

Returning the Houthis to the US Terrorist List

Stop Cash and Arms Flows: Maintain Aid Flows



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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The US Should Return the Houthis to the List of Foreign Terrorist Organizations

Executive Summary

After direct attacks against civilian targets and U.S. installations in the UAE, the UAE urges the U.S. to return the Houthi separatist extremist group in Yemen to the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO). This designation will help disrupt illicit financial and weapons networks feeding the Houthi terror machine. It will add to mounting pressure on the Houthis to engage in UN-led peace efforts that can end hostilities in a war that has gone on far too long. Properly applied, returning the Houthis to the U.S. terror list will not stop critical humanitarian aid from reaching the Yemeni people.

In February 2021, the Biden Administration removed the Houthis from the U.S. list of officially designated terrorists. With good intentions, the Administration hoped this signal would encourage the Houthis to reduce hostilities, enter into talks, and improve the conditions for the Yemeni people. Instead, the Houthis have intensified their attacks inside and outside of Yemen, shunned all diplomatic efforts by UN and U.S. mediators, and deepened the humanitarian crisis by diverting and stealing humanitarian aid. In response to the latest attacks against civilians and UAE and U.S. interests, President Biden said at his January 19 press conference that the U.S. is considering restoring its designation of the Houthis as a terrorist group.

U.S. Department of Treasury: “Despite growing calls for peace, the Houthis have continued to escalate their lethal attacks inside Yemen and in the region, with dire consequences for Yemeni civilians and Yemen’s neighbors. The Houthis have used ballistic missiles, explosives, naval mines, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to strike military targets, population centers, infrastructure, and nearby commercial shipping . . .”

June 2021

UN Security Council Report: The Houthis’ systematic shelling of civilian-populated areas far from front lines “can be considered acts aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population, which is prohibited under international humanitarian law.”

January 2022

Houthi Terror Attacks Against the UAE, US and Global Community

January 2022

On three separate occasions in January 2022, Houthi terrorists unleashed a barrage of more than a dozen ballistic and cruise missiles plus weaponized drones against civilian sites across the UAE. UAE and U.S. air defenses prevented mass casualties, though the strikes still killed three individuals and injured six. One of the targets was Abu Dhabi's airport, a transit point for more than 32,000 international travelers every day. Another target was a close-by U.S. military facility at Al Dhafra Air Base. The latest attack occurred during the first ever visit by President Isaac Herzog of Israel to the UAE.

The Houthi terror wave was aimed at the UAE, but it also targeted the U.S. and global community. The UAE is home to more than 8 million foreign residents from nearly every country on Earth, including 65,000 Americans.

Just like the U.S. and any other sovereign nation, the UAE will take all necessary measures – targeted, proportionate and consistent with international law – to defend itself from further attacks.

International condemnation of the Houthi attack was swift and unified. The UN Security Council, the Biden Administration, and over 120 countries and international organizations categorically condemned this unconscionable act of transnational terrorism. The world is united in denouncing the Houthis for targeting civilians and critical infrastructure in the UAE. An effective response to contain Houthi aggression requires broad and durable diplomatic pressure, tougher U.S. and international sanctions, taking away their social media megaphone, intensified efforts to block weapons proliferation, and the rapid development and wider deployment of effective countermeasures.



Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III
@SecDef

Earlier this morning, I spoke with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince @MohamedBinZayed of the United Arab Emirates, where I reiterated our commitment to the security of the UAE. We stand united with our Emirati partners in defending against all threats to their territory.

READOUT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LLOYD J. AUSTIN III'S
CALL WITH ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN
ZAYED AL NAHYAN OF THE UAE

JANUARY 19, 2022

On January 19, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Secretary Austin strongly condemned the January 17 terrorist attack in Abu Dhabi that killed three innocent civilians and targeted civilian infrastructure. The Houthis have claimed responsibility for this attack. The Secretary conveyed his condolences for the loss of life, and underscored his unwavering support for the security and defense of UAE territory against all threats.



In the U.S., the Biden Administration, military officials, and congressional leaders are unified in expressing their unwavering support for the UAE. The Houthi terrorist attacks have only strengthened the already deep-rooted UAE-U.S. alliance. The international community must be clear-eyed about the threat the Houthis pose. There is no ambiguity here. If you talk like a terrorist, act like a terrorist, and kill like a terrorist, then you are a terrorist.

The UAE is urging the U.S. to re-list the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization under U.S. law to disrupt their financial networks and foreign support while providing appropriate exceptions to ensure that humanitarian relief can continue unimpeded. The Houthis have claimed credit for attacks on civilians, essentially declaring themselves to be terrorists – the U.S. should simply affirm the existing Houthi position and what is plain for all the world to see.

The Houthis in Their Own Words

The Houthi movement is rooted in radicalized and revolutionary ideology. Their call to arms: “Death to America, Death to Israel, Damn the Jews,” is a nine-word terrorist manifesto driving their violent and conspiratorial worldview. Houthi preachers accuse the U.S. and Israel of masterminding the September 11 tragedy. These leaders malign both countries with charges of spreading the coronavirus in Yemen and committing unspeakable violence against Yemeni women. They glorify killing Jews and Americans, while threatening attacks on Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and other Arab cities. Houthi diatribes are anti-American, anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. This hateful language is a consistent hallmark of Houthi leadership that has persisted for many years.

The Houthi terror strikes on the UAE in January proved these words are not empty threats. Their own statements following the attacks make clear their violent intentions against the UAE, the international community, and U.S. interests.

Houthi Military Spokesman Brigadier-General Yahya Sare'e: **“The Armed Forces (Houthis) warn foreign companies, the citizens, and all the residents who live in the Emirati enemy state, they will not hesitate to expand their bank of targets, so that it includes more important facilities and sites in the coming days. They should stay away from the vital facilities and sites, for their own safety.”**

January 17, 2022

Source: [MEMRI](#)

Houthi Brigadier-General Abdul Ghani Al-Zubaidi: **“We have the power, the will, and the determination to strike in the UAE and in Saudi Arabia. If it turns out that the Americans attacked in Yemen, or if they declare that they did, we will target the**



Yemeni supporters of the Houthi rebels burn Israeli and US flags as they shout slogans against the United States during an anti-US protest in Sanaa on May 20, 2017. MOHAMMED HUWAIS/AFP via Getty Images

American interests wherever they may be.”

January 17, 2022

Source: [MEMRI](#)

Houthi Deputy Minister of Information Nasr Al-Din Amer: **“We have a great desire to fight the Jews, because of the Quranic verses and divine decrees that order us to fight the Jews. We have this desire to kill the Jews or be killed by them. This is our desire, our dream, since we set forth on this path. All the Yemenis emerge from this Quranic, religious culture. So the Zionists pose no threat to us. Rather, we see this as a great opportunity to fulfill our desire to confront them.”**

January 24, 2022

Source: [MEMRI](#)

The Houthis in Their Own Actions

Effective [February 16, 2021](#), less than one month after assuming office, the Biden Administration revoked the Houthis' designation as an FTO. Secretary of State Blinken remarked this decision was "intended to ensure that relevant U.S. policies do not impede (humanitarian) assistance" to the Yemeni people. In the same decision, Blinken noted a long list of Houthi malign behavior.

The Houthis responded to this overture with a year of terror and violence against Yemenis, against civilians targets across the Arabian Peninsula, and now against U.S. facilities and personnel.

In fact,

- On [September 11, 2021](#), the Houthis fired a ballistic missile and explosive-laden drones at the Yemeni port city of Mocha, destroying humanitarian aid warehouses.
- The [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) observed the "number of Houthi attacks against predominantly civilian targets in Saudi Arabia doubled over the first nine months of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020."
- On [January 3, 2022](#), the Houthis seized a UAE ship carrying medical supplies along with its crew.
- On [January 17, 2022](#), the Houthis launched ballistic and cruise missiles plus weaponized drones against civilian sites across the UAE, including Abu Dhabi International Airport. Three civilians were killed and six were injured.
- On January 24, 2022, the Houthis launched another round of missile strikes against Abu Dhabi. UAE and U.S. air defense systems neutralized the incoming threat. [U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin](#) noted that the Houthi attacks "... threatened U.S. and Emirati armed forces stationed at Al Dhafra Air Base.
- On January 30, [The UN Security Council Expert Panel on Yemen](#) noted: "The Panel received a list of 1,406 children recruited by the Houthis who died on the battlefield in 2020. The Panel also received a list of 562 children recruited by the Houthis who died on the battlefield between January and May 2021. They were aged between ten and 17 years old ..."
- On [January 31, 2022](#), the Houthis launched a missile against Abu Dhabi, while Israeli President Isaac Herzog began his first ever visit to the UAE.
- On two occasions in [March 2021](#), the Houthis launched multiple drone and missile attacks against key Saudi Arabian oil facilities.

