

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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YEMEN IN 2021: NEW YEAR, NEW GOVERNMENT, TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES

On the last day of 2020, a year that has continued to brutalize war-torn Yemen, 26 people were killed and over 100 injured as ministers in the newly-formed government disembarked from an aircraft in Aden on their return from Saudi Arabia.

This horrific attack was a deliberate attempt to turn a moment of hope to one of despair. The UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, said: "A transgression of such magnitude potentially amounts to a war crime. This cabinet is a signal of hope that reconciliation is possible."

The new government faces tremendous challenges: guaranteeing security and ensuring co-operation between the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) and the Southern Transition Council (STC).

Security analysts commented that it is difficult to fathom how the new government could move to Aden from Riyadh without proper precautions including keeping the date of its arrival flight secret. Well wishing should not have been allowed on the tarmac and the entire cabinet should not have been travelling on the same flight. The coalition forces have to be criticized for stationing Patriot missiles eight kilometres from the airport and not protecting it.

Mohammed Gamal, a resident of Aden, said the people were afraid of further attacks. "In the past year, when the government was working out of Saudi Arabia Aden was safe. If the return of the government brings back attacks on the city we hope they can leave it and let us enjoy peace."

Friends of South Yemen (FOSY) in an official statement has called on the Arab coalition to set up a compensation fund for the victims of the explosion and their families and arrange for treatment in neighbouring countries if required for those who have been injured.

President Abdroba Mansur Hadi ordered the formation of a committee "to investigate the repercussions of the terrorist act". But the STC has so far refused to take part in the committee. The Deputy Head of Communications for the

STC, Mansour Saleh, said: "The Houthis are the main culprits in this crime and they will benefit the most from its consequences. But other parties might be involved in the attack including elements from the Yemeni government and those affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood who have been opposed to the agreement." No group has claimed responsibility and the Houthis have denied involvement.



Yemenis welcome the new government

FOSY's Chairman Abdul Galil Shaif said: "I cannot support another internal government investigation into the terrorist attack on Aden's airport. The credibility of the previous investigations into a number of terror attacks including the killing of the former Governor of Aden, Gaffar Sadd, and the killing of Abu Yamama, head of Aden security belt, is zero. The intrinsic flaws in the investigations all but guarantee that it will not yield any justice for a population anxious for answers and justice. FOSY

demands an immediate international investigation through the UN with top level expertise and skills."

The new government also been severely criticized as there are no women for the first time in two decades and no representatives from the Tihama region.

Tahani Saeed, a founding member of the Yemeni Women's Pact for Peace and Security (Tawafuq), said: "Yemeni women are dying and suffering because of Yemen's civil war, yet we are denied a role in helping forge a solution. Over the past six years, the conflict in Yemen has had a profound impact on women and girls. Over a million pregnant women and new mothers are now acutely malnourished. According to UNICEF one woman and six new-borns die every two hours from complications during pregnancy or birth. Along with starvation, Yemeni women are suffering from rising levels of gender-based violence. Since the war began, violence, including domestic abuse and child marriage has increased by 63 percent. COVID-19 has only made matters worse."

Twelve MPs from the Tihama region (Hodeida, Rayma, Mahwit and Hajjah governorates) sent a letter to Hadi

protesting that the region has no representatives in the new government. “Tihama region represents 23 percent of Yemen’s population but the region is neither represented in parliament and Shura Council Presidencies nor in the Advisory Board of the Presidency” MP Sakhr Al-Wajih said. “If we do not get our rights to be treated just and equal like other regions we will have to use our right to withdraw from attending cabinet sessions and not grant parliamentary approval to the new government.”

Everyone who is someone in regional and international politics – the UN, the EU, the GCC, the Arab Parliament, the UK, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan and Egypt – welcomed the new government announced on December 18 after a year of prolonged and often acrimonious negotiations. Everyone supporting the government also condemned the attack. The government was formed under the auspices of a power sharing deal known as the Riyadh Agreement between the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) of President Abdroba Mansur Hadi and the Southern Transitional Council headed by Major General Aidaroos Qasim Al-Zubaidi. The new cabinet with 24 ministers is divided between the IRG and STC.

Al-Zubaidi, leader of the STC has played a pivotal role in securing the implementation of the agreement which was signed in November 2019. Those who criticize him for taking this approach have clearly stated that his loyalty to the Arab coalition has blinded his judgment on the critical issue of Southern statehood. He on the other hand believes that Southern statehood will be achieved as part of a long-term process that requires cooperation with major international and regional powers. Some may disagree with his strategy in delivering a political solution for the South but one certainly needs to recognize that the current crisis is complex and requires skilled negotiations at the highest level taking into account the many and powerful players – especially the external players - in this conflict.

Abdul Galil Shaif emphasized that European and regional capitals have a strong interest and a major role to play in ensuring the success of the government and preventing the Yemeni state’s collapse.

“Britain with US support is uniquely positioned to spearhead this effort, as it enjoys some credibility with actors across the Yemeni political spectrum. An immediate donor conference should be established with European states and regional states significantly increasing their funds to help the new government establish itself. It needs urgent funding and technical capacity for major infrastructure projects (such as in energy, water and garbage disposal) and

reconstruction in areas affected by the war. Through such projects, donor countries could insist on the establishment of standards (e.g., transparency in planning, procurement and disbursement of funds). Donors could also expand existing programs that seek to create jobs for many unemployed people by improving and expanding local infrastructure. I am afraid that without this immediate support the new government could collapse before it begins,” Shaif said.

The success of the new government, depends on the support of the international community and on Saudi Arabia, the guarantor of the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement. The government’s coffers are empty and no budget has been drafted since 2014. Some 600,000 civil servants have lost their jobs. Those remaining are paid weeks – sometimes months – late. The Co-ordinating Council for Retired Military and Security Personnel in South Yemen threatened to take control of the presidential Al-Maashiq Palace, the airport and other facilities if six months salaries are not paid and other salary arrears rectified.

The international community must also provide adequate funding for humanitarian emergencies if Yemenis are to be saved from famine and medical disasters. Cuts in international aid have had a dire impact on Yemeni civilians, including the halving of food assistance to 9 million people and the suspension of support to healthcare services, which the UN says has put the lives of millions on the line. (See pages 3 & 4: ‘Yemenis are not going hungry, they are being starved’).

But it is essential humanitarian assistance goes hand in hand with supporting development. Waiting for the war against the Houthis to end before supporting development is a strategy which has failed during the past six years.

Shaif concluded that the new government must act very quickly with a clear economic and political programme that addresses some of the very acute problems faced by their citizens particularly those relating to salaries, services and currency stability. “The government programme should have been prepared before ministers landed in Aden. The Prime Minister and his ministers must not delay any further and adopt it as an immediate priority. There is incredible potential to build a successful economic and political alternative in the liberated South of the country but we need to act immediately without any further delay. The new government needs to understand that unnecessary delays and poor statecraft and bureaucratic misrule, will only inflame tensions and fuel mistrust.”

SOUTHERN MINISTERS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT



- Minister for Civil Service and Insurance, Dr Abdulnaser Al Wali (61), orthopaedic surgeon and assistant Professor in Aden University.
- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Brig. Salem Al Socotri (50), a military figure from Socotra. He was Socotra’s governor in 2016-17. Pictured left with President Hadi.
- Minister for Social Affairs and Labour, Dr Mohammed Al Zaawari (50), from Sabbaiya, Lahj Province, who was an active leader in the Southern Movement Al Hirak Al Janoubi.
- Minister of Transport, Dr Abdul Salam Homaid (60), a former general manager of Yemen’s Petroleum Company, a deputy in the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and chief of the economic department.
- Minister of Public Works and Highways, Manea Binyamin (36), an engineer from Hadhramaut.

← The new Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Brig. Salem Al Socotri (left) with President Hadi



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On 11th January 2021, Friends of South Yemen issued a press release titled “**FOSY statement on the new government**”.

Click this link to read or download the press release:

https://www.friendsofsouthyemen.org/press_releases/press_releases.php

Yemenis are not going hungry – they are being starved

“Yemenis are not going hungry. They are being starved.” This statement from the UN Under-Secretary-General Mark Lowcock accurately describes the famine in Yemen which is a man-made disaster brought about by five years of civil war.

The areas worst affected by acute food insecurity are the Marib, Taizz, and Al Jawf governorates in the North, and those of Al Bayda, Abyan, and Hadhramaut in the South.

