



Security Council briefing on Yemen, 15 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Darren Camilleri

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Thank you President, and I also thank Special Envoy Grundberg, Acting Under Secretary-General Msuya, and Professor Jumaan for their briefings. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the chamber today.

Malta remains deeply concerned by the escalating tensions in the region which continue to hamper progress towards peace in Yemen.

For nearly a decade, the Yemeni people have suffered this protracted conflict. This translates into millions of people experiencing acute food insecurity, with some districts facing critical levels of malnutrition. Thousands of children are estimated to be acutely malnourished by the end of 2024. Millions of people internally displaced, many multiple times. They are suffering lack of water, healthcare and sanitation services. Hundreds of migrants losing their lives this year, making 2024 the deadliest year for migrant sea crossings between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.



Preventable diseases like Cholera continue to spread rapidly. These are aggravated by heavy seasonal rains affecting Yemen's fragile water and sanitation systems.

The international community must act now to prevent greater suffering and loss of life. It must urgently scale up financial support to Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan which remains underfunded.

Despite the emergency, impediments to the delivery of humanitarian aid persist. We demand that movement restrictions on women be lifted to facilitate humanitarian access throughout the country.

Malta condemns the arbitrary detention by the Houthis of UN personnel, staff from non-governmental organisations, and civil society representatives. We echo the Secretary-General's demand for their immediate and unconditional release.

These detentions are unprecedented, and directly impede the delivery of humanitarian aid and protection to the 18.2 million people in need.



We stress that, while they are detained, they must be treated with full respect for international humanitarian law and human rights. This includes allowing them to contact with their families and legal representatives.

Madam President,

As we have heard today from Professor Jumaan, the economic situation for most Yemenis continues to decline. It remains a large driver of suffering.

The effects of natural disasters and climate change also adds to the challenges, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable.

Yemen's economy must be de-politicised, and we call on parties to engage in dialogue and collaborate on the economic front to strengthen Yemen's currency and economy.

We urge parties to return to the negotiating table to engage on commitments made to the UN roadmap. They need to focus efforts on agreeing a nation-wide ceasefire, and resumption of an inclusive Yemeni-led and -owned political process under UN auspices.



We reiterate that any inclusive political process requires the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women. We urge the UN and Member States facilitating talks to put in place enhanced and targeted measures to achieve the 30% quota agreed in the National Dialogue Conference.

Madam President,

We condemn the Houthis missile and drone attacks against Israel, as well as their continued attacks against vessels in the Red Sea. We are also very concerned by Israel's retaliatory attacks in Yemen that have led to loss of life and damaged critical infrastructure.

We call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint, as further escalation of conflict will only exacerbate and prolong the suffering of the most vulnerable.

I thank you.