

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The situation in Yemen

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Position: President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Honourable delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's Security Council at QEGS-MUN in 2022. I hope you all thoroughly enjoy this experience, cultivate new skills, expand your knowledge and form new friendships. On behalf of the Security Council and the Secretary Generals we thank you for your wholehearted participation and await an immersive and fruitful debate on this issue.

This study guide aims to give you more of an understanding of the 'Situation in Yemen' and give ideas on possible solutions. Touching on various aspects of the issue such as an in-depth understanding of the historical background, major organisations involved and why previous attempts have been successful/unsuccessful. As well as the multiple impacts of the conflict in Yemen both internally and internationally. Thus many factors should be evaluated and looked at when approaching a solution to this issue. It is not a one-step process.

Although this study guide addresses several aspects of this issue, delegates should use multiple sources of research, this guide is just a base to help begin their research. It is strongly encouraged that they conduct their own research in relation to this topic in order to develop a deeper understanding and be astutely knowledgeable on the topic.

Should you have any questions or need any help, please feel free to contact me via the following email: 3052@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk.

I wish all of the delegates good luck at the conference and in your research!

Yours sincerely,

Lilya Tillin, Year 13

President of the Security Council

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Yemen is located in Western Asia, on the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered by Oman and Saudi Arabia. In 2014, Yemen's worsening socioeconomic, political, sectarian, and centre-periphery tensions erupted into civil war. The crisis in Yemen remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises since the escalation of conflict in March 2015. Health facilities have been left barely functioning, with both a lack of basic equipment and salaries being paid to health workers.

The country risks being entangled in the larger Sunni-Shia division as a result of regional powers like Iran and Gulf states led by Saudi Arabia intervening in Yemen's conflict. Since April 2015, a Saudi naval blockade in the Gulf of Aden has halted numerous Iranian arms shipments to Houthi militants. Iran sent its own naval convoy in response, which raises the possibility of a military confrontation between the two nations.

According to the UN, Yemen faces the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The war that has ravaged the country since 2015 has killed over 50,000 people, including many civilians, and destroyed much of the economy and essential infrastructure¹. With famine encroaching on the population and could be the world's worst in over 100 years. That is 14 million, women, men and children at risk of famine, let alone other problems such as limited sanitary supplies, and sparse gender-based violence protection. However in recent years there has been a cease-fire rare has reignited hopes for a political solution to the conflict, it is important to note that this crisis is difficult to solve due to the involvement of many different parties fighting on differing agendas, most notably Al-Qaeda, the Houthis and the Yemeni government.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Sunni Muslims

One of the two major branches of Islam, often described as orthodox, and differing from Shia in its understanding of the Sunna and in its acceptance of the first three caliphs. They focus on following the Prophet's (Mohammad's) example. They make up about 65% of the Muslim population in Yemen.

Shia Muslims

The second of the two major branches of Islam, they make up about 35% of Muslims in Yemen. They focus on following the teaching of Ali, who is a descendant of the Prophet and follow the lineage of Muhammad's family through a series of Imams. The Houthis present themselves as defenders and revivers of Shia religion and culture.²

¹ The United Nations in Yemen | The United Nations in Yemen. 2022. The United Nations in Yemen. [online] Available at: <<https://yemen.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>> [Accessed 2 September 2022].

² The Conversation. 2022. *Who are Yemen's Houthis?*. [online] Available at: <<https://theconversation.com/who-are-yemens-houthis-106423>> [Accessed 2 October 2022]. (Who are Yemen's Houthis?, 2022)

