



4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4836
31 January 2024

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Yemen**

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has sent the attached communication, dated 25 January 2024, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen
London



سفارة الجمهورية اليمنية
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Date: / / 20

The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to forward a Statement confirming the Political Position of the Republic of Yemen in Light of the Military Escalation in the Red Sea from 18th January, 2024.

The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.



LONDON, 25th January, 2024

International Maritime Organization,
4 Albert Embankment,
London. SE1 7SR

THE POLITICAL POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN IN LIGHT OF THE MILITARY ESCALATION IN THE RED SEA FROM JANUARY 18, 2024

First: The Yemeni government warned of the danger of the Houthi militia linked to the Iranian regime controlling strategic areas on the Red Sea and did the following:

- 1) The legitimate government made repeated calls regarding the danger of the Houthi practices in the Red Sea, which were indicated in the reports of the Group of Experts on Yemen of the Security Council Sanctions Committee.
- 2) The legitimate government did not receive any serious response from the international community
- 3) The Houthi militia continued to randomly plant sea mines and threaten commercial ships from time to time
- 4) The Houthi militia used drone boats and sea missiles and attacked tankers and oil installations in the Arabian Sea to disrupt navigation resulting in an economic blockade on the Yemeni people.
- 5) The world hardly responded to these threats until the matter reached what it has reached today.

Second: The position of the Yemeni government on acts of terrorism and piracy in the Red Sea

- 1) The Yemeni government reiterates its absolute rejection and condemnation of terrorist acts and maritime piracy carried out by the Houthi militia with the support of the Iranian regime.
- 2) The Yemeni government calls on the international community to work closely and effectively with the Yemeni government to end this threat and the danger posed by the Houthi militia to the security of Yemen and international navigation.

Third: The terrorist Houthi militia is the main cause of the military escalation in the Red Sea, and they are the ones that caused the American-British air strikes on military sites and missile launch sites belonging to the Houthi militia.

Fourth: The position of the Yemeni government regarding the continued aggression of the Israeli occupation against the Gaza Strip

1) We affirm the position of the Yemeni government that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip, the occupation army's perpetration of genocide and crimes against humanity, and its efforts to displace Palestinians from the Gaza Strip have resulted in serious security repercussions, including

2) The efforts of the Houthi militia to take advantage of the widespread popular sympathy for the victims of the Israeli aggression and to exploit the situation in the media and propaganda, by threatening the security of the Red Sea as part of Iran's policy to mislead peoples who sympathize with the just Palestinian cause and take the lead in defending it,

3) Addressing this problem requires exerting pressure to stop the Israeli aggression and the ongoing violations against the Palestinian people, which will ensure that all repercussions resulting from the aggression are addressed.

Fifth: The positions of the international community towards the Houthi militia's threat to the security of the Red Sea

1) International support is still continuing for the presence of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA), despite the militia's failure to adhere to the Stockholm Agreement, which came after the international community pressured the government to stop liberating the city of Hodeidah and its ports.

2) The presence of the Mission, whose mandate includes monitoring the ceasefire in Hodeidah, has become an international guarantee for the continued control of the Houthi militia over strategic ports and large coastal areas in the Red Sea.

3) Fears are mounting about the Houthi militia's threat to international navigation in the Red Sea.

Sixth: The international community must reconsider its dealings with the Houthi militia

1) The Houthi militia has proven their terrorist nature and objectives

2) The Houthi militia is a tool in the hands of the Iranian regime

3) It goes without saying that the continuation of its control over important parts of Yemen with the continued flow of Iranian military support represents a real threat to regional and international peace and security, now and in the future.

Seventh: The Yemeni government is sovereign over the entire territory of the Republic of Yemen and its territorial waters

1) The Yemeni government must be able to contribute effectively to ensuring the security of international shipping routes in the Red Sea

2) The best approach that the international community should follow is to support the Yemeni government politically, economically, and militarily, and provide it with the needs required to build and strengthen the capabilities of the national army and the coast guard to end the threat posed by Iran and their arm the Houthi militia to the security of international navigation.

Eighth: Yemen is one of the countries most affected by the actions practiced by the terrorist Houthi militia

- 1) 80% of food is imported through Red Sea ports
- 2) The Republic of Yemen was subjected to significant damage due to Houthi militia attacks in the Red Sea, as the proportion of commercial shipments arriving at the port of Hodeidah decreased and shipping and insurance costs to Yemen increased, which undermines food security in Yemen,
- 3) There are real fears of a worsening of the humanitarian and living situation.

Ninth: The flexibility of the Yemeni government in dealing with international initiatives

- 1) Yemen has shown the utmost flexibility in dealing with all international and regional initiatives to achieve peace in Yemen and is still committed to achieving peace in accordance with the three terms of reference which are the Gulf initiative and its implementation mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, Security Council Resolution 2216 and the implementation of the remaining provisions, Riyadh Agreement.
- 2) The terrorist Houthi militia does not show any commitment to adhere to the peace options
- 3) Since the Houthi militia continue their hostile terrorist practices at local and international levels and as a result, achieving peace with them will be extremely difficult.

HERE, THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN CONFIRMS THE FOLLOWING:

- We affirm the commitment of the Presidential Leadership Council and the government to the Yemeni position in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, most notably resistance to the Israeli occupation and the establishment of its independent, fully sovereign national state.
- Holding the Houthi militia responsible for dragging the country into a military confrontation arena for propaganda purposes with misleading claims that have no real connection to supporting the Palestinians, and recalling that some of the policies of the international community towards the Yemeni situation are what contributed to the survival and strengthening of the control of these militias and encouraged them to commit more hostile acts that today represents a threat to the security and stability of the entire world.
- The government's warning to the Houthi militia of the consequences of continuing to exploit the oppression of the Palestinian people in order to achieve Iran's interests and its expansionist projects in the region, and to divert the world's attention away from the Israeli occupation's attacks and grave violations, in a way that serves that aggression and its continuation.
- The recent military operation came as a response to the terrorist Houthi militia's continued targeting and threatening the security and safety of international navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and their dependence on the orders of the Iranian regime and serving its project in the region at the expense of the interests of the Yemeni people.
- The need for the international community to support the Yemeni government in order to extend its control over the entire Yemeni territory, and to immediately begin classifying the Houthi militia as a terrorist group and force it to seriously engage in efforts to calm the situation and bring security, stability, and peace to Yemen.

- Emphasizing that the legitimate Yemeni government has the sovereign right to enhance the security and safety of the Red Sea and the subsequent stability of the region and the world, and that the best path at this level cannot be achieved except by restoring the legitimate state institutions.
 - Emphasizing the effective role of the Republic of Yemen in combating piracy and condemning the terrorist attacks carried out by the Houthi militia and calling for an international conference in this regard and working with international partners in order to confront this dangerous scourge that harms the interests of the entire world because of its harm to peoples and communities.
 - Full implementation of Security Council resolutions preventing weapons from reaching the Houthi militia and putting an end to Iranian violations in this regard.
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