



# MONTHLY BRIEFING

FOREIGN STUDIES UNIT

MAY / 2025

ISSUE : 45

22  
May



# 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



May 2025 brought significant changes to Yemen's political landscape, shaped by mounting internal tensions and growing regional pressures. Salem Saleh bin Braik was appointed prime minister in an effort to steady the government, while President Rashad Al-Alimi adopted a more cautious stance on the southern issue. At the same time, the Southern Transitional Council (STC), stepped up its foreign outreach to improve its international image and gain broader recognition for its separatist agenda. Meanwhile, UN envoy Hans Grundberg continued to warn of the fragility of the political process and the destabilizing impact of regional interference.



## Political Scene

Salem bin Braik was sworn in as Prime Minister before Presidential Leadership Council Chairman Rashad Al-Alimi, succeeding Ahmed bin Mubarak, who was then appointed as a presidential advisor. Al-Alimi urged the new government to curb the economic decline, strengthen ties with the Saudi-Emirati coalition and support the ongoing battle against the Houthi group.

May 4

The Southern Transitional Council paid \$1.2 million to a United States firm to improve its image and promote the secession of southern Yemen, according to American documents. The agreement aims to gain Washington's support, with the council also expressing openness to relations with Israel.

May 7

The Supreme Council of the Popular Resistance held an expanded consultative meeting in Taiz, focusing on revitalizing the role of the resistance to restore sovereignty and end the Houthi coup. The council rejected partial solutions and called for intensified, organized resistance.

May 22

Political Scene

Sheikh Hamoud Saeed Al-Mikhlaifi affirmed that popular resistance remains the national path to restoring the state. He stressed the importance of unity and commitment to the republic and national cohesion.

May 22



The UN envoy wrapped up his visit to Riyadh with meetings with officials and diplomats. He welcomed the announced halt in hostilities between the United States and the Houthis, viewing it as a potential step toward a comprehensive ceasefire.

May 26

The UN envoy concluded his visit to Muscat after holding meetings with Omani officials, Houthi leaders and diplomats, including Iranian representatives. The discussions focused on easing tensions between the Houthis and the U.S. as well as advancing a comprehensive political solution.

May 28

## Political Scene

President Rashad Al-Alimi met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation and coordinating positions. President Al-Alimi expressed Yemen's gratitude for Russia's support for legitimacy and peace and updated President Putin on the latest developments in Yemen.

May 28



Former British Ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Fitton-Brown, accused humanitarian organizations of pressuring the international community to adopt positions favoring the Houthis. He criticized the Stockholm Agreement and the influence of the "humanitarian lobby," while urging military support for the legitimate government, the recapture of Hodeidah and efforts to confront Iran's destabilizing role in Yemen and the region.

May 28

The ambassadors of the European Union, the Netherlands, France, and Germany concluded their visit to the governorates of Aden and Lahj, affirming their support for the Presidential Leadership Council and the legitimate government, while calling for unity and reforms.

May 29

## Military Scene



Military tensions escalated between the Houthis and Israel, marked by an exchange of strikes. The Houthis targeted Ben Gurion Airport, leading to Israeli retaliatory bombings on Hodeidah Port and Sana'a Airport. These developments underscored Yemen's role as a battleground for regional and international conflicts. Meanwhile, the United States intensified its air strikes on various Houthi-controlled sites. On the ground, significant military restructuring took place with the creation of the Eighth Military Region. At the same time, the popular resistance in Taiz began mobilizing for a new phase of confrontations aimed at liberating the city.



**Military Scene**

The Houthis claimed responsibility for launching a hypersonic ballistic missile at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport and targeting a key facility in Ashkelon with a drone. The missile strike injured three people and led to flight cancellations after Israeli authorities confirmed a breach in the airport's air defenses.

May 4



U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a stern warning to Iran, cautioning of the “deadly price” of its continued support for the Houthis, even as nuclear negotiations resumed. His remarks followed a wave of U.S. air strikes against Houthi targets and the deployment of bombers and an aircraft carrier to the Middle East.

May 1

Israeli air strikes hit the port of Hodeidah, destroying Pier No. 5 and rendering the port inoperable. The raids also struck container terminals and the Bajil Cement Factory, injuring 21 workers.

May 5



Military Scene

Israeli warplanes bombed Sana’a Airport, destroying three civilian aircraft belonging to Yemenia Airways that had been seized by the Houthis for two years, resulting in the complete shutdown of the airport.

May 6



U.S. President Donald Trump announced a suspension of American air strikes in Yemen after receiving a message from the Houthis expressing willingness to halt hostilities and attacks on shipping routes. However, he clarified that no final agreement had been reached.

May 6

U.S. aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman lost a second F/A-18 fighter jet in the Red Sea within one week, following a failed landing that forced the pilot to eject. The incident occurred amid a new Houthi attack, despite the announced ceasefire.

May 7

Military Scene

The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) convened and held a broad consultative meeting in Taiz, with participation from local authorities. During the gathering, Sheikh Hamoud Saeed Al-Mikhlaifi, head of the Supreme Council of the Popular Resistance, urged renewed efforts in the battle for liberation and stressed that disarming the Houthis is essential for peace. The committees reaffirmed their readiness to support the National Army and called for unified national efforts.

