

**Forum:** United Nations Security Council  
**Issue:** The Question of Yemen  
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**Positions:** President, Deputy President

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## Introduction

The question of Yemen concerns the ongoing civil war in the Middle Eastern country. The main two co-belligerents in the war are the Yemeni government, which is currently led by President Hadi, and the Houthis, which is led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi. The civil war is rooted into the religious sectarianism in the country, in which the government supports Sunni (more specifically, Wahhabi) Islam, and the Houthi committee supports Shia (more specifically, Zaidiyyah) Islam. The co-belligerents are internationally supported by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition and Iran, respectively.

The civil war's background goes back to Hussein al-Houthi's assassination by government forces in 2004. This incident began the civil unrest and the overall insurgency in northern parts of Yemen, in which Shiite groups rebelled against the President and his government, inciting an anti-West and anti-Zionist rhetoric throughout the country. The insurrection exponentially extended through the Yemeni Revolution, which was part of the then-influential Arab Spring. After the revolution, the Houthi rebels swiftly captured the capital city Sana'a and pushed government forces towards the southern port city Aden, which was historically the capital of Sunni-dominant South Yemen.

The current stance of the question of Yemen also revolves around international politics. Previously divided between North-South boundaries due to Soviet and Egyptian interventions in the historical Hashemite Kingdom of Yemen, the current geopolitical question revolves around the same fashion, in which the northern part of the country rejects Saudi interventionism and supports a liberal and moderate Shia religious code of law. On the other hand, the southern part openly supports close ties with Saudi Arabia, and indirectly promotes Sunni Islam against the Houthi rebels. Furthermore, due to the power vacuum created by the civil war, terrorist groups affiliated to al-Qaeda and also the Islamic State has also risen up and thus taken control of rural areas around eastern Yemen. Currently, while the Shiite Houthi rebels are openly funded by the Iranian government, Saudi Arabia continues to conduct air bombardments in northern Yemen, and has also partaken in ground battles previously.

The question of Yemen illustrates how a medieval issue such as sectarianism in the Middle East continues to severely affect lives of millions in today's world. While the human population closely follows the Syrian civil war, the Yemeni civil war also poses a major threat for worldwide peace. Thus, an immediate resolution for such matter poses great importance for the United Nations Security Council.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Houthi:** Houthis are a Shia group that “began as a theological movement preaching peace” but is now a rebellion group that engages in violence. They promote Zaydism against the influence of Salafism in the country. As a group that strikes unrest against the government, they have been accused of being a proxy of Iran and receiving military support from Iran, a Shia country (“*Who*”).

**Rebel:** It is a term that describes a person who resists or takes up arms against the government or the ruler of the country (“*Rebel*”).

**Civilian:** It is a term that describes “a person who is not on active duty with a military, naval, police, or fire fighting organization” (“*Civillian*”).

**Salafis:** Salafism is a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam, and a branch of the Sunni sect. It emphasizes the importance of returning to the original ways of Islam. It is a form of Islam that is “stripped of cultural and national associations” and that lacks political involvement (“*What?*”). However, while the Salafis in Yemen were mostly apolitical since their founding in 1980s, they became immersed in politics and violence after the 2011 uprising. They engaged in violent confrontations with the Houthis (Ottaway).

**Sunni and Shia Islam:** This division within Islam, in its core, is based on a feud on who was the rightful successor to the Prophet Mohammed as the caliph of the Muslim community following his death. While the Sunni accept Abu-Bakr as the rightful successor, while the Shia claimed that Ali should have been the caliphate. After Ali and his sons were denied their right of accession to the caliphate and were assassinated, their followers formed to Shia movement as an opposition to the Sunni movement. Today, the great majority of the world’s Muslims are Sunnis, and are populated mostly in Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. The Shia majority, on the other hand, is in Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, and Azerbaijan. Other countries have varying populations of both Sunni and Shia Muslims, including Yemen (“*Sunnis*”).