Arab Spring

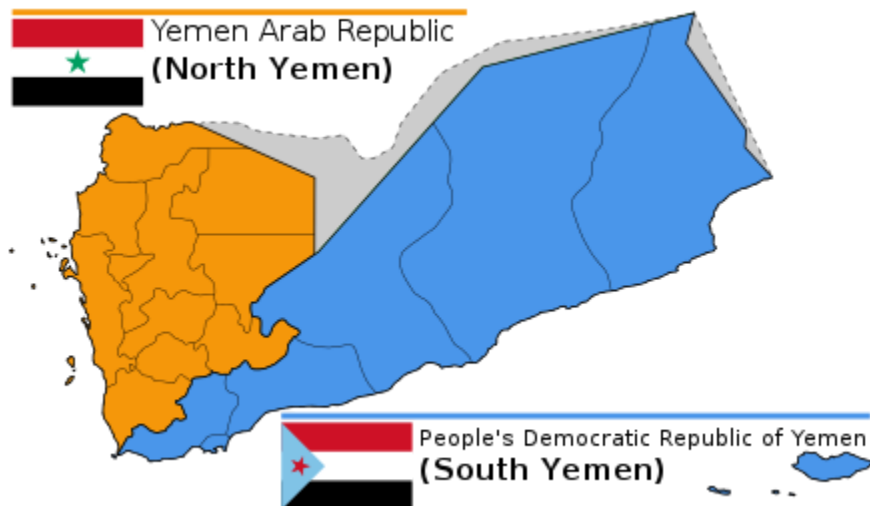
A series of anti-government uprisings in various countries in North Africa and the Middle East, beginning in Tunisia in December 2010³. Created a political and security vacuum in Yemen, which led to the full-scale conflict when the Houthis decided to storm the capital in 2015.⁴ Uprising was initially against unemployment, economic conditions and corruption.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

History of the Republic of Yemen

Yemen's early history is characterised by unrest and political instability, during the 1960s the country was split into two states: the Northern part, which was under the rule of Imam and the southern parts, which at the time was a British colony. In 1962 there was a military coup which overthrew the northern government and soon after the Yemen Arab Republic was proclaimed. However this was combined with a violent outbreak of civil unrest in which Egypt and the Soviet Union supported the revolutionaries whereas Saudi Arabia was in support of the country's royalists. In 1969 the war came to its end marking the defeat and disappearance of the royal class.

Yemen, in particular the southern port of Aden turned into an area of great strategic and geopolitical importance whilst still under British control. This was due to its location in the red sea. Following an expansion of borders in 1937 the region was flourishing on a financial level earning the title 'Aden Protectorate' on account of its increasing power.



Yemen Arab Republic and South Yemen prior to 1990

³obo. 2022. *Arab Spring*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195390155/obo-9780195390155-0131.xml>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

⁴ The Guardian. 2022. Ten years after the Arab spring, Yemen has little hope left. [online] Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/01/yemen-arab-spring-ten-years-war-cholera-coronavirus-famine>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

In the 1960s the southern part of the country went through transformation. With the establishment of the National Liberation Front (NLF) a revolution of the native Yemen population broke out against British rule. Subsequently gaining independence and losing its title as a colony, leading to the creation of the People's Republic of Yemen in 1967. They were deeply influenced by socialist ideologies (described as the only marxist state in the entire Arab world) - which was very different from neighbouring countries.

Yemen was split into two separate states up until 22 May 1990 when the two Yemens united as the Republic of Yemen with Ali Abdallah Saleh as president, this was following the collapse of the soviet bloc (they joined since the socialist attitudes of the south are no longer protected) but tensions between the former states endure. A unified parliament was formed and a unity coalition was agreed on. The position of Vice president was appointed to the former President of South Yemen, Ali Salim al-Bedidh, while at the same time a unified parliament was formed.

However, there was still a prevalent power conflict between North and South since they both claimed exclusive rule over Yemen. Strong administrative disagreements resulted in a civil war. Due to the North's military superiority it was soon evident that the south could not constructively compete for public attention. There were efforts to end the conflict via democratic means with the signing of a peace agreement in Amman, Jordan on 20th February 1994. The tension between the two sides resulted in a war of a large scale.

The May - July 1994 civil war in Yemen resulted in the defeat of the southern armed forces and the exile of many Yemeni Socialist Party leaders and southern secessionists. The July 1994 civil war in Yemen left the country financially feeble and politically but also socially divided.⁵ The Houthi insurgency began to grow shortly after in June 2004, due to the strong religious accusations targeting the country's government. One of the main political figures responsible for the nati-governmental movement was called Hussein Bradreddin al-Houthi. He was killed by Yemeni troops and one of his brothers became the new leader of the insurgency which then took his name. The rebellion continued until 2010, and during the 2011 Arab spring the Huthis used the anti government protests to exploit their cause. The pressure exerted by the rebels made President Saleh resign after a 3 decade rule. Then in February 2012 Hadi was elected the new president however the violence and the conflict triggered by the insurgency has not yet reached an end and Hadi is currently exiled.

