

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

South Yemen Update Issue - 45 July 2024

Establishing a Southern state: The Southern Transitional Council's Strategic Path for South Yemen

The quest for independence in South Yemen, under the astute leadership of Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi represents a pivotal movement in the Middle Eastern political landscape. The Southern Transitional Council (STC), which Al-Zubaidi heads, has made significant strides towards restoring South Yemen's sovereignty. This drive for independence is not merely about political reconfiguration but aims at realizing the aspirations of the South Yemeni people, who have long felt marginalized and neglected.

The Historical Context

Before the unification in 1990, South Yemen, officially known as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, was a distinct state with its own government and infrastructure. The merger with North Yemen was envisaged as a means to foster a project of unity and progress for all Yemenis. However, the reality has been starkly different. The southern regions have experienced systemic neglect, economic marginalization, and political disenfranchisement, leading to widespread dissatisfaction. Furthermore, the South since 1990 experienced two military invasions by the Northern regime.

Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi, Vision and Leadership

Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi has emerged as a prominent leader, dedicated to the cause of Southern Yemeni statehood. Strategic foresight and a deep understanding of the socio-political dynamics within Yemen and the broader region mark his leadership of the STC. He has been instrumental in highlighting the historical legitimacy of South Yemen as a sovereign entity, advocating for its recognition on the global stage.

Under Zubaidi's stewardship, the STC has articulated a clear vision for an independent South Yemen. This vision encompasses not only political sovereignty but also economic rejuvenation and social development. Zubaidi's emphasis on international diplomacy has been crucial in garnering support for the STC's cause, positioning South Yemen's quest for independence within the broader context of regional stability and development.

Strategic Achievements

The STC has achieved significant milestones under



STC Leader Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi

Zubaidi's leadership. They have effectively established a parallel governance structure in many parts of the south, providing some essential services and ensuring security, which includes building a military and security structure in the South. This de facto administration demonstrates the STC's capability to govern and manage resources effectively, countering narratives that question the viability of an independent South Yemen.

Moreover, Zubaidi has adeptly navigated the complex geopolitical landscape, securing alliances and support from key regional actors. The STC's involvement in international negotiations and its presence in the presidential council in dialogues with interested parties concerning Yemen's future underscore its growing legitimacy and influence. These peaceful diplomatic efforts and dialogue are essential in building a case for South Yemen's independence, emphasizing the failure of the unity project to deliver tangible benefits for Yemenis in general, particularly those in the south.

The Road Ahead

Achieving recognition and independence for South Yemen is a formidable challenge, but the STC, under Zubaidi's leadership is well positioned to overcome these obstacles. The council's focus on international advocacy aims to remind the world that South Yemen was a functioning state prior to 1990, capable of self-governance and development. This historical perspective is crucial in countering arguments against the feasibility of an independent South Yemen.

The STC's commitment to inclusive governance, economic development, and regional stability offers a hopeful vision for the future. By addressing the long-standing grievances of South Yemenis and providing a roadmap for sustainable development, the STC is not only seeking political independence but also aiming to create a prosperous and stable society.

Conclusion

The Southern Transitional Council's campaign for South Yemen's independence, led by Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi, is a testament to the resilience and determination of the South Yemeni people. Zubaidi's strategic leadership has reinvigorated the quest for sovereignty, aligning it with broader regional and international interests. The recognition of South Yemen's historical statehood and the acknowledgment of the unity project's failures are central to this endeavour.

As the STC continues to build international support and strengthen its governance structures, the dream of an independent South Yemen moves closer to reality. This movement not only aspires to rectify historical injustices but also aims to chart a new course of progress and stability for the people of South Yemen. The future holds the promise of greater achievements, driven by the unwavering commitment of the STC and its leader, Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi.

Aden moves to tighten economic control, orders telecom companies to shift from Sanaa to Aden

In another major move to tighten control over key economic sectors, the Internationally Recognized Government in Yemen has directed mobile phone companies to move their headquarters from the Houthi-controlled city of Sanaa to the capital, Aden, and complete the necessary procedures to rectify their legal conditions.

In a memorandum issued on Thursday, Acting Minister of Telecommunications Waed Badhib called on mobile phone companies to move their financial, technical and administrative headquarters from Sanaa to Aden in order to obtain the necessary licenses for operations.