After the Houthis, a hardline Shia sect backed by the Iranian regime, overthrew the internationally recognized government in Sanaa in 2014 and took control of most of the North, an Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia began air strikes against areas held by the Houthis in March 2015. The bombings still continue; ceasefires are violated and civilians suffer as the infrastructure and health facilities are destroyed.

More than 1,900 of the country's 3,500 health facilities are currently either not functioning or partially functioning with insufficient staff and equipment, leaving half the population without adequate healthcare. Yemeni forces, the Houthis and the Saudi-led Arab coalition have attacked over 100 medical facilities. Water and sanitation systems have also been destroyed.

According to the UN, as of November 5, 2020, there have been more than 900,000 suspected cholera cases and 2,192 associated deaths have been reported. More than half of the suspected cases are children. People have also been affected by malaria, dengue fever, shortages of clean drinking water, severe flooding, and locust swarms.



Yemenis, many of whose health conditions have already deteriorated, now face the COVID-19 pandemic. As of

August 30, the government confirmed 1,950 cases and 564 COVID-19-related deaths, but the UN has warned that the actual number of cases and deaths is much higher.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) prediction of a worst-case scenario, namely that 93 per cent of a population of nearly 30 million would be infected with the virus, is about to become a reality.

An estimated 4.3 million people have fled from their homes since the start of the conflict in 2014 and approximately 3.3 million remain displaced. The camps of internally displaced persons are fertile ground for the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases such as cholera and scabies.

Lack of adequate food supplies leading to hunger, malnutrition, and famine is the greatest humanitarian tragedy caused by the war. In March 2020, UNICEF estimated that 2 million children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition.

The magnitude of the crisis is illustrated by the fact that one child dies every 12 minutes. In May, UNICEF described Yemen as “the largest humanitarian crisis in the world” – a country where 80 per cent of the population, which amounts to over 26 million people, were in need of humanitarian assistance.

In 2018, Save the Children reported that over 85,000 children had died since the beginning of the conflict as a direct result of famine. Since then, entire communities have been decimated by hunger. Nearly half of all Yemeni children suffer stunted growth because of malnutrition which also impairs their cognitive development.

Henrietta Fore, the head of UNICEF, described the lives of Yemeni children as “a walking nightmare”. With an economic crisis – the Yemeni rial has plummeted to an all-time low and 80 per cent of the country's food is imported – skyrocketing food prices have plunged millions of families into crisis.

Babar Baloch, UNHRC spokesperson, said that with rampant inflation and few livelihood opportunities, families can no longer afford basic meals. “To put food on the table, many displaced families are selling off belongings, pulling children out of school and sending them to work, begging on the streets, or eating just once a day.”

In late 2019, the UN-commissioned report by the University of Denver Assessing the Impact of War on Development in Yemen confirmed that more Yemenis had died of hunger, disease, and lack of health clinics than from fighting; the figure was estimated at 131,000 people. War in comparison was responsible for 100,000 deaths – a figure published by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) which tracks confirmed fatalities of war.

Between 2015 and 2019 international donors gave the UN-led aid response in Yemen \$8.35 billion, including \$3.6 billion in 2019 that reached almost 14 million

CHRONOLOGY

Dec 15th: The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, calls on Yemeni parties to fulfill the commitments they assumed in Stockholm, urging them to engage with the Special Envoy in good faith.

Dec 16: The main road that links Aden with the province of Abyan reopens, as the Yemeni government and the STC announce the reorganization of their forces from sites in southern Yemen under the Riyadh Agreement.

Dec 17: Yemeni Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakkol Karman says that Houthi fighters raided her home and office in Sanaa and took control of them after stealing furniture.

-A ballistic missile launched by the Houthi militia from Sanaa lands in Saada province.

Dec 18: The STC joins the new unity government to fight against the Houthis.

-The World Bank approves a grant of \$303.9 million to Yemen to improve access to basic services and economic opportunities.

Dec 19: Donations collected by a Ross-shire woman to help a children's hospital in Yemen arrive in Liverpool from where they will be shipped.

Dec 20: The Yemeni rial recovers by 20 percent after positive news about the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement and the formation of a new government, giving a long-awaited boost to the chaotic exchange market. - Slain Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commander Qassem Soleimani had ordered the killing of former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, according to a recently published book on Soleimani.

Dec 21: ABNA News Agency reports the Houthis have seized all areas of Madghal district of Marib.

