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Continued Houthi violations of the negotiated ceasefire in Hodeida, intensification of military strikes in Southern Yemen, and the blocking of critical aid threaten to undermine the Stockholm Agreement and derail the potential for a political process.

Yesterday, the UAE delivered a letter to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), expressing serious concerns about the continuing Houthi violations of the ceasefire in Yemen, which was part of the UN-led Stockholm Agreement. The Coalition letter documents 573 specific violations of the ceasefire that have resulted in at least 41 deaths and 396 injuries to Yemeni forces. As the Coalition has exercised restraint in responding, the Houthis also have launched a series of Iranian-facilitated drone strikes in Southern Yemen.

Furthermore, the Houthis also continue to violate the Stockholm Agreement by erecting new barriers and digging new trenches in Hodeidah. They have failed to withdraw from the ports as they agreed. In the clearest signal of their true intentions, the UN has faulted the Houthis for blocking aid from leaving the port and has harshly denounced the Houthis for diverting and stealing critical aid.

We welcome the UNSC vote to expand ceasefire monitoring, but more urgent action is needed. In the letter delivered to the UNSC, we call on the UN and member states to take strong and immediate steps to condemn the Houthi violations, press them to stop obstructing and stealing humanitarian aid, and to stem the flow of Iranian weapons and know-how into Yemen. We hope that Members of Congress will adopt a similar position.

The Stockholm Agreement must be preserved. The UAE and Coalition has fully met its commitments. Members of the UNSC, the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, and governments worldwide – including the United States – have played a central role in achieving and endorsing this important breakthrough. However, the carefully crafted Agreement is now at risk of falling apart unless these same voices take urgent action to press the Houthis to fulfill their obligations and to shut down the Iranian arms pipeline into Yemen.

The UAE strongly believes that there can be no military solution to the Yemen conflict, only a political process can create a durable peace. The progress in Stockholm was a critical first step, and allowing the Houthis to frustrate this fragile progress will make any future efforts toward a political agreement much more difficult. Relief and reconciliation for the Yemeni people will be put further out of reach.

Attached is a copy of the letter that was sent to the UNSC, along with supporting documentation of the Houthi Ceasefire violations. Please contact me directly or email Ms. Hagir Elawad at hagir@uaestrategies.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Yousef Al Otaiba