

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 9 January 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I write to transmit information regarding an act of piracy in the Red Sea.

On 3 January 2022, at approximately 1900 hours Zulu time, the Houthi militias intercepted and detained the United Arab Emirates-flagged civilian cargo vessel *Rwabee* (International Maritime Organization number 9834351, Maritime Mobile Service Identity number 470026000), at a distance of 25 nautical miles west of Salif, Hudaydah, off the coast of Yemen. The ship and its crew are currently held unlawfully by the Houthi militias in Salif port, where the ship was taken by force, and its automatic identification system was switched off at 18 nautical miles from Salif, at 2117 hours Zulu time.

The ship was in transit from Socotra Island, Yemen, to Jazan, Saudi Arabia, and was on an international route when it was intercepted. The civilian cargo vessel *Rwabee* was leased by a Saudi company and was carrying equipment that was used at the Saudi field hospital on Socotra Island, in addition to other equipment related to the field hospital. Its crew consists of 11 individuals of different nationalities: seven from India and one each from Ethiopia, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.

This is not the first such incident in the Red Sea. The Houthi militias have previously intercepted and detained at least three commercial vessels, as well as conducted 13 attacks on commercial vessels using varying methods of attack, including bomb-laden boats and sea mines.

This act of piracy is contrary to fundamental provisions of international law. It also poses a serious threat to the freedom and safety of navigation as well as international trade in the Red Sea, and to regional security and stability. The United Arab Emirates condemns the Houthi militias' unlawful actions and calls for the immediate release of the ship and its crew.

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

(Signed) Lana Nusseibeh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

