

Country/entity	Saudi Arabia Yemen
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	International Border Treaty between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Date	12 Jun 2000
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/interstate conflict

Saudi-Yemeni Border Dispute (1934 - 2000)

The Saudi-Yemeni border dispute goes back before the Treaty of Taif signing in 1934 which ceded the provinces of Asir, Najran and Jazan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after a brief border war. However, the Treaty did not demarcate a large stretch of the 1,300-mile border between the two countries. Moreover, none of the regimes of the Yemeni Republic (North Yemen) following the 1962 revolution recognised the Taif Treaty. In 1973 a joint communique regarding the border was signed but subsequently fell through. Tensions further increased after Saudi Arabia expelled over 1 million Yemeni migrant workers following Yemen's support for Iraq in the 1990-1991 Gulf War. Talks in 1992 on the border and subsequent provisional agreements fell through. In 1994 and 1995 attacks on Saudi border posts occurred during and after the Yemen Civil War, when Saudi Arabia supported the Socialist South. Again, in 1995, a memorandum of understanding was signed in order to resolve the issue peacefully. However, the conflict escalated in May 1998, when a Saudi outpost was attacked on a disputed Island in the Red Sea. Saudi forces retaliated in a pitched battle on a Yemeni contingent on Duwaima Island in July. The conflict ended following the 'International Boundary Treaty' in June 2000 and entered into force a month later. With this treaty Yemen finally formally recognised the Treaty of Taif to resolve the boundary line. In return, Saudi Arabia agreed to relinquish its additional land and maritime territorial claims outside the 1934 boundary line.

Yemeni Wa'ila tribes living on the borders, however, do not acknowledge the Treaty. They accuse Saudi-Arabia of confiscating their lands in the regions of Sallah, Qafra Sallah, Khubbash. In June 2006 the tribes announced they would resort to force to regain the territories if not being taken seriously, and warned the Yemeni government against compromises.

Close
Saudi-Yemeni Border Dispute (1934 - 2000)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Territory

Peace process	Saudi Arabia - Yemen Border process
Parties	Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Saud Al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Government of the Republic of Yemen: Abdul-Qader Abdul, Deputy Prime Minister and Rahman Ba-Jammal, Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Third parties	-
Description	This agreement expands on the Treaty of Taif and the Memorandum of Understanding. It comprehensively demarcates the land and maritime borders between the two countries. Annex 1 and 2 contain boundary reports, Annex 3 marks the maritime boundary, Annex 4 covers pastoralism, military activity and natural resources along the border, and a Procès-verbal containing corrections.

Agreement document [SA YE_000612_International Border Treaty between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

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 The agreement in its entirety provides for border delimitation.

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	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	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources Page 20, Annex IV, The Exploitation of Shared Natural Resources Along the Land Boundary Between the Two Countries, Article 6
In the event of the discovery of a recoverable and exploitable shared natural resource on the boundary line between the two countries from precisely at the sea wall, Ra's al-Mu 'wajj Shami, Radif Qarad outlet, to the point of intersection of latitude 19 north and longitude 52 east the two contracting parties shall undertake the necessary negotiations between them for the joint exploitation of that resource.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation
Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of the Rights to Pasture, Article 2
Herdsman who are nationals of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or nationals of the Republic of Yemen shall be exempt from:
...
(b) Taxes and duties on the personal effects, foodstuffs and consumer goods that they carry with them. This shall not prevent either of the parties from imposing customs duties on livestock or merchandise crossing for purposes of trade.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of the Rights to Pasture, Article 1
(a) The grazing zone on each side in the second section of the boundary-line indicated in this treaty shall be established as 20 kilometres.
(b) The herdsmen of the two countries may use the grazing zones and water sources on both sides of the boundary line in this section in accordance with prevailing tribal traditions and customs up to a depth of not more than 20 kilometres.
(c) The two contracting parties shall hold annual consultations for the designation of crossing points for grazing purposes in accordance with prevailing conditions and prospects for pasture.

Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of the Rights to Pasture, Article 2
Herdsmen who are nationals of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or nationals of the Republic of Yemen shall be exempt from:
(a) The regulations governing residence and passports. Such herdsmen shall be issued with a transit document by their own authorities;
(b) Taxes and duties on the personal effects, foodstuffs and consumer goods that they carry with them. This shall not prevent either of the parties from imposing customs duties on livestock or merchandise crossing for purposes of trade.

Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of the Rights to Pasture, Article 3
Each contracting party may impose the restrictions and controls it deems appropriate on the number of vehicles crossing into its territory with the herdsmen and on the type and number of firearms that may be carried subject to their licensing by the relevant authorities of the two countries and the identification of those carrying them.

Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of the Rights to Pasture, Article 4
In the event of an outbreak of contagious disease in livestock, each party may take the necessary preventive measures and impose restrictions on the importation and exportation of infected animals. The relevant authorities in both countries shall cooperate to the extent possible in limiting the spread of the disease.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	<p>Page 2, Article 2</p> <p>...</p> <p>This is the maritime section of the boundary. It begins at the onshore marker on the sea coast (precisely at the sea wall, Ra's al-Mu'wajj Shami, Radif Qarad outlet), the coordinates of which are specified above, and it terminates at the extremity of the maritime boundaries between the two countries.</p> <p>Page 2, Article 3</p> <p>...</p> <p>the two contracting parties shall engage an international company to conduct a field survey of the full length of the land and maritime boundaries.</p> <p>Page 18, Annex III, Maritime Boundary Between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in its entirety provides for the delimitation of maritime access.</p> <p>Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of the Rights to Pasture, Article 1</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) The herdsmen of the two countries may use the grazing zones and water sources on both sides of the boundary line in this section in accordance with prevailing tribal traditions and customs up to a depth of not more than 20 kilometres.</p>

Security sector

Security Guarantees	<p>Page 19, Annex IV, Concerning the Regulation of Rights to Pasture</p> <p>In the event of an outbreak of contagious disease in livestock, each party may take the necessary preventive measures and impose restrictions on the importation and exportation of infected animals. The relevant authorities in both countries shall cooperate to the extent possible in limiting the spread of the disease.</p>
Ceasefire	<p>Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments</p> <p>Page 2, Article 4</p> <p>The two contracting parties undertake to abide by the terms of article 5 of the Treaty of Taif as they relate to the removal of any military position located less than five kilometres from the boundary line delimited on the basis of the boundary reports annexed to the same Treaty of Taif.</p> <p>Page 20, Annex IV, The Positioning of Armed Forces by Both Sides, Article 5</p> <p>Neither contracting party may deploy its armed forces within 20 kilometres of the second section of the boundary line indicated in this Treaty. Activity by either party on either side shall be limited to the dispatch of mobile security patrols armed with regular weapons.</p>
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	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 No specific mention.
