



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING

FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS Registration No.

2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

ICSFT WELCOMES THE EXTENTION OF THE MANDATE OF THE GROUP OF EMINENT EXPERTS IN YEMEN

ICSFT welcomes the adoption of the resolution on Yemen that extended the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) for another year. We support the resolution and call on all parties to abide by the resolution and to cooperate with the GEE and provide all necessary assistance for the successful completion of its work. on the final day of the 39th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), the HRC passed a Dutch-sponsored [resolution](#) (A/HRC/39/L.21) extending the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) in Yemen for an additional year and requesting the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide substantive capacity-building and technical assistance to the National Commission of Inquiry, and requesting the High Commissioner present an oral update at the 40th session of the HRC in March 2019.

The GEE was established in September 2017 during the 36th session of the HRC with a consensus. Under that [resolution](#), the HRC granted the GEE the mandate to [perform](#) a “comprehensive examination of all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and other appropriate and applicable fields of international law committed by all parties to the conflict” since 2014. However its mandate only lasted one year, ending in September 2018.

Despite resistance from the Saudi-led coalition and allies 21 member states of the Council voted to renew the mandate until September 2019 at the conclusion of the 42nd session of the HRC, eight states voted against the renewal of the mandate; 18 member states abstained. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – the leaders of the Arab coalition currently engaged in hostilities in Yemen. The resolution calling for a renewal of the mandate of the GEE comes just over a month after the GEE released its [report](#) detailing its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

The adoption of this resolution is a no-brainer for the human rights council and Member states as the atrocities in Yemen have reached an unprecedented level with complete impunity.

ICSFT in special consultative status with the ECOSOC / Center Oecumenique des eglise 150, Route de Ferney 1211, Offices: 191&192, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41227884808/ 5&6- Fax:+ 41227884807- Website: www.icsft.net- Email: uncoordinator@icsft.net / info@icsft.net



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Far from conforming to international and humanitarian laws, as claimed by the Saudi led coalition, they are committing a war crime for which they should be held accountable.

The coalition airstrikes which have struck civilian infrastructure including health facilities, schools, factories, power facilities, bridges and roads is a clear violation of the Law of the War. More often than not such strikes have been disproportionate or indiscriminate and in many cases they appear to have directly target civilians and, or civilian objects.

The renewal of the mandate of the GEE for another year is key to bring an end to the ongoing war crimes and hold the perpetrators of violations to justice.

The resolution reiterates its strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to achieve the urgent resumption of peace negotiations, and recalling the need for all parties to the conflict to react in a flexible and constructive manner and without preconditions to these efforts, and to fully and immediately implement all provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions.

Further reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen. And recognizing that the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights are key factors in ensuring a fair and equal justice system and, ultimately, reconciliation and stability for the country.

Underlining the important role played by free media and non-governmental human rights organizations in contributing to an objective appraisal of the human rights situation in Yemen, the resolution calls for an end to the conflict and blockade.

Recognizing the key role of the group of eminent experts, it decides to extend the mandate of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts for a further period of one year, renewable as authorized by the Human Rights Council.

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The Saudi coalition insists what's needed in Yemen is capacity building and technical support not accountability and justice. In a desperate attempt to cover up their war crimes in Yemen these GCC countries vehemently reject any form of independent investigation in to the ongoing human rights violations in Yemen. Hence their resistance against the extension of the mandate of the group of eminent experts who've implicated the commission war crimes and crimes against humanity in Yemen. It is imperative that the ongoing violation of human rights and humanitarian laws are documented to raise accountability and end the war on Yemen.

As part of their counter resistance against the renewal of the GEE's mandate, the Arab group tabled a second [resolution](#) (A/HRC/39/L.23) sponsored by Tunisia on behalf of the Arab Group and in coordination with the Yemeni government, and this resolution was also adopted. This resolution was presented under agenda item 10 reiterating their usual call for capacity building and technical assistance for Yemen without support for the GEE.

More than 10, 000 killed, around 50,000 wounded, and more than 2 million displaced most of whom are children and women, according to UN reports. More than 22 million people, including 11 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to U.N. officials and the International Committee of the Red Cross.”

It is high time for international action to end Saudi war on Yemen and impunity, and encourage an inclusive political dialogue and relieve this human suffering.

ICSFT welcomes the adoption of this resolution and the renewal of the mandate of Group of Eminent Experts as a step towards ending the violence and addressing the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen.