



Foundations of the **South Arabia Question and its State**

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In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Preface

We have presented in the past some clear and more detailed vision documents regarding the Southern Question and its goals including liberation, independence and the establishment of the new South Arabia Federal State. These documents include:

1. “The Project for South Arabia Independence – Roadmap” on 22 August 2013. That document covered 11 topics including a draft constitution for the Republic of South Arabia, the mechanisms to achieve independence and the policies of the South Arabia State. Free South Arabia League Party presented this Project to the preparatory committee of the Collective Southern Conference in order to provide their feedback and inputs.
2. A memorandum issued from 24 constituencies in South Arabia to the presidency of the United Nations Security Council on the 26 October 2014.
3. A paper on the Southern Question dated 31 May 2015 was presented with a detailed speech for Abdulrahman Aljifri, before a conference on the Southern Question hosted by Europe Freedom and Democracy Direct on the 22 and 23 June 2015.
4. A document on the Southern Question and its summary (the Southern Question), signed on 8 April 2016.
5. Memorandums to the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council in various occasions.

Today, we are presenting this document on the main “Foundations of the South Arabia Question and its State”. This document includes the foundations supporting our cause historically, legally and in reality as well as the mechanisms that were presented in earlier documents.

The most important tasks that we must give it simultaneous priority in this short phase, are:

One: The declared maintenance and adherence to the goals of the South Arabia question in liberation, independence and establishing the new federal state of South Arabia and its identity. Independence cannot be attained under a different identity that may drag us into the trap of a rejected unity as the case was in the past.

Second: The cooperation of everyone to protect South Arabia against terrorism that was fabricated to prevent the attainment of the goals of South Arabia. Secure South Arabia against any security threats and continue the liberation of occupied territories in South Arabia.

Three: Restoration of basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, health and education. To secure the judiciary to enable it to perform its functions, as the judiciary is the cornerstone for the supremacy of law and justice. Provide care to families of martyrs and treatment of the wounded. Payment of pensions and secure food supplies.

Four: Building of state institutions, organs and agencies in all parts of South Arabia.

Five: Prevent the incitement of any hatred among Southerners on any grounds. South Arabia accommodates all its sons.

These are the inevitable priorities for all Southerners to accomplish. It is the duty of the existing authorities and it is the duty of all Southerners to assist.

The Foundations

[1]

The Memorandum of Agreed Points with Britain relating to Independence for South Arabia stated that South Arabia¹ shall become independent and a sovereign state on the 30th November 1967 known as the People's Republic of Southern Yemen (P.R.S.Y.). For the first time in history, South Arabia, as a political entity, is called after the Yemeni identity while all United Nations resolutions since 1963 referred to South Arabia as a political entity from the Strait of Bab Al-mandab to the borders of the Sultanate of Oman. On the first of December 1970 the name of the state was changed to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The new republic joined the international community. It was recognized by many states, in the forefront the Arab and Industrial states and established diplomatic, consular, commercial, and other relations with many states all over the world. It joined many global and regional organizations particularly the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Conference (the Organization of Islamic Cooperation).

With the collapse of the Socialist system, which caused fundamental changes all around the world, the "Aden" Agreement was concluded on 30th November, 1989 in regard to completion of unity between both states the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Arabia) and the Arab Republic of Yemen on 30th November, 1990. Then, on the 22nd May, 1990, a rushed proclamation of the Republic of Yemen and arrangement for the transitional period was concluded without conferring with the two peoples in both states to seek their opinion through referendum before proceeding to the establishment of a unified state. The more bizarre is that, a whole year after the announcement of the Republic of Yemen and arrangement of the transitional period, a referendum was held on the 15th and 16th May, 1991, for the unity constitution with a paper that said that the referendum for the constitution was a referendum for unification. It is strange that a referendum be held for a matter that was already approved and implemented. We boycotted this referendum at the time.

Among the facts that became part of history the Agreement on the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen and arrangement for the transitional period that was concluded between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen peacefully. [This fact was deemed harmonious to the idea to salvage both peoples in the two states from the scourge of wars that were fought in 1972 and 1979, to establish the unity, which each regime wanted in accordance to its ideological approach in the era of Cold War]. For that, and with the end of the cold war, was the expression of renouncing the war as a means to achieve unity between the peoples of these two states, and this encouraged international organizations and other states to bless this peaceful undertaking then.

