

The five key elements of the plan include the following:



First:

The provision of food and nutrition to Hodeida residents

Coordination with UNICEF and WFP on this element

- 100,000 MT stockpiles – which can feed 6 million people for the period of one month.
- 35,000 MT of food and supplies in and around the Hodeida area.
- 14,000 food baskets



Second:

Health Care – The importance of maintaining the provision of health care, especially for children:

Coordination with the World Health Organization and ICRC

- strengthen the capacity of existing 3 main hospitals.
- Studying the flexibility, durability and prepositioning of mobile clinics
- providing a field hospital
- Medical supplies
- Emergency Surgical Brigade
- Transport to hospitals in Aden.



Third:

Shelter

We are working with UNHCR and IOM on this matter.

- A contingency plan for potential Internally Displaced People
- strengthen family bonds by helping to facilitate more food baskets for families living together;
- securing family presence in: deserted schools/ safe provision of shelter.



Fourth:

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF maintains the lead in matters related to WASH.

- Two mobile desalination units to help supplement clean water.
- Sanitation solutions (send mobile toilets with contained sewage areas).
- Mobile water tanks

International Organization Partners





Details of Humanitarian Aid Delivery & Continued Operations to Liberate Hodeidah

1 message

Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>
Reply-To: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 10:55 AM



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Good morning Colleagues:

As the UAE's commitment to the people of Yemen remains strong and steadfast, I would like to share a few recent items with you:

1. Highlights of UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash's briefing with regional and international press at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation today.
2. An infographic detailing the large scale and well-prepared humanitarian aid plan for Hodeidah to rapidly address ongoing civilian humanitarian needs. This plan is closely coordinated with international aid agencies and NGOs operating on the ground. *Please click on left button below.*
3. An infographic highlighting the need to liberate the port of Hodeidah from the Houthis, their mismanagement of the port, and the catastrophic impact it has had on the humanitarian situation. *Please click on right button below.*

As always, happy to further discuss.

~Hagir

Highlights from Dr. Gargash's Meeting with the Press

June 18, 2018

- The Coalition has 3 priorities: protect civilians; maintain the flow of humanitarian aid; and force movement to a political process. "Our approach is gradual, calibrated and methodical, pressure designed for unconditional withdrawal of Houthis."
- Earlier efforts to ensure Hodeidah as a humanitarian and commercial port have failed. The Houthis were buying time and their strategic interest was to prolong the war. "We will not allow this war to last for another 2-3 years".
- The UAE has begun a significant humanitarian operation to help 1.7 million people. "In line with our long-term commitment to assist the Yemeni people, we have 10 ships on-the-way, 100 trucks heading north from Aden and Mukha, and plans for air drops if necessary." In addition to that, the UAE along with its international partners will provide humanitarian aid to support 7 million Yemenis over the next two months.
- "Our success in liberating Hodeidah will constitute a major strategic shift in favor of peace. Our current advance is methodical & designed to succeed in a rather fragile situation."

**The Humanitarian Aid for
Hodeidah**

**The Liberation of Hodeidah
Port**

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad

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The Liberation of Hodeida Port

On 13 June 2018, the Legitimate Yemeni Government Forces alongside the Arab Coalition launched the operation to liberate Hodeida, which marks a turning point in the Yemeni Crisis.

The Arab Coalition in Yemen, has launched its operations to liberate Hodeida:

<p>1</p>  <p>Based on the request of President Hadi and the legitimate Government of Yemen.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>In full compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions 2216, 2204, 2201 and 2140.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>To alleviate the humanitarian crisis, by increasing the flow of humanitarian aid.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>To allow Yemen's legitimate government to restore security and stability to Hodeida, and protect commercial shipping.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>To break the deadlock in the political process.</p>
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By misusing the port's revenues to finance their ongoing brutal campaign Houthi militias have exploited the Hodeida Port to prolong the war and the suffering of the Yemeni people, and to smuggle Iranian supplied arms and ballistic missiles into the country to target Saudi cities.



The Houthis have repeatedly refused the UN Envoy's proposals to hand over the port including the latest efforts by UN Envoy Martin Griffith. The UN efforts to negotiate a solution to the issue of Hodeida have been ongoing for over 2 years.



The Arab Coalition has exhausted all other options to protect innocent Yemeni civilians and to ensure the safe passage of aid shipments hence it had to pursue a military solution in light of the Houthis' failure to accept a political solution.



The Arab Coalition remains committed to working with the international community to ensure that the port's liberation will have an immediate impact on increasing the volume of much-needed humanitarian aid to the country.




The Arab Coalition has launched a comprehensive humanitarian plan for Hodeidah city to respond to the immediate and long-term humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people in the liberated areas.



The seizure of the port from the Houthi rebels is aimed at tipping the scales in favor of reaching a political solution, and reigniting the momentum in the stalled UN negotiations.

The Houthis' mismanagement of the port and seizure of humanitarian supplies has had a catastrophic impact on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.



While the coalition's aid shipments have frequently been confiscated by militias and found their way to the black market this has not derailed the coalition's commitment to alleviate the humanitarian crisis.



The Arab Coalition has notified the United Nations, and other Non-Governmental Organizations of its planned actions to ensure the safety and secure safe passage for their staff from Hodeida ahead of time.



Hodeida's liberation will serve to alleviate the needs of the Yemeni people and provide new momentum for finding a long-term solution to the crisis by increasing the efficiency of the port, and ensuring that the disbursement of aid will no longer be controlled and abused by Houthi militias.

The Humanitarian Aid for Hodeida

The Legitimate Yemen Government military forces supported by the Arab Coalition continue to make advances towards the liberation of Hodeida

The Arab Coalition launched a large scale and well-prepared humanitarian aid plan in order to rapidly address ongoing civilian humanitarian needs.

The humanitarian aid plan in Hodeida is closely coordinated with international aid agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations operating on the ground.

 <p>Over 500 aid workers were deployed in and around Hodeida from five local organizations</p>	 <p>Three aid shipments carrying over 11,800 tons of food aid were dispatched by sea from the UAE to Aden</p>	 <p>Two flights carrying food supplies departed from the UAE and landed on ports outside of Hodeida on 9 and 10 June 2018</p>
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The consistent mismanagement and exploitation of aid assistance reaching Hodeida port by the Houthis is a direct and clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2417

The Arab Coalition has undertaken contingency planning in order to minimize the impact of potential damage or sabotage carried out upon the port's infrastructure by the Houthis.



Contingency plans are in place for any expected damage to the infrastructure of the Hodeida port and airport

This includes the delivery of aid via air, land and sea, which will ensure civilians retain access to food, medicine, and other supplies in Hodeida and other conflict affected areas.

The Arab Coalition is in the process of carrying out demining operations at the Hodeida port and airport to ensure the safety of civilians and open access to aid.



The Arab Coalition will do its utmost to ensure that the port remains a key access point for humanitarian aid.



The Arab Coalition mapped and verified the location of 1,200 humanitarian relief points, in addition to schools, hospitals, and critical infrastructure prior to undertaking its military operations in Hodeida.



Update on UAE Humanitarian Assistance in Yemen

1 message

Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>
Reply-To: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Thu, Jun 21, 2018 at 1:32 PM



Good afternoon Colleagues:

Please see the latest update regarding the UAE's role in providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Yemen. Please specifically note the letter by H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation to the President of the UN Security Council (linked to the light blue button below). Highlights from the letter include:

- As a result of collective efforts between the UN and the Arab Coalition, 120,000 metric tons of food is currently stockpiled in Hodeidah (enough to feed 6.6 million people for at least one month).
- The Arab Coalition's multi-faceted humanitarian surge plan has been carefully developed to address the needs of the people of Hodeidah and includes broad contingency measures.
- The UAE is committed to closely coordinating with the UN and international aid agencies on the ground in Hodeidah.
- The Arab Coalition's efforts to ensure the continued flow of humanitarian relief to Hodeidah are consistent with its longstanding commitment to the people of Yemen.

As always, please reach out with any questions or thoughts.

-Hagir

Letter to President of UN Security Council

Update on UAE Humanitarian Assistance in Yemen

As operations to liberate Hodeida from the Iran-backed Houthis continue, the Arab Coalition is pursuing a gradual, calibrated and methodical approach designed to protect civilian lives, maintain the flow of humanitarian aid and force movement to a political process facilitated by UN Envoy Martin Griffiths.

The current humanitarian situation in Hodeida is stable. The Hodeida and Al-Saleef Ports are open and receiving UN and international aid, and the UAE remains committed to compliance with international humanitarian law.

