

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 3 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, Mohammed Abdullah Al-Hadhrami, regarding the increasing threat of the decaying *Safer* oil tanker and requesting the convening of a special session of the Security Council to address this vital issue and take the measures necessary to compel the Houthis to comply with our collective calls and to immediately and unconditionally grant the United Nations technical team access to the tanker to prevent a widespread environmental, economic and humanitarian catastrophe in the region (see annex).

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

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



Annex to the letter dated 3 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I refer you to our letters dated 6 March 2018, 10 May 2019, 25 June 2019, 23 November 2019 and 1 June 2020 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 without delay to assist the Government of Yemen in assessing the vessel's condition, performing maintenance and unloading the oil in order to prevent a major environmental, humanitarian and economic catastrophe in the region. In that connection, I should like to remind you of the serious accident that occurred on 27 May 2020 on the *Safer*, the pipes and storage tank of which have corroded. Holes in one of the storage tank's pipes allowed water to enter the engine room, raising the possibility that the vessel might sink or explode. Moreover, I should like to draw attention to the closed meeting that the Security Council held on 24 June 2020 to discuss the situation in Yemen and the press statement that the Council issued 29 June 2020, in which Council members underscored the need for the Houthis to immediately grant unconditional access for United Nations technical experts to assess the tanker's condition, conduct any possible urgent repairs and make recommendations for the safe unloading of the vessel. Regrettably, I must inform you and, through you, the Council that our collective efforts thus far have not succeeded, despite all our entreaties to the Houthis and our endorsement of the separate proposal that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths, put forward to resolve the question of the *Safer*, which the Houthi militias rejected adamantly.

As a result, I find myself obliged to warn once again that Yemen and the region are faced with an ever more imminent threat of a major and terrible environmental disaster, and to emphasize that this pressing issue must be addressed independently from the other issues and matters addressed in the Special Envoy's initiative, and that a separate and definitive solution to the problem must be developed.

I therefore call upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities and address this important matter at a special meeting, with a view to taking the actions and measures required to oblige the Houthis to heed our collective call and grant a United Nations technical team unconditional and unfettered access to the *Safer* and allow it to carry out its duties, in order to prevent one of the worst environmental disasters that the region or the world will have ever experienced from occurring.

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