

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Biden:

We write to extend our gratitude for your efforts to facilitate a peaceful and durable resolution to the conflict in Yemen and urge you to continue these efforts, in full partnership with the United Nations (UN), to ensure an extension of the current truce and an expansion of its terms for an additional six months.

Since the start of this war over seven years ago, the Yemeni people have experienced indescribable suffering and loss. The conflict has decimated what was already one of the poorest countries in the world, and plunged it into an economic and humanitarian crisis. This conflict has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, and killed or injured over 10,200 children as a direct result of the conflict. Today, 20.7 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian aid, and the UN estimates that 2.2 million children under five years old suffer from acute malnutrition, with malnutrition rates among women and children in Yemen remaining among the highest in the world. The food and energy crisis brought about by Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine has only made the Yemen crisis more acute.

We were encouraged by the success of the two-month, UN-brokered ceasefire in April, and the subsequent two-month extension in June. With that agreement due to expire on August 2, we urge you to press the Yemeni parties to extend, uphold, and expand the elements of the initial truce agreement.

We have already glimpsed the benefits of peace. According to UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, the truce has led to a 60 percent decrease in civilian casualties, a 47 percent decrease in displacement, 20 round trip commercial flights, and 26 fuel ships entering the port of Hodeidah, carrying almost double the amount of fuel that entered the country in all of 2021 in only four months. Thousands of Yemeni citizens have reunited with their families abroad for the first time in years. While some elements of the truce have not been fully implemented and more work remains to prevent both sides from reverting back to open conflict, both parties appear to have largely engaged in good faith to uphold their commitments.

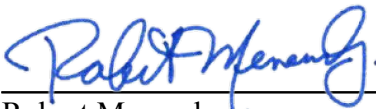
As we expressed in a June 2021 letter to Secretary Antony Blinken, we understand the complicated nature of the conflict and of the culpability of all parties to the conflict in exacerbating the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen over the course of the war. However, we also recognize that there is no military solution to this conflict. What the people of Yemen need now is for the truce to hold to allow additional time and space for principled diplomacy and negotiations to achieve a lasting peace.

The truce has offered a glimmer of hope for the people of Yemen who have suffered much loss. The time is now to exercise every diplomatic option to achieve an extension of the truce and allow for more time for negotiation to end this conflict.


Again, thank you for your leadership and the work of Secretary Blinken and Special Envoy Tim Lenderking. We look forward to continuing to work to further the Administration's efforts to bring peace to Yemen.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator