

To

July 3, 2014

H.E. Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi
President, The Republic of Yemen
Saana, Yemen

HAND DELIVERED

Dear President Hadi:

I am writing to ask for your kind intervention on behalf of Mr. Adam Baron, a United States citizen and longtime resident of Yemen who was unjustly ordered to leave your country in May. Mr. Baron would like to return to Yemen, and McClatchy, the third largest newspaper publisher in the United States, would like once again to rely on him for coverage of Yemen. I encourage you to direct your government to grant him a new visa and residency.

Mr. Baron's removal from Yemen was unjust. On May 5, he was asked to come to the passport authority to deal with what was described to him as a minor problem. On May 6, when Mr. Baron presented himself at the authority, his passport was taken from him, and a representative of the National Security Bureau told him, without further explanation, that he was no longer welcome in Yemen. He was placed in a cell until 10 p.m., at which time he was released after a friend pledged that he would make sure that Mr. Baron left the country in 24 hours. Mr. Baron was told not to protest his detention and expulsion. His passport, with his visa scratched through in pen, was returned only as he boarded a flight to Cairo May 7.

At no time have Yemeni authorities explained why Mr. Baron was expelled. We are left to conclude that it was due to his work as a journalist and that his forced departure from Yemen violated international norms for the treatment of journalists. McClatchy is deeply concerned by this breach since it was with McClatchy support, expressed in a letter in November to the Ministry of Information, that Mr. Baron was granted his visa. As one of the few Western media representatives resident in Yemen, Mr. Baron's work for McClatchy, which publishes newspapers in 29 American cities, was widely distributed throughout the United States and Europe.

I am certain the government of Yemen understands the importance of unfettered access for journalists. I am hopeful that you will agree that allowing Mr. Baron to return to Yemen would be the just way to rectify this error. Thank you for your kind consideration.



Anders Gyllenhaal
Vice President of News