

Country/entity Yemen

Region Middle East and North Africa

Agreement name Agreement Between the Houthis and the Arhab Tribes

Date 9 Feb 2014

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim arrangement Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Yemeni Civil Wars (1994) (2011 -)

The Republic of Yemen was formed in May 1990 after the merger between the Yemeni Arab Republic (YAR) in the north and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in the south. The unification process was rushed and the final agreement between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and President Ali Salem al-Beidh was based on the imperfect promise of equality. Following the merger, integration of the militaries and civil services was at best incomplete or at times entirely non-existent. When Saleh's General Congress Party (GPC) allied itself with the newly created Islamist Islah ('reform') party in 1993, the former ruling party of South Yemen – the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) – was effectively side-lined in the 1993 General Elections. Violence involving the use of heavy weaponry and aerial bombardment erupted in April 1994 and on the 21 May 1994 Vice President al-Beidh declared the secession of the south, citing political centralization with the northern highland tribes, violence against the YSP and economic discrimination. In the midst of fighting, negotiations in Cairo, Egypt, collapsed. The war ended with the military victory of the north, and on the 1 October 1994, Ali Abdullah Saleh was elected President.

Despite the unification of Yemen in 1990, political power during the 1990s and 2000s remained centralized with the northern highland tribes, particularly the villages from which President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his confidants stemmed. The system of clientelism established through the ruling General People's Congress party maintained relative loyalty among the fractured political allegiances of Yemen's traditional tribal leadership. However, diminishing oil reserves and the shrinking opportunities for access to rent increased economic and political marginalization in Yemen's peripheral communities. The degree of regionalism of conflicts is further defined by other local grievances. In the northern governorate of Sa'dah, a backlash was provoked among the local Zaydi Shi'a against Sunni Salafist cultural incursions resulting in six wars between 2004 and 2010. In the southern governorates of Hadramawt, Shabwa, al-Dhali and Abyan, civil and military personnel forcibly retired after the 1994 Civil War began protesting and eventually formed the secessionist Southern 'al-Hiraak' movement in 2007. Furthermore, tribal grievances have spurred attacks on oil companies and government installations to extract rents. Various takfiri groups including al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have also increased their presence since 1995.

The Yemen Spring in early 2011 allowed all these movements to express their joint displeasure. Moreover, factionalism in the regime split the already weak military and thus allowed the Houthis, the takfiris and tribal-based militia known as popular committees, to assert themselves militarily. Mandated by the UN-sponsored Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the National Dialogue held from March 2013 to January 2014 aimed at guaranteeing power-sharing among the different parties. However, the GCC Initiative only included formal political parties that did not accurately reflect political realities. Furthermore, provisions lacked adequate transitional justice and provided former-President Saleh, as well as others, full amnesty. As a result, little faith was placed in the process by formerly marginalized groups such as the Zaydi Shia Houthi rebels (Ansar Allah) and al-Hiraak who opted to increase their bargaining power vis-à-vis the state by strengthening their own territorial enclaves. In September 2014 the Houthis succeeded in capturing the capital Sana'a and gradually expanded their control southward. The subsequent UN-mediated Peace and National Partnership Agreement between transitional president Hadi and the Houthis on a federal, democratic Yemeni state, failed to be implemented as the Houthis successfully dissolved the parliament and deposed Hadi in January 2015. Following the Saudi military intervention to restore the Hadi government in March 2015, ceasefire attempts continuously failed. A two-year

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Yemen Inter-group Agreements
Parties	The Representatives of the Two Sides: Sheikh Faris Mujahid Al Jabari Sheikh Mansour Ali Al Hanq
Third parties	The Committee Tasked with Resolving the Conflict and Its Effects in Arhab: Gen. Ali bin Ali Al Jaifi, Committee Head and Commander of Reserve Forces Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Badr Al Din Sheikh Rabees Ali Wahban Sheikh Abdulkareem Ahmad Al Maqdashy Sheikh Mardhi bin Ka'lan Sheikh Naif Al Awaj Sheikh Hunain Muhammad Qatinah Sheikh Ahmad bin Ahmad Mijawhan Sheikh Naji Murait Gen. Abdulqadir bin Ali Hilal Sheikh Omar Al Arhabi Guarantors: 1. Sheikh Nabeeh Muhsin Abu Nashtan / Sheikh Muhammad Jaber Al Jamrah 2. Sheikh Muhammad Sawa / Sheikh Muhammad Nawfal 3. Sheikh Fadhel Al Qaseer / Sheikh Hayel Saeed Muhsin Marih 4. Sheikh Muhsin Abu Hadi / Sheikh Abdullah Muhammad Sinan 5. Hisham Radman / Sheikh Ali Alwan Al Marrani 6. Abdoh Mahmoud Al Subahi / Sheikh Dakam Muhammad Sawa 7. Muhammad Ali Al Mahras / Sheikh Mabkhout Bakir 8. Sheikh Ali Nawfal / Sheikh Ali Muhammad Radman
Description	Ceasefire agreement between the Houthis and the Arhab tribes providing for ceasefire modalities, in addition to other points addressing: (1) return of fighters from outside the district; (2) reparation of martyrs by the state (as to end blood feuds); (3) freedom of thought, ideology; (4) the law and the constitution provide for the means of resolving disputes; (5) exchange of dead and prisoners.

