

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MOST COMPASSIONATE, THE MOST MERCIFUL

CODE OF HONOUR FOR THE TRIBES OF YEMEN

PREAMBLE

This Code of Honour is a unified reference document derived from Islamic principles, the laws of Yemen, and established tribal customs that constitute local customary law. It represents a shared commitment by the leaders of Yemen's tribes, acting as guarantors of human dignity, the protection of civilians, tribal solidarity, and the preservation of ethical principles in times of conflict despite political and geographic divisions.

This Code is limited to a set of clear and practical customary rules to facilitate its acceptance, implementation, and enforcement throughout all governorates and tribal regions of Yemen, regardless of tribal, ideological, political, or geographic affiliation. It serves as a complement and support to existing de-escalation mechanisms until a comprehensive political settlement is achieved, with the following objectives:

1. Protect civilians, particularly the most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, women, children, and non-combatants.
2. Strengthen tribal unity by restoring respect for shared values and the standing of customary leadership.
3. Provide a practical framework for coordination among local, regional, and international actors and mediators to prevent humanitarian violations and facilitate community-based responses to incidents.
4. Contribute to supporting United Nations-led humanitarian initiatives, comprehensive political settlement efforts, and the achievement of just and lasting peace.

Accordingly, we, the signatories to this Code of Honour, commit ourselves to the following provisions and principles:

ARTICLES OF THE CODE

Every member of the Yemeni tribes adhering to this Code, regardless of tribal, ideological, political or geographic affiliation, shall abide by the following principles in accordance with the customs and traditions recognized within each tribe:

1. Protect civilians and non-combatants from hostilities, including those who have surrendered or are no longer bearing arms.
2. Respect the deceased; refrain from mutilation or desecration and ensure the prompt return of remains to their families.

3. Treat prisoners with humanity and dignity and prohibit torture, humiliation, or any degrading treatment.
4. Protect public places and civilian facilities from violence or military use, including places of worship, markets, schools, and hospitals.
5. Evacuate the wounded, facilitate their transportation, and provide necessary medical treatment regardless of ideological, political, geographic, or military affiliation.
6. Ensure the safe freedom of movement for civilians, including contributing to the regulation and monitoring of checkpoints to prevent violations.
7. Encourage tribal sheikhs and dignitaries to participate positively and facilitate community mediation efforts, promote peaceful resolution of disputes, and preserve local ceasefire agreements.
8. Reject violence, extremism, and terrorism in all forms; refrain from harbouring terrorist elements, bandits, or individuals who attack innocent people, loot property, or violate law and order; and cooperate with the official authorities in apprehending and holding such individuals accountable in accordance with laws of the Republic of Yemen.
9. Refrain from obstructing or allowing the obstruction of humanitarian assistance or impeding its movement under any circumstances, including medical and humanitarian personnel and evacuation operations.
10. Condemn, criminalize, and outcast anyone who engages in slander, defamation, or attacks on the honour and reputation of any female or male citizens, or any other person through social media or any other medium, and support the application of deterrent sanctions under law, Sharia, and tribal custom.

PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure the effectiveness, dissemination, and implementation of this Code, the following measures shall be adopted:

1. Disseminate the Code among tribal communities through accessible means, including printed materials, booklets, mobile applications, and traditional communication channels, using both Modern Standard Arabic and local dialects. A copy of this Code shall also be sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in letters that are considered an integral part of the Code.
2. Organize workshops and consultative sessions with tribal sheikhs who sign the Code to educate tribal members and combatants regarding their obligations under its provisions.
3. Utilize diverse media platforms to conduct public awareness campaigns through radio broadcasts, social media, and tribal gatherings to promote awareness and combat misinformation.
4. Empower community leaders, scholars, tribal authorities, civil society organizations, and retired officers to mediate disputes and monitor checkpoints.

5. Conduct educational seminars and training programs on human rights guaranteed under Islamic law and tribal customs, while raising awareness of international humanitarian law concerning civilian protection and teaching de-escalation techniques for the benefit of all those participating in the protection of civilians.
6. Apply deterring customary sanctions and public condemnation through tribal channels and traditions against any individual or group that violate this Code.
7. Establish an advisory body and subcommittees to receive complaints, investigate violations, and ensure regular follow-up at the governorates level.
8. Activate the participation of all segments of society, including youth, women, and civil society, in ensuring adherence to and implementation of this Code.

We, the tribal sheikhs signing this Code, bear witness before God and pledge to God and our people that we shall implement and uphold its provisions. We reaffirm our call for all efforts to safeguard Yemeni lives and protect Yemenis honour, heritage, and our Islamic, Arab, and tribal values. We declare our readiness to make every sincere effort in support of national reconciliation initiatives and to provide tribal guarantees that preserve the security of Yemen, the region, and its neighbouring states, foremost among them the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We further affirm that good-neighbourly relations constitute a strategic, shared and long-term interest for Yemen and its neighbours, and is not temporary nor exclusive to any party. To advance these objectives, we call for the convening of a broad National Tribal Conference dedicated to consultation, reconciliation, and the promotion of the commitments embodied in this Code.

GOD IS THE BEST OF WITNESSES AND THE GRANTOR OF SUCCESS.