The acute conflicts that came about between the ruling parties in Sana'a ruined the aspirations of the people of the South for security, stability, and development. They found themselves in front of a strange and unprecedented situation, and this was with the spread of chaos, the rampant corruption, the lack of security and rule of law, and the high centralization. The civilian and military institutions of the South were systematically

¹ The Southern Arabia territory never witnessed, before and after Islam the birth of an entity called Yemen and this entity never existed there. However, the World knew and dealt with this name "Yemen" in modern history, since the reign of Imam Yahya bin Hameeduddin, following the end of the First World War and the withdrawal of Turkey. Then, the name of the Yemeni Mutwakilite Kingdom was attached only to that part which was later on Known as the Arab Republic of Yemen. South Arabia was not part of that State, which carried the name of Yemen as a state for the first time in history.

destructured and the executive bodies were deliberately disrupted. That took the country into a dark tunnel that had a negative effect on the daily lives of the people.

Despite the signing of the "Document of Pledge and Accord" in Jordan, with Arab and international presence, led by the late Jordanian King Al hussein bin Talal, in February of 1994, the regime in Sana'a resorted to force in order to solve the crisis, to settle and resolve the conflict in its interests. The speech that was given by the previous head of the regime, Ali Abdullah Saleh, on April 27th, 1994, was considered as a declaration of war speech. A comprehensive war was started by the regime in all of the parts of the South, and in it, all types of heavy weaponry was used, as was the air force and different types of missiles and shells. Religious rulings (Fatwas) were issued in Sana'a in the name of religion that allowed the killing of civilians, including women, the elderly, children. These rulings were broadcasted in their media, etc. They completely overran the Southern territory, and this was followed by an unprecedented plundering and looting of which the civilized world had never seen in the twentieth century. Thus, the peaceful basis upon which that unity was established and the goal that it aimed to achieve, which is, to put an end to the fighting and its devastating consequences throughout the period of this unity, was aborted. In light of this:

- There was a flagrant violations of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- The war terminated the unity of the two countries and the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen after arrangement of the transitional period, especially when the warfare were directed against the people of South Arabia, the other party in the agreement that dissolved their state - the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen - in order to establish a single state - the Republic of Yemen.

With this, the war had ended the unity in effect between the two countries and the two people, and turned the south into an occupied territory. This is confirmed by all of the practices, measures and procedures taken by the Yemeni authorities after the invasion.

The second war, which was carried out by the Houthi militias, Ansar Allah, and the forces of the ex-President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, the same forces that carried out the war in 1994, was for the reason of enforcing the unification as well. This unification was strongly rejected by the people of South Arabia. This was admitted by ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a recent television interview. It is a war of aggression that is undertaken with the support of Iran.

Today, we confirm again that the national demands of the people of South Arabia have moved to a new phase, after the forces of the Yemeni Army, that are under the control of Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Houthi militias, Ansar Allah, carried out their second total war on the South, using light and heavy weaponry. This started in February, 2015, and our people, its political forces, the Hirak, and all of the components of our society, did not have a choice but to start armed resistance to defend themselves. This invasion led to the killing and injury of a very large number of people that we have not yet been able to quantify because it is still ongoing in some pockets in South Arabia. This invasion caused massive destruction of everything in the South, and it has caused the displacement of half of the population of the South. The people in a lot of the cities were under crippling sieges, deadly and continuous deprivation of the most basic needs, like electricity, water, food, medicine, fuel, and safety.

We do not see, in the future, any security or stability under the Yemeni occupation of South Arabia. Our people resisted this occupation peacefully since the end of the first war in 1994 and the escalation of the great peaceful movement in July 7, 2007 and gave their lives as a result of the repression of the Yemeni occupation and its reaction to the peaceful movement of our Southern people. Since the first moment of the second Yemeni invasion, the noble

Southern resistance has been fighting these occupiers who burned and destroyed cities and villages of the South. There have been, and still are, thousands of martyrs and people injured. If it were not for the position and support of the Arab Coalition, under the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with an exceptional role of the United Arab Emirates and the rest of the coalition states the tragedy would have been greater and more dangerous, and the extermination much more comprehensive.

