



Initiated by



Federal Foreign Office



Restoring the pivotal role of Yemeni CSOs

Conference paper by Mustafa Nasr

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and entrepreneurs played an important role during the transitional period that followed the youth revolution in 2011, important roles in founding essential bases for civilian and modern state through its participation in the national dialogue conference and extensive community dialogues before the coup set back the entire political process, followed by the recent war.

The hoped for future role of civil society is to restore the pivotal role as an independent and neutral party seeking to build a civil state based on social justice and coexistence among the different components of Yemeni society.

The difficulty of the current phase in which armed groups spread significantly (Houthi group, Al-Qaeda), is that leaving the scene for these groups represents a significant decline civilian activity, crushing previous efforts by civil society organizations in cooperation with international organizations.

We believe that civil society organizations can play an important role during the next phase as below:

1. Adopting initiatives that focus on meeting the humanitarian needs of urgent relief in cooperation with international organizations.
2. Initiatives to push the community to stop the violence and return to dialogue and the dissemination of a culture of peace and coexistence.
3. Adopting initiatives that contribute to the return of young people to work and innovation instead of engaging with armed groups.
4. Working with the media in the promotion of speech, which aims to promote social peace and to reduce regional, sectarian and regional conflicts.

Through the above, we believe that the international community and international donor organizations can engage in an effective partnership to achieve the interventions that have already been mentioned above. The Yemeni problem, similar to the Syrian problem, does not interest only Yemeni people, but we believe that the expansion of this problem will have a bad impact regionally and internationally.

There are many efforts undertaken by international organizations during the last stage and therefore the continuation of those roles in supporting Yemen will help Yemen to overcome the complexities of the transitional period and to have peace.

Finally an applicable, balanced, and efficient legal framework is essential to enable CSOs to develop and operate freely with a view to contribute in democratic processes.

Supported by



Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