-Doctors in the Al-Sabeen Maternal Hospital in Sanaa call for urgent help to save the lives of conjoined twins who can only be saved by surgery abroad.

Dec 22: The Coordinating Council for Retired Military and Security personnel in southern Yemen threatens to take control of the presidential Al-Maashiq palace in Aden in addition to the city's airport and other facilities if pensions are not paid.

-Riyadh buys more radar systems from Paris so as to strengthen itself against the Houthis ballistic power.

Dec 23: Four members of the Yemeni Parliament warn they will vote against granting confidence to the new government over its lack of representatives from the Tihama region as well as female ministers.

-The Houthis burn a historic library in the north-western city of Hajjah sparking outrage across the country.

Dec 24: Yemeni activists launch an online campaign calling on President Abd Roba Mansur Hadi and the newly formed government to return to the interim capital of Aden.

-The Houthis threatened to bomb Saudi

ports in the Red Sea after their oil tankers were blocked from reaching Al-Hudaydah port.

Dec 25: The Saudi Ministry of Culture signs a memorandum of cooperation with the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY) to protect Yemeni antiquities and cultural heritage.

-COVID-19 could “easily overwhelm” Yemen’s health system and tougher measures could be re-imposed to stop transmission of the disease, an official says.

Dec 26: Yemen’s new government is sworn in in Riyadh.

-A 25-year-old woman is beaten to death in front of her two children by the Houthis in Ibb.

Dec 27: UN envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, calls for reaching a solution to the conflict in war-torn Yemen by 2021.

-Humanitarian agencies say the possible designation of Yemen’s Houthis as a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States may prevent life-saving aid from reaching remote areas of the war-torn country.

Dec 28: The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen launches a development projects package in response to the Yemeni government’s request.

-Scores of internally displaced families return to their homes in Abyan.

Dec 29: Accusing the UAE of running dozens of secret prisons in Yemen, the Geneva-based human rights group SAM calls for the closure of all such facilities.

- The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Programme for Yemen signs contracts for three major projects covering health, education and transport.

Dec 30: Yemeni authorities say at least 22 people are killed and 50 wounded in an attack on Aden’s airport as members of the country’s newly formed unity government arrive from Riyadh.

-The Saudi-led Arab coalition announces it destroyed a drone sent by the Houthis that attempted to target the Yemeni government headquarters in the temporary capital of Aden.

Dec 31: The coalition launches air attacks on Sanaa International Airport, and two Houthi sites in Rima Hamid in Sanhan district and Wadi Rjam in Bani Hashish district situated in southern Sanaa, according to Houthi-run Al Masirah TV.

-An official in Yemen’s Houthi-led National Salvation Government (NSG) says that Saudi pilots currently being held captive will only be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Saudi Arabia.

Jan 1: the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, describes the attack on Aden airport as “a transgression of such magnitude that it potentially amounts to a war crime.”

-The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen forms a team to assess damage done to Aden International Airport.

people each month with some form of aid. This was up from 7.5 million people in 2018.

However, aid agencies say that in 2019 and 2020, they spent vast amounts of their time and energy struggling to get approvals countrywide to provide assistance in accordance with humanitarian principles and without the authorities’ interference.

Partly in response to the obstruction of aid, donor support to UN aid agencies collapsed in June 2020, particularly from Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the United States. As of August 28, aid agencies received only 24 per cent of the \$3.4 billion they requested for the year.

While funding the aid efforts, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and others have sold arms to the Saudi-led coalition, worsening Yemen’s humanitarian crisis. The UK has given £1 billion in aid to Yemen but has licensed £6.5 billion worth of arms to the countries bombing it.

The funding crisis has had a dire impact on Yemeni civilians, including the halving of food assistance to 9 million people and the suspension of support to healthcare services, which the UN says has put the lives of millions on the line.

But there is money in Yemen to assist humanitarian efforts.

A UN Panel of Experts reported in June 2017 that the Houthis had earned up to \$1.14 billion from fuel and oil distribution on the black market and that fuel was “one of the main sources of revenue for the Houthis.” However, for the warring factions, humanitarian aid is not a priority.

All parties to the conflict in Yemen have stood in the way of humanitarian aid delivery, demanded that taxes be levied and aid rerouted so that it would benefit their respective militias.

