**Name:** Houthis

**Type of Organization:**
- Insurgent
- religious
- social services provider
- territory-controlling
- violent

**Ideologies and Affiliations:**
- Arab nationalist
- jihadist
- Islamist
- Shiite
- Zaidi

**Place of Origin:**
Saada, Yemen

**Year of Origin:**
1990s (as the Believing Youth movement); renamed the Houthi rebel movement in 2004

**Founder(s):**
Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi

**Places of Operation:**
Yemen

**Overview**

**Also Known As:**
- Al-Houthis¹
- Al-Shabaab al-Mu’minin²
- Ansarallah³
- Ansar Allah⁴
- Ansarullah⁵
- Ash-Shabab al-Mu’min⁶
- Believing Youth⁷
- Believing Youth Forum⁸
- Houthi Movement⁹
- Huthis¹⁰
- Partisans of God¹¹
- Shabaab al-Mumanin¹²
- Supporters of God¹³

**Executive Summary:**

The Houthis—officially known as Ansar Allah (Partisans of God)—are an Iranian-backed, Shiite Muslim military and political movement in Yemen.¹⁴ Its members, who subscribe to the minority Zaidi sect of Shiite Islam, advocate regional autonomy for Zaidis in northern Yemen. The group has waged a series of bloody insurgencies against the Yemeni government since 2004, overthrowing them and seizing power in Sanaa in 2015.¹⁵ In 2016, the group announced the formation of a government.¹⁶

The Houthi movement began as an effort to maintain tribal autonomy in northern Yemen and protest Western influence in the Middle East. Today, the Houthis seek a greater role in the Yemeni government and continue to advocate Zaidi minority
The Houthis have received training and military equipment from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). According to the Saudi ambassador to the United States, the “first thing the Houthis did when they entered and occupied Sanaa was to free Iranian Revolutionary Guards operatives and Hezbollah operatives from the jails.” The Iranian ship Jihan I was seized allegedly en route to Yemen in 2013 with arms meant for the Houthis.

The movement is known for its virulently anti-American and anti-Semitic rhetoric, including the group’s ubiquitous slogan: “God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse upon the Jews! Victory to Islam!”

The Houthis have targeted U.S. citizens, kidnapping four Americans in May 2015 and releasing one in early June. Several of the group’s leaders have been designated as terrorists by the United States.

The Houthis’ roots trace back to the 1990s, when Houthis founder Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi created the al-Shabab al-Mumanin (Believing Youth) movement in an effort to combine religious revivalism with anti-imperialism. The movement sought to educate local youth about Zaidism’s long history in Saada Governorate, northern Yemen. To that end, the al-Houthi family launched a network of associations, sports clubs, and summer camps. The al-Houthis also sought to protect Zaidism from perceived encroachment of Salafism and Wahhabism from Saudi Arabia into northern Yemen, where Zaidism has been dominant for centuries.

God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse upon the Jews! Victory to Islam!

The Houthi movement grew increasingly politically engaged in 2003, in reaction and opposition to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s support for the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Domestically, Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi continued to seek autonomy for Saada Governorate from Yemen’s Sunni-dominated central government.

After Saleh dispatched troops in a failed attempt to arrest al-Houthi in 2004, the Houthis launched an insurgency against the government. Al-Houthi was killed during clashes with the government in 2004, but the movement has continued in his name, waging a series of intermittent wars against the government, with Saudi forces intervening to support Sanaa in the years since.

During these wars, Saleh repeatedly sought to appease the Houthis by issuing amnesties to their prisoners and even pardoning Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi in 2005, but al-Houthi rejected the pardon and the periodic fighting continued. In 2007, Qatar brokered a brief cease-fire called the Doha Agreement, but the deal failed to satisfy the parties and fighting resumed that year. In 2009, with the Saleh government launched the massive Operation Scorched Earth, which sought to crush the insurgency for good, and was backed by financial, political, and military support from the Saudis. However, the campaign failed, and intermittent fighting continued.

During the Arab Spring in 2011, mass protests began against the Yemeni government, and Saleh stepped down in 2012 pursuant to an internationally negotiated transition agreement. The Houthis participated in a National Dialogue Conference but continued fighting against government forces.

The Houthis made significant territorial gains in 2014-2015. In September 2014, the group captured Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, resulting in the resignation of President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi in January 2015. The following month, the Houthis officially announced the dissolution of Hadi’s parliament and the institution of their interim government, known as the Supreme Revolutionary Committee (SRC).

The United Nations began facilitating peace talks between the Houthis and the Yemeni government in October 2015.
Concurrently, the government of Saudi Arabia held negotiations with the Houthis, beginning in March 2016 and reaching a stalemate in May. The peace talks between the Houthis and Yemeni government ended without an agreement in early August 2016, after which President Hadi’s forces launched a fresh offensive. That month, the SRC handed its authority to the Supreme Political Council (SPC), a government body formed by the July 2016 merger between the Houthis and former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh. The alliance between Saleh and the Houthis ended in December 2017 after Saleh offered to reconcile with Saudi Arabia. Houthis forces assassinated Saleh on December 4, 2017, during violent clashes between the rebels and Saleh’s forces.

Following a week of U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Sweden, all parties tentatively agreed to an immediate cease-fire in the Red Sea port of Hodeidah on December 13, 2018. However, few of the conditions agreed upon were implemented by either side. Fighting continued until February 17, 2019, when the Houthis and Yemeni government finally withdrew their forces from the city of Hodeidah. While violence has declined in Hodeidah, it has continued and escalated elsewhere in the country.

Beginning in 2017, the Houthis have also repeatedly attacked Saudi Arabia with missiles and drones, and has ramped up strikes in the spring and summer of 2019.

**Doctrine:**

Unlike Sunni extremist groups in Yemen, the Houthis adhere to Zaidism, a doctrinally distinct offshoot of mainstream “Twelver” Shiism. While Zaidism ruled Yemen for approximately 900 years beginning in the 9th century, the country has been officially secular since 1962, when a military coup ended the rule of Imam Mohammed Al-Badr.

The Houthi movement has drawn attention for its anti-American, anti-Semitic slogan, “God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse upon the Jews! Victory to Islam!” While some analysts maintain that the slogan does not reflect the group’s objectives, the Houthis have issued threats against Yemen’s Jewish community and attempted to force the U.S. ambassador from Yemen to leave. The Jews living in Saada were threatened by the Houthis in 2007 and forced to relocate to Sanaa, where they were living under government protection as of early 2015.

The Houthis have detained numerous foreign nationals, including at least five Americans. In June 2015, the Houthis released one American captive. On September 20, 2015, after the intercession of Oman’s government, the Houthis released three more hostages, including U.S. citizen Scott Darden, a logistics employee from Louisiana, and one other American. On November 10, 2015, U.S. officials reported that American contractor John Hamen, who had been detained sometime in October 2015, was dead. The announcement was followed by the release of three other Americans believed to be working for the United Nations.

