



Recent Statements by US Officials on Progress in Yemen



At the request of the parties involved in the fighting in Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) facilitated in mid-April 2023 the release and transfer of 973 people detained in relation to the conflict. Two chartered planes and three ICRC-owned planes completed a total of 18 flights shuttling back and forth between six towns in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

[Statement from President Joe Biden on the One-Year Anniversary of the Truce in Yemen – April 2, 2023](#)



“Today marks a significant milestone—one year of a truce in the Yemen war. One year that has saved countless Yemeni lives, enabled increased humanitarian assistance to flow throughout the country, allowed Yemenis to travel throughout the Middle East, and set the conditions for a comprehensive peace. Maintaining this truce and strengthening progress toward peace has been a main focus of my administration’s engagement with our partners in the Middle East. That focus will continue intensively as we seek to build on this extraordinary progress and support all efforts towards a comprehensive resolution to this terrible conflict. The United States remains fully committed to our partners in the region, and to supporting Saudi Arabia and the UAE from Iranian enabled attacks. The fact that cross border attacks from Yemen have ceased in the last year, as well as airstrikes inside Yemen, is yet another positive outcome of the truce. I look forward to continuing to work with all our partners in the region to permanently end the war in Yemen.”

[Statement from State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel on the One-Year Anniversary of the Yemen Truce’s Commencement – April 2, 2023](#)

“Today marks one year since the UN-mediated truce in Yemen began and initiated the longest period of calm since the war started. For one year, Yemenis have benefitted from a halt to airstrikes, regular civilian flights from Sana’a airport, enhanced and unrestricted humanitarian and food assistance, and the increased flow of fuel to northern Yemen. The UN-led truce and U.S.-facilitated diplomacy have largely stopped the fighting,



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saving thousands of civilian lives; nevertheless, the United States recognizes that the truce was only the first step toward a comprehensive, Yemeni-Yemeni political process and a durable resolution to the conflict.

The truce has paved the way for intensive dialogue on a more comprehensive agreement, and the recent deal to release almost 900 detainees from all sides of the Yemen conflict represents another important step forward. The United States welcomes the efforts of regional partners, including Saudi Arabia and Oman, to advance peace efforts. We remain seriously concerned, however, about Houthi actions that threaten this extraordinary progress and exacerbate the suffering of Yemenis, such as recent attacks in Taiz and Marib and on Yemen's oil exports. We call on the Houthis to forswear such actions and pursue a peaceful resolution to the conflict.



Chartered plane carrying freed prisoners arrives at Sana'a Airport, amid a prisoner swap, in Sanaa, Yemen April 14, 2023.

The truce has also improved the delivery of humanitarian and economic assistance. The United States remains the largest donor and has pledged \$444 million so far in 2023. We welcome support from partners, including Saudi Arabia's recent \$1 billion deposit for the Central Bank of Yemen. More assistance is needed for the Yemeni people, and we urgently call on donors to build on the progress on the ground and close the assistance funding gap.

As we continue to support diplomacy to de-escalate tensions wherever possible in the Middle East, the United States is also focused intensively on defending our partners, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, from Iranian-enabled attacks.

Yemen – today – has an unprecedented opportunity for peace. We urge the parties to seize this opportunity to create a brighter future for Yemenis.”

[Statement from National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan Welcoming the Breakthrough Prisoner Exchange in Yemen – April 14, 2023](#)



The United States welcomes the exchange of nearly 900 prisoners across both sides of the conflict today in Yemen. This breakthrough prisoner exchange is being overseen by the ICRC and was the result of many months of constructive engagement and mediation overseen by the UN's Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg. The United States is proud to support this UN-led engagement, and we will



continue to do all we can to help consolidate the truce that's now been in effect for over one year, helping to set the conditions for a more enduring peace. The past year in Yemen has been the quietest since the war began, saving thousands of Yemeni lives and allowing for vast increases in humanitarian assistance, fuel imports, and civilian flights to and from Sanaa. Building on the prisoner exchange today, we encourage all parties to further consolidate these positive trends and ultimately forge a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

[Readout from NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on Senior Official Travel to Saudi Arabia – April 14, 2023](#)

NSC Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Brett McGurk and Special Presidential Coordinator for Global Infrastructure and Energy Security Amos Hochstein visited Saudi Arabia April 13 and 14, joined for Yemen-related engagements by Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking.

They held constructive talks with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman, Minister of Defense Khalid bin Salman, Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan, and other senior Saudi officials. Their discussions focused on the critical progress being made toward a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Yemen, which President Biden has long prioritized. Both sides welcomed their close coordination that supported a UN-led truce one year ago and that has helped forge conditions for a more enduring peace. The U.S. side confirmed its support for the defense of Saudi Arabia against threats from Yemen and elsewhere.

[Tweet by Secretary of State Antony Blinken – April 18, 2023](#)



Secretary Antony Blinken @SecBlinken

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Spoke with Saudi Foreign Minister @FaisalbinFarhan. We discussed the ongoing Yemen peace efforts and the United States' unwavering commitment to advancing an inclusive, Yemeni-Yemeni political process.

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