

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 9 December 2015 from the Chair of the
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution
2140 (2014) addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2015. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 ([S/1995/234](#)).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Raimonda **Murmokaitė**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)



Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Raimonda Murmokaitė (Lithuania) as Chair and the representative of Jordan as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council imposed an asset freeze and a travel ban, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the resolution (26 February 2014), on individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. Exemptions to the measures were also included. The Council established a committee to designate such individuals and entities and to oversee the implementation of the measures and a panel of experts under the direction of the Committee. The Committee was also tasked with encouraging a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States, in particular those in the region, and directed to cooperate with other relevant Council sanctions committees, in particular the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.
4. By its resolution 2204 (2015), the Security Council renewed the asset freeze and the travel ban until 26 February 2016. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was renewed until 25 March 2016. By the same resolution, the Council called upon all Member States to report to the Committee within 90 days of the adoption of the resolution on the steps that they had taken to implement effectively the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014).
5. By its resolution 2216 (2015), the Security Council imposed a targeted arms embargo against designated individuals and entities. Inspection provisions have been included in the context of the enforcement of the arms embargo, including requirements with regard to reporting to the Committee by any Member State when it undertakes an inspection, and additional reporting if prohibited items for supply, sale, or transfer are found. In the same resolution, the Council broadened the designation criteria to include violations of the arms embargo and obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemen or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Yemen. It designated the leader of the Houthi Ansarallah movement, Abdulmalik al-Houthi, and the former President's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, as subject to the sanctions measures. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also broadened to include monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, and the size of the Panel increased from four experts to five, in the light of the broader mandate.
6. Further background information on the Yemen sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual report of the Committee ([S/2014/906](#)).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met five times in informal consultations, on 2 February, 17 and 25 August, 18 September and 9 October, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. During the informal consultations held on 2 February, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 (c) of resolution 2140 (2014), and considered the Panel's recommendations contained therein.

9. During the informal consultations held on 17 August, the Panel presented to the Committee its midterm update, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 2204 (2015), during which it described its activities and set out its preliminary findings.

10. During the informal consultations held on 25 August, the Committee was briefed by the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Yemen Crisis on the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen. The Committee also discussed the implementation of the provisions of resolution 2216 (2015) in relation to the arms embargo pursuant to paragraphs 14 and 15 of the resolution.

11. During the informal consultations held on 18 September, which were convened jointly with the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict briefed the members of the Committee and the Working Group on the plight of children in Yemen.

12. During the informal consultations held on 9 October, the Committee considered the additional update by the Panel of Experts on finance and on international humanitarian law and human rights investigations.

13. On 1 September, the Chair convened an open briefing to provide all States Members of the United Nations with an overview of the sanctions regime and the mandate of the Committee and an opportunity to ask questions. The Coordinator of the Panel of Experts also briefed Member States on the mandate and activities of the Panel.

14. On 23 October, the Chair briefed the Security Council in a public meeting, which was followed by informal consultations of the Council, on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 19 (e) of resolution 2140 (2014) (see [S/PV.7542](#)).

15. On 29 July, the Committee amended its guidelines for the conduct of its work to reflect the provisions of resolutions 2204 (2015) and 2216 (2015).

16. The Committee sent four communications to Member States with respect to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

17. The Committee continued its practice of issuing press releases reflecting its more significant activities, issuing four press releases.

IV. Exemptions

18. Exemptions to the asset freeze are outlined in paragraphs 12 to 14 of resolution 2140 (2014).

19. Exemptions to the travel ban are outlined in paragraph 16 of resolution 2140 (2014).
20. No notifications or exemption requests were received by the Committee.

V. Sanctions list

21. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015). The procedures for requesting delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.
22. As at the end of the reporting period, there were five individuals on the Committee's sanctions list: three designated by the Committee on 7 November and two by the Security Council in its resolution 2216 (2015) on 14 April.