Our people in South Arabia confirm, today, their insistence to practice their right to liberation, independence and to establish a sovereign federal state in its territory. The events have also proven the impossibility of a continuing unification between South Arabia and Yemen. It is impossible, after all of these devilish acts, especially the killing, burning, and destruction, that our people would agree to coexist with the people that killed our sons, our women, our elderly, our children, and destroyed our cities. Anything forced upon our people will be the main obstacle in the face of security, stability, and development in the region. Establishing two states, a Yemeni state and a state of South Arabia, is the way to give southerners a chance to feel that their will has been achieved. This will calm the people and allow for the building of mutual interests instead of the walls of hatred and conflict.

[2]

Our people in South Arabia have suffered, and are still suffering, from the complete collapse of their daily lives, security, and stability due to the Yemeni invasion and the practices of the Yemeni authorities, which have not stopped since the war that broke out in the summer of 1994.

To face the vicious and inhuman practices of the occupying Yemeni forces towards the people of South Arabia, it was necessary for the unification of a vast majority of the national forces in South Arabia that are now active to achieve a single goal, which is liberation, independence, and the establishment of a South Arabia federal state with complete sovereignty. This includes the building of a new south that is based on political pluralism, the peaceful transfer of power, and the protection of human rights and basic freedoms, to achieve safety, stability, development and establish normal relations and partnerships with states of the region and relations with all over the world based on mutual exchange of interests.

The South Arabia state will be a modern and civil state, a state with the rule of law that is based on the division between the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of the government. The judiciary will be independent, women will be empowered, and youth will be given room to achieve their potential. Civil service will be made independent with the establishment of an independent agency for civil service, the official news agency will be dissolved, and public, artistic, and vocational education will become a priority, as will the economic freedom and the social market economy. There will be equality in opportunities, and monopolies will be banned. Scientific research in different fields will also become a priority, and the protection of environment.

Today, we are, in reality, in a new position, in that we see that most of the political, social, economic, etc. groups in South Arabia are in support of a federal state in the South that is cohesive, empowers its people, is built and repaired by them, a state that brings its people together and treats them equally. A nation that is just, provides security, comfort, and education for its people, and strives to make its people wealthy and developed. A nation that is built on balance in the regime and in the law, and preserves the dignity of the people and their rights and liberties. It will be a nation that empowers women, prohibits marginalization and exclusion, and aims for the development of itself. It will be a nation that respects the will of the people, and provide democracy and pluralism. It will follow the will of the people using

the mechanisms and tools that are used to today, and will have peaceful transfer of power. It will preserve the five universal Principles of the Islamic faith (preservation of Religion, preservation of Life, preservation of Intellect, preservation of Human Dignity and preservation of Private Property).

In South Arabia, there will be no exclusion of any of its citizens, and there will be no marginalization of the people of any of the areas of South Arabia, whether in the east, or the west. No place for terrorism in all its forms, but rather by draining its resources and eradication, because the state will be based on clear principles. These principles are:

1. Justice in the distribution of wealth and services to the people of South Arabia, giving them their rights, and preventing injustice.
2. Democracy, or effective and balance popular participation in power and decision making, and the peaceful transfer of power.
3. Development: Creating true, comprehensive, and sustainable development to improve the standard of living of the people and their incomes and create job opportunities. It will be concerned with human development, which will lead to a noticeable increase in the qualification, competence, skills, abilities, etc.
4. Our people were known by their sobriety and moderation, throughout history, that renounced terrorism and extremism in all its forms.

South Arabia, as a federal state, is a necessity for our society that will create a role model for a country that protects its society and its interests, especially the federal system is the most suitable system because it takes into account the particularities of the areas of South Arabia and achieves the highest amount of coexistence. It will also be the system that most prevents any oppression or marginalization, and will ensure the highest level of stability and development. It will ensure that the country will remain cohesive. South Arabia is made up of six states. The state of the new south should be named (The United Republic of South Arabia) or (The Republic of United South Arabia). The capital is to be in the state of Aden, and it is to be called "New Aden".

