

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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Hadramaut Speaks Loudly for the South

Today, the streets of Hadramaut witnessed an extraordinary outpouring of public sentiment, as tens of thousands gathered in a powerful show of unity and resolve. With southern flags held high and chants echoing through the city, the people expressed their unwavering support for the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the vision of an independent southern state.

This was more than a rally, it was a historic statement. The sheer scale of participation speaks volumes about the deep-rooted aspirations of southern Yemenis for self-determination, justice, and recognition of their identity.



Hadramaut Million person Rally

Every face in the crowd carried a story; every raised hand symbolized hope, struggle, and a collective memory of a people who have long called for dignity and sovereignty. The message was clear: the south has not been silenced, and its voice today is stronger than ever.

The world must take notice. The call for a just political solution that respects the will of the southern people can no longer be ignored.

The Southern Transitional Council: Balancing Principle with Pragmatism

As Yemen stands at a critical juncture, the political discourse emerging from the south offers a glimpse into a maturing vision for the future. The Southern Transitional Council (STC) continues to assert its unwavering commitment to the full restoration of an independent southern state, based on the pre-unification borders of 21 May 1990. This vision has long been the cornerstone of the southern cause, rooted in decades of grievance, struggle, and aspiration.



Aidarous Al-Zubaidi President of the STC

Yet within this clarity of purpose lies a notable development: the council's openness to exploring transitional arrangements or phased solutions—provided that such steps do not compromise the essence of the southern objective. Far from signalling a retreat, this position reflects a measured and pragmatic approach, one that acknowledges the complex realities of Yemen's political landscape and the broader regional context.

The willingness to consider interim solutions can be interpreted as a strategic choice—an effort to engage constructively in a peace process while maintaining the fundamental demand for sovereignty. The emphasis, however, remains clear: any transitional framework must respect the principles of genuine partnership and equality, while advancing the aspirations of the southern people and contributing to long-term regional stability.

Still, this path is not without its challenges. Internally, the council must navigate the expectations of a deeply committed southern public. For many, the sacrifices made over years of struggle leave little room for half-measures or ambiguous compromises. It is essential; therefore, that any phased or transitional approach be communicated with transparency, ensuring that it is

seen not as an end in itself, but as a deliberate step toward the broader national goal.

Externally, international stakeholders eager to see movement toward a durable political settlement in Yemen may view the council's flexibility as a positive signal. This pragmatic posture, if managed wisely, could enhance the STC's credibility as a responsible actor capable of contributing meaningfully to a negotiated peace.

Ultimately, the Southern Transitional Council is walking a tightrope—seeking to balance the steadfast pursuit of national aspirations with the realities of a shifting political environment. Its success will depend on its ability to maintain internal cohesion, build trust among its constituents, and engage diplomatically without losing sight of its core objective.

This moment calls for political maturity, clear vision, and strategic patience. If the council can navigate this phase with integrity and clarity, it may not only advance the cause of southern statehood but also play a pivotal role in shaping a more stable and inclusive future for all Yemenis

Electricity Crisis in Aden Sparks Protests, Threatens Stability Amid War

The city of Aden is gripped by growing unrest as a devastating electricity crisis unfolds amid an intense heatwave. With power outages becoming the norm, young people have taken to the streets in protest, demanding urgent action. The searing temperatures have already claimed lives, as residents are left without the means to cool their homes or care for vulnerable family members.



Emergency meeting chaired by Ali Abdullah Al-Kathiri, Acting President of the STC and chairman of the National Assembly

Despite millions of dollars reportedly allocated to the energy sector, successive Yemeni governments have failed to implement lasting solutions. The Southern Transitional Council (STC) has sounded the alarm, urging the government to act immediately to end the suffering of Aden's people.

"The people of Aden cannot continue to pay the price of corruption and mismanagement," the STC said in a statement. "Lives are being lost while funding is squandered."

The Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) and the Yemeni government are under immense pressure for their failure to properly plan and deliver basic services in the liberated areas. As frustration mounts, many citizens are now calling on the Arab Coalition — particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — to intervene and provide emergency support to Aden's crippled electricity sector.

"This is no longer just about electricity — it's about survival," said Samir Al-Mahri, a 28-year-old resident of Aden. "My elderly parents cannot endure this heat. We've had no power for most of the day. People are dying, and no one is listening."

Security officials warn that the protests, if not addressed swiftly, could expand to other parts of the south, threatening to destabilize an already fragile region. "These protests risk spreading to other southern governorates, which could lead to a wider breakdown in public order," said one senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The situation is becoming explosive."

The crisis unfolds at a dangerous time, as Yemen remains locked in a broader war. Political observers caution that rising instability in government-controlled areas may play directly into the hands of the Houthi rebels. "Protests against the government in Aden during wartime will only serve the interests of the Houthis," one analyst noted. "This is a time for unity, accountability, and decisive action — not collapse."

As temperatures soar and tempers flare, the urgency for a sustainable, transparent solution is greater than ever. The steps taken by the Yemeni government, the PLC, and the Arab Coalition in the coming days may determine not only the outcome of Aden's electricity crisis but the broader stability of the south.

By Dr. Abdul Galil Shaif – Chair of Friends of South Yemen



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