VI. Panel of Experts

23. On 15 January, in accordance with paragraph 21 (c) of resolution 2140 (2014), the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to the same resolution provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 20 February and issued as a document of the Council ([S/2015/125](#)).
24. On 7 April, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2204 (2015) on 24 February, the Secretary-General appointed four experts to the Panel, with expertise in armed groups, international humanitarian law, finance and regional issues (see [S/2015/237](#)). On 18 June, following the adoption by the Council of resolution 2216 (2015) on 14 April, the Secretary-General appointed a fifth expert to the Panel, with expertise in arms (see [S/2015/455](#)). The mandate of the Panel expires on 25 March 2016.
25. On 5 August, in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 2204 (2015), the Panel provided its midterm update to the Committee.
26. Following the resignation of the regional expert, on 17 August the Secretary-General appointed a replacement, whom he also appointed to assume the functions of Coordinator of the Panel, as from 31 August (see [S/2015/639](#)).
27. On 9 September, the Panel submitted to the Committee a letter in which it proposed an amendment to the Committee's sanctions list entry for Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh (YEi.005) to include biometric identifiers and other information gathered by the Panel.
28. The Panel provided members of the Committee with an additional update on finance and on international humanitarian law and human rights investigations on 5 October, as requested by members of the Committee during the informal consultations held on 17 August.
29. The Panel conducted visits to Bahrain, Djibouti, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

30. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 133 letters to Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

31. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. On 1 December, a sanctions workshop was organized for incoming members of the Security Council to familiarize them with the substantive and procedural aspects of chairing a sanctions committee, including interaction with the United Nations system, sanctions experts and other relevant actors.

32. On 14 October, the Division launched a redesigned website for the subsidiary organs of the Security Council. The new website, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations and accessible to the visually impaired, features an updated layout. It offers access to the current sanctions measures and applicable exemptions, the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and individual committee sanctions lists. Narrative summaries of the reasons for listing are displayed in an easy-to-navigate and searchable format. The website also provides clear and practical explanations of the procedures for listing, delisting and exemptions.¹

33. On 28 December, the Division made available all the Security Council sanctions lists in the six official languages. This builds upon last year's standardization of the format of all Council sanctions lists and the establishment of the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, in response to resolutions 2083 (2012) and 2161 (2014). In addition, the Division created and maintained the relevant International Criminal Police Organization-United Nations Security Council Special Notices to promote the effective implementation of the sanctions measures.

34. As part of the Division's effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 1 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the Division's roster of experts. Upon the receipt of nominations, the Division will assess the suitability of nominated candidates for its roster for future consideration for the relevant expert panels. In addition, the Division sent notes verbales to all Member States notifying them of upcoming vacancies on specific sanctions panels and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

35. The Division continued to provide substantive advice and support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members, in New York, and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's midterm update in July and its additional update on finance and international humanitarian law and on human

¹ The website is accessible at www.un.org/sc/suborg/ or from the Security Council's website at www.un.org/en/sc/.

rights investigations in September and during the preparation of its final report in December.

36. From 8 to 11 September, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a pilot training workshop on investigative techniques for 12 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. The objective of the training was to equip the participants with an understanding of basic investigative techniques, processes and tools and to strengthen their understanding of the approach to investigations within the framework of the Security Council sanctions regimes.

37. Moreover, to promote greater cooperation among the different expert panels, the Division organized a third annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 16 and 17 December. The event was attended by members of all 12 monitoring groups, teams and panels. The workshop afforded sanctions experts the opportunity to discuss strategic and technical issues relating to Security Council sanctions with representatives of the sanctions committees, as well as United Nations system, other international, private sector and non-governmental partners.

38. During the reporting period, the Secretariat established the Inter-Agency Working Group on United Nations Sanctions under the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs. The Working Group brings together 25 United Nations entities to support Security Council sanctions regimes and integrate United Nations sanctions with other peace and security efforts of the United Nations system, as appropriate.
