

Yemen warns against unauthorised demonstrations

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Yemen's interior ministry has warned political parties and professional associations against staging unauthorised demonstrations, the official Saba news agency reported Saturday.

Anyone who violates this rule "will have to take the consequences," it said.

Thousands of people have taken to the streets in recent weeks to protest against rising prices in one of the world's poorest countries and to press for better public services.

The protests have been orchestrated by opposition parties, including the Al-Islah (Reform) Party, the main Islamist opposition party, and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the former south Yemen.

Two people were killed and 18 wounded on September 10 when security forces clashed with protesters in the southern town of Dhaleh.

Some of the demonstrators were former soldiers, who complained they had been forced into early retirement after Yemen's 1994 civil war, which was sparked by a southern secession bid.

A human rights group said one person was killed and nine were wounded on September 1 after similar protests in the southern city of Al-Mukalla triggered clashes with police.