



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

United Nations Human Rights Council: 21st Session

General Debate Item 10: Yemen

Oral Intervention

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

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Delivered by: Paola Salwan Daher

Thank you.

We welcome the steps taken by the government of Yemen to address rights violations within the country, including the recent signing of the Commission of Inquiry decree by the president and the agreement of the government to allow for an OHCHR office within the country. However, we are concerned that reform and accountability efforts remain cosmetic and insufficient.

The report before us clearly indicates a serious lack of political will within Yemen to ensure accountability for the grave and widespread human rights violations which have been and continue to be committed throughout the country, including against protestors, journalists, human rights defenders and in the context of counter-terrorism.

Investigations into the death of over 2,000 individuals, the injury of more than 22,000, and other grave violations committed by all parties, including enforced disappears and arbitrary detention, remain highly selective and lack credibility. Genuine reform of the security sector and attempts to establish an independent judiciary also lack sufficient action by the government.

Cooperation by the government of Yemen with the OHCHR and this Council should be acknowledged and encouraged. However, it should not blind us to the fact that a real process of democratization or reform has not yet revealed itself in Yemen. In fact, we see frequent attempts to use the worsening humanitarian crises in the country and the issues of security and counter-terrorism to distract from the need for true reform and accountability.

In this context, while we welcome the current resolution, we believe it to be the bare minimum required. Given a continued lack of accountability in the country due to existing amnesty laws, the appropriate response would have been to establish an international investigation into violations against protestors and urge the establishment of an independent disarmament agency for non-state actors.

Member states who believe this Council have a duty to uphold the rights of Yemeni citizens should ensure a more robust monitoring and reporting function for this Council on the human rights situation in Yemen if no concrete progress is made in the coming months.

Thank you.