

Fighting spreads into five southern governorates

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 29—Violent clashes between southern popular committees, military-backed Houthis and tribal militias have intensified in Aden and surrounding governorates since Thursday.

Fadhel Abu Taleb, a member of the Houthi Political Office in Sana'a, said his group is confident they will bring the south under their control and claims their forces are making major gains.

Events in the five governorates concerned—Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa and Al-Dhale—give little indication that any side is nearing victory as casualties continue to mount.

Aden and Lahj

Suburban areas of Aden have been engulfed by skirmishes and widespread looting as fighting between pro-Hadi popular committees and Houthi militants spirals out of control.

According to local journalist Majed Al-Shuaibi, Aden International Airport and surrounding areas remain under the control of Houthi units backed by security forces loyal to Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Fighting in the area on Sunday saw two tanks destroyed by popular committee fighters and eight Houthi militants killed, while 17 were captured, according to Shuaibi. He said control of the airport was being contested and that fierce clashes were ongoing in the neighboring districts of Dar Sa'd, Al-Mansura, and Al-Sheick Othman.

Residents are struggling to stay clear of crossfire as the violence intensifies. Abdu Farea Al-Wesabi, who lives in Aden's Crater area, said stray bullets and several rockets had landed in residential areas, while popular committees announced a daily curfew on Friday from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Al-Akhdar Laswar, director of the Ministry of Health's office in Aden, said the death toll had reached 60 by Saturday morning with up to 500 injured.

A large explosion on Saturday at Badr Camp on Aden's Mount Hadeed, said to house the largest arms depot in southern Yemen, also claimed at least 113 lives and injured 334, according to the editor-in-chief of the Huna Aden news site, Mansur Anis.

According to a Houthi source based in Aden, speaking on condition of anonymity, the explosion at Badr Camp was caused by popular committee members trying to access the armory by firing an RPG into its secured entrance. The Yemen Times has not been able to verify the claim, although locallybased journalist Abdulrahman Anis reported to the Yemen Times the same version of events.

Having moved into Lahj last week Tuesday, Houthi forces have struggled to maintain control of the capital Al-Hawta, which has been the scene of ongoing fighting since Wednesday. Basem Al-Zuraiqi, official spokesperson for state media in Lahj governorate, said on Sunday that fighting in the capital had left "bodies all over the streets" and that there has been no running water or electricity for two consecutive days.

Abyan

Fighting between military-backed Houthis and popular committees aligned with tribal militias have also continued in neighboring Abyan, where Houthis advanced on Friday to take control of the districts of Shuqra, located on the coast, and Lawdar, located in the north near Al-Baida governorate.

Pro-Hadi forces reportedly seized control of the national coastguard at Shuqra a day after it was taken by Houthi forces on Friday, while tribal groups from both governorates launched a combined attack on the 111th Mechanized Brigade in Ahwar, western Abyan.

Fighting also broke out Sunday morning between the 117th Infantry Brigade and tribal groups in the Ma'in and Al-Arqoub areas, located near the juncture of the Shabwa-Abyan-Aden road in central Abyan. Meanwhile, members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claim to have joined fighting in the capital Zinjibar on Friday. Speaking with the Yemen Times, AQAP fighter Abu Al-Zinad Al-Abyani said 15 of his men were killed there during clashes with Houthi and military forces, claiming "hundreds" had been killed by his men.

Shabwa and Al-Dhale

Thirteen men and one woman fighting with tribal militias have been reported killed in Shabwa's Baihan city following clashes with Houthi forces there, who have claimed control of the governorate since Friday.

Twenty Houthi militants have died in fighting there since Thursday, according to Abdulrahman Al-Shaibam, a member of the Al-Alshaiba tribe in Asilan area near Baihan city.

Al-Shaibam said forces loyal to the Houthis had advanced from Baihan city towards Asilan, but were forced to retreat on Sunday, a day after being pushed back from Al-Nuqoub area. According to Al-Shaibam, fighting in the areas of Al-Nuqoub, Mafraq Al-Sadi and Asilan have killed over 30 pro-Houthi soldiers.

North of Aden and Lahj, the governorate of Al-Dhale has seen fighting between popular committee members and Houthis backed by pro-Saleh soldiers from the 33rd Armored Brigade.

Walid Al-Khatib, a sheikh in Al-Dhale city, said heavy weaponry was being used and that both sides had suffered "a large number of casualties."

"The Houthis are in control of Al-Dhale city and there are sporadic clashes between them and tribal militias, but resistance from popular committees in support of Hadi is increasing everyday," he told the Yemen Times.

Strike hits IDP camp on Saudi-Yemeni border, dozens feared dead



Hospitals in Haradh are reportedly overwhelmed and the number of casualties is expected to rise.

Ali Aboluhom and Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 31—A camp holding a large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) near the border of Yemen and Saudi Arabia was bombed Monday, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

"UNHCR strongly condemns the attack in the Al-Mazraq area of Hajja," said UNHCR public information officer Mogib Hassan. Hassan confirmed the strike in the Al-Mazrak camp in Haradh, Hajja governorate. The attack occurred at 11:30 am, he said.

"Our team on the ground [has] reported 15 injuries at Haradh hospital. More casualties are expected," Hassan said. He was told by the UNHCR team in Haradh that there are 15 to 20 civilian deaths so far, but the figure is not confirmed. UN-HCR is working closely with the World Food Programme (WFP) to secure and relocate IDPs in the area to secure places, he added.

Though the agency has confirmed the strike, Hassan emphasized that it is unclear who is responsible for the bombing.

Taha Al-Sharafi, the supervisor of Houthi popular committees in Haradh confirmed the strike and said that Haradh hospitals are overwhelmed with the bodies from the bombing. Al-Sharafi said dozens were killed in the attack, and accused the Saudiled coalition of being behind the strike.



Dozens killed by raids under Operation Decisive Storm

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

killed dozens." he said. According to a report released Saturday by Mwatana, a local human rights organization based in Sana'a, 27 civilians including 15 children have been killed in the capital. Another ten civilians were injured on Thursday during an attack on Sana'a International Airport when houses in Al-Nour neighborhood were struck. The report by Mwatana pointed out that Al-Nour is over 2 km from the nearest military base, Al-Dailami. Dr. Abdullah Al-Dari, director of the Saudi-German Hospital in Sana'a, said the corpses of two children arrived on Thursday after they were killed in an air strike. Thirteen deaths were recorded at the Kuwait and Al-Thawra hospitals, although doctors said a number of body parts collected at the sites made it difficult to verify the number of victims. Military targets in the capital have included Al-Dailami Airbase, the Special Security Forces (SSF) camp in Al-Subaha area, Al-Sawad and Al-Nahdain military camps, and various missile silos. South of Sana'a governorate, neighboring Dhamar has seen its Sama military camp targeted, while in Hodeida to the west both military and civilian airports have been bombarded in addition to the governorate's air defense headquarters. In resource-rich Marib, east of Sana'a, air defense headquarters in the Safer area also suffered damage.

Farther South, Taiz governorate as well as the Yemen Liquid Natu-

SANA'A, March 30—As Saudiled coalition warplanes continued to bomb Houthi and military targets for a fifth consecutive night on Sunday, comprehensive figures for the number of civilians being killed in Operation Decisive Storm remain incomplete.

According to Mohammad Al-Qaedi, director of public relations for the Ministry of Interior, the number of civilian casualties for Saturday's strikes reached 13 dead and 78 injured across the governorates of Sana'a, Hodeida, Hajja and Sa'ada. More recent figures for Sunday and Monday were not available, he said.

No civilian casualties were noted Sunday night, but three deaths and four injuries were reported at the elite Reserve Forces camp in the Al-Sawad area south of Sana'a, according to Abdulkarim Muiad, undersecretary of the Civil Defense Authority in Sana'a.

The first waves of strikes on Wednesday and Thursday appear to have been the deadliest in the capital Sana'a, when 24 died and another 43 were injured. According to the Ministry of Interior, which is under Houthi control, most of the victims were women and children and 14 homes were destroyed in the attacks.

According to Muiad, local authorities have performed 25 rescue operations in the capital. "We pulled people from under the rubble, the bombing was random, it has suffered attacks on its military airport, Tareq military base, and the Defense and Radars battalion in Al-Mokha district. A base belonging to the 33rd Armored Brigade in Al-Dhale was hit on Friday and Saturday, while the 115th Infantry Brigade in Abyan's Shuqra area has also been attacked.

Al-Anad airbase in Lahj governorate, previously home to US Special Forces in Yemen, has been under repeated attack since operations began on Wednesday, according to local sources.

Military-backed Houthis stationed in Shabwa's Baihan area suffered a sustained attack on Monday afternoon that began at about 6 p.m. Tribal militias were also hit in the strikes, according to local tribal leader Abdulrahman Al-Shaiba, who reported four deaths and 20 injuries of tribesmen. As of publishing time Monday, it remained unclear how many Houthis were killed in the Baihan strike.

The Houthi stronghold of Sa'ada governorate appears to be suffering the brunt end of Operation Decisive Storm. Abdulmalik Al-Houthi's house in Marran has reportedly been attacked, as have units based in Baqen district and an arms depot in the capital's Kahlan camp.

Fifteen civilians were also killed when a market in Kit district was hit on Friday, according to Houthi sources. Other targets are said to include the districts of Ketaf, Al-Baq, Manbah, Sheda'a, and Sahara, ral Gas power plant and the governorate's central prison.

A military camp in the Al-Kemp area of Hajja governorate's Haradh district, which borders Sa'ada, was attacked on Saturday.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan and Morocco are all participating in Operation Decisive Storm, with logistical support being provided by the US, UK, France and Turkey.





the post, and consider my

removal a reward for my

efforts," he said with ap-

Hussein Al-Bukhaiti, a

pro-Houthi activist and

media figure, said Hadi's

decree was both illegiti-

mate and ineffective and

will not change the situa-

tion in the two governor-

"He wants to show-off

"He is a mouse, fleeing

from one place to anoth-

er. I do not expect his re-

turn from Saudi Arabia,"

The departing governor

of Abyan declined to com-

ment about the removal,

but did breifly discuss the

security situation of the

"Abyan is a stable gov-

The Houthis took con-

trol of Lahj governorate

on March 24. Days ear-

lier, the group had seized

control of Taiz governor,

allowing them to move

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one of the best off in terms

of security," he said.

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he added.

governorate.

Opposition to Houthi presence continues in Taiz

Fareed Al-Homaid

SANA'A, March 30-As instability in Taiz governorate continues, locals in Al-Turba city held a funeral procession on Monday for three protesters killed last week by alleged Houthis in military uniform.

A few thousand gathered to mourn the three men, who were killed on March 23 in a demonstration calling for the removal of checkpoints recently established by the Special Security Forces (SSF). Twelve protesters have been killed so far in violent clampdowns on protests in the governorate, according to local journalist Ahmed Al-Wafi and Dr. Mubarak Al-Habashi of Ibn Sina Hospital. Ten were killed on March 23, while two others injured that day succumbed to their wounds two days later. A total of 83 protesters were injured that day, according to Al-Habashi.

Multiple local sources previously reported to the Yemen Times that the shooters, dressed in SSF uniforms, were Houthis and had the group's slogan on their weapons.

Taiz governor, Shawqi Ahmed Hail, resigned on March 24, the day after the protest. According to Sultan Mughalles, his press secretary, Hail resigned because his order for the SSF to remove their newly established checkpoints in Al-Turba and Al-Rahida cities was ignored by SSF commander Ali Al-Harithi.