The Arab Coalition has developed a large-scale and comprehensive humanitarian surge plan for the rapid delivery of aid to Hodeida and the areas that depend on its port. UAE aid delivered as part of this plan will benefit 1.7 million Hodeida residents in the next month. The key features of the plan are as follows:

- The UAE has pre-positioned 50,000 tons of food aid in Yemen and other proximate locations.
 - 10 vessels carrying 35,000 tons of food are already stationed near, or en route to, Hodeida. Additional vessels are also pre-positioned for deployment at ports in Saudi Arabia.
 - 7 UAE-registered aircraft, with a total airdrop capacity of 14,000 tons, are available.
 - 100 trucks have been contracted by the UAE to deliver food by convoy from Aden. The first convoy distributed aid south of Hodeida this week.
- In light of the Houthis' mining of Hodeida, the surge plan includes mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. Mine-clearing operations are also planned for Hodeida Airport.
- The UAE is developing alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hodeida and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hodeida Port, existing aid distribution networks or other infrastructure.

Click here to read a letter by UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation Reem Al Hashimy in which she provides an update on the humanitarian situation.

See the infographic below for additional information about the UAE's humanitarian assistance plan.



The UAE's humanitarian aid plan will provide urgent relief to the people of Hodeidah

Total Amount of Aid

35,000 tonnes

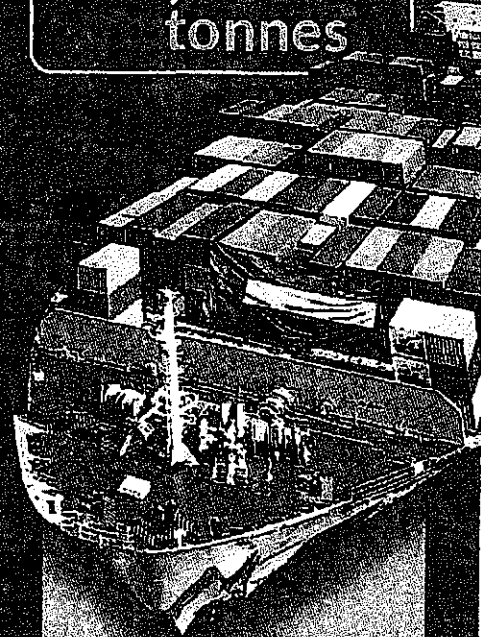
Providing Assistance to

1,650,000 Individuals

235,714 Families

IN THE FIRST MONTH ALONE

According to international humanitarian organizations



Delivery Plan

Total Food Aid

380,000

Food Baskets

10,000 tonnes of wheat

2,800 tonnes of rice

2,500 tonnes of flour

10 Ships

7 Airlift Loads

100 Trucks



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S/2018/618

Annex to the letter dated 19 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The operation by the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and by the legitimate Government of Yemen to liberate Hudaydah, which is currently under way, is directed at ending the deadlock in the political process resulting from the past three years of intransigence and obstruction by the Houthis, countering the Houthis' continued violations of Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and addressing the humanitarian consequences of the grossly negligent operation of the port under Houthi control. As a member of the Arab Coalition, the United Arab Emirates is implementing the operation to liberate Hudaydah. That operation is underpinned by the acute awareness of the United Arab Emirates of the humanitarian and human rights aspects of armed conflict, and its deep concern for the welfare of the Yemeni people.

The United Arab Emirates is committed to international humanitarian law and reaffirms its humanitarian commitment to the people of Yemen, regardless of their location and affiliation. To this end, the United Arab Emirates is closely following the humanitarian situation in Hudaydah, and in Yemen as a whole. The purpose of the present letter is to share with the Security Council the latest developments in the humanitarian situation as at 19 June 2018.

The humanitarian situation

The current humanitarian situation in Hudaydah is stable. As a result of the collective efforts of United Nations entities, alongside the efforts of the Arab Coalition, more than 120,000 tons of food is currently stockpiled in Hudaydah. According to World Food Programme estimates, this is sufficient to cover the food needs of 6.6 million people for at least one month.

The Hudaydah and Salif ports are open and are receiving international humanitarian aid: at least eight vessels were able to dock and unload their cargo at Hudaydah port in the past week alone, and more vessels are headed to the port with the expectation that they will be cleared to dock in the next few days.

The Arab Coalition is doing what it can to maintain the existing distribution networks and is committed to ensuring the safe and timely distribution of aid, including through deconfliction for humanitarian convoys.

The Arab Coalition humanitarian "surge" plan

As outlined in the letter dated 13 June 2018 from Anwar Gargash, the Arab Coalition has — as a central and integrated part of the operation to liberate Hudaydah — developed a large-scale and comprehensive humanitarian surge plan for the rapid delivery of aid to Hudaydah and the areas of Yemen that depend on its port. The Coalition successfully implemented similar large-scale aid operations when it liberated Aden, Mukalla and Mukha'.

This multifaceted humanitarian surge plan, which was studied and developed over a period of months, addresses the specific food, fuel, shelter and medical needs of women, girls, boys and men who depend on the port, as well as arrangements to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian relief. The plan furthermore comprises contingency measures directed at addressing a broad range of scenarios, such as the displacement of civilians, the obstruction of roads and access points and the destruction of infrastructure perpetrated by the Houthis.

The key features of the humanitarian surge plan are as follows:

(a) The United Arab Emirates has pre-positioned 50,000 tons of food aid in Yemen and other proximate locations, to be deployed in the event that the distribution of aid is disrupted. This includes:

- (i) Ten vessels, carrying a total of 35,000 tons of food, already stationed near or en route to Hudaydah. Additional vessels are also pre-positioned for deployment at ports in Saudi Arabia;
- (ii) Seven aircraft registered in the United Arab Emirates, with a total airdrop capacity of 14,000 tons, available to launch a humanitarian air bridge in the event that the urgent distribution of aid is required;
- (iii) One hundred trucks contracted by the United Arab Emirates to deliver food by convoy from Aden. The first convoy distributed aid south of Hudaydah this week.

Additional aid is currently stockpiled in Aden and other places nearby to ensure broader contingency coverage for Yemen.

(b) In the light of the Houthis' mining of Hudaydah port, the surge plan includes mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. Mine-clearing operations are also planned for Hudaydah airport, as part of the Coalition's objective to restore the airport and commence air operations to complement existing aid distribution networks;

(c) The United Arab Emirates is developing alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hudaydah and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hudaydah port, existing aid distribution networks or other infrastructure.

Coordination with the United Nations and humanitarian actors

The United Arab Emirates affirms that the United Nations and both international and local humanitarian agencies have an essential role to play in ensuring the welfare of the residents of Hudaydah, including on the ground. The United Arab Emirates welcomes the presence of the United Nations in Hudaydah and reiterates its commitment to continuing close coordination with United Nations entities on humanitarian issues. The United Arab Emirates is in constant coordination with the United Nations and international aid agencies through the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee. The United Arab Emirates is also working closely on the ground with Emirati and Saudi aid agencies, including Emirates Red Crescent and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.

The perspectives, concerns and recommendations of United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors are being taken into account, and the military efforts of the Arab Coalition and the legitimate Government of Yemen are carefully calibrated to avoid civilian casualties, minimize damage to vital infrastructure, including Hudaydah port, in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw from Hudaydah.

Humanitarian commitment of the United Arab Emirates to Yemen

The efforts by the members of the Arab Coalition to preserve existing aid distribution networks and develop contingency measures to ensure the continued flow of humanitarian relief to Hudaydah and beyond are consistent with their longstanding humanitarian commitment to Yemen and its people. In the period from April 2015 to May 2018, the United Arab Emirates contributed \$3.7 billion in aid to Yemen. In

S/2018/618

2018, the United Arab Emirates pledged \$465 million to support the United Nations humanitarian response plan for Yemen, in addition to the \$35 million pledged to restore the airports and seaports of Yemen.

The humanitarian commitment of the United Arab Emirates to Yemen corresponds to that of the other members of the Arab Coalition, as evidenced — for instance — by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Humanitarian Relief Plan for Yemen for the year 2018, detailed in the identical letters dated 23 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/62).

Further updates on the humanitarian situation

The United Arab Emirates shares the deep concern of the members of the Security Council for the welfare of Hudaydah's residents and the people who depend upon its port. In this regard, on behalf of my Government, I propose to provide the Security Council with regular updates on the humanitarian situation.

(Signed) Reem Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation



[Test] Arab Gulf States Institute of Washington (AGSIW): Yemen: After Hodeidah

Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>
Reply-To: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Thu, Jun 21, 2018 at 10:31 AM

Good morning Colleagues:

Please see the article below by Peter Salisbury, currently a non-resident fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. Peter is also a senior consulting researcher at Chatham House's Middle East and North Africa Program. He writes regularly for The Economist, Financial Times, and Foreign Policy among other publications. He also worked with the Yemen Forum at Chatham House on a series of research projects on the political economy of Yemen, which led to the publication of the Chatham House report, "Yemen: Corruption, Capital Flight and Global Drivers of Conflict."

This article provides a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the situation in Yemen as it relates to the challenges the Arab coalition is facing with the Iran-backed Houthis. It is a bit on the longer side, but will be worth your time.

As always, please reach out with any questions or thoughts.

