls happily surrounded by their fathers
And I deeply miss you and wish to see you
How long will you stay away?
My mother and brothers keep remembering you
We have been living in grief and
We have never been happy

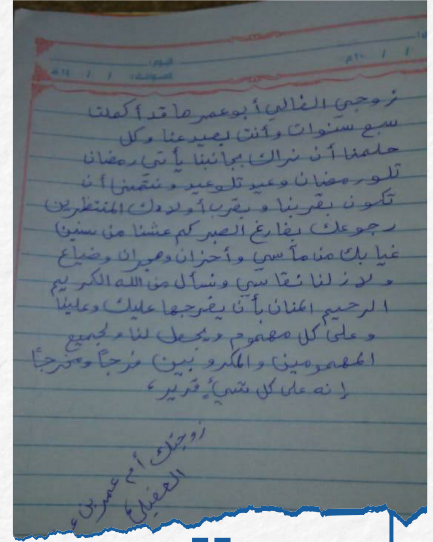
Afnan Abdul-Aziz Al-Aqili



To my dear husband Abu Omar,

You have been away from us for 7 years. All what we dream of is to see you by our side. Ramadan after Ramadan and Eid after Eid, we wish to see you close to us and to your children who have been eagerly awaited your return. Life has not been easy for us since your absence. We lived in grief, anguish and abandonment and we still suffer a lot. May Allah dispel your and our worries. May Allah appoint for us a way out of every distress and a relief from every anxiety.

Your wife, Um Omar Bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Aqili



Adel Mohammed Saleh Haddad

Date of abduction: 17/11/2016

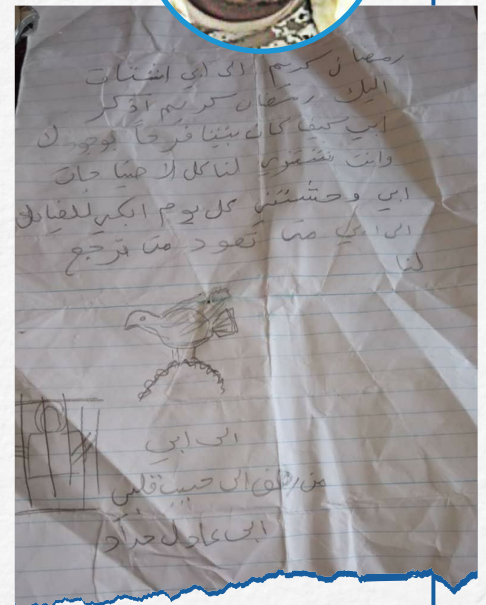


My dear father,

I wish you a blessed Ramadan. I truly miss you. I remember how we used to feel overjoyed when you used to buy things for Ramadan. Every day, I mourn your departure. When will you return back?

From Rahaf to my beloved father

Adel Haddad

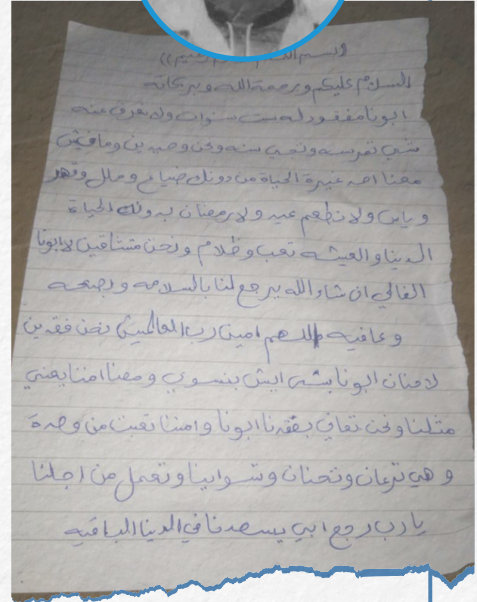


Mohammed Al-Khashaba

Peace be upon you

Our father has been missing for six years and his fate remains unknown. We have been waiting for him year after year. We are lonely and have no one in this world but him. This life is useless without him. It is nothing but alienation, agony and despair. We can't enjoy Eid or Ramadan without you, my father. This life has become dark and tiring. We miss our dear father. Hopefully he will come back safe and sound. We miss our father's presence. What should we do? We still have our mother, but she is also tired of looking after us all by herself. She is lovable and compassionate and keeps consoling us and working to take care of us.

O God bring back our father so that we can be happy again



Dad, you are the source of my life

I love you more than anyone in this world
Hopefully you will be released soon before
Ramadan, Amen

Papa + My God

I love you dad

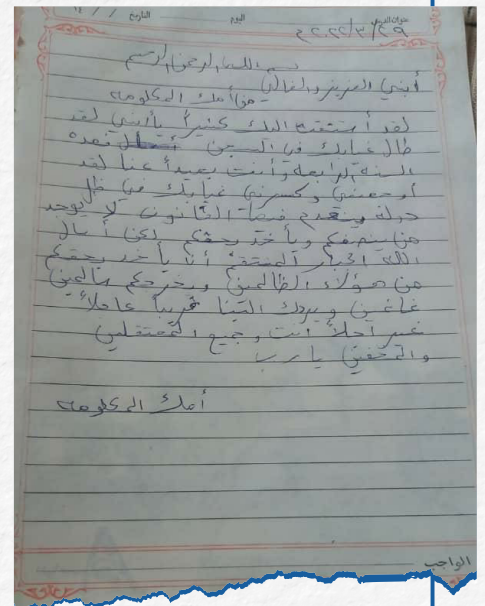


In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

To my dear son from your grieving mother

I miss you so much my dear son. You have been in prison for a long time. This is the fourth year while you are far from us. Your absence hurts me and breaks my heart. We live in a lawless state where there is no one to do you justice or redress you, but I ask Allah, the Compeller and the Avenger to take revenge on those oppressors and to release you and the rest of the detainees safe and sound very soon.

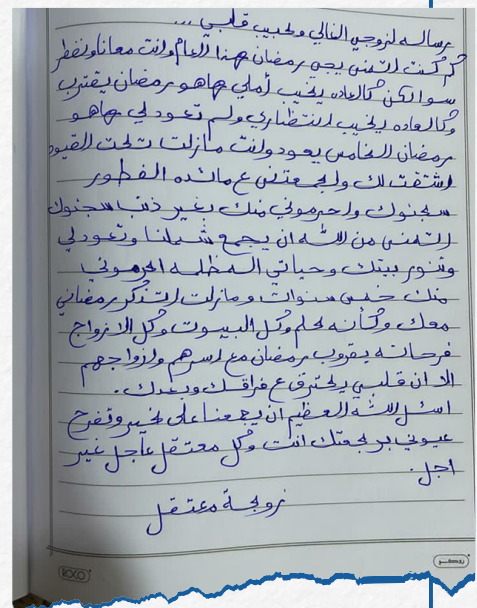
Your grieving mother



A letter to my sweetheart and dear husband

I really wish you would be released by this Ramadan so that we can break the fast together, but as usual I get disappointed. Ramadan is approaching and as usual it disappoints me and you have not come back to me yet. Here is the fifth Ramadan and you are still in shackles. I miss you and I miss those days when we used to gather around the table to break the fast. They unjustly imprisoned you and deprived me of you. I ask Allah to bring us together and bring you back to me in order to enlighten our home and my dark life. They deprived me of you for five years, and I still remember my Ramadan with you as if it were a dream. All families and all married couple are happily preparing for Ramadan except me. I feel like my heart is burning up because of the pain of your disappearance. I ask Almighty God to bring us together again.

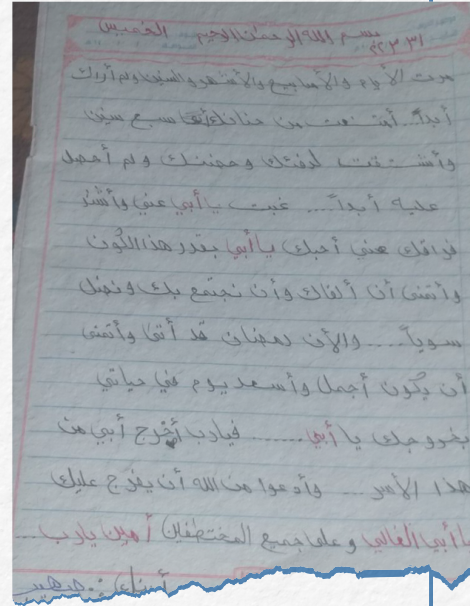
The wife of the detainee



In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Days, weeks, months, and years passed and I never saw you again. I was deprived of your affection for seven years and I miss your warm hug. Nothing can bring happiness to me after your absence, my father. Your absence is so painful. I love you more than anything in this world and my only wish is to meet you and stay with you... Now the month of Ramadan has come and I wish it would be the best month if you are released soon... Oh, God free my father from his prison. I always pray that you and the other detainees are released. May this wish come true.

