

### **Yemen Crisis Timeline**

- The current civil war in Yemen reflects an outgrowth of the Shiite-Sunni rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia, but it is not purely about regional interests. The war is also a continuation of a long-standing conflict between the Yemeni government and marginalized northern tribes.
- The modern state of the Yemen Arab Republic, or North Yemen, was born in 1962. North and South Yemen unified in 1990, but discrimination against the northern tribes gave rise to a protest movement in the north, led in part by the prominent Houthi family.
- In 2004, during early clashes between the northern tribes and the government, the Yemeni military killed Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, one of the leaders of the protest movement. His death marked the beginning of the northern tribes' armed insurgency and gave the rebels their name.
- Beginning in 2009, extremists, including al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), emerged to take advantage of the chaos in Yemen. The U.S. has periodically conducted airstrikes against AQAP and more recently, ISIS.
- Yemen fell into chaos following its 2011 Arab Spring uprising that removed longtime autocrat Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saleh agreed to step down and be replaced by his vice president Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.
- In February 2012, Hadi was inaugurated as president after uncontested elections and recognized internationally as Yemen's legitimate ruler. In 2014, a ten-month national dialogue concluded with a new constitution.
- The Houthi opposition rejected the deal. In September 2014, Houthi forces captured the capital Sanaa. In early 2015, they dissolved parliament, forced President Hadi to resign, and replaced his government with a presidential council. Former President Saleh is now allied with the Houthi rebels fighting his successor.
- In February 2015, Hadi fled Sanaa for Aden in southern Yemen. In March, he fled to Saudi Arabia and asked Riyadh to intervene in his country's civil war.
- Riyadh agreed. Ever since Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932, its leaders have worried about the security of the country's southern border with Yemen. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia put together a regional coalition and began launching airstrikes against Houthi targets while imposing a naval blockade on Yemen.
- On the other side, the Houthi rebels have received weapons, finance, and military advice from Iran.
- In April 2016, U.N.-sponsored talks began between the Hadi government on one side and the Houthis and former President Saleh on the other side.

- The U.N. peace talks collapsed in July 2016, triggering an escalation in the fighting that has resulted in a dramatic rise in the number of civilian casualties.
- In January 2017, a U.S. raid killed several suspected Al-Qaeda militants and civilians in America's first military action in Yemen under President Donald Trump.
- In May 2017, the Houthis continued firing missiles into Saudi Arabia, claiming to have fired one at Riyadh.
- On November 4, 2017, the Houthis fired a ballistic missile at Riyadh, which intercepted the launch using the U.S.-made Patriot missile defense system. President Trump lauded the prowess of U.S. military equipment after the interception.
- In response to the Houthi missile strike, the Saudi-led coalition closed off all air, sea, and ground ports in Yemen, effectively sealing off the country and making it even more difficult for international relief agencies to deliver aid.
- The civil war has resulted in the world's worst humanitarian crisis.
  - Since the war began, [more than 10,000](#) Yemenis have been killed, over than 3 million have been [displaced](#), and [17 million](#) are food insecure.
  - [Eighty percent](#) of Yemen's population of 28 million now requires humanitarian assistance.
  - Since March 2015, over 1,000 children have been killed and some 1,600 have been injured. [Two million](#) of them are acutely malnourished and at grave risk of dying.
  - [More than 55 percent](#) of Yemen's health facilities are closed or only partially functional, and some [15 million](#) people do not have access to basic health care. Approximately 14.5 million do not have safe water and sanitation services.
  - Since April 2017, an outbreak of cholera has killed 2,100 and affected almost 900,000 others.

Sources:

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