In September 2020, Human Rights Watch published a 65-page report titled *Deadly Consequences: Obstruction of Aid in Yemen During Covid-19* which details systematic interference in relief operations by the Houthi authorities, Yemen’s internationally recognized government and affiliated forces, the UAE, and the Southern Transitional Council.

The Houthis have a particularly egregious record of obstructing aid agencies from reaching civilians and diverting aid to their supporters and fighters. In 2019 and 2020, aid workers had to push back against Houthi officials insisting they hand over their cars, computers, and cell phones at the end of projects.

But obstruction of aid agencies in government-held areas in the south and east is also on the rise. In July 2020, Lowcock said that aid agencies reported an “uptick in violent incidents, targeting humanitarian assets and [that] local authorities were adding new bureaucratic requirements.”

In March 2015, in violation of the laws of war, the Saudi-led coalition imposed a naval and air blockade that severely restricted the flow of food, fuel, and medicine, on which the vast majority of the population depends.

Yemen’s humanitarian crisis is not a by-product of Yemen’s institutional and political failures. It is solely the result of a protracted military conflict and only an end to the conflict will bring an end to the humanitarian crisis.

The country cannot fight a war on two fronts: the military conflict and the fight against famine and disease. The Yemenis have different political agendas: the Houthis want to continue creating an Islamic state while most Southerners want to be independent from the North and establish their own state.

But they are united in their common condition of poverty, hunger, and disease. Ending the fighting and solving the humanitarian problems together can help to end the political stalemate and the pointless war which has no winners except those who trade in arms and the warlords who buy and sell people’s lives.



Pope prays for Yemen

On World Day of Peace, Pope Francis expressed his appreciation for demonstrations in favour of peace.

The Holy Father shared his “sorrow and concern” at the further escalation of violence in Yemen, “which is causing numerous innocent victims.” He prayed “that efforts will be made to find solutions that will allow peace to return to those tormented peoples.”

“Brothers and sisters,” he exclaimed, “let us think of the children of Yemen! Without education, medicine, hungry... Let us pray together for Yemen.”

Ethical Coffee Company Connects UAE Customers and Yemenis Coffee Growers

A company launched by Sheikh Dr Majid Al Qassimi, who has a doctorate in veterinary medicine, and Emirati entrepreneur Ali Mansoor Al Ali, it brings Yemeni coffee to the UAE. As the name implies, the company's focus is on the people producing the coffee - the Yemeni farmers, some of whom have had coffee farms in their families for generations.

"People's Coffee focuses on individuality and avoids dime-a-dozen labour, shifting from [business] relationships towards a human-to-human approach," Al Qassimi said. "The People's Coffee operations team works closely with farmers ... we distribute value across all parts of the supply chain, aiming for sustainable relationships between people and coffee."



A Yemeni farmer lays out hand-picked coffee cherries out to dry. (Pic: People's Coffee)

Al Ali adds: "Apart from wanting to highlight the stories [of the farmers], seeing how unfairly the revenue was being distributed encouraged me to try and work on a model that would give them what they deserved for all the hard work. I was on a quest to improve their quality of life, and Sheikh Dr Majid was the best figure to help me do that, with his voice, authority and humbleness."

Launching a company at the best of times is challenging enough, but Al Qassimi and Al Ali came together this year to start for People's Coffee, confident that the UAE has a sizeable market for ethical and regionally sourced products. In fact, Al Qassimi argues that, if anything, launching in 2020 has benefited the company, as many consumers have had significant shifts in ethical perspective.

"There's never been a better time to start a business," he exclaims. "Launching a company, and having it grow and thrive during a pandemic is not only rewarding, but also a sure-fire way to ensure its strength and potential for continuity and success down the line. Moreover, Covid-19 has made consumers rethink their purchasing decisions. With the prevalence of more human stories from across the globe, there has been an increasing interest in knowing what goes into the making of the products we buy - often on a daily basis."

He adds: "People can turn their everyday purchases into a profound force for good; hence, every dirham is a vote for the world we want to live in."

Al Ali echoes these sentiments, and says customers are now more switched on than ever to the moral background of their coffee. "We now have an aware, educated consumer who would like to know more about what went into the making of the cup they are drinking, rather than simply having it in a hurry and moving on, or just grabbing that perfect photo for Instagram," he says. "There's demand for rich, good coffee and just that. Coffee drinkers can now identify the differences in taste, and are even making their own at home with sophisticated machines: how can you offer anything but the best to such a discerning consumer?"

