

South Yemen Update

Dream no small dreams for they do not have the power to move the hearts of men

Newsletter of the Friends of South Yemen

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President Aidarous Al-Zubaidi Visits the United Kingdom

President Aidarous Qassem Al-Zubaidi, STC and Vice-Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), and his accompanying delegation's visit to the United Kingdom. His talk in Chatham house and consecutive meetings with British officials and members of the UK parliament were productive and fruitful. He was clear that we will succeed in becoming an independent southern state because our southern people have sacrificed so much in achieving this aim. We believe in individual liberty and humanity and dignity, and the power of people – the greatest transformative force in our region. This he said, is what our adversaries always get wrong. They put their interest ahead of the interest of our people. They want to make our people work for them. We want to make the system work for our people.



President of the SCT Aidarous Al-Zubaidi

There is nothing as addictive as states that are dependent on their monthly share of revenue from crude oil sales and the only way to get them to manage their economies in an economically viable way is to cure them off that addiction. The South Yemeni economy will be restructured. We must commit to a new development agenda with focus on wealth creation by the federating units, rather than wealth distribution from a central state.

He emphasized that we must undertake far reaching economic reforms in our southern federal system to attract private sector resources particularly attracting our southern investors in the Gulf states, including financial resources from the international banking system and donor nations and build bigger, stronger and more dynamic economic system. We must expand the frontier of private sector activity beyond the realm of the oil sector and build a new South.

We have promoted, tolerated and indeed celebrated a

defective political structure for decades. The centralism we practice is not smart.



Aidarous Al-Zubaidi Speech at Chatham House

The oppression by a northern elite is widespread and local governments became too weak to meet their constitutional responsibilities and consequently the centrality of the Sanaa Government emasculated them and took away those responsibilities which belong to them. Our economy as a consequence is too small with very limited capacity to sustain growth and lift our citizens out of poverty.

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) represents the claims to independence of South Yemen (known as South Arabia until 1967; today's governorates of Aden, Lahij, the southern part of al-Dhali, Abyan, Shabwa, Hadramawt, al-Mahra and Socotra).



Moreover, the STC acts in the interests of the local population and is providing security and stability in the South Yemeni territories, in the region of the Gulf of Aden and the Bab al-Mandab.

The major objective of the STC is the solution of the southern cause in peaceful ways and the restoration of the independence of South Yemen as a state with its pre-1990 borders.

The STC was proclaimed on May 4, 2017, and, subsequently, formed under the presidency of Aidarous al-Zubaidi. The council combines numerous political and civil society decision-makers from South Yemen.

It consists of a Leadership Council of 24 persons, various departments, and the National Assembly. The National Assembly of 303 representatives from across the entire South Yemeni society was formed on November 30, 2017. Both bodies were formed on the basis of decisions by consensus.

President Aidarous meets the Ambassador of the United States to Yemen

President Aidarous Qassem Al-Zubaidi, President of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and Vice-Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), received on Monday H.E. Steven H. Fagin, Ambassador of the United States of America to Yemen.



President Aidarous Al-Zubaidi meeting with H.E. Steven H. Fagin, Ambassador of the United States to Yemen

The meeting discussed the latest political and military developments in the country in light of the new Houthi escalation on all fronts, as President Al-Zubaidi renewed his call to the regional and international community to take a decisive position on the continued mobilization of the Houthi militias, stressing the importance of supporting the PLC to assume its responsibilities in securing the country and protecting the liberated areas from the frequent attacks of the Houthi militia, which rejects all endeavours to end the war and establish peace. The meeting touched on the economic conditions in the liberated governorates in light of the sharp collapse in the local currency exchange rate due to the continued suspension of oil exports following the Houthi attacks on oil facilities in Shabwa and Hadramawt.

In this regard, President Al-Zubaidi reaffirmed that the government has become unable to properly assume its responsibilities and the entrusted tasks to revive the economic situation and provide public services to citizens, calling on the official brothers in the Arab coalition countries and the international community to provide urgent support to prevent further collapse and restore the humanitarian situation throughout the country.

Furthermore, the meeting reviewed the efforts exerted by the security services and military forces in the field of combating terrorist groups, arms smuggling networks of Houthi militias, efforts to secure international shipping lines in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden, and possible ways to enhance their role in this aspect.

For his part, the US ambassador reiterated the position of his government in supporting the cohesiveness and rapprochement of the PLC and harmony among its members and the endeavours of the UN Special Envoy aimed at reaching a just and sustainable peace that achieves security and stability in the region, stressing his government's keenness to continue humanitarian aid, enhance security support, and develop the capabilities of the counter-terrorism forces, border guards, and coast guards.



President Al-Zubaidi holds talks during his visit to the UK

The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohammed Al-Ghaithi, chairman of the Consultation and Reconciliation Commission of the PLC, a member of the STC's Presidium, and Mr. Imad Mohammed, office director of the Vice-Chairman of the PLC.

President Al-Zubaidi historic visit to the UK Birmingham

President Al-Zubaidi made a second historic visit to the UK and in Birmingham met hundreds of Southerners.



President Aidarous Al-Zubaidi at a celebration event in Birmingham

He emphasized the fundamental aim of the STC in achieving its objective of re-establishing our Southern state. He thanked the community in the UK for its steadfast support to the resistance movement and the STC. He stressed the important role the community plays in preserving and strengthening the bonds between themselves and their country and the importance of their work in educating their children, preserving the language, the cultural and national identity, and promoting their cause to the international community. The president was keen to shake the hands of the community members and then took the time to meet groups of community representatives throughout the evening. Despite the huge numbers of community participants, the meeting was peaceful, dynamic and successful.



Upcoming event

The following important upcoming event will take place in Washington DC, it will focus on the history of South Yemen and why South Yemen needs to be recognised as a state in its own right.

AMERICAN CENTER FOR SOUTH YEMEN STUDIES

SAVE THE DATE
8th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF ADEN

Susanne Dahlgren Director, FIME	Dr. Abd al-Galil Shaif Chairman, FOSY	Summer Ahmed South Yemen Activist	Ala Mohsen ACSYS
Fernando Carvaja ACSYS	Michael Knights Author 25 Days to Aden	Noel Brehony Author Yemen Divided	Abdullah Babood Waseda University

THURSDAY, JULY 20
9AM - 4PM
Washington, D.C.

For more info and to register :
info@americancentersy.org
Twitter @acsy:

the event will be broadcast live on Twitter and youtube, please join us. either copy the link or click on the relative logo.

Twitter : https://twitter.com/acsy_us

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHOmj2xPbjrlysd2TUaMfgA>



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