



### [Saudi and Omani Envoys Hold Peace Talks with Yemeni Rebels](#)

The ongoing conflict in Yemen, which has been raging for almost a decade, has caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the region. Millions of Yemeni civilians are currently facing famine, displacement, and disease, as a result of the conflict. However, recent developments in the region have provided a glimmer of hope for those seeking an end to this long-standing conflict. Over the weekend, Saudi and Omani delegations met with Houthi representatives in Sanaa, Yemen's capital, to discuss ending hostilities and easing the Saudi-led blockade on Yemen ports. These negotiations have been dubbed "the closest Yemen has come to actual progress towards sustainable peace" by UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg. These talks, coupled with ongoing UN peace efforts, have provided a renewed sense of optimism that a peaceful resolution to the conflict may be possible shortly. With hope given to a possible step toward progress, there are many ways to perceive and analyze the situation that took place over the weekend.

The talks are focused on setting a timetable for withdrawing foreign forces from Yemen, paying public employees their dues, and fully restoring the ports and airport under Houthi control. These are important issues that need to be addressed for any meaningful progress toward peace to occur. However, several challenges must be overcome to achieve sustainable peace in Yemen. One of the main challenges is the complex political environment in Yemen. The conflict has created several factions that have control over various parts of the country, making it difficult to bring all parties together to negotiate a political settlement. Furthermore, there is a fundamental disagreement among the parties on how the country should look after the war. These issues will likely remain an obstacle, but one that is not impossible to overcome. Making sure that all sides are included in the peace negotiations is essential. Giving the smaller factions a platform and say in negotiations will likely complicate things, but it will also lessen the risk of insurgencies sprouting up after the peace process. To this point, it is also important that the peace accord is comprehensive and represents the needs and aspirations of all Yemenis, including transitional justice. To address their disputes, all parties must continue to have meaningful conversations. It is important, despite any friction that may happen, that these talks don't break down. Both sides must be willing to put aside preconceived ideas and be willing to make concessions. To facilitate these negotiations and bring all sides to the table, the UN may play a significant role. Because of the length and brutality of the war, trust between the warring parties is basically nonexistent. The UN can act as a trusted mediator to ensure both sides comply with the agreed-upon obligations. To create an atmosphere conducive to peace, the parties must develop confidence in one another.

A major challenge that will likely affect the negotiations is the underlying proxy conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Houthis are aligned with Iran, while the Saudi-led coalition supports the Yemeni government. Any agreement between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia will need to address the concerns of both parties and be seen as a win-win for both sides. It is possible that Iran may play a spoiler role in

these negotiations to prevent Saudi Arabia from gaining an advantage in the region. A recent improvement in diplomatic ties between the two countries may lessen this risk.

The recent talks between the Saudi, Omani, and Yemeni envoys offer a ray of hope for ending the prolonged conflict in Yemen. This development, along with ongoing UN peace efforts, signals a renewed commitment to finding a sustainable solution to the crisis. Despite the challenges that remain, the international community needs to support these efforts and urge all parties to engage in meaningful dialogue to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It is also essential to prioritize the protection of Yemeni civilians who have been severely affected by this devastating conflict. To move forward, all parties must be willing to make concessions and prioritize the long-term benefits of sustainable peace over short-term gains. The complex political environment in Yemen demands that all factions come together to negotiate a political settlement that takes into account the diverse needs and aspirations of the Yemeni people.