Hail used to serve as the head of the governorate's security committee. Mohammad Al-Hajj, general secretary of the local council, replaced Hail as the head when he became governor. On Saturday, the committee gathered to discuss the current

instability facing Taiz. Abdullah Muree, a member of the security committee and the deputy chief of security, said the committee again made the decision to remove the checkpoints, and this time the commander of the SSF complied.

Days earlier, on March 26, the governorate's local council held at a meeting. Abdulmalik Muharram, a member of the local council, said the meeting was convened to discuss the governor's resignation. The governor did not officially resign because he is legally required to submit an official letter of resignation, which he had yet to do, Muharram said.

Al-Hajj is currently performing the duties of the governor in his absence, but he has not officially taken over the position, Muharram told the Yemen Times. It remains unclear

if Hail will return as governor. Press secretary Mughalles said on March 25 that the governor has no intention of returning. Muharram said that on Monday, however, Al-Hajj spoke to the resigned governor, who reportedly said he would return to office in two to three days.

This comes as large protests continue to take place in cities throughout Taiz since March 21, when Houthi militants said to be clothed in SSF uniforms entered the governorate. Following midday prayer on Friday in Taiz city, protesters held a rally they called, "Finishing the Coup.'

Protesters showed their support for Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, raising photos of Saudi King Salman. They also called for the Houthis to withdraw and for the former governor to withdraw his resignation.

Ayman Al-Mekhlafi, one of the organizers of the Friday protest, said protesters called for the governor to return because he is seen as being politically neutral and is supported by different factions in Taiz.

He also said he supports the airstrikes because the Houthis and former President Ali Abdullah Saleh repeatedly refused to participate in good-faith dialogue and that they do not respect agreements they made with Hadi.

"Houthis and Saleh are loyal to Iran and they are enforcing Iran's agenda in Yemen," he said. "Iran is not an Arabic country, Iran is trying to control Yemen so the best thing to do is seek the help of our Arab neighbors.

"It's a difficult decision to have airstrikes but it is our last resort."

Hadi replaces two southern governors

Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, March 30-Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi issued a presidential decree from Saudi Arabia on Sunday, dismissing the southern governors of Abyan and Lahj. The decree comes amidst expanding Houthi aggression in the south.

The decree replaced Abyan governor Jamal and demonstrate that he Al-Aqil with Al-Khadi is still the president. It's Al-Saeedi, and Lahj govan issue of ego. He has no ernor Ahmed Abdullah control over the situation Al-Majidi with Ahmed and is relying on armed Mahdi. militas to spread chaos in the south," Al-Bukhaiti

Abdulsalam Mohammed, the head of the Sana'a based Abad Center for Strategic Studies, says the aim of the removal was to replace the two governors, who are loyal to Saleh, with men loyal

to Hadi. Al-Majidi was appointed governor of Lahj in 2011. He served as governor of Al-Mahra in the late 80s and governor of Ibb in the early 90s. Al-Aqil was deputy governor of Abyan before rising to

governor in 2012. Despite declaring all decisions made since Sept.

21 illigimate, the Houthis' decisions are still in effect on the ground, Mohammed said, questioning the power behind Hadi's

decree. Al-Majidi told the Yemen Times that he still respects Hadi and that he does not consider his removal from office a slight. "I thank President Hadi for his decision. I have

done my best since taking

further south. Ali Haider, secretary general of the local council in Lahj, said he was hopeful the decree would help improve security in

the governorate. "Hadi knows what he's doing and I hope it will be for the good of the governorate," he said.

Houthis: Ahmed Saleh offer to fight us proves there is no alliance

Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, March 29–The Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, have used leaks by Saudi officials to refute claims that there is any alliance between the Houthis and former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. A Saudi official told Al-Arabiya on Saturday that Saleh's son, Ahmed, offered to fight the Houthis.

Defense Minister Saudi Prince Mohammed Bin Salman told the Saudi owned Al-Arabiya that Ahmed Ali offered to fight the Houthis in exchange for a number of concessions two days prior to the launch of airstrikes in the country.

A source in Ahmed Saleh's office, who declined to speak on the record, denied that Saleh has done any traveling to Riyadh since returning to Sana'a in January.

Al-Arabiya said that Saudi Arabia refused all demands and offers. The military offensive, known as Decisive Storm, started in the early hours of Wednesday morning, two days after Saleh's alleged offer. News about the offer was leaked about an hour after Saleh made a speech aired via the Saleh-owned Yemen Today channel on Saturday. During that speech, the former president called on Saudi Arabia and other countries to stop their air raids on Yemen.

With the leak, Saudi Arabia has been accused of attempting to foment division between the Houthis and Saleh. Saleh, whose troops have been fighting alongside the Houthis as they make their way to the south of the country, is accused of helping the rebel group come to Sana'a and take power.

Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh

presented two files to Saudi Arabia, according to Al-Arabiya, one file contained demands and the other an offer. The demands included the lifting of sanctions imposed on his father by the UN Security Council as well as the continuation of immunity first granted to him and his father by the GCC Initiative. In return, the younger Saleh and his father would lead a coup against the Houthis, Salman told Al-Ara-

biya. "Ahmed Ali demanded an end to the media campaign being waged against his father and pledged to overthrow the Houthis by preparing 5000 soldiers of the Special Security Forces and 100,000 troops from the Republican Guards to fight the Houthis," according to Al-Arabiya.

If Ahmed Saleh did indeed make the offer, it is unclear if soldiers would follow his commands. He was the commander of the now-dissolved Republican Guards, before being dismissed in April 2012, following a restructuring of the military. The guards were redistributed to other units in an effort to lessen the Saleh family's grip on the military. Saleh's nephew, Yahya, was chief of staff of the now-dissolved Cental Security Forces.

Qasim Mujahid Naseer, a current soldier of the Reserve Forces who was a member of the Republican Guards, claims that he and thousands of soldiers are willing to fight the Houthis if Ahmed Saleh asks them to.

"Most of the Republican Guards troops love Ahmed Ali because he had their best interests at heart during his term as commander of the Republican Guards," Nasser said. "We

are ready to fight under his command. The military was weakened and humiliated after the military restructure implemented by Hadi."

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office, told the Yemen Times that the offer by Ahmed Saleh proves that there is no alliance between Saleh and the Houthis.

"If [the news is] true [regarding an offer], Ahmed Ali is not able to command the military. His efforts will fail," Al-Bukhaiti said.

Al-Bukhaiti said he does not believe Yemeni soldiers will agree to implement the agendas of the countries who are shelling the country.

"The military is targeted by Decisive Storm, it will not follow the orders of outside countries bombing them," he added.



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- 4. This invitation for Expression of Interest does not amount to commitment on the part of GIZ either financially or otherwise. GIZ reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the ground for the acceptance or rejection.

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- 4. Be drug free, physically fit, and have no medical restrictions for diving training program
- 5. Under 30 years of age
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- 7. Be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, decimals and fractions; calculate percentages; and transpose and solve simple formulas
- 8. Willing to work as part of a team.
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Traditional incense traders facing stiff competition

Ali Aboluhom

ome to a thriving market for myrrh (*murr*) and frankincense (luban) stretching back thousands of years, Southern Arabia has long been known for its rich fragrances. Formed from dried tree resin, the most expensive and sought after varieties are still found growing in Yemen and Oman today.

Myrrh and frankincense were some of the ancient world's most coveted commodities, linking modern-day Yemen into a global network of trade that reached as far as China. Already by the first century AD, the Roman writer Pliny reckoned more than three-thousand tons of incense (bakhour) were being imported to the Mediterranean from South Arabia each year.

Yemeni households and markets may still carry the scents of this venerable tradition, but the fragrance industry is no longer what it once was. Its decline began long ago, when early Christian leaders condemned the use of incense as a pagan tradition, but modern globalization has conspired to undermine the trade further. With the emergence of cheaper fra-

Asia, myrrh and frankincense now compete with a wide range of alternatives.

Mohammad Raheem, 61, has spent most of his life selling fragranced goods in Old Sana'a's Souk Al-Milh (Salt Market). When he went into the business in the 1970s, he says he only sold homemade incense produced locally, but he recalls when imported fragrances began arriving in Sana'a in the early 1990s from places like India, China and Cambodia.

"Yemeni fragrance is more expensive because of the time needed to extract and prepare the ingredients, compared with synthetic products from abroad that come readymade," he says. Local producers and sellers of traditional incense, such as Raheem, have been struggling to compete ever since the arrival of these cheaper alternatives.

"The process of making ten 100-gram batches of homemade incense can take between a month and two, which adds to the cost, while some ingredients can only be found in the bark of rare trees in isolated places like Socotra island," explains Raheem.

Nonetheless, he says, there is no competing with the quality and craftsmanship of Yemeni fragrance-so long as customers are willing to pay extra for it-and grances from countries in South and East it is a tradition he is proud to keep alive.



Mohammad Raheem, 61, has been working at Old Sana'a's Souk Al-Milh since the 1970s. He says the traditional market has changed considerably since imported products began arriving in the 1990s.



Cambodian and Indian imports offer the most affordable choices, selling for \$20-35 per ounce.

A range of imported

products from neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, selling for \$10-50 per ounce, offer stiff competition to local Yemeni products. Examples of the finest Yemeni fragrances include Al-Sultan, Al-Araesi, and Al-Adni, and sell for between \$50 and \$300 per ounce.





The only locally-produced oud available in Yemen, selling for \$50 per ounce. Raheem says only wealthy clients, who usually buy in bulk of ten to 100 ounces, purchase it for special occasions like weddings and Ramadan celebrations.



Homemade oud, made with a mixture of imported and local products, sells for about \$20 and offers a compromise for those with tight budgets looking for traditional scents.

BUSINESS FOR PEACE AWARD

Yemen is a defining moment for King Salman

Michael Stephens aljazeera.com

First published March 27 audi Arabia's decision to lead a ten-country coali-

tion of Arab states into military action in Yemen is a defining moment for King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, only two months into his post. In conjunction with the GCC and a host of western countries pledging support, Saudi Arabia has forcefully played its hand against the Houthi rebels which have overrun Yemen and who have received the backing of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the ongoing struggle for regional supremacy between the Saudi Arabia-led GCC and Iran, it is tempting to see every conflict in which the two countries are engaged as a winner-takes-all sectarian struggle between Shia and Sunni Islam. Conflicts in Syria and Iraq, the deep political unrest that has blighted Bahrain, and the bubbling unrest in Lebanon display deep layers of sectarian fuelled violence which has blighted communities that lived peacefully side by side for generations.

Given that the avowedly religious Houthis are a minority sect of Shia Islam, and operate in direct opposition to the majority Sunni-led government backed by Saudi Arabia and the GCC, there is a tendency to view what is happening in Yemen in north.

Resource driven conflict

And while it is true the Iran has clearly shown its support for the Houthis, and deeply opposes any Saudi military action against them, this grossly undermines any deeper analysis of what is happening in Yemen today.

The conflict between the Houthis and the central authorities did not start as a sectarian struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran. To explain some of the problems that exist in Yemen involves understanding that Yemen is a country riven with resource driven conflict and regional factionalism above and beyond any notion of Sunni and Shia divisions.

The Houthis hold long standing grievances with the government concerning its relatively poor treatment of regions around Sa'ada (the Houthis nominal capital), and issues of socio-economic distribution of wealth were primarily the causes of the mutual enmity which slowly built up between the Houthis and the selectively generous state. The trigger for this particular round of Houthi-government violence (and there have been many since 2004) leading to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's ouster was in fact the Houthis' displeasure with the government plans to cut fuel subsidies in August last year.

Nevertheless, the instability in

the same light as conflicts further Yemen now occurs at a time when the Gulf states view Iran's shadow looming ever more over the affairs of the region. A dominating Iranian role in the battles to retake towns and cities from ISIL in Iraq has led to a fierce backlash in public opinion in the Gulf which believes that Iraq has been handed to Iran and its proxy militias.

This at the same time when Iran may be sealing a deal with the US over its nuclear enrichment program, only serving to convince the Gulf states that Iranian power is growing exponentially.

Last GCC bastion

The recent push south toward the city of Aden by Houthi forces backed by Yemen army units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh threatened the last bastion of GCC influence where their preferred choice, President Hadi resided until Thursday.

As such, the GCC collectively took the decision to use force to prevent the Houthis gaining almost total control of the country's major urban centers.

But the Houthis are not hugely popular outside of their traditional constituencies, the reaction of Yemenis in Taiz and Sana'a has been decidedly mixed, with pro-Houthi propaganda frequently being torn off walls or defaced by irate residents.

Protests against Houthi rule have



The Saudis for their part would be deeply uneasy at the prospect of sending in ground forces, 70 years of history have not been kind to those Saudi monarchs which decided upon military intervention to enforce their will on their troubled southern neighbor.

Prospect for ground forces

Yemen's mountainous border regions and rugged terrain make invasion an arduous task and would be sure to result in heavy casualties. Although the coalition of ten Arab states may talk tough, their militaries cannot sustain any sort of long term military operation on Yemeni soil.

Long term external deployment for any nation is a difficult business, let alone a deployment in Yemen, and despite western promises of logistical support it would be too great a stretch for the West to countenance backing an openended conflict, especially when ISIL in Iraq and Syria are still the main



focus.

More likely will be the use of Arab coalition airpower and possibly a very short ground war to grind down the Houthis and force them out of the south and back to the negotiating table with President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, albeit in a far weaker position than they have held in recent months. The position of the Houthis is presently defiant, but it is unlikely to remain so provided a package to recognize at least some of their ideas for constitutional amendments are met.

Without a political agreement that moves beyond the GCC agreements of 2011 there can be no peace in Yemen. Saudi may chafe at an Iranian-backed actor gain-

ing legitimacy through multiparty negotiations but it has little choice in the long run but to accept that the Houthis are here to stay. Saudi cannot bomb them out of existence, much as the Houthis cannot hope to forcibly crackdown on the many Yemenis who oppose their newly gained control.

But in the short term at least the future does not bode well, and although still unlikely a full scale Saudi invasion could occur the outcome of which will be disastrous for all sides.

Michael Stephens is a research fellow for Middle East studies and head of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in Qatar.

JOB VACANCIES

AN ASSYSTEM COMPANY 1. JOB DETAILS:	NC		JOB VACANCIES	AN ASSYSTEM COMPANY 1. JOB DETAILS:
Name		Department	Operations	Name
Job Title	Logistics Manager	Section	Logistics	Job Title I
Reporting to	Plant Manager	Job Grade		Reporting to H
SITE LNG ACTI MANAGEMENT 3. KEY RESPONSI - To be accountab operations to e - To participate w HSE reporting - To Identify all necessary prev integrity of equ - To ensure that a - To be contract h department in 1 - To be the Budgets Capex budgets - To review and a	F OF STOCK AND WAREHOUSE ACTIVITIES BILITIES: (PLEASE USE ONLY ACTION VI ble for the HSE performance of all YLNG logistics nsure that YLNG HSE targets are met. hen necessary to the work permits meetings, incid-	TO SUPPORT PL/ ERBS) including handling ents accidents enqui cable in his domai Safety of personne ons regarding logist set the preparation of re that they are used prepare in liaison w onstantly monitor c rvices to ensure app	ANT AND SITE ACTIVITIES /lifting, cargo road transportation and aviation iries and analysis and carries out the necessary n of activities , promotes and supervises the el, the protection of the Environment and the ics and transport activities are enforced Logistics contracts and support the Contracts I most effectively. with Balhaf Services and Marine the Opex and osts.	 Evaluate and ass Define and iden security proces Create strategies Propose, implen Establish and m Efficiently ident Conduct security Demonstrate leas Submit perform Ensure safe ope Ensure all system Follow and imp Keep tracking compared

- To provide necessary guidance and technical expertise to Balhaf Logistics, Marine and Aviation to achieve operational support of facilities in safe conditions and at minimum cost.

To maintain records and statistics to ensure accurate reporting including Key Performance indicators

To monitor closely the performance of the Yemeni employees and their career development including trainings to achieve the Yemenisation program targets or propose amendments to the program

To maintain liaison with international and local contractors and Government authorities, ensuring meaningful relations and appropriate cooperation and support.

To be responsible for the YLNG Logistics efficiency to ensure no production shortfalls are linked to Logistics.

b Title Section IST Security Senior Specialist Head of IST eporting to Job Grade

- **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES: (PLEASE USE ONLY ACTION VERBS)**
 - Track, Monitor, Signal all security events of IST systems
- Evaluate and assess current IST systems from Security point of view
- Define and identify all required process and procedures of security activities and review and update all YLNG IT security process and procedures.