The Houthis Are Terrorists Under U.S. Law and Should Be Designated

The U.S. statute that governs FTOs sets out three criteria for designation:

1. The party in question must be a foreign organization.
2. The organization engages in “terrorist activity” or “terrorism,” or retains the capability and intent to engage in “terrorist activity.”
3. The “terrorist activity” or “terrorism” of the organization threatens the security of U.S. nationals or the “national security” of the United States.

The Houthis are a Foreign Organization

The first criteria is easily met, as the Houthis are almost exclusively non-U.S. persons who operate in Yemen and have controlled large portions of the country’s northern region for years. It is from these outposts that the Houthis have attacked civilian areas in Saudi Arabia and now, the UAE.

The Houthis Have Committed Acts of Terrorism

The Houthis have committed acts of terrorism, targeting Yemeni civilians and population centers as well as civilian infrastructure in cities throughout the Arabian Gulf region. When the Trump Administration designated the Houthis an FTO, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo remarked: “We need not look further than the callous attack targeting the civilian airport in Aden on December 30, in which the Houthis struck the arrival terminal killing 27 individuals, including three staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to see the destruction the Houthis continue to inflict upon civilians and civilian infrastructure.” Images of the attack on the Aden airport reverberated around the world. In 2021 and now this year, Houthi terror attacks continued unabated against sovereign nations, the international

community, NGOs and humanitarian relief agencies.

The Houthis Threaten Americans and US National Security

The Houthis’ positions and actions are deeply anti-American. They deride U.S. values and ideals, while rebuking the country’s allies. The Houthis’ zeal against America extends well beyond caustic words.

In November 2021, Houthi forces breached the U.S. Embassy compound in Yemen and detained local Yemeni staff. In addition, the State Department has already determined within the past year that certain Houthi leaders, such as Yusuf al-Madani, pose a “significant risk” of “committing acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.”

In January 2022, the Houthis fired two ballistic missiles near Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE, which houses the U.S. 380th Air Expeditionary Wing and 4,000 U.S. service members. UAE and U.S. forces jointly acted to intercept the missiles.

Tougher Sanctions will Not Stop Critical Aid from Reaching Yemen.

The Biden Administration has broad authority to ensure that existing and enhanced sanctions, including a re-designation of the Houthis as an FTO, do not impact aid flows to Yemen. The U.S. Government on numerous occasions has simultaneously sanctioned terrorist entities while ensuring that humanitarian relief continues without interruption. These exemptions have also applied to Executive Orders issued by the President.

The Biden, Trump and Obama Administrations

Throughout the last decade and spanning three presidential administrations, two Democratic and one Republican, broad consensus exists that the Houthis are responsible for causing widespread instability and chaos. The Trump Administration designated the Houthis as an FTO, and the Obama and Biden Administrations described the violence and destabilizing conduct of the Houthis as threatening Yemen, the region, the U.S. and its national security interests.

Biden Administration

When the Biden Administration revoked the Houthis' FTO designation in February 2021, Secretary of State Blinken was simultaneously uncompromising in rebuking the militia. He stated: "The United States remains clear-eyed about Ansarallah's (the Houthis) malign actions, and aggression, including taking control of large areas of Yemen by force, attacking U.S. partners in the Gulf, kidnapping and torturing citizens of the United States and many of our allies, diverting humanitarian aid, brutally repressing Yemenis in areas they control, and the deadly attack on December 30, 2020 in Aden against the cabinet of the legitimate government of Yemen."

In May 2021, when the Administration designated senior individual Houthi leaders for their malign activities, Secretary Blinken was similarly direct. Explaining this decision, he noted: "We are promoting accountability for Houthi actions that perpetuate conflict in Yemen and undermine peace efforts, including the brutal and costly offensive targeting Marib." Later he added, "There are regular reports of Houthi attacks impacting civilians and civilian infrastructure in and around Hudaydah, further exacerbating the situation for Yemenis facing some of



the highest levels of humanitarian need in the country."

Since de-listing the Houthis as an FTO, the U.S. government has made statements directly suggesting that the Houthis have engaged in terrorist activity. In a June 2021 press release announcing the sanctions designation of a smuggling network funding the Houthis and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force ("IRGC-QF"), the U.S. Department of the Treasury stated:

The Biden, Trump and Obama Administrations

“Since the onset of the conflict in Yemen, the Houthis have relied on support from the IRGC-QF to wage their campaign against the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Saudi-led Coalition. Despite growing calls for peace, the Houthis have continued to escalate their lethal attacks inside Yemen and in the region, with dire consequences for Yemeni civilians and Yemen’s neighbors. The Houthis have used ballistic missiles, explosives, naval mines, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to strike military targets, population centers, infrastructure, and nearby commercial shipping in Saudi Arabia, along key international trade routes.”

Trump Administration

In *January 2021*, when the Trump Administration designated the Houthis as an FTO in the aftermath of the tragic terror attack on the Aden airport, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo observed: “If Ansarallah (Houthis) did not behave like a terrorist organization, we would not designate it as an FTO. It has led a brutal campaign that has killed many people, continues to destabilize the region, and denies Yemenis a peaceful solution to the conflict in their country.”

Obama Administration

The Obama Administration repeatedly condemned the Houthis for their “provocative and destabilizing incitement.” Following a series of Houthi military attacks in 2015, President Obama’s National Security Council condemned the organization and issued the following statement: “We strongly urge the Houthis to halt immediately their destabilizing military actions and return to negotiations as part of the political dialogue. The international community has spoken clearly through the UN Security Council and in other

fora that the violent takeover of Yemen by an armed faction is unacceptable and that a legitimate political transition – long sought by the Yemeni people – can be accomplished only through political negotiations and a consensus agreement among all of the parties.”

In *2016*, President Obama authorized U.S. Armed Forces missile strikes on radar facilities in Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen following anti-ship cruise missile launches perpetrated by the Houthis that threatened U.S. Navy warships in international waters on the Red Sea.

The UN Panel of Experts on Yemen

The Houthis Are Terrorizing Yemeni Civilians

The [January 2022](#) Final Report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen established by the United Nations Security Council identified a litany of repressive, violent, and belligerent Houthi behavior terrorizing the Yemeni population. The Panel noted the Houthis, through coercion and indoctrination, are continuing their “systematic campaign to ensure the population’s adherence to their ideology,” later adding, “the Houthi policy of sexual violence and repression against politically active and professional women continued.” The Houthis continue to obstruct the delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance. Aid workers face abuse in the form of “physical violence, arbitrary arrests and detention, denial of visa or entry, expulsion of senior staff, restriction on movement of personnel and supplies, and interferences with activities and choice of service providers.”

The report documented the Houthis’ ongoing attacks from the air and sea against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, plus missile and drone strikes against Yemeni population centers. “The indiscriminate use of landmines by the Houthis, in particular on the West Coast, presents a constant threat to the civilian population, with tragic impacts on lives, security, and health, and with long-term consequences if not addressed,” the authors warn.

The Panel identified a series of detentions of Yemeni civilians which resulted in sexual violence, forced confessions and torture committed against journalists and women. Systematic persecution and discrimination persists against Jews, Christians, Baha’is and other minority groups.

“The Panel received a list of 1,406 children recruited by the Houthis who died on the battlefield in 2020. The Panel also received a list

of 562 children recruited by the Houthis who died on the battlefield between January and May 2021. They were aged between ten and 17 years old, a significant number were killed in Amran, Dhammar, Hajjah, Hudaydah, Ibb, Saa’da and Sana’a.”

[Source:](#) Final Report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2140

“Houthis adopt various methods to enrich themselves and sustain their activities, notably through the use or threat of violence and coercive regulatory practices. These include the collection of illegal fees and levies from high revenue yielding economic sectors such as oil and telecom, and the confiscation of assets/funds of individuals and entities. The downstream impact of the fragmented political, regulatory and financial institutions has created a coercive and challenging environment for the economy. Unless the macroeconomic situation is seriously addressed, political solutions to the conflict will only become more complex, making the vision of peace for the region even more distant.”

[Source:](#) Final Report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2140

Humanitarian Assistance Must and Can Continue

The Houthis bear the responsibility for this ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Their aggression started the war, and they brazenly violated earlier agreements to reduce hostilities. They have rejected all recent calls for a cease fire. They have diverted and stolen aid intended for the Yemeni people to fund their war machine and starve communities that are insufficiently loyal. Through all of this, the UAE has remained - and will continue - as one of Yemen's largest providers of humanitarian assistance.

Despite the Houthi attacks against Abu Dhabi, the UAE government remains steadfastly committed to providing humanitarian assistance to Yemen in support of education in schools, medical relief, food and water delivery, as well as energy and transportation needs. The UAE continues to work in partnership with UNICEF, the World Health Organization, World Food Programme, International Committee of the Red Cross and other relief agencies to support this effort.

Since 2015, the UAE has responded to the Yemen crisis by delivering over \$6.25 billion in humanitarian assistance. In 2021, the UAE provided \$230 million to support international programs to meet the medical, nutritional and food security needs of the country through the UN system. This aid will meet the food needs of 6 million Yemenis, including 1 million children.

Returning the Houthis to the terror list will not impede critical aid flows.

"The UAE also acknowledges recent international efforts to ensure that critical aid is not obstructed from reaching the most vulnerable groups in society,



specifically women and children. We look forward to working with humanitarian actors on the ground, from both the UN as well as the INGO community to ensure that aid is delivered to those that are in most need."

Her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State For International Cooperation (February 2021)

Congress Agrees The Houthis Are Terrorists

Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee

January 24

🐦 “Houthis intentionally firing missiles at civilian targets in UAE is a tactic of terrorists. The UN Security Council should condemn the attacks as such and the Biden administration should explore labeling them as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.”

Senator Jim Risch (R-ID), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

January 18

🐦 “I condemn the #Houthi strikes on infrastructure in the #UAE, which tragically killed 3 & wounded others. My condolences to all those affected. Yet again, this is an act of a dangerous #Iran-backed terrorist proxy, not a responsible member of the int'l community. This must stop.”

Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee

January 18

🐦 “I strongly condemn the recent Houthi drone attack on the UAE. Attacks on civilian areas represent flagrant violations of international law; this escalation makes achieving lasting peace for Yemen even more difficult

Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee

January 17

🐦 “I condemn in the strongest terms the attack on Abu Dhabi, which killed three civilians. The Iran-backed Houthis claimed responsibility for this heinous assault. In recent months, they have stormed

the the U.S. Embassy compound and imprisoned our local staff, seized an Emirati ship, and continued their cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia. The Biden Administration MUST take real steps to respond to this dangerous behavior.”

Joint letter to President Biden from Representatives Michael McCaul (R-TX), Joe Wilson (R-SC), Scott Perry (R-PA), Darrell Issa (R-CA), Brian Mast (R-FL), Tim Burchett (R-TN), Gregory Steube (R-FL), Ronny Jackson (R-TX), and Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL)

January 21

“It is evident that the Houthi rebels continue to reject good faith efforts to negotiate a diplomatic solution, instead choosing the path of violence, including against civilians and civilian targets. Administration officials have recently expressed a willingness to reconsider your decision to de-list the Houthis, also known as Ansarallah, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) under the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. We fully support reversing this decision and re-listing the Houthis.”

Congress Agrees The Houthis Are Terrorists

Senator Ted Crux (R-TX), Senate Foreign Relations Committee

January 24

“President Biden made it an immediate priority to unwind pressure on Iran and its proxies, including by lifting terrorism sanctions on the Houthis and their leaders – a reckless, self-indulgent, and catastrophic move. This appeasement predictably caused Iran to escalate its aggression across the region, and in Yemen the Houthis launched a broad offensive within hours of the Biden administration’s announcement they would lift those sanctions. I’ve consistently sought to reimpose those sanctions, and it’s now clear that if the Biden administration is unwilling to do so then Congress should mandate that they do.”

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Senate Foreign Relations Committee

January 18

“I strongly condemn yesterday’s attacks against innocent civilians in Abu Dhabi. I remain committed to working with the UAE to protect itself against threats from the Houthis and other regional adversaries.”

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Senate Foreign Relations Committee

January 20

“Sen Rubio condemns the Iranian-backed Houthi attack on the #UAE this week, which killed three innocent civilians. President Biden should be standing with our allies and partners instead of desperately trying to appease the evil regime in #Tehran that is destabilizing the region.”

Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL), House Foreign Affairs Committee

January 18

“I join in condemning the recent terror attack in Abu Dhabi. The Houthis must be held accountable by the intl community, while we work to end the conflict in Yemen. We must continue to work together with Gulf partners to stop Iranian-backed terror.”

Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY), House Foreign Affairs Committee

January 21

“Once again, Houthi fighters have shown their true colors to the world with a brutal attack on the United Arab Emirates. The group has led a ruthless campaign of violence and continues to de-stabilize the region and reject good-faith efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to this conflict. Unfortunately, the only people who are not paying attention are President Biden and Secretary Blinken. We must be clear-eyed about what’s happening in Yemen – the Houthis continue to act like a terrorist organization and engage in terrorist activity. I urge this Administration in the strongest of terms to re-designate the Iran-backed Houthis as an FTO and SDGT before they target more innocent civilians.”

Representative Don Bacon (R-NE)

January 25

The #Houthis are now launching attacks on US troops in addition to civilian targets in #UAE. US foreign policy is badly in need of an urgent re-set. POTUS must immediately redesignate the Houthi rebels as a #FTO and cut off all weapons/support from Iran.

Experts Agree

The Houthis Are Terrorists

Jonathan Schanzer, Senior Vice President for Research, Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), and Matthew Zweig, Senior Fellow, FDD

Yemen's Houthis Belong on the Terror List, January 25

"U.S. policy in Yemen currently amounts to nothing more than documenting Houthi violence, which has escalated since Mr. Biden took office. Moreover, the administration's actions have undermined the basis of the American terrorism sanctions regime. Ansar Allah is the textbook definition of a terrorist group. If it can have its sanctions lifted without changing its behavior, why can't other terrorist organizations do the same?"

The Houthis fired missiles again at Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia on Sunday. Yemen continues to writhe in large part because of a violent campaign by Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists. While the White House may take heat from congressional progressives and their allies, particularly in light of Saudi-led retaliation for last week's drone strike, it's time to redesignate Ansar Allah as a terrorist organization."

Ambassador Dennis Ross, Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

January 17

🐦 "The Houthi drone attack on Abu Dhabi hit two sites, one at the international airport, and killed several civilians. It is a big deal. We should mobilize international condemnation of the attacks and offer intelligence/security assistance to the UAE to bolster Emirate defenses."

A needed warning for Yemen's rebels — and for our allies and enemies alike, January 24

"Rarely has it been more important for an American administration to show it will stand by a friend in response to an attack that could have resulted in many civilian casualties, including Americans."

Gerald Feierstein, Senior Vice President, Middle East Institute

As the Houthis expand their regional aggression, will the US double down on a failing strategy? January 20

"With these new attacks and expansion of Houthi regional aggression, the balance between listing and not listing the Houthis may have shifted. The administration might suggest the time has come to reconsider the original decision, beginning by engaging humanitarian relief organizations on whether a listing of the Houthis could be implemented that would insulate essential relief efforts from harm."

Robert Satloff, Executive Director, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

January 18

🐦 "In my view, there's powerful logic to re-designating Yemen's Houthis as a terrorist organization. To me, basic principle should be to separate the counter-terror and humanitarian objectives and pursue both without regard to the other.

In practice, that means USG should designate Houthis like the terrorists they are and find practical/legal workarounds to provide humanitarian goods to needy Yemenis regardless of the politics. Houthis shouldn't be able to use #Yemen's humanitarian distress as a shield."

Experts Agree

The Houthis Are Terrorists

Con Coughlin, Analyst, The National

[Abu Dhabi attacks put Biden's Houthi designation firmly in the spotlight, January 20](#)

"In the aftermath of the attack carried out by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels on a peaceful civilian district of Abu Dhabi this week, it is hard to see how US President Joe Biden can resist calls for the extremist group to be re-designated a terrorist organisation... this week's attack against the UAE – which has long-standing defence ties with the US and plays host to around 5,000 American military personnel – demonstrates the Houthis and their backers have not abandoned their terrorist activities."

Matthew Levitt, Director, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

[January 19](#)

🐦 "Houthis were given opportunity to avoid designation but chose to engage in acts of terrorism targeting civilian targets in other countries. FTO designation makes sense now, with approximate licenses or exceptions to avoid famine."

Katherine Zimmerman, Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

[January 19](#)

🐦 "UAE has called for FTO designation on Houthis following deadly attacks. Biden team removed FTO prematurely over concerns of humanitarian impact, creating conditions for Houthis to pursue military victory in Yemen."

Bilal Saab, Director, Middle East Institute

[How involved was Iran in the Houthi attack on the UAE? January 20](#)

"What we also know is that while the Houthis likely launched the attack (we still cannot confirm it wasn't the Iranians), they couldn't have done it without the near-continuous weapons shipments from the Iranian Quds Force. The Houthis might have learned a few tricks from the Iranians and the Lebanese Hezbollah on how to assemble drones locally but they definitely don't have the capability to produce ballistic missiles."

Michael Knights, Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

[Breaking Point: Consolidating Houthi Military Setbacks in Yemen, January 19](#)

"Washington can help preserve the recent coalition gains by categorizing the campaign as defensive, deterring further Houthi attacks abroad, and leveraging the next military deadlock to reinvigorate peace talks."

Experts Agree The Houthis Are Terrorists

William F. Wechsler, Senior Director, Atlantic Council's Middle East Program

[How the Biden administration can assure regional partners in the wake of the Houthi attacks on the UAE, January 24.](#)

"US President Joe Biden is right to reconsider his previous decision to withdraw the US terrorist designation of the Houthis. Such a designation isn't an easy decision; assessing the likely ramifications of such a move, the Donald Trump administration was internally divided on the question for years. Indeed, it only issued its designation during its final days in office in January 2021—the timing of which was especially questionable and strongly suggested a high degree of cynicism, at the very least.

The factual merits of such a designation aren't in question—the Houthis clearly qualify. After all, even as the Biden administration revoked the designation about one month after it was issued in February 2021, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accurately enumerated the Houthi's long list of offenses, "including taking control of large areas of Yemen by force, attacking US partners in the Gulf, kidnapping and torturing citizens of the United States and many of our allies, diverting humanitarian aid, brutally repressing Yemenis in areas they control, and the deadly attack on December 30, 2020 in Aden against the cabinet of the legitimate government of Yemen."

Joel Rayburn, Fellow, New America

[January 24](#)

🐦 "There was no valid rationale for removing the Houthis' foreign terrorist designation last year. This Houthi attack against a US target should result in their swift redesignation. If it doesn't, then the Biden admin will be signaling they have no redline against such an attack."

The World Agrees The Houthis Are Terrorists

131 Countries and International Organizations have condemned the Houthi Attack on UAE

Albania	Republic	Ethiopia	Jordan	Namibia	Senegal	Tonga	Arab Parliament
Algeria	Chad	Finland	Kenya	Nepal	Serbia	Tunisia	Coptic Orthodox Church
Angola	China	France	Kosovo	Netherlands	Seychelles	Turkey	EU
Argentina	Colombia	Gabon	Kuwait	New Zealand	Sierra Leone	Uganda	GCC
Armenia	Comoros	Gambia	Kyrgyzstan	Niger	Singapore	UK	Global Council for Tolerance and Peace
Australia	Congo	Germany	Lebanon	Nigeria	Slovakia	Ukraine	Higher Committee of Human Fraternity
Austria	Costa Rica	Ghana	Libya	North Macedonia	Somalia	United States	Muslim Council of Elders
Bahamas	Côte d'Ivoire	Greece	Lithuania	Norway	South Africa	Uruguay	OIC
Bahrain	Croatia	Guatemala	Luxembourg	Oman	South Korea	Yemen	UN
Bangladesh	Cyprus	Guinea	Malaysia	Pakistan	South Sudan	ADL	
Belgium	Denmark	Guyana	Maldives	Paraguay	Spain	African Union	
Brazil	Djibouti	India	Mali	Peru	Sri Lanka	AIPAC	
Bulgaria	Dominican Republic	Indonesia	Malta	Poland	Sudan	AJC	
Burkina Faso	Ecuador	Iraq	Mauritania	Qatar	Suriname	AlAzhar	
Burundi	Egypt	Ireland	Mauritius	Romania	Tajikistan	Arab	
Cambodia	El Salvador	Israel	Moldova	Russia	Tanzania	Inter-Parliamentary Union	
Canada	Eswatini	Italy	Montenegro	Rwanda	Thailand	Arab League	
Central African		Japan	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	Togo		

Additional global testimonials of support:

UN Security Council Press Statement

January 21

“The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attacks in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Monday, 17 January, as well as in other sites in Saudi Arabia...The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of the United Arab Emirates and all other



relevant authorities in this regard.

The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.”