"Yemeni coffee is a real treasure - I have seen this throughout my travels. The Haraz region bean is a gem, this isn't merely speculation - it's a fact. There's no competition out there that this coffee hasn't won, if it's there, it's winning."

What makes Yemeni coffee stand out?

Sheikh Dr Majid Al Qassimi explains why we should be drinking coffee from Yemen:

"Coffee from Yemen has an important historical significance; the farmers who inherited the trade from their parents and grandparents for hundreds of years have their coffee farms in Haraz, sitting at altitudes of 1,800 metres to 2,450m above sea level. This coffee is full-bodied and rich with a strong, exotic fragrance. The flavour profile includes notes of fruit and chocolate, as well as a distinct raisin taste. A bright acidity adds some fruity bite to the cup. Again, this is more of a luxury coffee than an everyday bean."

"Yemeni farmers preserve a coffee industry that dates back to ancient



The People's Coffee operations team works closely with Yemeni farmers. (Pic: People's Coffee)

Jan 2: Five women are killed when a projectile explodes at a wedding held in Hodeida.

-The Israeli military is preparing for the possibility of a strike by the Houthis.

Jan 3: The headquarters of the Saudi forces in Abyan is hit by an explosion.

-The first commercial flight lands in Aden airport after the attack on December 30th.

Jan 4: The Yemeni government embarks on its battle to reform the economy through the Central Bank. -United Nations envoy-Griffiths plans to kick off a series of direct meetings between the Internationally Recognized Government and the Houthis.

Jan 5: The Houthis threaten to strike ten vital and sensitive targets deep inside Saudi Arabia within the next 24 hours.

-The UAE rejects demands by the Yemeni government to reopen Al Rayan airport in Mukalla.

Jan 6: ABNA reports the Pediatric Leukemia Treatment Center in Sanaa revealed an increase in cases of leukemia patients among children from 300 to 700 cases, as a result of the coalition's use of internationally prohibited weapons, including the air strikes in Attan and Naqum.

-US President-elect Joe Biden pledges to end US support for the coalition's war in Yemen. Alliance members including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been racing to complete their weapons buys before Biden's inauguration.

Jan 7: Richard Oppenheim is the new British ambassador to Yemen.

-The UN Special Envoy Griffiths concludes his visit to Aden.

Jan 8: Residents report an explosion in Aden outside the prison. There are no casualties.

-The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) documents 112 cases of violations of media and journalists' rights in 2020, including killings, torture, kidnappings, arrests and bans.

Jan 9: Yemen calls on the United Nations, the international community and human rights organizations to "take a clear position on the war crimes and brutal violations committed by the Houthis."

-Five Bangladeshi nationals, who were arrested by the Houthi Coast Guard in February last year, return from Yemen.

-The Yemen Human Rights and Freedoms Network calls on the UN to pressure the Houthis to cease abuses in southern Yemen.

-The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) hands over specialist equipment to Yemeni families looking after orphans during a ceremony in Aden.

Jan 10: The U.S. government designates Ansar Allah - the de facto state authorities controlling land which is home to 80% of the population in Yemen - as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)

entity. Humanitarian organizations warn the designation will make effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian aid all but impossible. -Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis with nearly 80% or more than 24 million of its people needing humanitarian assistance and protection and more than 13 million in danger of starving to death, the UN humanitarian office says.

-Rabbi Elie Abadie, senior Rabbi of the Jewish Community of the UAE, thanks the UAE government for what he described as "a great humanitarian deed" in uniting two Jewish Yemeni families after being separated for 21 years.

Jan 11: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) distributes shelter materials, including 80 tents and 1,444 blankets for the displaced and affected people in Hajjah governorate benefiting 1,444 individuals.

Jan 12: Twenty-seven Houthi fighters are killed and dozens injured in fierce fighting with Murad tribesmen in Marib province.

- Scores of people take to the streets in Aden protesting against the sharp deterioration of their national currency.

Jan 13: The United Nations envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, describes Saudi Arabia's commitment to finding a political settlement to the conflict in Yemen as "crucial".

Jan 14: The Yemeni Interior Ministry says the missiles which were used to attack Aden's airport last month were ballistic. They were launched from a site 100 kilometers away from the airport, in Houthi-controlled areas.

