



Security Council

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Letter dated 3 September 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, and further to my letter dated 23 August 2019 addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2019/678](#)), I write in response to a number of false and misleading statements made by representatives of the Government of Yemen.

For the benefit of Council members, I would like to correct the representation of events made in those statements by the Government of Yemen and to reiterate my Government's position on current developments in Yemen.

At the outset, I would like to remind Council members of my country's close ties to the Republic of Yemen and of our deep commitment to the welfare of the Yemeni people as evidenced by decades of development and humanitarian projects throughout Yemen. This long-standing partnership was elevated to a new level when the failed coup by the Iran-backed Houthi militia plunged Yemen into chaos and disorder. Since then, the United Arab Emirates has given more than \$5.59 billion in aid to Yemen, and a further \$500 million will be disbursed in 2019, benefiting people in all parts of the country.

My country has also long taken an active interest in preserving the independence and political stability of Yemen. The United Arab Emirates was a leading sponsor of the United Nations-facilitated National Dialogue Conference, an attempt at achieving a political reconciliation between the Yemeni parties that was ultimately thwarted by the Houthis and their foreign backer. In 2015, at the request of the Government of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates joined a coalition of States to protect Yemen and its people from the ongoing Houthi aggression, and to confront Al-Qaida and Daesh to deny them the safe haven that the Houthi coup attempt had created. The United Arab Emirates forces, with our Coalition partners, have undertaken counter-terrorism operations in Yemen since 2015 and have made significant sacrifices to ensure a better future for the people of Yemen and for the region.

Throughout the United Arab Emirates' involvement in Yemen, our focus has been on promoting an inclusive, United Nations-facilitated political solution to the conflict that has brought so much suffering to the Yemeni people.

For these reasons, the United Arab Emirates was surprised by, and deeply regrets, the inaccurate claims made by the Government of Yemen regarding recent developments in the south of Yemen.



On behalf of my Government, I confirm that on 28 and 29 August 2019 the United Arab Emirates conducted precision air operations aimed at countering and deterring imminent threats to Coalition forces and the people of Aden. The United Arab Emirates received credible intelligence that terrorist elements, namely Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, had seized Alam and were activating sleeper cells in and around Aden, as evidenced by skirmishes around the airport. On that basis, the United Arab Emirates took appropriate and proportionate action. These operations were carried out in accordance with the applicable rules and principles of international law.

My Government notes that, in recent weeks, terror activity throughout Yemen has escalated. Last week's fighting fits into a broader pattern of a resurgence in terrorist activity in the country. These developments are threatening Coalition counter-terrorism successes and are undermining efforts to combat terrorist groups and the Iran-backed Houthi militia, both of which seek to benefit from the spread of instability.

The United Arab Emirates is deeply concerned by this proliferation of terror in Yemen. In response to the above-mentioned incorrect statements by the Government of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates affirms that it will continue to take appropriate and proportionate action to protect Coalition forces and to counter the re-emergence of terrorist groups in Yemen.

The United Arab Emirates, as part of the Coalition, remains focused on achieving a political solution to the conflict in Yemen based on the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its implementation mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, and relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#).

In this context, the United Arab Emirates strongly supports the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's initiative to mediate between the various parties in the south of Yemen, which the Council has welcomed and fully supported in its presidential statement adopted on 29 August 2019 ([S/PRST/2019/9](#)). We note with regret the failure of the Government of Yemen to participate in the initial round of these talks held in Jeddah, and we remain hopeful that the Government will engage in the Saudi initiative instead of continuing down a path of military escalation in the south. We remain concerned that such steps might well precipitate the very outcome that the Coalition has so long sought to prevent: a threat to the territorial integrity of Yemen.

The United Arab Emirates takes this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, to make progress in implementing the Stockholm Agreement on Hudaydah and in moving towards a comprehensive political process to resolve the conflict.

We note that the troubling developments in the south of Yemen further exacerbate the already considerable challenges to Yemen's territorial integrity that result from the lack of implementation of the Stockholm Agreement. My Government urges the Council to maintain pressure on the Houthis to fully commit to the terms of this Agreement and to thus create an example of how concerted multilateral action can help map a path to a more hopeful future for the people of Yemen.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saud Hamad Ghanem **Alshamsi**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.