**Power Vacuum:** It is a condition that occurs when the existing authority has become ineffective and a new one has not yet replaced it. This term is mostly used in political situations where a government has been overthrown and there are no legitimate and capable governments to take control (“*Power Vacuum*”).

**Coup D’état:** It is “a sudden decisive exercise of force in politics.” It occurs when the existing government is violently overthrown or altered by a small group (“*Coup D’état*”).

**Civil War:** It is “a war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country” (“*Civil War*”).

**Coalition:** It is a temporary alliance between persons, factions, states, groups, or political parties etc. for a specific reason. In political systems with many political parties, it is a means of gathering the majority of the citizens’ votes in order to form a legitimate and effective government (“*Coalition*”).

## General Overview

### Before the Conflict

Houthi rebel group was formed in 2004. Following the 1994 civil war, Zaidis, a Shia group, thought that the Yemeni government had given too much power to the Wahabbis, a strong Sunni group. For a decade, the tension did not escalate, but conflicts sparked up in 2004. Then, the Yemeni government attempted to arrest Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, which is the symbolic father of the insurgency. In September 2004, it is reported that al-Houthi has been murdered by the loyal forces to the government. As a result of this, relatives of al-Houthi took over the control of the rebel group and broadened the scope of the insurgency.

Before he was murdered, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi's aim was to sustain a greater authority in the territories that they hold and protect those territories from Sunni control. After his death, his name is given to the insurgency and his influence continued to grow among populations in Yemen. At its early stages, the group mainly controlled the northern provinces of Yemen and protected itself from former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's forces. (bbc.com) Houthis were able to gain support from many Yemeni soldiers and armed individuals, which allowed them to increase the number of weaponry that the group possesses. It is also believed that Houthis are supported internationally by Shia-ruled Iran.

### Yemeni Revolution

Starting in 2011, the Yemeni Revolution was inspired by the Tunisian revolution and was a part of series of protests during the Arab Spring. At the beginning, the protests took place only to raise concerns about unemployment, corruption, and a newly proposed constitution. Following a series of events, the protests' main focus became making Saleh resign. The protests' scope was so large that even military and government officials performed uprisings against Saleh and forces loyal to him. As a result, former President Saleh lost his authority over Yemeni populations as well as the control of his country.

In order to gain control of his country again, Saleh authorized forces loyal to him to use force against the protesters, which led to killings of many individuals. However, those deaths only escalated the tension between the protesters and Saleh's government and resulted in even more resignations from the government. After the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) deal was not signed by the President Saleh for the third time, several armed tribes also joined the protests. Therefore, armed conflicts broke out in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a. During the armed conflicts, Saleh was severely injured. He fled to Sunni Saudi Arabia for treatment, and the Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi took over the presidency.

However, Hadi only took over the presidency as a result of the president Saleh being absent, and he was not the permanent President of the country legally. While Saleh was being treated, the Saudi-led GCC forced him to sign an agreement, which transferred his presidential powers to Hadi. The agreement quickly gained international recognition, but Houthi rebels and some protesters rejected to recognize the agreement. Nevertheless, a presidential election was held in Yemen on 21 February 2012, which featured only one presidential candidate, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. It is reported that many protesters and

Houthis boycotted the election, but at the end, Hadi took office, ending the 33-year rule of former President Saleh. (yementimes.com)

During the transition period, Houthi rebels continued their activity in Yemen. They were trying to gain the control of the northern Saada Governorate, and they clashed with Salafis in Dammaj. These clashes continued for years. Houthis were attacking a Salafi mosque, which angered Salafis and viewed as an attempt drive Sunni groups out of the city. However, Houthi rebels defended themselves by arguing that Salafis used their mosques to train Sunni fighters and spread Sunni Islam in Yemen. After a government-mediated deal, Salafis were evacuated from the Saada Governorate, which was viewed as a great victory for Houthis.

The conflicts at Saada Governorate also spread to Amran Governorate, where Houthis fought against Islamist Islah Party, a Sunni group. Houthi rebels also succeeded in Amran Governorate taking control of the territory swiftly.

