

Prospects for Peace in War-torn Yemen

25 February 2021, 17:00 – 18:30

Online evening conference

Dr Laurent BONNEFOY (CNRS), Invited Researcher at the Sultan Qaboos University

Dr Thomas JUNEAU (University of Ottawa), Non-Resident Fellow at the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **online evening conference**, organised on **Thursday 25 February 2021** by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

At a time when the whole world is going through a terrible health crisis due to the Covid-19 epidemic, from which the Middle East has not escaped, one country in this region accumulates calamities on an unprecedented scale: Yemen. For six long years now, this Arab state has seen its population caught between Saudi bombers supporting forces loyal to the internationally recognised government, the Shiite Houthi rebels increasingly forced to rely on Iran, and the secessionist demands of a south largely infiltrated by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

A particularly weak economic player, the ancient "Arabia Felix" has seen its situation deteriorate dramatically over the years of war, to the point of pushing the NGOs active on its territory to sound the alarm more and more often because of various humanitarian disasters: famine, cholera or diphtheria, to name but a few. This Dantesque fresco is superimposed on a stormy history in which "two Yemens" have most often faced each other as adversaries, on either side of numerous structural fault lines: geographical relief, religious identities, colonial legacy, tribal affiliations, etc.

Moreover, faced with a situation where internal authoritarianism does not augur well, many eyes are turning to the role played by regional (especially Saudi and Iranian) players at the dawn of a new American administration destined to reshuffle once again the cards in this region.

In order to decrypt this multifaceted conflict and try to discern the contours of a possible appeasement, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Laurent Bonnefoy, a CNRS researcher currently attached to the Sultan Qaboos University of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as Dr. Thomas Juneau, associate professor at the University of Ottawa and affiliated researcher at the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies.

This conference will take place on **Thursday 25 February 2021 at 17.00 hours** and will be given in **English**. We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: <https://www.defence-institute.be>. **Registration, subject to availability, is compulsory and must be received by Monday 22 February 2021 at the latest.** You will then receive the link to connect to the conference.

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Colonel GS
Director-general
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16.00 – 17.00 : Registration – connection to online conference
17.00 – 18.30 : Conference and Q & A