

Investigative Specialist: Yemen's Stolen Assets

Terms of Reference

Application closing date: 18/10/2019


Start date: approximately 25/11/2019

Duration: approximately 2 months

Location: remote

Remuneration: up to €3,000 (inclusive of taxes)

Background

Founded in 2015 and registered in Berlin, Germany, the Civil Forum for Asset Recovery (CiFAR) is a non-profit, which works across the globe for transparency and accountability in the investigation, confiscation and return of public money stolen through corruption. Since our organisation was founded, we have worked in a range of areas to support more citizen and civil society involvement in and more public debate on illicit financial flows and asset recovery. This has included high quality research, supporting early-career journalists to investigate cross-border corruption, providing trainings to civil society and young people on asset recovery, running public awareness campaigns and events, engaging with governments to discuss ongoing cases, presenting the work of civil society at international forums and supporting collaboration between civil society across borders. 

CiFAR is seeking an **investigative specialist to undertake an investigation into Yemeni stolen assets**. During his three decades in power, it is believed that the former President Ali Abdallah Saleh acquired billions of dollars in assets, primarily through bribes for awarding gas and oil contracts and through raiding the fuel subsidy programme.¹ The UN Panel of Experts identified US\$ 225 million of these assets² and at least 20 countries potentially holding these assets belonging to Saleh.³ With the civil war ongoing in Yemen, it is vital that these assets are not forgotten. Not only could the money, should it re-enter use, be able to sustain or prolong hostilities, but should a peace agreement be made, it will be extremely important for Yemen to enter into a process to recover the proceeds of corruption, which can be used to rebuild. Moreover, any-post conflict Yemen will need to address the corruption of the past and identifying the proceeds of corruption of the former regime will support and signal Yemeni efforts to address impunity.

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/73

² <http://www.undocs.org/en/S/2018/594>

³ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/125

Objectives of the overall research study

This report will provide a much-needed resource for governments, international development agencies, the UN, civil society and journalists in Yemen to put in place measures to identify and secure Yemeni stolen assets, and ultimately recover them and promote an accountable and transparent process for doing so. The information contained in the report will thus contribute to efforts to address the corruption of the past and build a society free from impunity in the future.

The research study has two objectives to this end:

1. To create an **investigative mapping of the assets of former president Saleh**, his family and associates.
2. To outline the possible **measures** that could be taken by the Yemeni government to recover those assets and how **accountability and transparency** could be built into the process.

Due to a complex nature of the topic of the report, the research report of approximately 30 pages **will be conducted collaboratively**. The collaborative research will involve developing an understanding of the possibilities for return of assets and how Yemen could approach asset recovery in this context in a way that is transparent and accountable. The collaborative research part will be the responsibility of the Yemen research expert. The investigative element of the report will focus on developing new knowledge on the frozen and unfrozen assets relating to former President Saleh, and will be conducted by an investigative specialist, here recruited for, with support from the Yemen research expert.

The proposed structure of the report is as follows:

- 1) **Background** on the situation in Yemen, with regards to grand corruption and asset recovery, building on CiFAR's existing research into grand corruption under the Saleh regime.
- 2) **Description of identifiable Yemeni assets** belonging to persons subject to UN Security Council Resolution 2140, focusing on those that formerly were related to Saleh that builds on existing reports and further investigative work using public databases. This part of the report will be developed by the investigative specialist and will be supported by the Yemen research expert.
- 3) **Explanation of the current sanctions framework** post-Saleh's death.

This part will build on CiFAR's existing sanctions research and will be added to by the Yemen research expert.

- 4) **Explanation how any future asset recovery would work** and discussion on the accountable and transparent processes for the recovery of those assets. This part of the report will look into possible legal arrangements for asset recovery mechanisms and would be developed in a close collaboration with CiFAR's asset recovery expert.

Research approach of the investigative specialist

The main responsibility of the investigative specialist will be the search for and identification of identifiable Yemeni assets belonging to persons subject to UN Security Council Resolution 2140, focusing on those that formerly were related to Saleh that builds on existing reports and involves further investigative work using public databases. The investigative specialist will work together with CiFAR and Yemen research expert to identify the sources of information that will enable the investigative specialist to map out close family and associates of Ali Abdallah Saleh, possible companies associated with him and them, and likely travel locations where assets could be located.

Deliverables and timeline

- Plan of investigation in an approximate length of four pages submitted to CiFAR within one week of contract start.
- A draft report submitted to CiFAR within six weeks of contract start.
- A final investigative report not exceeding 10 pages submitted after incorporating feedback on the draft report by the end of January 2020 at the latest.

Remuneration

The consultant should provide a detailed breakdown, before any VAT or other charges, of all their estimated costs, including but not limited to: total fee as a lump sum or standard daily or hourly rates, (if applicable) international travel, local transport, accommodation, work materials. Offers up to a maximum of €3,000 will be considered (inclusive of VAT).

Person specification

- Track record of having conducted a similar investigation, ideally tracking stolen assets.
- Fluent in English and Arabic.
- Good knowledge of the political situation in Yemen relating to the former government desirable.

Application

The application should include the following documents in English:

- CV
- Cover letter
- A short investigation plan with a brief overview of how the work will be approached, what methods will be used, rough outline of the study and estimated budget
- One sample of relevant previous written work (confidentiality guaranteed)

To apply, please send your application to info@cifar.eu with the subject line "Investigative Specialist" by Friday, 18th October 2019.