



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0421-16**

*Papers and minutes from the regular fortnightly meetings on military, humanitarian and political developments in Yemen which are chaired by FCO officials and incorporate representatives from FCO, BIS, MOD, DFID and other departments. since 1 July 2015 to the present.*

Below are the minutes:

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London  
**Sent:** 05 April 2016 16:02  
**To:** DL Yemen Wider Readership (Sensitive)  
**Subject:** READOUT: Yemen XWH VTC - Tuesday 5 April  
**Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 5 April (2016)**

Attendees: Yemen Office Saudi Arabia, BE Riyadh, BE Abu Dhabi, MENAD, AEPD, SU, DFID, MOD, CO, BIS

### Military

- Attached **YOS update** from 1 March. Since then there have been some negative developments, but this is to be somewhat expected as the date for the ceasefire draws nearer.
- **Border ceasefire** is broadly holding
- **Air activity**
- Two rockets fired into **Marib** on Monday against Presidential Palace and a hospital; at least 3 thought to have been killed
- No reported advance in to **Sana'a**;
- All GoY gains in **Taiz** have been lost to the Houthis again; Houthis preventing humanitarian access
- Coalition is not part of the **UN De-escalation and Coordination Committee** (GoY and Houthi/Saleh-GPC only).  
*Action:* BE Riyadh and YOS to discuss further

### Humanitarian

- **Access:** UN Air Service trying to get direct flight from Sana'a to Amman for humanitarian workers. UN requested DFID assistance which they are following up.
- **Maritime:** UN looking at alternative access and evacuation points to Aden as shipments difficult to get to there in May/June due to tide. Aden airport is still not operational.

- **Economy:** single largest depreciation of the Yemeni Riyal recently occurred; this will increase food and fuel prices for Yemenis
- **UNVIM:** 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting due on Thursday.

#### IHL

- **CAEC Inquiry:** AEPD leading, written evidence submitted on 8 April, Ministers from BIS, FCO, MoD and DFID expecting before the committee on 27 April.

#### Ali Mohsen Appointment

- Sir Alan Duncan will be meeting with Ali Mohsen followed by Hadi on Wednesday (6 April)

\*\*Next XWH VTC will be on **Tuesday 12 April**

| Arabian Peninsula & Iran Department | MENAD

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London  
**Sent:** 16 March 2016 17:32  
**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)  
**Subject:** XWH YEMEN VTC MINUTES - 15 March

#### **Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 15 March**

Chaired by: [redacted]

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, SU, DFID, MOD, CO, BIS, YOS, BE Riyadh, BE Abu Dhabi

#### **Update and horizon scanning**

- **Humanitarian:** In both Houthi/Saleh and GoY controlled areas continued bureaucracy with checkpoints impacting humanitarian access. In Houthi controlled areas this is impacting assessments on children.
- **Recovery workshop:** GCC/GOY hosted with participation from EU, USAID, DFID, UN and World Bank. Next steps to focus on 1. Security and recovery; 2. Fiscal Policy; 3. Restoration of services; 4. Investment; 5. Input of International Community.

#### **Deep Dive – political negotiations**

- **Ta'iz:** Diptel 1601432 still current. Position in the west given up without a fight by opposition forces. Open up access routes from the South, questions on how this will impact routes from Sana'a and Hudaydah.
- UN talks: Likely to be beginning of April possibly in Kuwait or Jordan. Situation in Ta'iz and progress with de-escalation provides a good backdrop to talks.
- UK priorities: Continued support to UN track; expansion of current KSA/ Houthi ceasefire to national ceasefire through de-escalation committee; continued focus on economic CBMs.

- **Proposed visits:** Sir Alan visit to region 6 April (tentative date) and then on to Brussels. IOCA visit to London, YOS to follow up on proposed timings, sequenced with UN negotiations.

#### **Forward look**

- UN proposed talks [early April]
- Human Rights Council Yemen session [22 March]

Next meeting to be held on 29 March

| | [Middle East and North Africa Directorate](#) | [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) |

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London

**Sent:** 01 March 2016 18:38

**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Subject:** Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 1 March

#### **Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 1 March**

Chaired by [redacted]

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, SU, LegalAds, DFID, MOD, YOS, BE Riyadh, BE Washington, BE Abu Dhabi, The Hague, UKMis Geneva, UKRep Brussels, UKMis New York .

#### Update and Horizon Scanning

**Political negotiations; next steps:** talks at the end of March, HMA Sana'a advised this could slip further. These have been delayed as the UN is focusing on achieving progress in CBMs – namely socio-economic and de-escalation committee.

- De-escalation: Limited progress seen on this committee. ACTION: UK to offer resource to progress the formation of this committee.

#### Deep dive – Humanitarian focus UN, HRC, FAC:

- Agreed to by post.
- EP: Lots of Houthi engagement in Brussels.

**Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 15 March**

| | [Middle East and North Africa Directorate](#) | [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) | King Charles Street, London

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London

**Sent:** 03 February 2016 17:44

**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Subject:** RE: XWH YEMEN VTC MINUTES - 3 February

**Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 3 February**

Chaired by [redacted]

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, SU, LegalAds, CO, DFID, MOD, YOS, BE Riyadh, BE Washington, BE Abu Dhabi.

### Update and Horizon Scanning

- **Political negotiations; next steps:** The UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, continues his shuttle diplomacy including talks in Seoul and Tokyo and is expected back in Riyadh on 7 February to resume discussions with Government of Yemen and Houthi/Saleh representatives. Some of the GOY are now in Aden (Hadi, Bahah).
- The next round of political negotiations between the Government of Yemen and Houthi/Saleh representatives likely to be second half of February.
- Ismail expected to brief the UN with an update on 17 February.
- In the meantime development of confidence building measures continues. Work is also ongoing to strengthen the "De-escalation and Security Committee" (which provides a channel for military-to-military contact between the sides), which is essential in laying foundations for a further ceasefire.
- **Humanitarian:** No change generally. Note the 2016 UN appeal will be launched on 18 February, a humanitarian response plan.
- On Taiz [redacted] KSA announced a further press conference next week. Next week there is a Humanitarian Press Conference to co-ordinate what will announce. Some concern that [Central Bank of Yemen] foreign reserves are running out.
- **Stabilisation and reconstruction:** 7 March reconstruction workshop ([name redacted] and HMA Sana'a will attend). Government and GPC Agenda being finalised.

### Deep dive – Regional engagement next steps

**Handling within the region in light of UK domestic and parliamentary interest**

### Forward look

- **DSAME Riyadh 3/4 Feb**
- **Mr Ellwood back bench commons debate 4 Feb**

- **UNSC Sanctions** Resolution rollover this week
- Ismail briefs UNSC 17 February (open session, member states closed)
- UN proposed talks [tbc, likely towards end of February]
- SU trip to KSA [14-15 February and adding UAE visit to Abu Dhabi]
- Reconstruction workshop [7 March]

**Action:** All – please send any further ‘set-piece events’ to.

**Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**From:** [name redacted], MENAD FCO London

**Sent:** 19 January 2016 16:02

**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Subject:** XWH YEMEN VTC MINUTES - 18 JANUARY

**Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 18 January 2016**

Chaired by Neil Bush

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, SU, LegalAds, CO, DFID, MOD, YOS, BE Riyadh, BE Washington.

Update and Horizon Scanning

- **UN talks/ceasefire:** YOS diptel issued on Monday rounds up latest updates. IOCA continues shuttle diplomacy;. Pressure from the media and some in the UN for talks to go ahead asap, Top ask remains for a ceasefire priority to get the De-escalation Committee established.
- **KSA/Iranian escalation** has stabilised over last two weeks. KSA continue to reassure in public their commitment to UN process.
- **Humanitarian access**, particular in Taiz, remains biggest concern. MSF have delivered some medical supplies to Taiz city and there are plans for UN trucks to try deliveries in next few days. Regional partners have also been conducting airdrops of aid. DFID will be speaking to UN Resident Co-ordinator on Friday for an update.
- **SU visit to KSA** scheduled for 14-15 February. Following up with BE Abu Dhabi on dates for UAE visit. Stabilisation Policy Review session to be held on 23 February.
- **Recovery workshop** likely to be held in Riyadh by GCC/GoY in late Feb/early March with UK providing technical advice. A second separate workshop possible to be convened by the UK which would include World Bank, IMF.

