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**Letter to UN Secretary General**

His Excellency Antonio Guterres  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
[By email]

31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

Your Excellency,

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.

The 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 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)