Department | FN

IST

- Create strategies for Security risk mitigation
- Propose, implement the right Security tools, applications, systems and operate it.
- Establish and manage the required team and perform team assessments and evaluations.
- Efficiently identifies and solves Security issues.
- Conduct security audit activity on all IST systems.
- Demonstrate leadership to define requirements for security Aspects Company wide.
- Submit performance reports to internal and external entities when required.
- Ensure safe operation of IST equipment.
- Ensure all systems, networks; applications are free of any security threads.
- Follow and implement international IT security standards
- Keep tracking changes, challenges in the IT security field and reflect any changes required on YLNG network.
- Report all security events concerning YLNG networks, systems, applications on proactive way and put the right solutions on place.
- Prepare designs, solutions to meet any security threats.
- Generate performance reports, KPIs on security levels for all systems, networks and applications.
- Study new applications and end user devices security requirement and propose secured access solution.
- Manage Event logs of all systems, tracking and reporting for all networks and applications.
- Design, implement IT security measures supporting Mobility and BYOD.

 To set objectives and methods for General Services, Logistics, Stock Management, Marine teams and haise effectively with corporate departments such as Contracts and Procurement to ensure good support to site operations. To define and implement the logistics corporate and operational structures, optimize it and control its effectiveness. To anticipate and plan on long and short term plans the correct number and type of logistics resources to optimize logistics operations. To supervise the planning and implementation of computerised inventory control systems, classification of all materials in Stock in accordance with the Material Control System in use, and the presentation of reports on inventory control and management. To ensure that all inventory control activities are directed towards the optimisation of the YNLG₂s investment in stock materials and consistent with operational objectives 	 3. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: (DRAW EXAMPLES FROM KEY RESPONSBILITES) - All YLNG IT security Process and procedures are updated and published. - YLNG IT security is kept to the international acceptable standard, to be measured against the standard - YLNG systems are kept secured against all threats to be measured via the (daily, weekly , monthly IT security dashboard). - Half year audit mission to be conducted.
 4. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: (DRAW EXAMPLES FROM KEY RESPONSBILITES) Aviation and transport: Fleet utilization optimization HSE: minimize number of incidents Follow up of Log budget and contract implementation 5. FRAMEWORKS, BOUNDARIES, & DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY: Logistic contract and budget holder 	 4. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND: Qualifications: University degree (B.Sc) in Computer Science or Information Systems, IT Professional security certifications such as CISSP, CISM are strongly preferred. Certifications: any of the ISC2, CISM CISSP, Cisco CCIE, CCNP or CCSP are required Experience: 10 Years' experience in Information Systems field. With Minimum of 5 years of formal experience in IT security function.
 The logistic department in Balahf includes the management the following means of 2 fix wings aircraft, 2 helicopters, 100 light vehicles, 40 Heavy and Handling and lifting vehicles, 4 tug boats The Logistic manager is in charge of 2 warehouses, 3 fuel storage locations, a camp with all catering activities for more than 1 000 people and of the MOF 6. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND: Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Logistics discipline or equivalent 	Job Specific Skills: - The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge and should have following capabilities:: - Must have a strong track record in selecting compliance and operations solutions. - Demonstrated track record in large scale IT security operations governance, planning and monitoring. - This senior position requires a comprehensive knowledge of the information security technologies, options,
 Experience: 10 years' experience in Logistics and the administration of Logistics Contracts, with a good knowledge in Materials Management and Warehouse Administration. Has held positions requiring a high level of commitment to the safety and welfare of the workforce. Job Specific Skills: Good knowledge of CMMS System (SAP). Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English Management skills Lifting and handling basic knowledge Please visit <u>www.mphtechnicalservices.net</u> to apply & send your CV to <u>sqabban@mphglobal.net</u>) 	 security standards, understanding of security systems and services, brands and experience in working effectively with all levels of the organization. Strong technical, facilitative and collaboration skills, Must have an in-depth understanding of network security issues, security event logging / monitoring, operating systems (Windows, UNIX, and Android), Firewalls, Intrusion prevention, AV technologies, authentication mechanisms, ethical hacking tools, vulnerability assessment & scanning tools, application security assessments, incident response and knowledge of common information security management frameworks. Please visit www.mphtechnicalservices.net to apply & send your CV to sqabban@mphglobal.net)
r iease visit <u>www.anpinee.nincaiser vices.ner</u> to appry & senu your C v to <u>sqannan@mpngionar.ner</u>)	rease that <u>in a manipate contrained recounce</u> to uppy a send your of the <u>squadante input tobulance</u>)

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Report

Brothers in arms or a marriage of convenience?

Khalid Al-Karimi

efore fleeing the country for Saudi Arabia, Yemen's internationally recognized president, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, was holed up in Aden, the epicenter of a the separatist Southern Movement. His arrival in Aden following his escape from house arrest on Feb. 21, and the support he received from southern locals and politicians alike, may come as a surprise to anyone familiar with his controversial past.

As a leading military official in independent South Yemen, Hadi fled north following the 1987 civil war there and was a key player in the defeat of Ali Salim Al-Beidh's attempt to regain southern independence in 1994.

Within a year of being appointed defense minister in 1994, President Ali Abdullah Saleh promoted Hadi to vice president. In a position he would hold until Saleh's resignation in 2012, Hadi has remained closely associated with what southern separatists view as a northern occupying regime.

Hadi's endorsement of a six-region federal plan and more recent scandals have not helped relations. On Jan. 19, the Houthi-run TV channel Al-Masira broadcast a phone call between Hadi and his then chief-of-staff, Ahmed Awadh Bin Mubarak, in which Hadi dismissed the Southern Movement. "They are satisfied from within [about federalism] but they are still afraid," said Mubarak. Hadi responded, "I am a southerner and a state representative, they [the

Southern Movement] alone do not represent the south." The channel called the phone call "humiliating for the southern people."

When Hadi arrived in Aden with military-backed Houthi militias in pursuit, however, historical grievances were hastily put aside. The political climate in Yemen today necessary, and it is by no means unprecedented—something Saleh's union with the Houthis, a group he waged war with for six years, demonstrates.

