

**Country/entity** Yemen

**Region** Middle East and North Africa

**Agreement name** Agreement between the Tribes of ‘Ubaydah and Ansar Allah

**Date** 4 Dec 2014

**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

<b>Stage</b>	Framework/substantive - partial
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Inter-group
<b>Peace process</b>	Yemen Inter-group Agreements
<b>Parties</b>	Ansar Allah (the Houthis) as the first party and the 'Ubaydah Tribes and those under their auspices in Ma'rib governorate from the valley to the city as the second party
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Agreement between the Ubaydah tribes in the wadi and medina districts of Ma'rib, central Yemen and Ansar Allah (the Houthis) three months after the occupation of Sana'a by the Houthis. Agreement guarantees access and secures infrastructure facilities by the local tribes.

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**Agreement document** [YE\\_141204\\_Agreement between the Ubaydah Tribes and Ansar Allah\\_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [YE\\_141204\\_Agreement between the Ubaydah Tribes and Ansar Allah\\_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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## 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** Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical  
Page 2, Fourth: The second party is committed to secure the road and prevent any attacks or establish checkpoints or sectors in their country to rob Muslims, loot public and private property or intimidate travellers.

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **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, ... representing their people are societal notables at the head of the tribes and who by their hands will exert every conceivably effort.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

<b>Civil and political rights</b>	Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Thought, opinion, conscience and religion Page 2, Sixth: Both sides commit to each other harmony and cohesion and to live in peace and also with freedom of thought and belief in light of Shari’ah without hostility of coercion from any party towards the other, and all are committed to refrain from incitement and spreading rumours that harm the unity of social fabric.  Page 2, Ninth: All parties commit to the freedom to express his opinion peacefully and this is generally accepted without detriment to the party.
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Property Page 2, Twelfth: The first party is committed to the preservation of private property to all those that sign the document.

### **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>	[Summary] Page 1, Articles 2 and 3 emphasize the opening of roads.
<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**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Reform to specific laws  
Page 2, Eighth: Everyone agrees that in the case any of the above items are breached by any tribe or house then everyone will be responsible.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** Page 2, Sixth: Both sides commit to each other harmony and cohesion and to live in peace and also with freedom of thought and belief in light of Shari’ah without hostility of coercion from any party towards the other, and all are committed to refrain from incitement and spreading rumours that harm the unity of social fabric.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** Page 1, Third: The second side commits to make sincere and serious efforts in securing facilities and public goods such as oil, gas, electricity and service facilities or other production. In the case of non-compliance with this requirement, the first party is entitled to secure them and open the roads.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

## Land, property and environment

<b>Land reform/rights</b>	Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Land reform and management Page 2, Eleventh: The first party commits to stand by the second party in their lawful and fair outstanding monies and in their monies from land rights, which is produced from wealth under the rules of law. Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights Page 2, Twelfth: The first party is committed to the preservation of private property to all those that sign the document.
<b>Pastoralist/nomadism rights</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Environment</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Water or riparian rights or access</b>	No specific mention.

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## Security sector

<b>Security Guarantees</b>	<p>Page 1, First: Co-existence between the first and second parties in an atmosphere of brotherhood, peace, harmony and relations of cooperation, good faith, and respect for each other.</p> <p>Page 1, Second: The second side commits to secure the roads for the first party as they would for the sons of all Yemeni people from any assault or exposure by either of the two sides or another. In case of any attack on the first party where the second party is silent, they will leave it for the second side to take action and provide protection and security from any aggression. Whoever commits an aggression will be charged by everyone.</p> <p>Page 1, Third: The second side commits to make sincere and serious efforts in securing facilities and public goods such as oil, gas, electricity and service facilities or other production. In the case of non-compliance with this requirement, the first party is entitled to secure them and open the roads.</p> <p>Page 2, Fourth: The second party is committed to secure the road and prevent any attacks or establish checkpoints or sectors in their country to rob Muslims, loot public and private property or intimidate travellers.</p> <p>Page 2, Seventh: All agree that the areas and villages committed to this agreement are considered peaceful areas and the first party will not attack them unless except when it is clear what has been agreed upon.</p>
<b>Ceasefire</b>	No specific mention.



<b>Police</b>	Page 2, Tenth: The parties agree that the articles of this agreement will not repeal or absolve the security and military authorities from doing their job and their role in maintaining security and stability in the province.
<b>Armed forces</b>	Page 2, Tenth: The parties agree that the articles of this agreement will not repeal or absolve the security and military authorities from doing their job and their role in maintaining security and stability in the province.
<b>DDR</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	Page 2, Fifth: The second party is committed not to accept al-Qaeda, include them, or provide them with assistance or support because they are a great danger to people and the country.
<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	Page 2, Fourth: The second party is committed to secure the road and prevent any attacks or establish checkpoints or sectors in their country to rob Muslims, loot public and private property or intimidate travellers.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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**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>	Page 2, Thirteenth: In the case of signing and committing to the articles of this agreement, the first party commits to turn a fresh page in regards to any individual or group and begin good relations between them and any other groups and signatories of this document (as an honoured document) to thereby ease the minds and help [create] a peaceful, gracious, strong and a brotherly co-existence between all parties and signatories.

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## **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.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** Source: 'Tribes of 'Ubaydah in the two districts of al-Wadi and al-Medina give up on AQAP and sign agreement', al-Omanaa.net, 4 December 2014, <http://alomanaa.net/news18305.html> (accessed 25 April 2016)

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