The success of Houthis increased the support that the group gained from protesters. While the Hadi government was trying to restore power and authority in Yemen, Houthis gained a lot of support from the opposition of Hadi government. The amount of support received was so widespread that Houthi slogans were placed in various spots in the capital, Sana'a. Following this, the conflicts in Saada and Amran Governorates spread to the capital Sana'a.

## Yemeni Conflict

The armed clashes in Sana'a ended pretty quickly. On 9 September 2014, Houthi-influenced Shia protesters tried to reach the cabinet office and fought with security officers, which marked the beginning of the armed conflict. On 18 September 2014, Houthi rebels attacked the state television's headquarters, Yemen TV, and they fought with loyalists. In the following day, the armed conflict continued, and Houthis were fighting against both government forces and Sunni insurgent groups. As a result, Houthis captured Yemen TV's headquarters as well as the state's army's headquarters. On that day, President Hadi referred to the activity of Houthis as "attempted coup".

Further advancing into Sana'a on 20 September, the Houthi rebels declared themselves in control of Sana'a the following day, in which they were in control of the government offices, state television, and army headquarters. While drafting the ceasefire agreement, the Houthis and Hadi government agreed that the Prime Minister would resign and the rebels would be controlling the capital. Although there was lots of criticism within the government towards Hadi because he accepted this agreement, President Hadi insisted that an immediate ceasefire was required.

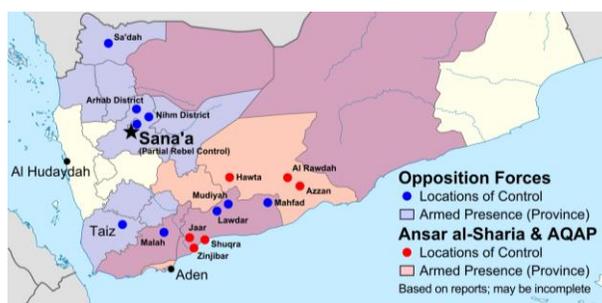


Figure 1: Map of control in Yemen showing the territories during the early stages of the conflict

However, the Houthi rebels did not attempt to carry out a coup immediately. Hadi was still the president of the country, but the rebels had a great deal of influence on him. In addition to that, Houthis supported the formation of a unity government. Nevertheless, in January 2015, the rebels attacked the presidential palace and placed president Hadi and other government officials under house arrest. Then, president Hadi escaped the house arrest and moved to the southern port city, Aden. (bbc.com)

Surprisingly, it was revealed that former president Saleh had telephone conversations with Houthi officials after the rebels took control of the capital. The recordings revealed that Saleh was aiding the Houthis by coordinating the group and giving advices both militarily and politically. (aljazeera.com) This fact meant that forces that are loyal to Saleh would be assisting the Houthi rebels.

After taking over the capital and placing all government officials under house arrest, Houthis claimed the control of the country and formed the revolutionary committee. In Aden, president Hadi condemned the coup carried out by the Houthi rebels. Following his escape, he declared Aden as the temporary capital of Yemen on 21 March 2015. In the following day, Houthis advanced towards southern parts of Yemen with the aim to capture Aden. After the battle at the airport of Aden, the international media started to refer to the conflicts in Yemen as a “civil war”. In a month, they captured Aden as well, forcing president Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia had many reasons to believe that Shia-ruled Iran, which is a great political rival for Saudi Arabia, was supporting the Shia Houthi rebels. Therefore, Saudi Arabia, allied with 9 other Middle Eastern countries and the USA, launched a military campaign against the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The military interventions were in the form of air strikes and naval blockades at first. The targets were mainly Houthi-controlled positions, including the positions of the forces that are loyal to former president Saleh, as designated by the intelligence provided by the US. The military interventions, called Operation Decisive Storm, allegedly came to an end in efforts to encourage political progress over armed clashes. Saudi Arabian government said that the threat was “successfully eliminated”. (bloomberg.com) However, the end of Operation Decisive Storm did not mark the end of the airstrikes in Yemen.

