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Yemen ceasefire is extended by one month to help contain Covid-19



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A police trooper stands guard near the Aden port in Aden, Yemen November 16, 2019. REUTERS/Fawaz Salman/File Photo

Text by: [NEWS WIRES](#)

The Saudi-led coalition on Friday said it was extending a unilateral ceasefire in Yemen by one month to support efforts to contain the coronavirus pandemic, the state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, citing a coalition spokesman.

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A [two-week ceasefire](#) announced by the coalition that is battling the Iran-aligned Houthi group in [Yemen](#) expired on Thursday without leading to a permanent truce.

The [Houthi group](#) did not accept the coalition's previous ceasefire announcement and violence has continued in several provinces, raising fears that the war will grind on and shatter Yemen's already weakened ability to combat the [coronavirus](#). The Houthis ousted the internationally recognized [Saudi-backed](#) government from power in the capital, Sanaa, in late 2014. They want a lifting of air and sea blockades imposed by the coalition to the regions they control before agreeing to a ceasefire, sources have told Reuters.

"The coalition's command reaffirms that there is still an opportunity to focus all efforts in order to achieve a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire," coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Maliki was quoted as saying by the SPA.

U.N. Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** last month called for ceasefires in conflicts across the world to allow countries to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Yemen has reported only one confirmed case of the novel coronavirus, aid groups fear a catastrophic outbreak should the virus spread among an acutely malnourished population in a country without adequate testing capabilities.

(REUTERS)

YEMEN SAUDI ARABIA CEASEFIRE

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