



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

## **UN Human Rights Council: 26th session**

### **Item 6: Yemen UPR**

#### **Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)**

**June 19, 2014**

**Submitted by: Abd al-Qader al-Banaa, president of the Yemeni Network for Human Rights**

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and the Yemeni Network for Human Rights welcome the Yemeni government's acceptance of most recommendations of the Universal Periodic Period. Despite our cautious optimism about the potential of national dialogue and its human rights related outcomes to bring about peaceful change in Yemen, we are apprehensive that this historical opportunity may be lost. In theory, the Yemeni government has demonstrated its commitment to the council's recommendations. However, in practice, it has taken no serious steps to indicate its intent to implement the recommendations. Indeed, as a case in point, the Yemeni government failed to present its official concluding report today.

In this regard, we call on the Yemeni government to incorporate all the recommendations it has accepted into a clear, time-bound plan as part of its national human rights strategy, scheduled to be issued before the end of 2014.

There are several important recommendations that the government of Yemen needs to accept immediately, including:

- Forming an independent international commission to investigate the violations of 2011, with a concrete, specific plan for performing its task. As long as the government continues to demonstrate its unwillingness or inability to hold to account those who killed thousands of peaceful demonstrators, the international community must guarantee justice for these victims through international investigations.
- Continuing efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and refrain from putting any obstacles in the path of this goal. Members of this commission should be chosen on the basis of merit and professionalism in consultation with civil society, not in accordance with the usual system of partisan quotas.

- Stopping attacks on journalists and the media and adopt a press and publications law and an audiovisual media law that conforms to international standards.
- Establishing specific guarantees to protect human rights in a constitutional framework and genuine guarantees for the implementation of the outcomes of the national dialogue pertinent to human rights.
- Stopping suppressing freedom of expression and peaceful assemblies and cease politically motivated arrests, particularly in the south of Yemen.
- Fulfilling the state's obligation to end the ongoing armed conflict and the growing numbers of war casualties. We believe that the most important reason for the spread of the wars is the government's failure to keep its pledge to resolve the Saada file through peaceful means.
- Pledging to address the problem of terrorism while observing international human rights standards and immediately ceasing using drones and other means of collective punishment in areas where unarmed civilians are located.
- Guaranteeing the establishment of real instruments to protect human rights defenders and refrain from harassing them.
- Finally, we recommend an effective increase in the role of the OHCHR in Yemen.

Thank you, Mr. President.