Moreover, taking advantage of the power vacuum created by the political instability, Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State increased their activity in Yemen. The Islamic State does not take any sides on the conflict by clashing both Hadi-led forces in the south and attacking to mosques in the capital Sana’a. More seriously, Al-Qaeda has a great influence on Yemeni territories. In fact, the terrorist group is the deadliest terrorist group in Yemen since 2000. (nbcnews.com)

## Current Situation

Currently, the armed clashes in Yemen continue in various ways. The main fighting between the Houthi rebels with the support of former President Saleh and Hadi-led government forces still takes place near Aden. As seen on the map, Houthis

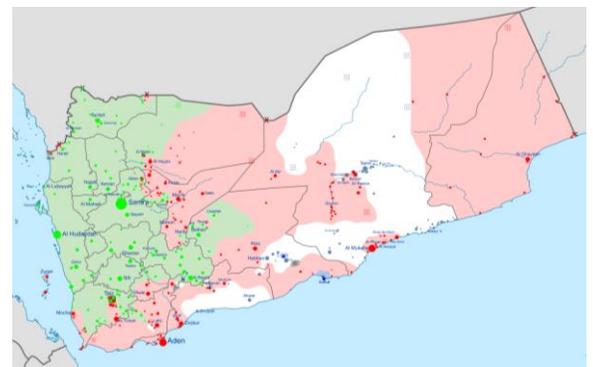


Figure 2: Current map of control in Yemen. Red refers to government forces; green refers to Houthis; white refers to Al-Qaeda.

control every big city in Yemen except Aden. However, president Hadi is not in the country at the moment. Furthermore, Saudi-led coalition carries out airstrikes against Houthis in the region even though the Saudi Arabian government said that they would end the armed activity. Most recently, on 15 February 2017, an airstrike hit a funeral ceremony, killing 20 people including a child. (reuters.com)

Most importantly, Al-Qaeda increases its activity in Yemen largely. The terrorist group currently controls most of the regions that do not have large cities due to the fact that there are not many security measures in place in those regions. Al-Qaeda greatly benefits from the power vacuum in Yemen, and the group also carries out suicide bombings in Sana'a and Aden. They are also not opposed by any external forces, because the Saudi-led coalition mainly focuses on attacking Houthi strongholds and disregarding Al-Qaeda as they also fight with the Houthi rebels usually. With the lack of governance in many territories, Al-Qaeda continues to enlarge and gain more financial support, which poses severe threats to local civilians living in those areas.

### Impact on Civilians

There are many reports of human rights violations in Yemen. At the end of 2016, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) revealed that at least 4,125 civilians were killed during the conflict. The humanitarian situation in Yemen is alarming.

Even before the war, Yemen was known to be the poorest country in the Middle East. It was reported that about 10 million citizens in Yemen (44% of the country) is undernourished with half of them in need of emergency aid. This poverty was mostly due to the water shortage in the country. Even in the capital, the citizens have access to tap water once in every 4 days. (time.com)

All parties to the conflict are accused of human rights violations during the conflict. All these violations have one thing in common, endangering the lives of civilians. First of all, Amnesty International reports that both the Hadi-led forces and Houthis use populated areas to attack each other. This places the civilians at great danger during armed clashes. As a result, there are a number of civilian casualties during the attacks. In addition, Houthis are known to be using landmines. Landmines are highly dangerous for the individuals, because they explode whoever steps on them. Due to the fact that landmines are also hidden, civilians might be killed due to landmine explosions, which have been occurring during the conflict. Actually, a mine action program staff collected up to 1,170 landmines in less than a month in Aden's suburbs. (irinnews.org)

On the other hand, Saudi-led coalition has been violating international law and human rights. A UN report points out that some of the coalition airstrikes are targeting civilians "widespread and systematically" as a war tactic. (bbc.com) In the same report, it is revealed that over 80% of the population is undernourished and in poverty. The UN report also believes that approximately 60% of the civilian deaths were caused by the coalition airstrikes. In addition, the targeting of civilians argument is also supported by



Figure 3: Two Yemeni children are saluting during a public gathering in Sana'a

a Human Rights Watch report, which states that a series of airstrikes hit a displaced persons camp in Yemen. (hrw.org) Targets of the coalition airstrikes include displaced persons camps, weddings, funerals, public gatherings, schools, mosques, airports, ports, hospitals, etc.