The order also demanded that companies pay their overdue debts, including fees and taxes. It warned of punitive measures against violators, in accordance with the government decisions and relevant reports of the Central Agency for Oversight and Accounting.

This measure is the third economic action taken by the Internationally Recognized Yemeni Government against the Houthis in less than two weeks.

On June 5, the Yemeni Minister of Transport, Abdulsalam Hamid, directed Yemenia Airways Company to transfer its revenues from Sanaa to the Central Bank in Aden, as well as transfer the remainder of the company's activities from Sanaa to Aden.

Yemenia is the exclusive government air carrier in the country.

On May 30, the Central Bank in Aden suspended transactions with six commercial banks in Sanaa due to their dealings with the Houthis and their failure to respond to the directive to move their headquarters to Aden. The Houthis responded by imposing similar sanctions on 13 banks operating from Aden. Yesterday (June 7), a Yemeni government official called on the Houthis to adhere to their announcement of opening roads in the city of Taiz, which has been besieged since the start of the war in 2015.

Abdulkarim Shaiban, head of the government negotiating committee to open roads in Taiz, said: "All roads in Taiz are open on the government side. We have been waiting to hear the Houthis' announcement of road opening on their side, which is what we have been demanding for years."

"Although the other party did not coordinate with us about opening the roads, we hope that they will be honest and ready to coordinate to place military points to ensure the safe passage of citizens," he added. During the past few days, the Houthis announced the opening of roads closed for years in Marib, Al-Bayda, and Taiz governorates.

Yemeni government officials doubt the Houthis' seriousness in their moves, which coincides with a large-scale military escalation against the Southern forces of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) in Lahj and Al-Dhalea governorates in South Yemen. On March 14, the STC had said that it rejects any unilateral measures aimed at opening roads and crossings, referring to the Houthis' attempts to unilaterally open roads and crossings between South and North. The STC said the process must be done under the supervision of the UN, security committees, and international and local oversight from both parties.

The statement had come two days after an attempt by the Houthis to open a road linking Aden to Sanaa through Al-Dhalea Governorate failed after an exchange of fire between an armed Houthi convoy and Southern forces at a military contact line in the Murais region, in the north of Al-Dhalea Governorate.

Read more at: <https://south24.net/news/newse.php?nid=4016>

Friends of South Yemen Condemn Houthi Actions Against Yemenia Airways

Friends of South Yemen (FOSY) vehemently condemn the unlawful and reprehensible actions undertaken by the Houthi militias on June 25, 2024. These actions involved the detainment of four Yemenia Airways aircraft, along with their crews, at Sana'a Airport. These aircraft were on a mission to transport pilgrims from King Abdulaziz International Airport in Saudi Arabia back to Yemen. This service, which Yemenia Airways has performed dutifully, facilitated over 100 flights for more than 8,000 pilgrims during this year's Hajj season.

FOSY stands in solidarity with the Ministry of Transport and Yemenia Airways in their efforts to protect the airline and its assets from further Houthi aggression. We echo the calls for immediate international intervention to secure the release of the detained aircraft and the recovery of the seized financial assets. It is imperative that the international community, including the United Nations, the Arab Coalition, and global aviation authorities, take decisive action to address these violations and ensure the safety and operational integrity of Yemenia Airways.



Such actions by the Houthi militias are not only a flagrant violation of international laws and treaties governing civil aviation and air transport but also an affront to the religious, humanitarian, and ethical duties associated with the pilgrimage. These violations have left over 1,300 pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia, causing significant distress and disruption.

Furthermore, the Houthis' ongoing illegal activities against Yemenia Airways have severely affected the airline's operations. Since March 2023, the Houthis have frozen more than \$100 million of the airline's assets and have illegitimately seized a large portion of its revenues, disregarding all operational costs and responsibilities. Yemenia Airways, an institution established to serve the Yemeni people, is now under

The actions of the Houthi militias are a stark reminder of the urgent need for a comprehensive resolution to the conflict in Yemen. We call upon all relevant parties to prioritize the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people and to uphold international laws and agreements.

Friends of South Yemen will continue to advocate for peace, stability, and the protection of Yemeni institutions and citizens. We urge the global community to join us in condemning these unlawful actions and in supporting efforts to restore normalcy and justice for Yemenia Airways and the people it serves.



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