Agreement document [YE_140209_Arhab Agreement_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [YE_140209_Arhab Agreement_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

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

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

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

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family Page 1, Sixth: The Committee has decided that all of the martyrs who were killed during the fighting and are from the area of Arhab shall be the responsibility of the state. The state shall compensate their families because this round of fighting started because of developments in a public issue that came from outside the area, and there will not be any claims by any side against any other.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Thought, opinion, conscience and religion

Page 1-2, Seventh: Both sides agree to turning a new page of brotherhood, forgiveness, and acceptance of others, as well as reiterating everyone’s given right to freedom of belief and culture in accordance with the constitution and the laws in effect. Everyone shall reject violence and the use of force, and they shall all stop incitement, in all of its forms and with any message, against the other side. They shall solve the problems between them that might, Allah forbid, appear in the future through dialogue, brotherly understanding, and the principles of brotherhood and forgiveness among all. If these methods are not successful, then the state is responsible for solving these matters, in accordance with the law and the constitution.

Socio-economic rights

No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 1-2, Seventh: Both sides agree to turning a new page of brotherhood, forgiveness, and acceptance of others, as well as reiterating everyone's given right to freedom of belief and culture in accordance with the constitution and the laws in effect. Everyone shall reject violence and the use of force, and they shall all stop incitement, in all of its forms and with any message, against the other side. They shall solve the problems between them that might, Allah forbid, appear in the future through dialogue, brotherly understanding, and the principles of brotherhood and forgiveness among all. If these methods are not successful, then the state is responsible for solving these matters, in accordance with the law and the constitution.

Mobility/access Page 1, untitled preamble, ... This agreement shall secure the roads for all, and this is done with the intention of providing security and stability, avoiding chaos, and trying to coexist in light of the diversity in ideologies and political affiliations. ...

Page 1, Second: The barriers and checkpoints that were set up by the parties to the conflict during the recent fighting on all roads in Arhab shall be removed, and any military positions that were taken on the side of the public roads for any reasons shall be ended. There shall only be two checkpoints manned by the military, with the necessary patrols from the army, to ensure that everyone has safe passage until the situation is stable (the first day).

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, First: Immediate and permanent cessation of fire as soon as the parties sign this agreement, under the supervision and monitoring of the committee.

Page 1, Third: The frontlines of the clashes between the two sides shall be handed over on the first day after this agreement is signed, and the army shall take up positions in these areas until the situation is stable.

Page 1, Fourth: All of the remaining military positions and deployments shall be removed by both sides, not matter where they are, and at the same time. This shall be done on the second day after the signing of this agreement and based on a mechanism that shall be put in place by the committee.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces Page 1, Third: The frontlines of the clashes between the two sides shall be handed over on the first day after this agreement is signed, and the army shall take up positions in these areas until the situation is stable.

Page 1, Fifth: All of the fighters who were brought in by either side from outside the area to support the parties to the conflict during the war shall cooperate with both sides to bring about peace in the area by leaving Arhab and returning to their areas starting on the third day after the signing of the agreement and during the week after it. This shall be done with follow-up and supervision from the head and the members of the committee.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces Page 1, Fifth: All of the fighters who were brought in by either side from outside the area to support the parties to the conflict during the war shall cooperate with both sides to bring about peace in the area by leaving Arhab and returning to their areas starting on the third day after the signing of the agreement and during the week after it. This shall be done with follow-up and supervision from the head and the members of the committee.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 2, Eighth: The detainees and bodies of the dead shall be exchanged in the three days after the date of the signing of the agreement, and this shall be done under the supervision of the committee.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims Page 2, Eighth: The detainees and bodies of the dead shall be exchanged in the three days after the date of the signing of the agreement, and this shall be done under the supervision of the committee.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations
Page 1, Sixth: The Committee has decided that all of the martyrs who were killed during the fighting and are from the area of Arhab shall be the responsibility of the state. The state shall compensate their families because this round of fighting started because of developments in a public issue that came from outside the area, and there will not be any claims by any side against any other.

Reconciliation Page 1-2, Seventh: Both sides agree to turning a new page of brotherhood, forgiveness, and acceptance of others, as well as reiterating everyone's given right to freedom of belief and culture in accordance with the constitution and the laws in effect. Everyone shall reject violence and the use of force, and they shall all stop incitement, in all of its forms and with any message, against the other side. They shall solve the problems between them that might, Allah forbid, appear in the future through dialogue, brotherly understanding, and the principles of brotherhood and forgiveness among all. If these methods are not successful, then the state is responsible for solving these matters, in accordance with the law and the constitution.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	<p>Page 1, First: Immediate and permanent cessation of fire as soon as the parties sign this agreement, under the supervision and monitoring of the committee.</p> <p>Page 1-2, Seventh: Both sides agree to turning a new page of brotherhood, forgiveness, and acceptance of others, as well as reiterating everyone’s given right to freedom of belief and culture in accordance with the constitution and the laws in effect. Everyone shall reject violence and the use of force, and they shall all stop incitement, in all of its forms and with any message, against the other side. They shall solve the problems between them that might, Allah forbid, appear in the future through dialogue, brotherly understanding, and the principles of brotherhood and forgiveness among all. If these methods are not successful, then the state is responsible for solving these matters, in accordance with the law and the constitution.</p> <p>Page 2, Ninth: The implementation of the provisions of this agreement and adhering to them is guaranteed by the state and is its responsibility through Gen. Ali Al Jaifi, the commander of the Reserve Forces. Gen. Al Jaifi shall rely on Allah and on the committee to do this, and there shall also be tribal guarantees from both sides. We pray that Allah guide all of us during this new period of brotherhood, tolerance, coexistence, cooperation, and freedom of belief and affiliation.</p>
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	al-Dhalea News, al-Dhalea News publishes minutes of meeting between the Houthis and the Arhab Tribes, addalinews.com, 9 February 2014, http://addalinews.com/Print/42784