The building of the South Arabia state confirms the right of the people of South Arabia to liberation, independence and to establish a democratic federal state, and to review the previous executive mechanisms for solutions to private rights and create solutions for issues of public and private rights in the South as a state to create mechanisms that do not create more oppression. This includes serious work to agree on a constitutional proposition for the new state, and this constitution will determine the type of system, legislative authority, electoral system, and an independent judiciary. It will also ensure the independence of the media and civil service from the executive branch, and will set a form of government in the states and federal divisions of Southern Arabia. Here, we will mention the most important powers that each state have:

The election of local councils in each state, the election of governors of states, and legislative powers to issue local laws that are related to the authority in the state (other than those that are related to defense, foreign affairs, the federal judicial system, citizenship, financial and fiscal policy of the state, customs, intelligence, political parties, and the election of Parliament and the Shura Council) and general policies on natural resources (petroleum, gas, minerals, and others). The local units are given complete power, except over issues of sovereignty that are the responsibility of the federal government, like the armed forces, national security, foreign policy, or any other matter that is in the constitution as being the authority of the federal authorities.

Despite the fact that the general policy of the natural resources is one of the authorities of the federal government, it is owned by each state in its soil, along with a tax that the constitution or the law sets, and this tax is to be deposited in the treasury of the federal government for operational expenses and to develop states with less resources in parallel to states with more resources in order to eliminate any injustice or disparities in living standards.

Another issue that is important for the state of South Arabia is to have a market economy while taking into account social justice, or what is being called recently a social market economy, because it is the most suitable type. The judiciary shall be completely independent, and the judiciary will not be under the management of the executive branch. Special priority will be given to education, the environment, and water, especially since the last one will be one of the most important crises in the future. The state will also create a tolerant religious environment that is moderate and far from any extremism, at the same time it will encourage and support educational institutions and religious guidance organizations that are based on this tolerant and pure approach to religion. It rejects extremism, violence, and terrorism, and, to be sure, extremism in the name of religion is fleeting, and it has no roots in the history of South Arabia. Balance in belief, and tolerance and the ability to coexist with others, as well as staying away from political competition in the name of religion, are the main characteristics that our scholars have had throughout history. These are the characteristics that show the nature of our people in South Arabia. With these characteristics, and with their piety and modesty, they have been able to spread their religion to Asia, especially Southeast Asia, and Sri Lanka, as well as parts of India, East Africa, and other regions in the world. They have been able to win over the hearts and minds of the people to this moderate and tolerant approach to religion.

The state of South Arabia will organize the process of establishing and modernizing the armed forces, the security forces, and the police in order to protect the people of South Arabia, the federal state, its territory, security and to preserve the constitution and the pluralistic democratic system. The state prohibits any individuals, groups, organizations, political groups, or anything else, from establishing military forces or groups, or armed groups, for any reason whatsoever, or under any name.

In order to help South Arabia avoid any social or political disturbances in the future, it is important for there to be social reforms, like the empowerment of women. This includes building up their leadership skills and enabling them to fill important positions. They will play a main role in the comprehensive development, and women will make up at least 30% of all leadership positions. There is also the development of rural areas, and the creation and implementation of a comprehensive solution for all of the tribal vendettas. There will also be solutions to the problems of poverty, unemployment, crime, and the spread of drugs, which are dangers to the present and future of South Arabia. It will study the factors and reasons for the migration from rural areas to cities, and will create solutions for this, as well as the bad health and environmental services, the spread of dangerous diseases, the lack of electricity and drinking water, care for people with special needs, and the rights of children.

Among the most important issues that will be addressed by the state of South Arabia is the issue of national harmony, which must be addressed at the same time of independence and the establishment of the state to address the effects of the previous conflicts and create solutions and criteria that stop all acts of revenge. These solutions will also stop these conflicts from repeating themselves, and all problems will be addressed by the southern state through a transitional justice law.

[3]

In light of the complicated situation and the danger of the current conditions, and because of the pressing needs of our country, South Arabia, for security, stability, and development, the following is required:

1. Proposition of draft constitution, laws and regulations to accommodate the requirements for proper institutional state building. (And we have a draft constitution can be the raw material for discussion and correction).
2. Starting to take steps to agree on the form of the state and the form of governance, and all that relates to this in the powers, structures, and mechanisms, including the media, then holding a referendum for a constitution during the transitional period after social dialogue on this topic, and the creation of this constitution in its final form.
3. At the same time as this, a team of judges and lawyers shall create a project for the laws of the judicial system.
4. Starting to put in place the details for social reform, then starting on it immediately upon the establishment of South Arabia.
5. At the same time, a project is started for the minute details for the economic, administrative, financial, and fiscal strategies, to be developed by specialists in this fields with contributions from research and study centers in their respective fields.
6. The mechanisms and frameworks required to put in place the details of building the educational system are created, as well as all of the related interventions, tools, mechanisms, and outputs that are in line with the approaches and needs of the state.
7. At the same time, creating the details, controls, and executive mechanisms to ensure the process of achieving the goal (this includes the executive mechanism to separate each one of the institutions responsible for the currency, the civil register, sovereign institutions, and others which relates to the state).

