

## EGMUN 2015 - Agenda Report

*“Ensuring the completion of unbiased elections in Yemen in the near future.”*

### Introduction

This topic deals with the compromised situation in Yemen. The country has descended into conflicts between several different groups, the main fight is between forces loyal to the President, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, and those allied to Zaidi Shia rebels known as Houthis, who forced President Hadi to flee the capital Sanaa in February. Yemen's security forces have split loyalties, with some units backing President Hadi, and others the Houthis and President Hadi's predecessor Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has remained politically influential. Hadi is also supported in the predominantly Sunni south of the country by militia known as Popular Resistance Committees and local tribesmen. The Houthis are minority Shia muslims from the north, and their declaration has not been recognised by the Sunni tribesmen and southern leaders, threatening Yemen with a further descent into chaos. After months of tightening their hold, the Houthis have formally seized power. In January, the group said it would dissolve parliament and announced plans for a new temporary assembly and five-member presidential council, which would rule for up to two years. The move filled a political vacuum which had existed since President Hadi, the prime minister and cabinet resigned earlier that month after the Houthis placed President Hadi under house arrest and detained other leading figures.

The picture is even further complicated by the emergence in late 2014 of a Yemen affiliate of the terrorist group Islamic State, which seeks to eclipse AQAP. The acute situation created by the cumulation of the aforementioned factors stresses the need of a democratic election in the near future and a social, religious and economic stabilization of the country. President Hadi is recognised as Yemen's legitimate leader by the international community.

### History

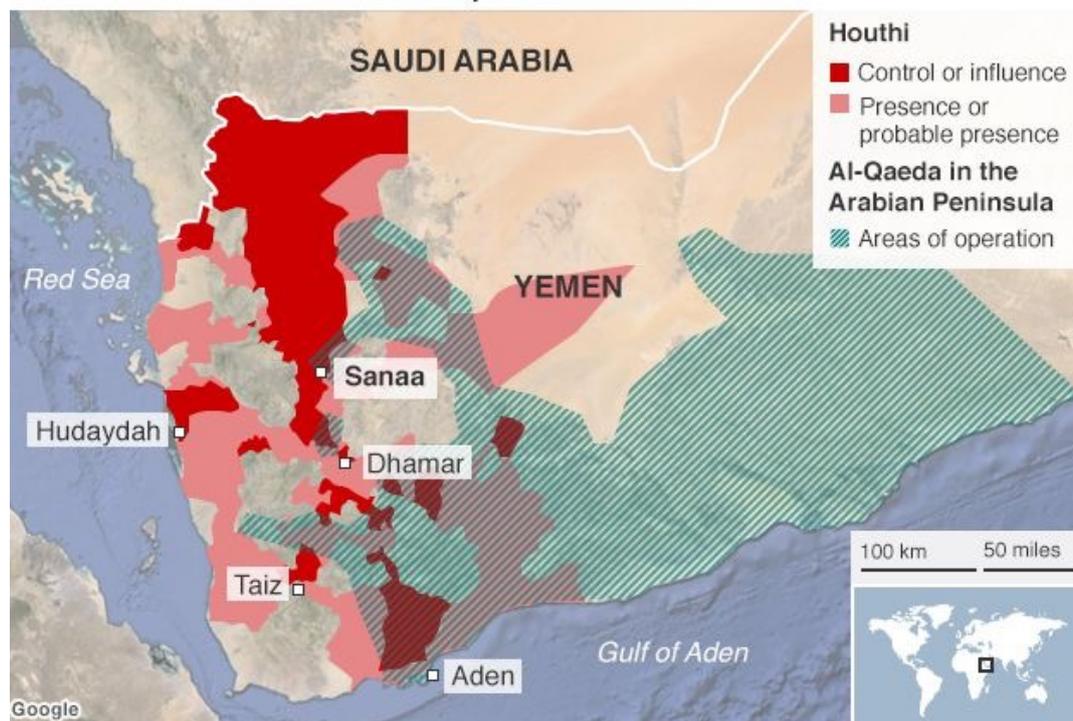
The violent conflicts that Yemen has seen in recent years are largely caused by underlying problems of unequal access to power and resources. There have been six rounds of fighting between the state and the Houthis in the north; separatist unrest in the south; frequent attacks by AQAP; and power struggles between tribal and military factions.

For much of the 20th Century, Yemen existed as two separate countries - the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) in the north and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in the south. In 1990, the countries chose to unify and create the Republic of Yemen. However, southerners soon began complaining of political and economic marginalisation by the government in Sanaa, and fought a civil war in 1994 in a failed attempt to reverse the unification.

Instability and large-scale displacement, as well as weak governance, corruption, resource depletion and poor infrastructure, have hindered development in the poorest country in the Middle East.

Unemployment, high food prices and limited social services mean more than 10 million Yemenis are believed to be food insecure.

### Houthi and Al-Qaeda areas: 1 April 2015



Source: American Enterprise Institute, News reports

BBC

Important Member States: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Yemen, Sultanate of Oman

Links for further Research

BBC: Who is in charge in Yemen? explained in 90 seconds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eRrZRK3njc>

EGMUN 2015

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)  
Caroline H. Rasmussen (MC) & Christian M. Høeg (DC)

18th-22nd of November

BBC: Why is Saudi Arabia getting involved in Yemen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5mHBD9JpL4>

The Economist Intelligence Unit: <http://country.eiu.com/yemen>