

## Third plenary session hears Military and Security final report

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The NDC third plenary session heard the final report of the Military and Security Working Group on Sunday, including the report's constitutional specifics to build, professionalize and neutralize military and security forces.

Yahya Al-Shami, the chairperson of the working group, read the report and introduced NDC members to the aims of the Military and Security Working Group. The main aims of the working group, Al-Shami said, were focused on the current situation of the military, security and intelligence institutions and a potential restructuring of these institutions.

The report addressed the dismissing of Southern military and security forces after the 1994 civil war, and the dismissal of forces following the six wars launched against the Houthis in Sa'ada.

The working group also aimed to encourage women to join military, security and intelligence institutions, to improve the quality of life for members of the forces, to better care of injured soldiers and their families, and the families of those killed. It also called for the reform of some military laws, including the terms of military service and retirement.

The constitutional specifics in the report stipulated that military and security forces are responsible to the public and are tasked with defending the country's security and sovereignty. The report called for the criminalization of political allegiances among military and security forces.

NDC members praised the report, saying its outcomes had the potential to meet the hopes and aspirations of Yemenis, which include better military and security services.

Abdulbari Dughaish, chairperson of the National Issues and Transitional Justice Working Group, praised members of the Military and Security Working Group for their “tremendous efforts to produce a report that includes well-drafted outcomes that will result in professional military and security forces who are loyal to only one party: the Yemeni party.”

Wafa Al-Duais from the Rights and Freedoms Working Group said the report was adequate, but preventing forces from having political affiliations deprives them of one key right which the new constitution should guarantee.

Hatim Abu Hatim, the head of the Military and Security Working Group sub-committee, said the main focus of the report was to create neutral military and security forces that are not involved in politics.

“The report also dealt with issues at military and security institutions, including the number of registered forces who do not exist,” he said. Commanders often report fake soldiers in order to collect their incomes. Abu Hatim said the Military and Security Working Group found that the number of reporting military and security forces are about 100,000 individuals, though there are about 500,000 registered in the country.

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