

National Reconciliation..

The First Step Towards Liberalizing the Decision and the Independence of the Yemeni Will

90% of Citizens: National Reconciliation Is the Most Appropriate Solution to Yemen's Problems

National Reconciliation... A Necessity, Not A Political Luxury

The Path Towards National Reconciliation

There is no place for stability (no-change) in the lives of nations and peoples, as change is the most prominent and clearest natural law in life. Hence, the law of change applies to society with all its systems, especially the political system. The change of society from simplicity to complexity brings about tremendous changes in the nature of the state, its structure, and the manifestations of political and cultural life.



Dr. Ahlam Al-Qubati

In fact, transitional justice is represented in accountability, providing redress for victims and recognition of citizenship rights for all members of the peoples alike without any discrimination. It is evident that the process of democratic transition and the work to build peace have become an urgent necessity in Yemen. This is in order to alleviate the consequences of the conflict, the most important of which are: (1) - The deterioration of the standard of living, and (2)- The scarcity of decent livelihoods.

Hence, it is necessary to think about peace, and prepare the transitional phase which involves the adoption of supportive means: one of them is restorative justice, which requires a set of strategies, and legal and humanitarian mechanisms.

In the sense that transitional justice should follow a path that takes into account the mechanism of dealing with these abuses and violations, so that victims can deal with the past, in a comprehensive and systematic way taking into account the fairness of reparation, social and economic justice, and the observance of all equal rights of citizenship.

The definition of transitional justice differs according to the angle from which it is viewed. In one of the documents of the International Center for Transitional Justice which is the History and Theory of Transitional Justice stated in the folds, "Transitional justice is based on the basis that the demand for criminal justice is not an absolute thing, thus, it should be balanced by the need for peace, democracy, equitable development, and the rule of law".

In this context, the definition of United Nations 2004 stated that transitional justice aims at "the full range of processes and mechanisms related to the attempts made by society to understand the legacy of the widespread excesses of the past in order to ensure accountability, establish justice, and achieve reconciliation".

On the Arab side, some thinkers see transitional justice as representing the transition from a state of internal armed conflict to the state of peace.

Based on the theoretical frameworks of transitional justice, the chosen transitional justice strategy is related to the political system on the one hand, and to the pattern of democratic transition on the other hand. In fact, there are five basic types of the transitional process: Four of them are internal: (1) Transition from above, where the system is headed, or (2) Moving from below, or (3) Moving through consensual solutions, or (4) through direct intervention of the military establishment. As for the fifth category, it is through external intervention.

In any case, and given the specificity of the Yemeni situation; transitional justice must include the basic goals of peacebuilding initiatives that focus on achieving justice, facilitating forgiveness, and working with community coexistence mechanisms among those who were enemies in the past.

Moreover, peacebuilding initiatives must focus on the principles and charters of human rights and include: (1) Achieving equality in representation, (2) Involving different social groups, and (3) Realizing accountability to respond to the needs and requirements of all members of the society. The provisions related to Human rights must be an essential part of these settlements.

Consequently, the transitional justice process must be based on a political conception of the concept of right along with a humanistic perspective of citizenship rights, and a human rights perception for a just reconciliation. In fact, these perceptions operate within a participatory and complementary system so that they seek (1) to achieve a homeland for all, (2) to grant compensation to the victims, (3) to prevent the commission of human rights crimes in the future, (4) to consolidate and improve peace and democracy, (5) to encourage individual and national reconciliation, in addition to (6) the imperative of adopting strong institutional strategies to face all the failures and insults of the past, and to rebuild relations between the state and the citizen believing in the inevitability of adopting radical and comprehensive solutions for all the causes of past conflicts, as well as pursuing peace and democracy transparently to build the future.

This should not be limited to the primary stages of ending the conflict and bringing about peace, rather, comprehensive reconstruction of the social, political, judicial, administrative and security sectors should contribute to the implementation of reconstruction and building an effective institutional system in a way that guarantees lasting stability.

Sawt
Al-Amal
VOICE OF HOPE
الأمل

Issue 7
Pages 12
Price Free

Independent - Newspaper (Twice a Month) Published by Yemen Information Center
1 / 5 / 2021
www.sawt-alamal.net

- Media: Makes The National Reconciliation Absent and Makes Things Worse
- The National Reconciliation in Yemen History
- National Reconciliation: A Popular Demand And an Urgent Necessity
- The Economic Sector, Its Vision of National Reconciliation
- The National Reconciliation Is A Necessity to End the Conflict, Achieve Justice and Redress
- National Reconciliation in the Eye of the Yemeni Expatriate
- The Youth: Ambitions Attached to the Hope of Achieving National Reconciliation
- Yemeni Women Are Looking for their Position in Achieving Reconciliation
- Civil Society Organizations: A Modest and Timid Role

الأمل
Mona Al-Asedi



National Reconciliation Is A Necessity, Not A Political Luxury

The issue of national reconciliation has become an urgent national necessity that is strongly dictated by the consequences of nearly six years of war and conflict. It is supported by the current political and social realities, reinforced by the aspirations and hopes of the Yemeni nation for a secure and stable future in which the nation and the citizen will live in security and peace that transcends the remnants and results of war and conflict, and in which future generations will have a better chance of achieving the highest national interest.

It's evident that achieving national reconciliation will provide an impregnable fence against the dangers threatening our homeland, its unity, entity and identity, through the involvement of all political forces in decision-making to reach the public interest and common goal without any

party having the right to reject, which deviates the concept of political partnership from its true meaning into the quotas and the distribution concept of spoils and gains.

Political partnership requires positive activity to determine the true national interests of both society and the state, and to manage negotiations with the aim of building consensus around common denominators in an environment based on tolerance, rejection of extremism and the use of violence.

One of the main determinants of the success of national reconciliation among all internal political forces and parties is that this reconciliation should be based on the basis of independence, freedom, sovereignty, and partnership with credibility, the preference of the public interest above the factional and partisan interests, and working to achieve the

common goals of all parties with the conviction of these parties to accept sacrifice for the sake of the supreme goals of the nation.

The success of national reconciliation requires a conscious vision that defines the political features of the state and the appropriate system of government for a unified nation in terms of land and humans, in which all components of the Yemeni political spectrum, powers and groups are involved based on the values of justice, independence, redress and peace.

It has become necessary for everyone to realize that they have no choice but to return to the embrace of the homeland and to overcome all controversial issues.

.....Chief Editor

National Reconciliation In Yemen: A Historical View

By Manal Ameen
 Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

National reconciliation is not a product of the moment or the current conflict, but it rather has an ancient history to some extent. It contributed to drawing the features of the democratic state, which aims to achieve security, peace and partnership between the people of the same country.

In Yemen, the calls for reconciliation were many, most notably the first reconciliation: The Haradh conference, which was held in implementation of the Saudi-Egyptian statement on November 23rd, 1965, between the two sides of the conflict in Yemen (republicans and royalists) in the events of the 26th of September Revolution under the auspices of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

However, after only a month of negotiations, the conference failed, and the fighting renewed between the republicans and the royalists. After that, a Republican decision was issued, establishing the Shura Council, which was composed of 160 members representing the various governorates of Yemen with the aim of mobilizing the masses and the powers of the sheikhs to face external moves and pressures. Source: (Al-Moheet Encyclopedia 2017)

The second reconciliation took place in 1970; a national reconciliation happened between the ruling republican regime in Sana'a and symbols of the supporters of the imam monarchy, under which a number of them were absorbed into the republican government, on the condition of stopping external support and armed rebellion. Source: (from the History of National Reconciliation: 2013) – article written by Nasser Yahya.

Agreements Between the Two Parts of Yemen:

The third reconciliation: Events unfolded over the decades, and during that time Yemen had a history with national reconciliation. Skirmishes occurred between the two parts of Yemen; South Yemen: The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and North Yemen: The Yemen Arab Republic in 1972 and 1979. This was followed by a national reconciliation, which went through the following stages:

The first phase: the Cairo agreement between the two countries on October 28th 1972, in which it was agreed upon several foundational steps for Yemeni unity.

The second stage: the 1979 Kuwait agreement between the two countries, which stipulated a federal unit; one government in Sana'a and another in Aden.

The third stage: In November 1989, when an agreement was signed, providing for the establishment of "demilitarized borders" between the two countries, and allowing citizens of the two countries to travel, only with their identity cards.

The fourth stage: the official declaration of unity on May 22nd 1990.

Parties and Parliament Agreement

Many endeavors continued in Yemen to improve the political, economic, social and living conditions. In fact, the Yemeni parties, in the period of 2007-2011, had been engaged in numerous dialogues, in which many agreements were reached which main aim is to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation. On the 19th of March 2007, a series of consultations and dialogues began during which the formation of a com-

mittee was approved to schedule the work of the subsequent dialogue sessions, and to prioritize issues.

On the 16th of June 2007, an agreement called "a document of issues and controls of dialogue among the parties participating in Parliament" was signed. The dialogue issues included: 1- Constitutional reforms, 2- development of the local authority system, 3- the electoral system, 4- and laws relating to rights and freedoms, as well as the dialogue on the necessary treatments for the effects of political conflicts and social issues that hinder the development and growth path.

The year 2008 witnessed intermittent rounds of dialogue on electoral reforms, and the constitutional amendments draft.

In February 2009, the parties of parliament signed an agreement, known as the "February Agreement" to provide an opportunity for dialogue efforts, which resulted in the extension of parliament for two additional years, to postpone the parliamentary elections to April 27, 2011, provided that the necessary constitutional amendments, the electoral system, and the restructuring of the Supreme Commission for Elections will be discussed within two years according to what is stipulated by law. Source: (Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, conference and joint (5) agreements, copy reserved 01 May 2017).

The month of May 2009 also witnessed the holding of the National Consultation Forum in Sana'a, which came out with a document known as "The National Salvation" that provided a diagnosis of the crisis roots in Yemen, provided solutions and remedies to it, and planned to move to the establishment of the state and its institutions which resulted in an agreement "The General People's Congress" and "the Joint Meeting Parties" to form a joint committee consisting of 200 members to launch dialogue mechanisms in implementation of February 2009 agreement and to complete consultations with the rest of the parties, political forces, and civil society organizations. Source: (Marib Press Website : Final Statement issued by the session of the Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue, copy reserved 6th of March 2016 and the text of

the joint record for the implementation of the February agreement between the conference and the joint 17th of July 2010, copy reserved 16th of December 2019

National Dialogue Conference

With the continuation of all Yemeni parties to solve the challenges facing joint action to achieve the desired development and stability and enhance security and safety, the comprehensive national dialogue conference, which is considered one of the most important stages, which contributed to unifying all visions among the people of the same nation on various issues, took place. The preparation and the setting for it occurred after long stages and that is after the youth revolution in 2011. As it started its first session on the 18th of March 2013 in Sana'a, under the slogan "Through dialogue we build the future", it continued for ten months until 25th of January 2014. During that period, the final document of the dialogue conference was announced in the midst of a large international and Arab presence. Source: (Saba Net website, about the President's decision regarding the rules of procedure for the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, access date 18th of March 2013, and copy reserved 8th of August 2017).

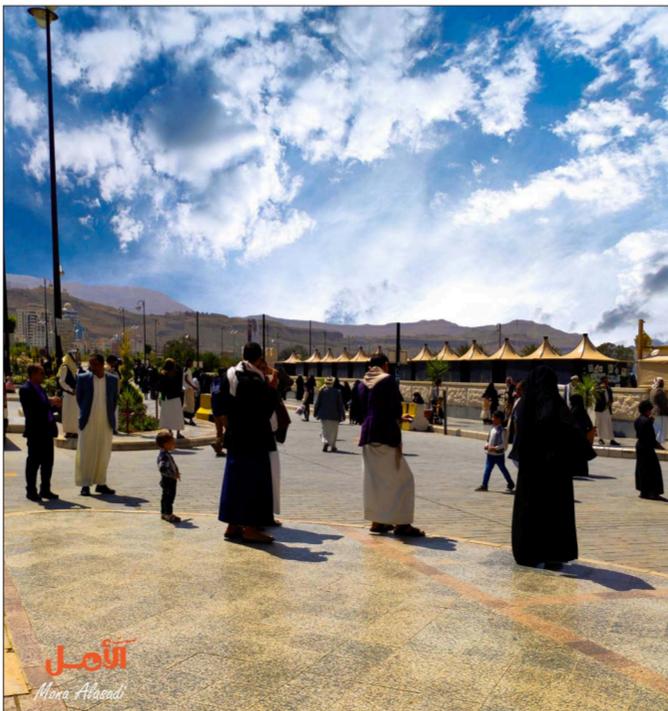
During the aftermath of the declaration of the final document of the Dialogue Conference, and until now, Yemen has been through a difficult phase in all aspects: security, economic, political, as well as humanitarian due to the occurrence of conflicts between the parties which led to grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law that the civilian citizen paid for, and which required the launch of decisions from all the conflicting parties in Yemen for the necessity of implementing national reconciliation.

Justice Law Draft

The draft of transitional justice law and national reconciliation for the year 2013, within the contents of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the initiative of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Gulf Cooperation Council), came as a presidential decision aimed at putting an end to the causes of division and conflict between the members of Yemeni society, and in recognition of the suffering by many members of the society as a result of political conflicts, in the past and present. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of establishing the political transition in Yemen on the basis of the values of tolerance and forgiveness, in addition to contributing to the development and enrichment of the culture and behavior of dialogue, and establishing the foundations for reconciliation and building a civil state: the state of truth, law, democracy, human rights, and erasing traces of human rights violations, and preventing their recurrence in the future.

The National Reconciliation Team

In the capital Sana'a, the Supreme Political Council affiliated with the Ansar Allah group (Houthis), adopted the resolution (No. 154 of 2019) to form a team for comprehensive national reconciliation and political solution as a model for comprehensive reconciliation in Yemen, and it stipulated that it should include 20 Yemeni personalities with the aim of enhancing communication and coordination to return to the ranks of the one country.



The Economic Sector

Its Vision Of National Reconciliation

By : Manal Ameen
Alya Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Yemen's current economic prospects still face many challenges: internal and external; the political and security conditions and instability continue to deteriorate. In order to emerge from this fragile situation in the economic sector, there is a need for rapid action to stop the conflict and achieve national political reconciliation, the result of which will be in return, the restoration of the economic status that will enable it to develop and grow in the coming period.

Balanced Vision for Conflict Resolution

On the importance of the economic sector in promoting real reconciliation in the country, Mustafa Nasr, Secretary of the Economic Reforms Team, Head of the Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) says to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope), "The private sector along with independent civil society are among the most capable parties to present a balanced vision for resolving the conflict in the country, promoting national reconciliation, and developing economic remedies that contribute to the development process; that is according to the experiences of many countries, in which the private sector agrees, with civil society, to resolve conflicts".

He affirms that the leaders of the economy and the private sector have an active role to play in promoting national reconciliation and bridging viewpoints, considering the economic sector "the balance in conflicts" because it provides its services to citizens of various orientations and does not engage in conflict, which qualifies it to play an important role in achieving national reconciliation.



Mustafa Nasr



Farouk Al-Kamali



Abu Bakr Salem Ba Obaid



Najeeb Al-Adoufi



Zamzam Saleh

He adds, "Some businessmen have played an effective role in mitigating the conflict, with regard to monetary policies, as well as opening up some roads, which have contributed to easing some of the constraints on the private sector, during the past phase".

Financial And Business People Are A Key Element To The Convergence Of Political Visions In Order To Achieve National Reconciliation

On the other hand, Farouk Al-Kamali, an economic analyst, affirms that the current conflict in the country has significantly affected the economic structure and the pace of development, which has exacerbated the human suffering alarmingly.

On the role of national reconciliation in supporting the national economy, he says, "What we really need to improve economic life opportunities is to end all manifestations and effects of conflict, in order to bring about an economic recovery that will contribute to alleviating the suffering of citizens, only through the beginning of a new transitional phase, namely national reconciliation, which is one of the most important stages of political, security and economic stability.

In an online poll conducted by the Opinion Poll Unit of the Yemen Information Center for Research and Media (YIC) in 2021, 78% em-

phasized the need to achieve reconciliation to revive the economic sector, while 20% believe that it can achieve this, but to some extent, while 2 only% do not believe that reconciliation can achieve economic revival.

Activating a True Partnership

The private sector is a large sector, and has a strong impact on the Yemeni economy, especially at this exceptional stage, and it has made significant contributions to resolve the challenges facing the country. This is what the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman in Aden, Abu Bakr Salem Ba Obaid, indicated.

He added, "At the level of the Republic, more than 500 commercial and industrial enterprises will play a major role if the real partnership between them and the state is activated in the various issues of concern to the country".

Emphasizing the importance of giving the private sector space to participate in the development process, being the most influential category contributing to the development of the country's economic sector; this will positively affect the national reconciliation process.

Yemeni Economic Challenges

A catastrophic humanitarian situation has become known as the most dangerous humanitarian crisis in the world. This is what Najeeb Al-Adoufi, expert and economic analyst, said as he confirmed that the current conflict in Yemen has caused a difficult humanitarian crisis for more than 24.3 million people equal to 80% of the population, and these people have become in need of urgent aid, as 14.4 million of them are in severe need, according to UN estimates.

He adds, "There are a number of economic challenges, imposed by the conflict, on citizens. More than 40% of Yemeni households have lost their main source of income; which caused an increase in the poverty rate to more than 80% in 2020, in addition to an increase in unemployment rates to nearly 80% of the workforce, especially in light of salary cuts for most employees, and the suspension of many private sector activities".

On the economic changes that will occur in the national economy as a result of achieving national reconciliation, Al-Adoufi says, "In the event of national reconciliation, the state will re-establish, its

institutions will be activated as required, basic services will be restored, and economic activity will revive, through the production and export of oil, and the return of foreign exchange sources lost to the country, and that was negatively reflected on the reality of the national currency".

The Importance of the Entrepreneurs Participation

Majed Al-Daari, editor of the Observers Press website and an economic analyst, stresses: "There is no peace, no national and economic reconciliation, no stability and no societal coexistence, in general, in any country, except through the participation of entrepreneurs, who will contribute to making and promoting the desired national economic community reconciliation, which should be based on the participation of all, in sensing the importance and necessity of making the fateful transformation of the country's future, and contributing to that according to its capabilities".

Al-Daari believes that the urgent priority for Yemenis now, and before any talk on national economic reconciliation, is to stop the war and achieve political consensus.

And he confirms to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) that any settlement or national consensus can be successful only through concerted economic efforts and assistance to all businessmen in restoring the national economy, supporting it and enhancing its presence with all means; it is impossible to find any national reconciliation in a hungry population and a devastated country.

The Priority of Economic Stability

As for Zamzam Saleh, entrepreneur and researcher in the field of economy and development, she says in an analysis of the economic scene that "The economic situation in Yemen is catastrophic. This is the result of current events that require strong political will, represented by the development of strategic plans, and the solidarity of the various public and private sectors and civil society organizations to advance the general situation of the country".

She adds, "National reconciliation is a top priority to move towards economic stability in the country, and will contribute to stabilizing internal stability".





By Rajaa Mukred
 Sawt Al-Amal
 (Voice of Hope)

The Yemeni citizen has gone through difficult challenges: some of them were related to his security and stability, others to his life and livelihood, and even his social relations which may reveal to many that the people have lost hope in reaching a solution ending the problems between the parties and combining views towards a single path leading to reconciliation and peace.

What Is The National Reconciliation For The Yemenis And How Important Is It?

“Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope) turned towards the citizens to touch their souls, see what the reconciliation means to them, how important it is to achieving it, to determine the extent of their desire for tolerance and reaching out to reconciliation, and to provide evidence that they are still strong, have not lost hope yet and are still attached to the unity of the social fabric of one Yemen.

Why?

In brief and expressive words, Mustafa Al-Sama'i, from Al-Hudaydah, expresses the reality of the situation, and says, “I am confused when I see darkness prevailing in our beloved country. Thus, we are on the planet of light, so why hunger while food is available? And why thirst while we live in a rich oasis? Why ignorance while it's the time of knowledge? And why the conflict while we are sons of wisdom and faith?”

Al-Sama'i adds, “We must all renounce violence, abandon partisanship and abhorrent regionalism, and concede to each other. Let us live in a homeland for all, and the wise people of Yemen should call for reconciliation, to reject violence, and to give preference to reason and logic over the language of fighting and the loss of lives, so Yemeni wisdom be manifested and peace prevailed”.

As for Muhammed Al-Hasani from Sana'a, he says, “Reconciliation must be among the people themselves socially, before being politically. It is also necessary to establish a relationship between political parties with all groups of society”.

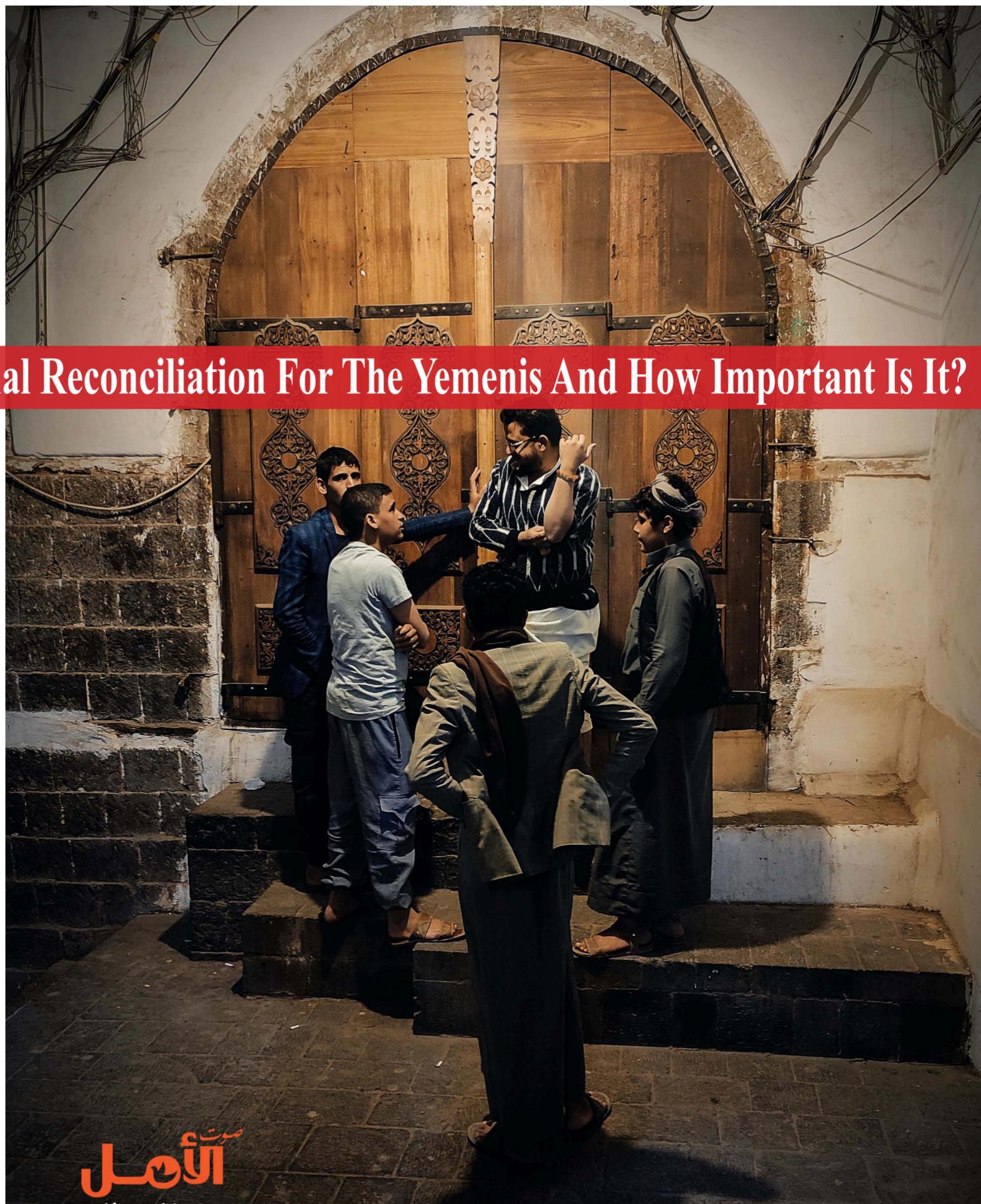
Al-Hasani expresses the meaning of reconciliation by saying that it is a broad and loose term, which comes in more than one meaning, and has many synonyms such as agreement between parties and restoring relations. Reconciliation is also related to a number of concepts, such as tolerance, peace, forgiveness, peaceful coexistence and justice.

In an online survey conducted by the Survey Unit at Yemen Information Center for Research and Media (YIC) in early March 2021 on a group of citizens, it was found that 80% of the population believes that national reconciliation is very important, 14% find it important, and 6% think it is not important.

Healing for Homeland Wounds

Izdihar Saeed, from Taiz, considers that the national reconciliation is the reform among the people and the rejection of division which unfortunately does not exist in Yemen at the present time, explaining that the importance of national reconciliation lies in addressing the political problems in the homeland, and she calls for a rapid end to the conflict, achieving security, safety, and peace in the homeland.

A. Abdo Hussein Ahmad from Amran, an Associate faculty member at Sana'a University, says: “National reconciliation requires Yemeni political and societal will because it is an inevitable result after the end of conflicts and the



advent of peace; since the end of any conflict is comprehensive peace which leads to a reconciliation between all colors of the national spectrum, without exception, on the basis of coexistence, tolerance, and acceptance of parties for each other without any conditions or attempts to impose specific agendas or opinions”. He also sees that reconciliation constitutes a healing to the wounds of the homelands that have been afflicted by pain, which calls for transcendence over them.

A Safe Future for my Children and Me

Muhammed Al-Walidi from Sana'a clarifies the meaning of reconciliation from his point of view, saying, “Reconciliation means everything to me as it is the only solution to achieving a safe future for my children and me”.

Al-Walidi believes that national reconciliation is a way to infuse the blood of Yemenis, build the nation, restore what has been destroyed, and thwart the conflict project that targets the Yemeni identity on land and people, as

it contributes to converging views and working for Yemen, and rejecting racial and sectarian differences.

The journalist Hamdi Radman, from Taiz, just says, “One homeland can fit every one”, rejecting any addition, because in his opinion, the expression says it all.

In the context of stressing the importance of national reconciliation, Muhammed Al-Zuwar from Sana'a, says that “it will contribute to ending the conflict and restoring peace, security, safety and stability to the homeland, and the people of the same nation from the north to the south and from the east to the west will enjoy basic services that the state must provide to its citizens”.

He adds, “In times of conflicts, the role of the state is lost, security is disturbed, and is lenient in providing services, whether by default or by neglect, but in the event of a national reconciliation, every official will play his role and implement what he ought to do, so the country will enjoy development and prosperity”.

Exiting the Dark Tunnel

Returning to Mustafa Al-Sama'i, who affirms that all the people of Yemen must stop the futile conflict among brothers, unite efforts to bring peace, and engage in the dialogue table to bring the homeland from this dark tunnel back to safety, restore the state, and lay its foundations on the principle of partnership, and recourse to the constitution of the one state. Adding, “The most beautiful thing in the hearts of the Yemenis is the preservation of values and principles, and no matter how bad the conditions that the citizen is going through, his hope for reconciliation and tolerance has not been extinguished and he still, despite everything, keeps hope for a future of love, coexistence, and peace, refusing humiliation and domination, being content with his capabilities, and the capabilities of his state to guarantee him respect and peace”.

And he concludes his statement, “With God's hope, may the fire of sedition that has befallen the country be extinguished, and may peace be returned to the homeland”.

National Reconciliation..

An Urgent Necessity Or A Political Luxury?



“National reconciliation is a process of political and social reconciliation, based on comprehensive transitional justice mechanisms to move from a state of military conflict, to a state of peace and consolidation of democracy. According to it, a relationship is established based on justice between all political parties and members of the society where the values of tolerance are adopted, to eliminate the effects of conflicts and violations.

The Axis of the National Reconciliation and the Political Solution in the National Vision of Building the State

The Purpose:

A comprehensive national reconciliation between parties, political components and various groups on the basis of: justice and reparation through a peaceful political solution that achieves peace and is based on respect of national sovereignty and the supreme interests of the country.

Objectives:

- Creating the appropriate conditions for the dialogue and the comprehensive national reconciliation.
- Achieving national reconciliation at the domestic level and abroad.
- Striving to resume the political process and achieving a just peace that preserves the dignity, sovereignty, independence and unity of the Yemeni people.
- Achieving the comprehensive national reconciliation according to comprehensive principles and references.

Al-Zanem: National reconciliation is the way to silence the gunshot sound and bring peace.

Abdul Salam: The Yemenis have no choice but to solve their problems on their own, and counting on foreign countries will not work.

Bin Lazraq: It's time for national reconciliation to end the war.

Al-Eryani: National reconciliation is the salvation of the people to reach stability and achieve peace.

Dammaj: National reconciliation is a necessity to end the conflict, achieve justice, and redress.