Deep dive – Military Situation

- See attached note from DA Sana'a

## Forward look

- UN Sanctions Panel of Expert report discussed by UNSC members (22 January)
- Mr Ellwood visiting KSA on 25 January
- IDC Select Committee evidence session on 27 January
- Syria Conference in London on 4 February (potential for Ministerial engagement)

**Action:** All – please send any further ‘set-piece events’ to

## **Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

| Arabian Peninsula & Iraq Department | MENAD

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London

**Sent:** 05 January 2016 15:23

**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Cc:**

**Subject:** XWH YEMEN VTC MINUTES - 5 JANUARY

## **Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 5 January 2016**

Chaired by Neil Bush

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, SU, LegalAds, DFID, MOD, YOS, BE Riyadh.

## Update and Horizon Scanning

- Coalition formally announced the end of the **ceasefire** on 2 January..
- **De-escalation Committee** has had very little to no output recently
- **Taiz:** aid
- HMA Sanaa met with VP Bahah today
- **Sanaa** being encircled by Yemeni Government forces; tribes in the area loyal to GoY and therefore the ground could hold.
- **Governor of Aden** escaped attempted assassination attempt today (5 Jan).
- **UN talks:** IOCA travelling to the region today and will also be visiting Sana'a. Location tbd and 14 January date likely to slip (as we had in Nov/Dec). Status of implementation of the humanitarian & economic CBMs agreed at Switzerland unknown; Daoudi also returning to the region this week. **Action:** YoS to follow up.

- **Humanitarian:** still severe access constraints. Situation in Taiz unclear as WFP reached Taiz city but WHO reached Taiz governate only. DFID meeting today with UN Co-ordinator (readout to follow).
- **SU visit to Riyadh:** will now take place in late January/early February when other pressures should have eased.
- **Recovery workshop:** engagement with Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Dr Al Maitami.

#### Forward look

- o IDC Select Committee evidence session on 25 January
- o UN Sanctions Panel of Expert to issue report in February

**Action:** All – please send any further ‘set-piece events’

#### Success at the next round of talks

- Progress made at Switzerland to be sustained and advanced
- Ceasefire renewed and overall levels of airstrikes/fighting to be reduced
- De-escalation Committee to be staffed and working effectively
- Further progress made on 2216 framework for implementation

#### **Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Arabian Peninsula & Iraq Department | MENAD

To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)  
Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 1 December 2015.  
Chaired by [redacted]

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, SU, DFID, MOD, Cabinet Office, YOS, BE Washington.

#### POLITICAL

- Good update Diptel from YOS on 30 November
- Talks still planned in Switzerland for late next week (12<sup>th</sup>?)
- IOCA in Riyadh now,
- Cabinet reshuffle, new Ministers for MFA, Information, Transport and Civil Service & 2 new Ambassadorial roles.

#### MILITARY

- DSAME in Riyadh today

- No significant land gains
- US Ambassador and Defence Attaché in Qatar this week.

## HUMANITARIAN

- Continues to worsen: those who are considered food insecure has risen from 6million to 7.6 million. Those who are malnourished has doubled since pre-crisis levels.
- DFID PUS is in Riyadh 1 December.
- Economic Diptel issued 1 December.
- International Development Committee enquiry into Yemen (IHL, civilian casualties), in January.
- Amer Daoudi in London later this week, possible meeting **Action: DFID**

## IHL / Arms Export

- Political interest continues to increase, following Amnesty International report and the independent article –quoting ‘FCO sources’.
- NGO’s meeting with HMG officials before Christmas

## Policy Review

- To be circulated later this week for comments and then meeting soon, chaired by Neil Bush.

**Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December –posts if you are joining, please let me know in advance.**

|| Foreign & Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH

To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 17 November 2015.

Chaired by [redacted]

Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, DFID, MOD, Cabinet Office, YOS, BE Riyadh.

## MILITARY

- Targeting course for Royal Saudi Air Force in January. [The RAF provides training and shares best practice to the Royal Saudi Air Force, including training on targeting. We have also provided guidance and advice to support compliance with International Humanitarian Law].
- Hadi is in Aden
- Question of ceasefire when talks are on
- No mention of ceasefire apart from coalition, Houthi team still haven’t gone to Muscat, no news on Houthi/Saudi talks.

## POLITICAL



- Talks (planned for 23 Nov) likely to slip by a few days. GoY announced their delegation for UN talks last week. Houthi delegation still to be announced. HMA Sana'a likely to attend talks and there to support IOCA.
- Houthi's still to meet with UN team in Muscat.

## HUMANITARIAN

- DFID are investigating claims that two fuel tankers being denied access.
- Socotra has received 22 humanitarian flights following two recent cyclones (quite large number of flights considering population).
- DFID submitted on support for UNVIM on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. US approved their contribution through congress, EU is in process. Dutch offer has been substantiated. Expect the US to contribute first, followed by the UK. With these contributions it will be fully funded.
- UN convoy to from Aden to Ta'iz has been bogged down with fighting.
- International Development Committee enquiry into Yemen (IHL, civilian casualties), Ministers to be called in January.
- NGOs have requested to meet again at official level.

**Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November –posts if you are joining, please let me know in advance.**

| Foreign & Commonwealth Office | King Charles Street | London SW1A 2AH

## Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 10 November 2015.

**Chaired by** [redacted].

**Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, DFID, MOD, YOS, Riyadh, and BE Washington.**

## POLITICAL

- YoS Round-up Diptel 15072946787 (9 November). Between now and the New Year will be a critical time for making political progress;
- Talks are likely to happen in w/b 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Switzerland looking the more favourable destination.
- GoY names delegation for talks,
- FS & Simon Gass in Washington this week;

## HUMANITARIAN

- 2 Cyclones have devastated Socotra. UN to announce their financial contribution to devastation of cyclones shortly.
- Socotra has received 17 humanitarian flights (quite large number of flights considering population).
- Taiz –really desperate situation,
- Rumours of blockages of medical supplies.
- DFID producing a one-pager on access

## MILITARY

- Saudis still under a lot of pressure on their Southern border.

**Next VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

WXH YEMEN MEETING, 3 Nov: [minutes]

Dear all

With thanks to [redacted] , please see XWH meeting minutes for this week. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 November and will be chaired by [redacted]

### **Political**

The GoY have appointed a delegation of seven representatives for the UN talks. Dates and venues for the talks are still not agreed, but are likely to take place between 20-25 November in either Oman or Switzerland (Geneva, or in a mountain resort).

We have no strong views on location,

**ACTION:** Yemen team will be submitting advice to the FS.

### **Humanitarian**

Taiz remains the urgent priority. The Houthis continue to deny access for humanitarian aid.

On the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM), the Development Secretary has underlined the UK's readiness to provide financial support.

### **Reconstruction**

The SU Director will be in the US next week to meet counterparts. **ACTION:** Yemen team to provide points to make.

Kind regards

| |Middle East & North Africa Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 20 October 2015.**

**Attendees: MENAD, AEPD, LEGAL ADVISORS, DFID, MOD, CO, Riyadh, Washington and UKMis NY.**

#### POLITICAL

- Update from YoS as outlined in Diptel 1506787 (19 Oct)
- and general sense from all that we are in a slightly more positive space on the political negotiations.
- Formal confirmation from Hadi to the UN that the GoY will participate in talks expected imminently. Exact date still tbc (likely mid-November) and location (Geneva or Muscat). Two “preparatory teams” to be established to work with the UN to help with logistics, delegation composition, etc.
- IOCA briefing the Council on 23 October. He will be meeting Matthew Rycroft on 22 October.
- FS visiting the Gulf next week. Jane Marriot is accompanying.
- Sir Alan Duncan due to speak to VP Bahah on Thursday.

#### MILITARY

- Update from YoS as outlined in Diptel 1506787 (19 Oct).

#### HUMANITARIAN

- Updated stats released from the UN last week paint incredibly bleak picture (see DFID sitreps for more detail).
- IDP figures have increased by 60% in the last quarter to 2.3m
- 11 INGOs have written to UNSG to outline their concerns, calling for a ceasefire and an independent mechanism to be established to monitor violations.

Kind regards

Middle East & North Africa Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
| London SW1A 2PA | [www.gov.uk/fco](http://www.gov.uk/fco)

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London

**Sent:** 07 October 2015 18:12

**To:** DL Yemen Policy Readers (Sensitive)

**Subject:** YEMEN XWH MINUTES: 7 Oct 2015

#### **Minutes from today's Yemen XWH**

**Attendees: FCO, DFID, MOD, CO, YoS and BE Riyadh.**

#### **Political**

UN Special Envoy is recommencing his shuttle diplomacy between the parties... he'll travel to New York on 21 October to brief the UNSC.

There has been some progress on the political track. Three letters have been issued from: the Houthis; the pro-Saleh-GPC; and from Hadi. All contain some assurances that the parties are committed to reconvening talks and show signs of flexibility with regards to UNSCR 2216. The PM maintains his concern for the humanitarian situation

## **IHL**

Today Amnesty International published a report documenting IHL violations ..... The report is detailed..... and provides geographical coordinates of the alleged incidents.

| Middle East and North Africa Directorate| **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** |

**To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)**

**YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, CO, DFID, BE RIYADH & YOS, BE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BE PARIS

### **Political**

- Sir Alan Duncan gave a readout of his visit to the region; overall excellent access and good range of interlocutors. UK engagement seen as a priority, key areas discussed were Humanitarian, (&). Diptels 1505931 YOS, 1506002 Muscat and 1506071 Abu Dhabi refers.
- Muscat talks on hold for Eid, IOCA is out of the region.
- Jane Marriott visited Washington last week (see Diptel 1506033).
- Negotiations in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on a Yemen Resolution are ongoing. .
- 

### **Humanitarian**

- Commercial access is still the most important.
- Onward distribution and protection of humanitarian workers essential (of 20 UN food trucks to Taiz and only 1 got through).
- Importation of fuel still a major problem

### **UNGA**

- The G19 Minister Ellwood event looks like it will be attended by senior officials.

### **Reconstruction**

- 2\* meeting tomorrow at 12:30, hosted by Jane.
- Question on what more can be done in Aden now.

## **IHL**

- Foreign Secretary meeting on Monday (21<sup>st</sup>), minutes to be circulated.

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September,**

**To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)**

**YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, CO, DFID, BE RIYADH & YOS, BE MUSCAT, BE ABU DHABI

### **Political**

- Very unlikely that Muscat talks will happen given President Hadi statements over the weekend that GOY will not participate unless Houthis/ GPC implement 2216 in full.
- Longer it takes for the talks to happen the worse the humanitarian situation will be.
- Sir Alan scheduled to visit to the region 15-20; programme remains flexible, but will include, IOCA and speech at G18
- Jane Marriott is currently in Washington;.
- Minister Ellwood on standby to follow up; IOCA, GOY.
- Foreign Secretary-President Hadi bilateral at UNGA.
- UNGA now a G19 Yemen event, Yemen UNGA diptel to issue on Wednesday/Thursday. Mr Ellwood will chair the political session.
- Governor of Aden reappointed as minister of youth. New governor to be appointed.
- Vice President Bahah into Aden maybe next week/after Eid.

Action: YOS/ UKMis to circulate Hadi's letter to the UN.

### **Military**

- Violence continues in Aden with assassinations, lack of security

### **IHL**

- MOD submitted to Defence Secretary on Monday; awaiting response
- Yemen on Newsnight last week (10/11 Sept) alleging UK complicit in war crimes; increase in Media and Parliamentary interest.
- Foreign Secretary meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September IHL compliance.

Action: Yemen team, FCO circulate parliamentary responses

### **Humanitarian**

- UNICEF say 96,000 children are close to starving in Hodeidah.
- Shipping still a massive problem with Red Sea ports, need to continue to lobby.
- Reach out to other Coalition forces on shipping. DFID hosted a senior NGOs meeting, key messages are humanitarian community is struggling to maintain current operations, never mind scaling up.
- DFID's SoS UNGA humanitarian event will be co-hosted by OIC & UN.

