

SETH MOULTON
SIXTH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SEA POWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 02, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Biden,

I write to you today to discuss the ongoing conflict with the Houthis in Yemen and the implications of revoking the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). Since this designation was revoked in February 2021, the number of Houthi attacks against predominately civilian targets in Saudi Arabia has doubled. In more recent weeks, the Houthis have seized a UAE-flagged vessel and successfully launched a drone attack in Abu Dhabi that killed three civilians. On January 24th, 2022, the Houthis escalated their attacks by launching two ballistic missiles toward UAE bases shared with American troops. Our partnership was crucial in intercepting and destroying those missiles with no casualties.

This uptick in Houthi aggression against our close allies and uniformed personnel is unacceptable. Their recent attacks on large international transit centers such as Dubai shows an increase in lethal capability and a desire to increase attacks on critical civilian infrastructure. Simultaneously, Houthi militants are diverting aid from the Yemeni people. The United States needs to remain committed to helping our partners in the Gulf defend themselves, which includes protecting themselves from threats emanating from Yemen, while supporting and protecting the Yemeni populace.

I urge you to re-designate the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. I understand that removing the designation was meant to help the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen, but it has done little outside of embolden the Houthis to escalate their attacks and block reconciliation efforts in the country. The U.S. relies on our relationship with the UAE to promote regional security and address pressing global challenges. They have been a key ally in assisting the U.S. with the evacuation of thousands of Afghan evacuees, and continue to provide essential support to our U.S. troops and military platforms. This is a critical time to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with an important ally while they are under assault, reiterating our commitment to the US-UAE strategic partnership.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth Moulton".

SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Waltz".

MICHAEL WALTZ
Member of Congress