

Southern Transitional Council
General Department of Foreign Affairs
Geneva



المجلس الإنتقالي الجنوبي
الإدارة العامة للشؤون الخارجية
جنيف

General Department of Foreign Affairs
Southern Transitional Council
Geneva.

14 September 2020

Press release on the 45th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

In light of the efforts made by States to promote human rights and public freedoms in their countries, the 45th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council is being held while these States are optimistic that the Council will make progress in activating its international mechanisms that guarantee the promotion and protection of such rights.

The Southern Transitional Council (South Yemen) shares this optimism based on its confidence that the UN Human Rights Council, at its current session, will pay special attention to the rights and civil liberties in Southern Yemen, rights and freedoms that have long been violated, exposing the citizens of the South to serious suffering of which they have been and still are victims, and which have had an impact on their lives, safety and security.

Since the Southern Transitional Council is a national right that stems from the suffering of the people of the South, it is all the more concerned to protect human rights in southern Yemen, by making every effort to remove the causes of this suffering, placing it at the forefront of its interests, efforts and struggles. This is what led the Council to recently announce the suspension of its participation in the consultations for the implementation of the Riyadh agreement, in response to the Yemeni government's stalling and delaying, particularly with regard to its call for action to halt the deterioration of people's lives and the causes of their suffering due to the collapse of basic services, including health and education services, the supply of electricity and water and the loss of value of the local currency, accompanied by an increase in the prices of necessary goods and services, and the delay of several months in the payment of pensions for retirees and salaries for employees and the failure to regularize their financial situation, in addition to neglecting to take care of the families of martyrs and the wounded.

In addition, the population's safety and security are endangered by the continuous and increasing military escalation of Yemeni government forces in Abyan governorate and by the hundreds of dead and wounded since the announcement of the ceasefire last June.

The latest of these violations was the crackdown by Yemeni authority forces on popular protests in the city of Seiyun, Hadramout governorate, and the city of Al-Musainaah, Shabwah governorate,



where live ammunition was fired at demonstrators on 03 September and sixty-six residents of Shabwah governorate were arrested.

Faced with these inhuman conditions, the Southern Transition Council is determined to make every effort to overcome its causes and alleviate the suffering of the people of the South by taking practical measures that will accelerate the development of solutions to these problems and enable the people of the South to enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms as well as a decent and stable life.

In line with the current efforts of the Southern Transitional Council, we believe that the best solution to restore the rights and freedoms of the people of the South is to grant them the right to restore their independent state, as part of a comprehensive political solution to the Yemeni crisis through the process which involves all actors on the ground and which is led by the United Nations, represented by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Mr. Martin Griffiths.

While it strongly affirms its rejection of any action that violates international human rights law and international humanitarian law, the Southern Transitional Council also reiterates its respect and commitment to this path throughout southern Yemen. The Council also notes that there are hostile parties that politically exploit the humanitarian situation at the expense of the victims of violations.

The Southern Transitional Council calls on the UN Human Rights Council at its current session to address the suffering of the people of the South and to pay due attention to them, in order to ensure redress for the victims and to guarantee that the perpetrators of violations do not enjoy impunity.

General Department of Foreign Affairs
Southern Transitional Council
Geneva

14 September 2020