

Country/entity	Yemen
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Ta'iz Ceasefire Agreement
Date	16 Apr 2016
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Yemeni Civil Wars (1994) (2011 -)

The Republic of Yemen was formed in May 1990 after the merger between the Yemeni Arab Republic (YAR) in the north and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in the south. The unification process was rushed and the final agreement between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and President Ali Salem al-Beidh was based on the imperfect promise of equality. Following the merger, integration of the militaries and civil services was at best incomplete or at times entirely non-existent. When Saleh's General Congress Party (GPC) allied itself with the newly created Islamist Islah ('reform') party in 1993, the former ruling party of South Yemen – the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) – was effectively side-lined in the 1993 General Elections. Violence involving the use of heavy weaponry and aerial bombardment erupted in April 1994 and on the 21 May 1994 Vice President al-Beidh declared the secession of the south, citing political centralization with the northern highland tribes, violence against the YSP and economic discrimination. In the midst of fighting, negotiations in Cairo, Egypt, collapsed. The war ended with the military victory of the north, and on the 1 October 1994, Ali Abdullah Saleh was elected President.

Despite the unification of Yemen in 1990, political power during the 1990s and 2000s remained centralized with the northern highland tribes, particularly the villages from which President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his confidants stemmed. The system of clientelism established through the ruling General People's Congress party maintained relative loyalty among the fractured political allegiances of Yemen's traditional tribal leadership. However, diminishing oil reserves and the shrinking opportunities for access to rent increased economic and political marginalization in Yemen's peripheral communities. The degree of regionalism of conflicts is further defined by other local grievances. In the northern governorate of Sa'dah, a backlash was provoked among the local Zaydi Shi'a against Sunni Salafist cultural incursions resulting in six wars between 2004 and 2010. In the southern governorates of Hadramawt, Shabwa, al-Dhali and Abyan, civil and military personnel forcibly retired after the 1994 Civil War began protesting and eventually formed the secessionist Southern 'al-Hiraak' movement in 2007. Furthermore, tribal grievances have spurred attacks on oil companies and government installations to extract rents. Various takfiri groups including al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have also increased their presence since 1995.

The Yemen Spring in early 2011 allowed all these movements to express their joint displeasure. Moreover, factionalism in the regime split the already weak military and thus allowed the Houthis, the takfiris and tribal-based militia known as popular committees, to assert themselves militarily. Mandated by the UN-sponsored Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the National Dialogue held from March 2013 to January 2014 aimed at guaranteeing power-sharing among the different parties. However, the GCC Initiative only included formal political parties that did not accurately reflect political realities. Furthermore, provisions lacked adequate transitional justice and provided former-President Saleh, as well as others, full amnesty. As a result, little faith was placed in the process by formerly marginalized groups such as the Zaydi Shia Houthi rebels (Ansar Allah) and al-Hiraak who opted to increase their bargaining power vis-à-vis the state by strengthening their own territorial enclaves. In September 2014 the Houthis succeeded in capturing the capital Sana'a and gradually expanded their control southward. The subsequent UN-mediated Peace and National Partnership Agreement between transitional president Hadi and the Houthis on a federal, democratic Yemeni state, failed to be implemented as the Houthis successfully dissolved the parliament and deposed Hadi in January 2015. Following the Saudi military intervention to restore the Hadi government in March 2015, ceasefire attempts continuously failed. A two-year

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Yemen peace process
Parties	Islah MP/NDC Member, Abdulkareem Shaiban Southern Group NDC Member, Ali Mohammed Ahmed Al Ma'amari Chairman of the of the De-escalation and Ceasefire Committee, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Nayef Republican Guard, Brigadier Zakaria Al Muta'a
Third parties	United Nations, GCC
Description	A Second ceasefire agreement drafted for the city of Ta'iz following the exclusion of key militias in the nationwide ceasefire agreements signed at Dharan al-Janoub 6 days earlier. Commits to opening the roads from Ta'iz and communication between the two sides to avoid violations.

Agreement document [YE_160416_Taiz Ceasefire Agreement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [YE_160416_Taiz Ceasefire Agreement_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media logistics
Page 1, 2- Starting Saturday at 3.00 p.m., all roads and entry points leading to and from Taiz shall be opened including the Taiz- Sana'a highway passing through Al Hawban cross point, Taiz- Aden highway and the road linking Taiz with Hodeidah- Shara'ab-Al Dhabab and other sub-roads and entry points and that checkpoints controlled by the two Parties shall ensure smooth movement of people, vehicles, commodities, supplies, medicines and other civil life needs in anticipation to lift these checkpoints in the future. The civil committee formed from the two Parties shall also follow up the opening of roads and other corridors while the two Parties shall keep in touch to facilitate any difficulties in relation to smooth movement of people and vehicles as agreed earlier by assigning two persons from each party to operate all the above-mentioned entry points.

Page 1, 4- In order to tackle any problem that would undermine validity of the ceasefire agreement, the bilateral military committee formed from the two parties shall convene regular meetings or keep in touch 24 hours through phone or social media after assigning two persons by each party for each front to tackle/prevent any action that might compromise the ceasefire agreement, including reinforcements, deployment or any of the actions mentioned in article (1) of the agreement signed in Dhahran Al Janoub City and as per the undersigned agreement.

Mobility/access	<p>Page 1, 2- Staring Saturday at 3.00 p.m., all roads and entry points lading to and from Taiz shall be opened including the Taiz- Sana'a highway passing through Al Hawban cross point, Taiz- Aden highway and the road linking Taiz with Hodeidah- Shara'ab-Al Dhabab and other sub-roads and entry points and that checkpoints controlled by the two Parties shall ensure smooth movement of people, vehicles, commodities, supplies, medicines and other civil life needs in anticipation to lift these checkpoints in the future. The civil committee formed from the two Parties shall also follow up the opening of roads and other corridors while the two Parties shall keep in touch to facilitate any difficulties in relation to smooth movement of people and vehicles as agreed earlier by assigning two persons from each party to operate all the above-mentioned entry points.</p> <p>Page 1, 3- Staring Saturday 3.00 p.m., Rajab 9, 1437 corresponding to April 16, 2016, all roads linking the districts of Taiz and within the districts shall be opened and to ensure smooth movement of people, vehicles, commodities, supplies, medicines and other civil life needs in anticipation to lift these checkpoints in the future.</p> <p>Page 2, PS: Main Roads (Sana'a – Taiz up to downtown Taiz and Hodeidah-Taiz road up to the city center shall be opened immediately on 16/04/2016 with the rest to follow suit gradually).</p>
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
[Summary] Agreement is a ceasefire agreement.

Page 1, 1- The Two Parties shall ceasefire and prevent all sorts of military actions including reinforcements, mobilization, and deployment or seizing new sites.

Page 1, 5- In the event the committee assigned by the two parties at this of that front becomes unable to tackle the problems, the matter shall be quickly raised up to the Supreme Committee at the Governorate, which shall in turn take speedy action to resolve the problem so to ensure ceasefire to remain in effect.

Page 1, 6- The two parties shall commit not to arrest any person and shall seek to tackle the file of detainees and missing from the two sides as agreed.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 1, 6- The two parties shall commit not to arrest any person and shall seek to tackle the file of detainees and missing from the two sides as agreed.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons Page 1, 6- The two parties shall commit not to arrest any person and shall seek to tackle the file of detainees and missing from the two sides as agreed.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source On File with Author