Al-Asaadi: National reconciliation is a priority to get the country out of the crisis and to stop the conflict.

Qasim: It will not be a national union except with just and comprehensive reconciliation, without exception.

Dr. Ali Muhammed Al-Zanem, a member of Parliament, says, "There is no doubt that the first path to silencing the gunshot and establishing the comprehensive and just peace begins with the national reconciliation, which serves the stage, and is among the steps that prove the good intentions of all parties".

And he adds, "More precisely, the reconciliation we want now, in light of war and fighting between brothers on the one hand, and the coalition countries on the other hand, is the acceptance of being engaged at one table for serious dialogue, accepting different points of view, making an approach to it, and making concessions from all parties. All of this is in the interest of the national reconciliation to create a safe homeland, because, under certain circumstances, the war may end without national reconciliation. Thus, the situation remains likely to explode at any time, considering that the national reconciliation is completely absent between the parties to the conflict".

Pointing out that the success of the national reconciliation will have a positive effect, and will create a safe and stable environment, and will further enhance confidence between the two conflicts, and prepare the homeland for a sustainable peace phase. And he affirms, "Without the national reconciliation, and forgetting the past or summoning it in our litigations, there is no doubt that a rift will occur in the national cohesion that will be difficult to recover from".

In conclusion: National reconciliation, especially in the current situation, is an urgent necessity, and if successful, will lead to peace, an end to war, and the rebuilding of the state and society on the basis of reconciliation, tolerance and turning the page of the past.

The Call for National Reconciliation Has Been Delayed, But ...

Aref Abdulsalam, a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, affirms, "The Yemenis have no choice but to solve their problems on their own, and betting on foreign countries will not work, it is a lost bet. Our responsibility must be raised to the national level; otherwise, others will not be able to help us, unless we have the conviction and the will to help ourselves".

And he adds, "Every national dialogue, in any country, is supposed to have national constants among the parties themselves so that their real problems and litigations are represented in order to work on stepping things up, and addressing the necessary solutions. Thus, the main problem is the external interference in the dialogue and calls for the reconciliation among the parties. This interference complicates the issue and prolongs the conflict".

He indicates that the call for national reconciliation has been long overdue, and political parties were supposed to have a position in calling for the reconciliation and getting the country out of the crisis. Now the parties must reformulate their leadership systems because it still has a link to the national concept, and to present certain visions honestly and sincerely.

He continues, "Openness before reconciliation; first agreement must be made on the names of truth and dialogue on basic issues instead of circulating in terms that serve foreign countries more. And the leaderships must choose the correct representative".

And he adds, "If there is a consensus on national and constant principles to which everyone returns then this is a good thing which cuts down a lot of possibilities and brings back the ranks. It is necessary to choose leaders from the sides and parties that are at the level of responsibility, understanding and awareness in order to find solutions to the problems, and removing the country from the current situation. But if reconciliation takes place, and the ones representing the parties and sides are

unaware of the situation, then we are thus repeating the experience of the national dialogue, which failed!"

He stresses on the importance of dialogue and making the interest of the nation first away from partisan and personal interests. The complication lies in the fact that political parties did not first present the interest of the country, pointing out that this critical stage is what will reveal the owners of consciences and those who have, even if a little, the belonging to their homeland with the will and actions, not only words. It is also necessary to benefit from the mistakes of the previous internal experience and its consequences, as well as what is going on and being run in Syria and elsewhere in order to ensure

National Reconciliation, The Culmination Of Repeated Calls, And The Inauguration Of A New Phase In Building The Modern Yemeni State

that its tricks are not repeated, and its destructive results on the country, and to overcome the crisis, only through political consensus.

And he stresses, "There is no solution but to stand honestly, to make a real review and evaluation to all previous tracks, and to look forward to the next. In fact, the responsibility rests with everyone, and history will not show mercy to anyone. Today we have to decide: What will we leave for future generations, and how will they describe us? We are the ones who determine that. Shall we overcome our sick selves and think of the country and the wider nation?"

In the context, Dr. Khaled Qasim from Sana'a University says, "War is a tool of politics, and it will not end without reconciliation, and the social rift will not close, except through real reconciliation".

And he asks, "Who is in charge of achieving reconciliation? And to what extent are the Yemeni parties capable of that? And to what extent are regional and international actors willing to achieve it?" And he adds, "It will not be a national union; except with just and comprehensive reconciliation, without exception to anyone. Otherwise, there will not be a union in the first place, and any incomplete settlements are only a delay of wars to the future, or temporary false peace".

Time to Achieve National Reconciliation

In the context, the press writer, Fathi Bin Lazraq says, "After six years of war, it's time to conduct national interests and start a Yemeni-Yemeni political dialogue between the conflicting parties, without exception and any preconditions".

He adds, "All parties, including Houthi, Al-Islah (the Yemeni Congregation for Reform), the General People's Congress (GPC) and Al-Intaqali (the Southern Transitional Council), must gather to conduct a national political dialogue to get out of the crisis that the country is going through, and on the condition that there are no external dictations or agendas because the conflicting parties, in Yemen, will not reach any political settlement or national reconciliation if the intentions are not honest, and the external interference remains in place. We have witnessed various political negotiations in: Kuwait, Geneva, and Oman, but no results were achieved that would lead to reaching a political solution to extricate Yemen from

the current situation".

We Need National Reconciliation

And he affirms, "We really need national reconciliation and this latter needs a political dialogue (Yemeni - Yemeni) that will lead to settling all files, especially that after six years, it has become clear and evident that the war has failed to achieve its military objectives. Consequently, we need to adopt a new peace, and a call for dialogue between all Yemeni political components. We see the difficult humanitarian conditions the war produced, and the deterioration of the currency and the economy. As for the military level, nothing has been achieved. Therefore, there is no solution for the Yemenis, except for a comprehensive political settlement in Yemen without exception".

Bin Lazraq points out that the solution in Yemen will only be through the Yemeni-Yemeni dialogue without the interference of any external party whatsoever.

Achieving Just and Sustainable Peace

On her part, Lamia Al-Eryani, Chairperson of the Peace School Organization says, "After six years of war and destruction of the infrastructure of Yemen, and the violation of its dignity and the rights of its people, it is clear that there's no victor in this absurdity, and that all parties lose every day a lot of blood and gains".

She affirms, "National reconciliation, which includes a just and comprehensive national vision for the country in all political, military, economic and social sectors, is the salvation of the people for the sake of stability and achieving a just, positive and sustainable peace, provided that the national reconciliation is serious and sincere, within the national constants, the implementation of the constitution, and the rule of law, as well as it must bring together all parties, not excluding anyone".

And she adds, "For national reconciliation to be achieved, it is necessary for all parties to be fully convinced that Yemen is for everyone, and that the rest of the society, which did not participate in the war, has the right to enjoy peace".

And she points out the importance of the parties to the conflict believing in the peaceful transfer of power, and the conviction that it is not the monopoly of anyone under any justification: geographical, partisan or ideological.

She draws attention to the necessity of giving priority to the national interest, leaving behind political exclusion and the tendency for revenge and vengeance through constitutional and political guarantees and the call for tolerance, and forgetting the accumulations of the painful past for an effective national reconciliation.

National Reconciliation: The First Step Towards Liberalizing The Decision And The Independence Of The Yemeni Will

She hopes for Yemen to be saved from the devastating war, and to reach a just and sustainable peace.

Restorative Justice for All

In addition, Thuraya Dammaj, a Yemeni journalistic writer says, "National Reconciliation is a broad and loose term, which comes with more than one meaning, and has many synonyms such as reconciliation between parties, restoring

relations, just as it is related to a number of concepts such as apology, tolerance, amnesty, peace building, peaceful coexistence, social justice, reparation".

She adds, "Reconciliation which can be applied in one country may be difficult to implement to the same extent and way in another country. This is the result of the difference in political, economic and social conditions between societies and countries".

She points out that national reconciliation is defined in a simple way as "a process of national consensus, on the basis of which a relationship is established between political and societal parties based on tolerance, justice and removal of the effects of past conflicts in order to achieve peaceful coexistence between all segments of society, in a manner that ensures the correct practice of democracy, through specific mechanisms, and according to a set of procedures."

She continues, "National reconciliation must guarantee reconciliatory justice for all, beginning with the implementation of peace agreements on the ground in order to end the war and bring peace, and that does not happen, except through political dialogues, referring to the three references. In all cases, national reconciliation must be to end wars, achieve justice, and redress".

National Reconciliation, an Inclusive National Project

On her part, Maliha Al-Asadi who is an activist and poet, says, "National reconciliation comes as a national project, one that brings together all the conflicting parties, and it is a priority to stop the war in Yemen because this project cannot begin before disarmament, or, at least, the reduction of arms, and the approach of conducting dialogue that leads to comprehensive national reconciliation and preserves coexistence for the people, under the umbrella of one nation".

As for Dr. Fouad Saadan from Sana'a University, he says, "Without a doubt, if it was a national reconciliation, we would not have reached this situation, but unfortunately, with the political parties in our country, there is no national reconciliation, and no reconciliations. They are all war merchants".

Whereas, Ibtisam Al-Basha, a master's student, says, "Reconciliation between the various political parties is necessary to unify visions and bring points of view in a manner that serves the interests of the people and the groups represented by those parties, which leads, in the end, to the achievement of the final interest and the ultimate goal that is to stop the war, and fill any loophole that would allow any party, external or internal, to prolong this war, which negative effects have gone beyond the inside to extend out".

Making Concessions from All Sides for the Return of National Cohesion

While the societal activist, Ghina Al-Hamiri, believes that all parties should be engaged at one table with the aim of reconciliation and conciliation, away from political quarrels and positions sharing, and thinking about homeland and real reconciliation to produce fruitful results, according to a strategic plan, based on political participation and making concessions from all parties. This will restore national cohesion, as it was in the past.

