

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 1, 2023

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We urge you to re-designate Iran-backed Ansarallah, known also as the Houthis, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) due to the group's brazen attacks against Israel—likely at the behest of Iran's terror-sponsoring regime—and its continued acts of terrorism since you revoked the Trump Administration's January 2021 FTO designation on February 12, 2021. Re-designating the Houthis as an FTO would send a powerful message that the United States views this group as a clear threat to our Allies and partners and to regional stability in the Middle East.

Since Hamas's savage terrorist attacks on Israel on October 7, the Houthis have launched three attacks against the Jewish state and promised to carry out more. On October 20, 2023, a U.S. Navy warship reportedly shot down several long-range cruise missiles and drones that Houthi terrorists launched from Yemen toward Israel. Furthermore, on October 23, Houthi drones exploded near Israel's border with Egypt, and on October 31, the Houthis launched additional drones and several ballistic missiles toward southern Israel.

These attacks underscore the membership of the Houthis in the Iranian regime's "axis of resistance." Following years of Iranian support, the Houthis have one of the most sophisticated arsenals of ballistic missiles and drones among Iran's allies and proxies. Indeed, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)—a designated FTO and the arm of the Iranian regime responsible for supporting and advising its proxy network—provides the Houthis with ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and other advanced weapons. The Houthi's cruise missile attacks followed threats from the IRGC that it would escalate attacks against Israel if the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) proceeds with its offensive in Gaza. While the Houthi movement's Iranian backers chant "Death to America, Death to Israel," its own doctrine is replete with virulent anti-Semitism and calls for genocide, including its own chant of "Death to America, Death to Israel, Damn the Jews."

The Houthi's alliance with Iran has allowed the IRGC to apply sustained military pressure against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Between 2015 and 2022, the Houthis carried out nearly 1,000 missile attacks and 350 drone strikes against cities and key infrastructure inside Saudi Arabia alone, including against oil facilities, airports, and military sites. These indiscriminate attacks have killed dozens of Saudi and Emirati citizens. At the same time, the Saudi and Emirati governments remain committing to providing humanitarian relief for the

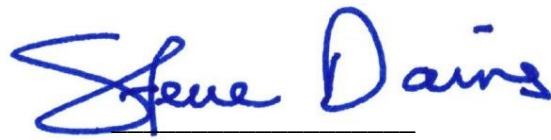
Yemeni people and provide billions of dollars in aid to augment U.S. humanitarian efforts and work around Houthi aid diversion efforts. Mechanisms under existing U.S. law ensure NGOs could continue critical humanitarian assistance following an FTO designation.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines international terrorism as, “violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations.” The Houthis clearly meet that definition: the group conducts their operations in concert with Iran—the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism—and, in specific, the IRGC, which again is itself an FTO. Despite being nearly 1,400 miles away from Israel, the Houthis have made a deliberate choice to engage in terrorism against the United States’ partners and allies, enabled by Iran. Therefore, we urge you to re-designate the group an FTO immediately.

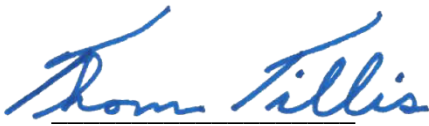
Sincerely,



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator

*Bill Cassidy, M.D.*

Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator

*Roger F. Wicker*

Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

*Mike Braun*

Mike Braun  
United States Senator

*Marsha Blackburn*

Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

*John Barrasso*

John Barrasso  
United States Senator

*Katie Boyd Britt*

Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator

*Charles E. Grassley*

Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

*Tom Cotton*

Tom Cotton  
United States Senator

*Ted Cruz*

Ted Cruz  
United States Senator