

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

<b>Stage</b>	Implementation/renegotiation
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Territory

<b>Peace process</b>	Saudi Arabia - Yemen Border process
<b>Parties</b>	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.
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	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

<b>Children/youth</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Racial/ethnic/ national group</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Religious groups</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other groups</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Refugees/displaced persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Social class</b>	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**

<b>Citizenship</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Democracy</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.

---

## **Rights institutions**

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.

---

## **Justice sector reform**

<b>Criminal justice and emergency law</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State of emergency provisions</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional Laws</b>	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.

<b>Environment</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Water or riparian rights or access</b>	<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**

<b>Security Guarantees</b>	<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>
<b>Ceasefire</b>	<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>
<b>Police</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Armed forces</b>	No specific mention.

<b>DDR</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

---

#### **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	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.

---