Full Response

On his part, Sheikh Muhammed Tahir Anam, a member of the Supreme Committee of Al-Rashad Party says, "All that the people want is for it to be a real project for national reconciliation, leading to a political solution, for the benefit of the Yemeni people, and under the roof of full Yemeni sovereignty; the sovereignty of the Yemenis (all Yemenis) on their land, without interference from any regional, international or other powers".



Requirements For Achieving National Reconciliation And The Extent Of Public Satisfaction

By : **Rajaa Mukred**
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The dream of many Yemenis has been to achieve national reconciliation as they see peace in it and the preservation of the one social fabric and national unity. Despite the strong desire to achieve national reconciliation, some still see that it may be just dead letters on paper, and that words will be far of being translated into action.

“Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope) approached some of the educated elites, and polled different opinions about the extent of Yemen’s need for national reconciliation, the requirements for achieving it, and how to start peace and reconciliation to achieve the recovery of the wounds Yemenis suffer from.

Why does Yemen Need a National Reconciliation?

To answer this question, Dr. Nadwa Radman from Taiz says, “Yemen needs national reconciliation to preserve the unity and integrity of the Yemeni territories, the Yemeni identity (man, land and history) and the inter-communal peace for the return of brotherhood, harmony and solidarity between the components of the Yemeni people, reject hatred, fanaticism, ethnicity, sectarianism and tribalism, and contribute to building a modern civil state based on justice and development”.

And she adds, “National reconciliation is important to contribute to various development issues, at the local, regional and international levels, in order to preserve Yemeni minds, as they are a tremendous human wealth, as well as oil, gas, and mineral resources for they are a huge underground and above ground storage”.

On his part, L.N., an educator in Sana’a, believes that national reconciliation is important at this time, so that the people of the homeland benefit from it and enjoy all the desired security and safety, and he continues, “The need for reconciliation is for two reasons: first of all, the indications are that the militarily conflict will not end even after tens of years, and second of all, achieving national reconciliation will block the way to foreign interference in our country”.

Requirements for Achieving National Reconciliation

Soad Al-Absi, an activist in Taiz, believes that the most important demands for achieving national reconciliation are to rehabilitate young people who have joined the battles of the conflict and integrate them into a single army that represents all Yemenis, and work on taking care of the wounded citizens who have been affected by the conflict, compensate the displaced, and resettle them.

Al-Absi defines Reconciliation as, “a system and a law that have an army and non-penetrating sovereign apparatus that protect the state from any usurping forces and everyone lives in a system called a state that has citizenship rights through democratic channels. It also means recognition of the scale of the humanitarian disaster, and recognition of the perpetrators of all destruction of the people that they have made a mistake, and that they promise themselves to give up hatred and rancor, and that the conflicting forces prepare for reconciliation so that the people will absolve them of their mistakes”, and she concludes, “We want peace in a state that represents all Yemenis that respect the sovereignty and human dignity”.

Here, Dr. Radman stresses the importance of stopping the conflict, implementing a comprehensive national dialogue, activating justice in distributing sources of wealth, imports and financial revenues, justice in the judiciary, and implementing judgments, away from mediation, giving priority to those with capabilities and competencies in leadership positions, and the survival of the army on the borders, settling for security in the middle of cities, allocating an adequate and sufficient budget for educational institutions, paying salaries, disbursing other salaries for people with limited income, and disarmament.

Achieving Reconciliation

“National reconciliation in Yemen is possible in the event that the conflict and external interference stop, and the souls of those in charge of setting the agenda and attending conferences are eliminated. Without that, national reconciliation will not take place”, this is what Adnan Al-Humairi, a political analyst in Sana’a, indicated.

As for Maha Awad, the human rights defender, head of the Wogood for Human Security foundation in Aden, she says, “Transitional justice is the path to national reconciliation, and not the other way around”.

“It is necessary to go backward, note the causes that fueled the conflict, and were the cause of casualties, and the country’s economic and developmental deterioration, and review previous mistakes in order to achieve true national reconciliation”, that is according to S.M. activist and political analyst.

The Yemen Information Center (YIC), the Opinion Poll unit, conducted an electronic poll in early March 2021 for a group of citizens entitled: Are you with the national reconciliation? So, 89% of the population responded with a “yes”, while 11% of the population responded with a “no” for political reasons, 40% for inappropriate circumstances, 10% for the lack of



compensation, 10% for personal interests, 20% considered that reconciliation will cause other problems, and 10% for sectarian affiliations.

No National Reconciliation in the Absence of Justice

Latifa Jamel, Deputy Head of the American Center for Justice (ACJ) says, “There is no national reconciliation that accepts sustainability in light of the absence of justice, the settlement of the roots of conflicts, and the political and societal division in Yemen. When we return to events from the beginning of the eighties of the last century until today, we know for sure that the concept of reconciliation requires foundations that contribute to changing the formal concepts of tolerance, activating them in a realistic way, such as the

concept of political dialogue between the different parties and acceptance of the other”.

And she affirms, “It is imperative that the Yemeni parties and components be prepared to abandon the foreign wills, and to abide by the reference of the Yemeni people to break out of the cycle of violence and believe in the sanctity of Yemeni blood”.

She adds, “The conditions of political will and the promotion of national reconciliation are still far away, especially since Yemenis today suffer from a state of political division, and there is no indication of faith in equality and in appealing to a unified constitution that unites all the conflicting parties. The national reconciliation, in the absence of its true standards and conditions, is nothing but an illusion that establishes future conflicts generation after generation”.

National Reconciliation: A Popular Demand And An Urgent Necessity

By: **Mona Al-Assaadi**
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

In every corner of this country, the Yemeni voices rise for peace: the peace that everyone seeks, and the homeland longs for which has suffered from the scourge of conflicts for long years. And because security is the demand of all the people, young and old, it was necessary to address the necessary solutions to achieve it. Perhaps national reconciliation is the best solution to build a modern civil state where the security and the stability persist, and in which everyone enjoys equal rights and duties.

The writer Abdullah Al-Faqih, 40 years old, says, “National reconciliation has become an urgent necessity to get out of the impasse in which we are. However, it is in dire need for politicians to reject selfishness and overcome the interests of the great

homeland, and millions of citizens who are crushed by conflicts and smashed by the wheels of poverty and diseases”. He continues, “We are in dire need of national reconciliation, (with all the meanings and connotations of the word “national”) and not cake-sharing-and-distributing agreements among parties, groups, and political components”.

Ghofran Abdullah, a 30-year-old housewife, agrees with him by saying, “In light of the tragic conditions in which we are living, there is no doubt that we urgently need a real national reconciliation and not false slogans or theoretical words on paper,” and she adds, “conflicts have inflicted heavy losses on people, and affected the livelihood and enrollment of children in schools which calls for urgent, peaceful and national solutions”.

Whereas Amin Al-Maqbul, a 33-year-old architect, affirms, “We need national reconciliation to prevailing peace which is the normal situation, thus

conflict is an exceptional state”.

How Can the National Reconciliation Be Achieved?

Political analysts believe that achieving national reconciliation in light of the current Yemeni situation is extremely difficult, especially with the ongoing conflict over Yemen, and thus achieving national reconciliation depends on a national internal peace among the parties of the Yemeni political forces, and engage in a Yemeni national dialogue.

Amal Al-Sayadi, member of the National Dialogue Conference, says to “Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope), “The Dialogue, in any issue, is required to bring points of view closer. It ensures that all segments of society discuss their grievances, demand that their situation be corrected, and that their rights are guaranteed by law and the Constitution. Thus, the Dialogue is inevitable in any national reconciliation, in order to put all national issues on the table,

and discuss how to amend the mistakes away from religious, ethnic, and political racism. As well as it is imperative to apply the law, equalize citizens, and create new opportunities to promote the country, in the general interest of the people”.

Fatoum Hassan, a broadcaster of political programs, agrees with her by saying, “We need national reconciliation. The past experiences of countries in dispute, exhausted by wars and conflicts have proven that the first step to move forward is to engage in a dialogue table, lay the first basis for the broad policies of the country, with the agreement of all parties.” She also stresses on the necessity of a national reconciliation in light of the conditions in which the country is witnessing by saying, “National reconciliation, promotes the country’s economy, and supports national projects such as security, stability and the rule of law”.

Media: Makes The Concept Of National Reconciliation Absent

By: *Alya Muhammed*
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

“Most of the media and various means of communication, in our country, depend on the method of fueling the general situation in the country through various programs and policies that reflect the vision and direction of the bodies that follow them, without being concerned with the suffering of the citizen from the existing dispersion in public life (politically, economically and humanly)”. With these phrases, the citizen, Ali Abdul Rahman, reviewed the reality of media in Yemen.

The media of all three types, audio, printed and visual, were of great importance from all sides during this period because of its power to influence public opinion and shape its orientations towards specific goals and issues that serve certain groups, and generate positive or negative impressions, according to the way each means expresses current events.

Abdul Rahman confirms, “We do not follow a lot of Yemeni satellite channels. This is due to the absence of what is mainly beneficial to the citizen. All that is screened is a form of sterile dialogues that only contribute to fueling the situation in general. In addition to that, websites and communication websites are no longer focusing on the citizen and his suffering, except for some of them and modestly”.

Does not Provide Useful Content

“In general, media and communication, in Yemen, feed the conflict, and do not provide content that is useful to the society. On the contrary, they are driving the public to a difficult phase, in which they lack speeches of tolerance and reconciliation, and do not give way to voices calling for peace”, this is what, Fares Shamsan, a filmmaker and TV Reporter, referred to.

He added, “The homeland suffers from deep, great wounds, and this cannot be cured by covering them. They must rather be cleaned and everything that affected them should be removed. This is our reality. We will not reach the achievement of national reconciliation, as long as there are people who present negative messages that influence the issue”.