-Iran has sent drones to Yemen, enabling the creation of a base for so-called "suicide drones" or what are known as loitering munitions, according to Newsweek. The report claims that "Shahed-136" drones are now based in Al-Jawf. These are supposedly "advanced UAVs."

-New evidence emerges of Houthi atrocities in the village of al Haima, in Taiz, with local journalists and news agencies sharing photos depicting unspeakable horrors, including the hanging bodies of a man and teenager, and bullet-riddled bodies of a father and young son.

-ABNA News Agency reports coalition war planes launched a series of raids on Saada, Jawf, and Marib provinces.



FOSY's Facebook page is less than two months old but has already attracted more than 600 followers.

On average, two items of interest are posted each day, with the total posts having reached nearly 100.

Click here or use this address to visit our Facebook page.

fb.me/fosy2020

times, to turn beans from the mountains of Yemen into coffee served in the best venues around the globe.

"Dried cherries are handpicked, collected direct from farmers, in red, pink and yellow grains, ensuring that People's Coffee is 100 per cent authentic. Neutrally (unwashed), the cherries are laid on wire mesh beds with a layer of palm leaf mats for exposure to natural sunlight, until they reach a desirable moisture level. Modern hull equipment and careful cleaning offer grains of uniform size, free from defects and impurities, ensuring a consistent roast that results in a rich and healthy flavour.

"Packaging is in ecological plastic bags, which are extremely strong and have high oxygen and moisture barrier properties to seal the freshness of green coffee throughout the supply chain and storage, covered with an outer burlap jute bag. We keep an excellent packaging method, offering superior aroma retention and a smell barrier that is very suitable for green coffee beans.

"Each farm maintains a distinct taste and flavour, and this gives a wide variety of options, making it a world worth discovering and enjoying."

- The National

FOSY sent the following letter to the UN Secretary General on December 31st, 2020

Friends of South Yemen very much appreciate your kind words following the deplorable attack on the newly-formed government as it was returning to Aden and the message of condolences Your Excellency kindly sent to the victims' families and the people of Yemen.

At this watershed in Yemen's history the United Nations has a vital role to play in ensuring that those responsible for this senseless act of violence are identified and brought to justice.

The United Nations has already played a major role in trying to solve the intractable problems which plague Yemen. UN Resolution 2215 (2015) demands that all parties in the embattled country, in particular the Houthis, immediately and unconditionally end violence and refrain from further unilateral actions that threaten the political transition.

Acting under chapter VII of Charter, (actions with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression) the UN also called upon the Houthis to refrain from any provocations or threats to neighbouring States, release the Minister for Defence, all political prisoners and individuals under house arrest or arbitrarily detained, and end the recruitment of children.

While the Houthis are widely suspected of carrying out this latest atrocity – the Arab coalition reports it destroyed a drone sent by the Houthis that attempted to target the Yemeni government headquarters in Aden – the perpetrators of the attack have not been identified.

Friends of South Yemen is writing to Your Excellency respectfully requesting an immediate international investigation through the United Nations with top level expertise and skills. It is vital that the United Nations immediately undertakes an impartial investigation to determine who was responsible for this vicious and cowardly attack and appoints qualified, experienced professionals on the investigation team.

We know from the Lebanese experience that internal investigations conducted by the governments in which a tragic incident occurred lack credibility. Calls are growing for an international investigation into the blast in Beirut port in August 2020 that devastated Lebanon's capital as survivors, human rights groups and lawyers claim the Lebanese government's inquiry is badly flawed and unlikely to yield credible results.

The credibility of previous investigations into a number of terror attacks in South Yemen, including the killing of the former Governor of Aden, Gaffar Sadd, and the killing of Abu Yamama, head of the Aden security belt, is zero. The intrinsic flaws in these investigations guarantee that an investigation carried out by the Yemeni government will not yield any justice for a population anxious for answers.

The Southern Transitional Council has reportedly refused to take part in the government's proposed investigation. Accusations and counter accusations are destroying trust and preventing Yemenis from working together to end the war and rebuild their country.

It is therefore vital that Your Excellency uses his good offices to launch the international, transparent investigation as soon as possible and continues to play a vital role in bringing peace and stability to Yemen.

We thank Your Excellency for his kind attention and extend best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Abdul Galil Shaif (Chair – Friends of South Yemen)