



Security Council

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Letter dated 23 August 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I am writing to you in response to the claims and allegations that were made by the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations in the statement that he delivered at the 8598th meeting of the Security Council, which was held on 20 August 2019 under the item on the situation in the Middle East. The United Arab Emirates regrets and categorically rejects the claims regarding the United Arab Emirates that the Permanent Representative of Yemen made at that meeting. The United Arab Emirates believes that the purpose of what he said is to draw attention away from pressing internal challenges that the Government of Yemen has thus far been unable to resolve, despite the generous assistance that the United Arab Emirates and other members of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen have provided over the years.

The present letter addresses several completely baseless claims that the Permanent Representative of Yemen made, with a view to setting out the facts about the role of the United Arab Emirates in Yemen. In an official statement issued on 10 August 2019, the United Arab Emirates expressed deep concern over armed confrontations in Aden between the legitimate Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council and called for calm, de-escalation and the security and safety of Yemeni citizens to be maintained. The United Arab Emirates will continue to make every effort to de-escalate the situation in southern Yemen. It has formed a team with Saudi Arabia that is striving to maintain national institutions in Aden and restore security and stability.

The United Arab Emirates, acting on the basis of an official request from the legitimate Government in Yemen in 2015 and as a member of the Coalition, took decisive action in response to the Houthi aggression, in order to support the legitimate Government of Yemen. Indeed, the United Arab Emirates has made great sacrifices to achieve that aim. The United Arab Emirates played a significant role in liberating Aden and most of the territories that the Houthi militia had occupied. In so doing, it prevented terrorist groups from exploiting security vacuum.

Moreover, the United Arab Emirates has directed its efforts towards rebuilding liberated areas and providing generous technical and financial support. Since 2015, the United Arab Emirates has provided more than \$5.59 billion in development and humanitarian aid to Yemen. Those efforts often served to compensate for the poor performance and management of the Government of Yemen. Furthermore, the United Arab Emirates has succeeded in countering terrorism and weakening the Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula organization, and it has supported the efforts of the Coalition to protect freedom of navigation in the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea.



Meanwhile, the Government of Yemen has been incapable of managing its internal affairs and failed to address internal political divisions through constructive dialogue and by communicating with all Yemeni groups. In that connection, the United Arab Emirates reiterates its call to all parties to engage in serious and responsible dialogue, in order to resolve internal differences and seek unity while maintaining peace and stability in Yemen.

The United Arab Emirates therefore regrets that the Government of Yemen has attempted to lay the blame for its political and administrative failure at the feet of the United Arab Emirates. Moreover, the United Arab Emirates categorically rejects all the regrettable allegations that the Permanent Representative of Yemen made at the aforementioned meeting regarding differences and divisions to which the United Arab Emirates is not a party.

I should also like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the United Arab Emirates is committed to arriving at a political settlement to the conflict in Yemen in accordance with agreed terms of reference, namely, the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism, the outcomes of the Yemeni National Dialogue Conference and the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#). The United Arab Emirates believes in the importance of a political solution to Yemen and, in that connection, reiterates its commitment to supporting the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths, to make progress in implementing the Stockholm Agreement on Hudaydah and transitioning to an inclusive political process to resolve the conflict in Yemen.

The lawful actions that the United Arab Emirates has taken as a member of the coalition have always been aimed at creating the right conditions to support these efforts. Those actions, which included increasing military pressure on the Houthis in Hudaydah in a measured and precise manner, succeeded in ending more than two years of Houthi refusal to engage in serious political talks and ultimately led to the conclusion of the Stockholm Agreement. The commitment of the United Arab Emirates to creating conditions for peace was evidenced once again by the recently announced redeployment of some of its forces, with a view to building confidence and giving further impetus to the political process that began with the Stockholm Agreement.

In that connection, I should like to express the concern of my Government regarding the gap in the Redeployment Coordination Committee mechanism that was created by the departure of General Michael Lollesgaard, who unfortunately left his post before his replacement could be appointed. My country also remains concerned about the deliberate violations of the ceasefire agreement that have been committed by the Houthis, their repeated failure to comply with the Stockholm Agreement and the fact that they continue to control the city of Hudaydah.

In conclusion, the United Arab Emirates reiterates that it is committed to arriving at a political solution to the conflict in Yemen, providing humanitarian relief to the Yemeni people and supporting the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saud Hamad Ghanem Hamad **Alshamsi**
Deputy Permanent Representative
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