



ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS
THE NINETEENTH SESSION

Yemeni Civil War: Houthi Forces

Topic Bulletin

Academy Model United Nations

February 1 - February 2, 2018

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Hello, and welcome to AMUN!

My name is Ciro Randazzo, and I will be serving as the Head Chair for the Houthi. I'm currently a junior in the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology (AAST). I've been doing Model UN since the beginning of my freshman year. Since then, I have acted as Secretary General of the Junior Academy Model United Nations conference and participated in a variety of committees, especially crisis committees, with topics ranging from the Soviet Union to a space race hundreds of years in the future. This will be my second time staffing a crisis committee at AMUN, and I'm extremely excited. In my free time, I tend to watch too much Netflix and too many old movies, learn random information, and generally do things that are considered nerdy. I can't wait to see you at AMUN this year, and I hope you have a truly amazing experience. Happy research!

Best,
Ciro Randazzo, Head Chair - Ansar Allah (Houthis) Yemeni Revolution Crisis
cirran19@bergen.org

Hello and welcome to AMUN!

My name is Shalin Patel and I will be serving as your vice chair for the Houthi committee. I am currently a junior in the Science Academy (AAST). I have been participating in Model UN since the very beginning of my freshman year. I have done a variety of different committees such as general assemblies and specialized committees. This will be my second time serving in a Crisis committee and I am excited to be doing it again! In my free time I tend to sleep (a lot), watch too much TV, and play tennis. I cannot wait to see you at AMUN and I wish you the very best in your Crisis experience.

Regards,
Shalin Patel Vice Chair - Ansar Allah (Houthis) Yemeni Revolution Crisis
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Introduction

This Joint Crisis Committee (JCC) will be focused on the conflict in Yemen between the government and Ansar Allah, or the Houthis. We will be starting on 25 January 2014, directly after the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference. Everything that occurred before this date should be assumed to be true. All events after this date have not happened for the purpose of this committee; it is up to the delegates to determine the future. Instead of following the course of events in the real world, delegates are encouraged to come up with creative solutions. There will be two committees in the same artificial universe - Ansar Allah and the Hadi government - with the actions being taken in one affecting both. In addition to ensuring the success of Ansar Allah, delegates should also be vying to increase their own power and influence.

Topic History

Overthrow of Saleh

The history of revolution in Yemen dates back to January 2011, with protests being held in the capital, Sana'a, against then-president Ali Abdullah Saleh shortly after the Tunisian people ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Originally, two major facets motivated protesters: Saleh's plans to amend the current constitution and economic problems, such as high poverty and unemployment rates. As January progressed, protests grew larger and began to spread throughout Yemen, notably into the more restive south of the country. Protests also became increasingly critical of Saleh, with some calling for new leadership. In February 2011, there were calls for a "Day of Rage" modeling those seen in places such as Tunisia and Egypt managed to topple the each country's respective leaders. Yemen's Day of Rage occurred on 3 February 2011, the day after Saleh promised that he would step down from the presidency in 2013 at the end of his term. The protests brought tens of thousands of Yemenis to the streets of Sana'a and Aden, a southern port city. After several large protests in the ensuing months, Saleh assented to a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-brokered deal in late April. After Saleh withdrew before signing an agreement on three separate times, the GCC ceased its negotiation efforts in Yemen on 22 May 2011. The following day, one of the most powerful tribes in the country, the Hashid Federation, declared in opposition to the government, leading to armed Hashid supporters and pro-government forces fighting in the streets of Sana'a. In addition, Islamic militants took control of the port city of Zinjibar killing many people in the process. On 3 June 2011, Saleh was injured in an attack on a mosque used by several high-ranking officials in the Yemeni government. Despite rumors that he had died, Saleh survived the attack, albeit in bad condition. The following day, he left for Saudi Arabia, supposedly for medical treatment, leaving Vice President Abdurabbuh Mansur Hadi as acting president.

On 10 August 2011, a ceasefire was called between the government and opposition forces in Ta'izz. This was short-lived, as government forces then turned

on protestors. It was described as a massacre and soon after the ceasefire was broken with tribesmen taking control of the Congress. Saudi Arabia attempted to broker a ceasefire but the government rejected the opposition's demands. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands more were wounded between the fighting of pro-government and dissident forces. The Gulf Cooperation Council, an alliance of helped broker a peace deal on 23 November 2011 in which Saleh agreed to a permanent transfer of power to Vice President Hadi.

Hadi Presidency

Hadi took the constitutional oath of office on 25 February 2012 and was formally inaugurated in a ceremony in Sana'a after running unopposed. As per the deal, Hadi was given two years to help install an government; this was known as the transition period.

