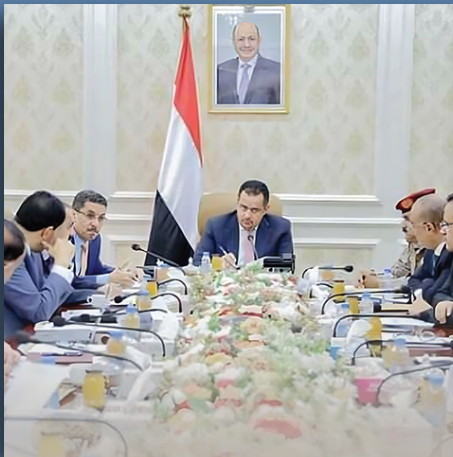




MONTHLY BRIEFING

FOREIGN STUDIES UNIT - AUGUST 2023

ISSUE : 24



MONTHLY BRIEFING

The Monthly Briefing is a bulletin that monitors and documents the most prominent current events in Yemen, on the political, military, economic, security and humanitarian levels. It is published monthly and translated into several languages

THE PREVIOUS
ISSUE



Political Scene

The most prominent event in August was the successful transfer of oil from the tanker called Safer to an alternate tanker, effectively averting a potential environmental catastrophe. However, against the backdrop of a challenging and intricate political environment, there are currently no discernible solutions on the horizon. Furthermore, the outcome of the Omani delegation's visit to Sana'a, where they engaged with the leadership of the Houthi group, remains uncertain, lacking clear indications of positive results.

The United States expressed full endorsement for the Presidential Leadership Council and the overall security, unity and stability of Yemen. This declaration transpired during a meeting between Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs, and Stephen Fagin, the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen.

August 3

The Houthi group made changes to the National Education Book in areas under its control. They removed a portion of the first goal of the September 26, 1962, revolution — a significant national holiday. The omitted segment pertained to “eliminating disparities and privileges among social classes.”

August 2

Affiliated armed groups linked to Abdul Rahman al-Mahrami, a member of the Presidential Leadership Council, forcefully entered the presidential palace in the Ma'ashiq area of Aden, which serves as the residence of Prime Minister Maeen Abdul Malik, who had recently returned from Riyadh.

August 13

The Omani delegation left Sana'a Airport, returning to Muscat, after a four-day visit, during which it met with the leaders of the Houthi group, in an attempt to revive the peace negotiations that had stalled for months, without announcing any results.

August 20



The Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi, visited Al-Mahra Governorate for an inspection, which lasted for seven days, and then he returned to Saudi Arabia (temporary residence), accompanied by several officials. The visit is his first to this province, located in the far east of the country.

August 22



The United Nations announced the successful conclusion of the emergency phase aimed at salvaging the deteriorating Safer oil tanker situated off the western coast of Yemen. This accomplishment averted a significant environmental catastrophe that posed a grave threat to the Red Sea region.

However, a recent study, conducted by the Mokha Center for Strategic Studies, issued a warning about the potential for a new catastrophe arising from the tanker that now contains the oil, after the oil transfer



August 11

Military scene

Acts of violence persisted across several areas between the government army and the Houthi group. These confrontations transpired in the governorates of Al-Dhalea, Lahj, Marib, and Al-Jawf, with a particularly heightened intensity within the city of Taiz. Throughout these engagements, casualties — both fatalities and injuries — were reported on both sides. Meanwhile, the Houthi group maintained its mobilization efforts and dispatched fighters to the frontlines in Taiz and Ma'rib. These actions came in response to the appeal made by the UN envoy, Hans Grundberg, who addressed the Security Council, urging the involved parties in Yemen to desist from incitement toward violence and instead recommit to the path of dialogue.

In the southwest of Yemen, the strategically vital Bab al-Mandab area has experienced a surge in tension involving military forces, all of which receive backing from the Emirates. The first group is affiliated with Brigadier General Tariq Saleh's forces, while the second comprises the Giant Brigades, supported by the Sabeeha tribes — a prominent tribe in the southern Lahj Governorate. Despite the endeavors of Major General Haitham Qassem Taher, who heads the Presidential Committee, the attempts to ease the mounting tension were ultimately unsuccessful.



Various narratives emerged from the Houthi group concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Hamzi, the commander of their Air Force. The group expressed grief through its media channels, yet refrained from disclosing specifics about the cause. Meanwhile, the legitimate government confirmed that the deaths of Al-Hamzi and several other leaders were attributed to the unsuccessful testing of Iranian weaponry in the Serwah region of Ma'rib.