~Hagir

Yemen: After Hodeidah

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10/2/2018

UAE Strategies Mail - [Test] Arab Gulf States Institute of Washington (AGSIW): Yemen: After Hodeidah

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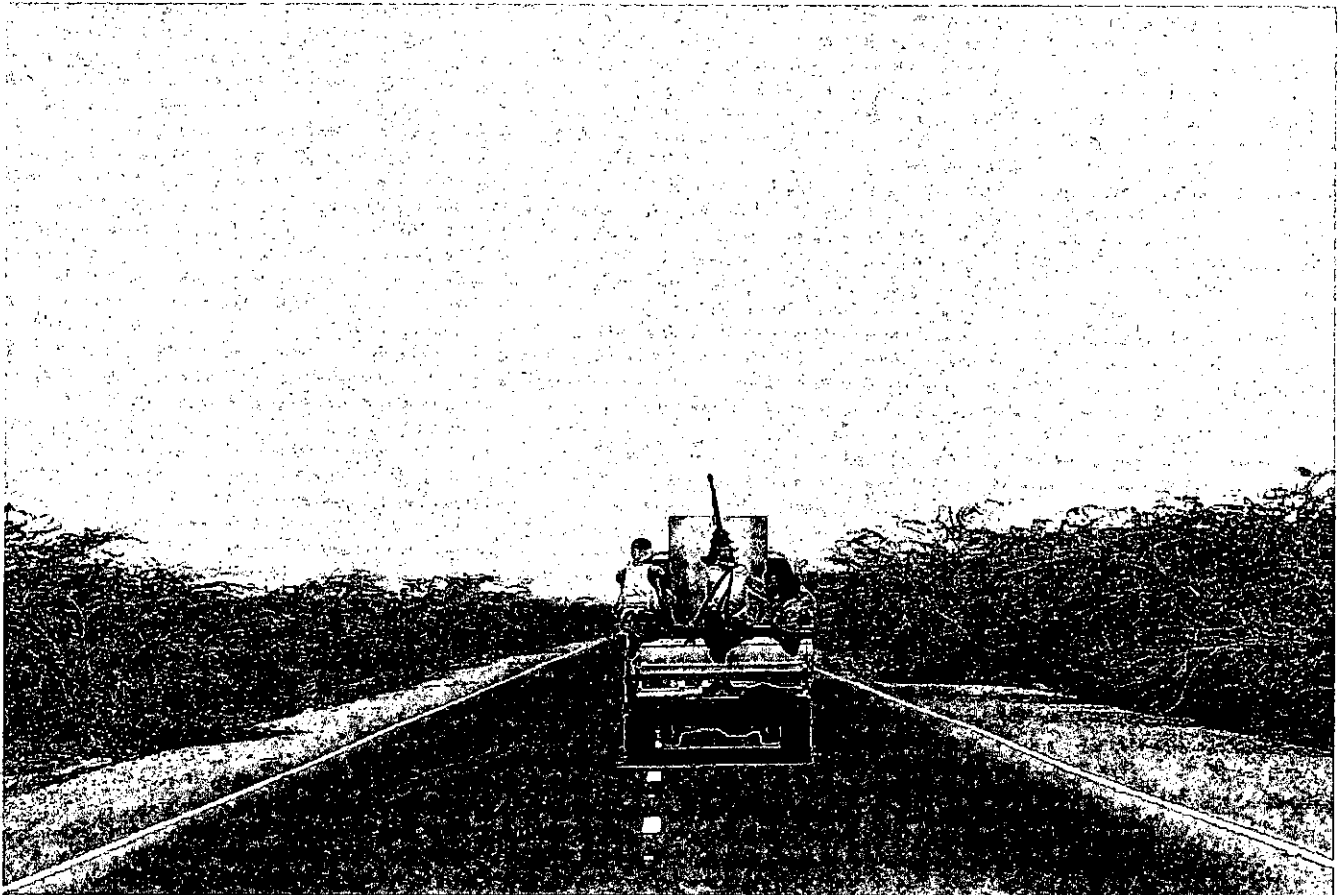
Security · Yemen · Blog Post

Yemen: After Hodeidah

On June 19, UAE-backed Yemeni forces announced that they had consolidated their control over Hodeidah airport after a week of fierce fighting with Houthi rebels for the facility as part of Operation Golden Victory, a military campaign for Hodeidah port and city.



Peter Salisbury · Jun 19, 2018 · العربية



Saudi-backed forces ride their vehicle in Hodeidah, Yemen, February 18. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty)



Peter Salisbury
Non-Resident Fellow

On June 19, UAE-backed Yemeni forces announced that they had consolidated their control over Hodeidah airport after a week of fierce fighting with Houthi rebels for the facility as part of Operation Golden Victory, a military campaign for Hodeidah port and city.

The battle for Hodeidah will now start in earnest. Whatever the outcome, the struggle for the city is likely to mark a shift in the shape and trajectory of the war on par with the Saudi-led coalition's entry into the conflict in March 2015, the Houthi rebels' loss of Aden and much of south Yemen in mid-2015, and the death of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in December 2017.

With fighting only now reaching the outskirts of the city proper, bold predictions are already being made about Yemen's post-Hodeidah landscape. But there are so many variables and such deep uncertainty over how the battle will play out, despite consensus that the coalition will ultimately prevail, that it is impossible to present a single case as the most likely outcome. There are multiple potential scenarios for the battle, each with a different meaning for the trajectory of the conflict.

Background

The Hodeidah campaign has been in planning since at least 2016 and, by some accounts, since the Saudi-led coalition entered Yemen's war. Saudi and Emirati officials leading the war effort believe that the Houthis, who seized Sanaa in September 2014 along with forces loyal to Saleh, are using Hodeidah to smuggle weapons, including missile components, into the country (a point disputed by a

Iranian proxy in the mold of Hezbollah, has vowed to push the Houthis out of Yemen's towns and cities and restore President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who the Houthis ousted in early 2015, to power. Hodeidah has come to be seen as a crucial component of the campaign.

While the coalition, the United Arab Emirates in particular, had some major successes in the early days of the conflict – notably driving the Houthis out of the southern port city of Aden and most of the country's southern governorates in 2015, then ousting al-Qaeda from Mukalla in 2016 – the war had reached a messy stalemate by late 2016. Hoping to shake things up, the UAE proposed an amphibious assault on Hodeidah aimed at striking a strategic, symbolic, and financial blow to the Houthis, who generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue from the port each year. The UAE's Western allies, particularly the United States, worried that such an assault was too risky, both for the UAE forces and the humanitarian situation in Yemen, however, and the Emiratis went back to the drawing board.

Since Saleh was killed in December 2017 by Houthi fighters, an assortment of groups branded as the National Resistance Forces have made a series of breakthroughs in their push north up Yemen's Red Sea coast, backed by the UAE military. The alliance includes: the Tihama Resistance, led by the Zaraneq tribe; Salafist-led Southern secessionist fighters from the Amaliqa, or "Giants' Brigade"; and, since around March, the newly-constituted Guards of the Republic, led by Brig. Gen. Tariq Saleh, the former president's nephew.

In April and May, the National Resistance Forces made a series of rapid gains along the coastal highway, coming within 6-9 miles of Hodeidah airport by early June. Until it reached the airport, the fight had been for the major roads, towns, and interchanges along the coastal route.

On the inland highway the National Resistance Forces are yet to enter the town of al-Jarrahi, about 68 miles south of Hodeidah, which borders Zabid. Between Zabid and Hodeidah are Bayt al-Faqih and al-Mansuriyah, a small town at a major interchange that links the inland route with Sanaa, the capital. The Houthis are reportedly entrenched in each of these areas and have already used them as bases from which to launch rear-guard action against the coalition, cutting off supply lines to the Hodeidah front.

On June 19, the National Resistance Forces announced they took control of Hodeidah's airport, setting the stage for the battle for the port and city. The UAE is building a temporary port facility in al-Durayhimi, which will allow it to connect ground operations in Yemen with its nearest base, in Assab, Eritrea, where thousands of Yemeni, Emirati, and Sudanese troops are reportedly preparing to deploy.

On paper there is a clear mismatch: anywhere from 20 000-25 000 coalition-

backed fighters with armored vehicles, air support from fighter jets and Apache helicopters, and almost unlimited resources, versus a Houthi contingent reckoned to be no more than 5,000-10,000 men, many of them recent recruits rather than hardened and dedicated fighters (the core Houthi fighting force is likely just a few thousand men), who are likely to be cut off from supplies early in the fight.

Most worrying is the outlook for the estimated 600,000 people who live in Hodeidah, and the millions of Yemenis who depend on the port as a lifeline. The United Nations and other humanitarian organizations have estimated that the fighting will displace hundreds of thousands of people, directly impact 250,000 Hodeidah residents, and have a "catastrophic" impact on the humanitarian situation. The longer the fighting lasts, the worse the outcome. With Yemenis struggling to afford basic food staples, a tightening supply (and speculative traders) will force prices upward for as long as the fighting continues.

Nevertheless, the coalition – particularly the UAE – sees the Hodeidah campaign as the best way of breaking the stalemate of the Yemen war. "Our strategic goal is to end the war in Yemen and that can't be done while Houthis are controlling Hodeida," the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, told journalists on June 18, before saying that the campaign was designed to help the U.N. special envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, persuade the Houthis to "unconditionally withdraw" from Hodeidah. Griffiths had arrived in Sanaa on June 16 in the hope of negotiating a compromise solution for the port.

Four Potential Scenarios for the Battle for Hodeidah

Best Case Scenario: A Political Solution

While hope of a negotiated deal to prevent a battle for the port and city remain extremely slim, Griffiths continues to lobby the Houthis to hand the port over or at

least agree to joint control and the coalition to choose a compromise deal for the

...agreed to joint control, and the coalition to endorse a compromise deal for the port over a military solution.

On June 19, Griffiths left Sanaa after several days of meetings with the Houthis, and will now attempt to broker a deal with the coalition. But the Houthis are only willing to cede to joint management of the port with the United Nations and a partial withdrawal from Hodeidah city. The coalition, in line with Gargash's comments, is demanding a complete handover of the port, ultimately to Hadi's government, and a full Houthi withdrawal. The Houthis' response has fluctuated from signaling apparent willingness to negotiate to issuing belligerent statements on their forces' ability to hold the port.

Outcome:

- Military:

- A deal would ultimately see the Houthis withdraw from both Hodeidah port and city and, likely, Salif port to the north, possibly taking their heavy weapons with them. This would be a symbolic blow but would leave the Houthis in a position to redeploy forces to other frontlines (which may be disincentive enough for the coalition to agree to such a deal). The coalition would be left in control of much of the Red Sea coast, and UAE-backed fighters could move further north to link up with Yemeni forces in the port city of Midi, near the Saudi border.

- Political:

- A mediated solution is the preferable outcome and could help build momentum toward a peace process. If all parties act in good faith, they could build trust of the kind needed to move toward a negotiated settlement.

- Humanitarian/Economic:

- Further deepening of the humanitarian crisis could be averted and if

the coalition is to be believed, the volume of goods entering the country would increase considerably, possibly bringing prices down and making basic staples more affordable.

The Coalition's Plan: A Quick, Clean Win

In the run up to the Hodeidah offensive, the coalition argued that the operation would be quick and clean. Multiple individuals with knowledge of the UAE's strategy said the Emirati leadership estimated that the operation would take around six weeks from the formal commencement of the operation, which came on June 12. In conversations with foreign counterparts, UAE officials – who planned and are overseeing the operation – are providing a broad estimate of around five to eight weeks for completion of the operation.

After asserting full control of the airport, anti-Houthi forces will continue north up the coast, following the highway along the city's western edge and cutting off the main port facilities from the urban center (they may cut the road off using airpower if this is not possible). A second contingent has already headed northeast, with the aim of cutting off the main road connecting Hodeidah with the inland highway and the main route to Sanaa. Fighting has already broken out over a crucial intersection on the highway. As forces continue to encircle the city, UAE forces plan to initiate an assault on the port itself, likely from both land and sea.

Once the National Resistance Forces have the port, they plan to move in on the city. UAE officials, according to sources briefed on current planning, believe the assault will be augmented by a local rebellion against the Houthis who will, the Emiratis say, either surrender or be defeated outright. The UAE's timeline is not necessarily based on the complete liberation of Hodeidah city, but on the seizure of the port and a return to normal activity.

Outcomes:

- Military:
 - A quick win would strike a blow to the morale of Houthi fighters and significantly boost their rivals – and would likely lead to renewed efforts on other fronts, including in Nihm (northeast of Sanaa) and Taiz. If the Houthis were to be beaten this quickly, the image of military strength they project could be punctured. The loss of Hodeidah is not likely to lead to a Houthi surrender, however; the group has threatened reprisals that could include a fresh wave of ballistic missile attacks and even a military incursion into Najran city in southern Saudi Arabia.
- Political:
 - After a month of bloody fighting it is unlikely that the parties will choose to return to political negotiations. Hodeidah also has symbolic value: In 1934, the newly established Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seized the city from the then-Zaydi imam in Yemen, forcing the imam to sue for peace and renounce his claim to the provinces of Najran and Asir.
- Humanitarian:
 - Aside from a political solution, this is the least bad outcome for the humanitarian situation. But a month of interrupted supply of basic goods into the port and city could have big consequences for a large portion of Yemen's population that depends on humanitarian assistance that enters via the port, particularly if clean water is not available. A cholera outbreak in the city could quickly lead to an epidemic, worsening the humanitarian situation.

Most Likely: Several Months of Fighting

estimated timeline. However, the coalition has been known in the past to be overconfident in the speed at which it can achieve its aims. At the beginning of the war, Saudi Arabia predicted a victory within weeks, citing domestic resistance to the Houthis and overwhelming air superiority.

Along with Saleh loyalists, the Houthis held Aden for four months in 2015 before being pushed out by a UAE-coordinated campaign that is often cited as a precedent for Hodeidah (the counterpoint to this argument is that the UAE-backed Yemeni forces leading the Red Sea campaign are far more experienced, and better trained and prepared than in 2015). The Houthi-Saleh alliance faced internal resistance of the kind not yet seen in the Red Sea port, and never completely controlled the city or port. While there is considerable animosity toward the Houthis in Hodeidah, they also have a reputation for establishing strong – and brutal – security infrastructure in the areas they occupy. Some observers question why, if there is a large anti-Houthi force-in-waiting, Hodeidah was not lost to internal resistance in December 2017 when Saleh urged an uprising against the Houthis. The Houthis have also been aware of plans for a military campaign to take the city since late 2016, at least, and are likely to have drawn on the expertise of Iranian and Hezbollah advisors who have greater fighting experience in built up areas.

If the uprising does not happen as expected, the UAE is likely to adjust its timeline, as street fighting for the city from the outside in is likely to be a messy and lengthy affair. This is before considering the Houthis' positions in towns and cities near Hodeidah and their presence in farming areas and the rocky outcrops and mountains of the Bura Nature Reserve, which begin about 25 miles outside the city.

Nevertheless, the coalition may be able to cut off major supply lines in and out of the city and winnow the Houthis' ranks over time, effectively laying siege to the city.

The Houthis in turn could target naval and merchant vessels around the port. The

The United Nations and other humanitarian organizations are likely to pressure the Houthis and the coalition to allow food, water, and fuel into the city during this period, extending a lifeline to civilians caught in the crossfire, and to the Houthis themselves.

Outcomes:

- Military:

- If the Houthis are not able to resupply, it is not clear if they will be able to sustain fighting in the city for more than a few months, and their forces are likely to be considerably diminished, and demoralized, after such a period.

- Political:

- The political context will depend on how this scenario ends – through a political deal or outright military victory. A political settlement could potentially help begin the process of returning to peace talks, although the rancor – and rhetoric – is likely to be heightened. An outright military victory is likely to produce a similar outcome to the second scenario. The coalition is also likely to see a win in Hodeidah as justification for making more maximalist demands with respect to any political settlement.

- Humanitarian:

- A three-month battle for Hodeidah would have a seriously detrimental impact on the humanitarian situation, both inside the city and across Yemen, particularly if the Houthis prevent ships from entering the port and fighting prevents trucks from entering or leaving the port to pick up goods. The United Nations is likely to focus on ensuring aid can cross frontlines, and to lobby both the Houthis and coalition to allow port operations to continue. However, major shipping firms likely wouldn't risk sending cargo into the port during fighting (in Aden for

example, cargo activity dried up even when anti-Houthi forces had full control of the port). A three-month battle would likely lead to large loss of life and leave the city and its infrastructure in tatters. The likelihood of a major cholera epidemic would also increase significantly.

Worst Case Scenario: A Protracted, Destructive Battle

The broad consensus among analysts is that the Houthis will not ultimately be able to hold the port or maintain supply lines from the road network into the city. If, however, the Houthis were able to maintain a stranglehold over the port or keep overland supply lines open, there is a chance that they could withstand pressure from the coalition for a considerable period of time. This would likely lead to months of back-and-forth, before settling into the same stagnant, attritional patterns seen across the country, and would serve only to complicate the task of finding a political solution to the conflict.

A protracted fight would necessitate the deployment of Yemeni forces into the city on foot and in armored vehicles, increasing the likelihood of infrastructure damage and civilian casualties. The status of the port would depend on who controlled it – the Houthis or the coalition.

Outcome:

▪ Military:

- A protracted battle would likely settle into patterns of the kind seen in Taiz, with opposing forces taking up set positions and attempting to eke out marginal gains over time, as humanitarian workers struggle to maintain access.

▪ Political:

- A protracted battle for the city would reduce the likelihood of advances

on the political track. If this were the case, Hodeidah would simply become another point over which to negotiate as part of a broader political settlement.

- Humanitarian:
 - At six months, the likelihood of starvation, epidemic, and the destruction of infrastructure only increases. The United Nations and other humanitarian organizations would work to ensure humanitarian access in the event of a protracted battle. If the port is deconflicted, however, the humanitarian situation could be somewhat stabilized.

Conclusions

The most likely outcome would appear to be something like the third scenario – a battle of two to three months that, optimistically, is ended by external intervention to prevent further humanitarian costs. Several wild-card factors could change this, however.

The United States, which thus far has refused to take part in the campaign despite UAE requests for assistance, could choose to become more directly involved, for example, by providing a minesweeper to help UAE-backed forces enter the port, and throwing its political weight behind the campaign. If, however, the humanitarian situation were to deteriorate rapidly – a cholera epidemic, for example – or a large number of civilians were killed in the crossfire, public opinion in the United States could turn quickly against the campaign, leading to pressure on the coalition from Washington to end the battle and negotiate a compromise deal with the Houthis, particularly if congressional pressure grows.

Then there is the potential for an unexpected “black swan” event that could change the complexion of the conflict. Such an event could include breakthroughs on

other fronts (Nihm or Taiz for example) further infighting among the coalition's

Yemeni allies, or a successful Houthi ballistic missile strike on a civilian target inside Saudi Arabia.

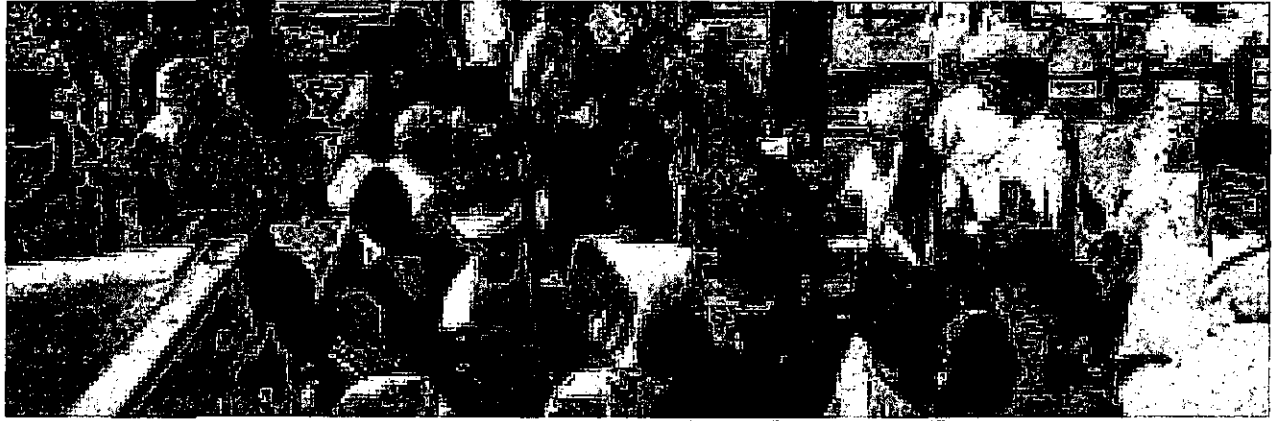
Finally, the end of the battle will only be the beginning of questions around Hodeidah. The coalition has said that it and the Yemeni government will be able to operate the port more effectively than the Houthis. Coalition officials hope that the outcome in Hodeidah will be closer to the outcomes in Mukalla and Marib – where governance and service delivery have improved since rival forces were pushed out (al-Qaeda from Mukalla, the Houthis from Marib) – compared to the experience in Aden, where infighting has become a barrier to effective local governance. If fighting continues along the Hodeidah-Sanaa road, meanwhile, it is unclear how basic goods will be delivered from the port into the country's main population centers.

Ultimately, the battle for Hodeidah is likely to leave the Houthis in a weakened position militarily, and the coalition with the upper hand in negotiations, as the UAE believes. But this advantage will come at a significant cost, and could serve to deepen the political stalemate, leaving Yemen poorer and hungrier, and still at war.



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Peter Salisbury is a non-resident fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

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Update: Latest Statement from UAE Minister

1 message

Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>
Reply-To: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Thu, Jun 21, 2018 at 4:13 PM



Good afternoon Colleagues:

Today, H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, released the following statement detailing the coalition's next steps in Hodeidah as there is now an increased urgency to remove the Houthis from the city and the port.

As always, please reach out if you have questions or would like to further discuss.

-Hagir

Statement from H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash:

6/21/2018

The full, peaceful and unconditional withdrawal of the Houthi militia from the city and port of Hodeidah is the only route to avert worsening the situation in and around the city. The Coalition is prepared to increase the pressure on the Houthis to achieve this goal. With the Hodeida airport now securely in the hands of the Yemeni Government, the Coalition is ready to begin the next phase of its military and humanitarian operations to liberate Hodeida and to protect the already fragile civilian population and the overall humanitarian situation.

There is now an increased urgency to removing the Houthis from Hodeida city and port. According to the UN, international aid groups, the media, civilian reports from the city and our own information, the Houthis are purposefully and

deliberately seeking to create a humanitarian crisis and to exacerbate the overall conflict. These actions include:

- blocking the unloading of humanitarian aid from ships at Hodeida port;
- removing surveillance cameras in warehouses that have prevented Houthi theft and diversion of food supplies;
- destroying the water and sewage systems by deep digging to build berms for tanks and artillery;
- indiscriminately placing land mines and IEDs along roads and in civilian neighbourhoods;
- pre-positioning sea mines and explosive devices around the port to destroy infrastructure; and
- placing snipers and heavy weaponry in residential neighbourhoods.

The Arab Coalition will not -- and the International community should not -- allow the Houthis to hide behind, mistreat and manipulate the civilian population. We cannot allow the Houthis to divert us from the strategic goals of the operation and our collective efforts to accelerate a peaceful settlement for Yemen and all of the Yemeni people.

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. McCain re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 10:58 AM

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From: **Hagir Elawad** <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 5:16 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. McCain re: Yemen



Dear

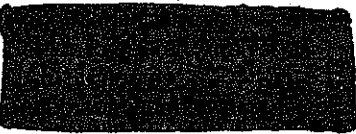
I hope this note finds you well. It's been some time since we were last in touch. Are you around next week or traveling? Happy to stop in if you happen to be in town or the following week. Also happy to connect with if you guys are available.

On another note, I am attaching a letter from Ambassador Al Otaiba to Senator McCain providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and kindly confirm receipt of my email and the letter.


Warmest,
Hagir



2 attachments

UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf
5482K

Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_McCain.pdf

 201K

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC



مملكة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable John McCain
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

On the diplomatic front, the UAE and the Coalition strongly support the UN Special Envoy's ongoing effort to secure a negotiated outcome that will involve the peaceful handover of the port and the city by the Houthis to the legitimate Yemeni government. This is consistent with the mandate of the Envoy and the coalition under UN Resolution 2216 – which explicitly calls for the Houthis to disarm, evacuate urban areas and recognize the legitimate Yemeni Government.

There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

For now, the immediate priority is to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Hodeida. The port remains open and continues to receive and unload ships. Due to the efforts of the UN, the Coalition and others, there are now more than 100,000 metric tons of food stockpiled in Hodeida – sufficient to meet the needs of 6 million people for the next month. Tankers are in port now unloading fuel. Another ship is at Al Saleef port unloading 53,000 tons of wheat. According to international aid groups, these supplies continue to be distributed utilizing existing networks and channels.

The Coalition has also put in place a comprehensive contingency plan to send aid into Hodeida if the port is damaged by the Houthis or otherwise disrupted. Teams of port operations and logistics experts, along with ship-to-shore cranes and heavy equipment, are already positioned in the Red Sea. More than 35,000 tons of additional food and medical supplies are also in position in and around the area. Shore landing craft and smaller vessels have been readied to move supplies. Large quantities of aid are stockpiled in Aden and Mokha and 100 trucks have been contracted and are available to move supplies north by road. Cargo aircraft have also been prepared to establish a humanitarian air bridge.

Additionally, the UAE and the Coalition have developed alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hodeida and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hodeida's port, existing aid distribution networks, or other infrastructure.

With the Houthis placing sea mines around the port, the Coalition's plans also include mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. The Coalition has requested additional mine clearing assistance from the U.S. and France.

The Coalition is working closely with the UN and other international organizations to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from Houthi-controlled areas. Locations for temporary shelters and medical facilities have been identified and prepared.

The Houthis' indiscriminate use of land mines is complicating aid efforts and causing great suffering to the civilian population. Yemeni and Coalition experts have already cleared more than 20,000 landmines.

Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
- the positioning of heavy weapons and sniper nests in and among residential buildings, neighborhoods and villages;
- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

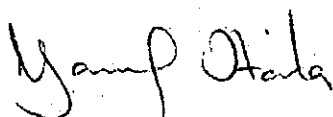
The UAE's current humanitarian efforts in Yemen are not new. The UAE has been one of the largest historic aid providers to the country. In just the period from April 2015 to May 2018, the UAE contributed USD \$3.7 billion in aid to Yemen. In 2018, the UAE pledged USD \$465 million to support the UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen, in addition to the USD \$34 million pledged to restore Yemen's sea and airports.

The situation in Hodeida is a critical turning point in the three-year Yemen conflict. The military pressure is creating a new dynamic by bringing the Houthis to the negotiating table. The humanitarian efforts are also paying off with aid continuing to flow into the city and to the rest of Yemen.

We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Perdue re: Yemen
1 message



----- Forwarded message -----
From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uae-strategies.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 5:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Perdue re: Yemen



Dear

I hope this note finds you well. We have not yet had the opportunity to meet but I have had the pleasure of working and traveling with Caitlin over the represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I estal Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legisla continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I am sure, like many of us, the Senator is following the issue of Yemen with interest and concern. I am attaching a letter from Ambassador Al Otaiba to S latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in making sure he receives the letter, and you in the coming weeks. Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

I hope you've been well my friend and we are also overdue for a catch up. Let's find time soon.

Please let me know if you have any questions and kindly confirm receipt of my email and the letter.

Warmest,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uae-strategies.com
(202) 770-7872

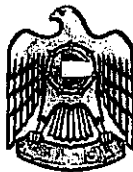
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واشنطن

مكتب السفير

June 27, 2018

The Honorable David Perdue
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Perdue,

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The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

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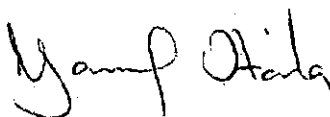
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Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



[REDACTED]

Re: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Chairman McCaul re: Yemen

[REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:04 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 8:19 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Chairman McCaul re: Yemen

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this note finds you all well. It's been some time since we last touched base. Are you guys around this week or traveling? Happy to stop in if you happen to be in town or the following week.

On another note, I am attaching a letter from Ambassador Al Otaiba to Chairman McCaul providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize it is a couple days later than initially planned.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and kindly confirm receipt of my email and the letter.

Warmest,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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[REDACTED]

10/2/2018

UAE Strategies Mail - Re: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Chairman McCaul re: Yemen

UAE Strategies


2 attachments

 **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_McCaul.pdf**
202K

 **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
5482K

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC



سـمـارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
دـمـشق

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Mike McCaul
2001 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4310

Dear Representative McCaul,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

On the diplomatic front, the UAE and the Coalition strongly support the UN Special Envoy's ongoing effort to secure a negotiated outcome that will involve the peaceful handover of the port and the city by the Houthis to the legitimate Yemeni government. This is consistent with the mandate of the Envoy and the coalition under UN Resolution 2216 – which explicitly calls for the Houthis to disarm, evacuate urban areas and recognize the legitimate Yemeni Government.

There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

For now, the immediate priority is to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Hodeida. The port remains open and continues to receive and unload ships. Due to the efforts of the UN, the Coalition and others, there are now more than 100,000 metric tons of food stockpiled in Hodeida – sufficient to meet the needs of 6 million people for the next month. Tankers are in port now unloading fuel. Another ship is at Al Saleef port unloading 53,000 tons of wheat. According to international aid groups, these supplies continue to be distributed utilizing existing networks and channels.

The Coalition has also put in place a comprehensive contingency plan to send aid into Hodeida if the port is damaged by the Houthis or otherwise disrupted. Teams of port operations and logistics experts, along with ship-to-shore cranes and heavy equipment, are already positioned in the Red Sea. More than 35,000 tons of additional food and medical supplies are also in position in and around the area. Shore landing craft and smaller vessels have been readied to move supplies. Large quantities of aid are stockpiled in Aden and Mokha and 100 trucks have been contracted and are available to move supplies north by road. Cargo aircraft have also been prepared to establish a humanitarian air bridge.

Additionally, the UAE and the Coalition have developed alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hodeida and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hodeida's port, existing aid distribution networks, or other infrastructure.

With the Houthis placing sea mines around the port, the Coalition's plans also include mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. The Coalition has requested additional mine clearing assistance from the U.S. and France.

The Coalition is working closely with the UN and other international organizations to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from Houthi-controlled areas. Locations for temporary shelters and medical facilities have been identified and prepared.

The Houthis' indiscriminate use of land mines is complicating aid efforts and causing great suffering to the civilian population. Yemeni and Coalition experts have already cleared more than 20,000 landmines.

Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
- the positioning of heavy weapons and sniper nests in and among residential buildings, neighborhoods and villages;
- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

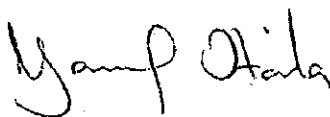
The UAE's current humanitarian efforts in Yemen are not new. The UAE has been one of the largest historic aid providers to the country. In just the period from April 2015 to May 2018, the UAE contributed USD \$3.7 billion in aid to Yemen. In 2018, the UAE pledged USD \$465 million to support the UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen, in addition to the USD \$34 million pledged to restore Yemen's sea and airports.

The situation in Hodeida is a critical turning point in the three-year Yemen conflict. The military pressure is creating a new dynamic by bringing the Houthis to the negotiating table. The humanitarian efforts are also paying off with aid continuing to flow into the city and to the rest of Yemen.

We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba re: Yemen

Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 12:15 PM

Dear 

I hope this note finds you well. My name is Hagir Elawad; I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington DC. I actually recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE STRATEGIES.

I understand that Rep. Espailat is following the developments in Yemen and I want to share with you a letter that Ambassador Al Otaiba recently sent to Leader Pelosi and other leadership members providing an update on the latest Yemen developments as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in making sure the Congressman sees it. I have also attached the latest infographic on the UAE's humanitarian assistance to Yemen and would welcome the opportunity to meet with Congressman Espailat, you and your colleagues in the coming days to discuss this issue and other mutual areas of interest.

Kindly confirm receipt of my email and I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,
Hagir


Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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2 attachments

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202K

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5482K

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC



سفارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0512

Dear Representative Pelosi,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

On the diplomatic front, the UAE and the Coalition strongly support the UN Special Envoy's ongoing effort to secure a negotiated outcome that will involve the peaceful handover of the port and the city by the Houthis to the legitimate Yemeni government. This is consistent with the mandate of the Envoy and the coalition under UN Resolution 2216 – which explicitly calls for the Houthis to disarm, evacuate urban areas and recognize the legitimate Yemeni Government.

There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

For now, the immediate priority is to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Hodeida. The port remains open and continues to receive and unload ships. Due to the efforts of the UN, the Coalition and others, there are now more than 100,000 metric tons of food stockpiled in Hodeida – sufficient to meet the needs of 6 million people for the next month. Tankers are in port now unloading fuel. Another ship is at Al Saleef port unloading 53,000 tons of wheat. According to international aid groups, these supplies continue to be distributed utilizing existing networks and channels.

The Coalition has also put in place a comprehensive contingency plan to send aid into Hodeida if the port is damaged by the Houthis or otherwise disrupted. Teams of port operations and logistics experts, along with ship-to-shore cranes and heavy equipment, are already positioned in the Red Sea. More than 35,000 tons of additional food and medical supplies are also in position in and around the area. Shore landing craft and smaller vessels have been readied to move supplies. Large quantities of aid are stockpiled in Aden and Mokha and 100 trucks have been contracted and are available to move supplies north by road. Cargo aircraft have also been prepared to establish a humanitarian air bridge.

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With the Houthis placing sea mines around the port, the Coalition's plans also include mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. The Coalition has requested additional mine clearing assistance from the U.S. and France.

The Coalition is working closely with the UN and other international organizations to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from Houthi-controlled areas. Locations for temporary shelters and medical facilities have been identified and prepared.

The Houthis' indiscriminate use of land mines is complicating aid efforts and causing great suffering to the civilian population. Yemeni and Coalition experts have already cleared more than 20,000 landmines.

Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
- the positioning of heavy weapons and sniper nests in and among residential buildings, neighborhoods and villages;
- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

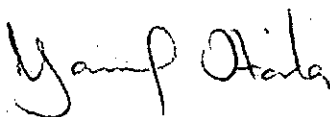
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



[REDACTED]

Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Mast re: Yemen

1 message

[REDACTED] Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:05 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 8:32 PM

Subject: Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Mast re: Yemen

[REDACTED]

Resending w/correct subject line- my apologies!

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this note finds you both well, and once again, thank you and Congressman Mast for coming to the Embassy last week! Are you guys around this week or traveling? I will be on the Hill almost every day if this week if you guys want to grab a cup of coffee.

On another note, I am attaching a letter from Ambassador Al Otaiba to Rep. Mast providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize I am sending it a couple of days later than initially planned.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and kindly confirm receipt of my email and the letter.

