



[The United Nations and Others Urge for Yemen's Warring Parties to Agree to a Six-Month Truce Extension as the Ongoing Ceasefire is Set to Expire in Early August](#)

A recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting briefed member nations regarding the importance and positive effects of the ongoing truce agreement in Yemen. The country's special envoy, United Nations officials, and others have expressed that while the truce has helped to alleviate the dire humanitarian conditions in the war-torn nation, the UNSC must help extend it before the upcoming August 2nd expiration date. Peace and human rights activists have championed it for facilitating the flow of vital aid operations and eliminating further needless killing and destruction. The ceasefire has allowed relief agencies who face high levels of insecurity in the region to disperse resources to the Yemeni people. However, the nation, which is particularly vulnerable to supply chain issues, still requires assistance in food, water, education, and health services, and thus a longstanding truce and cessation of harmful hostilities would be a welcome development.

The calls for an extension were met with seemingly unanimous support among the 15 member states of the UNSC. With political strife still rampant in Yemen, as well as shifting and growing geopolitical tension in the region, there are fears that the circumstances in the country could once again devolve into armed conflict without long-term and fruitful commitments from the international community. The ceasefire, which was originally put in place back in April for two months, before being extended again for the same period of time in early June, has been widely praised as a successful political victory for Yemen. The nation – which has been devastated by what most experts deem to be the world's worst ongoing humanitarian crisis – is consistently on the radar of human rights activists and organizations as a top priority. Despite this, in recent years, little meaningful political progress was made, and the truce agreement was by far the most substantial positive development related to attempts at alleviating the conflict.

The truce has allowed aid agencies to more easily access Yemenis in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, the prolonged access has opened the door for some important improvements on infrastructure and day-to-day life in Yemen, without the debilitating aerial bombardment from outside actors and political fighters which resulted in abhorrent civilian death. Even with these major improvements, the long-term and brutal nature of the conflict requires a far longer and more permanent ceasefire to continue the upwards trajectory. More is clearly needed in Yemen to return the nation to an improved and further livable state with regard to basic and fundamental human rights.

The political realities of an extension are unclear. The member nations of the UNSC were, in their sentiments, all in agreement that the ceasefire was critical and needed to be extended while calling on all sides to show restraint and commitment to humanitarian affairs within Yemen. With ongoing geopolitical considerations in the region though, it remains to be seen where certain outside actors will fall on maintaining the truce. Observers and experts can only hope that the recent U.S. attempts to bolster bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia, one of the major culprits in causing pain and suffering within Yemen, will be contingent on respect of the ceasefire and further alleviation of the dire humanitarian crisis. A long-term extension of the truce agreement in Yemen is critical in order to improve not only the circumstances there, but also provide greater peace and stability in the region at-large.