**Organizational Structure:**

The Houthi movement’s organizational structure is opaque. The movement began as a grassroots religious organization aimed at youth, but over time it has entered politics and developed military capabilities. Following the killing of movement founder Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi by Yemeni forces in 2004, the Houthis were led by Hussein’s father, spiritual leader Badr al-Din al-Houthi. The movement’s current leader is Hussein’s younger brother, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi.

**Financing:**

Yemeni officials have long accused Iran’s Shiite Islamist regime of providing political, financial, and logistical support to the Houthi rebels and other secessionist movements in Yemen. Despite a 2009 U.N. report confirming such claims, Iran
and the Houthis have historically denied engaging in past cooperation. Nevertheless, other reports subsequently confirmed Iranian support, including a Reuters article in December of 2014 confirming financial backing by Tehran. One source stated, “We think there is cash, some of which is channeled via Hezbollah and sacks of cash arriving at the airport.” Only in 2015 did Iran finally acknowledge providing “direct support” to the Houthis rebels. According one Houthi official, the group has received tens of millions of dollars from the Iranian regime in recent years. Experts place the amount of financial support from Iran at between $10 and $20 million per year, including at least one alleged payment of $3.7 million.

In addition to allegedly sending financial support to the Houthis, Iran also reportedly dispatches military personnel and weapons, including missiles, explosives, and small arms. American intelligence officials have claimed that the Houthis receive considerably less support from Iran than some have alleged. Nonetheless, on March 28, 2016, the U.S. Navy reportedly intercepted weapons from Iran believed to be headed for Houthi rebels. Among the weapons intercepted were 1,500 AK-47 rifles, 200 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and 21 .50-caliber machine guns, according to Reuters.

In January 2019, the U.N.’s Panel of Experts on Yemen reported that they had “traced the supply to the Houthis of unmanned aerial vehicles and a mixing machine for rocket fuel and found that individuals and entities of Iranian origin have funded the purchase.”

**Recruitment:**

The Houthis’ primary area of recruitment is the northern provinces of Yemen, its heartland of ideological support. In February 2016, al-Arabiya reported that the group had expanded recruitment beyond its traditional political base by inducing “mercenaries” from African countries.

Houthi recruitment efforts inside Yemen have benefitted from the unpopularity of the Yemeni government. Since the 2011 uprising that removed President Ali Abdullah Saleh from power, the Houthis have increasingly attracted potential recruits to anti-government public protests in support of the movement. In the summer of 2014, the group gained noticeable traction when it protested the Yemeni government’s decision to cut popular fuel subsidies. Houthi-led protests attracted tens of thousands of supporters, including not only Zaidis but also Sunnis, to Yemen’s capital, Sanaa.

Since the 1990s, Houthi recruitment has reached out to its target Zaidi audience through social connections and networking, proselytizing through religious sermons, the dissemination of written materials, audio and videotapes, and online recruitment. The Houthis began paramilitary activities in 2004 and began distributing military training videos electronically and in person where possible.

The Houthis have also revived local Zaidi rituals, including events where potential recruits can socialize with pro-jihadi Houthi militia men, with the intention of encouraging new recruits to join the veterans. A pro-Houthi youth movement called Shabab al-Sumud (Steadfast Youth) has also provided support, including by managing a tent in Maydan Taghayr (Change Square) in 2012 where members of the public could enter and watch pro-Houthi videos.

The group is also active on the Internet, including on YouTube channels where it posts pro-Houthi videos, as well as web forums to promote the Houthi movement. The Houthis operate the TV channel Al Masirah, which publishes pro-Houthi videos, including poems and songs. In 2007, group leader Abdel Malik founded the Al Minbar website, which published press statements, editorials, speeches, videos, and images to promote its message. The group has also released statements through website Ansar Allah (Supporters of Allah). Houthi officials also maintain Twitter accounts disseminating pro-Houthi material. For example, in May 2016, Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul Salam posted
comments accusing the Yemeni government of lying and time-wasting.  

**Training:**

The Houthis have historically trained their fighters in Yemen’s mountainous north. The Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has trained Houthi in Yemen and Iranian military leadership is also believed to be present in Yemen to provide strategic military advice. In March 2015, Saudi foreign minister Adel al-Jubair also alleged that Hezbollah operatives were advising the Houthis. In the same month, Syrian military officials were reportedly present in Yemen assisting the Houthis as well.

In early 2015, U.S. officials reported that the IRGC’s training of Houthi rebels covered the use of advanced weapons, which the Houthis seized from Yemeni military bases.

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Key Leaders

- **Abdul-Malik al-Houthi**
  - Spiritual, military, and political leader; brother of founder Hussein Badr-al-Din al-Houthi

- **Youssef al-Midani**
  - Deputy leader; brother-in-law of Abdul-Malik al-Houthi (reported deceased October 2015)

- **Yahia Badr-al-Din al-Houthi**
  - Senior leader, former lawmaker, brother of founder Hussein Badr-al-Din and current leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi

- **Abdul-Karim Badr-al-Din Al-Houthi**
  - Senior leader, brother of founder Hussein Badr-al-Din and current leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi

- **Mohamed Abdul Salam**
  - Spokesman

- **Faris Manna**
  - Houthi-appointed governor of Saada between 2011 and December 2014; alleged former arms dealer whose assets were frozen by the U.N. Security Council and the U.S. Treasury Department

- **Mohammed al-Bukhaiti**
  - Spokesman and member of the Houthi Political Council
Houthis

History:

- **August 19, 2019**: The Houthis announce the appointment of Ibrahim Mohammed Mohammed Al-Dailami as the "ambassador of the Republic of Yemen," in Tehran.

- **August 13, 2019**: Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pledges Tehran’s continued support for Yemen’s Houthis movement.

That same day, Houthis forces claim to launch drone attacks on the airport of Abha in southwest Saudi Arabia. Coalition forces deny that Abha was under attack and that instead a drone launched by the Houthis "fell" over a residential area in Amran. Both sides report no casualties.


- **March 23, 2019**: The Saudi-led military coalition mounts raids on sites of the Houthi movement in Sanaa.

The raids target two caves used by Houthis forces to store drones. Earlier that day, there were additional raids in Houthis camps as well as the Al-Dailami air base. Sources: "Saudi-led coalition attacks drone storage caves in Yemen's capital: SPA," Reuters, March 23, 2019, [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-iran/irans-khamenei-backs-yemens-houthi-movement-calls-for-dialogue-idUSKCN1V31W3][68].

- **May 15, 2019**: Fighting resumes between the Houthis and pro-government forces in Hodeidah, threatening the cease-fire there.


- **February 17, 2019**: The Houthis and Yemeni government agree to withdraw their forces from the city of Hodeidah, thus implementing the first phase of the previously agreed-upon cease-fire deal.


- **February 3, 2019**: Houthis and Yemeni government officials meet aboard a U.N. ship in the Red Sea to discuss December's failed cease-fire plan.


- **January 2019**: The U.N.’s Panel of Experts on Yemen reported that they had "traced the supply to the Houthis of unmanned aerial vehicles and a mixing machine for rocket fuel and found that individuals and entities of Iranian origin have funded the purchase."


- **December 31, 2018**: The World Food Programme accuses the Houthis of diverting critically needed food aid and selling the deliveries on the open market.


- **December 13, 2018**: All warring parties agree to a cease-fire in the port city of Hodeidah. Despite this, fighting in the city continues until February 17.


- **December 4, 2018**: A Houthis delegation arrives in Sweden for U.N.-sponsored peace talks between the militant group and the internationally-recognized Hadi government.


- **November 18, 2018**: Mohammad Ali al-Houthi releases a statement in support of a U.K.-proposed cease-fire, stating, "We are willing to freeze and stop military operations on all fronts to reach a just and honourable peace."
Houthis


- **November 2, 2018:** The Saudi-led coalition launches air strikes on the international airport in Sanaa and a nearby air base operated by Houthi rebels. Earlier that day, the coalition launches a new offensive against the Houthi-controlled port of Hodeida. Source: Sudarsan Raghavan, “Two days after U.S. call for ceasefire, Saudi-led coalition launches new attacks in Yemen,” Washington Post, November 2, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/two-days-after-us-call-for-ceasefire-the-saudiled-coalition-launches-new-attacks-on-yemen/2018/11/02/78cde2de-0e4e-406b-9dce-391c-6e64d3313a_story.html [79].


- **June 12, 2018:** UAE forces officially launch their offensive to capture Hodeidah from the Houthis and their allies. The United Nations warns against this offensive, stating that 70 percent of food and medical aid to Yemeni civilians arrives through the port city. Source: Mohammed Ghobari and Mohamed Mokhashaf, “Arab states launch biggest assault of Yemen war with attack on main port,” Reuters, June 12, 2018, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security/arab-states-launch-biggest-assault-of-yemen-war-with-attack-on-main-port-idUSKBN19BA [82].

- **June 1, 2018:** The Houthis launch a ballistic missile toward the Islamic holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by the Saudi-led coalition. Source: “Houthi missile and Saudi-led air strikes strain Yemen truce,” Reuters, June 1, 2018, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security/exiled-son-of-yemens-saleh-takes-up-anti-houthi-cause-idUSKBN1DY12V?il=0 [83].


- **November 19, 2016:** The Houthis are accused by a Saudi general of launching a ballistic missile at the eastern Saudi province of Marib, in violation of a cease-fire. Source: “Houthi missile and Saudi-led forces strain Yemen truce,” Reuters, November 19, 2016, http://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-ceasefire-idUSKBN13E05D [85].

- **October 27, 2016:** The Houthi launch a ballistic missile toward the Islamic holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by the Saudi-led coalition. Houthi sources confirm that they had launched a missile into Saudi Arabia but claim that they had been aiming for King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah. Source: “Yemen’s Houthi launch missile toward Saudi holy city, coalition says,” Reuters, October 28, 2016, http://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-missiles-idUSKCN125016 [86].

October 8, 2016: An airstrike in Sanaa kills 140 funeral attendees.

September 25, 2016: Houthi political council chief Saleh al-Samad proposes a truce along the Yemen-Saudi Arabia border.

September 6, 2016: Houthis and Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) reportedly agree to joint training and to provide logistical support to the Houthis.

August 2016: The Houthis end peace talks and establish a political council in Yemen.

June 19, 2016: Houthis withdraw from border. The group claims it was a gesture of “good will” during the holy month of Ramadan.

April 11, 2016: The Houthis and Saudis pledge to respect a U.N.-backed cease-fire.

March 2016: Houthe and Yemeni forces agree to a cease-fire in preparation for peace talks in April on March 21.

January 2016 - February 2016: Houthis suffer losses fighting the Saudi-led coalition.

January 2016: Houthis forces repel a Saudi Arabian attack at Tawwah border-crossing, killing an estimated 40-60 Saudi troops.

January 4, 2016: The Houthis' truce with Saudi Arabia formally ends after weeks of violations.


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January 4, 2016: The Houthis' truce with Saudi Arabia formally ends after weeks of violations.

Houthis


- **December 19, 2015**: Insurgent leader Mohammed Badreddin al-Houthi is reportedly killed near Saada province.
  


- **December 18, 2015**: Yemeni forces seize the capitals of Jawf and Marib provinces from Houthi rebels.
  

- **December 15, 2015**: Houthi rebels sign a formal truce with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
  

- **December 14, 2015**: In one of the deadliest attacks to date, Houthi launch a missile into Ta'ez province, killing at least 146 people.
  

- **December 1, 2015**: Houthi attempt and fail to seize Saudi territory near the border with Yemen.
  

- **November 25, 2015**: U.N. officials accuse the Houthi’s blocking humanitarian aid from entering Taiz, a city 123 miles from Yemen’s capital of Sanaa.
  

- **November 20, 2015**: ISIS takes responsibility for an attack on Yemeni troops in Hadramawt, that killed 19 Yemeni soldiers and 35 ISIS militants. Analysts note that ISIS is likely attempting to further foster instability in Yemen to increase its base of support. Reuters notes that because the Houthis ascribe to the Shiite offshoot of Zaidism, ISIS considers them heretics, and likewise views the Yemeni army and the Gulf states as “traitors to Islam.” Source: Mohammad Mukhesh, “Islamic State claims Yemen attack,” Reuters, November 20, 2015, http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/20/us-yemen-security-qaeda-idUSKCN07910720151120#uDKjbD2wlHtdLMj0.97.

- **November 19, 2015**: Oman negotiates the Houthis’ release of three American hostages held in a rebel-controlled area of Sanaa.
  

- **October 25, 2015**: The United Arab Emirates deploys 450 Latin American mercenaries to fight in Yemen, joining the Sunni Arab coalition fighting the Houthi rebels in that country.
  

- **October 8, 2015**: The Houthis accept engagement with the Yemeni government through the U.N., stating it will comply with the conditions of the cease-fire, including retreating from cities currently under Houthi control.
  

- **October 5, 2015**: The Houthis attempt and fail to seize Saudi territory near the border with Yemen.
  


• **August 30, 2015:** Yemen’s air force kills 36 people as a result of airstrikes targeting a bottling plant in Hajjah, a province in northern Yemen. Source: “Saudi-led coalition air strike kills 36 Yemeni civilians: residents,” Reuters, August 30, 2015, http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/30/us-yemen-security-idUSKCN0QZ0P920150830.

• **August 27, 2015:** Yemen’s foreign ministry states there will be no negotiations with the Houthis until they disarm. Source: J. Dana Stuster, “No Negotiations Until Houthis Surrender, Yemeni Government Says,” Foreign Policy, August 27, 2015, https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/08/27/no-negotiations-until-houthi-surrender-yemen-government-says/.


• **June 1, 2015:** The Houthis release one American detainee, Casey Coombs. At least three other Americans are still being held captive by the Houthis. Source: Elise Labott and Khushbu Shah, “One American held in Yemen released,” CNN, June 2, 2015, http://www.cnn.com/2015/06/01/politics/yemen-four-americans-held-houthis/.


• **May 12, 2015 - May 14, 2015:** The Houthis accept a five-day humanitarian cease-fire, but are accused of violating the truce within 24 hours. Source: “Houthi accused of violating Yemen’s ceasefire,” Al Jazeera, May 12, 2015, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/houthi-accused-violating-yemens-ceasefire-15051315433749.html.


• **March 19, 2015:** Warplanes target the Yemeni presidential palace in Aden, where President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi had sought refuge since fleeing Sanaa.
The Houthis seize power in Yemen and announce that a transitional five-member presidential council will replace President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi, drawing protest from the U.N. Security Council.


February 21, 2015: President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi flees to Aden and rescinds his resignation.


February 2015: The Houthis seize power in Yemen and announce that a transitional five-member presidential council will replace President Abdраббу Мансур Хади, drawing protest from the U.N. Security Council.


January 23, 2015: President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi and his government resign in protest after the Houthis reject the government’s proposed new constitution.


December 13, 2014: AQAP militants kill at least 30 Houthi fighters as they battle for control of the city of Radaa.


December 2014: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claims credit for 16 attacks against the Houthis in Bayda Province.


October 2014: The Houthis reject Yemeni President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi’s first choice for prime minister, Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, but agree to the appointment of Khaled Bahah.


September 21, 2014: The Houthis and Yemeni government sign a U.N.-brokered peace deal in which the Houthis agree to withdraw their fighters from cities they have seized once a national-unity government is formed.


September 20, 2014: Houthi fighters clash with Yemen’s army command center in Sanaa.


September 3, 2014: President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi dissolves his cabinet and reinstates fuel subsidies to calm anti-government protests.


August 30, 2014: Houthi rebels launch attacks on army positions in Sanaa.


August 29, 2014: The U.N. Security Council calls on the Houthis to end hostilities against the Yemeni government.

The Council releases a statement expressing its “grave concern about the deterioration of the security situation in Yemen in light of the action taken by the Houthis...and those who support them, to undermine the political transition and the security of Yemen.” According to the Council, these actions include the Houthi’s “escalating campaign to bring down the government; establishing camps in and around Sanaa; seeking to supplant the authority of the state by installing checkpoints on strategic routes into Sanaa, as well as ongoing fighting in al Jawf.” Source:
Houthis

August 18, 2014: Houthis draw tens of thousands to protests demanding the return of subsidized fuel prices as well as the resignation of the government.

July 23, 2014: The Yemeni government regains control over an army camp seized by Houthis rebels through negotiations peacefully.

July 8, 2014: The Houthis capture Omran. At least 100 are killed and 150 wounded in the fighting.

July 5, 2014: The cease-fire between the Yemeni government and the Houthis collapses and Yemen’s air force bombs Houthi fighters in northern Yemen, killing 70 people.


June 18, 2014: Houthi fighters advance toward Yemen’s capital, clashing with government forces 25 miles outside of Sanaa.

June 3, 2014: The Yemeni government conducts airstrikes against the Houthis, ending a brief cease-fire.

May 29, 2014: Houthi attack a checkpoint and two other locations, killing five tribesmen.

May 20, 2014: Houthi attack Yemeni security outposts near Oman. Seven Yemeni soldiers and nine Houthis are killed.

May 1, 2014 - May 10, 2014: Houthi and Sunni tribesmen clash near Sanaa, killing at least 40.

March 13, 2014: Houthi attack an army base near Sanaa, killing two soldiers.

March 6, 2014 - March 9, 2014: Houthis continue to engage in fighting as they near the Yemeni capital of Sana’a.

February 28, 2014: Houthi attack a security checkpoint after a protest against the government, killing three soldiers and wounding four.

February 2, 2014: The Houthis, reportedly joined by tribes aligned with former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, attack Sunni Hashid tribal forces in Amran province.

January 21, 2014: Yemen’s National Dialogue Conference concludes after nearly a year, yielding a document on which to base a new constitution.

January 20, 2014: Clashes continue to erupt between Houthis and pro-Salafi Sunnis in northern Yemen, killing 12.
**Houthis**

- **January 14, 2014:** In an effort to reduce sectarian tensions and maintain the ceasefire, the Yemeni government forces the Salafists to relocate away from the Houthis’ stronghold. 

- **January 11, 2014:** A ceasefire between the Houthis and Salafists takes effect. 

- **January 2014:** A Salafist spokesman claims that at least 210 people have been killed during two months of fighting between Salafists and the Houthis. 

- **October 30, 2013 - November 2, 2013:** Fighting between Houthis and Salafists in the town of Damaj kills at least 55 over four days. 

- **2013:** The Iranian ship Jihan I is allegedly seized en route to Yemen with arms meant for the Houthis. 

- **January 2012:** President Ali Abdullah Saleh leaves Yemen. 

- **December 16, 2011:** The New York Times reports an increase in clashes between the Houthis and Salafists on the outskirts of Saada “in recent weeks.” 

- **November 2011:** Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh agrees to form a new unity government under his deputy, Abdrabboh Mansour Hadi. 

- **June 1, 2011:** The Houthis kill five Sunni tribesmen during clashes in northern Yemen. 

- **March 2011:** Houthis advance on Saada, prompting the province’s governor and other officials to flee. 

- **December 2010:** The Yemeni government says 3,000 soldiers were killed in an outbreak of fighting involving Houthis rebels. 

- **July 30, 2010:** President Ali Abdullah Saleh invites at least three Houthis representatives to participate in a national dialogue involving other Yemeni opposition factions. 

- **July 17, 2010:** The Houthis kill 11 Yemeni soldiers and government-aligned tribesmen, sparking a heightened wave of violence. 

- **March 2010:** The Houthis release 178 prisoners after the Yemeni government accuses the Houthis of failing to comply with the ceasefire’s terms. 

- **February 18, 2010:** The Houthis release two Saudi soldiers as part of the Houthis-Saudi cease-fire deal. 

- **February 11, 2010:** The Yemeni government and the Houthis sign a ceasefire to end six years of conflict. 
  Conditions on the agreement include removal of militants from civilian neighborhoods and an end to road blockades. Source: Robert F. Worth,
Houthis


- **February 2010:** Abdul-Malik al-Houthi declares a unilateral cease-fire with Saudi Arabia but does not withdraw rebels from the border region.

- **November 5, 2009:** Saudi Arabia conducts its first cross-border military intervention since the Gulf War, sending warplanes to bomb Houthi positions both in Yemen and within Saudi territory.

- **November 3, 2009:** Houthi rebels open fire on Saudi border guards, killing two and injuring at least 10.

- **October 2009:** Clashes erupt between the Houthis and Saudi security forces along Yemen's northern border.

- **August 2009:** "Tens of thousands" of Yemenis are displaced after government forces attack Houthi rebels in Saada province, BBC News reports.

- **June 2009:** The Houthis deny responsibility for the abduction of nine foreigners—three of whom are killed—in Yemen's northern province of Saada, a Houthi stronghold.

- **May 2, 2008:** A bomb explodes outside a mosque in northern Yemen, killing at least 12 and wounding at least 44.

- **January 2008:** Fighting renews between the Houthis and Yemeni forces.

- **June 2007:** Rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi and Yemeni forces agree to a cease-fire.

- **January 2007 - March 2007:** Fighting between Yemeni security forces and Houthi rebels in Yemen's north kills or wounds dozens.

- **March 2006:** More than 600 Houthis are released from prison under an amnesty deal.

- **May 2005:** Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh announces that Houthi leader Shaikh Badr al-Din al-Houthi has agreed to a peace deal in exchange for a pardon.

- **March 2005 - April 2005:** Renewed fighting between Yemeni forces and Houthi supporters leaves more than 200 people dead.

- **September 2004:** Hussein al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi movement, is killed by Yemeni forces.

- **2004 - 2010:** The Houthis wage a series of insurgencies against Yemen's central government.

- **June 2004 - August 2004:** Fighting breaks out in Yemen's north between government troops and Shiite insurgents led by Hussein al-Houthi.
  Hundreds die in the clashes. Source: "Yemen Profile - Timeline," BBC News, June 16, 2015,
Houthis


- **2003:** Hussein al-Houthi opposes Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s cooperation with the United States in the latter’s war on terror and invasion of Iraq. Al-Houthi and his supporters later resist arrest by Yemeni forces, provoking conflict. Source: Charles Schmitz, “The Huthi Ascent to Power,” Middle East Institute, September 15, 2014, http://www.mei.edu/content/at/huthi-ascent-power.

- **1995 - 1999:** Hussein al-Houthi, son of Zaidi spiritual leader Shaikh Badr-al-Din al-Houthi, forms the political party Hizb al-Haq (Party of Truth) and briefly serves in Yemen’s parliament. He later abandons politics and begins to grow and militarize the Houthi movement, ostensibly to protect itself from the Yemeni government and other armed groups. Source: Charles Schmitz, “The Huthi Ascent to Power,” Middle East Institute, September 15, 2014, http://www.mei.edu/content/at/huthi-ascent-power.

- **1990 - 1993:** The al-Houthi family founds Shabab al-Mumanin (the Believing Youth) in Yemen’s Saada province. The movement seeks to educate youth about their Zaidi ancestry and promote Zaidism in the face of the perceived growing influence of Salafism and Wahhabism in northern Yemen. Source: Charles Schmitz, “The Huthi Ascent to Power,” Middle East Institute, September 15, 2014, http://www.mei.edu/content/at/huthi-ascent-power.


Violent history:

Violent activity by the Houthis has consisted mainly of armed rebellion against the Yemeni government, leading to clashes with security forces. Thousands have been killed and displaced as a result of the fighting. The Houthis also briefly fought Saudi forces on the northern border in late 2009, and have battled al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) for several years. In October 2016, the rebels took direct action against the United States by conducting a series of failed missile attacks against the U.S. Navy presence in the region. The Houthis had previously kidnapped several American citizens, including a teacher, journalist, humanitarian aid worker. U.S. ships are not the only vessels the rebels have targeted. Prior to the attacks on the U.S. Navy, a UAE civilian ship was damaged by Houthi missiles that same month. Starting in 2017, the Houthis have repeatedly attacked Saudi Arabia with missiles and drones, and have ramped up strikes in 2019, often targeting Saudi airports and oil fields.

- **2003**: Hussein al-Houthi opposes Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s cooperation with the United States in its war on terror and invasion of Iraq. He and his supporters later resist arrest by Yemeni forces, provoking conflict.
- **June-August 2004**: Fighting breaks out in Yemen’s north between troops and Shiite insurgents led by Hussein al-Houthi. The clashes kill hundreds.
- **March-April 2005**: Renewed fighting between Yemeni forces and Hussein al-Houthi supporters kills more than 200.
- **January-March 2007**: Fighting between Yemeni security forces and Houthi rebels in the north kill or wound dozens. Houthi rebels threaten Yemen’s Jewish population in Saada, forcing many to relocate to Sanaa.
- **January 2008**: Fighting renews between the Houthis and Yemeni forces.
- **April 2008**: Men allegedly associated with the Houthi movement destroy a Jewish family’s home.
- **May 2, 2008**: A bomb explodes outside a mosque in northern Yemen, killing at least 12 and wounding at least 44. Yemeni officials hold Houthi rebels accountable for the attack — the first attack by the group that deliberately targets civilians. Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi denies any connection to the bombing.
- **June 2009**: Houthis deny responsibility for the abduction of nine foreigners — three of whom are killed — in Saada region, a stronghold. Some media speculate the involvement of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) following the arrest of a supporter accused of financing the group.
- **October 2009**: Clashes erupt between the Houthis and Saudi security forces along Yemen’s northern border. The Houthis accuse Saudi Arabia of supporting the Yemeni government in attacks against them, which the Saudi government denies.
- **November 3, 2009**: Houthi rebels open fire on Saudi border guards, killing two and injuring at least 10.
- **January-February 2010**: More than 130 Saudi soldiers are killed by Houthis in fighting along the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.
- **July 17, 2010**: Houthi kill 11 Yemeni soldiers and government-aligned tribesmen, sparking a heightened wave of violence.
- **December 2010**: Yemen says 3,000 soldiers were killed in recent fighting with Houthi rebels.
- **Late March 2011**: Houthi advance on Saada, causing the governor and other officials to flee the city. Houthi rebels install Faris Manna, believed to be the country’s most powerful arms dealer, as governor of the province.
- **June 1, 2011**: Houthi kill five Sunni tribesmen in northern Yemen.
November-December 2011: Clashes erupt between Houthis and Salafists on the outskirts of Saada.\textsuperscript{109}

October 2013-January 2014: Houthis launch an attack on Salafists in the town of Damaj, resulting in the death of over 100, at least 210 according to a Salafi spokesman.\textsuperscript{110}

January 20, 2014: Clashes between Houthis and pro-Salafist Sunnis in the north kill 12.\textsuperscript{111}

February 2, 2014: The Houthis, reportedly joined by tribes aligned with former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, and attack tribal forces in Amran province.\textsuperscript{112}

February 28, 2014: Houthis attack a security checkpoint after a protest against the government, killing three soldiers and wounding four.\textsuperscript{113}

March 6-9, 2014: Fighting erupts between Houthis and Sunni tribesmen, killing at least 40.\textsuperscript{114} Houthis blow up a religious center in Hamdan on March 9.\textsuperscript{115}

March 13, 2014: Houthis attack an army base near Sanaa, killing two soldiers.\textsuperscript{116}

May 2014: Houthis and Sunni tribesmen clash near Sanaa, killing at least 40.\textsuperscript{117}

May 20, 2014: Houthis attack Yemeni security outposts near Oman; seven Yemeni soldiers and nine Houthis are killed.\textsuperscript{118}

May 29, 2014: Houthis attack a checkpoint and two other locations, killing five tribesmen.\textsuperscript{119}

June 18, 2014: Houthis advance toward the capital, clashing with Yemeni forces 25 miles outside of Sanaa.\textsuperscript{120}

July 5, 2014: The cease-fire between the government and the Houthis collapses and Yemen’s air force bombs Houthi fighters in northern Yemen, killing 70 people.\textsuperscript{121}

July 8, 2014: At least 100 are killed and 150 wounded as the Houthis capture Omran.\textsuperscript{122}

August 30, 2014: Houthis kill at least ten soldiers and local militia fighters in clashes.\textsuperscript{123}

September 20, 2014: The Houthis shell the official state television building, setting it ablaze and ultimately capturing it.\textsuperscript{124} Sanaa residents claim that Houthis control several other government sites, including the prime minister’s buildings and an army command center.\textsuperscript{125}

December 2014: Yemeni and Iranian officials claim that Iran is supplying Houthi rebels with weapons, money, and training.\textsuperscript{126}

December 13, 2014: AQAP militants kill at least 30 Houthi fighters as they battle for control of the city of Radaa.\textsuperscript{127}

February 2015: The Houthis seize power and announce that a transitional five-member presidential council will replace President Hadi, drawing protest from the U.N. Security Council.\textsuperscript{128}

March 19, 2015: Warplanes target the president’s palace in Aden, where President Hadi had sought refuge since fleeing Sanaa.\textsuperscript{129}

April 2, 2015: Houthi fighters take control of Aden’s central Crater neighborhood and fight their way into a presidential residence nearby.\textsuperscript{130}

May 12-14, 2015: The Houthis accept a five-day humanitarian cease-fire, but are accused of violating the truce within 24 hours.\textsuperscript{131}

May 29, 2015: The Houthis continue to battle for control of Aden.\textsuperscript{132} They detain at least four Americans in the country’s capital.\textsuperscript{133}
Houthis

- **June 1, 2015:** The Houthis release one American detainee, Casey Coombs. At least three other Americans are still being held captive by the Houthis.134

- **June 6, 2015:** Houthis release one American detainee, Casey Coombs. At least three other Americans are still being held captive by the Houthis.

- **December 1, 2015:** Houthis attempt and fail to seize Saudi territory near the border with Yemen.136

- **December 14, 2015:** In one of the deadliest attacks to date, Houthis launch a missile into Taiz province, killing at least 146 people.137

- **December 18-22, 2015:** Houthis release four rockets into Saudi territory. Three are shot down, though one hits a desert area east of Najran city on December 18.138

- **December 25, 2015:** Houthis release a failed attack on Yemeni forces stationed near Jabal Al Salb.139

- **January 7, 2016:** Houthis forces repel a Saudi Arabian attack at Tawwal border-crossing, killing an estimated 40-60 Saudi troops.140

- **May 2016 - July 2016:** Houthis forces attack Saudi and Yemeni targets along the Yemen border and across the Yemen-Saudi border, collectively killing at least 40 individuals. On May 1, Houthis attack and seize a Saudi military base north of the capital of Sanaa, killing several soldiers guarding the base.141 On May 8, Houthis rebels conduct a failed missile attack across the Saudi border, violating a truce agreement. Saudi forces intercept the missile and do not retaliate to maintain the truce.142 Later that month, Houthis rebels and Arab coalition forces clash in southern Yemen, killing 48 individuals, including 28 rebels and 20 coalition soldiers.143 On June 3, Houthis rebels launch rockets at the western city of Taiz, killing at least 17 civilians, including 10 women and a girl, in a busy marketplace.144 During the first week of July, Houthis militants fire a missile towards the southern Saudi city of Abha. Saudi forces intercept the missile, leaving no casualties.145 They also fire a rocket into Yemen’s border town of Marib, killing seven children and wounding 25 other civilians.146 On July 25, Houthis forces launch a ballistic missile into the Saudi Ahad Al-Masarihah Military Camp along the Yemen border, destroying several armored vehicles and killing a large number of soldiers.147

- **July 28, 2016 - August 3, 2016:** Houthis militants abduct and murder four tribal sheikhs from Yemen’s Al Bayda province. The bodies display evidence of torture before they were each shot in the head.148

- **August 2016 - September 2016:** Houthis forces continue to launch missiles into Saudi Arabia and continue to clash with Saudi and Arab coalition forces along the Saudi-Yemen border. On August 2, UAE forces foil a Houthis forces offensive attempting to recapture strategic locations in Yemen’s southcentral province of Shabwa, killing 30 militants.149 On August 10, Houthis forces launch two intercepted missiles targeting the southern Saudi city of Abha in a failed attack.150 The next day, Saudi forces kill Iranian-backed Houthis leader Saleh al-Houthi Mouawad Kibsi and 40 other Houthi militants near the kingdom’s southwestern border with Yemen.151 Throughout the rest of the month and into September, Houthis forces continue to launch missiles into Saudi Arabia’s southern provinces, killing at least 10 civilians.152 On September 4, Houthis rebels attack the Saudi border towns of Midi and Haradh, killing between 40 and 50 individuals, including government soldiers.153 A week later, Houthis rebels claim they captured a Saudi military post in the border region of Jizan. The Saudi military denies these claims.154

- **September 21, 2016:** Suspected Houthis release in the Island of Hanish and Zagar attack the Eritrean international airport and Navy headquarters in Assab, a port city in the Southern Red Sea region of Eritrea. The mortar attack causes damage to the sites.155

- **September 24, 2016:** Arab coalition forces kill head of Houthis Special Forces Major-General Hassan Almalsi while he and a squad of Houthis fighters were attempting to infiltrate Saudi Arabia’s southern province of Najran.156

- **October 9, 2016 - October 13, 2016:** Houthis are believed to be behind a series of attacks against the U.S. Navy, leading the United States to engage the rebels directly for the first time since the crisis began launching counter-attacks in Houthis-held areas. On October 9, suspected Houthi rebels fire a pair of missiles in a failed attack on the U.S.
Houthis

Navy destroyer *USS Mason* near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. On October 12, the Houthis are allegedly behind another failed missile attack on the *Mason*. The U.S. Navy launches Tomahawk cruise missiles against Houthi-controlled radar sites along the Yemeni coast.

- **October 27, 2016**: Houthis launch a ballistic missile toward the Islamic holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by the Saudi-led coalition. Houthi confirm that they had launched a missile into Saudi Arabia but claim that they had been aiming for King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah.

- **November 19, 2016**: The Houthis are accused by a Saudi general of launching a ballistic missile at the eastern Saudi province of Marib, in violation of a cease-fire.

- **January 30, 2017**: Houthis attack a Saudi ship off the coast of Yemen, allegedly ramming into the ship and causing an explosion, killing two crew members and injuring three. Separately, the group launches a ballistic missile on a Saudi military base on the Red Sea island of Zuqar. Rockets also hit and damage U.N. offices in southern Saudi Arabia in an attack Saudi Arabia attributed to Houthis.