Warmest,
Hagir

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10/2/2018

UAE Strategies Mail - Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Mast re: Yemen



2 attachments

 **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
5482K

 **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_Mast.pdf**
202K

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC



سفارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Brian Mast
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0918

Dear Representative Mast,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

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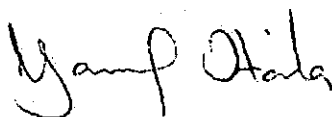
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Meadows re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:07 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 8:49 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Meadows re: Yemen



Dear [Redacted]

I hope this note finds you both well. We did not have the opportunity to meet a few months ago when Ambassador Al Otaiba and I came in to meet with Rep. Meadows. Your former colleague Martha was in the meeting along with Eddy Acevedo, who introduced us to the Congressman. My name is Hagir Elawad; I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On another note, I am attaching a letter from Ambassador Al Otaiba to Rep. Meadows providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize I am sending it a couple of days later than initially planned.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

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Warmest,
Hagir

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Principal
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(202) 770-7872

10/2/2018

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/02/2018 3:19:09 PM


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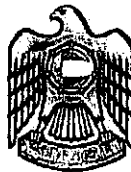
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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR



سعادة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Mark Meadows
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3311

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On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

On the diplomatic front, the UAE and the Coalition strongly support the UN Special Envoy's ongoing effort to secure a negotiated outcome that will involve the peaceful handover of the port and the city by the Houthis to the legitimate Yemeni government. This is consistent with the mandate of the Envoy and the coalition under UN Resolution 2216 – which explicitly calls for the Houthis to disarm, evacuate urban areas and recognize the legitimate Yemeni Government.

There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

For now, the immediate priority is to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Hodeida. The port remains open and continues to receive and unload ships. Due to the efforts of the UN, the Coalition and others, there are now more than 100,000 metric tons of food stockpiled in Hodeida – sufficient to meet the needs of 6 million people for the next month. Tankers are in port now unloading fuel. Another ship is at Al Saleef port unloading 53,000 tons of wheat. According to international aid groups, these supplies continue to be distributed utilizing existing networks and channels.

The Coalition has also put in place a comprehensive contingency plan to send aid into Hodeida if the port is damaged by the Houthis or otherwise disrupted. Teams of port operations and logistics experts, along with ship-to-shore cranes and heavy equipment, are already positioned in the Red Sea. More than 35,000 tons of additional food and medical supplies are also in position in and around the area. Shore landing craft and smaller vessels have been readied to move supplies. Large quantities of aid are stockpiled in Aden and Mokha and 100 trucks have been contracted and are available to move supplies north by road. Cargo aircraft have also been prepared to establish a humanitarian air bridge.

Additionally, the UAE and the Coalition have developed alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hodeida and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hodeida's port, existing aid distribution networks, or other infrastructure.

With the Houthis placing sea mines around the port, the Coalition's plans also include mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. The Coalition has requested additional mine clearing assistance from the U.S. and France.

The Coalition is working closely with the UN and other international organizations to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from Houthi-controlled areas. Locations for temporary shelters and medical facilities have been identified and prepared.

The Houthis' indiscriminate use of land mines is complicating aid efforts and causing great suffering to the civilian population. Yemeni and Coalition experts have already cleared more than 20,000 landmines.

Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
- the positioning of heavy weapons and sniper nests in and among residential buildings, neighborhoods and villages;
- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

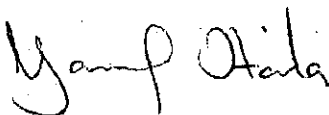
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The situation in Hodeida is a critical turning point in the three-year Yemen conflict. The military pressure is creating a new dynamic by bringing the Houthis to the negotiating table. The humanitarian efforts are also paying off with aid continuing to flow into the city and to the rest of Yemen.

We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Lamborn re: Yemen

1 message

Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:07 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 9:43 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Lamborn re: Yemen

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this note finds you well. We have not yet had an opportunity to meet; my name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I worked closely with Sam Fletcher over the last couple of years and just noticed that he has recently transitioned over to the Senate. I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On another note, I know Congressman Lamborn has been engaged on the issue of Yemen and I wanted to share with you this letter from Ambassador Al Otaiba to Rep. Lamborn providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a couple of days later than initially planned. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Congressman sees it.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest,
Hagir


Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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2 attachments

 **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
5482K

 **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_Lamborn.pdf**
202K

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC



سفارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0605

Dear Representative Lamborn,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

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The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

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The Houthis' indiscriminate use of land mines is complicating aid efforts and causing great suffering to the civilian population. Yemeni and Coalition experts have already cleared more than 20,000 landmines.

Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
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- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

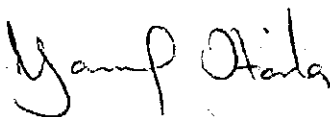
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The situation in Hodeida is a critical turning point in the three-year Yemen conflict. The military pressure is creating a new dynamic by bringing the Houthis to the negotiating table. The humanitarian efforts are also paying off with aid continuing to flow into the city and to the rest of Yemen.

We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Markey re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:10 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hagir Elawad** <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 10:20 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Markey re: Yemen



Dear 

I hope this note finds you well. We have not yet had an opportunity to meet; my name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I worked closely with Phil McGovern prior to his transition and would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On a related note, I know that Senator Markey, like many, is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Senator providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a couple of days later than initially planned. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Senator sees it.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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2 attachments

 **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
5482K

 **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_Markey.pdf**
202K

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WASHINGTON DC



سعادة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Ed Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

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There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

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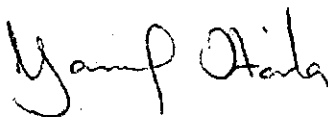
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Durbin re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:09 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 9:59 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Durbin re: Yemen



Dear [Redacted]

I hope this note finds you well. We have not yet had an opportunity to meet; my name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On another note, I am sure Senator Durbin, like many, is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Senator providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a couple of days later than initially planned. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Senator sees it.

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Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
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WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR



سعادة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin,

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Additionally, the UAE and the Coalition have developed alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hodeida and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hodeida's port, existing aid distribution networks, or other infrastructure.

With the Houthis placing sea mines around the port, the Coalition's plans also include mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. The Coalition has requested additional mine clearing assistance from the U.S. and France.

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The Houthis' indiscriminate use of land mines is complicating aid efforts and causing great suffering to the civilian population. Yemeni and Coalition experts have already cleared more than 20,000 landmines.

Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
- the positioning of heavy weapons and sniper nests in and among residential buildings, neighborhoods and villages;
- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

The UAE's current humanitarian efforts in Yemen are not new. The UAE has been one of the largest historic aid providers to the country. In just the period from April 2015 to May 2018, the UAE contributed USD \$3.7 billion in aid to Yemen. In 2018, the UAE pledged USD \$465 million to support the UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen, in addition to the USD \$34 million pledged to restore Yemen's sea and airports.

The situation in Hodeida is a critical turning point in the three-year Yemen conflict. The military pressure is creating a new dynamic by bringing the Houthis to the negotiating table. The humanitarian efforts are also paying off with aid continuing to flow into the city and to the rest of Yemen.

We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Lee re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:11 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 10:50 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Lee re: Yemen



Dear [Redacted]

I hope this note finds you well. My name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On another note, I know that Senator Lee is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Senator providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a couple of days later than initially planned. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Senator sees it.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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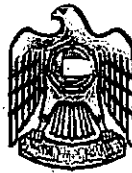
2 attachments

 **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
5482K

 **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_Lee.pdf**
201K

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR



مملكة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Mike Lee
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lee,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

On the diplomatic front, the UAE and the Coalition strongly support the UN Special Envoy's ongoing effort to secure a negotiated outcome that will involve the peaceful handover of the port and the city by the Houthis to the legitimate Yemeni government. This is consistent with the mandate of the Envoy and the coalition under UN Resolution 2216 – which explicitly calls for the Houthis to disarm, evacuate urban areas and recognize the legitimate Yemeni Government.

There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

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The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

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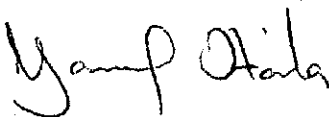
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Warner re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:11 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hagir Elawad** <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 11:03 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Warner re: Yemen



Dear 

I hope this note finds you well. My name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

You may also know that the Ambassador and Senator have a good personal relationship, and I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On a related note, I am sure Senator Warner is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Senator providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a couple of days later than initially planned. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Senator sees it.

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Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

10/2/2018

UAE Strategies Mail - Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Warner re: Yemen

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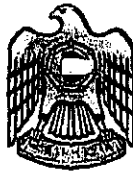
2 attachments

 **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
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 **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_Warner.pdf**
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WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR



سفارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Mark Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

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Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

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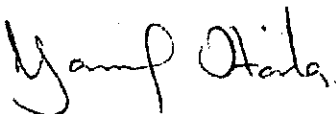
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Sanders re: Yemen

1 message



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:12 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 11:24 PM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Sanders re: Yemen



Dear 

I hope this note finds you well. My name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I have attempted to connect with Matt Duss on a couple of occasions considering both the Senator's interest in some of the regional issues, and also based on Matt's regular unfavorable tweets regarding the UAE. I thought it would be of mutual interest to build a relationship with your office and I know that Ambassador Al Otaiba is also interested in meeting with Senator Sanders in the near future. Unfortunately, I have not succeeded in obtaining a response but would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On a related note, I know Senator Sanders is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Senator providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a couple of days later than initially planned. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Senator sees it.

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Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies

10/2/2018

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/02/2018 3:19:23 PM

UAE Strategies Mail - Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Sen. Sanders re: Yemen


hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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2 attachments

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EMBASSY OF THE
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WASHINGTON DC



سـمـارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4503

Dear Senator Sanders,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

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Indisputable evidence of mining and other abuses has been provided through images and first-hand reports provided by people still in Hodeida, by the media, by Coalition reconnaissance imagery, and by international organizations remaining in the city.

The well-documented litany of Houthi offenses committed in Hodeida over the last month include:

- the indiscriminate placement of landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often disguised as everyday objects making them a grave danger to innocent civilians now and into the future;
- the wholesale use of sea mines which threaten to impede critical deliveries of humanitarian aid;
- the positioning of heavy weapons and sniper nests in and among residential buildings, neighborhoods and villages;
- blocking the evacuation of civilians from conflict areas;
- the purposeful destruction of the water system; and
- the theft and diversion of humanitarian aid further enabled by the forced removal of surveillance cameras from storage facilities managed by international aid groups.

These abuses should be condemned by the US and the international community. At the same time, the UAE and the Coalition have listened carefully to the perspectives, concerns, and recommendations of Congress, the Administration, the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. The UAE, Coalition and Yemeni Government military operations around Hodeida have been carefully calibrated and targeted to avoid civilian casualties and minimize damage to vital infrastructure (including the port). This is in conformity with international humanitarian law, and to provide the Houthis with the greatest possible opportunity to withdraw peacefully from Hodeida.

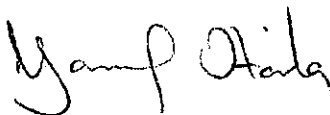
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Bass re: Yemen



Tue, Oct 2, 2018 at 11:13 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 7:41 AM

Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Bass re: Yemen



Dear 

I hope this note finds you well. We have not yet had an opportunity to meet; my name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I actually recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

Come to think of it, I just remembered I sent you a LinkedIn message not too long ago related to your previous position.

I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On another note, I know that Rep. Bass, like many, is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Congresswoman providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending it a few days later than initially planned; we had some computer glitches that didn't allow it to initially go through back in late June. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Congresswoman sees it.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest,
Hagir

--

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal
UAE Strategies



hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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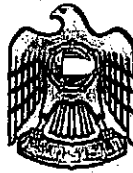
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2 attachments

-  **UAE Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen Continues_June 27_2018.pdf**
5482K
-  **Amb. Al Otaiba Letter Re. Yemen_Bass.pdf**
202K

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC



سـفـارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Karen Bass
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0537

Dear Representative Bass,

On behalf of the Arab Coalition to Support the Legitimate Government of Yemen, I want to provide you with an update on recent developments in the effort to liberate Hodeida from the Houthi rebel militias. I particularly want to highlight the comprehensive humanitarian efforts underway.

The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

The humanitarian efforts are also working. The port remains open – more than 25 ships have unloaded food aid over the last four weeks. The Coalition is delivering aid to villages and areas now under Yemeni Government control. A large-scale and comprehensive contingency plan to provide aid into Hodeida is also in place. The Coalition has prepositioned tens of thousands of tons of supplies in and along the Red Sea with airplanes, trucks and ships ready to move into a liberated Hodeida. (Additional detail on the humanitarian efforts are below and in the attachment.)

On the diplomatic front, the UAE and the Coalition strongly support the UN Special Envoy's ongoing effort to secure a negotiated outcome that will involve the peaceful handover of the port and the city by the Houthis to the legitimate Yemeni government. This is consistent with the mandate of the Envoy and the coalition under UN Resolution 2216 – which explicitly calls for the Houthis to disarm, evacuate urban areas and recognize the legitimate Yemeni Government.

There is urgency to the Envoy's efforts. The people of Hodeida are calling for liberation, especially as the Houthis purposefully worsen conditions inside the city. UN and local reports continue to highlight Houthi human rights violations including the use of children soldiers, shelling civilian areas, forced evacuations, executions, human shielding, indiscriminately planting mines and IEDs, placing tanks and snipers in residential areas, and the destruction of the water system.

Increasing pressure at Hodeida and in other areas of Yemen is also designed to stem the flow of sophisticated Iranian weapons. As documented by the UN and by independent groups like Conflict Armaments Research, Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis, enabling them to target Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles, to improve IEDs, and to threaten international navigation with anti-ship missiles.

The United States has a clear stake in the Coalition's success in Yemen. The US shares the Coalition's priorities to meet the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, avoid civilian casualties and restart the political process. At the same time, the Coalition is also advancing other critical and common security objectives with the US: destroy AQAP, confront Iran, and maintain freedom of navigation into the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

For now, the immediate priority is to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Hodeida. The port remains open and continues to receive and unload ships. Due to the efforts of the UN, the Coalition and others, there are now more than 100,000 metric tons of food stockpiled in Hodeida – sufficient to meet the needs of 6 million people for the next month. Tankers are in port now unloading fuel. Another ship is at Al Saleef port unloading 53,000 tons of wheat. According to international aid groups, these supplies continue to be distributed utilizing existing networks and channels.

The Coalition has also put in place a comprehensive contingency plan to send aid into Hodeida if the port is damaged by the Houthis or otherwise disrupted. Teams of port operations and logistics experts, along with ship-to-shore cranes and heavy equipment, are already positioned in the Red Sea. More than 35,000 tons of additional food and medical supplies are also in position in and around the area. Shore landing craft and smaller vessels have been readied to move supplies. Large quantities of aid are stockpiled in Aden and Mokha and 100 trucks have been contracted and are available to move supplies north by road. Cargo aircraft have also been prepared to establish a humanitarian air bridge.

Additionally, the UAE and the Coalition have developed alternative networks and routes for the delivery of aid to Hodeida and points beyond, to be implemented should there be an attempt by the Houthis to damage or destroy Hodeida's port, existing aid distribution networks, or other infrastructure.

With the Houthis placing sea mines around the port, the Coalition's plans also include mine-clearing operations to allow for the urgent resumption of large ship movements. The Coalition has requested additional mine clearing assistance from the U.S. and France.

The Coalition is working closely with the UN and other international organizations to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from Houthi-controlled areas. Locations for temporary shelters and medical facilities have been identified and prepared.

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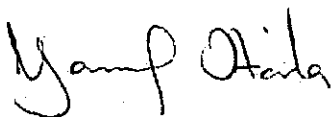
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We share Congress' view about the need to end the conflict and redouble efforts to address Yemen's many challenges. We remain strongly supportive of the UN Envoy's work to achieve these goals.

My Embassy team and I will continue to update you regularly on developments but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Yousef Al Otaiba



Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Schiff re: Yemen

Anne Marie McLean <annemarie@uaestrategies.com>
To: Anna Loughran <anna@uaestrategies.com>

Mon, Jul 16, 2018 at 12:14 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 4:49 AM
Subject: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Schiff re: Yemen

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this note finds you well. We have not yet had an opportunity to meet; my name is Hagir Elawad, I represent the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates here in DC. I actually recently transitioned out of the Embassy umbrella after almost ten years, where I established and led the Congressional Affairs Department. I now remain in essentially the same capacity, just on the outside, serving H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba as a Senior Adviser for Legislative & Political-Military Affairs, and continuing to be his chief liaison for Congress, via my consultancy, UAE Strategies.

I have had the pleasure of working with [REDACTED] in the past, although it has been some time so hopefully [REDACTED] you still remember me!

I would welcome the opportunity to come in and meet with you and your colleagues to discuss US-UAE bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On another note, I know that Rep. Schiff like many, is closely following the ongoing developments in Yemen. Kindly find attached a letter from H.E. Ambassador Al Otaiba to the Congressman providing an update on the latest developments in Yemen as the UAE and the Coalition view it. I apologize for sending this a few days later than initially planned; we had some computer glitches that didn't allow it to initially go through back in late June. I would greatly appreciate if you could make sure the Congressman sees it.

We are also in receipt of the recent letter from Reps. Hoyer, Engel, Deutch, Schiff and Lowey and are preparing a response.

Also attached is the latest infographic detailing the continued humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warmest,
Hagir

Ms. Hagir H. Elawad
Principal

10/2/2018

UAE Strategies Mail - Fwd: Letter from UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba to Rep. Schiff re: Yemen


UAE Strategies
hagir@uaestrategies.com
(202) 770-7872

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
واشنطن
مكتب السفير

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Adam Schiff
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0528

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The Coalition's priorities regarding Hodeida are clear: maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance and minimize the impact on the civilian population while maintaining pressure on the rebels to enter into meaningful political discussions. The Coalition's carefully calibrated military pressure is working. After three years of intransigence, the Houthis are re-engaged in talks with the UN Special Envoy.

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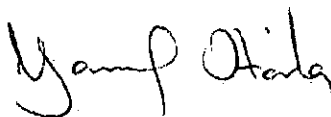
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