Your son: Suhaib

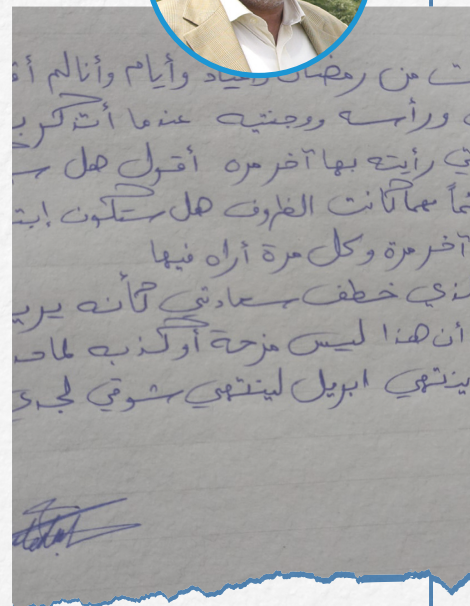


Mohammed Qahtan

Date of abduction: 5-4-2015

Many Ramadans and Eids have come and I did not have the chance to kiss my grandfather's hand, head and cheeks. When I remember the last time I saw him smiling, I ask myself wondering if he will be always smiling no matter what happens and if his smile will be always as beautiful as the last time I saw him.

The month of April stole my happiness as if it wanted us to believe what happened to my grandfather was not a joke or a lie. April hasn't ended yet, neither has my yearning for my grandfather.



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My uncle, I miss you. I have been awaiting you for 7 years

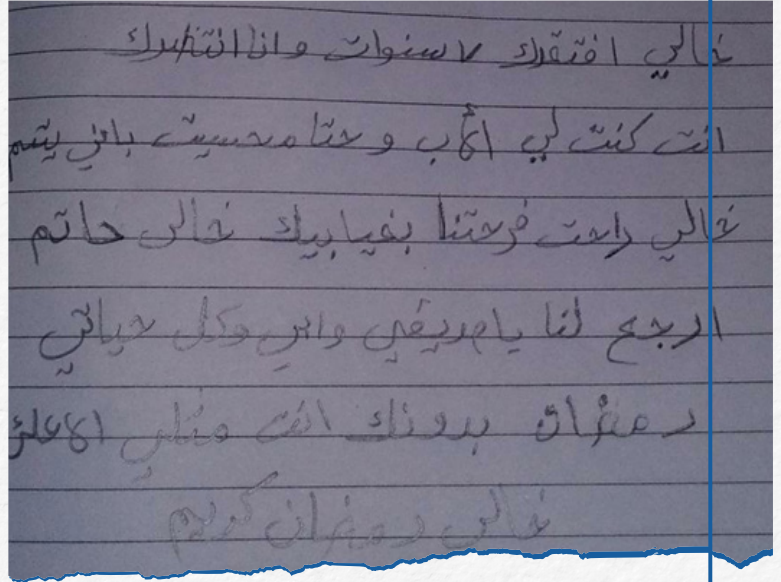
I never felt I was an orphan because you were like a father to me

Our happiness has faded after your absence, uncle Hatem

Please come back to us. You were my father, friend and all my life

You are my role model

Have a blessed Ramadan my uncle

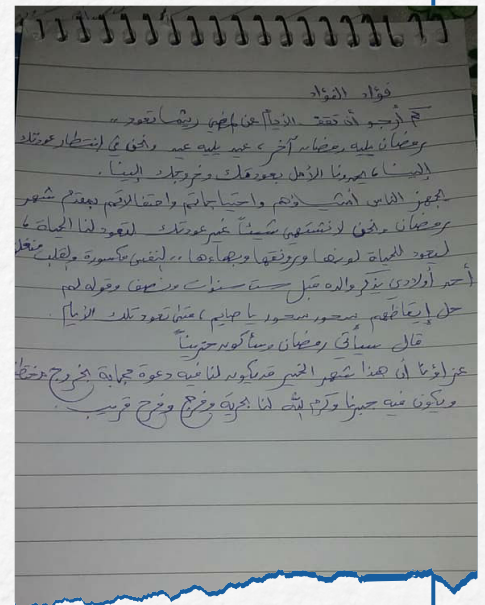


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Fuad Al-Fuad

I do wish time would stop until you come back to us. Ramadan after Ramadan and Eid after Eid pass while we are waiting for your return. We keep hoping that you will someday come back to us. We see people around us preparing their needs for Ramadan whereas we only wish that you would return home so that life will be breathed into our soulless world again and we get to enjoy this life again. I am desperate and my heart is broken. One of my children still remembers his father whom he knew six and a half years ago. He remembers when his father used to weak him up for suhor meal. He asks me about his absent father this Ramadan and says it would be another sad Ramadan because his father didn't come back home. Our only consolation is that this is the holy month when the prayers are answered, so we pray that all abductees are released.