- **December 2-4, 2017**: On December 2, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh offers to “turn a new page” with the Saudi-led coalition fighting against Houthi forces if the Saudis end their month-long blockade of the country. Saleh’s supporters had until then fought alongside Houthi rebels, but the Houthis view Saleh’s offer as a betrayal and fighting breaks out between the rebels and Saleh’s loyalists. At least 125 people are killed and 238 are wounded in the fighting. On December 4, Houthi forces stop Saleh at a checkpoint as he is trying to leave Sanaa and kill the former president. The Houthi-controlled Interior Ministry announces Saleh’s death later in the day. Saleh’s General People’s Congress party confirms he was killed by a sniper. Houthi forces also announce that they had blown up Saleh’s home in Sanaa.

- **December 19, 2017**: The Houthis target Al Yamama royal palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with a missile. Saudi forces says it intercepted the missile.

- **January 8, 2018**: The Houthis release a video that they claim shows the rebels shooting down a Royal Saudi Air Force F-15S over Yemen. Saudi Arabia confirms the crash but says it is due to “technical errors.”

- **January 30, 2018**: The Houthis claim to damage a coalition warship near Hodeidah while Saudi Arabia claims the group targeted an oil tanker, causing only minor damage to the ship.

- **April 3, 2018**: The Houthis claim to damage a coalition warship near Hodeidah while Saudi Arabia claims the group targeted an oil tanker, causing only minor damage to the ship.

- **April 11, 2018**: The Houthis claim to have attacked Saudi Arabia with a drone attack on a Saudi Aramco oil refinery in Jizan province.

- **April 28, 2018**: The Houthis launch eight ballistic missiles at Saudi Arabia’s Jizan province. Four missiles are intercepted and one Saudi national is killed.

- **May 9, 2018**: The Houthis fire multiple missiles at Riyadh targeting “economic centers.” At least four blasts are heard throughout the city.

- **May 10, 2018**: The Houthis are suspected of targeting and damaging a Turkish cargo ship delivering 50,000 tons of wheat to the Yemeni port of Salif.

- **June 10, 2018**: The Houthis launch a missile at Saudi Arabia’s Jizan province, killing three civilians.

- **June 13, 2018**: The Houthis strike a UAE naval vessel with two missiles near Hodeidah. The attack occurs during a Saudi-led operation to recapture the port city.

- **July 18, 2018**: The Houthis claim to have attacked a Saudi Aramco refinery in Riyadh with a drone. The oil company denies this claim, stating that the fire at the facility was caused by “an operational incident.”

- **July 25, 2018**: The Houthis slightly damage a Saudi oil tanker in the Red Sea.
August 4, 2018: The Houthis claim to conduct a drone attack against a Saudi military base in the country’s Asir province.  

August 6, 2018: Houthi rebels launch a missile at the Saudi city of Najran. The missile is intercepted by Saudi air defense systems and no casualties are reported.  

August 9, 2018: The Houthis launch a ballistic missile at the Saudi city of Jizan, killing one civilian and wounding 11 others.  

August 27, 2018: The Houthis claim to target a UAE airport with a drone. The UAE denies the attack occurred and there is no evidence of any damage to the facility.  

September 4, 2018: The Houthis claim a missile attack on an Aramco facility in Saudi Arabia’s Jizan province.  

September 5, 2018: The Houthis launch a ballistic missile at the Saudi city of Najran. Twenty-six people are wounded by shrapnel when the missile is intercepted by Saudi defense systems.  

September 15, 2018: Saudi Arabia intercepts a Houthi missile targeting Jizan, Saudi Arabia.  

September 20, 2018: Saudi Arabia intercepts two Houthi-controlled boats laden with explosives outside of the Saudi port of Jizan.  

October 5, 2018: Houthi forces fire three shells at an IDP camp in Hodeidah, killing one woman and injuring others.  

December 7, 2018: An Associated Press report accuses the Houthis of carrying out rampant detention and torture of political opponents in areas under its control.  

January 5, 2019: Houthi forces kill two civilians and wound 16 others when they shell the 7th July neighborhood of Taiz.  

January 10, 2019: Houthi forces target a Yemeni military parade with a drone, killing five and wounding twenty soldiers, including the Yemeni army’s chief of staff who would later die of his wounds.  

February 17, 2019: Houthi forces launch several attacks across Yemen’s northern border killing nine Saudi soldiers in the provinces of Aseer, Jazan, and Najran.  

March 11, 2019: After weeks of intense fighting, Houthi forces seize several besieged villages in northern Yemen. Pro-government media outlets accuse the Houthis of killing 62 civilians and displacing 268 families. The Houthis blame the Saudi-backed coalition for some of the civilian deaths.  

May 14, 2019: The Houthis carry out several drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities.  

May 15, 2019: Fighting resumes between the Houthis and pro-government forces in Hodeidah, threatening the cease-fire there.  

May 20, 2019: The Houthis launch two ballistic missiles at Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government says it intercepted the missiles over Mecca province.  

May 21, 2019: The Houthis attack an airport in the Saudi city of Najran with a bomb-laden drone.  

June 11, 2019: The Houthis launch two drones at the southwest Saudi city of Khams Mushait.  

June 12, 2019: The Houthis successfully strike Saudi Arabia’s Abha airport with a cruise missile, injuring a reported 26.  

June 19, 2019: A Houthi-launched projectile hits a power-transformer station near a desalination plant in Saudi Arabia.
June 23, 2019: The Houthis successfully strike Saudi Arabia’s Abha airport with a cruise missile, killing one.

July 2, 2019: The Houthis again strike Saudi Arabia’s Abha airport, this time with a drone, injuring nine.

July 6, 2019: Houthis forces carry out drone attacks on military sites at the Abha airport in southern Saudi Arabia. Earlier that day, Houthi’s also claim targeting warplane hangars and other military sites in Saudi Jizan airport.

July 15, 2019: The Saudi-led coalition intercepts and downs three Houthi drones that were launched towards the southwestern Saudi cities of Jizan and Abha.

July 16, 2019: Houthi forces launch a drone attack on Jizan airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia.

July 20, 2019: Saudi-coalition fighter jets take out at least five Houthi air defense sites around Sanana.

July 28, 2019: Houthi forces launch indiscriminate attacks in the Al-Rawdah neighborhood of Taiz. The attack kills one child and injures three others.

July 29, 2019: The Saudi-coalition launches an airstrike on a market in northern Yemen, killing 14 people and wounding more than 26 others. The attack is a response to a Houthi drone attack on a Saudi airbase.

August 1, 2019: Houthi rebels initiate twin attacks in the city of Aden. Suicide bombers blast a police station in one neighborhood while the rebels fire a missile at a military parade of UAE-trained militia. At least 51 people are killed in the attacks.

August 5, 2019: Houthi forces launch drone attacks on Saudi Arabia’s King Khalid Air Base and Abha and Najran airports.

August 13, 2019: Yemen’s Houthi movement launches drone attacks on the airport of Abha in southwest Saudi Arabia.

August 16, 2019: The Houthis launch drone attacks on Saudi Arabia’s Abha international airport, halting air traffic. The Saudi-led coalition reports that the drone was intercepted and shot down.

August 17, 2019: Houthi rebels deploy 10 drones to strike Saudi Arabia’s Shaybah oil field, one of the kingdom’s largest. There are no injuries and no disruption to the field’s production.

August 19, 2019: The Houthis launch a ballistic missile on a military parade in the province of Marib. Official numbers have not been reported, but the attack kills and wounds dozens of soldiers.
Houthis


Houthis

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“Iran-aligned Houthi rebels fire ballistic missile at Saudi capital,” Reuters, April 11, 2018,

“Yemen: Ceasefire Broken as Fresh Fighting Breaks Out in Hodeidah,” May 15, 2019,
Houthis


Houthis

Designations:

Designations by the U.S. Government:


Designations by Foreign Governments and Organizations:

Saudi Arabia designated the Houthis as a terrorist group in March 2014.<sup>213</sup> The United Arab Emirates designated “The Houthi Movement in Yemen” as a terrorist organization in November 2014.<sup>214</sup>


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Ties to Extremist Entities:

The Houthi movement has expressed support for Hamas. Before he was killed in 2004, Houthis founder Hussein al-Houthi made it a point to praise Hamas for its wars against Israel. In October 2014, a member of the Houthi political party stated that the Houthis and Hamas share “a common stand vis-à-vis Israel” and the United States.

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Saudi officials allege that Hezbollah has provided training to the Houthi rebels. According to the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, the “first thing the Houthis did when they entered and occupied Sanaa was to free Iranian Revolutionary Guards operatives and Hezbollah operatives from the jails.”

Moreover, Houthi rhetoric as early as 2004 indicates the group looks up to Hezbollah due to its anti-American, anti-Israel stance. According to a number of analysts, the Houthis may also have modeled their organization after Hezbollah. In October 2014, the Associated Press reported that the Houthis were “posed to become Yemen’s version of the Shiite Hezbollah in Lebanon—top powerbrokers dominating the government and running a virtual state-within-a-state.”

The Iranian ship Jihan I was seized allegedly on route to Yemen in 2013 with arms meant for the Houthis. The cache, as Reuters reported in December 2014, included, “Katyusha rockets M-122, heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles, RPG-7s, Iranian-made night vision goggles and ‘artillery systems that track land and navy targets 48km away’ as well as ‘silencers, 2.66 tonnes of RDX explosives, C-4 explosives, ammunition, bullets and electrical transistors.’”

No known cooperative links exist between the Houthi and Iraqi Shiite paramilitary group the Badr Organization. Badr members have, however, rallied in Iraq in support of the Houthi rebels.

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Reports of Houthi-Qaida clashes:

Houthi militants have engaged in violent clashes with al-Qaeda’s Yemeni branch, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). While the Houthis are opposed to Salafist encroachment in their stronghold, analysts have noticed that the two groups have at times appeared to enter in an alliance against the Yemeni government.

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Houthis

Media Coverage:
**Rhetoric:**

**Yahya Sarea, Houthi spokesman, January 13, 2019** [224]

"Soon there will be enough [armed drones] in the strategic stockpile to launch more than one drone operation in multiple battle fronts at the same time."[220]

**Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, March 25, 2018** [225]

"In the fourth year of the war, we will use more developed and more diverse missile systems which will overcome all American and non-American air defence systems to target Saudi Arabia,...We'll use our Badr [short-range ballistic missiles] and Burkan missiles, long-range drones which have excellent military capabilities. We will activate military institutions in an unprecedented way and open up more opportunities to recruit the children and men of our people to fight."[230]

**Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, spokesman and member of Houthi Political Council, April 29, 2018** [226]

"The Yemenis have added new systems for manufacturing missiles, so more missiles are targeting Saudi Arabia as a part of an escalation."[231]

**Brigadier General Sharaf Ghaleb Loqman, June 1, 2018** [227]

"From now on Abu Dhabi is no longer safe, it will be within our ballistic missiles’ range... Islands and areas, where the occupation forces of the Saudi-UAE-led coalition are stationing, will be a cemetery."[232]

**Houthis slogan** [228]

"God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel! Curse upon the Jews! Victory to Islam!"[233]

**Houthis Rally Slogan, February 20, 2015** [229]

"Against extortion and the American conspiracies and their agents... our revolution continues."[234]

**Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, member of Houthis political party, Fall 2014** [230]

"What we have in common with Iran or Hezbollah or Hamas and Islamic Jihad, is that we have a common stand vis-a-vis Israel and US and we will cooperate with any political actor in the region who stands in the face of the US regional designs."[235]

**Mohammed Abdul Salam, Houthis Spokesman, September 2014** [231]

"The authorities want the people to realize that peaceful options aren’t acceptable ... and
are no use in correcting the situation.”

*Letter from Houthi rebels, January 2007*

“They [the Jews] have taken part in actions and movements that serve global Zionism first and foremost, and are working diligently at corrupting people and making them abandon their values, their moral and religious values, and spread all kinds of abominations throughout society... Our Islam religion compels us to fight the corrupt and denounce them.”

*Hussein al-Houthi, Founder, Date Not Determined*

“[Hezbollah is the] head of mujahidin in this world, they are the ones who present martyrs, the ones who truly preserve the water of the face of the umma.”

“[The goal of the Houthis’ slogan is to] ingrain in the minds of Muslims that America is the criminal terrorist, that America is evil, that Jews and Christians are evil...”

“Jews know that the Sunnis will not pose any danger to them... are the leaders of the Islamic world today not Sunni? Are they not the ones who agreed, who hurried to agree, that America is to lead the world against what is referred to as terrorism?”

“If the issue of confronting Israel were brought to a popular referendum... [the people] would vote 90 percent in favor of confronting America and Israel.”

“Our slogans from Americans’—the Christians’ and Jews’—point of view... form an extreme danger to them.”

“If the [Arab] leaders united, they would be able to strike Israel.”
Hussein al-Houthi, Founder, Date Not Determined

"Usama [bin-Laden] and the Taliban are not the ones being targeted. The event that occurred in New York [9/11] is not what motivated America. Who knows, the American intelligence could be the ones who carried out that event, to create justifications and clear the air for them to strike those who really form a danger to them, and they are the Shi’a, they are the Shi’a.”

Hussein al-Houthi, Founder, Date Not Determined

"It is clear in front of us collectively that Israel is powerful over the Arabs... [and] that Jews and Christians are the masters of Muslims."

Hussein al-Houthi, Founder, Date Not Determined

"[The Muslim world is in a state of weakness] under the feet of the Jews and Christians."


"Houthi rebels vow to step up attacks on Saudi oil facilities," Financial Times, April 29, 2018, https://www.ft.com/content/1c983caa-4a2b-11e8-8ae9-4b5d6dca99d3


Houthis
