



The Embassy of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia
Washington, DC

The Riyadh Agreement

December 2019

Overview

The Legitimate Government of Yemen signed a deal with the Southern Transitional Council (STC) on Tuesday, November 5th 2019 in Riyadh, under the patronage of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. The signing ceremony was attended by Yemeni President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Head of the Southern Transitional Council Aidarus Al-Zoubaidi.

The agreement focuses on ending a power struggle over the control of the South that risked further fragmenting Yemen. It came in response to the Kingdom's call for constructive dialogue, earnest engagement, greater unity, and an immediate cessation of hostilities.

This past August witnessed an increase in clashes between the STC and government forces. Since September 2019, the two parties have held indirect talks mediated by Saudi Arabia in Jeddah, which culminated in the deal signed in Riyadh. This pivotal agreement paves the way for a sustainable political settlement and ensures the return of much needed stability in the South of Yemen.

The agreement reaffirms Saudi Arabia's diplomatic, economic and military support for the people of Yemen, and demonstrates the Kingdom's commitment to achieving a lasting peace in Yemen, based on UNSC Resolution 2216, the GCC initiative, the outcomes of the National Dialogue.

Details of the Riyadh Agreement

- The Agreement ends the disagreements between the government and the STC, which had escalated into clashes between the two side's military forces in August 2019.
- With the support and encouragement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, these two groups have agreed to form a unity government that will bring the Yemeni people together.
- Concerns about equal representation have been addressed, as both the northern and southern regions of Yemen will be represented equally in a new government. The agreement ensures fair representation of all Yemenis irrespective of their sect, ethnicity, or religion.
- The agreement stipulates the formation of a committee under the supervision of the coalition to follow up, implement and fulfill its provisions.





The Embassy of the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia

Washington, DC

- All STC military forces are now under control of the legitimate government, under the Ministries of Defense and Interior. Under the supervision of the coalition, medium and heavy weapons in Aden will be collected from all forces and kept in military camps, chosen by the coalition.
- Government and STC military forces will leave Aden province within 30 days, while security inside the city will be overseen by Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the agreement mandates that the Yemeni prime minister will resume working from Aden within a week of its signing.
- The agreement allows the legitimate government to refocus efforts on bringing an end to the conflict with the Iran-backed Houthis, who have caused so much pain and destruction in Yemen. It guarantees the inclusion of the STC in future peace negotiations between the legitimate government and the Houthi militia.
- The Riyadh Agreement serves as a model for future negotiations with the Iran-backed Houthis, and demonstrates that peace can be achieved if all sides are committed to a peaceful solution, and are willing to come to the table.
- The Riyadh Agreement seeks to revive the role of all state institutions, create job opportunities for Yemenis, ensure payment of overdue salaries, increase the capabilities of state institutions, guarantees that airports and seaports remain open, provides security in all liberated areas, and restores government control over remaining areas.
- The agreement stipulates that all state revenues (including oil exports, customs, etc.) will be deposited in the central bank of Aden, ensuring transparency by requiring that all public spending be subject to parliamentary oversight.
- The agreement mandates the reorganization of the security force in charge of protecting civilian infrastructure in Aden (Central Bank, government buildings, ports, airport, etc.) within 30 days, under the supervision of the Interior Ministry, eventually extending its protection over civilian infrastructure in all liberated areas within 90 days.
- The Riyadh Agreement directs the reorganization of security forces, under the supervision of the Interior Ministry, in Abyan and Lahij.

Quotes by Saudi Officials

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense [Excerpts from His Royal Highness's speech at the signing ceremony]

"This agreement will open a new period of stability in Yemen."



The Embassy of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

"The Riyadh Agreement is a milestone towards a political solution to end the war in Yemen."

"The Kingdom will always stand by the Yemenis, seeking Yemen's stability and prosperity, and is confident that the wisdom of its people would be able to withstand all challenges."

His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin Salman, Deputy Minister of Defense

The Riyadh Agreement is a result of the Kingdom's tireless peacemaking efforts, to achieve lasting security, stability, and prosperity in Yemen.

KSA values the positive engagement by HE the President of Yemen, the Yemeni government, and the Southern Transitional Council, who put the interests of the Yemeni people above all else. KSA also thanks the brothers in the UAE for their efforts in reaching the Riyadh agreement.

We hope this agreement will represent a new chapter for Yemen, in which sincere dialogue will prevail and a comprehensive political solution will be reached that serves Yemen and Yemeni people.

His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Kingdom's policy is to prioritize dialogue and push for political solutions. Hence, the Riyadh Agreement opens a new page in the history of Yemen to enjoy security, stability, development and reconstruction.

His Excellency Mr. Adel Al Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The Riyadh Agreement sends an important message to the world that a political solution is possible in Yemen, and that the Kingdom's role in reaching a resolution is crucial. The Kingdom will continue to stand with our Yemeni brothers, as it always has.

Her Royal Highness Princess Reema bint Bandar, Saudi Ambassador to the US

The Kingdom strongly believes in the importance of constructive dialogue in resolving regional conflicts. In Yemen, we have always leveraged our strong ties to Yemen for peace and for stability, culminating in landmark agreements that have preserved unity.

The Riyadh agreement, signed between the Yemeni government and the STC, is the latest result of KSA's active pursuit of de-escalation & dialogue. The implementation of the agreement will ensure the return of much needed stability and will mark the end of violence in the South of Yemen.

The Kingdom will remain unwavering in its diplomatic, financial, and military support to the brotherly people of Yemen, and their internationally recognized government, against terrorist groups that seek to undermine the entire region's security.