The Deterioration of Yemen Crisis

Just four years after unification, southern separatists seceded for several months and reemerged in 2007 as the Southern Movement, which has continued to press for greater autonomy within Yemen. AQAP and the related Ansar al-Sharia insurgent group have captured territory in the south and east. The Houthi movement, whose base is among the Zaydi Shiites of northern Yemen, rose up against Saleh's government six times between 2004 and 2010.

The USA led its support to Saleh beginning in the early 2000s, when counterterrorism cooperation against al-Qaeda and affiliate groups became the USA's key regional concern. The early stages of the AQAP, conducted a suicide attack on a US Navy warship in protest of their influence in Yemen. Killing 17 US

⁵Pike, J., 2022. *Yemeni Civil War (1990-1994)*. [online] Globalsecurity.org. Available at: <<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/yemen1.htm>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

service members, this did not reduce the influence of the USA in Yemen but excavated it. The USA has provided more than \$8500 million in military aid since then.

In 2011, a popular uprising in Yemen forced its long standing authoritarian president Saleh, to hand over power to his deputy Hadi. This was due to complaints over high levels of unemployment, poor economic conditions and corruption. By the following month, some protests had resulted in violence and the demonstrations had spread across major cities. Under escalating domestic and international pressure, Saleh stepped aside in 2012 after receiving assurances of immunity from prosecution. His vice president, Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, assumed office as interim president in a transition brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a regional organisation based in Saudi Arabia, and backed by the United States. As part of the GCC's timetable for a transition, the UN-sponsored National Dialogue Conference (NDC) convened 565 delegates in 2013 to formulate a new constitution agreeable to Yemen's many factions. But the NDC ended with delegates unable to resolve disputes over the distribution of power⁶.

Several factors widened the political divisions and led to a full scale war, in particular the Houthi takeover. They had captured much of Sanaa by late 2014, by taking advantage of Hadi's weakness (he was overwhelmed by Yemen's economic problems and security problems such as attacks by jihadists). In addition, the Yemeni armed forces did not commit to loyalty to the new president.

Shia and Sunni groups of the country joined forces with the Houthis, where they entered the capital of Sanaa for what was meant to be a temporary stay. The pressure exerted on the government led the president Hadi to agree on the formation of a new government whose president would be nominated by the Houthis. In a last ditch attempt to stay in power and level with the rebel forces he promised to reduce the price of fuel, which under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, Hadi's document lifted fuel subsidies in 2014. The Houthi movement was critical of the UN intervention and demanded lower fuel prices. But as it turned out this offer of lower fuel prices was not sufficient and he was inevitably ousted. A fight between the rebels and the security forces broke out in Sana'a, resulting in the Houthis' domination. The Houthis gained control of the capital of Yemen; an incident viewed by the rebels as their greatest accomplishment and by the government as its most significant loss so far.

The Houthis champion the Zaidi Shia muslim minority and following taking control of the Saada province in the north of the country and then captured the national capital forcing President Hadi to flee abroad (Saudi Arabia) in March 2015. Military units loyal to Saleh aligned themselves with the Houthis, contributing to their battlefield success. Other militias mobilised against the Houthi-Saleh forces, aligning with those in the military who had remained loyal to the Hadi government. Southern separatists ramped up their calls for secession.

Following Hadi's exile, Riyadh (president of Saudi Arabia) launched a military campaign to roll back the Houthis and restore the Hadi administration in Yemen. Saudi Arabia feared Yemen would become a satellite of its rival, Iran. In March 2015, it and other Arab states began an air campaign aimed at ousting

⁶ Team, O., 2022. *ODS HOME PAGE*. [online] Documents-dds-ny.un.org. Available at: <<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/559/61/PDF/N1155961.pdf?OpenElement>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

the Houthis and restoring Hadi's government. The coalition received logistical and intelligence support from the US, UK and France.

Frequent clashes between the rebel groups and government forces were accompanied by a number of terrorist attacks. Western and Houthi interests in Yemen remain a feature in AQAP propaganda and are viewed by the AQAP as legitimate targets for attacks, including - but not limited to - places visited by foreigners like hotels and supermarkets, transport, oil and gas infrastructure, government buildings and Houthi gatherings. Since October 2014, there have been a number of large-scale attacks against the Houthis.

Recent events (2015-present)

At the same time, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) keeps expanding its power and influence. In contrast to the Houthis, who practise Shiite Islam, AQAP embraces Sunni Islam. Such dogmatic disagreements have been the root of the violence between the two parties, which has cost lives of people. The Yemeni problem has been greatly worsened by the involvement of foreign powers, making it much more complicated and challenging to govern. While Saudi Arabia has made plain its opposition to the organisation and frequently taken action against them, Iran looks to be a staunch supporter of the Houthi rebellion. Additionally, one of the primary participants is the USA, though they are more specifically targeting al-Qaeda. Hence the multiple drone attacks which consists a small part of what is named 'war against terrorism'.

About 35 attacks were reportedly carried out in Yemen by the US in 2016, and 130 in 2017. In order to help Saudi-led forces recapture territory from AQAP, the United States sent a small team of forces in April 2016. One American military member, three fighters thought to be linked with AQAP, and an undetermined number of Yemeni civilians were all killed during a U.S. Special Operations Forces raid in central Yemen in January 2017.

Over the past 6 months the Government of Yemen and the Houthis have been making large steps towards peace by agreeing to and renewing a nationwide truce negotiated by the UN. The UN is currently urging Yemen to extend the truces terms and duration. The truce, which first came into effect on 2 April 2022, has created the longest period of relative peace since the beginning of the war. It has delivered substantial benefits and much needed relief to the Yemeni people, including a significant reduction in violence and civilian casualties country-wide, an increase in fuel deliveries through Hudaydah port, and the resumption of international commercial flights to and from Sana'a for the first time in almost six years.

Yemen's ongoing humanitarian crisis is being made worse by the current economic crisis. By the end of 2019, the Houthi-controlled territory and the region under the control of the Saudi-backed government had split the economy into two major economic zones. In the fall of 2021, massive protests broke out in southern Yemeni cities as a result of the steep devaluation of the country's currency, especially in places under government control, which significantly decreased peoples' purchasing power and made many essentials even more out of reach. Security personnel violently put down the demonstrations.

Humanitarian Impact

With around three-quarters of its population living in poverty⁷ Yemen has long been the Arab world's poorest country, and its humanitarian crisis has been called one of the worst in the world. Disease runs rampant; suspected cholera cases reached over two hundred thousand in 2020. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is harder to assess, since there is no comprehensive caseload data. Some twelve thousand cases have been reported to the World Health Organisation, but health analysts say the actual count is likely much higher.⁸

The famine has led to acute starvation among at least 3.3 million people in Yemen. Save the Children, an NGO active in Yemen estimates that in 2017 approximately 85,000 children had died of starvation as of November 2018, with the number only rising. The problem is worsened by the intense fighting that often occurs near hospitals as well as the specific targeting on any such medical institutions. According to the WHO, at least 274 medical facilities have been damaged or destroyed, with approximately 50% of the population unable to attain access to healthcare services. Making the already dire situation even worse. The impact on infrastructure cannot be understated either. Prior to the civil war, only 10% of Yemen's roads had been paved, and that number has been on a steady decline with many paved roads being blocked or destroyed, limiting the impact of aid and making it difficult for any resources to reach the Yemen countryside. The impact can also be felt in major cities where airstrikes have limited the mobility of any emergency relief services or aid⁹.

The UN has proposed that the port of Al Hudaydah be placed in the hands of a neutral party so as to ensure that the much-needed aid can at least reach Yemen. This has led to the first direct talks between the Yemeni government and the Houthis since 2016. The conference is being held in Sweden and has already resulted in a deal for prisoner swapping. The talks are now focused on the control of the city of Al Hudaydah and Taiz, Yemen's third largest city, and it remains to be seen what the outcome of these talks will be.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Iran

Iran is considered to be the Houthis' primary supporter on an international level and their greatest financial and military resource. Hadi's governments accused Hezbollah, which is an Iranian ally, of joining the Houthis. The strong ties that have been developed between the rebels and the Iranian government are a product of similar geopolitical goals that the two sides share. More specifically, Iran questions Saudi and U.S. dominance of the region and the Houthis seek to challenge Hadi's government which has always been backed by Saudi Arabia and the United States. On that basis it is clear that Houthis's alliance with Iran stems from a mutual opposition to Saudi Arabia's and US's involvement in

⁷ The World Bank 2022. *The World Bank In Yemen*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/yemen/overview>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

⁸ Covid19.who.int. 2022. *Yemen: WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard With Vaccination Data*. [online] Available at: <<https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/ye>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

⁹ (UN Human Rights In Yemen, 2022) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/yemen/our-presence>

the issue, this has led Saudi Arabia to perceive the Houthis as an Iranian proxy rather than an indigenous movement, that has driven its military intervention.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has been the largest supporter of the former Yemeni government, in particular Hadisi governments, so in 2015 they cobbled together a coalition of Sunni majority Arab states; Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan and the UAE. Their (Houthis) insurgency is seen as a major threat to the oil-rich kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in addition to the fact that Saudi Arabia is a primarily Sunni country and so the establishment of a Shia Muslim country ruled by the Houthis on its southern border is far from ideal and in some respects is considered threatening. Following nearly month-long airstrikes the Saudi government announced in April 2015 that it would halt its attacks. Though this was not indefinite, the Saudi-led coalition carried out more air raids in 2015 than any other year. Its main goal is to push the Houthis out of Sanaa, restore President Hadi and prevent the rise of a Hezbollah-like group with strong ties to Iran on its southern border.

USA

Over the past decade the USA has become more present in Yemen and has become more evident on account of the multiple US interests in the region.

Firstly Yemen is seen to be one of the key countries in regard to the safe transportation of oil from the Arabian Peninsula and its neighbouring country to Saudi Arabia which is a crucial producer and provider of oil. President Joe Biden said he would end U.S. support for the coalition's military offensive, including the sale of weapons, and signalled a shift to diplomacy by appointing a special envoy to Yemen. However, U.S. defence contractors continue to oversee Saudi aircraft that carry out offensive operations, and the administration has approved the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia for defence purposes. Shortly after taking office, Biden reversed the Trump administration's last-minute designation of the Houthis as a terrorist group, citing the move's potential damage to aid deliveries in Yemen.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

A Sunni extremist group based in Yemen that has launched numerous high-profile terrorist attacks. They merged in January 2009 following an announcement that Yemeni and Saudi terrorists were unifying under the same banner. They aim to replace secular 'apostate' governments that have western influence with fundamentalist Islamic regimes. Targeting local, US and western interests in the Arabian Peninsula. They have an expanding influence in southern and central provinces, clashing with the Houthis due to dichotomous religious ideals. They are fighting against both the Houthis, the government forces and American anti-terrorism troops which are currently based in the country.

United Arab Emirates

The UAE joined the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen in support of the Hadi Government of Yemen. It gave full support as part of the coalition and has a different goal than Saudi Arabia in the Yemen war. The Houthis attacked the UAE back in 2018 as UAE-backed forces were fighting the Houthis for control of

the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah. The UAE has significantly reduced its military presence in Yemen since 2019¹⁰, but it still projects power via large local forces that it has built and armed.

Houthis

The Houthis constitute a Yemeni militant movement stemming from the country's impoverished north-western region. Often characterised as Ansar Allah, or "Partisans of God", the Houthis adhere to a branch of Shia Islam known as Zaidism and fight for the protection of their religious and cultural beliefs. The group is responsible for the insurgency which emerged in 2004 and was led by the leader and founder of the movement, Hussein al-Houthi.

