

YEMEN CRISIS HORIZON (16 - 22 May 2022)

KEY EVENTS

1 Yemen: Sanaa Airport's First Commercial Flight Takes Off In 6 Years

2022-05-17 The first commercial flight took off yesterday from Yemen's Sanaa International Airport after a hiatus of nearly six years due to a blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition. The breakthrough comes as a relief for Yemenis, especially those requiring urgent medical attention amid the seven-year conflict which has claimed the lives of nearly 400,000 people. After touching down in Sanaa from the southern port city of Aden, the Yemenia flight carrying 126 passengers, including patients in need of treatment abroad, took off from the country's primary international airport to Jordan's Queen Alia International Airport in Amman.

[MIDDLE EAST MONITOR](#)

2 UN Envoy: Talks On Now To Extend Yemen's 2-Month Cease-Fire

2022-05-17 With just two weeks left in a two-month cease-fire in Yemen, the U.N. envoy to the war-torn country said Tuesday that talks with the government and Houthi rebels are going on right now and he hopes the truce will be extended. "During these past six weeks we have seen considerable positive impact on the daily lives of many Yemenis," he told reporters after a closed briefing to the U.N. Security Council. "First, and most importantly, the truce is holding in military terms." [WASHINGTON POST](#)

3 Yemen's Houthi Rebels Consider Extending Truce

2022-05-18 Yemen's Houthi rebels said on Wednesday they are considering renewing a United Nations-brokered truce with the government which expires in two weeks. The Houthis "Supreme Political Council will consider the request for an extension of the truce, which ends on June 2," the rebels' Saba news agency said. [ALARABY](#)

4 Army Spokesperson: The Houthi Militia Has Committed More Than 4,276 Violations Of The Armistice Since Its Entry Into Force

2022-05-22 "The militia committed 4,276 violations since the beginning of the UN truce (early April) until yesterday, Saturday (May 21)," according to the state-run Saba News Agency. Majali pointed out that the Houthi violations included "all fronts and axes of fighting in the governorates of Ma'rib, Taiz, Al-Jawf, Hajjah, Al-Dhalea, Saada and Al-Hodeidah." He explained that the militia's violations "varied in creating barricades and trenches and targeting the army's positions with artillery, medium weapons and different calibers, in addition to targeting the army forces' positions with explosive drones carrying missiles and bombs, as well as the deployment of snipers, and infiltration attempts," noting that "the Houthi militia continues to send in reinforcements." military to the various lines of contact. [ALMASDARONLINE](#)

5 Yemen's Food Basket Jumps By 85%, Govt Considers S. American Alternative

2022-05-21 A food security analysis prepared by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network said the cost of the most basic food basket in Yemen has increased significantly by 12% since March, up 85% than a year before. Yemen imports about 46% of wheat from Russia and Ukraine. Yemen's Ministry of Industry and Trade said it is looking for alternative markets to buy wheat from South America and Asia in order to cover the disruption to global wheat supplies generated by the fallout from the conflict in Ukraine.

[ASHARQ AL-AWSAT ENGLISH](#)

6 Saudi Arabia Extends 2018 Deposit At Yemen Central Bank, Pays Final Installment

2022-05-16 Saudi Arabia on Monday extended a deposit it gave the central bank of Yemen's legitimate government in 2018, and agreed to pay the final installment of the promised \$2 billion, the central bank and Saudi ambassador to Yemen said. [ASHARQ AL-AWSAT ENGLISH](#)

7 Yemen Gov Urges US To Push Houthis On Taiz Siege

2022-05-20 The US was urged by Yemen's internationally-recognised government to push the Houthi rebels toward ending their years-long siege of the country's third city of Taiz. Yemeni Foreign Minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak spoke with his US counterpart, Antony Blinken, in a video-recorded session on Tuesday ahead of a meeting between the two. [ALARABY](#)

8 Britain Slashes Humanitarian Aid By 51% Despite Global Food Crisis

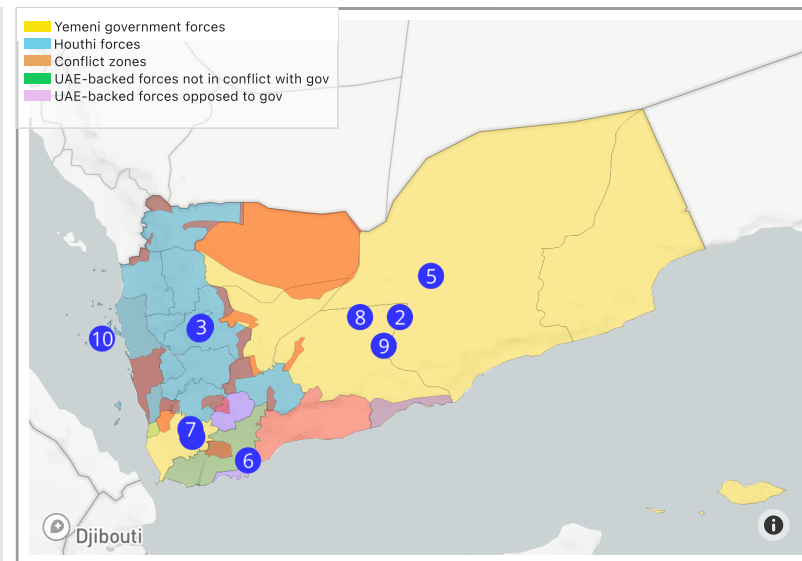
2022-05-22 The UN has warned the Ukraine crisis risks tipping 1.7 billion people – one-fifth of the global population – into poverty, destitution and hunger. Western officials reportedly fear that Vladimir Putin is "weaponising" global food supplies. Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports. UK direct humanitarian aid to foreign countries was £744m last year, compared with £1.53bn in 2020, a cut of 51%, according to the most recent provisional UK aid figures. UK official development assistance was nearly £11.5bn last year, compared with £14.48bn in 2020, a fall of 21%. One of the largest global humanitarian crises is in Yemen, devastated by eight years of civil war. About 24 million people need help, including nearly 13 million children. UK aid to Yemen fell from £221m 2020/21 to £82m in 2021/22, a cut of 63%. [THE GUARDIAN](#)