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Rabie Adam Al-Zuhairi

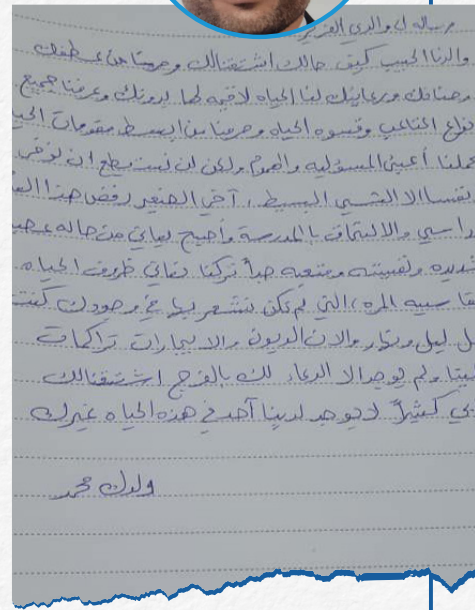
Date of abduction: 13 October 2020



Sent to my dear father

Our beloved father, how are you? We miss you. We were deprived of your kindness, compassion and support. This life has become worthless without you. We have been suffering from the hardships of this life and we have been succumbed to the denial of the simplest and the most basic necessities of life. We bore the burden of responsibility and worries, but we could only provide the simplest needs. My little brother was rejected this school year and was prevented from attending school and now he suffers from a severe psychological condition. We were left to suffer from the very harsh and bitter conditions of life, which we did not feel in your presence. You used to work day and night, and now debts and rents are accumulating on us. Nothing was left for us but prayers. We miss you so much my father. We have no one else in this world but you.

Your son Mohammed

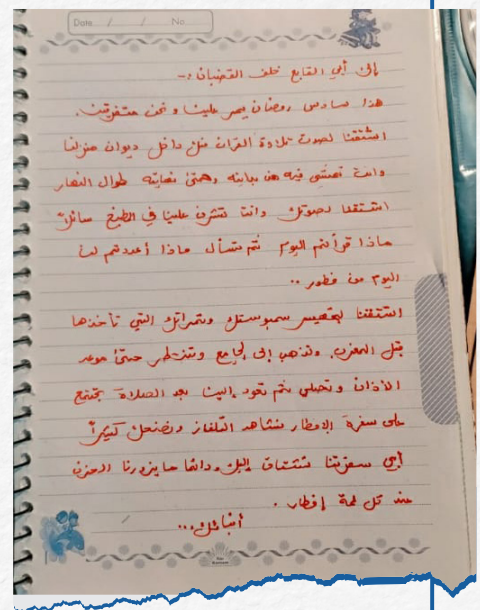


Yousuf Al-Bawab

Date of abduction: 20/11/2016



To my father behind bars, this is the sixth Ramadan we spend away from you. We miss hearing your voice while reading Quran in the Diwan of our house. We miss seeing you walking in the house. We miss your supervision over us in the kitchen and the questions you used to ask about how much we read and what we cooked. We miss how you used to prepare the samosa and dates before going to the mosque for Magrib prayer and how we used to gather after prayer to have dinner together and then we watched TV and laughed happily. Our food table misses you dad. All what we have now when we break our fast is sadness and bitterness.



Peace be upon you. My father have been unjustly kidnapped for seven years

They say that you are a prisoner and that you adopted with the deaf walls of the detention center, but no one knows the truth. No one is aware of your inner conflicts. No one knows that behind that strength you show in front of your children and your parents that you sleep crying every day. Nobody knows how much you suffer. Nobody knows that you have endured so much until your strength has weakened. You are strong, so strong.

But can the voice of these children reach your hearts before your ears? Will they find someone to bring them back their smiles and make them have at least a few happy days again!!



“

Sufian Ali Qasem Al-Fathi
Date of kidnapping March 15, 2015

They say that you are a prisoner and that you have coexisted with the walls of those deaf walls, but no one knows the truth, no one knows how many conflicts are within you, no one knows that behind that strength that you show in front of your children and your family,, no one knows that you sleep every day crying, no one knows You suffer until you are okay, no one knows that you endured until your strength weakened, no one knows anything so you are strong, very strong,,

But can the voice of these children reach your hearts before your ears? Will they find someone to bring them back their smiles and make them congratulate them, even on happy days again!!

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SAM
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