

December 21, 2023

Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Redesignate the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization

Dear Secretary Blinken:

Just weeks after you took the Oath of Office as the 71st Secretary, swearing to defend the Constitution of the United States against all foreign enemies, you implemented what can only be described as a reckless and delusory new strategy in addressing foreign terrorism: denying its existence.

In the face of blatant and ongoing acts of terrorism by Ansar Allah, an Iran-backed militia group—also known as the Houthis—you revoked their designation as a foreign terrorist organization. While progressive ideologues might have you believe that you can transform something simply by changing its name, designation, or preferred pronouns, the strategy has clearly backfired, leading to the further proliferation of violent acts of terror.

The Houthis are notorious for deploying drones and child soldiers, thousands of whom have been killed in action. Under your watch, they have doubled their attacks on civilians, critical infrastructure, and even the United States military, which has been forced to intercept missiles and other projectiles on dozens of occasions. Their attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea have had a global impact, disrupting one of the world's most important trade routes.

Inexcusably, they were even able to breach the U.S. embassy in Yemen half a year after you delisted them as terrorists. Since another Iran-backed terrorist organization, Hamas, began its savage war against Israel on October 7, the Houthis have been busy collaborators, launching three separate attacks against the Jewish state.

It is far past time to acknowledge that the strategy of delisting the Houthis as terrorists has failed to achieve the Pollyannish policy goals you hoped it would. Like Hamas, the Houthis are a death cult. No amount of earnest intentions will stop their campaign of terror.

The United States of America must immediately return to a posture of clear-headed realism. If we are to remain the “last best hope of earth,” we must be willing to name these brutal acts of evil for what they are: terrorism. Accordingly, we, the joint signers of this letter, demand that you immediately relist the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization.

Very sincerely,

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