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STATEMENT

Statement by the spokesperson on the situation in Yemen

The bombings against several mosques in Sana'a during Friday prayer, as well as the fighting witnessed in Aden and yesterday's aerial attack on President Hadi's compound clearly aim at derailing further Yemen's transition process.

The killing of journalist Abdulkarim al Khaiwani, whose role in the National Dialogue Conference and in the defence of human rights had set a positive example in recent years, was also a stark reminder of the urgent need for all Yemeni parties to work to restore the conditions for the free public expression of opinions, including by ensuring the independence of the media from political interference. All parties should refrain from unilateral acts that could further entrench positions and escalate an already very fragile and polarized situation. They should unequivocally reject violence and coercion as political tools.

Only a broad political consensus through peaceful negotiations in an atmosphere free of fear amongst the main political groups can provide a sustainable solution to the current crisis and preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Yemen.

The EU urges all parties to return to dialogue and inclusive negotiations, in particular those conducted by the UN, and will continue to work with all regional players to constructively support current efforts to reach an inclusive political settlement. In this context, the release of Prime Minister Bahah and of other members of his government was a step in the right direction.

The EU stands by the Yemeni people at this critical juncture and reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting Yemen in its transition.

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