But Hadi is also a southerner, just as Saleh is a Zaydi-Shia, and such alliances may also reflect strong regional ties in Yemen that are never fully severed. Indeed many in the south are keen to identify Hadi as a southerner first and foremost, making it easier to forgive his political affiliations and past actions.

"We used to view Hadi as the leader of an occupation, we know what he did in the war against the south in 1994, but he has the right to repent and return home. Lots of southerners were enthusiastic about unity, but later learned it's a mistake," said Ahmed Bamualem, a Southern Movement leader and deputy head of the National Southern Body for Liberation and Independence, a body within the movement

Hadi's arrival in Aden ushered in yet another turning point in Yemen's volatile politics and had an immediate impact on events in the south. Civil disobedience campaigns and weekly protests, a mainstay of the southern movement since it was founded in 2007, were put on hold after March 10 due to

growing instability. At the same time, tensions boiled over into violent confrontations between popular committee members and Special Security Forces (SSF) when the commander in Aden, Abdulhafez Al-Saqqaf, refused Hadi's orders to step down.

In a speech aired on Aden Live makes such an unlikely alliance TV on March 21, Hadi stressed his commitment to national unity and denied his presence in Aden signaled a move towards secession. Aden was to be a "temporary" capital. he said.

Nonetheless, he identified the southern issue as an essential component of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and said it is "key to all of Yemen's problems." While Hadi's objectives remain at odds with the aspirations of many southerners and Southern Movement leaders, he continues to receive their support as the country's legitimate president.

Khalid Bamadhaf, a Southern Movement leader in Aden, said his movement is a peaceful one and he is therefore willing to treat Hadi as the legitimate president in spite of his lack of support for southern secession. "President Hadi does not have a program to regain the southern state. He is still talking about unity and his keenness to maintain it," he said, but says supporting Hadi is an important means to undermining the Houthis and working towards southern independence.

Abdullah Rashid, a founding member of the Southern Movement, says Hadi should be supported by southerners because he is a fellow southerner and remains the legitimate president of unified



While Hadi is now receiving considerable support in the south, he has long been considered a traitor for his role in the 1994 war. At a Southern Movement rally in Aden in 2013 a man holds a sign reading: "No dialogue with killers," referring to Hadi as head of the NDC.

Yemen.

"At this particular time, the Southern Movement recognizes the importance of supporting Hadi. Questioning his legitimacy is counter-productive because it will only lead to violence in both south and north," said Rashid.

Popular committee members came to Hadi's support in his standoff with Al-Sakkaf, says Bamualem, because he is the only legitimate ruler and as such government or military officials have no right to rebel against his authority.

"The international community endorses Hadi's constitutional legitimacy, and Al-Sakkaf was supposed to commit to the presidential orders, not to receive directions from the Houthi militia," said Bamualem.

Radfan Al-Dubais, spokesperson for protesters in Aden's Al-Arood Square, claims many in his movement had earlier called on Hadi

to return south when he resigned in January and was placed under house arrest.

"The southern people will not let Hadi down, and will not allow the Houthi group to take over the south at any cost. If the Houthis step on Hadi's legitimacy, they step on both the south and north. What has happened in the north and what has happened to President Hadi has only strengthened the unity of the southern people," said Al-Dubais.

In spite of widespread opposition from many Yemenis across the country, including those opposed to Houthi rule, Hadi has found considerable support for foreign intervention in the south.

Nasser Al-Khubaji, a Southern Movement leader in Lahj, said he is supportive of Hadi's call. "The purpose of the call for military assistance is to defend the south. We need military aid and we support it. We know Hadi wants to defend his

legitimacy, and we also want to defend our land," he said.

BUSINESS FOR PEACE

AWARD

Al-Dubais agrees with Al-Khubaji, but feels the need for military intervention goes beyond the southern issue. Regardless of his group's motivations and their primary objective of protecting the south from Houthi occupation, he says military intervention is necessary for the "security and safety of the entire region."

Whatever personal ties may exist between Hadi and his fellow southerners, there is no doubting the practical wisdom of working together during this critical phase in Yemen's political transition, something not lost on either side. "Hadi is not infallible, and his mistakes should not hinder our cooperation with him. The southern people do not want to retaliate against individuals, we simply want to restore our sovereign state," said Al-Dubais.





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Riyadh's war on Yemen stokes Saudi nationalism

Madawi Al-Rasheed al-monitor.com First published March 27

ANALYSIS

he Saudi war on the Shia Houthis in Yemen and deposed President Ali Abdullah Saleh united both a competitive royal family, plagued by hidden rivalries, and a divided nation. On March 26, Saudi launched airstrikes on Yemen after obtaining the support of all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, with the exception of Oman, to back military action. Hours after the strikes, the Saudis announced that other Arab countries, including Egypt and Morocco, and Pakistan would join the military effort to halt the Houthi expansion toward Aden and return elected Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to his seat in Sana'a, now under the control of the Houthis. Washington gave its blessing and the Saudis announced that a joint operations room was set up to oversee airstrikes. Saudi Arabia is pursuing an aggressive military interventionist policy in the Arabian Peninsula. Its first attempt was in 2011, when about 1,000 troops moved into Bahrain under the umbrella of the GCC Desert Shield to support the Al-Khalifa rulers against a peaceful uprising, inspired by the wave of protests in the Arab world

In 2009, Saudi jets participated in Saleh's war against the Houthis, one of the six wars the deposed president started against his rivals in the north of the country. The Houthis retaliated and crossed Saudi borders, where they held a small village for several days. They later retreated to the safety of their mountain villages around Sa'ada. At the time, the episode was celebrated as a victory for Saleh and his backers, Saudi King Abdullah and his minister of defense, Prince Khalid Bin Sultan.

