



27th session of the
Human Rights Council
Item10

Situation of Human Rights in Yemen

Delivered by Renate Bloem

Thank you Mr. President,

CIVICUS thanks the Deputy High Commissioner for her oral update this morning on the situation in Yemen and recognizes the Government's attempt to cooperate constructively. We also welcome the Peace and Partnership Agreement signed last Saturday, 21 September, after new and violent eruptions of the ongoing conflict. However, we remain deeply concerned about the persistent fragile situation, about the lack of security measures and trust in any new commitments by government officials.

CIVICUS continues to be concerned about persistent harassment, intimidation and attacks against independent journalists and human rights defenders by state security and armed groups. We are also alarmed about the violent repression of peaceful pro-reform demonstrations, about restrictions on the freedoms of expression, assembly and association.

The restrictive environment in Yemen is made worse by the actions of armed groups - due to excessive militarization of the country - and tribal fighters and factions who attack representatives of civil society and abduct journalists to force the government to heed their demands.

Threats to human rights defenders and journalists are equally rampant in the south of the country amidst regular calls for secession and in the north where there is intermittent conflict. In this regard we are also concerned about the still existing Impunity Law and the Audio Visual Media Law and call for their revisions to be in compatibility with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

CIVICUS deplores that no independent and impartial investigation has been conducted into alleged mass killings, arbitrary detentions and other serious human rights violations. For any new beginning, trust must be reestablished and perpetrators need to be held to account. We therefore ask the Council to establish an independent Commission of Inquiry to carry out investigations into human rights violations committed in relation to the 2011 demonstrations and call on the Government of Yemen for its fullest cooperation.

Thank you Mr. President