Moreover, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has reported that about 1/3 of the soldiers in insurgent groups are children. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children who are under 18 cannot be enlisted in armies. However, due to schools and public infrastructure being destroyed, children are encouraged to take part in armed conflicts. Presence of the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda in Yemen also adds up to the use of children. These terrorist organizations are known to be using child soldiers in Syria and Afghanistan, which also points out that they target children in Yemen in order to carry out suicide bombings. (independent.co.uk) On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs stated that 500,000 children under the age of 5 suffer from "severe malnutrition" and a child dies in every 10 minutes of "preventable causes". (reliefweb.int)

Last but not least, hospitals in Yemen are also in danger. A private health institution in Yemen reported that 4 of their hospitals have been hit by the coalition airstrikes. According to UN reports, 600 health institutions were damaged or destroyed during the conflict. (msf.org) The non-functioning hospitals are a major concern, because these hospitals treat millions of civilians who are undernourished and harmed during the armed conflict. Consequently, those civilians cannot get any help. In March 2017, it is said that due to the inability of hospitals to treat injured and undernourished people, the rate of premature births and birth defects has increased.

Overall, the humanitarian situation in Yemen is one of the worst atrocities that the UN has faced. The civil war's impact on civilians, combined with the external factors, is enormous, which is the reason why the conflict in Yemen must come to an end.

## **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

### **Yemen**

There is no need for accentuating on the significance of Yemen in this particular issue, which is called "The Question of Yemen". The military situation in Yemen is explained in depth in the General Overview section. However, it should not be forgotten that this insurgency is also affecting Yemen environmentally and socioeconomically. The Yemeni citizens have inadequate access to natural resources, such as food and water. Combined with this, when the armed groups use residential places to advance in the war, the civilians become forced to migrate. As of August 2016, the conflict displaced 3,154,572 people. (un.org) For those displaced persons, the essential needs are food, water, and shelter.

The insurgency also affects petrol prices, as the Gulf States are the main producers of petroleum. Oil prices are increased by five percent right after the coalition airstrikes took place, not to mention the deaths caused by the strikes. In addition, Yemen is geographically located on the main route of tanker ships heading the West through the Suez Canal. The insurgency in Yemen also threatens the safety of the tanker ships. Besides from the casualties and economical effects, there are also many people who

are dying because of the lack of medical treatment. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to come up with a diplomatic solution urgently.

### **Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia is known for its close relations with the Hadi administration in terms of military issues. The country leads the coalition against the Houthi rebels and the forces loyal to former president Saleh. This coalition consists of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Somalia. It is also supported by the USA, the UK, France, and Turkey. The coalition began airstrikes in Yemen on March 2015 as a response to the request of president Hadi. Saudi Arabia leads the coalition against the Houthi rebels, because the country believes that Houthis are supported by Shia-ruled Iran, which is an ideological rival for Saudi Arabia. The country also provided residence for president Hadi after he escaped from Aden.

Saudi Arabia justifies the airstrikes by stating that they are compulsory in order to re-establish the elected government of Yemen. Even though the coalition claimed that they would end the airstrikes in an attempt to achieve political progress, the airstrikes actually never come to an end.

