

Accord de défense conjointe de La Mecque : une nouvelle architecture de sécurité régionale ?

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Le 7 août 2025, un accord de défense conjointe a été signé entre l'Arabie saoudite, le Pakistan et la Turquie, avec l'objectif de renforcer la sécurité collective et la coopération en matière de défense entre les trois nations.

L'accord de défense conjointe de La Mecque est-il symptomatique du déclin de l'hégémonie étasunienne en Asie de l'ouest ?

Résumé exécutif



CONTEXTE

L'offensive lancée par Israël et les États-Unis contre l'Iran en février 2026 et les attaques d'acteurs non étatiques ont redéfini la perception des menaces dans toute la région et mis en évidence les vulnérabilités de ses États.



ENJEU

Volonté des États de la région de diversifier leurs partenariats en matière de sécurité face aux doutes vis-à-vis de la fiabilité des garanties de sécurité offertes par les États-Unis.



EVOLUTION

À court terme, le pacte pourrait constituer un instrument de dissuasion et, à plus long terme, contribuer à la formation d'une coopération régionale élargie en matière de sécurité.

POSITION CENTRALE

En l'absence de mécanisme de mise en œuvre, la portée du pacte demeure incertaine, éloignant pour l'instant toute comparaison avec une organisation de sécurité collective comparable à l'OTAN.



3. EVOLUTION DE LA SITUATION

Un avenir incertain

Bien que l'accord vienne remettre en question la fiabilité des garanties de sécurité existantes, sa portée dépendra avant tout de la capacité des États parties à traduire leurs engagements en actions crédibles en cas de crise. L'absence de mécanismes de mise en œuvre et de structure militaire opérationnelle clairement définis laisse déjà une large marge d'interprétation sur la signification et l'ampleur de la défense mutuelle. L'accord s'inscrit davantage dans le cadre d'une initiative plus large visant à mettre en place une approche de sécurité régionale plus autonome, fondée sur la diversification des partenariats en matière de défense, plutôt que sur la création d'une organisation de sécurité collective comparable à l'OTAN.⁴

TENDANCE STRUCTURELLE

Une volonté croissante des puissances régionales de diversifier leurs partenaires en matière de sécurité face à un contexte international de plus en plus incertain.

Toutefois, la signature de cet accord ne saurait signaler la remise en cause de la place accordée à l'allié étasunien. En effet, Mohammed ben Salmane était reçu à Washington en novembre dernier pour signer un accord de défense stratégique avec les États-Unis. Si les trois pays concrétisent cet accord par un partage de renseignements, une aide logistique, des mesures économiques ou un soutien militaire accru, celui-ci pourrait devenir le fondement d'un dispositif de sécurité régionale plus ambitieux. D'autres États pourraient ainsi être incités à rejoindre l'accord, ouvrant la voie à la mise en place d'un cadre de sécurité régional plus large. Toutefois, les récentes attaques des Houthis visant l'Arabie saoudite n'ont pourtant pas déclenché de réponses militaires de la part de la Turquie et du Pakistan, ces derniers arguant que l'accord n'a pas encore été ratifié.⁵ Cette posture suscite des interrogations quant aux contours du mécanisme de déclenchement et aux scénarios dans lesquels les États signataires pourraient décider de recourir à une intervention militaire directe.

RÉFÉRENCES

- 1 The Diplomat « The Mecca Pact and America's Reduced Leverage in West Asia »
- 2 Arab Center Washington DC «Diversification Without Substitution: What the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement Offers Saudi Arabia »
- 3 The Conversation « A new 'NATO of the East'? Why the Mecca pact isn't quite what it seems »
- 4 Policy press « The Mecca Agreement is not a regional NATO, but it is not to be underestimated »
- 5 Middle East Eye «Why the Mecca defence pact hasn't triggered action against the Houthis »



The Mecca Joint Defense Agreement: A New Regional Security Architecture?

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On August 7, 2025, a joint defense agreement was signed between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Türkiye, aimed at strengthening collective security and defense cooperation among the three nations.

Is the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement indicative of the decline of U.S. hegemony in West Asia ?

Executive summary

CONTEXT



The offensive launched by Israel and the United States against Iran in February 2026, together with attacks by non-state actors, has reshaped threat perceptions across the region and highlighted its vulnerabilities.

STAKE



Regional states' desire to diversify their security partnerships amid growing doubts about the reliability of US security guarantees.

EVOLUTION



In the short term, the pact could serve as a deterrent and, over the longer term, contribute to the development of broader regional security cooperation.

CENTRAL POSITION

In the absence of an implementation mechanism, the scope of the pact remains uncertain, making any comparison with a collective security organisation such as NATO premature for the time being.



1. Introduction

On 7 August 2026, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed a joint defence agreement in Mecca. Although the full text remains confidential, a joint statement by the State signatories indicates that the agreement contains a mutual defence clause providing that any armed attack against one of the signatory states will be considered an attack against all parties. The pact builds on the Mutual Strategic Defence Agreement concluded between Islamabad and Riyadh in September 2025, one week after the Israeli bombing targeting Hamas leaders in Doha. It also comes amid strengthened cooperation between Türkiye and Pakistan in the areas of military training, electronic warfare and the defence industry. The trilateral agreement seeks to strengthen collective deterrence capabilities against potential attacks on the territory of any of the signatory states. It comes amid an uncertain and unstable regional environment, marked by growing questions over the reliability and predictability of the US partner. Beyond its symbolic significance, the pact could contribute to reshaping security dynamics in the region, without, however, fundamentally challenging the central role of the United States within a security order long dominated by Washington.

2. SITUATION ANALYSIS

What are the challenges facing the signatory states?

The Twelve-Day War launched by Israel in June 2025 with U.S. support and the Israeli-U.S. military offensive against Iran that began in February 2026 played a decisive role in the evolution of these alliances¹. Iran carried out direct strikes against the kingdom, while the Houthis intensified their attacks on energy infrastructure and oil tankers linked to Saudi Arabia in waters near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The threat to its territory, along with ongoing debates in Washington regarding military repositioning and a potential reduction in the U.S. presence in the Gulf, have prompted Riyadh to reassess its dependence on the United States for its defense. For Ankara, this agreement allows it to expand its sphere of influence in the Gulf while offering new opportunities for exporting military equipment and jointly producing weapons with Saudi Arabia. Similarly, for Pakistan, the agreement opens Saudi financial markets to its defense industry as well as to Turkish military technologies.²

For Riyadh, this agreement reflects a desire to diversify its partnerships beyond Washington. Türkiye and Pakistan, for their part, see the emergence of a new regional security architecture as offering clear economic prospects.³

KEY INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Türkiye are three long-standing military allies of the United States.



3. EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION

An Uncertain Future

Although the agreement calls into question the reliability of existing security guarantees, its scope will depend on the ability of the States Parties to translate their commitments into credible actions in the event of a crisis. The absence of clearly defined implementation mechanisms and an operational military structure already leaves ample room for interpretation regarding the meaning and scope of mutual defense. The agreement is part of a broader initiative aimed at establishing a more autonomous regional security approach, based on diversifying defense partnerships rather than on creating a collective security organization comparable to NATO.⁴

However, the signing of this agreement should not be interpreted as calling into question the importance accorded to the U.S. as an ally. In fact, last November, Mohammed bin Salman was received in Washington to sign a strategic defense agreement with the United States. If the three countries decide to implement this agreement through intelligence sharing, logistical assistance, economic measures, or increased military support, it could become the foundation for a more ambitious regional security framework. Other states might thus be encouraged to join the agreement, paving the way for a broader regional security framework. However, recent Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia have not triggered military responses from Türkiye and Pakistan, as these countries argue that the agreement has not yet been ratified.⁵ This stance raises questions about the parameters of the trigger mechanism and the scenarios in which the signatory states might decide to resort to direct military intervention.

STRUCTURAL TREND

A growing desire among regional powers to diversify their security partners in the face of an increasingly uncertain international environment.

REFERENCES

- 1 The Diplomat « The Mecca Pact and America's Reduced Leverage in West Asia »
- 2 Arab Center Washington DC «Diversification Without Substitution: What the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement Offers Saudi Arabia »
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