

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Secretary Blinken:

In recent days, we have witnessed the deadliest attack on United Arab Emirates (UAE) soil in recent years by Houthi fighters in the region. The attack on January 17, 2022, resulted in three petroleum tanker explosions near UAE's state oil firm Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) storage facilities and airport, killing three innocent civilians. It is evident that the Houthi rebels continue to reject good faith efforts to negotiate a diplomatic solution, instead choosing the path of violence, including against civilians and civilian targets. Administration officials have recently expressed a willingness to reconsider your decision to de-list the Houthis, also known as Ansarallah, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) under the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. We fully support reversing this decision and re-listing the Houthis.

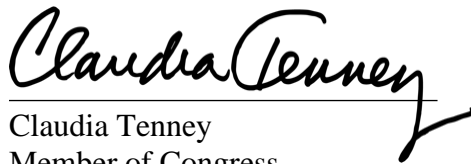
As you may recall, we first wrote to you in March 2021, urging you to reverse this reckless decision, after the Houthis launched multiple unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and missiles at a Saudi Aramco facility in the city of Jazan. The attacks continued and in September 2021, a Houthi missile was fired in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, injuring two children. In November 2021, the militant group launched multiple UAVs at oil refineries in several Saudi cities, including Jeddah. In December 2021, Saudi air defenses intercepted a Houthi ballistic missile over Riyadh. De-listing the Houthis has not made the region safer, nor has it advanced the stalled peace process. Progress in addressing the instability in Yemen can only be made when those responsible for obstructing peace are held accountable for their actions.

As we noted in our initial letter to you, the Houthis very clearly meet all legal criteria for designation. They are a foreign organization that engages in terrorist activity that threatens U.S. interests and nationals. They have fired missiles at civilian airports on numerous occasions, targeted civilian energy infrastructure, and threaten international shipping. We remind you also that the Houthis have a track record of wrongfully detaining American citizens. Additionally, in late 2021, they stormed the U.S. Embassy compound in Sana'a and imprisoned several of our Locally Employed Staff. Further, it is well established that the Houthis receive training, support, and financial backing from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which is itself a designated FTO. Revoking the designation of the Houthis without any material change in its behavior, as was done previously, undermines the credibility of this important foreign policy tool.

The United States must use every available tool to increase pressure on the Houthi militants, who have done nearly everything in their power to undermine the peace process in

Yemen. The previous Administration's designations would have further isolated the Houthis, curbed their financing and deterred foreign direct support, and heightened public awareness of its activities. Considering these benefits, we again urge you to re-designate the Houthis as an FTO and SDGT to advance efforts to achieve a sovereign and united Yemen that is both free from Iranian interference and at peace with its neighbors.

Sincerely,



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress