



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-fifth session

14 September–2 October 2020

Agenda items 2 and 10

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the  
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

**Technical assistance and capacity-building**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 August 2020]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.20-12625(E)



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## Human Rights Situation in Yemen

The Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum and the Southern Advisory Centre for Rights and Freedoms (Yemen), wish to express their gratitude to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for the attention attached by the august body to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, not only for individual rights, but also to the collective rights of groups and peoples.

Over the past years, our organizations have monitored many incidents that constitute gross and massive violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the southern parts of Yemen. These violent incidents, which are often associated with military activities and militia violence, have left many innocent victims. The ultimate goal of the ongoing war and violence is to maintain totalitarian rule in the country and further deny its victims in the south the right to choose their political status, charting their economic model of production and defining their social lifestyle.

We regret to inform the 45<sup>th</sup> session of HRC that the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the respect for international humanitarian law in the areas of southern Yemen are under growing threats. The region faces serious challenges due to the war that ravage many parts of the country. The situation is aggravated by the heavy handedness of groups that control the Yemeni government and its commission of flagrant violations of all kinds of human rights and fundamental freedoms against the citizens in south Yemen. The violations are ranging from assault on the right to life and safety and physical integrity to the right to development and the right to enjoy adequate standard of living. Thousands of individuals, especially political activists, community leaders and cadres were targeted by wanton violence and many among them were either killed, wounded or arrested and detained. The main objective of this campaign is to suppress political dissent and to oppress demands to regain their national identity and political status.

The situation worsened with the growing levels of poverty, economic collapse, and hardships as well as insecurity and political instability. At present, several thousands of poor Yemenis are denied essential services, including electricity, water and sanitation, meanwhile, the region faces worrisome deterioration of the health, education sectors and other vital services.

Until recently the people in the southern parts of Yemen lived under the umbrella of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen until their forced unity with the Yemen Arab Republic in July 1994. Since then there are mounting complaints that the people in southern Yemen have been systematically and persistently deprived of their most basic rights and freedoms, including civil and political as well as economic and social rights. Because of political hegemony and military domination imposed on them there is growing feelings among many people in southern Yemen that they live under military occupation.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

We call on the 45th session of HRC and on individual United Nations member states to show solidarity with the people of south Yemen and to uphold their legitimate rights and fundamental freedoms and to use its good offices to bring about reconciliation between the parties concerned on the basis of justice, national aspiration and compassion for all.

We call on all members of HRC and other concerned, especially parties to the conflict in Yemen, to fully cooperate with and support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Yemen Mr. Martin Griffiths, in order to bring a speedy end to the war and consolidate peace in the region. We also call on all concerned parties to support the signing of the Riyadh agreement between the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the legitimate government of Yemen as it represents a practical translation of the STC's efforts to resolve the southern issue in a fair manner.

We also call on the 45 session of HRC to urge the parties to the conflict in Yemen to ensure just and equitable treatment for civilian victims of the conflict and to hold the perpetrators of violence accountable under the principles of transitional justice.

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Southern Advisory Centre for Rights and Freedoms (Yemen), an NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.