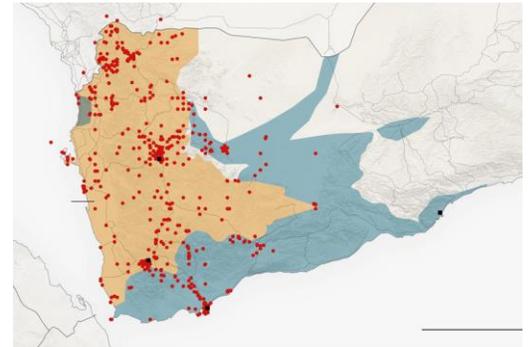
### **Iran**

As aforementioned, Iran is allegedly supporting the Houthi rebels, a statement that is constantly denied by the Iranian government. President Hadi referred to Houthis as “Iran’s puppet”, and loyalists to Hadi claim that Houthis are armed, instructed, and sponsored by Iran. Even though Houthis and Iran reject those claims, international organizations and many Member States are suspicious about an alleged Houthi-Iranian coalition. In a speech of an Iranian Foreign Ministry member, he condemned the Saudi-led coalition’s airstrikes by saying that the airstrikes demolished the Yemeni infrastructure and worsened the situation in Yemen. He also accused Saudi Arabia of genocide in Yemen.

Officially, the Iranian government supports the establishment of a ceasefire in Yemen and hopes to end the instability and power vacuum in the region.

### **The United States of America**

As with most of the issue in the world, the United States is also a major party to this issue. The US government mainly assists the Saudi-led coalition. Most notably, the US provides intelligence to the coalition in order to conduct airstrikes and refuels the warplanes of the coalition. Even though the Obama administration insisted on a peace deal, the US directly involved in the armed conflict when a US vessel destroyed a radar installment in Yemen. In addition to these, the US also conducts drone strikes against Al-Qaeda position in Yemen.



**Figure 4: Map of the coalition airstrikes**

With Human Rights Watch reporting that US-produced bombs are being used by the coalition and the coalition airstrikes hitting civilians, the US might be a “co-belligerent” in the conflict, which would also mean that the government is partially in charge of human rights violations in Yemen. However, in a Senate vote to end the US involvement in Yemen, most of the Senators voted against and said that it is better to sustain a good relationship with Saudi Arabia. At last, it is also known that the Trump administration will be involved in Yemen due to the fact that the administration authorized a raid in Yemen to gather intelligence. (npr.org)

## Timeline of Events

<b>1994</b>	Zaidis, a Shia group, believed that the government had given too much power to Wahabbis, a Sunni group, following the civil war.
<b>2004</b>	Houthi insurgent group was formed.
<b>September 2004</b>	Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, the founder of the Houthi insurgency, was killed by the loyal forces to the president Saleh.
<b>2004-2011</b>	Houthis maintained the control of some northern provinces of Yemen.
<b>January 2011</b>	Protests against government were being held in various cities across Yemen, which demanded the resignation of president Saleh later on. Saleh responded to the protests by using force.
<b>April-May 2011</b>	Saleh accepted to sign Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) mediated deals that would result in his resignation for three times. He declined all agreements at the last minute.
<b>23 May – 5 June 2011</b>	Battle of Sana'a took place. President Saleh got injured after an attack and went to Saudi Arabia to get treatment. The GCC forced him to sign a deal, which transferred his powers to Vice President Hadi.
<b>21 February 2012</b>	Presidential elections were held, featuring only one candidate who is Hadi. Houthis boycotted the elections.
<b>2012-2014</b>	Houthis aimed to extend their powers during the transition period. They captured Saada and Amran governorates. The success of the insurgents allowed them to gain support from local populations.

<b>9 September 2014</b>	Houthis attacked a government building in the capital Sana'a. The attack was not successful.
<b>18-20 September 2014</b>	Houthis took control of the state television and army headquarters. They captured government offices and later announced themselves as in control of Sana'a
<b>January 2015</b>	The Houthi rebels surrounded the presidential palace and placed president Hadi and several government officials under house arrest. Then, Hadi fled to Aden.
<b>19 March 2015</b>	Battle of Aden Airport took place, in which Houthis were defeated by Hadi-led forces.
<b>21 March 2015</b>	President Hadi declared Aden as the temporary capital of Yemen.
<b>March-April 2015</b>	The Houthi rebels advanced towards Aden, capturing the city itself.
<b>21 April 2015</b>	Saudi-led coalition initiated the Operation Decisive Storm and started to conduct airstrikes against Houthis.
<b>21 April 2016</b>	The coalition ended the Operation Decisive Storm and stated that the airstrikes would come to an end. The airstrikes continued.
<b>15 August 2016</b>	A coalition airstrike hit a hospital, severely damaging the infrastructure and killing 19.
<b>October 2016</b>	An airstrike hit a funeral ceremony, killing 140 people and injuring 500.
<b>March 2017</b>	It is announced that the rate of premature births and birth defects has increased due to the ongoing war and women being undernourished.

