

Country/entity	Yemen
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Letter to Presidential Mediation Council on Terms of Ceasefire from Sheikh al-Hajuri
Date	11 Jan 2014
Agreement status	Unilateral document
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	Inter-group
Peace process	Yemen Inter-group Agreements
Parties	Sheikh Yahyā bin ‘Alī al-Hajūrī, Head of the Dar al-Hadith Madrassa in Dammaj.
Third parties	Presidential Mediation Council (recipient of the letter)
Description	Five point letter providing the conditions for the evacuation of the Dar al-Hadith Madrassa under al-Hajuri following sustained clashes with Ansar Allah (Houthi militias) in the area (approximately 6 months). The five points highlight the need for the evacuation of the students of the school within 4 days; a helicopter for al-Hajuri; reparations from the state for the loss of property and land; resettlement to Hudaydah governorate.
Agreement document	YE_140111_Letter from Sheikh al-Hajuri on Terms of Ceasefire_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	YE_140111_Letter from Sheikh al-Hajuri on Terms of Ceasefire_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 No specific mention.

Mobility/access	Page 1, 2. Grant a period of four days and nights in which we – and any of our students who so desire – can prepare our affairs for leaving Dammaj for al-Hudaydah governorate, and [grant that] we may leave safely with our belongings with the guarantee of the council, and kindly send a helicopter to transfer me with a mediation council escort, and [that] the state assumes responsibility for all the costs of transporting the students and the teachers, as well as their furniture and possessions. The provision of appropriate transport to the point where the Sheikh Yahyā bin ‘Alī al-Juhūrī and his students reside, with their families, all their affairs and weapons of different kinds.
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 Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible
Page 1, 4. That we will be compensated with whatever the council and the state deems appropriate, god save them, to build some mosques, houses, wells, and health clinics.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access Page 1, 4. That we will be compensated with whatever the council and the state deems appropriate, god save them, to build some mosques, houses, wells, and health clinics.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

Page 1, 3. We want a guarantee from the Houthis endorsed by both the mediators and by the President that wherever I and my brothers settle, the Houthis will not harm us, nor will they harm the townspeople remaining in Dammaj, and [we want a guarantee on] the continuation of the house of the hadith in Dammaj.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, 1. Cessation of the war; removing the Houthi threat from us; breaking the siege; and a body exchange.

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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 No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims Page 1, 5. Fair compensation for losses of the war in terms of possessions, homes, and recognition of the martyrs of Dammaj as accounted to the state, and care and treatment for all those wounded during the first quarter of this year.

Missing persons Page 1, 1. Cessation of the war; removing the Houthi threat from us; breaking the siege; and a body exchange.

Reparations Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations
Page 1, 4. That we will be compensated with whatever the council and the state deems appropriate, god save them, to build some mosques, houses, wells, and health clinics.

Page 1, 5. Fair compensation for losses of the war in terms of possessions, homes, and recognition of the martyrs of Dammaj as accounted to the state , and care and treatment for all those wounded during the first quarter of this year.

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	Yemen Press. 'Sheikh al-Hajuri agrees to leave Dammaj and move to Hudaydah in exchange for a ceasefire and the lifting of the siege', 11 January 2014, https://yemen-press.com/news25978.html
