



Security Council

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Letter dated 4 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am pleased to write to you regarding the statement issued by the spokesperson for the Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, on 2 February 2021, in which he confirmed that the Houthi militias are considering a “review” of their formal approval of the deployment of a mission to the *Safer* oil tanker and that the timeline for the deployment of the mission remains uncertain and dependent on the Houthis’ decision. I would like in that regard to note the points set out below.

The Government of Yemen has repeatedly warned about the Houthi terrorist militias’ behaviour of stalling and manipulating the dangerous issue of the *Safer* oil tanker, using it as a bargaining chip to achieve political gains. The Houthis are also using the issue to blackmail the international community, in disregard of the consequences of the imminent leak, or explosion, of more than 1 million barrels of oil and its dire environmental, economic and humanitarian impact on Yemen, the region and international shipping operations.

Since the Security Council meeting on the *Safer* oil tanker on 15 July 2020, the Government of Yemen, along with the international community, has been supporting the engagement of the United Nations with the Houthis to deploy a United Nations technical team to carry out an assessment and initial maintenance in preparation for extracting the oil. Today, after eight months of discussions between the United Nations and the Houthis, the international community may be shocked by this outcome, but the Government of Yemen is not. It has been very clear that these terrorist militias, under the direction of Hassan Erlo, the Iranian regime’s official in Sana’a, are using the *Safer* oil tanker as a time bomb to blackmail the region and the international community to prolong the war in Yemen and serve Iran’s destructive agenda.

The Government of Yemen calls upon the international community to take a stricter approach with regard to the Houthis, in particular on this serious humanitarian and environmental issue. The Government renews its appeal to the Security Council to take binding deterrent measures against the Houthis to ensure the urgent unloading of oil and the disposal of the tanker, before the world wakes up to one of the biggest environmental and humanitarian disasters ever for both the region and the world.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated to the members of the Security Council for their consideration and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Abdullah Ali Fadhel **Al-Saadi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
