

Country/entity Yemen

Region Middle East and North Africa

Agreement name Dhahran al-Janoub Agreements on the Cessation of Hostilities in Yemen for Shabwah, al-Dhali', al-Baydah, al-Jawf, Ma'rib, Ta'iz and Terms and Conditions

Date 10 Apr 2016

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim arrangement Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate 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	Government/territory
Peace process	Yemen peace process
Parties	General People's Congress, Ansar Allah, Arab Coalition and Internationally recognised Government of Yemen [Hadi]
Third parties	United Nations Certified by the Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Description	A ceasefire agreement between Ansar Allah and the General People's Congress, and the UN-backed government of President Abdrabbu Mansur Hadi, providing for the creation of a Committee for De-escalation and Coordination to contain members from all sides, as well as local level committees of eight men/women to implement the ceasefire as well as regular ceasefire provisions such as a cessation of attacks, withdrawal of forces and free access for humanitarian organisations. The Dharan al-Janoub Ceasefires number six covering the governorates of Jawf, Marib, Taiz, al-Baydah, Shabwah and al-Dhalea. The agreements are identical save for the signatories and names of individuals partaking in local committees, therefore only one copy [Jawf] has been coded in database.

Agreement document [YE_160410_Terms of the cessation of hostilities and Dharan al-Janoub Ceasefires.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	<p>Groups→Children/youth→Substantive Page 2-3, Procedural measures, ... 5. Free and unimpeded access to humanitarian and relief agencies and supplies to and from all parts of Yemen, as well as unrestricted freedom of movement for individuals, citizens and commercial supplies, and commercial and economic activities not inconsistent with the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM). The Government is committed to protecting civilians in accordance with the provisions and norms of international humanitarian law, including respect for the rights of women and children in armed conflict, and to protect civilian infrastructure and private and public property.</p> <p>Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities 20. During the cessation of hostilities to enforce it, Local Committees are to actively engage with civil society, including women's and youth groups, to promote the general commitment to the cessation of hostilities.</p>
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	<p>Page 2-3, Procedural measures, ... 5. Free and unimpeded access to humanitarian and relief agencies and supplies to and from all parts of Yemen, as well as unrestricted freedom of movement for individuals, citizens and commercial supplies, and commercial and economic activities not inconsistent with the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM). The Government is committed to protecting civilians in accordance with the provisions and norms of international humanitarian law, including respect for the rights of women and children in armed conflict, and to protect civilian infrastructure and private and public property.</p> <p>Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities 20. During the cessation of hostilities to enforce it, Local Committees are to actively engage with civil society, including women’s and youth groups, to promote the general commitment to the cessation of hostilities.</p>
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 [Summary] Agreement highlights the importance of unimpeded access to humanitarian organisations.

Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities

20. During the cessation of hostilities to enforce it, Local Committees are to actively engage with civil society, including women’s and youth groups, to promote the general commitment to the cessation of hostilities.

Page 5, Ceasefire Agreement between Yemeni brothers in the Governorate of Jawf,

5. A civilian committee shall be formed of notables and social personalities in which parties have four representatives in coordination with the UN. This committee shall oversee the opening of passage ways and roads and facilitation of passage, delivery of relief and humanitarian assistance, facilitating the movement of citizens, overseeing the distribution of relief aid and, within 24 hours, putting together a suitable mechanism to carry out its task (names of members of the committee members) and shall agree on its meeting location.

**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** Power sharing→Military power sharing→Proportionality
Page 3, De-escalation and Coordination Committee
7. Four (4) senior military officers and two (2) middle-level operations [officials] representing the Government shall be selected to be members of De-escalation and Coordination Committee. The Committee shall commence their meetings at least one week before the cessation of hostilities enters into force.
[Note: Ansar Allah and GPC choose other half of representatives]

Page 5, Ceasefire Agreement between Yemeni brothers in the Governorate of Jawf,
... 2. Forming a specialized military committee made up of 4 members from each party to monitor the ceasefire. Within 24 hours, this committee shall put together a suitable mechanism to carry out its task agreeing on its meeting location [names of the committee members]

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1, Preamble, ... A commitment to creating favourable conditions for securing the access of humanitarian aid to all affected areas in Yemen and unhindered freedom of movement for the mobility for trade and economic supplies and the fulfilment of obligations under international humanitarian law;

Page 2-3, Procedural measures,
... 5. Free and unimpeded access to humanitarian and relief agencies and supplies to and from all parts of Yemen, as well as unrestricted freedom of movement for individuals, citizens and commercial supplies, and commercial and economic activities not inconsistent with the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM). The Government is committed to protecting civilians in accordance with the provisions and norms of international humanitarian law, including respect for the rights of women and children in armed conflict, and to protect civilian infrastructure and private and public property.

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 3, Procedural measures,

6. In conjunction with the start of the cessation of hostilities, the Government is committed to calm the media and rationalize the speech and guide it in support of stopping the fighting and peaceful solutions.

Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other

Page 3, De-escalation and Coordination Committee

9. The De-escalation and Coordination Committee shall communicate and coordinate with Local Committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities where they exist (in accordance with Paragraphs 14 onwards in these procedures) in order to ensure accurate and timely transmission of information. The De-escalation and Coordination Committee may also request information from Local Committees wherever and whenever necessary.

... 12. Members of the De-escalation and Coordination Committee are prohibited from communicating with the media or issuing any information or comments on any means of social communication about the work of the Committee or any information provided by any party to the conflict.

13. The Special Envoy of the United Nations or any other official designated by the United Nations shall undertake all communication activities or reports on the work of the De-escalation and Coordination Committee throughout the period of the cessation of hostilities.

Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities

19. Local Committees shall be established before the cessation of hostilities in order to open channels of communication with military officials from all parties in the provinces in which they operate to consolidate knowledge and commitment to cease hostilities in their communities.

Mobility/access

Page 1, Preamble, ... A commitment to creating favourable conditions for securing the access of humanitarian aid to all affected areas in Yemen and unhindered freedom of movement for the mobility for trade and economic supplies and the fulfilment of obligations under international humanitarian law;

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Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities

18. To enforce the cessation of hostilities, Local Committees work with parties to support local confidence-building measures such as exhumation, transport of the sick or wounded, a release/exchange of prisoners and detainees, as well as measures to enhance the livelihood of the population in their areas, including the lifting of restrictions of freedom of movement of civilians and for commercial activities, humanitarian organisations and reconstruction organisations. To establish a cessation of hostilities, Local Committees may also assist in preparing for the withdrawal of militias and armed groups as appropriate, and in accordance with the agreements from consultations under the auspices of the United Nations.

Page 5, Ceasefire Agreement between Yemeni brothers in the Governorate of Jawf,

5. A civilian committee shall be formed of notables and social personalities in which parties have four representatives in coordination with the UN. This committee shall oversee the opening of passage ways and roads and facilitation of passage, delivery of relief and humanitarian assistance, facilitating the movement of citizens, overseeing the distribution of relief aid and, within 24 hours, putting together a suitable mechanism to carry out its task (names of members of the committee members) and shall agree on its meeting location.

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→Humanitarian assistance
Page 1, Preamble, ... A commitment to creating favourable conditions for securing the access of humanitarian aid to all affected areas in Yemen and unhindered freedom of movement for the mobility for trade and economic supplies and the fulfilment of obligations under international humanitarian law;

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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**

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

[Summary] Agreement is a ceasefire Agreement calling for a cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of artillery, among other aspects. Relevant articles are coded elsewhere.

Page 1-2, Procedural measures

1. The Government agrees to a cessation of hostilities throughout the Republic of Yemen and on all its borders starting on 10 April, 23:59 GMT Sana'a. It may be permissible to reach an agreement through consultations sponsored by the UN to amend or repeal the terms of the cessation of hostilities.

2. The cessation of hostilities includes a full and comprehensive end of land, air, and naval military attacks and all military activities and movements over the entire territory or Yemen and the border areas. This includes the cessations of all:

- a) Planting operations or the maintenance of mines, and/or any other type of explosive materials;
- b) Air strikes on any party;
- c) Attacks on any party through indirect fire (artillery and mortar shells and rockets);
- d) Attacks on any party with heavy weapons targeted and direct (Including, but not limited to, tanks and weapons mounted on vehicles and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG weapons and heavy machines));
- e) Attacks on any party by direct light weapons (medium and light machine guns, medium and small hand grenades);
- f) The use of radar for counter electronic operations for aircraft;
- g) Supplying ballistic missile systems with fuel or movement or transfer. It may be permissible to undertake maintenance only to the necessary extent after reporting to the De-escalation and Coordination Committee for approval.
- h) Hostile operational moves or acts oriented against any party;
- i) Moves for the purpose of reinforcement, redeployment, and/or supply of arms and ammunition.
- j) Building new fortifications or digging trenches or making incisions to roads for military purposes, or maintaining or improving any of them.