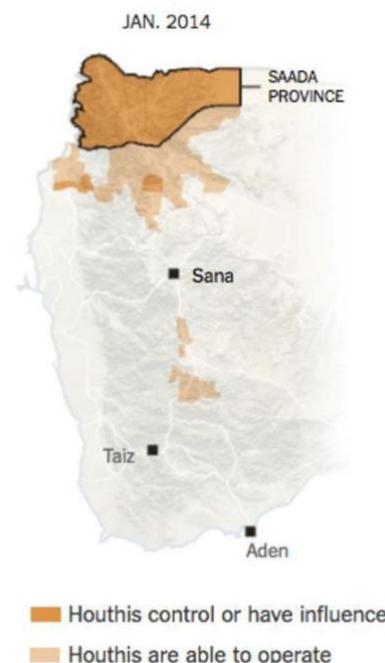
Ansar Allah

Ansar Allah - colloquially known as "the Houthis," after their founder, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi - is a Zaidi-Shia group founded in the 1990s. In 2004, after years of growing tension, the Houthis staged a rebellion against President Saleh. Al-Houthi was reportedly killed by Yemeni Army forces during this rebellion. As such, leadership of the group was passed to his brother, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, who leads the group to this day. Unlike other groups in the region, Ansar Allah refrains from creating a tribal identity, instead drawing immense support from the tribes of Northern Yemen, particularly the Bakil Federation. The movement strives for autonomy in the parts of Yemen they currently hold as a means of ending economic and political marginalization. As such, they took part in the 2011 revolution against Saleh, mainly in the form of street protests and military demonstrations. As the revolution progressed, the Houthis took control of more and more land. By 9 November 2011, the Houthis controlled two of Yemen's twenty-one governorates - Sa'dah and Al-Jawf - and were almost in control of a third, Hajjah.



Current Situation

In the current situation for the Yemeni Crisis, the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which began on 18 March 2013, that was one of the stipulations for the Gulf Co-operation Council has concluded on 24 January 2014. In the NDC, the elite of Sana'a and Yemen came together to determine the future of Yemen and determine the steps that the transitional government of Yemen



has to take in order to bring about a sense of stability in Yemen and usher in an age of prosperity in the conflict weary country. The conference looked at some of the underlying issues that led to the original rebellion against Saleh which included economic instability and high unemployment.

One of the most important considerations at the conference was establishing a government with legitimacy to enact lasting change over Yemen. Indeed, many people refuse to invest in Yemen due to the lack of stability and security that comes with the dearth of a legitimate government. As part of this, Hadi's mandate to run the transition government has been extended for another year.

Albeit attending both the November 2011 Gulf Cooperation Council as well as the NDC, but were dissatisfied by the terms of each. As part of the NDC many province lines were redrawn and the Houthis lost access to many resources as well as access to the sea which is one of the reasons for their dissent against the Hadi government. They felt that this upheld the economic marginalization throughout Yemen by dividing it into wealthy and poor regions. Additionally, on 25 November 2013, the representative of Ansar Allah to the NDC, Abdulkareem Jadban, was murdered, with many believing it was politically motivated. Additionally, the Houthis believe that many important factors were unconsidered or not fully dealt with.

List of People

(Note: Positions may include characters from further into the timeline or may be renamed to specify powers)

1. Abdul-Malik Badreddin Al-Houthi (President of Ansar Allah)
2. Yahia Badreddin al-Houthi (Prime Minister of Ansar Allah)
3. Abdul-Karim Badreddin Al-Houthi (Deputy Prime Minister of Ansar Allah)
4. Mohammad Naji al-Shaif (Incumbent Leader of the Bakil Tribal Federation)
5. Mohammed Ali al-Houthi (Chief of Staff for Ansar Allah)
6. Ali Abdullah Saleh (Former President of Yemen)
7. Ali Al-Bukhaiti (Spokesperson for Ansar Allah)
8. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar (Chief of Army)
9. Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei (Leader of Iranian Republican Guard, supplies weaponry to Houthi forces illegally)
10. Fares Mana'a (Governor of Sa'dah)
11. Hussein Abdullah Mkabuli (Minister of Finance)
12. Mohamed Abdullah al-Kawsi (Minister of the Interior)
13. Saleh Habra (Minister of Exterior) **technically a political leader, but deals with external relations
14. Ahmed Mohammed Hamed (Minister of Information)
15. Abdu Mohammed Bishr (Minister of Industry and Trade)
16. Abdullah Ahmad al-Kibsy (Minister of Culture)

Questions to Consider

1. How can Ansar Allah expand its influence?

2. What forces pose an immediate threat to Ansar Allah and/or its ideologies?
3. What alliances, both internal and external, should be considered?
4. What steps could be taken to discredit and disempower Hadi's government?
5. How can you as an individual gain power?
6. How can economic and political marginalization be combatted in Yemen?
7. How can you ensure economic revitalization for the Yemeni people in face of a tanking economy and a scarcity of economic means of production?

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