



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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07 November 2003

### YEM42186.E

Yemen: Update to YEM41423.E of 20 May 2003 on potential punishment, including execution, faced by individuals who have returned to Yemen from Saudi Arabia after having made a refugee claim in Saudi Arabia Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

In 22 October 2003 correspondence, a representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ottawa stated that UNHCR had no information on whether refugee claimants returning from Saudi Arabia to Yemen would risk punishment or execution. According to the representative, the Yemeni refugees returned to their country of origin "in large numbers" with the assistance of the UNHCR. Most of them came from Syria and Egypt (UNHCR 22 Oct. 2003). The representative added that

the Government of Yemen is welcoming the return of all Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers including those who were involved in the civil war in 1994. After the April 29, 2003 elections, in which more than seventy political parties participated, the newly elected Yemeni President traveled to the United Arab Emirates to meet with Yemeni opposition members and encourage their return. In May 2003 the Government granted full amnesty to those who had been involved in the civil war (ibid.).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

#### Reference

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ottawa. 22 October 2003. Correspondence from a representative.

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