

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2017

Prince Khaled bin Salman bin Abdulaziz
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States
601 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037

His Excellency Yousef al Otaiba
Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the United States
3522 International Court, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Prince Khaled bin Salman and Ambassador Otaiba:

Nearly 1,000 days after the military intervention into Yemen by the Saudi Arabia- and United Arab Emirates-led coalition, we write to request that your governments implement a robust humanitarian relief plan of action in Yemen, including concrete and urgent steps, that will advance our mutual interests while preventing the world's worst humanitarian crisis from spiraling even further out of control.

We recognize and welcome the steps you have taken to ameliorate humanitarian conditions in Yemen over the past few days – including by allowing ships carrying humanitarian aid to dock in Hudaydah and Salif for the first time in weeks, and granting permission for a limited number of UN humanitarian flights into Sana'a – but the size and pace of these gestures are not proportionate to the emergency on the ground. The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen puts millions of civilian lives at risk of starvation and disease, and it also threatens regional stability and damages the long-term national security interests of our great nations.

Our countries have long been allies and partners, and it is with that history in mind that we write to raise a critical and urgent concern: put simply, the humanitarian status quo in Yemen cannot continue. With the death of Ali Abdullah Saleh, we anticipate that humanitarian need will transform, and may expand.

We implore your governments to immediately develop and implement a humanitarian plan of action that will end the blockade of Yemen, provide for humanitarian and commercial access to all of Yemen's seaports, airports, and land crossings– including Hudaydah port, Sana'a airport, and other points of entry not under the Hadi government's authority. Unless a humanitarian plan of action is implemented immediately – including ending restrictions on vessels carrying fuel and commercial goods that are essential to the humanitarian response – millions of Yemeni civilians could die from famine.

Beyond immediately lifting the blockade, we request that your governments take several specific steps that would help to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Yemen:

- Facilitate without delay the delivery and installation of the four cranes for Hudaydah port that the U.S. Government financed last year;
- Eliminate restrictions and delays on all vessels bound for Hudaydah and other Yemeni ports that have been cleared by the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism, including commercial vessels;
- Allow both humanitarian and most commercial flights to Sana'a (with the exception of Iranian air carriers and those that have a track record of facilitating the movement of Iranian personnel and their proxies) to resume unobstructed;
- Agree to the pre-positioning of a World Food Program vessel off Aden, to facilitate more rapid humanitarian assistance;
- Work with the international community to prevent the diversion of humanitarian assistance and associated commercial goods, including by Ansar Alla and others, while ensuring that the flow of humanitarian and associated commercial goods into Yemen are increased.

So long as the conflict in Yemen continues, threats to our countries will continue to emanate from Yemen. This has been made clear by both the U.S. Intelligence Community and the U.S. Department of State, which have found that the conflict in Yemen is strengthening both Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Yemeni branch of ISIS. As you implement your robust humanitarian plan of action, we commit to working with you to increase efforts against the Government of Iran for its destabilizing activities in Yemen, including through the interdiction of Iranian weapons to the Houthis and enforcement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216.

We look forward to our countries continuing to address shared regional threats and challenges together. It is in this spirit of collaboration that we urge you to take these steps, without delay, to prevent Yemen from suffering a famine worse than any seen this century.

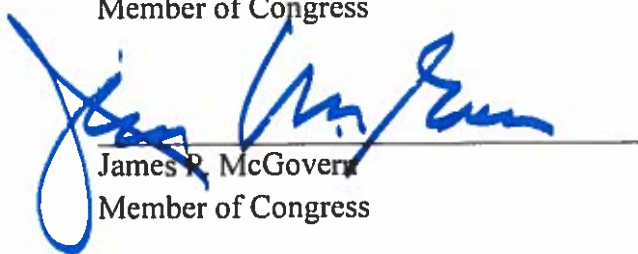
Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



James R. McGovern
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress