

Introduction:

The crisis in Yemen first began in 2011 with the 2011–12 revolution against President Abdullah Saleh, who had led Yemen for more than three decades. This uprising forced the president to hand over the power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, in 2011. President Hadi struggled to deal with a variety of problems, including attacks by al-Qaeda, a separatist movement in the south, the continuing loyalty of many military officers to Mr Saleh, as well as corruption, unemployment and food insecurity. He struggled to unite the fractious political landscape of the country and fend off threats both from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Houthi militants that had been waging a protracted insurgency in the north for years. [1]

In 2014, Houthi fighters swept into the capital of Sana'a and forced Hadi to negotiate a "unity government" with other political factions. The rebels continued to apply pressure on the weakened government until, after his presidential palace and private residence came under attack from the militant group, Hadi resigned along with his ministers in January 2015. The following month, the Houthis declared themselves in control of the government, dissolving Parliament and installing an interim Revolutionary Committee led by Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a cousin of Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi. [2]

Yemen was riven in 2015, with the Houthis establishing a new government in Sana'a and Hadi retreating with his supporters to Aden, and later Saudi Arabia. Disillusioned with the transition, many ordinary Yemenis - including Sunnis - supported the Houthis.

The Houthis and security forces loyal to Mr Saleh - who is thought to have backed his erstwhile enemies in a bid to regain power - then attempted to take control of the entire country, forcing Mr Hadi to flee abroad in March 2015.

Alarmed by the rise of a group they believed to be backed militarily by regional Shia power Iran, Saudi Arabia and eight other mostly Sunni Arab states began an air campaign aimed at restoring Mr Hadi's government. The coalition received logistical and intelligence support from the US, UK and France

Coalition ground troops landed in Aden in August 2015 and helped drive the Houthis and their allies out of much of the south over the next few months. Mr Hadi's government has established a temporary home in Aden, although the president remains in exile.

Almost three years of fighting appears to have entrenched both sides, while three UN-organised efforts to negotiate a peace deal have failed.

Pro-government forces - made up of soldiers loyal to President Hadi and predominantly Sunni southern tribesmen and separatists - were successful in stopping the rebels taking Aden, but only after a fierce, four-month battle.

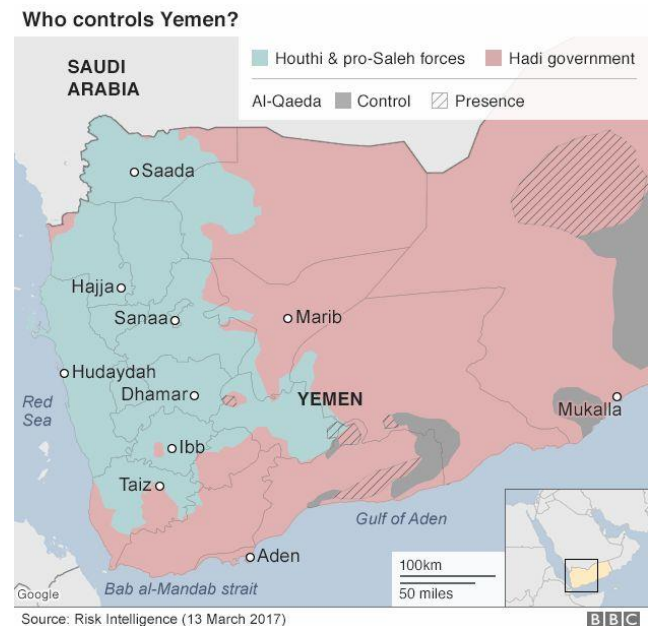
Who are the Houthis?

The Houthis are Zaydi Shiites, or *Zaydiyyah*. Shiite Muslims are the minority community in the Islamic world and Zaydis are a minority of Shiites, significantly different in doctrine and beliefs from the Shiites who dominate in Iran, Iraq, and elsewhere (often called Twelvers for their belief in twelve Imams). [3]

The American invasion of Iraq in 2003 deeply radicalized the Houthi movement. It was a pivotal moment. The Houthis adopted the slogan: "God is great, death to the U.S., death to Israel, curse the Jews, and victory for Islam," in the wake of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The group also officially called itself Ansar Allah, or supporters of God. It was a turning point largely unrecognized outside Yemen.

After 2003, Saleh launched a series of military campaigns to destroy the Houthis. The Saudis joined with Saleh in these campaigns. The Houthis won against both Saleh and the Saudi army, besting them both again and again

In 2011, The Houthi movement was one part of the wide national uprising against Saleh. It was primarily concerned with advancing the narrow interests of the Zaydi community, not surprisingly. When Saleh was replaced by a Sunni from the south—Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, who had been Saleh’s vice president at the behest of the Saudis—the Houthi response was predictable. They were critical of the process and of Hadi. In 2014, they began colluding with Saleh secretly and took control of Sanaa in 2014. Hadi resigned from office and escaped. In 2015 the Houthis declared themselves in control of the government, dissolving Parliament and installing an interim Revolutionary Committee led by Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a cousin of Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi. [4]



Saudi led intervention in Yemen

Operation decisive storm:

The Saudis had previously been involved in conflict with the Houthis as they were involved in military campaigns against them in the early 2000’s. A military intervention was launched by Saudi Arabia in 2015, leading a coalition of nine African and Middle East countries, responding to calls by Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi for military support in response to Houthi takeover in Yemen. the intervention initially consisted of a bombing campaign on Houthi Rebels and later saw a naval blockade and the deployment of ground forces into Yemen. Saudi-led strikes targeted more than 20 Houthi militia positions across Yemen. This was named ‘Operation Decisive storm’

Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain were some of the countries heavily involved in the conflict. Fighter jets and ground forces of these countries were deployed during this operation. Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia, made their airspace, territorial waters and military bases available to the coalition.[5]. The United States provided intelligence and logistical support, including aerial refueling and search-and-rescue

for downed coalition pilots. It also accelerated the sale of weapons to coalition states. [6] The US and Britain have deployed their military personnel in the command and control centre responsible for Saudi-led air strikes on Yemen, having access to lists of targets. Pakistan was called on by Saudi Arabia to join the coalition, but its parliament voted to maintain neutrality.[7].

Two important events were the cause of operation decisive storm. The first was the visit to Iran of a Houthi delegation to sign a cooperation agreement with Iran in the name of the Yemeni government concerning air traffic between both countries. The consequence of that agreement was weekly flights between Sana'a and Tehran. The second was Houthi military exercises close to the Saudi-Yemeni border. Those operations were clear Iranian provocations towards Saudi Arabia. Iran had bases right across the Saudi border.

During this operation, Saudi Arabia alongside its coalition aimed to do the following:

- Destroying air defence sites, command centers, supply and logistics lines and warehouses of forces loyal to Saleh and the Houthis, as well as assisting forces loyal to Hadi and other anti-Houthi tribal forces around Aden and in Marib, Shabwa, al-Baidha, Dhamar, Lahej and Dalea
- Imposing a full embargo on Yemeni ports to prevent military supplies from Iran and other sources reaching the Houthis and forces loyal to Saleh.
- Mustering a sufficient ground force to defend Saudi borders against any attempts to penetrate them. [8]

On 30 March, at least 40 people including children were killed and 200 were injured by an airstrike that hit Al-Mazraq refugee camp near a military installation in northern district of Haradh, international organizations said. Airstrikes also hit areas near the presidential palace in Sana'a, as well as Aden International Airport

Dozens of casualties came from an explosion at a dairy and oil factory in Al Hudaydah, which was variously blamed on an airstrike or a rocket from a nearby military base on 1 April. Medical sources reported 25 deaths, while the Yemen Army said 37 were killed and 80 wounded.

In April 2015, the coalition declared an end to the operation which was considered to be successful. On April 3rd 2015, a press release stated that the operation had been successful and had achieved its objectives. [9]

Brig. Gen. Ahmed bin Hasan Asiri, the spokesman for the coalition, said the Houthi weapons depots have been “devastated,” and that the remaining ballistic missiles, particularly mobile missiles, are being “destroyed” along with the facilities they are stored in. Houthi commanders have been successfully targeted in air strikes in an effort to destroy their command, control and communications. [10]

The press release was also used to announce the Houthis had officially been denied control of the key port city of Aden and that no civilian or non-military locations were targeted

On 23rd April 2015, Brig. Gen. Ahmed Al-Assiri addressed the public again. The coalition has “ended Operation Decisive Storm based on a request by the Yemeni government and President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi,” However, he also said the coalition would continue to impose a naval blockade on Yemen and target any movements by the Houthi forces. [11]. Operation decisive storm ended after 4 weeks.

Operation Restoring Hope:

On 21 April, the Saudi Defence Ministry declared it was ending the campaign of airstrikes because it had “successfully eliminated the threat” to its security posed by Houthi ballistic and heavy weaponry. It announced the start of a new phase codenamed Operation *Restoring Hope*. [12]

Earlier that day King Salman ordered the Saudi National Guard to join the military operation and air and naval strikes continued despite the announcement that *Decisive Storm* had ended.

Airstrikes resumed almost immediately following the coalition's announcement of the end of Operation *Decisive Storm*. On 22 April airstrikes continued in Taiz, where an army base was hit shortly after Houthi fighters took it over, and Aden,

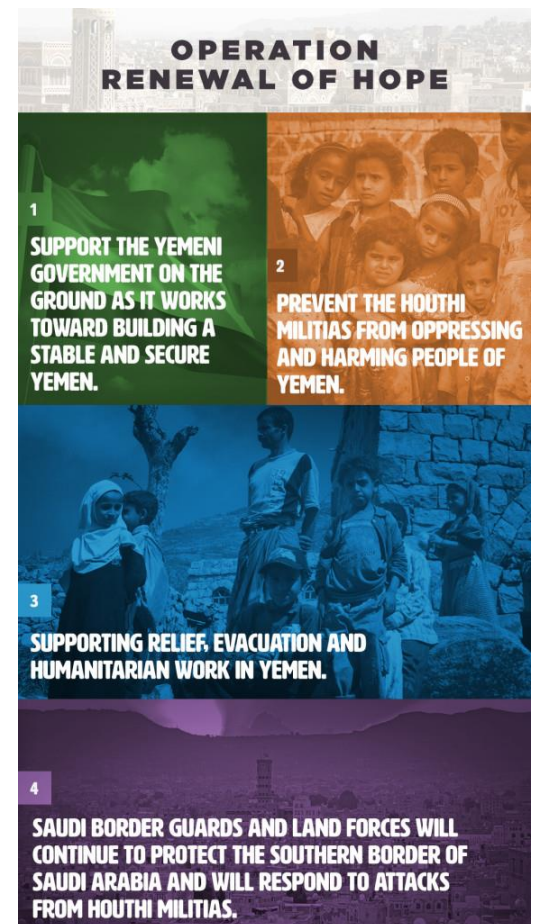
where an airstrike targeted Houthi tanks moving into a contested district. By 26 April, coalition forces were striking what they described as Houthi military targets in Sana'a and Aden and in other locations, notably in Sa'ada province near the Saudi border, nearly every night

On 28 April, Sana'a International Airport was bombed by Saudi F-15 fighters to prevent an Iranian plane belonging to Iranian Red Crescent Society(IRCS) from landing, while it was approaching to land. The fighters had warned the plane to turn back, in an unsuccessful attempt to thwart its landing, but the Iranian pilot ignored the "illegal warnings", saying that, on the basis of international law, his plane did not need further permission to land.

On the night of 6 May 2015, the Saudi-led coalition carried out 130 airstrikes in Yemen in a 24-hour period. At first, coalition spokesperson Ahmed Asiri admitted that schools and hospitals were targeted but claimed that these were used as weapon storage sites. Asiri later claimed that his words had been mistranslated.

US and Saudi officials agreed May 07, 2015 to pursue a humanitarian pause in Yemen, where fighting by Shi'ite Houthi rebels had forced thousands of people to flee the country. On May 10, 2015 Shi'ite Houthi rebel fighters in Yemen said they had accepted a five-day humanitarian cease-fire proposal from Saudi Arabia, set to begin on 12 May 2015. The announcement came just hours after warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition bombed the residence of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the capital, Sana'a. Saleh was not believed to have been home at the time, and later appeared on television standing in front of the rubble.

Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, formally announced 11 May 2015 an alliance with Houthi fighters for the first time, after the Arab coalition launched two air strikes on his home in the capital, Sanaa. Saleh, who was forced to step aside in 2012 following a year of deadly nationwide protests against his three-decade rule, escaped unharmed after the attacks early on 10 May 2015.¹⁴



On 13 May, humanitarian agencies said they were trying to get aid into Yemen after a five-day ceasefire took effect on Tuesday night. Ships carrying humanitarian supplies docked at the Houthi-controlled Red Sea port of Hudaydah as planes were standing by to help evacuate the injured. Meanwhile, King Salman doubled his country's Yemen aid pledge to \$540 million, funds the UN said would "meet the life-saving and protection needs of 7.5 million people affected

A five-day humanitarian cease-fire began 12 May 2015 in Yemen to give the United Nations a chance to bring in badly needed food and relief to battered civilians. Yemen which imports more than 90 percent of its food, mainly by sea, had been struggling to feed the population for weeks. The pause in fighting took effect with Shi'ite Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led coalition battling nearly up to the last minute. The UN said the fighting has killed about 1,500 people since the airstrikes began in March.

Iranian warships accompanied a humanitarian aid cargo vessel bound for Yemen, as Tehran was wary that it could be intercepted by Saudi forces. It was heading to the port of Hodaida, which is held by Shia Houthi rebels. The Shahed cargo ship departed Iran on 11 May 2015 and was in the Gulf of Aden.

Saudi-led air raids hit the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, 81 May 2015. Forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the east and south of the city were targeted. The strikes were the first to hit Sanaa after a five-day ceasefire ended late on Sunday. Military operations resumed earlier on 19 May 2015 in northern Saada province and in the southern city of Aden. Houthi sources said they had fired mortar rounds at several areas in Saudi Arabia's southern Najran province. They also cited clashes with Saudi forces near the border area.

The death toll in Yemen continued to mount despite a recent five-day truce meant to allow urgently needed humanitarian aid to reach thousands of people trapped by the conflict. [13]

Past Conflict:

In February 2016, the Saudis bombed the ancient citadel of Kawkaban, killing seven civilians.

On 8 October 2016, Saudi-led airstrikes targeted a hall in Sana'a where a funeral was taking place. At least 140 people were killed and about 600 were wounded.

On the night of 15 February 2017, the Saudi-led coalition bombed a funeral reception near Sanaa. Initial reports suggest the bombing killed nine women and one child with ten more women reported wounded

On 25 April MSF said that the town of Haradh, close to the border with Saudi Arabia, had been left a ghost town and that Saudi shelling killed 11 and injured more than 70

On 26 April the Saudi government announced that the first National Guard units had arrived in Najran, in southwestern Saudi Arabia near the border. The same day, Al-Hamdan tribe attacked Saudi positions in Najran and reported several Saudi casualties with the Saudi Arabian Interior Ministry confirming 1 dead and 2 injured.

On 11 May Saudi Arabia deployed a tank "strike force" to its southern border hours after Houthis fired 150 Katyusha rockets and mortars on Najran and Jizan.

On 6 June Houthi's fired a SCUD missile into SA, targeting the King Khaled air base. SA announced that it had shot down the missile.

On the night of 8 July, an Arab Coalition bombing killed by error over 70 soldiers loyal to president Hadi. Another 200 were injured at the Hadramut province.

On 14 October, A Scud missile attack was launched by Houthis towards a base in Asir Province, Saudi Arabia.

On 22 December 2015, a Qaher-1 missile attack was launched by Houthies towards an Oil company in Jizan, Saudi Arabia.

On 19 February 2017 a ballistic missile from Yemen hit a power facility in Jizan

On 3 April, CNN cited an unnamed Saudi source who claimed that Saudi special forces were on the ground in and around Aden, "coordinating and guiding" the resistance. The Saudi government officially declined to comment on whether it had special forces, with Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel al-Jubeir saying on 2 April that Saudi Arabia had no "formal" troops in Aden.

The Battle of Aden came to an end with pro-Hadi forces again seized control of Aden port and moving into the city's commercial center. On 22 July, pro-Hadi forces had retaken full control of Aden, and the Aden Airport was reopened. In

late July, an offensive launched by pro-Hadi forces drove Houthi forces out of the towns neighboring Aden

By 8 September it was reported that the Saudi-led forces deployed in Yemen exceeded 10,000 troops and included 30 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters

On 14 December media reported a Houthi & Saleh Forces missile attack at a Saudi military camp south-west of the besieged city of Taiz, while sources confirmed the killings of over 150 coalition soldiers including 23 Saudi troops, 9 UAE officers and soldiers, 7 Moroccan soldiers and 42 Blackwater troops.

On 19 December 2015, reported clashes leaves over 40 Houthi Rebels and 35 Government Loyalist dead and dozens of wounded on both sides.

In June 2018, anti-Houthi forces led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates assaulted the port of Hudaydah, in an effort to dislodge Houthi forces.

Humanitarian Crisis:

The war has received widespread criticism and had a dramatic worsening effect on the humanitarian situation, that reached the level of a "humanitarian disaster" or "humanitarian catastrophe". After the Saudi-led coalition declared the entire Saada Governorate a military target, the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen and Human Rights Watch said that air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition on Saada city in Yemen were in breach of international law. On 1 July UN declared for Yemen a "level-three" emergency – the highest UN emergency level – for a period of six months. Human rights groups repeatedly blamed the Saudi-led military coalition for killing civilians and destroying health centers and other infrastructure with airstrikes. The de facto blockade left 78% (20 million) of the Yemeni population in urgent need of food, water and medical aid. Aid ships are allowed, but the bulk of commercial shipping, on which the country relies, is blocked. In one incident, coalition jets prevented an Iranian Red Crescent plane from landing by bombing Sana'a International Airport's runway, which blocked aid delivery by air. As of 10 December, more than 2,500,000 people had been internally displaced by the fighting. Many countries evacuated more than 23,000 foreign citizens from Yemen. More than 1,000,000 people fled Yemen for Saudi

Arabia, Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Oman. The war has caused a humanitarian crisis, including a famine which has threatened over 17 million people, as well as an outbreak of cholera which has infected hundreds of thousands.

The Saudi-led coalition has been repeatedly accused by rights groups of unlawful airstrikes on civilian targets, some of which, they say, may amount to war crimes. Riyadh insists it does all it can to avoid civilian casualties, though a UN panel of experts that reviewed 10 Saudi airstrikes reported in January that “even if the Saudi Arabia-led coalition had targeted legitimate military objectives ... it is highly unlikely that the principles of international humanitarian law of proportionality and precautions in attack were respected”.

The panel found Saudi denials of involvement in these specific airstrikes were implausible, and individuals responsible for planning, authorising or executing the strikes would meet the standard for the imposition of UN sanctions.

The panel also found Houthi forces had indiscriminately shelled civilian-populated areas, especially in Taiz. [14]

Also even before the civil war erupted in 2015, Yemen relied heavily on food imports, because water for agriculture is scarce. Since then, an air, land and sea blockade by the Saudi-led coalition has choked off supplies of food, medicine and fuel. Even when supplies make it to the ports, the war has disrupted the road network used for distribution, and food prices have soared beyond the means of many Yemenis.

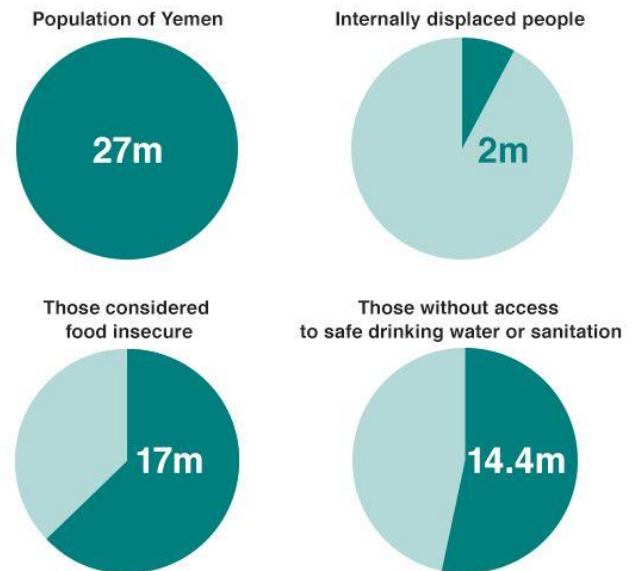
It has also been reported that With the countries health service near collapse the situation has become terrible for children. A child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen from preventable causes like diarrhea, breathing infections and malnutrition.

The violence has ruined years of progress in the health and vaccination levels of Yemeni children, putting them at special risk of easily spread diseases like cholera, measles and polio.

Dr Meritxell Relaño, UNICEF Representative in Yemen said, “In the last two years, more children have died from preventable diseases than those killed in the violence. This is why vaccination campaigns are so crucial to save the lives of Yemen’s children and to secure their future,”

40,000 vaccinators risked their lives to deliver health services to children even in the hardest to reach areas even crossing the front lines of the conflict. This work is happening at a critical time. With children in Yemen on the brink of famine the risk of a deadly epidemic has become very high. [15]

Scale of humanitarian crisis in Yemen



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



War Crimes:

A United Nations report by a group of experts this year reported that the parties to the armed conflict have perpetrated, and continue to perpetrate, violations and crimes under international law. The report notes that coalition air strikes have caused most direct civilian casualties. The airstrikes have hit residential areas, markets, funerals, weddings, detention facilities, civilian boats and even medical facilities. Based on the incidents they examined, the Group of Experts has reasonable grounds to believe that individuals in the Government of Yemen and the coalition may have conducted attacks in violation of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution that may amount to war crimes.

According to the United Nations Human Rights Office, since March 2015 up to 23 August 2018, 6,660 civilians were killed and 10,563 injured; however, the real figures are likely to be significantly higher.

The coalition has imposed severe naval and air restrictions in Yemen, to varying degrees, since March 2015. There are reasonable grounds to believe that these restrictions imposed by the coalition constitute a violation of the proportionality rule of international humanitarian law. Moreover, the effective closure of Sana'a airport is a violation of international humanitarian law protection for the sick and wounded. Such acts, together with the requisite intent, may amount to international crimes.

Investigations by the Group of Experts confirm widespread arbitrary detention throughout the country, and ill-treatment and torture in some facilities. In most cases, detainees were not informed of the reasons for their arrest, were not charged, were denied access to lawyers or a judge and were held incommunicado for prolonged or indefinite periods. Some remain missing.

The Experts also have reasonable grounds to believe that, since September 2014, parties to the conflict in Yemen have severely restricted the right to freedom of expression. Human rights defenders and journalists have faced relentless harassment, threats and smear campaigns by the Government of Yemen, coalition forces, including those of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and by the de facto authorities in blatant disregard of human rights law.

Victims and witnesses described to the Group of Experts persistent and pervasive aggressive behaviour, including sexual violence perpetrated by the Security Belt Forces and United Arab Emirates personnel. Examples include rape, of men and women, and sexual violence against displaced persons, migrants and other vulnerable groups.

The Group of Experts received substantial information indicating that the Government of Yemen, the coalition-backed forces and the Houthi-Saleh forces have all conscripted or enlisted children into armed forces or groups and used them to participate actively in hostilities. In most cases, the children were between 11 and 17 years old, but there have been consistent reports of the recruitment or use of children as young as 8 years old. [16]

On 8 May 2015, a spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition declared the entire city of Sa'dah, with a population of around 50,000 people, a military target. According to Human Rights Watch: "This not only violated the laws-of-war prohibition against placing civilians at particular risk by treating a number of separate and

distinct military objectives as a single military target, but possibly also the prohibition against making threats of violence whose purpose is to instill terror in the civilian population

Human Rights Watch compiled the names and ages of some of the people killed in Saada City between 6 April and 11 May. Of the 59 people they found information on, 35 were children and 14 were women. The organisation's analysis of air-strike locations in Sa'dah showed that bombs fell across the city including near markets, schools and hospitals.

Since the Saudi-led coalition began military operations against Ansar Allah on 26 March 2015, Saudi-led coalition airstrikes unlawfully struck hospitals and other facilities run by aid organizations, according to Human Rights Watch. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) medical facilities in Yemen were attacked four times in three months.^[357] On 26 October 2015, HRW documented six Saudi-led airstrikes which bombed a MSF hospital in Haydan district (Sa'dah Governorate), wounding two patients. A Saudi-led coalition airstrike then hit a MSF mobile clinic on 2 December 2015, in Al Houban district (Taizz). Eight people were wounded, including two MSF staff members, and one other civilian nearby was killed. On 10 January 2016, six people were killed and seven wounded when a hospital in Sa'ada was hit by a projectile.

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Growth of Islamic State and Al Qaeda:

The two radical groups have used the conflict to expand and consolidate, an obvious fact accepted by the Pentagon. Houthis disengaged fighting AQAP to face

rival Yemeni militias at the same time as they were being hit by coalition air strikes

Within weeks of the commencement of the Yemen's civil war, AQAP had exploited the chaos to capture the south-eastern port city of Mukalla, along with nearby military, transport, and economic infrastructure. A series of prison breaks by al-Qaeda – they emptied Mukalla's jail of 300 prisoners and emptied 1,200 inmates in June 2015 from the central prison in Taiz – released jailed jihadists of all ranks. Reports indicate that Yemen's prisons had, in preceding years, reportedly become "de facto jihadi academies", as veteran militants were placed in cells alongside young, regular criminals

At the start of February 2016, AQAP recaptured Azzan, an important commercial city in Shabwa province. A few weeks later, al-Qaeda fighters and Saudi-led coalition forces were seen fighting a common target; the Houthis. But the situation is different in Aden, the AQAP/ISIS and pro-Hadi that were fighting a common enemy in Taiz are enemies in Aden. On 29 February 2016, a suicide car killed 4 pro-Hadi troops in Shiek Othman district in Aden, the city that Hadi uses as a temporary capital.

The rise of terrorist organization in Yemen can result in a huge problem and There are questions about the ability of the country to confront its Islamist militancy problem due to the major infrastructure damage caused by the war. [17]

Parties Involved:

Iran:

he coalition accused Iran of militarily and financially supporting the Houthis On 9 April U.S. secretary of state John Kerry said there were "obviously supplies that have been coming from Iran", with "a number of flights every single week that have been flying in", and warned Iran to stop its alleged support of the Houthis. Iran denied these claims. 19

According to the AFP, a confidential report presented to the Security Council's Iran sanctions committee in April 2015 claimed that Iran had been shipping weapons to the Houthi rebels since between 2009 and 2013. The

panel further noted the absence of reports of any weapon shipments since 2013

On 26 September 2015, Saudi Arabia announced that an Iranian fishing boat loaded with weapons, including rockets and anti-tank shells, was intercepted and seized in the Arabian Sea, 150 miles southeast of the Omani Port of Salalah, by Arab coalition forces.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also said, "The Americans shamelessly support the killing of the Yemeni population, but they accuse Iran of interfering in that country and of sending weapons when Iran only seeks to provide medical and food aid.

United States of America:

In operation decisive storm, the United States provided intelligence and logistical support, including aerial refueling and search-and-rescue for downed coalition pilots. It also accelerated the sale of weapons to coalition states

In March 2015, President Barack Obama declared that he had authorized U.S. forces to provide logistical and intelligence support to the Saudis in their military intervention in Yemen, establishing a "Joint Planning Cell" with Saudi Arabia. This includes aerial refueling permitting coalition aircraft more loitering time over Yemen, and permitting some coalition members to home base aircraft rather than relocate them to Saudi Arabia.

US supported the intervention by "providing intelligence sharing, targeting assistance, advisory and logistical support to the military intervention", according to the state department. In April 2015, the US expanded its intelligence-sharing with the coalition. [18]

an HRW report stated that US-made bombs were being used in attacks indiscriminately targeting civilians and violating the laws of war. The report photographed "the remnants of an MK-83 air-dropped 1,000-pound bomb made in the U.S"

A March 2016 Human Rights Watch report states that U.S. participation in specific military operations, such as selecting targets and aerial refueling during Saudi air

raids "may make US forces jointly responsible for laws-of-war violations by coalition forces"

On 13 October 2016, the USS *Nitze* fired Tomahawk missiles at Houthi-controlled radar sites "in the Dhubab district of Taiz province, a remote area overlooking the Bab al-Mandab Strait known for fishing and smuggling."

In January 2017, Secretary of State nominee Rex Tillerson voiced support for the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen. U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis asked President Donald Trump to remove restrictions on U.S. military support for Saudi Arabia. In February 2017, Mattis wanted to intercept and board an Iranian ship in the Arabian Sea to look for contraband weapons, which would have constituted an "act of war"

United Kingdom:

The UK is one of the largest suppliers of arms to Saudi Arabia and London immediately expressed strong support for the Saudi-led campaign. Britain exported more than 1,000 bombs to Saudi in the first six months of 2015. 22,23

Britain supports Saudi Arabia's decision to intervene militarily in Yemen, Britain's Foreign Office said, saying it regarded recent actions by Houthi militia there as a sign of their disregard for the political process. The Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) agreed that "UK arms and UK cooperation have been central to the devastation of Yemen." The attack on Yemen saw sales of UK bombs for 2015 increase from £9m to over £1bn in three months.^[436] Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have shown that UK arms are being used on civilian targets. Furthermore, the UK government has been repeatedly accused of violating domestic, EU, and international law, in particular the Arms Trade Treaty, by maintaining its flow of weapons to the Kingdom. [18][19]

Despite this, it was reported in November 2015 that the UK planned a number of high-level visits to Saudi Arabia over the following three to six months with the aim of securing major arms deals.

Theresa May succeeded David Cameron as prime minister in July 2016, but maintained her predecessor's policy because, she claimed, close ties with the Saudis "keep people on the streets of Britain safe". In September 2016, her foreign minister, Boris Johnson, refused to block UK arms sales to Saudi

Arabia, saying there remained no clear evidence of breaches of international humanitarian law by Saudi Arabia in the war in Yemen, and that it would be best for Saudi Arabia to investigate itself

In October 2016, it emerged that the United Kingdom was continuing to provide instruction to pilots of the Royal Saudi Air Force, both in the UK and in Saudi Arabia.

Operation Decisive Storm Coalition:

Fighter jets and ground forces from Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain. Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia, made their airspace, territorial waters and military bases available to the coalition.

SAUDI ARABIA: The kingdom leads the coalition carrying out airstrikes in Yemen targeting the rebels known as Houthis and their allies, namely forces loyal to former Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saudi Arabia has deployed some 100 fighter jets, 150,000 soldiers and other navy units for the operation, according to reports by Saudi-owned satellite news channel Al-Arabiya. The kingdom's military has discussed targeting fighter jets, air bases, Houthi camps and missile sites. The military also says its Apache attack helicopters have struck Houthi positions just across the border in northern Yemen

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: The seven-emirate nation has dispatched its fighter jets in strikes targeting Scud missiles in Yemen, as well as Houthi camps, air defense systems and other military targets, the state-run WAM news agency has reported. The news agency has said 30 jets from the UAE were taking part in the strikes.

KUWAIT: The kingdom has offered 15 fighter jets for the operation, the state-run Kuwait News Agency has reported. It's unclear if they've carried out any strikes.

BAHRAIN: The tiny island kingdom sent 12 fighter jets from the Royal Bahraini Air Force to take part in the operation, the state-run Bahrain News Agency has reported. It's unclear whether they've carried out any strike.

QATAR: Qatar has contributed 10 fighter jets to the operation, according to the UAE state news agency WAM. The state-run Qatar News Agency has not reported on the contribution, or whether the jets have taken part in any airstrike.

SUDAN: The African country has put four fighter jets at the disposal of Saudi Arabia, Sudanese Information Minister Ahmed Bilal Osman told the private, pro-government Ashorooq television station. Sudan also has offered to dispatch 6,000 soldiers for ground operations for the coalition as well, Osman said. The Sudanese government has not disclosed whether it has carried out strikes.

Egypt: since Yemeni crisis erupted in 2011, Egypt, as a member of the Arab Coalition, has supported the legitimate government in Yemen and scores of refugees.

Egypt supported Yemen's GCC power transfer deal signed in 2011 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for former President Ali Abdullah Saleh handing over power to his deputy Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Egypt backed the Saudi-led Operation Decisive Storm against Houthi fighters in Iran-backed Houthis, a move backing Yemeni legitimacy.

As a part of its participation in Operation Decisive Storm, the Egyptian naval forced Iranian warships to retreat from the Bab al Mandeb strait in March 2015.

Additionally, the Egyptian National Defense agreed in January 2017 to extend the participation of required elements from the Armed Forces in a combat operation outside the nation's border to defend Egyptian and Arab national security in the Gulf, Red Sea, and Bab al-Mandeb.

As for housing Yemeni refugees, Egypt has received 6,810 Yemeni refugees, according to the UN Refugee Agency. The most populous Arab country also rejects the idea of refugee camps and allows refugees to access to all Egyptian services.

In July 2018, Egypt's Ministry of Education declared that Syrians and Yemenis are not required to pay the high fees imposed on other foreign nationals due to the hardships they have faced amid ongoing civil wars. [20]

PAKISTAN: Pakistan has voiced support of the coalition's mission while not taking part in strikes. It has started evacuating its citizens from Yemen. Pakistan was called on by Saudi Arabia to join the coalition, but its parliament voted to maintain neutrality.

SOMALIA: Somalia has voiced support of the coalition's mission, and made their airspace, territorial waters and military bases available to the coalition. [21]

Houthi rebels:

Known as Ansarullah (Supporters of God), the Zaidis are an offshoot of Shiite Islam and make up a third of Yemen's population, which is mainly Sunni Muslim.

Their strongholds lie in northern provinces, and over the past year they have launched multiple ballistic missiles against neighbouring Saudi Arabia, which leads the coalition against them.

The rebels fought six wars with the central government between 2004 and 2010, killing thousands.

Badreddin Al Houthi, who formed the "Faithful Youth" political movement in 1992 to fight discrimination, is regarded as their spiritual leader.

His son, current Houthi chief Abdulmalik Al Houthi, would, however, later ally with arch-foe Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's former president who was gunned down by the Houthis in December 2017.

The Houthis seized Sanaa on September 21, 2014 with the help of Saleh and army units loyal to him.

In March 2015, they advanced on second city Aden, where Saleh's successor, President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, took refuge.

The Saudi-led coalition helped pro-Hadi forces push the rebels out of the southern port of Aden in July that year, as well as from four other provinces.

Houthis are accused of receiving missiles from Iran. Tehran denies. [22]

Extremists:

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is classified by the United States as the extremist network's deadliest branch.

It was formed in 2009 when Al Qaeda in Yemen — behind the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden harbour that killed 17 American sailors — merged with its Saudi counterpart.

AQAP has attacked both government security forces and the Houthis, and has itself been targeted by scores of US drone strikes.

The United States has intensified its air attacks on AQAP since President Donald Trump took office in January with drone strikes regularly reported by Yemeni military sources.

Daesh first surfaced in Yemen in March 2015, claiming multiple suicide bombings targeting two mosques in Sanaa attended by Houthis, killing 142 people and wounding more than 350.

It has since expanded in the south, launching more deadly suicide bombings.

Private military involvement:

On 22 November 2015, *The New York Times* reported the United Arab Emirates had contracted Academi to deploy 450 Colombian, Panamanian, Salvadoran and Chilean mercenaries to Yemen in October.

On 9 December, Australian media reported an Australian mercenary commander was killed in Yemen alongside six Colombian nationals after Houthi fighters and Saleh army units attacked Saudi-led forces in the country's south-west

Peace Process:

A five-day ceasefire proposed by Saudi Arabia was accepted by the Houthis and their allies in the military on 10 May 2015. The ceasefire was intended to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to the country. The temporary truce began on the night of 12 May to allow the delivery of food, water, medical, and fuel aid throughout the country.

On the fourth day of the truce, the fragile peace unraveled as fighting broke out in multiple southern governorates. At least three civilians in Aden and 12 in Taiz were killed on 16 May, despite the ceasefire. Agence France-Presse reported that "dozens" were killed in southern Yemen by the clashes, including 26 Houthi and 12 pro-Hadi fighters

Around this same time in 2015 reports surfaced in the media suggesting that Oman, which is the only Middle Eastern Monarchy not taking part in the coalition and has a border with Yemen, has presented a 7-point plan to both Iran and Saudi Arabia. Oman has played a vital role as a bridge between Tehran and the West in the past to help in the nuclear negotiations and thus enjoy good relations with Iran as well as its GCC neighbors. It has also been suggested that Oman was responsible to mediate a 24-hour ceasefire although analysts doubt if Oman can help bring about more rigid negotiations.

The following parts constituted the planned initiative:

- The withdrawal of the Houthis and forces loyal to deposed president Ali Abdullah Saleh from all Yemeni cities and the return of military hardware and munitions seized from the Yemeni Army.
- The restoration of the president Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi and the government of Khaled Bahah.
- Early parliamentary and presidential elections.
- An agreement signed by all Yemeni parties.
- The conversion of Ansarullah into a political party.
- An international aid conference attended by donor states.
- Yemen entering the Gulf Cooperation Council.

On 15 May 2015, new UN envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed proposed peace talks in Geneva. Rebel spokesman Hamed al-Bokheiti said the Houthis were willing to hold talks in any "neutral" country. Five days later the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon announced that peace talks would be held in Geneva starting on 28 May and urged all parties to participate. Houthi rebels reiterated their support for the talks while exiled government officials said they would participate only if the Houthi's withdrew from occupied cities.

On 26 May, Ban announced that the peace talks were to be postponed indefinitely after exiled Yemeni officials refused to attend until rebels withdrew

from all occupied cities. However, on 6 June the UN announced that peace talks would take place on 14 June. Both the exiled officials and the Houthi group confirmed their attendance

On 4 July 2015, Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul Salam said in a post on his Facebook page that he had met Ahmed on Friday to discuss a Ramadan truce. The US and EU announced their support for a humanitarian truce.

On 9 July, the UN announced an unconditional truce between 10 July until the end of Eid ul Fitr on 17 July. The Special Envoy to Yemen assured the agreement of all warring factions. In a televised speech, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, head of the Houthi's, endorsed the truce, but doubted that the ceasefire would hold. The truce was pierced within an hour by airstrikes. Coalition spokesman later added that the coalition was not bound by the truce and that any truce would be counterproductive. It later added that it was not requested to pause by the exiled Yemeni Government

On 18 April 2016, peace talks aimed at ending Yemen's civil war that were set to begin faltered before they could start, when delegates representing Yemen's Houthi rebels refused to attend.

On 20 April, talks convened, based on UN Security Council resolution 2216 which called for the Houthi fighters to withdraw from areas they seized since 2014 and hand heavy weapons back to the government.

On 6 August, the UN special envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, announced the suspension in Kuwait, where the talks were being held. He said that the negotiations were not a failure and that they would resume in a month at an undisclosed location. Mr. Ahmed is the second United Nations envoy to try to broker peace talks between the Houthis and other factions in Yemen since March 2015. His predecessor quit after similar peace talk efforts failed. After the breakdown of the talks, one of the Houthi negotiators, Nasser Bagazgooz, blamed the United Nations envoy for seeking what he said amounted to a military solution on behalf of the Saudi-led coalition. Previous negotiations floated the idea of forming a unity government – composed of Houthi and former Hadi government leaders. But the exiled Hadi leaders have consistently rejected any deal that would diminish their power over Yemen, and the Houthis have said that they will reject any deal that does not give them a seat at the table.

UNSC Resolutions

2216 - Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen (14 April 2015)

2204 - Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen (24 February 2015)

2201 - Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen, and its commitment to stand by the people of Yemen (15 February 2015)

2140 - Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen (26 February 2014)^[23]

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