



Statement of the Southern Transitional Council on Sweden's consultations

The Southern Transitional Council continues to responsibly monitor the course of the political process based on its stance as an active partner in the peace process at a sensitive historical moment in which a just peace and an effective solution is required to be achieved in Yemen following the ongoing failures of all previous dialogues and consultations. However, it appears once again that the grounds for the past failures are being practiced in a bleak picture that orchestrates and paves the way for new conflicts by the consultation taking place in Sweden, whereby reality is ignored as well as a deep understanding of the real situation underpinning the Yemeni Crisis.

The repetition of errors and insistence on the perseverance to ignore the just causes, especially the Southern issue. The fabrication of excuses and reliance on baseless arguments to move ahead without building the sound pillars for a lasting peace only serves to undermine the efforts to deal with the real issues in order to establish peace.

We in the Southern Transitional Council and the people of the South, believe that peace is the right path to resolve the differences, and this is what we have already exercised, spoken about and moved towards positively engaging with the efforts of the Special Envoy of the United Nations in Yemen with the desire to avoid entering into conflicts and confrontations despite all the provocations practiced against the Southern People since the liberation of the South from the Houthi militias. We sought to help bring peace and address the southern issue and develop the real solution in line with the aspirations of the Southern People.

However, not inviting the Southern Transitional Council to participate as a key and active partner in the Sweden consultation process is to close the window of dialogue on a just cause that no one can bypass or circumvent as long as it is a just cause protected by the will of God and a free people who would not rest.



Therefore, the Southern Transitional Council stresses the following:

- The Southern Issue is a matter of homeland, state, identity and no solution to the Yemeni crisis will last without implementing the will of the people of the South. There is no peace without the South, as emphasized by the UN envoy in his first briefing to the Security Council following the pressure exerted by the Legitimate Government and the Houthi rebel's to exclude the South from participating in the peace talks.
- We reject the deliberate and irrational absence of the South in the framework of peace and confidence-building measures, as the basis for subsequent peace processes. We regard such a step as at odds with the notion of just peace and a repeat of the previous failures towards the Southern Issue and paving the way for the Southern issue to remain between the Legitimate Government and the Houthis both of who deliberately marginalised the Southern issue which remains central to resolving the Yemeni Crisis.
- We regret the response of the regional and international mediators the blackmail of the legitimate government and Houthi groups on the absence of the Southern issue and the marginalization of the Southern Transitional Council from participating in the Sweden consultation, and they must therefore bear full responsibility for any repercussions arising out of their failure and the collapse of the peace process in Yemen.
- The results of the Sweden consultation or any other consultations which excludes the Southern Issue through its legitimate representative, the Southern Transitional Council, are not binding on the people of the South or their cause. Any solutions that detract from the legitimate aspirations of the people of the South or which undermine their will, shall be resisted by our brave people by all means.
- We renew our call to all actors in the peace process to respect the sacrifices of the people of the South and to deal positively with their demands and aspirations as stipulated in all international laws, charters and treaties as a right to the political benefits of restoring their independent State and their right to Self-Determination. We also call for an investigation into



the crimes and massacres committed against the people of the South since 1994 and those which the forces of the Sana'a regime continue to practice against our Southern people to this day.

- We call on all national forces throughout the Southern territories to unite ranks, stand united and to show the conscious will to resist all attempts to restore the South to what it was before March 2015 .
- The Southern Transitional Council and under the popular mandate granted to it reserves the right to take appropriate measures to confront any emergency or threats or intimidation targeting the South, and to protect the will of the people of the South and its just cause .
- We affirm the openness and acceptance of all peace endeavors that preserve the right of the people of the South to realize their aspirations and their goal of restoring the independence and sovereignty of their State on their territory. We call upon all to respect the will, the martyrs and the sacrifices of the Southern People, and not to comply with any arrangements which would have the effect of re-producing the cycles of conflict and violence.

Southern Transitional Council

Al-Tawahi, Aden

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