

I am writing to continue to update you on the Arab Coalition's ongoing campaign to liberate Hodeidah and reinstate the legitimate Yemeni government.

Ensuring that humanitarian relief continues to reach civilian populations in need remains a top Coalition priority. Last week, the King Salman Humanitarian Relief and Aid Center (KSRelief) distributed 25 tons of food baskets in the Midi and Hayran Districts in Hajjah, while its Supervisor General met with the Yemeni Human Rights Minister to discuss ways to provide additional relief.

Additionally, on August 30, KSRelief launched the third cycle of its program to rehabilitate Yemeni child soldiers. So far, the Center has rehabilitated 215 children as part of its goal to reach 2,000 children formerly forced into combat by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

Meanwhile, the Houthi militia continues to try to block the flow of humanitarian aid into Yemen and instigate violence, even targeting international organizations on the ground including the Red Cross. In a recent interview, Yemen's Minister for Human Rights, Mohammed Askar, said that "[h]undreds of children and women have been killed also from March to August this year" by the militants, and noted that the government will soon release a report documenting civilian deaths at their hands.

Houthi militias have also stepped up their aggression towards Saudi Arabia in recent weeks, firing ballistic missiles at the city of Najran, which caused 23 civilian injuries. Yemeni officials have indicated that Iran's arming of the Houthis dramatically intensified during the suspension of the Coalition's military operations in Hodeidah. U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on August 30 that the USS Jason Dunham had intercepted an "illicit shipment of arms" in the Gulf of Aden, "including over 1,000 AK-47 automatic rifles." A subsequent tweet from CENTCOM stated that the shipment may have originated from Iran.

Despite this new wave of aggression, Yemeni officials attended the first round of UN-brokered peace talks this week in Geneva. On the day that talks were scheduled to begin, representatives from the Houthi militia announced that they would boycott the session and issued a series of demands.

Please be in touch if we can facilitate a dialogue with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia on this or other matters.

*This material is distributed by the Glover Park Group on behalf of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
For more information visit www.fara.gov.*