

Country/entity	Yemen
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Agreement between Yafa' tribes in Lahj and tribal leaders and local officials in Shabwah to protect roads connecting the governorates
Date	17 Nov 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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Yemen Inter-group Agreements
Parties	Yafa'ai tribes of Lahj, tribal groups in Shabwah and local officials from both Lahj and Shabwah
Third parties	-
Description	Short inter-tribal agreement providing for the protection of major highway routes connecting both Lahj and Shabwah governorates and other key access points in areas in surrounding governorates. The agreement addresses targeted conflict acts on the roads against travellers, calling for the handover of wanted persons involved in historic and ongoing acts and provides for committees to investigate these acts. There are also substantive measures to counter society or either of the signing tribes providing social cover for armed actors who have committed conflict acts on the roads.

Agreement document [YE_161117_Agreement between Yafa' tribes in Lahj and tribal leaders and local officials in Shabwah to protect roads connecting the governorates_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [YE_161117_Agreement between Yafa' tribes in Lahj and tribal leaders and local officials in Shabwah to protect roads connecting the governorates_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 Page 1, After the arrival of a delegation of Yafa' tribes to the city of Ataq, Shabwah on 14/11/2016, and their reception by a number of sheikhs and tribes of Shabwa, several meetings were held between the sheikhs of Yafa' and a number of sheikhs of Shabwa, and its local leadership represented by the governor and the director of security, and others, and informing them about Yafa's charge and its tribal lawsuit according to customs and past tribal practices, and on Thursday the 12th of Safar 1438 AH corresponding to 17/11/2016, it was agreed on the following: -

Page 2, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway...

6 - Sheikh Ali Mohsen Al Sulaimani and Brigadier General Mahmoud Muthanna were appointed to follow-up the case's procedures with the joint criminal investigation crew.

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 No specific mention.

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 Page 1, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway...

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Page 1, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway...

3 - Whoever is proven to have been involved in such acts, the tribe to which he belongs must hand him over to the authorities and not cover up for him, to carry out the penalty following Allah's law, which indicates that the blood [the killing] of the bandit is permissible.

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** Page 2, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway...

4- The local, military, and security authority leadership in Shabwa governorate is committed to secure the public route that goes through Ataq, which was suspended according to the decision of the Security Committee at its meeting held on 16/12/2016 and fighting bandits.

5 - The people of Shabwa and Yafa' affirm the continuation, and strengthening, of the bonds of friendships, brotherhood, and respect, and to work together to encounter hostile and intruding acts and events on our society that damage brotherhood ties and undermine the security and the stability of the community.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

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	<p>Page 1, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway, the last of which was the killing of the martyr Anis Abd al-Rab alAntari and the severe injury of two others on 31/10/2016, and the past outlaw acts of the sons of Yafa' and others and initiating formal procedures.</p> <p>Page 1, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway...</p> <p>1 - The people of Shabwah and Yafa', authorities and the tribes, recognize that they are one hand against those who carry out outlaw acts, looting, and killing on the highway mentioned above and all public roads.</p> <p>2 - The people of Shabwa, authorities and the tribes, are committed to chase the suspects of outlaw acts and robbery, and not to harbour any wanted person, and any tribe that refuses to hand over wanted persons or harbour them, they are [considered] rivals of the Shabwa and Yafa' tribes, and the authority is not exempt from carrying out its duty to chase the suspects and arrest them.</p>
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general Page 1, The subject: agreement on the robbery and criminal activities on the Al-Abra highway...

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3 - Whoever is proven to have been involved in such acts, the tribe to which he belongs must hand him over to the authorities and not cover up for him, to carry out the penalty following Allah's law, which indicates that the blood [the killing] of the bandit is permissible.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

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

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