They became politically active after 2003, opposing Saleh for backing the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq but later allying with him after his resignation as president. This alliance was a tactical one: Saleh's loyalists opposed Hadi's UN-backed government and, feeling marginalised in the transition process, sought to regain a leading role in Yemen. Saleh won the allegiance of some members of Yemen's security forces, tribal networks, and political establishment. But in 2017, after Saleh shifted his support to the Saudi-led coalition, he was killed by Houthi forces.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of Event	Description of event
1800s	Yemen was divided between the British and the Ottomans in the mid-19th century.
1918	The Turks were expelled from the north, and Northern Yemen was declared an independent sovereign State.
1926	The Zaydi Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen was established, winning international recognition such as with the Kingdom of Italy, shown via the Italo-Yemeni Treaty.
1962	A military coup occurs and the existing northern government is overthrown; the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) is proclaimed. This fighting sparked the North Yemen Civil War and created a new front in the Arab Cold war in which Egypt assisted the YAR whilst Saudi Arabia and Jordan supported Badr's Royalist forces
1967	British withdraw forced from Aden; establishment of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen
1970	Marxist movement gains power in southern Yemen; and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is established
1990	Ali Abdullah Saleh transitioned from the president of North Yemen to the president of the Republic of Yemen and the southern socialist Yemeni president became vice president. Unification of Yemen and the
1993	First free elections.
1994	Civil war breaks out between the northern and southern parts of Yemen; the northern forces take control of the southern capital, Aden
2002	The US launches the first drone attack against Yemeni extremists (youths etc.)
June 2004	The Houthi insurgency begins in the Northern part of the country; Hussein al-Houthi himself is killed in battle.

¹⁰ Aljazeera.com. 2022. *Why did the Houthis attack the UAE? Everything you need to know.* [online] Available at: <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/31/explainer-a-simple-guide-to-the-uae-houthi-escalation>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

	Hundreds died as troops battled a Shia insurgency led by the Houthis.
2005	More than 200 people are killed in a resurgence of fighting between government forces and supporters of the slain rebel cleric Hussein al-Houthi. Ceasefire agreement is reached between the Houthis and the government; there are a few clashes between the rebel forces and the covert for the next five years but not on such a large scale as 2004.
2007	Fighting resumes between the government and the rebels, though rebel leader Abdul-Malkik al-Houthi accepts a ceasefire in the summer.
2008	Al-Qaeda attack on US embassy in Sanaa, killing 12 people.
2009	Founding of the 'al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula' AQAP. Yemeni army launches a fresh offensive against Houthi rebels in the northern Saada province - tens of thousands of people are displaced by the fighting.
2010	Ceasefire agreement is short lived, with fighting resuming between the government and the Houthi rebels resulting in the death of 3000 people. Shia rebels accuse Saudi Arabia of providing support to Salafi groups (reform branch of Sunni Muslims) to suppress Shia Islam in Yemen.
2011	Arab Spring protests occur in the capital of Sana'a. US drone attacks grew significantly in intensity and frequency; President Saleh promised to hand over power to his deputy Adrabbuh Mansour Hadi - A unity government was formed later that year.
2012	Ex-President Saleh flees the country and Deputy President Hadi is appointed as president. Hadi is unable to counter al-Qaeda attacks in the capital as the year goes on, one attack on the presidential palace kills more than 100 people. The USA continued to launch drone attacks against the AQAP and later in the year the government took control of numerous AQAP strongholds.
2013	Opening of the UN-sponsored National Dialogue conference in order to formulate a new constitution agreeable to Yemen's many factions; heavy fighting continues between governor forces and the AQAP. (they were ultimately unable to resolve disputes on the distribution of power)
2014	The Houthis take over Amran, a city 45 miles north of the capital Sana'a; the UN attempts to broker talks between the government and the rebels in order to sign a peace agreement; Houthi rebels gain control over the capital Sana'a.
2015	At Hadi's request, Saudi Arabia created a coalition of Sunni majority Arab states - known as the Coalition.
2017	Creation of the Group of Eminent Experts ¹¹ on Yemen created in order to conduct comprehensive examinations of all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and other appropriate and applicable fields of international law committed by all parties to the conflict since September 2014, including the possible gender dimensions of such violations ¹² .
2018	UN-led talks resulted in a ceasefire agreement for the Hudaydah port in December 2018, which gave new impetus to end the crisis in Yemen and ignited a sense of hope in alleviating the humanitarian crisis.