Page 2, Procedural measures,

3. It may be permissible for local military leaders to agree among themselves to work on disengagement and removing machinery and local military units outside of the effective range of weapons available. It may be that with the help of local committees to implement the cessation of hostilities, or the De-escalation and Coordination Committee, if the local committees were not successful in implementing the cessation of hostilities.

Page 2, Procedural measures,

4. The agreement only allows the use of force for self-defence, provided that force is used to the minimum necessary to respond to a direct attack or to restore or ensure security only in the region in which you find there are forces or the units affiliated to the party concerned at the time of the entry of these terms and conditions coming into effect, and provided that priority is given to peace through local committees to implement the cessation of hostilities and the De-escalation and Coordination Committee before taking any action.

- a) Informing the De-escalation and Coordination Committee, which was established in Switzerland in December 2015, in advance of all activities of this kind, through the representatives of the parties to the Committee.

Page 3, De-escalation and Coordination Committee

[Summary] Points 7-13 outline the structure and responsibilities of the De-escalation and Coordination Committee that consists of members from both sides.

Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	<p>Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities</p> <p>... 16. Local committees shall proactively engage in pre-emptive cessation of hostilities with local military commanders from all military formations of the parties in their region and encourage compliance with them and where effective escalation can be avoided and defuse when violations are imminent or when they actually occur.</p> <p>15. Each committee shall consist of at least eight (8) neutral judges accepted by both parties, of which the Government shall nominate half. Each committee is coordinated with four (4) military officials who are not members of the Committee and half of whom are nominated by the Government.</p> <p>... 18. To enforce the cessation of hostilities, Local Committees work with parties to support local confidence-building measures such as exhumation, transport of the sick or wounded, a release/exchange of prisoners and detainees, as well as measures to enhance the livelihood of the population in their areas, including the lifting of restrictions of freedom of movement of civilians and for commercial activities, humanitarian organisations and reconstruction organisations. To establish a cessation of hostilities, Local Committees may also assist in preparing for the withdrawal of militias and armed groups as appropriate, and in accordance with the agreements from consultations under the auspices of the United Nations.</p> <p>19. Local Committees shall be established before the cessation of hostilities in order to open channels of communication with military officials from all parties in the provinces in which they operate to consolidate knowledge and commitment to cease hostilities in their communities.</p> <p>Page 5, Ceasefire Agreement between Yemeni brothers in the Governorate of Jawf,</p> <p>... 2. Forming a specialized military committee made up of 4 members from each party to monitor the ceasefire. Within 24 hours, this committee shall put together a suitable mechanism to carry out its task agreeing on its meeting location [names of the committee members]</p>
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 2, Eighteenth: Local committees work with the parties to support local confidence-building measures, including the release and exchange of prisoners, and assist in procedures for the withdrawal of militias and armed groups as appropriate and in accordance with the agreements that lead to consultations under the auspices of the United Nations.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism Page 1, Preamble, ... Recognizing the importance of achieving security and stability in Yemen and addressing the threat of terrorism in all its different forms and manifestations, such as al-Qaeda and Daesh.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism Page 4, Local committees to stabilize the cessation of hostilities
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Page 5, Ceasefire Agreement between Yemeni brothers in the Governorate of Jawf,
4. Stopping all detentions and dealing with the portfolios of detainees and the missing with both parties seeking to release them thereby forming a 4-member special committee [two from each party – names attached] which will coordinate with the Central Committee for Detainees made up of all parties.

Prisoner release Page 2, Procedural measures
 4. ... b) Allows military movements to the extent necessary to recover the bodies of the dead, wounded, and sick, and the exchange of prisoners and the supply of food, fuel, and water, to be informed in advance to the De-escalation and Coordination Committee.

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Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons Page 2, Procedural measures
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Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory UN Special Envoy to Yemen acting as mediator

Other international signatory Certified by the Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Office of the UN Special Envoy to Yemen.
