

Mohammed Al Bakri  
Sana'a, Yemen

Hon. Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing you about my son, Amin Al Bakri.

Six years ago the American government abducted and disappeared my son, a Yemeni citizen, from Thailand, where he was on a business trip as a gem trader. My wife, my son's wife, their three children and I only learned where he was after six months. During that time we had no knowledge of his well-being and feared the worst.

We understand now that Amin was repeatedly tortured in American custody. We now know that he is presently held by the American government at the prison in Bagram, Afghanistan. U.S. authorities took him there after hiding him in the Prison of Darkness—a CIA location—and other secret places.

My heart aches when I consider the terrible and degrading treatment he has been forced to endure. These pictures below show the heavy toll that Amin's imprisonment has had on him. We received the picture on the right recently from the ICRC. I hardly recognized my own son. Amin is now grayer than his brother who is six years older than him.



The American government never charged Amin with any crime nor have they offered my family or the Government of Yemen any explanation for why they continue to hold him. What I know is that Amin has never been involved in any fighting or plotting against the United States or its allies.

My family and I are from Yemen, a friendly country to the United States. Over these six years, we have done everything we can to help Amin. We brought all 7,000 members of the Al Bakri extended family and our community here together in Yemen on Amin's behalf. We submitted his case to a United Nations working group. We filed a lawsuit in U.S. court asking the judge to review his case. But our son remains a captive to your country.

Last Thursday, the judge hearing Amin's case ruled that he can challenge his detention in U.S. courts. But the legal process is uncertain and could take years to run its course.

I watched your campaign and the hope for justice that you bring to America and the world. I know you oppose torture and believe in law. I heard your announcement that you will be closing Guantánamo soon.

I write you now because I want to make sure you know about my son in Afghanistan. I write not just for myself, but for the sake of my grandchildren who have not seen their father for over six years.

President Obama, I entreat you. Please release my son and end our family's pain.

Sincerely,

Mohammed Al Bakri