## UN Involvement

The United Nations has been highly involved in this conflict. First of all, it is mentioned that there are millions of displaced persons in Yemen. International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been working collaboratively in order to create a framework to provide the needs of displaced persons, namely food, water, and shelter. In addition, in order to draw attention to the humanitarian situation in Yemen, IOM and UNHCR have put together informative reports. Moreover, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) tried to take actions in order to end the crisis in Yemen. Even though the success of the implementation of those resolutions is

questionable, the efforts to end the issue are evident. Last but not least, the UN has gone through a Secretary-General change recently. The Guterres-administration is also greatly concerned by the humanitarian issues in Yemen. Antonio Guterres himself has visited Yemen on field and he constantly asks for peace between the parties. In fact, the UN has brokered 7 ceasefire agreements, which are all failed. (dw.com)

## Relevant UN Documents

- **Security Council Resolution 2216, 14/04/2015 (S/RES/2216)** [Hyperlink](#)

This resolution is formed against the Houthi rebels. It demanded the rebels to withdraw from all captured territories, urged for the disarmament of the rebels, and put an embargo on the Houthi rebels.

- Security Council Resolution 2342, 23/02/2017 (S/RES/2342) [Hyperlink](#)
- Security Council Resolution 2266, 24/02/2016 (S/RES/2266) [Hyperlink](#)
- The Panel of Experts on Yemen Report, 22/01/2016 (S/2016/73) [Hyperlink](#)

## Treaties and Events

- **National Dialogue Conference:** Held in January 2014, this conference concluded with a vision that outlines what the new constitution would be based on. It included dividing the country into several regions that would have semi-authority ("*Yemen's*").
- In September 2014, a UN-brokered peace deal between the government of Yemen and Houthi rebels was signed. It called for the current government to only hold a temporarily role in ruling the country until a new administration is formed with the cooperation of all political parties ("*Yemen Rivals*").
- In October 2015, Houthi rebels committed to "a seven-point peace plan brokered by the UN" ("*Yemen Conflict*").

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The international community has been criticized for neglecting the conflict and the dire political and humanitarian situation in Yemen; therefore, there are no significant failed attempts to resolve the issue but rather a lack of such solutions. Several peace talks have been held, agreements have been made and resolutions have been passed; however, none of them has been sufficient to appease the turmoil in the country. The conflict between the rebels and the government is mostly a power struggle; therefore, reaching compromise on their respective authorities on territory must be prioritized while devising solutions. In terms of the humanitarian situation, Yemen has received help from UN organizations and NGOs; however, the situation is still dire, with millions starving and unable to get healthcare.

## Possible Solutions

- Outlining a course of action for the reestablishment of an internationally recognized government in Yemen
- Establishing a permanent ceasefire agreement in order to decrease tensions before starting negotiations
- Establishing a framework in which insurgent groups give their weapons to an independent organization like UNODA (possible in exchange for some benefit in order to incentivize this)
- Holding negotiations that would be mediated by third parties like the UN or the Arab League
- Having GCC provide humanitarian aid in Yemen (Yemen currently has an observer status in the GCC; nevertheless, it must be called upon in Yemen to protect the civilians.)
- Prioritizing the safety of civilian in Yemen by having external powers cease armed interventions in order to restore the infrastructure in Yemen
- Establishing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs in order reintegrate child soldiers in local communities
- Disincentivizing citizens' recruitment to insurgent groups by providing better life standards for prospective rebels with financial concerns
- Reducing the number of child soldiers recruited by insurgent groups
- Devising a solution to end the progression of Al-Qaeda

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