Country/entity	Saudi Arabia Yemen
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Saudi-Yemeni Memorandum of Understanding
Date	26 Feb 1995
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, Qafrat 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: Special Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Ibrahim Bin Abdullah Al Angeri. Government of the Republic of Yemen: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development, Abdulqader Abdurrahman Bajammal
Third parties	-
Description	This agreement implements the Treaty of Ta'if signed in 1934. It forms a committee to renew the border marks between the countries. It also calls for non-aggression against each other and establishes a committee to develop economic and cultural relations between the countries. A private sector company agreed to by both parties will demarcate the border.

Agreement document	SA YE_950226_Memorandum of Understanding.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	Page 1, Article 2 A joint committee of an equal number of members from the two parties shall be formed within a period not exceeding thirty days. Its task shall be to renew existing and erased markers established in accordance with the border reports annexed to the Treaty, starting from the border point (Rasif al Bahar Tamaman Ra'sal Mu'awwaj Shami Li Manfadh Radif Qirad) between Midi and al Muwassam until the last point previously demarcated at Jabal ath Thar, and to use modern scientific means to install the marks (pillars) thereon. A specialized company, chosen by the Two Parties, shall be contracted to execute the said task under the committee's supervision. Page 1, Article 3 The current committee formed by the two countries shall continue its work to determine the necessary procedures and steps which lead to the demarcation of the rest of the borders starting from Jabal ath Thar until the end of the borders of the two countries, including agreement on how to seek arbitration in case of disagreement between the two countries. Page 1, Article 4 A joint committee shall be formed to negotiate the designation of maritime borders in accordance with international law, staring [sic] from the border point o [sic] coast mentioned in Article 2 above.
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 roles Page 2, Article 9 In order to continue maintaining the friendly atmosphere necessary for the success of talks, each party shall be obliged not to carry out any hostile propaganda against the other party.
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	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 2, Article 6 A joint ministerial committee shall be formed to promote economic, commercial and cultural ties between the two countries and to enhance mutual cooperation between them...
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	Page 1, Article 4 A joint committee shall be formed to negotiate the designation of maritime borders in accordance with international law, staring from the border point o [sic] coast mentioned in Article 2 above.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 2, Article 5 A joint high-ranking military committee from both parties shall be formed to ensure that no installations or military movements or others take place on the borders between the two countries. Page 2, Article 8 Each of the two countries affirms its commitment not to permit the use of its country as a base and center for carrying out aggression against the other staging any political, military or propaganda activities against the other
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	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.