

# *Yemen: Enter At Own Risk*

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## **The Yemeni Bosses**

- The government's (under President Abd Rabbo Mansouri Hadi) allied Sunni Tribesmen



- Houthi (Shia Zaidi Sect) leaders- the founder is Hussein Al-Houthi who was killed by the government in 2004, currently headed by Abdulmalek al-Houthi



- The United Nations
- The Yemenis



**Yemeni Threat Status:**

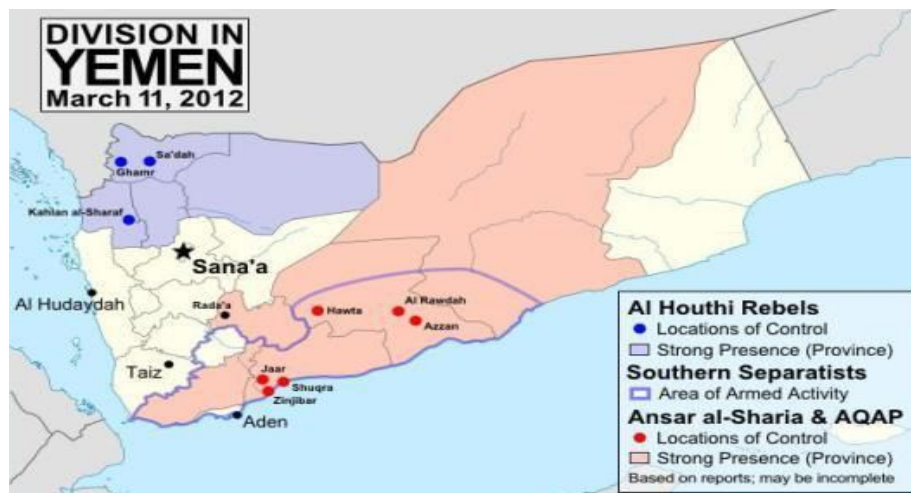
- The Houthis were able to transcend their roots in the revival of Zaidism, a brand of Shia Islam found almost exclusively in northern Yemen
- Popular demands as the overthrow of the unpopular unity government, frustration over rampant corruption, anger over the removal of fuel subsidies
- The Houthis demand a reduction in fuel prices and more political representation as there has been economic and political marginalization, resentment of US and Saudi influence in Yemen
- There has been a deal brokered courtesy of the UN
- The passing of the deadline of the appointment of a New Prime Minister according to a deal signed between the Shia and the government and UN has led to further tension
- There's division and distrust within Yemeni's Armed Forces leading to its weakening and triumph of the Houthis
- The Houthi began with peaceful protests and participation in the Yemen's Conference of National Dialogue while simultaneously the armed wing clashed with its rival groups north of Sanaa
- Houthis disbanded the disarmament agreement, have remained in control of Sanaa, the capital city, continued to occupy the Army Headquarters,
- The rival group to the Houthi is the Muslim Brotherhood also signed a deal brokered by the UN to end protests and clashes
- There have been six brutal wars against the Houthis during the rule of Yemen's former President Ali Abdullah Saleh
- Thousands have died as a result of the series of violent clashes north of Sanaa between the Houthis and the Sunni tribal adversaries
- The Houthis were sidelined in 2011 Agreement brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which led to the fall of Saleh and rise of Mansour Hadi as well as a period of governance that was often dysfunctional by a coalition government that was split between the former president's party- the General People's Congress (GPC), and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), a grouping of establishment opposition factions including the Islamist Islah Party- which incorporates the bulk of the Yemeni Muslim Brotherhood and Leftist Factions like Yemeni Socialist and Nasserist Parties.

### Threat Dynamics:

- Attack on the house of Ali Al-Ahmadi, the National Security Chief, this increases retaliatory intensity.
- Attack on Special Police guarding the US Embassy in Sanaa by a rocket fired from a car and landed 200m from the heavily fortified embassy... the USA is a key ally to Yemen in the fight against Al-Qaeda
- Saudi Arabia and other countries of the Gulf back the Yemen's President Mansur Hadi who has warned of "foreign plots" against the country
- Iran sponsored houthi rebels-their stronghold is in northwestern mountains
- There have been protests by civilians against the Houthis
- It is politics more than religion that has driven many tribal leaders particularly Islah's Sheik to throw in their lot with the Houthis

### The Way Forward:

Suggestions include a formation of a Commission for the Implementation of the deal signed to end hostilities and violence or a deployment of Regional or UN Peacekeeping forces. This is because the situation has different and multiple dimension from religious to political and social, hence there is volatility. The Commission formed would be able to foster good relations amongst the Parties to the Coalition Government seeking a healing process that will bring back the country to unity that will address the underlying issues and people's concerns.



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