



International Federation of Journalists
From the General Secretary

Ali Abdallah Saleh
President of Republic of Yemen

c/o

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Dear President Saleh,

On behalf of the International Federation of Journalists I wish to express our deep concern about the sentencing of journalist Abdelkarim Al Khaiwani by the state security court to six years imprisonment.

The court announced its verdict today without providing any explanation of the crime that he allegedly committed beyond the general charges of “terrorism.”

According to our information the prosecution failed completely to make any direct link between Mr Al Khaiwani and terrorist groups active in the Yemen beyond his possession of photos that he received through an intermediary and that he required for his journalistic reports on the security threat to Yemen.

In our view Mr Al Khaiwani has been punished for his journalism and we fear that it is a deliberate decision to make an example of him in order to deter other journalists from reporting on these affairs.

During his trial Mr Al Khaiwani has been subjected to unsubstantiated allegations concerning his association with terrorist groups and we are deeply concerned that in the sentencing process announced today no detail was given of the charges for which he has been convicted nor of the evidence against him.

In these circumstances the IFJ believes that it is essential that Mr Al Khaiwani’s case is reviewed, that any allegations are properly substantiated by evidence that can be tested in

open court and that he is released from jail immediately pending an appeal and review of the proceedings.

The IFJ and the Arab journalist unions and journalist organizations around the world are standing in solidarity with Mr Al Khaiwani and call for his release. An additional concern for us is Mr Al Khaiwani's poor health and we urge you also on humanitarian grounds to secure his release so that he can receive the medical care he needs.

With Kind Regards,

AIDAN WHITE
General Secretary

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