



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

European Union - Brussels

Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the European Union

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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a Yemeni flag. The hand is making a peace sign gesture with the index and middle fingers. The flag has three horizontal stripes: black at the top, white in the middle, and red at the bottom. The background is blurred, showing other people and what appears to be an outdoor setting.

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By HE Ambassador Saad Bin Mohammed Alarify, Head of Mission,
Mission of Saudi Arabia to the European Union



For more than six years, the people of Yemen have suffered from war and terror, but peace might finally be in sight. Achieving it won't be easy, but we have to ensure it happens.

That we now have a real possibility to change the situation is because of the initiative to end the war in Yemen, put forward by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Requiring the involvement of the United Nations, the immediate introduction of a

ceasefire and political negotiations, the initiative has already been welcomed by UN Secretary General, [António Guterres](#).

If an UN-supervised ceasefire can be introduced and if the insurgents are ready to commit to political negotiations, we can ensure access to the many Yemenis who consider suffering from the ills of war. It is crucial that we ensure access for international agencies and NGOs to those citizens who for far too long have been denied aid.



What sometimes seems to be forgotten in the debates in Brussels is the fact that the foreign-funded insurgents in Yemen keep denying protection for those living in their areas. This stretches from refusing to allow the clean up after environmental accidents to not allowing vital vaccines and medical supplies to enter.

The initiative to end the war in Yemen, put forward by Saudi Arabia, aims to change this. By introducing a ceasefire and commence negotiations we urge the insurgents to seize the opportunity to create peace – and to start improving the situation even while a permanent agreement is being discussed. When it comes to ending the war for good, we must have the UN involved, and we must ensure that UN Resolution 2216 is followed. The integrity of the country and compliance with the resolutions passed by the United Nations must be at the centre of our efforts. As we approach the prospect of ending

the war in Yemen, we must remember the background, and what led us to the situation of today. From the beginning, the conflict has been about legitimate and internationally recognised government, which has been undermined and attacked by foreign funded and controlled insurgent. This has led to suffering for the population and for Yemen to be used as a staging ground for terror attacks.

This is the background for the efforts of the international coalition, and for UN resolutions [2140](#) , [2201](#) , and 2216. When Saudi Arabia accepted to lead the international coalition to restore the internationally-recognised government, we did so with the support of our international friends and not least from the UN. You do not hear it said often in Europe, but as late as 23 March, [the Secretary General of the United Nations thanked Saudi Arabia](#) for our support and efforts in Yemen.

It is with this in mind that we hope to see our friends and partners in Europe, including in particular the European Union, push for peace in line with the UN.

Creating it will not be easy, and it is my fear that appealing to the humanitarian necessity might not be enough. This is where Europe can really help, by applying political pressure on those funding and controlling the insurgency from abroad, without wanting to share in the responsibility, or even to recognise their role.

Peace requires commitments from multiple parties, and as long as one continues to receive funds and weapons with the sole purpose of keeping the conflict alive, it is

difficult to achieve. However, Europa can, if it is willing to use its influence and position, help by telling the other side that this must stop. In the ongoing negotiations with those behind the insurgency, this issue should be raised and it should be made clear that funding war, terror, and strife abroad, as we see in Yemen, must stop.

Together we can end the war in Yemen, and ensure that the will of the UN is adhered to. I truly hope that we will in the future be able to tell our children – and those of Yemen – that when we saw the possibility to end the war, we took it.