August 6

The commander of the security belt forces in Abyan Governorate, Brigadier General Abd al-Latif al-Sayyed, and five of his companions were killed in an explosive device detonation targeting his convoy, in Abyan (south of the country).

August 10

The Saudi authorities denied allegations published by Human Rights Watch regarding the assault on groups of Ethiopian nationality while crossing the Saudi-Yemeni border. (The organization published on its account videos that said: It is from the Yemeni-Saudi border, and that it has documents and other evidence confirming the killings and the direct targeting of refugees.)

August 24



One day after his return from Riyadh, while attending an expanded meeting that included military, political and partisan leaders in the governorate, Major General Sultan al-Arada, a member of the PLC and the governor of Ma'rib, said: The Yemeni people have more rights and power than the Houthis and that he will move toward restoring the state and its institutions, whether through peace or war.

August 26

Security scene

The Al-Qaeda group in Yemen has released five United Nations staff members after being held captive for over eighteen months. The organization did not disclose the identity of the party that paid the approximately \$3 million ransom that was demanded. Additionally, assassinations resurfaced in the city of Taiz, following the assassination of a security operative who was actively engaged in the inquiry concerning the murder of UN representative Moayad Hamidi on the outskirts of the city of Al-Turbah.



A political security officer and a member of the investigation committee into the murder of Moayad Hamidi, the director of the World Food Program, Lieutenant Adnan Al-Muhaya was assassinated in the city of Taiz.

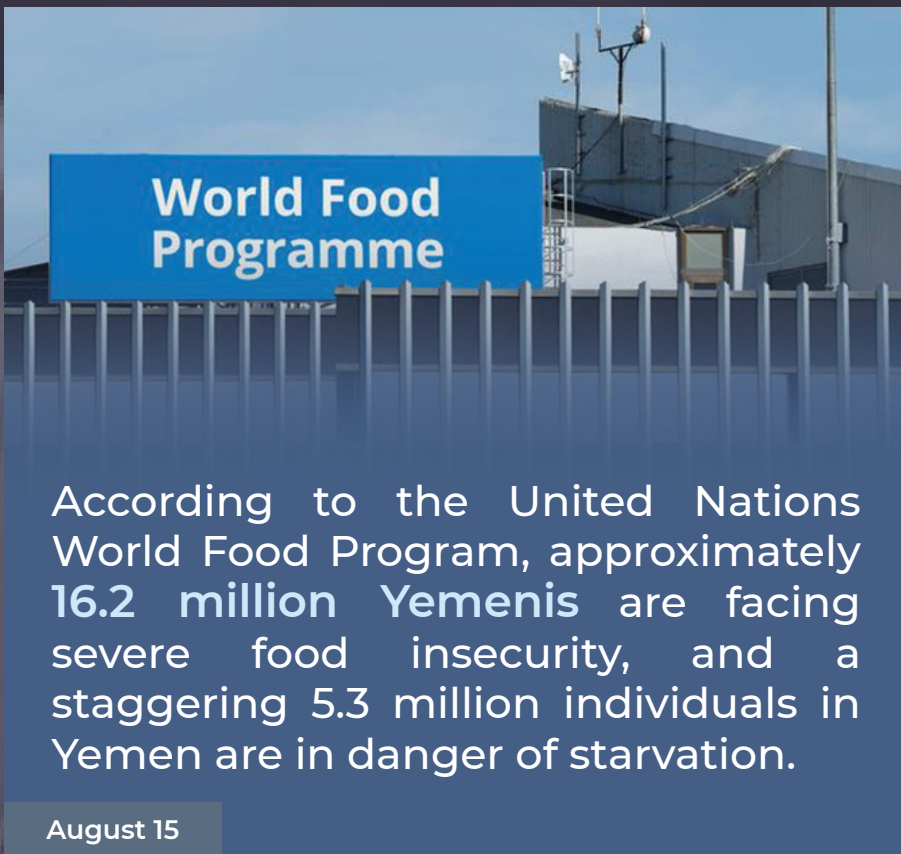
August 15

Violent confrontations broke out between the forces affiliated with the Transitional Council and gunmen, among the protesters, in the interim capital, Aden, hours after a security force affiliated with the security belt stormed Martyrs' Square and kidnapped the leader of the February 16 movement, Walid al-Idrisi, following the attack on him.

August 26

Economic scene

The cost of essential food items has increased dramatically, with the country experiencing an annual inflation rate of 200%. This has placed hardships on people, making it extremely challenging for them to afford an adequate amount of food for their survival. Several governorates, including the capital, Aden, suffer from an acute shortage of fuel and a significant deterioration in electricity services.