¹¹ Reliefweb 2022. *Group Of Eminent Experts*. [online] Available at: <<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/un-group-eminent-international-and-regional-experts-yemen-presents-its-fourth-report>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

¹² 2022. [online] Available at: <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/10/statement-group-experts-yemen-hrc-rejection-resolution-renew-their-mandate>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

	UN collaborated with 254 The coalition launches air campaigns(killing thousands of civilians) against the Houthi with the aim of reinstating Hadi's government.
2020	UNDAF extended In April the first case of COVID-19 occurred in Yemen. The UN announced that the Iran-backed Houthi Rebels and the Hadi government supported by the Saudi-led military coalition, agreed to exchange 1,081 prisoners related to the conflict. - The prisoner swap deal was done by the UN during 2018 peace talks in Sweden and both parties agreed on several measures including a cease fire in the strategic port of Hodeida.
2021	USA designate the Houthis a terrorist organisation, creating fears of an aid shortage in Yemen - Houthis launch another offensive on Marib Governorate in late February. According to the International Organisation for Migration over 140,000 displaced refugees from western Marib fled fearing the Houthis' advance. - This is Yemen's last stronghold in the north and the centre of an oil rich and prosperous province.
2022	The war saw the deadliest month(January) since 2018, with a total of 599 civilians killed or wounded and there were 43 coalition airstrikes on civilian targets. Houthis fired rockets at the UAE, but the UAE and US military intercepted them. Nationwide truce in Yemen. ¹³

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

In April 2011, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in an attempt to mediate the crisis in Yemen, proposed the GCC Initiative, an agreement in which the president would step down in exchange for immunity from prosecution. SALIH's refusal to sign an agreement led to further violence. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 2014 in October 2011 calling for an end to the violence and completing a power transfer deal. In November 2011, SALIH signed the GCC initiative to step down and to transfer some of his powers to Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur HADI. Following HADI's uncontested election victory in February 2012, SALIH formally transferred all presidential powers. In accordance with the GCC Initiative, Yemen launched a National Dialogue Conference (NDC) in March 2013 to discuss key constitutional, political, and social issues. HADI concluded the NDC in January 2014 and planned to begin implementing subsequent steps in the transition process, including constitutional drafting, a constitutional referendum, and national elections. Its aim was to suggest ways to improve Yemen's economy, eliminate corruption, deal with the rebel groups and recommend provision for a new constitution. Though the conference did not have anticipated results and ended several months' behind schedule with little success. Nevertheless, there were some important decisions reached such as to found an anti-corruption board, bring an end to childhood marriage, take measures for the empowerment of women, establish a federal system of government, and make efforts to minimise the marginalisation of

¹³ 2022. [online] Available at:

<<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-09-30/statement-the-secretary-general-the-nationwide-truce-yemen>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

the southern population. Responding to that conference, there was a plan laid out by a presidential committee in February for Yemen to become a federation of six regions.

On April 21st 2015, Operation Decisive Storm was brought to its end - the coalition in line with the USA then decided on a political rather than a military/aggressive approach to the Yemen crisis, donned the name Operation Restoring Hope. Though this mainly concentrates on peace talks, the coalition did not exclude the change of new military intervention if rebels became threats to allies and civilians. The latter was lived up to in the following years with the coalition launching hundreds of drone strikes each year since.¹⁴

Currently the UN provides humanitarian assistance on the ground in Yemen, though this is only on a small scale and will become less effective as the war continues. With more people affected each day of the conflict more are struck with epidemics of diseases such as malaria and hepatitis A. Here are some of the things that the UN and their partners currently provide:

- Each month, the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) distributes 100,000 metric tons of food commodities at more than 5,000 points, reaching more than 8 million Yemenis
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have reached more than 300,000 people with cholera vaccines
- The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has provided sexual and reproductive health services to 250,000 girls and women.
- The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) works closely with the government and humanitarian partners at all levels to enhance coordination

In 2018 there was a meeting between 254 humanitarian partners and the UN to agree on priorities and a coherent strategy to meet the needs of 13 million people in 2018.¹⁵

UN Involvement: Resolutions, Treaties and Events

In early April 2022, a two-month truce mediated by the United Nations between the Houthis and the internationally recognized government took effect in Yemen. The parties have repeatedly extended the truce, and though it has been violated on some occasions,¹⁶ they have committed to continuing negotiations toward an expanded, long-term agreement. The UN especially the security council has made some efforts to stabilise the situation in Yemen: Below are some key Security Council resolutions concentration on the Yemen Crisis:

¹⁴ Carboni, A., 2022. *Special Focus on Coalition Forces in the Middle East: The Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen*. [online] ACLED. Available at:

<<https://acleddata.com/2018/07/31/special-focus-on-coalition-forces-in-the-middle-east-the-saudi-led-coalition-in-yemen/>> [Accessed 2 October 2022].

¹⁵ (Humanitarian Response in Yemen | unfoundation.org, 2022)

<https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/peace-human-rights-and-humanitarian-response/humanitarian-response-in-yemen/>

¹⁶ (Yemen Truce Monitor, 2022) <https://acleddata.com/middle-east/yemen/yemen-truce-monitor/>

- *Security Council resolution 2014 (21 October 2011)* Approved the Gulf Cooperation Council's initiative for a peaceful transition of power according to which President Saleh promised to hand over his position to his deputy Adnani Mansour Hadi.
- *Security Council resolution 2140 (26 February 2014)* The resolution endorsed the next steps of the political transition and imposed sanctions on those considered to pose a threat for the peace, security or stability of Yemen.
- *Security Council resolution 2201 (15 February 2015)* Strongly disapproved of the Houthis' decision to dissolve parliament and expressed its opposition to the capture of government institutions by the rebels. Furthermore, it called upon the two rival sides to negotiate in order to bring an end to the political impasse.
- *Security Council resolution 2216 (14 April 2015)* Demanded the Houthis to withdraw from all seized areas and to relinquish seized arms and establish an arms embargo on the Houthis and forces loyal to the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.
- *Security Council resolution (19 January 2019)* This established the UN mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) for an initial period of 6 months.
- *Security Council resolution (26 February 2019)* Renewed the mandate of the committee's Panel of Experts.
- *Security Council resolution (28 February 2022)* Renewed Yemen sanctions regime for one year and added Houthis as an entity to the Yemen sanctions list, subject to the measures of the targeted arms embargo in resolution 2216.

These resolutions are not the only form of intervention; the UN has listed multiple organisations and other committees to pass various resolutions regarding Yemen's economic situation alone, political instability and most importantly its dire humanitarian situation. This website provides a collection of all the resolutions and reports introduced for combating the situation in Yemen:

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/yemen/>¹⁷

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Long Term Humanitarian Assistance

Observers worry that friction among regional actors including Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE is prolonging the war. This prolonging of the war is causing detrimental humanitarian issues thus it is essential for the UN to try and alleviate people's suffering. Delivering strategic medical and financial assistance, which is not limited to supplies but also includes doctors, relief workers and the establishment of temporary hospitals. As well as the provision of food and water supplies is crucial to combating the issue. Delegates must make decisions on how these steps will be carried out and decided by the member states.

The security council is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security, since the Yemen crisis can be and is a threat to international peace there is a requirement for the Security Council to intervene - the involvement of neighbouring states and the uses of foreign weaponry in

¹⁷ (UN Documents for Yemen, 2022) <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/yemen/>

the war means that there should be a control who is selling weapons and who is buying them. This mandate should stunt the power of the Houthis.¹⁸

Reducing Arms Dealing

Not only does Yemen face a humanitarian crisis but politically and economically the country is in a very volatile position. With the increased foreign intervention, there is a rising fear that the currently civil conflict may transform into a detrimental sectarian war involving terrorist organisations, neighbouring countries and even the US. With countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE contributing 10 thousand troops to Yemen's south, and US-made weapons were used in coalition air campaigns (Saudi Arabia armed with US-made bombs and British made fighter jets attacking civilian areas and without any success in recapturing the capital Sanaa, hence meaning that the 60,000 plus deaths are in fact, arbitrary) led to the USA and other Western powers to limit some weapons sales and refuelling of coalition aircraft. With President Donald Trump vetoing bills that would have halted arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the fact that this is not controlled and there is a high risk of western made weapons falling into the hands of organisers such as AQAP and Houthi fighters.

Political Stability

The main goal should be to establish political stability alongside ending the civil unrest and the hostility toward the civil population, as well as the terrorist activity in the area - in order to achieve successful financial and humanitarian relief. Especially since Yemen is in a position of relative calm due to the UN negotiated truce it is key that all leaders involved should prioritise the needs of the Yemeni people and in the national interest of Yemen, to pave the way for a stable future. Rather than regress into constant fighting.

¹⁸ (UN Human Rights In Yemen, 2022) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/yemen/our-presence>

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