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Kind regards

| Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department | KCS | Middle East & North Africa  
Directorate | Foreign and Commonwealth Office |

To: DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2015**

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, OGD, CO, DFID, BE RIYADH & YOS, BE WASHINGTON, BE MUSCAT, UKMIS  
NEW YORK & BE ABU DHABI

### **Political**

- Foreign Secretary met with Dr Sa'ad Al Jabri on 17<sup>th</sup>, IOCA in London on 19<sup>th</sup>, programme to include Jane Marriot, Mr Ellwood, Sir Alan Duncan and XWH.
- .

### **Humanitarian**

- Priority is Hodeidah after reports of it being hit and now being closed. It will cost millions of £s and weeks/months to repair.
- No expected UN permanent presence in Aden for another month.
- 70% of commercial shipping between April-July, went through Hodeidah.
- Good meeting with Daoudi on 17<sup>th</sup>; verification centre likely to be set up in Aden in the next 2-3 weeks and no ships to be searched. Hadi agreed for ships carrying fuel to be allowed into Hodeidah (although this was before recent damage)
- Concerns around next steps of military campaign and conflict 'front line'
- Amnesty report on BBC this morning (18<sup>th</sup>).
- Stephen O'Brien will brief the UN Security Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> on Humanitarian situation.
- UN looking at contingency planning around Sana'a airport.

Action: DFID to follow up with SoS on the proposed humanitarian UNGA event.

### **Military**

- DSAME (Tom Beckett) in Riyadh next week.
- UN/ GOY VIM not yet established (although approved).

Action: MOD to follow up on MCCC situation.

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August,**

Kind regards

## YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2015

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, CO, DFID, AEPD, , Yemen Office Saudi Arabia, BE RIYADH, BE WASHINGTON, BE MUSCAT, BE ABU DHABI

### Political

- Update on talks in Muscat (N.B. reported separately after VTC)  
HMA Sana'a met with Houthis today.
- Confirmation that there will be no FoY meeting during UNGA. FS has requested bilateral with President Hadi. Mr Ellwood will also now be attending UNGA.
- Development Secretary to host Yemen humanitarian conference in the margins of UNGA.
- FS visiting Tehran in the next fortnight.

**Action:** HMA Sana'a in Riyadh on 12 August seeing IOCA:

**Action:** DFID to share more details on Yemen UNGA event

**Action:** Yemen Team to follow up with Iran Team on FS visit

**Action:** MoD to circulate Defence Sec/Saudi Deputy Defence Minister readout once received

### IHL

**Action:** BE Riyadh to raise IHL concerns with Saudi interlocutors this week

### Humanitarian

- Daoudi shipping verification plan accepted by Yemeni Government. Senior UNOCHA representative to take up position in Riyadh on 1 September.
- DFID workshops with the King Salman Relief Centre to be held in the next couple of weeks
- New DFID Humanitarian Advisor arrives in Riyadh this week
- Stephen O'Brien still in Yemen; ... speaking to his Deputy tomorrow.

## NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 18 August

**From:** [name redacted] MEAND, FCO London

**Sent:** 06 August 2015 17:36

**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Subject:** XWH Yemen VTC 4 August: Read-out & Action Points

## YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2015

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, CO, DFID, BE RIYADH & YOJ, BE WASHINGTON, BE MUSCAT & UKMIS NEW YORK

### Political

- No further update on KSA/Houthi political track intentions, thoughts that they are not necessarily that close to talks.
- Defence Secretary call with Saudi Assistant Defence Minister on 7 August.
- Dr Saad al Jabri is meeting the Foreign Secretary on 17<sup>th</sup> August in London DFID under pressure from other Donors, UN and NGOs for humanitarian/donor event at UNGA. Edmund will speak with vice President Bahah later this week.

Action: YoJ to confirm IOCA's visit to London on 19<sup>th</sup> August, to meet with Mr Ellwood and Jane.

### Humanitarian

- US fund the famine early warning system and they are reporting that Yemen now has the largest and most urgent food needs in the world, 1 1/5 times worse than the next crisis.
- Fighting is spreading towards Abyan, where IDPs are concentrated.
- SIA is open but all Yemenia (Government owned) flights are being redirected to Aden.
- Daoudi plan is still being finalised and YOJ are meeting with him tonight.

