



[A Two-Month Ceasefire Agreement is Reached Between the Warring Parties in Yemen](#)

A ceasefire has recently gone into effect between the warring parties in Yemen. The United Nations-brokered truce was announced during this past week whereby both the Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels agreed to a halt of all offensive operations. This two-month arrangement is significant as it marks the first time since 2016 that the sides have publicly consented to a temporary cessation of hostilities. International observers and analysts remain cautiously optimistic however, as ceasefires in Yemen have been violated and ineffective before. Above all, aid agencies and rights activists are hopeful that this break in the longstanding Yemeni conflict will allow for much-needed humanitarian supplies to flow more easily and help alleviate the acute suffering of the country's civilian population. For years, the crisis in Yemen has been described as the worst such disaster in the world. A staggering number of over 17 million people are food insecure, and the war has also left an estimated 4.2 million displaced. The Saudi-led coalition has played a particularly destructive role in exacerbating the humanitarian suffering through its aerial bombardment, which has devastated residential homes, hospitals, roads, schools, and other civilian infrastructure – eliciting justifiable condemnation.

Some international officials and diplomats have expressed hope that the truce could be extended beyond the two months and pave the way for a more lasting peace deal. They also emphasized the calamitous impact that the war has had on the Yemeni civilian population, and that nothing less than an end to it is essential. United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg added that he plans to intensify his communication with both sides during the course of the two-month period, with the aim of extending the truce, resuming the political process, and addressing the urgent humanitarian considerations. Under the terms of the agreement, all ground, air, and sea military operations in Yemen and across nearby borders are to be stopped. The parties also determined that the Saudi-led coalition would allow 18 vessels carrying fuel and humanitarian supplies into the Houthi-held port of Hodeida. This is an especially critical element due to the harmful effect of the Saudi-led blockade in worsening the existing humanitarian crisis. Additionally, commercial flights are to operate from the airport in the capital city of Sanaa to certain destinations in the region, and meetings are to take place regarding the prospect of opening roads in Taiz and other governorates.

The reaction from people on the ground to the ceasefire has been mixed. Some are more skeptical about it due to violations in the past. However, others have voiced optimism that this time may be different. Ultimately, as officials have pointed out, the success of the initiative will depend on both parties' continued commitment to implementing the agreement – and most importantly – its desperately-needed humanitarian measures. The United States Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking highlighted that there may be a shift in strategy as the involved parties come to the increasing realization over the difficulties of a prolonged military conflict. Observers have also noted that the truce coincides with ongoing talks between many of the warring parties, although the Houthis have refused to participate unless these are held at a neutral venue.

The longstanding war in Yemen began in late 2014, and has sparked the largest humanitarian disaster in recent history. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed as a result of both the violence and from a lack of food and medicine. The people of Yemen have been subjected to devastating and severe aerial bombardment campaigns, and as such, the warring parties have been urged to abide by the ceasefire agreement in order to lessen the humanitarian suffering and allow needed aid supplies to freely flow into the country.