

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 1 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mohammed Abdullah Al-Hadhrami, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex), regarding the Yemeni Government's call for the United Nations and the international community to intervene and exert pressure on the Houthis to immediately allow the United Nations teams access to the floating tanker "FSO Safer" in order to undertake the necessary technical assessment and maintenance works, particularly after the recent decay of seawater pipelines, which further aggravates the threat of an environmental catastrophe in the Red Sea.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah Ali Fadhel **Al-Saadi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 1 June 2020 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yemen addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer you to our letters dated 6 March 2018, 10 May 2019, 25 June 2019 and 23 November 2019 regarding the deteriorating condition of the floating oil storage and offloading vessel, FSO Safer, which is moored off Ra's Isa with 1.14 million barrels of crude oil on board, and requesting that the United Nations intervene directly to assist the Government of Yemen in assessing the vessel's condition, performing maintenance and removing the oil in order to prevent a major environmental and economic catastrophe in the Red Sea.

I wish to inform you of a serious accident that occurred on FSO Safer on 27 May 2020. The engine room was flooded after a seawater pipe burst, increasing the risk of the vessel sinking or exploding.

More than two years since my Government first warned of this potential catastrophe and appealed to the United Nations to intervene, the Houthi militia continues to refuse to allow a United Nations team access to the oil storage vessel. It does so even though the Government has agreed to all proposals and initiatives put forward to deal with the vessel, including the latest one, made by your Special Envoy last April as part of a package of humanitarian and economic measures.

The situation today is more dangerous than ever and the vessel could sink or the storage tank leak or explode at any moment. I therefore appeal, on behalf of the Government of Yemen, to the United Nations and the international community to shoulder their legal and moral responsibility and apply pressure to the Houthis to allow the United Nations technical team, immediately and without preconditions, to conduct the necessary assessment and maintenance and to unload the oil before the region and world is struck by one of its biggest ever environmental and economic disasters.

(Signed) Mohammed Abdullah **Al-Hadhrani**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
