PAKISTAN AND THE YEMEN CRISIS

MY STANCE

An Opinion Supported by Documented Facts

This document presents my personal analysis and opinion on Pakistan's role in the Yemen crisis. Every factual claim is supported by documented sources listed in the companion volume 'Yemen: The Untold Story.'

MY CORE POSITION

Pakistan should NOT be a party to the Yemen conflict. Pakistan should be doing what Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) have taught us: when there is a fight between two Muslim brothers, do mediation.

If Pakistan can mediate between Iran and the United States, two of the most powerful adversaries on earth, then it can and should mediate between two Muslim countries: Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Sending Pakistani soldiers, fighter jets, or any military force to fight against Yemen is against Pakistan's national interest, against the spirit of Islam, and against the unanimous decision of Pakistan's own Parliament in 2015.

THE QURANIC COMMAND FOR MEDIATION

Surah Al-Hujurat (49:9-10) provides the clearest guidance on this exact situation:

> *'And if two groups among the believers fight each other, then make peace between them.' (49:9)*
>
> *'The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers.' (49:10)*

The word used is an imperative command. Allah commands Muslims: when two groups of believers fight, your duty is islah (reconciliation). Not joining one side. Not sending weapons. Not offering fighters. Islah.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen are both Muslim. The Houthis pray five times a day, fast in Ramadan, perform Hajj, and say La ilaha illallah. This is exactly the situation the Quran describes.

PAKISTAN HAS ALREADY PROVEN IT CAN MEDIATE

Pakistan mediated a ceasefire between the US and Iran in 2026, hosted the Islamabad Talks, and maintained relationships with all sides of the Middle East conflict. Pakistan shares a 900-km border with Iran and has deep ties with Saudi Arabia, making it uniquely positioned.

Pakistan's Parliament in 2015 unanimously voted to stay neutral on Yemen, recognizing that joining the war would fuel sectarian tensions and undermine relations with Iran. That vote was one of the wisest decisions in Pakistan's recent diplomatic history.

[Fact: Pakistan Parliament Resolution, April 10, 2015 - unanimous neutrality vote. Source: VOA, Reuters, Pakistan Senate records]

[Fact: Pakistan mediated US-Iran ceasefire, hosted Islamabad Talks April 2026. Source: Wikipedia, Al Jazeera, Stimson Center]

THE 'HARAMAIN IN DANGER' NARRATIVE IS FALSE

Some Pakistani religious scholars, particularly from the Ahle Hadees (Salafi) school, frame the Yemen conflict as a religious duty to defend the Haramain Sharifain (the Two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina). One Ahle Hadees senator offered 100,000 young men to fight for Saudi Arabia.

This narrative is factually false:

1. Mecca and Medina have never been threatened by the Houthis. Not a single missile, drone, or threat has been directed at the Holy Mosques.

2. The Houthis are Muslim. They revere the Haramain. They perform Hajj.

3. The conflict is about Saudi geopolitical ambitions, stolen territory, and regional dominance, not about religion.

4. The Ahle Hadees movement in Pakistan has historically received Saudi funding. A WikiLeaks cable from the US Consulate in Lahore (November 2008) documented approximately $100 million annually flowing to Deobandi and Ahl-e-Hadith clerics in South Punjab from Saudi and UAE organizations.

[Fact: WikiLeaks cable published by Dawn (May 21, 2011), Al Jazeera, Express Tribune, Reuters - $100M annual funding to Ahle Hadees/Deobandi in Pakistan]

THIS IS NOT A SUNNI-SHIA WAR

The sectarian framing of the Yemen conflict serves Saudi Arabia's political purposes by making it look like regional defence against Iranian expansion, rather than what it largely is: a local civil war made worse by Saudi intervention.

The Houthis are Zaidi, not Twelver Shia like Iran. Zaidi Islam is theologically closer to Sunni Islam than to Iranian practice. Many fighters on the Houthi side are Sunni. The CIA's own analyst (Bruce Riedel) confirms the Houthis are not an Iranian proxy.

Importing this conflict into Pakistan as a Sunni-Shia issue endangers Pakistan's 40 million Shia citizens, threatens Pakistan's 900-km border with Iran, and fuels the sectarian violence that has already killed tens of thousands of Pakistanis.

[Fact: MERIP - 'It is wrong to code what is happening in Yemen as a Sunni-Shi'i conflict']

[Fact: Brookings Institution - 'The Houthis are not an Iranian proxy']

SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD FEED YEMEN, NOT BOMB IT

The Saudi-led coalition spends an estimated $5-6 billion per month on the war. Yemen's entire humanitarian response plan needs approximately $2.5 billion per year. One month of war budget could feed the entire country for a year.

Saudi Arabia has spent an estimated $70-100 billion on spreading Wahhabi ideology worldwide over several decades. If even a fraction of that had been invested in Yemen's infrastructure, hospitals, schools, and agriculture, Yemen would be a stable, prosperous neighbour instead of a humanitarian catastrophe.

Instead, 85,000 children starved to death in the first three years (Save the Children estimate). 18.3 million people are food insecure. 500,000 children face severe wasting. The blockade, not the bombs, is the primary killer.

[Fact: Save the Children (2018) - 85,000 children; IPC - 18.3M food insecure; UNICEF - 500K severe wasting]

[Fact: US Senate testimony, ISEAS estimate - $70-100B Saudi religious spending]

WHAT PAKISTAN SHOULD DO

1. Maintain the distinction between defending Saudi territory and joining offensive operations against Yemen. Pakistan has so far sought to do this.

2. Use its unique position to mediate between Riyadh and Sanaa, as it has successfully done between Washington and Tehran.

3. Reject the sectarian framing promoted by Saudi-funded scholars who present this as a Sunni-Shia or Haramain defence issue.

4. Remember the 2015 Parliament vote. The people's representatives said no unanimously. That decision was right then and remains right now.

5. Prioritise humanitarian aid over military deployment. Pakistan should send food convoys, not fighter jets.

6. Resist pressure from Saudi loans and financial leverage. Pakistan's sovereignty cannot be mortgaged for Saudi Arabia's wars.

Pakistan's strength is not its army. It is its position. Pakistan is one of the very few Muslim countries that can talk to everyone: Saudi Arabia, Iran, the US, Turkey, and the Houthis. That is a priceless diplomatic asset. You do not waste a priceless asset by turning it into a weapon for one side.

The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers.
(Quran 49:10)