Media: A Propaganda Machine

Ali Al-Ajri, an independent journalist says, “The media and communication have deviated a lot from the concept of national reconciliation. Consequently, these means in the Yemeni arena have turned into a propaganda machine whose teams have been heavily involved in conflicts”.

He adds, “The qualified and professional cadres, in most of the media and communication, have been marginalized”.

Reducing the Rhetoric of Violence

The Yemeni media has witnessed wide fluctuations in the Yemeni arena, and the percentage of various media appearances, according to a study issued by the Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) 2017, which has increased to more than 258 means distributed as follows: 1- 68% news websites, 2- 14% local radio, 3- 8% publications (newspapers), 4- 8%, satellite channels, and the number of electronic news websites reached more than 177.

Regarding this, Munir Talal, a playwright and television writer, confirms that the media, which appeared a lot during this period did not serve the cause of national reconciliation in the required manner. On the contrary, they fueled the causes of disagreement, directly or indirectly, and did not leave room for real national reconciliation.

He continues, “National reconciliation, among all, can happen only if the rhetoric of violence and mutual accusations are minimized

to avoid further losses that will destroy the future of future generations”.

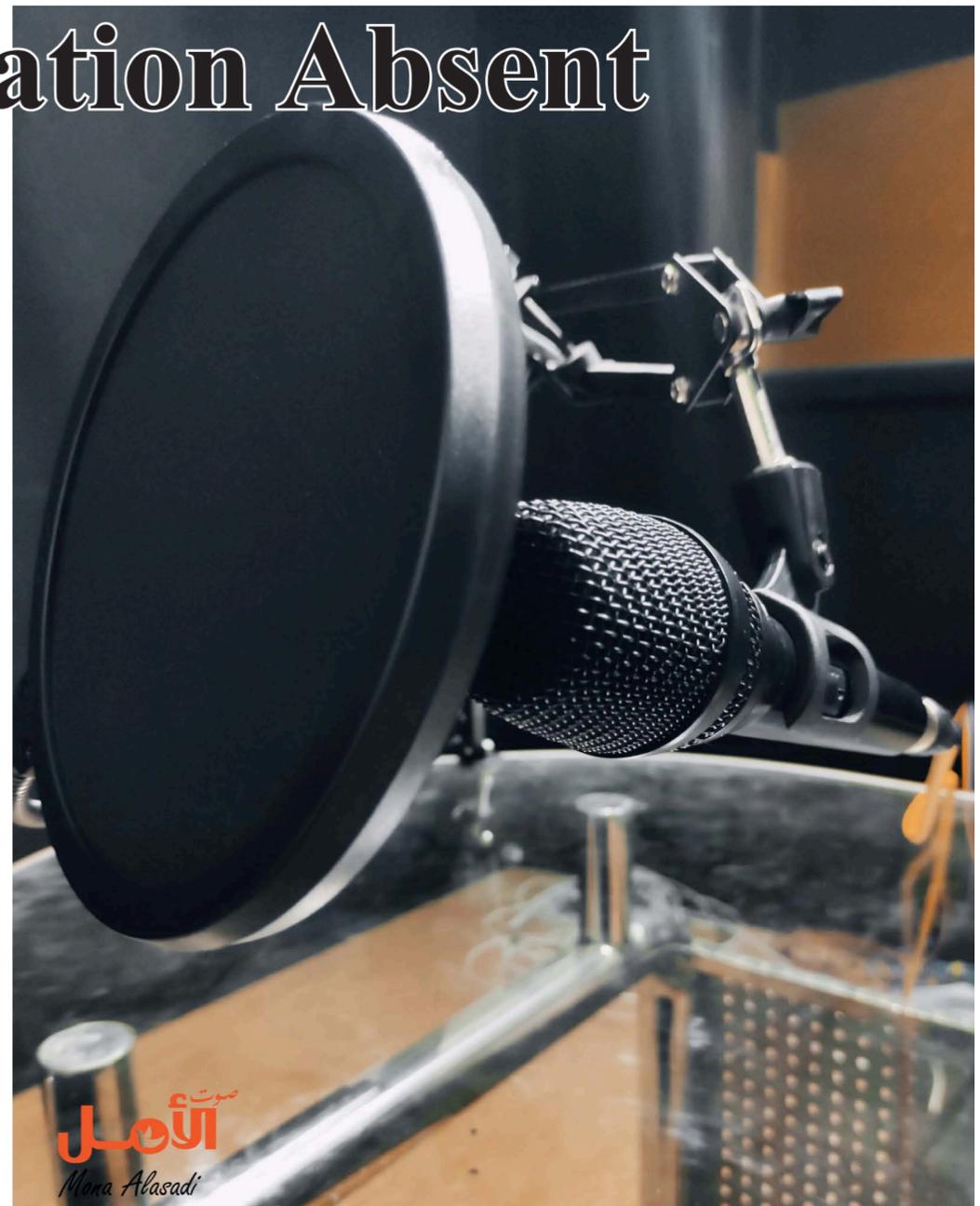
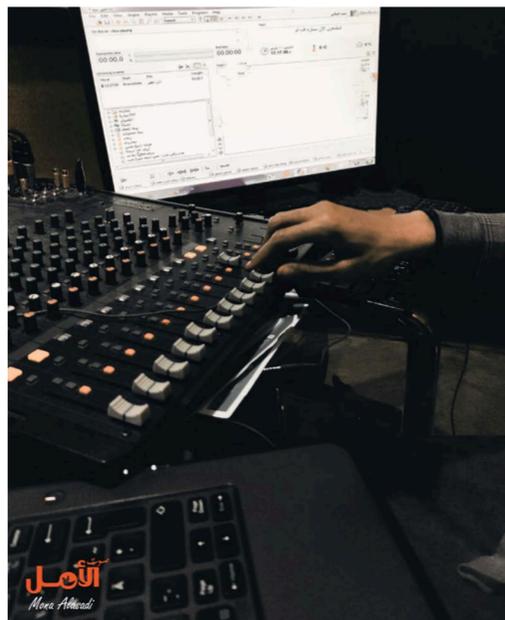
Absence of Professionalism and Patriotism
“The media is in a state of fragmentation, which has reflected its shadows on society”, this is what Professor Abdulrahman Al-Shami, former dean of the College of Mass Communication at Sana’a University, indicated about the content of the messages broadcast by the various media outlets.

He explains the fragmentation as, “It came as a result of the current situation in Yemen, which contributed to the absence of the voice of reason and logic, strengthened the feeding of the conflict, and mobilized public opinion to support the views of the various parties. This is what negated the importance of talking about national reconciliation, and development issues of concern to society, as well as minimized the role of peace journalism, which we desperately need, for its presence at the present time”.

He adds, “There is a deep imbalance in the Yemeni media due to the absence of professionalism and patriotism, and these are matters that make the issue of national reconciliation a form of postponed wishes, and hopes for the coming days, stressing the need for intensive efforts to be made for the media to restore its real and main role in promoting national reconciliation”.

Interests Prevail over the Media

Fatima Rashad, a journalist in “14 October” newspaper and a writer, believes that the Yemeni media, in the current situation, witnesses lack impartiality and integrity, and they seek to achieve personal interests, ignoring the public interests that the recipient needs. Indeed, the media has become the main cause of instability



for not adopting issues related to national reconciliation and societal peace, nor promoting concepts of understanding and tolerance.

As for Mahrous Al-Hussein, a journalist specialized in digital journalism, he says, “There is no clarity for national reconciliation in our media. This is due to its attachment to the policies of the political dispute parties which contributed to obscuring and ambiguity vision of the audience receiving media content. Thus, to correct the course, the media must intensify media efforts in highlighting the importance of national partnership, which rises above all personal affiliations, and work to adopt human issues, to form a cohesive societal fabric based on understanding and reconciliation”.

Steps Preceding Reconciliation

Nour Sareeb, Editor-in-Chief of “Al-Watan Today” newspaper, says to “Sawt al-Amal” (Voice of Hope), “There is a large number of local media outlets in our country that are in conflict and send negative messages that reconciliation is not feasible by not introducing the concept of (true national reconciliation).”

With regard to the media, especially online, dealing with the issue of national reconciliation, Sareeb believes that the term national reconciliation is loose, and this is what caused most media outlets not to deal with the issue clearly, especially in the current situation. Hence, she indicates the importance of work concerning the implementation of basic steps to achieve true reconciliation, and this is the role that the media must play, through its various means, more effectively.

The Role of Independent Media

On the reality of the media in Yemen, Daoud Nour, a human rights activist says, “The reality

of the Yemeni media system is bitter, as a result of the strange paradoxes in conveying the truth and the messages sent by the media which do not represent the values of Yemenis, for being unable to convey the truth professionally. But in general, there are programs, even weak, that have contributed to focusing on the importance of coexistence and the need to stop the struggle for the sake of the citizen”.

As for Yersteen Al-Nahmi, a journalist at the German Agency, she says to “Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope), “There is neutrality, impartiality, transparency, and credibility in reporting news by independent means. All of these are elements that greatly contribute to achieving the desired national reconciliation. And it is necessary for every journalist, according to his responsibility towards people, to refrain from stirring up disputes, and to focus all his attention on highlighting issues of the homeland without affiliations”.

Raafat Rashad, general manager of Bandar Aden Radio confirms this, by saying, “Independent media plays a decisive role in achieving national reconciliation, and among its tasks to facilitating mainly the presentation of the citizen’s information and opinion”.

In the same context, Salem Bin Sahel, program manager of Radio Royah FM, Hadhramaut says,

“Our Yemeni media have been preoccupied with fueling the conflict, and ignored everything that could contribute to achieving national reconciliation which we desperately need in the current situation, in order to achieve a sustainable, positive peace that includes all parties”.

He also stresses the importance of activating independent media to adopt the speech of peace and achieve, mainly, the interest of the homeland.



National Reconciliation In The Eye Of The Yemeni Expatriate

“Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope) - Hanin Ahmed

“Reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation to end conflicts and live in peace is a long-awaited popular demand.” These are the calls of the Yemeni expatriates in most Arab countries, which have varied between optimistic and hopeless in implementing national reconciliation, which has become a dream for citizens deprived of their homeland.



“Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope) polled the opinions of many Yemeni expatriates in a number of Arab countries to come to the following conclusion: consensus on the importance of achieving reconciliation to achieve the desired security which serves all the people of the nation and alleviates its suffering at home and abroad.

Working to Achieve Reconciliation

Dr. Muhammad Abdel-Wadood, a 76-year-old man from Taiz and currently residing in Egypt, says, “Since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen in 2015, the economic and humanitarian conditions have worsened for all the people without exception, and they are still suffering, until now, from many problems and difficulties and challenges”.

On the importance of reconciliation, he affirms, “We hope that there will be a real reconciliation that will contribute effectively to a radical solution to all the challenges facing the country, achieve a decent life for the citizens, dominated by stability and security, as well as collaborating to get rid of personal aspirations, interests and chaos, which makes it difficult to achieve reconciliation”.

He adds, “We cannot reach this stage unless we invest (genuinely) the human wealth available in the country to establish a state governed by civil law, and a system that regulates people’s relations with the state, in addition to strengthening the belief that the greatest entitlement to loyalty is only the homeland. Therefore, we must reconcile with ourselves, above all, and accept each other, in order to achieve development and coexistence”.

Making Concessions and Enforcing the Law
Samia Mohsen Muhammed, a 43-year-old woman from Aden, has been an expatriate for six years in the Arab Republic of Egypt. She is currently working as a teacher in a private

school in Cairo, after her emergency exit from her city Taiz due to the security situation. About the importance of national reconciliation, she says, “There is no reconciliation in the short term because there are parties benefiting from the outbreak and the ongoing conflict in Yemen”.

And she affirms, “It is imperative for all parties to make the necessary concessions to achieve true reconciliation and end this conflict. The state’s ownership belongs to all, and the nation accommodates all its children”.

In the same context, Muhammed Saleh, a 35-year-old man from Rada’, lives in Egypt since about three years, and works in the real estate field. He says, “In order to achieve reconciliation, laws must be implemented, and order must be completely imposed on all parties, and get rid of taking random decision-making should be stopped, which is not in the interest of the citizens, as well as obligating all citizens, people and parties to apply the law that aims to achieve justice and equality”.

Awareness of the Importance of Reconciliation

“Yemen has become unstable and does not have any means of subsistence”. With these words, Nabil Sharaf, a 26-year-old man from Sana’a, resident in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and owner of a car accessories shop in Yemen, sees the situation of Yemen from his point of view. He adds, “I do not think that there would be any reconciliation between the factions of the country which is because the conflicting parties have no intention of achieving the interest in the homeland”.



Abdul Wahab Saif

And he affirms, “National reconciliation will not be achieved, unless it is with great awareness of its importance at this stage, and the existence of real loyalty from the entire population for the sake of the nation, and not for the sake of a person, tribe, or party”.

Zikra Muhammed, a 33-year-old woman from Ibb, residing in Egypt, agrees with him, as says, “There will be reconciliation, only if everyone agrees on the love of the nation as a whole, and privilege it to self-love or interests”.

She adds, “Strict controls and laws must be adhered to, which require all to impose and not depart from, a true partnership to rebuild the nation. The state and the law govern Yemen, and the real power lies in the power of science and education. Then all parties and people, in general, will sense the importance of achieving comprehensive national reconciliation”.

And Abdul Wahab Saif, a 28-year-old man from Dhamar, residing in Jordan, believes that all parties in Yemen should be the decision-makers to stop the conflict, and they must start implementing effective reconciliation and partnership for the sake of reconstruction and development. He adds, “This matter will only be achieved with true partnership and acceptance of the other”.

In the same context, Aida Al-Shaibani, a 52-year-old woman from Taiz, traveled to Egypt to receive treatment and says that she was unable to return to Yemen because of the difficult living conditions due to the ongoing conflict in Taiz, forced to search for work in Egypt in order to be able to live in another homeland, and suffered doubly being far from

her homeland and her people.

On her view regarding promoting reconciliation, she says, “There is no reconciliation as long as some parties are still benefiting from the people’s suffering. There must be principles, national loyalty, and a real responsibility for these people, as all parties are responsible for what they suffer from, and because every shepherd is responsible for his flock”.

The role of the Expatriates

On the role of expatriates in spreading awareness of the importance of activating true reconciliation between the people of the homeland, Al-Batoul Morshid, a 33-year-old woman from Taiz, residing in Jordan, says, “It will be a national reconciliation between the various parties, and political action parties with the participation of all, and expatriates have a real and important role in this, represented in spreading the necessary awareness of how it is important to involve all actors and influential in achieving national reconciliation, and minimizing the impact of the conflict on all members of the Yemeni people, inside and outside the homeland”.

She adds, “There will be true reconciliation only if all the conflicting parties put the nation’s interest ahead of other interests, and reconciliation will take place, when everyone feels that the conflict is, in fact, absurd, and there is no point in continuing with it except to create greater numbers of victims and aggravate suffering”.

There are many questions on the minds of expatriates about the importance of reconciliation in alleviating their suffering abroad, facilitating their return to the homeland, and participating in the development and reconstruction process. The question remains: National reconciliation between the conflicting parties, is it a dream or a reality?



The Reality Of Yemeni Women And Their Role In National Reconciliation

الأمل
Mona Alasadi

Sawt Al-Amal – Report - Rajaa Mukred

Yemen and Yemeni people have known difficult years, during which the Yemeni women have been able to demonstrate their active presence with their male partners, and set the strongest examples in the struggle and sacrifice and stand side by side in the most difficult circumstances. Despite all this, their role, in political participation, remains weak; compared to their male partners.

From this standpoint, “Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope) tried to meet prominent women in the society to reveal the obstacles that Yemeni women face in gaining their right to political participation, and how they can make their mark on national reconciliation, and the needs for their participation.

Reality and Women

Haifa Abdel Wahid, a social activist interested in women's issues, says, “The presence of women is important in national reconciliation because she is the most affected by this situation”. She also affirms that the share of women in political participation and state decisions is low because there is exclusion against her and an inferior view, but she is still present in political circles.

In an online poll conducted by the Opinion Poll Unit in The Yemen Information Center for Research and Media (YIC) on the role of women in achieving national reconciliation; it showed that 12% of the population does not see the importance of women's participation in national reconciliation, while 88% support their role in achieving reconciliation.

Barriers to Women's Participation in Reconciliation

Latifa Jamel, Vice President of the American Center for Justice affirms that women are an essential element in conflict and peace, and they

have a fundamental role to play in national reconciliation, which is a thing that should not be discussed. But in the absence of state institutions, and before them the negative influence of the social and cultural heritage, talking about the role of women is now considered a luxury, despite the fact that women are the first to pay the price, and bear the bulk of the suffering at different levels, in conflict or peace, and they are often absent from agreements and settlements, in an obvious marginalization of a concept of societal legacy that spans political and historical times.

Jamel adds, “It must be understood that engaging in a

future national reconciliation without involving women will cause an imbalance in the general recovery of the country”.

On her part, Nadwa Al-Absi says, “The role of women in regression and backwardness and their luck concerning politics and participation in decision-making is weak, and it is not unlikely that women in the future will merely pursue their most basic rights, such as education, and exercise certain jobs”.

The lawyer Huda Al-Sarari, Head of Defense Foundation for Rights and Freedoms says, “Yemeni women have been able to prove their worth in various fields, through their relentless struggle to obtain their political, social and other rights. They were also able to assert their right as recognized in the international conventions, which Yemen has already ratified, but unfortunately, the

political will of the ruling regimes and political parties has not been worthy of the confidence of women, despite the huge sacrifices made by them at all stages”.

She continues, “Women, during their participation in the National Dialogue Conference, were able to impose their participation rate in both fields, public and political, at a rate of no less than 30%, provided that this percentage is legislated in the laws and regulations governing the elected and appointed bodies. The feminist movement began to take a more serious and effective curve in order to achieve the desired goal, especially with the scarcity of women's representation in the representative and legislative councils, but with the conflict that took place, women's rights retreated very clearly.

Al-Sarari notes, “Women have active and serious participation in ways to promote peace, negotiate, and heal the rift, so it was the only component in its entire spectrum that is capable of restoring peace-building, agreeing to stop the conflict, and building Yemen”.

On the other hand, A.S., a human rights activist says, “The mindset of some people about women is still limited to the fact that their only place to be is home, which is why women face many obstacles. They have no right to education, work, or political participation, even if women had been empowered in politics, they would have been more successful than men”.

And she affirms, “Women are strict in implementing the system, unlike men who are very lenient that is why they are able to establish national reconciliation, and if they chair any committees, especially on the issue of reconciliation, they will succeed. As proof is the success of the old countries, which were run by Yemeni queens like Bilqis and Arwa.

Although Yemeni women have an important role to play in Yemeni society at all levels, however, their role in political participation still needs to be more recognized in their capabilities and included as partners in decision-making for the benefit of all.

Yemeni Women Made the Most Sacrifices and the Last Ones who Benefited From the Settlements



الأمل
Mona Alasadi

By: Alya Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

It goes without saying that young people in any society are the essence of hope, the center of development, and the bearers of the torches of change and renaissance in their countries and societies and from this fact, Yemeni youth represent an important and main element in any political or social process in the country.

All political components should recognize the importance of their role and participation in decision-making being an element of peace. It is necessary to work on implementing this right, which confirms to them the importance of their involvement in the work for peace, especially in these current situations, which the country is going through.

"Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) polled the opinions of young people about their role in activating national reconciliation, and its importance in this difficult phase, which the country is going through.



The Youth: Ambitions Attached To The Hope Of Achieving National Reconciliation

Mona Alasadi

Urgent Need

Tariq Al-Zhalaimi, a 28-year-old man from Sana'a, says, "National reconciliation is an urgent necessity in such difficult circumstances, as it is necessary for everyone to participate in achieving them, activating them on the ground, and completing their transitional stages which come in an integrated package that begins with an investigation committee and providing redress to the victims, and an apology by the perpetrators, reaching the end of the conflict through a comprehensive political dialogue.

Regarding the impact of reconciliation on the youth, Al-Zhalaimi affirms that achieving national reconciliation has a positive impact on the youth group which is by providing them with the opportunity, like other groups in the society, to participate in decision-making and find radical solutions that contribute to changing their reality.

On his part, Ali Adnan, a 26-year-old man from Aden, says, "Yemeni youth suffer from marginalization and neglect in negotiations and political consultations that contribute to achieving peace despite the presence of a large number of young people who are distinguished by high capabilities, and they need a safe space, through which they can express their vision of resolving the conflict and activating comprehensive reconciliation, and this matter will not be achieved unless there is an opportunity to do so".

In the same context, Nahid Al-Ula, a 30-year-old man from Al-Mukalla, confirms that there is marginalization and prejudice practiced against the right of young people in dialogues and consultations, and that they are not given a real opportunity to actively participate in decision-making, and they are viewed with caution, anticipation and lack of confidence in their abilities, which led to the emergence of a significant gap among youth and society.

Youth Initiatives and Lack of Confidence

In another view, Mona Tashi, a 27-year-old woman from Sana'a, says, "Many young people view the issue of national reconciliation and restoring peace in Yemen, in the short term, with

frustration, despair and lack of hope in achieving something out of that, as a result of the ongoing conflict, without any actual progress on the issue of peace".

She clarifies, "This frustration has not prevented many young people from launching initiatives through various channels (meetings, seminars, workshops inside or outside Yemen, applications, social media) to make their voice heard to the world and to the decision-maker in the international community, in order to advance the national reconciliation process, and achieve progress in this important file, which will restore security and peace to Yemen".

Lina Khamis, a 27-year-old woman from Sayun, agrees with her, and says, "There are young people who make great efforts in the pursuit of reconciliation on the ground, through a number of initiatives that promote peace in society, highlighting various important societal

issues and the importance of involving youth in decision-making".

Muhammad Ahmed, a 25-year-old man from Al-Mukalla says, "The current reality has contributed to the strengthening frustration and the loss of hope among a large group of youth about the homeland return and the end of the conflict," adding, "young people need to increase awareness of the issue of national reconciliation, and reconsider the positive role they may add to the country. This can only be done through civil society organizations, with the partnership of all parties concerned with achieving the goal of reconciliation in the country".

Alawa Al-Shajea, a 30-year-old man, says, "Young people are more serious in dealing with the issue of national reconciliation, as it will effectively contribute to alleviating the suffering of the society, especially since young people are

most affected by the ongoing conflict, which has prompted a large number of them to seek interest in the cause of national reconciliation, and make it one of their priorities in order to achieve a better life and future"; noting the difficulties they may face, which are an obstacle to reaching their goal in achieving national reconciliation, including the participation of many young people in the ongoing conflict, they became part of it.

Abdullah Sharrakil, a 28-year-old man from Aden, agrees with him by saying, "Some young people choose silence, and others choose to be one of the causes of conflict; stressing that young people must be aware of their great role in contributing to the building of peaceful environments around them, and forming a new phase of which they are the basis".

On her part, Rania, a 28-year-old woman from Aden, believes that national reconciliation is an important step that young people are waiting impatiently for, but many of them are distracted from it, as a result of the difficult events and situations that the country is going through, which made them busy searching for the provision of the most basic necessities of life (food, drink, housing, education, health ...) and other services.

Systematic Obscurantism

Muhammad Huwais says, "What young people are exposed to from systematic obscurantism contributed to changing their ideas and opinions on the issue of national reconciliation, and making a large number of them drown in differences, and be one of the reasons for fueling conflict".

He added, "In the current situation, young people lack training and qualifications on the importance of their participation in the cause of national reconciliation, and from this standpoint, joint societal efforts must work together to create a full awareness for the youth, about the concept of national reconciliation, and its importance in achieving peace".



الأمل
Mona Alasadi

Civil Society Organizations: A Positive (Timid) Role In Spreading The Coexistence Culture And National Reconciliation

By: Manal Ameen
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The importance of the role of local and international civil society organizations lies in influencing the society significantly through the implementation of programs targeting all groups, to promote the values of peaceful coexistence in the country, and to play many and varied roles in different fields of life (cultural, social, humanitarian, economic, as well as political) in order to contribute to spreading the culture of dialogue, peace and reconciliation among all Yemenis, as an urgent need at this stage". With these words, the Information Officer in the Project of Literature for Peace at the Aden Center for Monitoring, Studies and Training, Sahar Al-Shaabi, described the importance of national reconciliation.

The exceptional circumstances that the country is going through, since the events of 2011 until now have led to the emergence of many new local organizations, in addition to the development of programs for local organizations and institutions which were already in place according to the needs of the current situation, in various fields in the country.

According to USAID's Index on the sustainability of civil society organizations in 2018 for the Middle East and North Africa, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL) estimated that the number of Yemeni community organizations, in all governorates of the republic in the north and south, reached at the end of 2018 more than 13,200 civil society organizations, and this number includes inactive organizations as well.

Al-Shaabi explained to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) that most of the local organizations which work in partnership with international organizations are focusing in their programs on the process of enhancing coexistence and acceptance of the other, and the importance of joint action in resolving the conflict in all Yemeni governorates, as well as alleviating the suffering of Yemenis on the humanitarian and rights levels indicating that the Aden Center for Monitoring called through the Project of Literature for Peace to shed light on all community issues, and to work through the project's results to pay attention to the role of literature and culture on the actual impact on society aiming at restoring the spirit of love and cooperation in building the country among the circles of society.

The Role of Organizations: Achieving Reconciliation

Majid Al-Shujairi, President of the Federation of Civil Society Organizations in Aden, to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) says, "Local organizations work through their activities and events on focusing well at the present time on the importance of activating real national reconciliation, as it is the most appropriate solu-



tion to the crisis the country is going through, coexistence and peace, community and citizen service, and joint work in the process of stabilizing the economic situation that mainly concerns the citizen.

On the importance of community organizations in achieving reconciliation, Al-Shujairi stressed that local organizations are the citizen's mouthpiece for the relevant and international bodies, as it is not linked to any side, party, or political component. And that is why it has a major role in achieving national reconciliation and activating justice, coexistence and peace among the circles of the one Yemeni society, through what some local organizations are doing in terms of simulating reality programs and highlighting the importance of the society's awareness on the need to stop the conflict and consolidate peace in the purpose of getting out of the crisis that has worsened the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

International Organizations and Promoting Reconciliation!

Some civic organizations renewed their disintegration as required by the current situation in the country. Therefore, it faces many challenges to prove its ability to influence, in most areas that focus on spreading the culture of dialogue, and producing a society that respects pluralism: intellectual and cultural, in addition to its endeavor to create effective partnerships

with international and donor organizations to achieve that goal.

Here, Mohammed Al-Azzani, Youth Sector Adviser in the Coexistence Process Support program in Yemen, affiliated with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), stresses the importance of the role of community organizations in promoting the principle of coexistence, tolerance and national reconciliation among the local community, through activities that contribute to a direct impact on the target society, explaining that most international organizations for example, and not exclusively, (Oxfam, UNDP, GIZ) have worked to spread this principle among civil society groups by targeting local organizations close to the citizen, and implementing projects aimed at achieving reconciliation and real participation in building the society.

On the challenges faced by civil organizations, Al-Azzani adds to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope), "One of the most important challenges facing work in local community organizations are 1- Repetition of activities, events, and recommendations most of which repeat the same content 2- Lack of new ideas, only a few organizations contribute, effectively and significantly, to improving the coexistence

process and affecting the society, stressing the importance of joint work between local and international organizations in order to develop new policies, in the implementation of distinct projects, that achieve the process of reconciliation and coexistence realistically as a basic principle in community work, during this stage".

Al-Azzani reviewed the activities of the German agency as a model for an international organization, which contributed to the implementation of programs that support the process of coexistence, conflict resolution, and the achievement of partnership and reconciliation, through the program of supporting coexistence in Yemen, which intervenes in several fields including: 1- Conducting studies on the general situation in Yemen in all fields 2- Implementing activities related to women and gender 3- Supporting sensitive journalism to alleviate conflict 4- Spreading the principle of coexistence and peace, in addition to targeting youth in designing information and awareness campaigns by using electronic games on mobile and building the capacities of civil society organizations in the field of coexistence and peace training.

The Role of Youth in Reconciliation

Amin Muhammed, member of Youth Peace and Security Pact, stresses the importance of engaging civil society organizations in developing and designing strategies related to the country's development process in a realistic manner, and supervising the process of following up and evaluating it with all local and international concerned parties, to achieve and activate reconciliation, as well as realizing and enhancing societal peace among the circles of society. Thus, this will not be accomplished except through partnership in addressing many of the challenges that organizations

face, represented in excluding them from real participation in making important decisions related to the country.

On the importance of involving youth, he adds, "The importance of engaging youth in achieving and promoting reconciliation as they are the largest and most dynamic segments of society in activating their role in all fields (security, political, economic and societal) in the activities and programs of local and international organizations; as they are the ones who mostly paid the price for this political and military conflict in the country. In addition to the fact that young people are more interested in achieving reconciliation than others, because they are mainly the present and the future of these countries, they are the ones who swallow the bitterness of the pain of the conflict, and they are the ones who will enjoy the desired stability. Therefore, they must be involved in any upcoming political agreement, and in all its stages, from consultation and planning to implementation".

