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Yemen's Southern Transitional Council sends delegation to Washington to discuss elevating current peace talks

Yemeni leadership pushes for a process that includes all parties at peace talks.

WASHINGTON, DC and ADEN, YEMEN [SEPT 25] – Southern Transitional Council (STC) President Aidaroos al-Zubaidi today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to Washington, DC, to legitimize a seat at peace talks. The delegation strives to ensure peace talks include all Yemeni stakeholders – access currently denied to the STC.

Members of the Presidential Delegation:

Dr. Saleh Mohsen Al-Haj Hussein, STC Foreign Minister

Amr Al-Bidh, Special Representative for Foreign Affairs to the President

Summer Ahmed, STC Foreign Affairs Representative to the United Nations and the U.S. Government

In April, Saudi Arabia opened peace talks with the Iranian-backed Houthis to end the long war in Yemen. However, these peace talks continue without the participation of the STC or other elements of the Yemeni government. While Saudi-Iran peace talks are positive for the region, leaving the STC out of the discussion is detrimental to the country.

“The STC represents a large segment of the Yemeni population with a distinct cultural, historical, and political identity. We seek to address regional concerns and advocate for its interests within the larger national context,” explained Dr. Saleh Mohsen Al-Haj, STC Foreign Minister. He continued, “The Council envisions a federal arrangement that acknowledges these differences while maintaining the unity of Yemen as a whole. But if South Yemen continues to be ignored, we are left with no voice to discuss our future.”

The Council has continually used its platform to raise awareness about human rights violations in Yemen. Through its efforts to establish local governance structures in the southern regions, the STC has created platforms where local communities have a say in their governance. This could lead to more responsive governance that addresses human rights concerns at a grassroots level.

Amr Al-Bidh, Special Representative for Foreign Affairs, said, “While these efforts are separate from our mission, we hope to shed light on these issues and draw attention to the dire situation in the country in order to push for international support.”

The United States also has would-be interests in Yemen. Yemen's instability has continuously [weakened long-running counterterrorism efforts](#). A unified Yemen under effective Houthi control means a higher threat to the West.

Al-Bidh continued, "Their anti-American posture is deeply rooted in the origins of the Houthi movement. Additionally, terrorist organizations like al Qaeda and ISIS could flourish as they have long operated out of the Houthi-occupied areas of central Yemen."

From its outset, the Biden administration cited [peace in Yemen as a top priority](#), but it has yet to do much to secure an end to the fighting. The delegation hopes to bring awareness to the importance of a Yemeni-Yemeni process.

Summer Ahmed, STC Foreign Affairs Representative to the UN and US explained, "no single policy is likely to bring peace to Yemen. Ultimately, that is up to the Yemenis – not the Saudis and definitely not Iran."

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About the Southern Transitional Council

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) is a UAE-backed political organization that seeks representation and federation status or independence for southern Yemen. Formed in 2017 from a coalition of groups, the STC consists of a 24-member Leadership Council, which includes the governors of five southern governorates (provinces) and two government ministers, several departments, and a 303-member National Assembly. Social media: @STCSouthArabia (Twitter); <https://en.stcaden.com/> (website).

About the delegation

Dr. Saleh Mohsen Al-Haj Hussein is widely recognized as a seasoned diplomat. Currently, he serves as the Southern Transitional Council's Foreign Minister, working incessantly to help position the STC and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen as a responsible and respected members of the international community. Previously, Saleh was the Director of the STC's office in London. He holds two master's degrees in Medical Science. He received degrees in General Medicine and Medical Science.

Amr Al-Bidh serves as Special Representative for Foreign Affairs to the President of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), where he maintains a prominent position in advising His Excellency STC President Al-Zubaidi. As the son of His Excellency Ali Salem Al-Bidh, the last President of South Yemen, Amr actively contributes to the Southern Movement, advancing the Southern Cause, where he helps facilitate international communication and outreach to global partners. Following the civil war in 1994, Amr was forced into exile due to his connections to the South. Despite this prolonged absence, he was able to return to Aden after 29 years.

Summer Ahmed is the Foreign Affairs Representative for the STC to the United Nations and the U.S. Government. She previously worked for UN Women providing consultations on women's rights in the Middle East and ways to provide support for women's rights organizations in the region. As a South Yemeni-American activist, Summer has more than 10 years' experience working to advocate women's rights, refugees' rights, the rights of people living under occupation, and has worked/subcontracted with the USCRI in the US, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, in Yemen and the Middle East.

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