



[United Nations Envoy in Yemen indicates New Truce May be Agreed Upon](#)

United Nations special envoy in Yemen, Hans Grundberg, indicated to the UN Security Council that prospects for a renewed truce in Yemen continue to grow. The Swedish diplomat pointed to multiple indications that the situation in Yemen may begin to shift toward peace. Chief among these is the fact that even after the original truce expired three months ago, fighting has not escalated. The military situation is relatively stable. Grundberg believes this to be an important opportunity for the warring parties to work together towards “a shared vision” by restoring peace to Yemen. Saudi officials have also indicated that they are seeing progress towards ending the war in Yemen as well. Back-channel talks have been revived between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi rebels. The country has been at war since 2014, when Houthi forces seized the capital of Sanaa, forcing the government to flee the country. In 2015, A Saudi-led coalition, including the United Arab Emirates, intervened, launching an airstrike campaign to restore the government to power. The UN estimates that 377,000 people have been killed during the war. The war has evolved since then into a multifaceted conflict with several parties vying for power. The situation on the ground remains fluid, with small skirmishes taking place between Houthi and government forces, often resulting in civilian casualties.

The 6-month long, UN-back truce initially went into effect in April of 2022. The deal temporarily put a stop to the fighting and allowed for much-needed fuel and humanitarian supplies to enter. Commercial flights were also allowed from Sanna, letting people with serious medical conditions leave to receive treatment that could not be given to them in the war-torn country. This truce was followed for the most part, with brief, isolated fighting taking place in some areas. The truce was extended twice but lapsed in October of last year. After the truce expired, relative peace remained. Current negotiations are extremely complicated, as they need to include a wide variety of actors. Saudi Arabia has developed a roadmap toward peace, which has the backing of the United States and the UN. In it, the coalition promises, among other things, to further reopen the airport in Sanaa and ease a blockade on the port city of Hodeida. The Houthis have demanded the collation pay salaries of state employees from oil and gas revenue, as well as the opening of all airports and ports under Houthi control. Despite the ongoing peace talks, both sides are still reequipping for another round of fighting.

The intensification of diplomatic efforts should be encouraged. As the warring parties work towards a peace deal, it is important to remember the challenge that comes after peace. Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world and is now flooded with a vast quantity of weapons. Coupling this with sparse resources will almost certainly lead to mass instability. It is important that whatever government emerges from negotiations be equipped to guide their people through the ongoing hardship. It is also very important that a form of transitional justice take place. Parties on both sides have committed unspeakable acts against civilians. Those responsible must be held accountable if the country is to heal from this nearly decade-long conflict.