

### **The Problem:**

As we have seen so often, women often pay the highest price when it comes to armed conflict. Women in Yemen are no exception.

The recent crisis in Yemen has resulted in the complete collapse of the natural legal protection frameworks which has led to an increase in the number of women who find themselves in some altercation with the law regarding various issues - some serious, some minor infractions and some completely fabricated. As a result, hundreds of women are trapped inside central prisons and places of detention in various regions of Yemen. As the latest findings of a study on domestic violence against women in Yemen shows, this unlawful detention creates a vicious circle that steals their lives in violation of the form and essence of the law. In addition, while in detention, women are often exposed to physical, and emotional violence. Providing legal support to these women will guarantee their right to legal defense, give them a chance to freedom, shed light on their stories and suffering, and restore and hope and dignity to their lives.

### **The Solution**

Mwatana for Human Rights, an independent Yemeni organization that advocates for human rights, proposes a project that would help women trapped in prisons who are not able to defend themselves, making it possible for them to take back their life again. This will allow them to live with their families and loved ones again and give them access to the inherent right of living a free and decent life.

### **What is Mwatana for Human Rights?**

Mwatana's vision is to create a society in which rights and justice are guaranteed for everyone. Established in 2007, Mwatana achieves its mission by advocating for human rights through the verification and documentation of violations, provision of legal support to victims, lobbying, as well as awareness raising and capacity



building. Against tremendous resistance from the former regime of president Ali Abdullah Saleh, Mwatana was denied the necessary permit to conduct its work. Regardless, Mwatana was able to implement activities and to participate with other parties in advocacy campaigns against the violations of human rights committed in various parts of Yemen. Violations including those committed against the peaceful Southern Movement sit-ins during the Sa'dah wars and the arrests of activists, opponents and journalists. Furthermore, it cooperated and coordinated with international partners in documenting human rights violations in Yemen. In April 2013, Mwatana finally obtained its permit and was able to expand its institutional capacities and intensify its activities. Mwatana is currently documenting the violations committed by the parties to the conflict and the various authorities and is publishing the results of its investigations in multiple outlets. As the above program description describes, Mwatana also provides legal support and advice to victims of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, in addition to implementing advocacy activities and campaigns among local decision makers and at the international level. It also works to ensure accountability for violators and justice for victims. In 2018, Mwatana was recognized internationally for its groundbreaking work. Human Rights First, a US based human rights NGO, awarded the distinguished Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty to Mwatana. In the same year, the 10th International Hrant Dink Award was granted to Mwatana for depicting to the world the status of human rights in Yemen and for fighting against human rights violations in the country. In 2019, the American magazine "Time" listed Radhya Almutawakel (Chairperson of the organization) among its 100 most influential people in the world.

### **The Summary:**

This project will help women who are trapped in Yemini prisons without legal representation (currently over 50 women but the number is growing everyday) by providing legal support to these women by providing qualified field lawyers at no charge to represent them and argue their cases in front of courts and public



prosecution, They will also provide the necessary legal advice, support, and follow up so these women are not left alone to fight an unfair system or languish in prison. Mwatana has the experience and has already provided legal support to many women who were detained and suffered enforced disappearance.

### How You Can Help

Please consider making a contribution to help women trapped in Yemini prisons who are not able to defend themselves. A contribution of \$297,340 will allow us to represent these women and will prepare us to represent women in the future who, if things don't change in Yemen, unfortunately will be unlawfully detained.

Your contribution will also help to exert pressure to change the practices that fuel the violence against women in Yemen. Based on our legal work, Mwatana will create a research study based on the conditions of women in prisons and will distribute it to institutions, officials, and decision-makers. The research study will also be used at community meetings in Yemen and internationally for the awareness building of women's rights.

Thank you for your kind and generous consideration,

Please reach out to for more information [info@mwatana.org](mailto:info@mwatana.org)

### Budget:

Categories		Amount (USD)
1	Legal Support Team	\$ 149,274.00
2	Operational Team	\$ 37,754.00
3	Travel and Transportation expenses	\$ 18,100.00
4	Awareness Activities and training	\$ 69,760.00
5	Audits	\$ 3,000.00
Sub-total		\$ 277,888.00
6	Indirect Support Costs	\$ 19,452.16
TOTAL		\$ 297,340.16