There is more to the Saudi military intervention than halting Iranian expansion at its southern border, blocking Shia Houthi empowerment or obtaining revenge against Saleh, who had been guaranteed immunity under the GCC Initiative but turned against his patrons in Riyadh and

allied himself with their archenemy in his own country to regain power in Sana'a. King Salman Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud

Salman is in charge, and his defense minister and head of the royal court, his young son Muhammad, is determined to establish Saudi Arabia as the policing agency of the Arabian Peninsula. His son, an inexperienced graduate of the local King Saud University in Riyadh, is overseeing the operations. His mother is from the strong Ajman tribe. He's a true local, untarnished by outside corrupting influences, and is presented as the new bridge with traditional constituencies in Saudi Arabia. His youth must have endeared him to his father, as the elderly tend to have a certain affinity toward their youngest child. Perhaps such fathers see in these latecomers a reminder of their virility and potency, which have gradually eroded with old age. This is not to mention the development of a special trust and affinity toward a young man, who may not be seen as being in competition with the father. Such sentiments may not be easily maintained with an eldest hawkish son with ambitions of his own. Muhammad's credentials are yet to be established in an external war that is still ambiguous, dangerous and perhaps catastrophic for both Yemen and Riyadh. Muhammad is determined to achieve military success to stand on equal footing with his uncle, Prince Muhammad Bin Naif, who established his credentials as the security man of Riyadh by fighting local terrorism and expelling terrorists to Yemen, where Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula had established its headquarters. Salman promoted his young son at the expense of more experienced individuals. For example, Oxford graduate Faisal was sent to Medina to serve as governor, while other sons were placed in charge of tourism, oil and other less spectacular government bureaus.

Like his cousin Khalid Bin Sultan, who earned the title "Desert Warrior" for his participation in the 1991 Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, Muhammad needs to earn a military title, perhaps "Destroyer of Shia Rejectionists and their Persian Backers in Yemen," to remain relevant among

more experienced and aspiring siblings and disgruntled royal cousins. Notable among this group are his older, more credentialed half-brothers. Faisal could have been appointed foreign minister, given his education in international relations and his knowledge of Saudi-Iranian relations. Yet Salman is still holding on to Saud Al-Faisal, who has been foreign minister since 1975.

Perhaps Muhammad Bin Salman is expected to deliver the heads of several Houthis, notably the sons of the scholar Badr Al-Deen Al-Houthi, who are now in charge of the rebellion. It was reported that a young Houthi son named Abdullah had already been killed during the first hours of the Saudi airstrikes. The Houthi sons are not new to assassinations, as several of their ancestors have been targeted in the past. Yet the rebellion continued, and this armed Shia-Zaydi clan did not give up its quest for power-sharing and equitable distribution of economic sources from the central Yemeni government. Their northern province remains one of the most destitute regions in a poor country. Previous Saudi airstrikes further contributed to the impoverishment of the region, and they are bound to aggravate the situation now.

Besides settling the rivalry between various royal figures with a military victory over the Houthis, the Saudi military intervention promises to unite a divided and apprehensive nation. Saudis are ideologically divided on domestic affairs and their government's counter-revolutionary tactics in the past five years. So-called liberal Saudis want the government to control conservative religious constituencies and grant them more personal freedoms, from lifting the ban on women's driving to abolishing the religious police. At the other end of the spectrum, the majority of Islamists want more Islamization, under the quest to remain faithful to the Saudi-Wahhabi pact of the 18th century, in which the Al-Saud clan swore to keep the flames of Islam ignited inside Saudi Arabia and beyond its borders. The Islamists, who have demanded more civil and political rights, an elected government in a constitutional monarchy and accountability, have been

put behind bars. There is no sign that they will be released under the Saudi monarch. Such internal divisions have persisted and even became more obvious with the mass protests sweeping the Arab world. They all, however, aspired toward defeating Iran and thwarting its expansion toward Arab lands. They were all disappointed with the unsuccessful efforts of the Saudi regime to depose Bashar Al-Assad of Syria. The Saudi regime's failure to score a victory over Iran, coupled with the US-Iranian rapprochement over Iran's nuclear program, is interpreted as a serious Saudi defeat. Hence, the war on Yemen promises to nourish an aggressive and unifying hyper-nationalism, at least in the short term. Within minutes of the Saudi airstrikes, Saudis began their usual hashtag activism under the moniker Asifat Al-Hazm (Operation Decisive Storm). Social media users expressed their support of the new young defense minister by posting photos of him conducting war efforts like a NATO general from the hightech military operations room. This was a celebration of the new king and his son, both of whom are required to persist in their unwavering efforts to thwart the Shia and Iranian expansion on the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula.

The war is seen as a revival of the Muslim duty—in particular, the Saudi duty—to purify religion from the "Majus" (a pejorative term for Persians), the Safavids and the heretic Shias. Less racist and religiously bigoted opinions invoked Arab nationalism to defend the Arab identity of Yemen. There is no room for dissenting opinions, as opponents of the war, or even those who question the war's logic, are labeled traitors against the nation and religion. Suddenly, Saudis were able to unite over a controversial intervention in a domestic Yemeni con-

flict. Saudis seemed desperate for a war with Iran, albeit through a Houthi proxy. As long as this war remains confined to Yemen's rugged mountains and destitute cities, and so long as it does not spill over to southern Saudi Arabia, Saudis are happy to witness the destruction on their screens and Twitter accounts.

The war on Yemen may well be what Saudis—both commoners and royalty have wanted for a long time. A victory over the Houthis is important for domestic reasons, not least to mend internal Saudi divides, but also to save the Saudi leadership from embarrassment over its complete failure to score victory over Iran in Syria and Iraq, and over Washington's new policy to mend its ties with Iran and possibly lift sanctions.

The orchestra is beating the drums of war but whether this war is in the interest of the warring Yemeni factions or is going to deliver peace in Yemen remains to be seen.





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