According to the United Nations World Food Program, approximately 16.2 million Yemenis are facing severe food insecurity, and a staggering 5.3 million individuals in Yemen are in danger of starvation.

August 15

The Houthi group enforced new financial measures on merchants, introducing a 14% levy termed as "taxes" on goods passing through customs at the entry points of the territories they govern. Additionally, merchants lacking proper customs declarations faced an increased fee of 28%.

July 26

The Central Bank of Yemen made an announcement regarding the receipt of around one billion Saudi riyals, equivalent to approximately 265 million dollars. This initial payment is part of the financial assistance allocated by Saudi Arabia to bolster the Yemeni state budget.

August 3

According to a recent report by the United Nations, food imports through Hodeidah ports, controlled by the Houthi group, have shown a fourfold increase compared to imports through Aden and Mukalla ports, which are under the jurisdiction of the Yemeni government. This analysis pertains to the first half of the year 2023.

August 13



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia revealed its commitment to extend economic assistance to Yemen, contributing a substantial sum of 1.2 billion US dollars. The objective of this aid is to address the Yemeni government's budgetary shortfall and provide essential support for salaries, wages, and operational expenditures.

August 1

Violations

The siege imposed by the Houthi group on the city of Taiz has greatly exacerbated the humanitarian crisis there. There are more than 4 million people suffering as a result of the continuation of the blockade, which has entered its eighth year. Local and international organizations documented a number of human rights violations in Yemen during the month of August, ranging from torture to death, arrest and displacement as a result of the conflict.

The Houthi group began imposing procedures for separating male and female students at Sana'a State University, as part of a set of behaviors that the group imposes on citizens and students in the name of what it calls "faith identity."

August 10

A human rights organization revealed to the "Yemen Shabab" channel that the Houthi group has 100 prisons in Ibb Governorate, most of which are secret and not subject to the most basic international standards, and there are dozens of kidnapped people.

August 24



The Houthis began banning YouTube and Facebook platforms, in response to the shutting down of 70 channels affiliated with the group, among the promotional channels and accounts that promote violence within the war media and its media centers.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Human Rights Watch has accused Saudi border guards of killing hundreds of Ethiopian migrants, including women and children, during their journey from detention centers and informal gatherings in Saada Governorate, into Saudi territory, with the help of smugglers and human traffickers with close ties to the Houthi group.

August 15

The Information and Training Center for Human Rights documented 78 violations committed by the Houthi group in the besieged Taiz Governorate, which caused the death of two civilians, including a woman, who were accompanied by mass displacement in the areas of Hawamrah, Haqab and Al-Dahhi in the Mawiyah district.

August 25

Humanitarian scene

The humanitarian situation in Yemen remains catastrophic, with millions of Yemenis suffering from food, healthcare and education insecurity. The United Nations has warned that Yemen is about to face a global famine, especially with the announcement of the cessation of humanitarian programs due to lack of funding.

The United Nations World Food Program announced that more than four million Yemenis will receive less food aid, starting at the end of next September, due to an acute funding crisis facing humanitarian organizations.

August 18



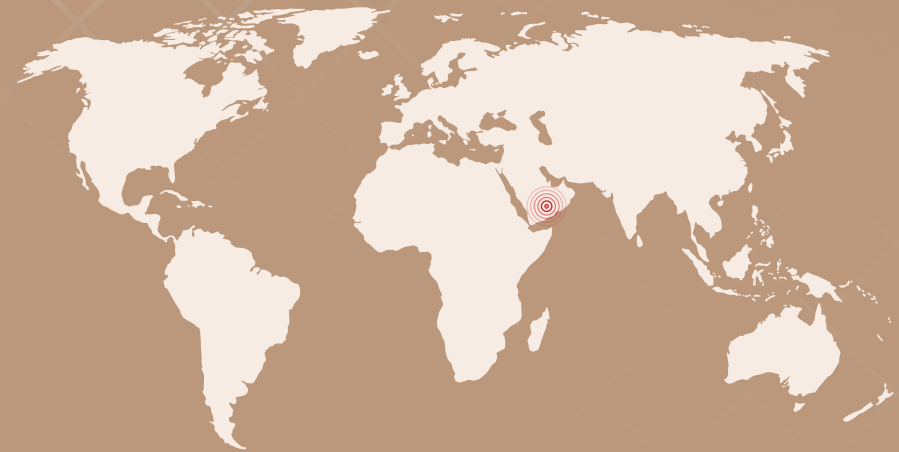


Displacement of

24,000

Yemeni individuals
since January 1 to August 5

due to reasons
linked to the
ongoing war



Source: The International Organization for Migration, of the United Nations

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