



In March 2015, the Houthi movement, as well as forces loyal to Saleh, who is thought to have supported his erstwhile enemies, attempted to take control of the entire country. Saudi Arabia alongside other mostly Sunni Arab states launched air attacks in response. This coalition was also supported by the US, the UK and France. Efforts of the UN to negotiate peace have failed and the situation has been called ‘the world’s worst man-made humanitarian disaster’.

As a result of the conflict and the difficulty in supplying the population with aid, civilian costs are tremendous. At least 10,000 people have been killed and over 50,000 injured (as of March, 2018). Meanwhile, 75% of the population needs humanitarian assistance. 8.4 million individuals are considered at risk of starvation and 16.4 million or more lack basic healthcare. In June 2017 the world’s largest cholera outbreak occurred, which has since claimed thousands of lives, too. It is therefore the goal of this committee to come up with effective solutions.

Countries Involved:

1. Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia formed a coalition of Arab states to defeat the Houthis in Yemen and to restore the country’s government. The conflict is seen by many as part of the ‘cold war’ between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

i. Saudi-led coalition:

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan and Senegal are all part of the Saudi-led coalition. Several of these have either performed air attacks or sent troops to Yemen.

2. US:

The US has provided military assistance to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, its allies. Many of the weapons delivered are being used in Yemen, for example to locate and destroy Houthi missile sites. It has launched airstrikes on al-Qaeda and ISIS targets, too. The US also helps with logistics and intelligence and has been accused of exacerbating the conflict. Through for example USAID, the country has, however, provided substantial humanitarian assistance.

3. UK:

The UK has provided aid for example in the form of food, water or vaccinations. Diplomatic staff are currently based in Saudi Arabia and Amman to negotiate an end to the conflict. Yet, the UK has also been known to provide Saudi Arabia with military, technical and logistical support

4. France:

France has likewise provided Saudi Arabia and the UAE with military assistance. It is the world's third largest arms exporter and the two previously mentioned countries are its top customers. It has, however, dedicated €4.3 million in humanitarian assistance to Yemen in 2017 through international organizations and provided aid and support in various other ways.

5. Iran:

Iran has denied providing the Houthi movement with assistance of any kind, yet the US has claimed that it intercepted arms shipments from Iran to Yemen in March 2018.

Timeline of events:

2004 June-August – Shia insurgency led by Hussein al-Houthi. Next couple of years see deadly clashes between al-Houthi supporters and the military.

2011 November – After years of protests President Saleh agrees to hand over power to Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

2014 September – Houthis take control of most of Sanaa (the capital).

2015 January – Houthis reject draft constitution.

2015 February – Presidential council appointed by the Houthis to replace President Hadi, who flees.

2015 March – Houthis advance south. Saudi-led coalition launches air strikes and imposes naval blockade.

2015 September – Saudi-backed government recaptures port city Aden.

2016 April – Start of UN-sponsored talks between the government on one side and the Houthis and former President Saleh's General People's Congress on the other.

2016 October – Both sides break UN-sponsored ceasefire amid peace talks.

2017 May – Houthis continue firing missiles into Saudi Arabia.

2017 June-November – Cholera outbreak kills 2,100 and affects 900,000 civilians.

2017 December – Former president Ali Abdullah Saleh is killed.

2018 January – Southern Yemeni UAE-backed separatists seize control of Aden.

Previous attempts to solve the conflict:

Resolutions:

1. February 2014 S/RES/2140 – established sanctions against those threatening the peace, security or stability of Yemen.
2. February 2015 S/RES/2201 – deplored Houthis' actions and urged acceleration of negotiations.
3. February 2015 S/RES/2204 – assets freeze and travel ban.
4. April 2015 S/RES/2216 – demanded Houthis to withdraw from seized areas and to give up seized arms. Established an arms embargo on the Houthis and Saleh forces.
5. October 2015 A/HRC/RES/30/18 – requested the High Commissioner of Human Rights to provide Yemen with technical assistance.
6. February 2017 and 2018 S/RES/2342 and S/RES/2402 – renewed and extended Yemen sanctions.
7. September 2017 A/HRC/RES/36/31 – called on the High Commissioner for Human Rights to create a group of experts to monitor and report on the situation of human rights in Yemen and to examine previous abuses.

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