Action: YoJ to send on readout from Daoudi meeting

### IHL compliance

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August,**

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Old Admiralty Building | London SW1A 2PA

**From:** [name redacted] MENAD, FCO London

**Sent:** 30 July 2015 13:20 **To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Subject:** XWH Yemen VTC 28 JULY: Read-out & Action Points

**YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 28 JULY 2015**

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, CO, DFID, BE RIYADH & YOJ, BE WASHINGTON, BE ABU DHABI

### Humanitarian Pause

- Pause started last night and it's just holding, with no air strikes last night. Houthis/Saleh didn't agree to the pause.
- Mortar and rocket attack in Saudi, with civilian deaths, no response from Saudi yet.
- 

### Aden



- Yemen Ministers are visiting Aden, as they look to re-establish effective GoY foothold in Yemen.
- Aden is partially cleared with Houthi/Saleh forces pushed back, although possibly still remnants left in the City.

### **Political**

Action: Yemen team, FCO to look at IOCA visit to London on 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August. 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> August approx dates, to meet with Mr Ellwood and Jane.

Action: Yemen team, FCO short update to NO 10 for Thursday box (via Private Office)

### **Humanitarian**

- Dauodi plan still not agreed.
- Aid has got in through the Airport and Port but nothing compared to needs. WFP boat brought enough food for 180,000 people but there are 6 million in urgent need.
- Humanitarian Conference being arranged by the King Salman Centre for mid August.

### **Military**

Action: MOD, London to circulate the submissions.

Action: Yemen Team FCO & MOD, London to arrange meeting on Friday to discuss the above submissions

### **AOB**

- Submission on Friends of Yemen, went to Mr Ellwood and the Foreign Secretary today

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August,**

### **YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 14 JULY 2015**

Chaired by [redacted] MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, MOD, DFID, SU, BE RIYADH, BE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NY, BE ABU DHABI

### **Humanitarian Pause and next steps in the UN**

- Despite the pause never really taking effect, 30 UN trucks were able to get through Aden Governate negotiating 33 checkpoints. UN are assessing how much aid they were able to deliver.
- US Ambassador Tueller de-briefed EU Missions in Riyadh on Monday.
- Matthew Rycroft will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday for P5+GCC.
- Daoudi plan is now on Bahah's desk.

**Action:** DFID to provide update on what aid has been delivered by the UN since 10 July.

#### **Aden**

- Social media claiming that Yemeni forces have regained control of Aden including airport. Houthis reportedly fleeing the area. Reports suggest this is backed by Saudi rather than Emirati ground forces.

#### **Political**

**Action:** MENAD to see if visit of Gass/Jenkins/Watkins to Washington can be used to discuss Yemen.

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY**

**Sent:** 08 July 2015 10:30

**To:** DL Yemen Core Reporting (Sensitive)

**Subject:** XWH Yemen VTC 7 JULY: Read-out & Action Points

#### **YEMEN XWH VTC - TUESDAY 07 JULY 2015**

Chaired by [redacted], MENAD

Attendees: MENAD, OGDs, MOD, CO, DFID, BE RIYADH, and BE WASHINGTON

#### **Humanitarian / Political**

- DFID SoS Greening to host a one-hour meeting on Yemen in the margins of Ebola Conference on Friday while in New York. OCHA Head Stephen O'Brien, other UN agencies and major donors are invited. Objective is to raise awareness of the humanitarian situation and encouraging more funding to be pledged.
- YoJ/BE Riyadh have invited EU missions to the embassy later this week to brief them on the humanitarian situation.

#### **Military**

- Airstrikes on 6 July reportedly killed at least 45 and injured 50; biggest civilian casualties so far in one evening.
- UNDP office strike;
- DA Sana'a seeing Yemeni CoS this week.
- UKMCCC in Riyadh this week to brief the Saudis.
- HMA Riyadh seeing DefSec on Wednesday and on return to Riyadh meeting with MbS on Sunday.

**Action:** MOD/BE Riyadh following up on 6 July incidents

**Action:** Any allegations/reports received about IHL violations to be sent to MoD and FCO  
MENAD

**Action:** YoJ to follow up with IOCA on requirements for Security Advisor

**NEXT VTC: 13:00 (UK) TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY**