

The Monthly Briefing

January 2021

January in Review

- Although the terrorist Houthi [targeting](#) of the newly formed Republic of Yemen Government at Aden Airport failed on December 30, 2020, the government resumed its operations in Aden undeterred, with the people, and for the people.



- Within a few hours, Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed delivered a strong statement expressing solidarity with the affected, determination to stabilize Aden, and then immediately [visited](#) wounded civilians at several hospitals and ordered the government to sponsor their medic costs.
- On the very next day, the government [convened](#) its first meeting, reaffirming commitment to enhance service delivery, and develop its 2021/2022 recovery agenda.
- The entire international community [condemned](#) by strongest terms the terrorist Houthi ballistic missile attack, which killed a minimum of 21 and injured 120 others, including a deputy minister, journalists, humanitarian workers and civilians.
- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) [reiterated](#) its full support for the Yemeni

leadership and government, as well as commitment to reaching a politically negotiated settlement in accordance with the three peace references: the 2011 GCC initiative, the Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference of 2014 and UNSC Resolution 2216 (2015).

- In show of political solidarity with and support for the Government of National Unity, UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, visited Aden International Airport in early January and said: “The attack on the cabinet in Aden was devastating, not only due to the tragically heavy civilian toll, but also because it has political implications that could stir deep distrust.”



- Shortly after the former U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo designated the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), which Secretary Antony Blinken sought to reverse, PM Maeen [formed](#) a committee, headed by the Planning and International Cooperation Minister, to develop a mechanism focused on managing the humanitarian crisis and facilitating humanitarian and international organizations’ work. Regardless of the FTO debate, the committee will continue its efforts

to mitigate the humanitarian crisis and therefore calls on international organizations to cooperate and coordinate accordingly, especially in view of credible reports on Houthi diversion, looting and capture of aid.

- In confirmation of the unsuccessful implementation of the Stockholm Agreement and the implications it continues to have on civilians in Hodeida, the Houthi rebels launched another offensive South to Hodeida, [threatening](#) yet again the operations of Doctors Without Borders' health facility in al-Khokha. Intense infighting [killed](#) more than 150 combatants and civilians, and displaced dozens of local residents.
- During the open session of the United Nations Security Council in January, the Foreign and Expatriates Minister, H.E. Ahmed Awadh Bin Mubarak, [reiterated](#) the Government of Yemen's commitment to just peace and made clear that the Houthi targeting of Aden Airport upon the arrival of the new cabinet is a blatant indication of its disinterest in a peaceful end to the catastrophic conflict.



- In mid-January 2021, the Interior Minister, Major General Ibrahim Haidan, [held](#) a press conference to showcase preliminary investigation results on the terrorist Aden Airport attack. The initial assessment, according to his excellency, concluded that the Houthi militias fired three medium-range ballistic Surface-Surface Missiles (SSMs) from Houthi-held locations in Taiz and

Dhamar governorates, both of which are over 100 KM away from Aden Airport.



- On January 31, PM Maeen [discussed](#) enhanced cooperation with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, to formulate Yemen's 2021 humanitarian response plan, mobilize international financial support and convene a high-level pledging conference.



- The cabinet [approved](#) its public program, focusing on good governance, foreign policy, fiscal policy, recovery and service delivery, media and planning, security and military affairs, multilateral cooperation, economy and investment, and infrastructure, as well as energy and environment.
- The Houthis rebels once again delivered an empty promise regarding FSO Safer Oil Tanker, [denying](#) UNOPS technical team access to extort the international community.