9 Disabilities 'Skyrocketing' In War-Torn Yemen: Aid Group

2022-05-22 The United Nations estimates that around 4.8 million people suffer from at least one disability in Yemen out of a population of 30 million, up from around three million before the war - though the numbers are impossible to verify due to a lack of official data. [ALARABY](#)

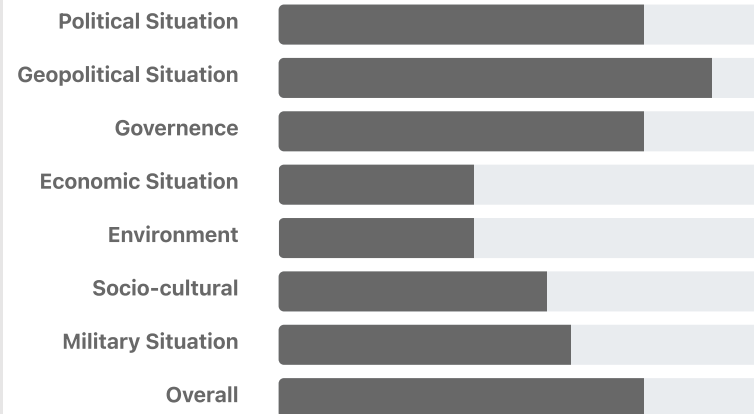
10 UKMTO: Ship Attacked Off Yemen's Hodeidah

2022-05-19 A shipping vessel has been attacked 34 nautical miles (63 km) south west of Yemen's Hodeidah, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO) reported on its website on Thursday, adding that an investigation is ongoing. [ASHARQ AL-AWSAT ENGLISH](#)



AI Powered Crisis Situation

This product is prepared by a group of subject matter experts using a number of open sources with a hybrid methodology that merges both traditional methods and AI-powered, data-driven approaches.



ASSESSMENT

As the time to end 2 months-truce comes close to end, the Houthi sounding of will to extend it for another two months and UN Special Envoy's statements that he is in contact with the sides to ascertain an extension is certainly good news. The respite coming with the truce has brought and will bring respite to the people of the war-torn country. The first flight from Sana'a Airport that became possible after 6 years also strengthened hopes for a lasting peace.

The Legitimate Government's Army Spokesperson this week said the Houthi militia has committed more than 4,276 violations of the armistice since the truce entered into force. He said those violations included "creating barricades and trenches and targeting the army's positions with artillery, medium weapons and different calibers, in addition to targeting the army forces' positions with explosive drones carrying missiles and bombs, as well as the deployment of snipers, and infiltration attempts," and noted that "the Houthi militia continued to send in reinforcements."

A balanced view on these recent developments can be summarized under two rubrics as follows:

1. The seven years of war in Yemen and resilience of the violence against all initiatives towards peace testifies for Houthi maximalist approach in the group's bid to exert control over the country. In the time passed, the group's main reference point to guide its moves has been power balance, in a way defying principles of negotiations and diplomatic solutions. The fact that there has been no viable force within country to militarily defeat the insurgent group has prolonged the war. With the forces of the both sides standing at a balance not winning over the other side and with the Houthis' extremely poor record of commitment to diplomatic processes and abiding by resolutions, the two avenues, diplomatic and military, have yielded only meagre results. The latest respect of the group to the UN-brokered truce and its further willingness to extend it for another two months, we assess, comes from operational necessities to re-group and prepare for continuation of military campaigns in Marib and Taiz.

2. The UN Special Envoy Grundberg's Framework "for an inclusive political process", the intra-Coalition agreement to finish the war and exit from Yemen has resulted in drastic changes in the Yemeni theater. The Presidential Council comprised of of eight influential personalities with former military / security backgrounds, in fact, has become a game changer by creating a credible form of government to lead peace / war efforts.

The next moves of the presidential council will be decisive in the coming weeks if not days. The Houthis will follow the precautions taken by the council to guard especially Marib and the cohesion among its members. If or when the group sees an opportunity to seize Marib, it will likely not hesitate to take military action and then possibly sit on the negotiation table from a strong point. In any case, the Houthis will regroup their forces and calibrate strategy to defend the so far claimed territories.

The center of gravity in the next phase will be the cohesion and unity within the presidential council. The personalities brought together have political orientations that goes against the aims of the council. For example, Aidarous Zubaidi is for a free South, considering himself its first president. If the eight members of the presidential council cannot bury their hatchets until forcing Houthis in a setting that will bring lasting peace, this will create discord in action and decisions. Let's hope the council raises to the challenge of mobilizing Yemenis, its forces, and allies to create a framework for lasting peace. (Map Source: Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, December 2019)