[4]

The world is now filled with conflicts and differences that have affected world peace, and there is no doubt that the stability of the world, and world peace, are the aims of humans in general, a goal that all international organizations and agencies strive to achieve. The highest policies of any state aim to achieve peace that leads to creating an environment that helps development programs, and, in the end, all of this leads to human development and the flourishing of our societies, rising incomes, and rising levels of education, training, development of skills, and better healthcare for coming generations.

Based on this, starting with trying to make the role of South Arabia more prominent on the international and regional stages, and in line with the calls for peace that are a part of the culture in our country, the foreign policy of South Arabia will focus on harmony with the states of the Arabian Peninsula and the main Arab States, and on trying to create cooperation with all other states and international organizations and agencies, as well as all entities that strive for a just and comprehensive peace with regards to the current issues in any area of the world. Our policy will also focus on, primarily, ending conflicts between entities and states, and achieving a just peace for all groups. Thus, our position, with regards to all of the political problems, a group of which are in our region, and even those all around the world, will be based on creating a peace based on justice and on equality. Our foreign policy will be based on achieving peace, not achieving settlements. There is a core difference between peace and settlements. Peace is based on justice, while settlements are based on variables in reality, and settlements always mean that one side won over the other. The equation that will govern the programs of South Arabia and its foreign policy will be one of a just peace, not settlements,

even if these settlements seem closer. From this, our vision, towards Arab, regional, and international issues, will be based on a true peace, not settlements. It seems like the most prominent of these issues, as an example, is the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our position towards this problem is one of striving for a just peace, and not just agreements based on compromises. Compromises always lead to the interests of one group winning over the interests of the other, and the more powerful group wins. In all cases, we will stand with the interests of our people.

Based on all of this, peaceful movements and negotiations are a result of our work in South Arabia in dealing with conflict and disagreements with others. This understanding also applies to our international, regional, and local issues, and not detracting from our right to defend our land, our people and our cause against all the aggression.

Our policy towards the world around our country, and the greater circle around it, is based on spreading the idea of peace. Our positions are based on the right of every state and people to self-determination and to make their own decisions as long as they are not in violation of the principles and values of human rights, and are in agreement with the prevailing international legitimacy. Based on that, we will strive to undertake political activities that will achieve stability in the area, and in the rest of the world after that. It is also our policy to reject wars and the use of weapons to resolve political conflicts. We also strive to cooperate with all legitimate forces that are trying to achieve peace, justice, and brotherhood. We strive to participate in all meetings and conferences to discuss international crises and conflicts, especially those that will have an effect on South Arabia. We will do this in a way that achieves security and stability in the area, and achieves the security and stability of the world. This will raise the profile of our country in the region and in the rest of the world, and it will lead to South Arabia taking over an important role in the international community. We stick to moderation and reject terrorism in all shapes and forms, and this rejection of terrorism also includes the rejection of the intellectual terrorism that is practiced by some forces and movements, who want to slow the growth of democratic societies. We call for dialogue with all different cultures, civilizations, and religions so that our dealings are in the interests of humankind. In this, we want to be a role model, after the coming few years, in being open to others, accepting others, and living with them in a way that preserves everyone's rights, history, and beliefs. This will also lead to the creation of calm and stable societies that strive for development. We call for the rejection of extremism because it is a natural result of an unbalanced understanding of civilization, human history, and the teachings of religion.

We aim, through all of these policies, to give the world a good role model of the political participation of moderate movements from among political parties and forces that were founded or will be founded, and have a religious background. There is no conflict, in our opinion, or any problem with the moderate implementation of Islam and the idea of a modern civil state. The international community, and our Arab and Muslim community, which is a part of it, have, in line with the discoveries of our age and from previous political experiments, have reached the conclusion that the form of government and citizenship are both the basis for dealings between entities and for dealings between individuals. This is something that we confirm and aim to achieve, and that is why any future issues will be dealt with based on these principles. We will announce our stance towards each issue one at a time, whenever it is called for.

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