

# Southern Transitional Council

General Directorate of Foreign Affairs



المجلس الانتقالي الجنوبي

الإدارة العامة للشؤون الخارجية

## H.E. Nicolas de Riviere

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations  
President of the Security Council

Saturday, July 10, 2021

**Your Excellency,**

From the capital Aden, I am writing to you about the situation in the South, where since the signing of the Riyadh Agreement in November 2019, the STC has taken serious steps to meet the commitments contained in the agreement, firmly believing that it represents a real starting point towards a comprehensive UN-led political process.

Since the announcement of the mechanism to speed up the Riyadh Agreement in July 2020, we have maintained a constructive approach and worked intensively to implementing the terms of the agreement. The STC has facilitated the return of the government to Aden and provided the necessary facilities for its work including engaging seriously with our government counterparts, having made the decisions to abandon Self-Administration.

We have implemented the military and security aspects in the capital Aden and Abyan province, in addition to our efforts in supporting the normalization of the situation, providing services, and confronting natural and health disasters whilst always emphasising the need to complete the implementation of the provisions of the Riyadh Agreement.

Unfortunately, our efforts have faced many obstacles including deliberate violations, primarily the failure of the government to fulfil its obligations and deliver the goals which it was tasked with. A further significant obstacle has been the rejection of the authorities controlling Shabwa province, the Hadramout Valley, and parts of Marib to deposit local resources to the Central Bank in the capital Aden. Also, the recent departure of the cabinet from the capital Aden as a result of unjustified pressure from the leadership of the other party in the agreement, as well as the lack of support by donor countries making it almost impossible for the cabinet to function, such move has been detrimental.

**Your Excellency,**

The other party continue to refuse to fulfill any of its obligations, in addition to carrying out suspicious and dangerous ground military movements, confirming their insistence on creating a military escalation, the most recent of which was the brutal attack on the Lauder directorate in Abyan province, and the continued military build-up towards Abyan province: all this taking place instead of implementing the withdrawals stipulated in the Riyadh Agreement.

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The situation is seriously complicated by the continuing humanitarian violations carried out by their forces controlling Shabwa governorate, the Valley of Hadramout, and parts of Abyan, which amount to war crimes.

These violations resulted in the killing and wounding of 67 civilians, the abduction and detention of 800 civilians, as well as the arrest and concealment of more than 103 soldiers from the Shabwani Elite forces. In addition, they have also arrested 18 journalists, 38 children, raided 39 houses and suppressed 22 peaceful civil demonstrations. Furthermore, more than 131 arbitrary and unilateral decisions were made by the other party most notable of which being the appointment to the Judiciary, the Shura Council, and the Ministry of Defence and Interior, individuals affiliated politically to particular parties.

**We would like to point out that we have reported these violations to the Sponsors officially in writing and in details.**

We have also reported to the Sponsors more than 1065 hostile military violations in Abyan province after the declaration of a ceasefire and before the separation of forces, which resulted in the killing of 48 persons and the injuring of 260 persons.

We continue to demand that deterrent measures be taken against those who carried out these violations and crimes.

### **Your Excellency**

Such actions do not only cause failure to the coalition's efforts and the collapse of the economy, the failure of the public service system, the disruption of salaries, the collapse of the health and education sectors, but also allow for the progress of the Houthis towards most of the areas under the control of the government in the northern provinces, in addition allowing for the return of terrorist activity of ISIS and Al-Qaeda, and the increased movement of their terrorist elements in areas controlled by the forces of the other party in the agreement in the governorates of Shabwa and parts of Abyan.

Terrorist groups have been able to carry out bombings, kidnappings, killings and create chaos in the South, the most recent of which was the terrorist operation carried out in Zanjibar of Abyan governorate, on June 11, 2021, when 8 soldiers from the Security Belt forces of the Transitional Council were killed.

### **Your Excellency**

On May 30, 2021, the chairman and members of the Negotiations Team of the Southern Transitional Council arrived in Riyadh to resume talks to complete the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement. And we agreed on the return of the government and the return to complete the talks on the implementation of the remaining provisions of the Riyadh Agreement, but the

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other side refused to discuss the implementation of the agreement before the cabinet returns to the capital Aden.

On our part in the STC, we have repeatedly called for the return of the Prime Minister and the Power-sharing Cabinet Ministers to the capital Aden, and we have shown full readiness to cooperate with any security measures to ensure their safety, whether through the Presidential Protection 1st Brigade as agreed in the Riyadh Agreement, or through units of the Giants Brigades according to a proposal submitted by the sponsors of the agreement. So far, we have not found solutions to the intransigence of the other party, and the complexities that it constantly puts to all opportunities to complete the implementation.

Subsequently, after more than a month without success, our delegation informed the sponsors of the agreement of their intention to spend Eid Al-Adha holiday with their families in Aden, stressing their willingness to return to the Saudi capital Riyadh when the other party is ready for serious talks towards the implementation of the terms of the Riyadh Agreement.

**We reiterate our commitment** for the need to complete the implementation of the agreement according to an agreed timescale, including the return of the cabinet to the capital Aden.

### Your Excellency

Accordingly, we write to your Excellency to inform you in details of the state of play, and the need for your support to address these issues to ensure that the escalation and actions by the other party do not continue.

We also call on you to exert your pressure for the return of the Power-sharing Cabinet to the capital Aden, to carry out its responsibilities towards the citizens as stipulated in the Riyadh Agreement as well as the credible implementation of all terms of the agreement without being selective, and to move towards the overall political process with a Joint Negotiating Delegation as stipulated in the agreement.

I am copying this message to their Excellencies, representatives of the Member States of the UN Security Council, and the Ambassadors of the countries sponsoring the political process in Yemen.

Please accept our sincere appreciation.

**Mohammed Al Ghaithi**

Head of the STC General Directorate of Foreign Affairs

Aden