May 22



The Yemeni Armed Forces intercepted a large-scale weapons smuggling operation in the Red Sea, aimed at supplying the Houthis. According to security investigations, the seized ships were carrying 3 million detonators, 3,600 kilometers of wiring, 64 satellite communication devices, and they were en route to Ras Isa Port.

May 10

Hegseth defended the decision to pause military operations against the Houthis, clarifying that the objective is to ensure the safety of international maritime routes rather than pursue regime change.

May 20

Military Scene

The Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance, MASAM, continued its efforts to clear landmines and unexploded ordnance in Yemen, removing approximately 1,504 explosive devices to enhance civilian safety in liberated areas.

May 25



The Houthi group accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out a drone strike in Saada, resulting in the death and injury of 10 African migrants, amid ongoing military operations along the Yemen-Saudi border.

May 26

The Israeli military reported that its defense system intercepted a ballistic missile launched from Yemen. At the same time, the Houthi group claimed it had targeted Ben Gurion Airport with a hypersonic missile, causing a temporary suspension of air traffic.

May 9

The Houthi group announced targeting “Ben Gurion Airport” with a hypersonic ballistic missile, claiming a precise hit and panic among Israelis. However, Israel confirmed it intercepted the missile with no injuries reported.

May 9

## Security Scene



This month saw signs of rising security tensions, with increased violations and a resurgence of harsh tactics. The Houthis seized commercial ships in Hodeidah and carried out targeted bombings to homes of opposition figures. In Aden, controlled by the Southern Transitional Council, kidnappings rose amid tighter security measures. The arrest of a Yemeni man in Germany on terrorism charges highlighted how security threats are spreading beyond Yemen's borders.



Security Scene

The Houthis group forcibly took control of commercial vessels with guns at Ras Isa Port, in Hodeidah, despite holding UN permits. This action heightened British warnings about threats to maritime navigation.

May 1



Unknown gunmen kidnapped four individuals, including three civil activists, in Aden’s Mansoura neighborhood amid escalating security concerns.

The U.S. offered a reward of up to \$15 million for information disrupting the Houthis’ financing networks, accusing them of attacking ships in the Red Sea. This announcement coincided with a U.S. halt to military strikes.

May 4

May 7

## Security Scene

The Security Committee in Aden banned demonstrations and protests, citing power outages and deteriorating public services, as part of efforts to reduce unrest and tighten security control.

May 21



The United States imposed sanctions on an international network smuggling Iranian oil to China, which is reportedly used to finance missile and drone development and support the Houthis, contributing to regional instability.

May 13

German prosecutors arrested a Yemeni citizen in Dachau on charges of belonging to the Houthi group after participating in military training and battles in Ma'rib Governorate in 2023. He was charged with involvement in a "terrorist organization."

May 22

## Economic Scene



Yemen's economy faced a deepening crisis, marked by widespread protests in Aden triggered by power outages, the collapse of the national currency and a sharp decline in public services. These unrest issues pressured the Central Bank to publicly deny plans to print new currency, aiming to calm the markets and preserve the fragile financial confidence.

## Economic Scene

The Central Bank of Yemen officially denied printing new amounts of local currency to cover the fiscal deficit, reaffirming its commitment to avoid inflationary financing since December 2021.

May 21



The Houthi group upgraded its communications network by importing equipment from China and Russia to lessen its reliance on Iran. This move followed U.S. strikes that had weakened their capabilities and came amid intensified intelligence efforts that uncovered internal security breaches and assassination threats targeting their military and organizational leadership.

May 19

Aden saw widespread popular protests expressing frustration over the worsening economic conditions, deteriorating public services and ongoing collapse of the local economy.

May 21



## Violations



May 2025 saw a continuation of systematic repression in Yemen, with widespread human rights violations. The Houthis tightened control over cultural activities by arresting artists and academics, while harsh sentences were handed down to activists and business leaders. In the southern regions, abuses by the STC against activists and media workers increased amid official silence.



The Houthi group released activist Rabab Al-Madwahi, program director at the American Democratic Institute, who had gone missing after being abducted from her Sana’a home in June 2024, during a crackdown on international organization employees.

May 5

The Court of Appeal in Aden sentenced three men — Helmi Jalal, Samir Naji and Abdullah Hussein — to death (qisas) for the 2016 premeditated murder of Salafi preacher Sheikh Samhan Abdulaziz al-Rawi, after reviewing evidence and witness testimonies.

May 5

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate condemned an 18-month prison sentence handed down by a Houthi court in Sana’a to journalist and writer Mohammed Dabwan al-Mayahi, calling it part of ongoing violations against freedom of expression and criticizing the judiciary’s use as a tool for repression.

May 24

A Houthi court in Sana'a reduced Prodigy Systems' CEO Adnan al-Harazi's death sentence to 15 years in prison and ordered the confiscation of his company's assets. The trial was criticized for interference, family visitation bans and lack of legal fairness, prompting an appeal.

May 25

A human rights report documented over 2,200 violations by the Houthis in Ibb Governorate, including murders, kidnappings, looting and torturing.

May 22

The Houthis imposed new restrictions in Sana'a on filming and interviews, requiring content creators to obtain prior permits from their Ministry of Information. This circular, building on earlier directives, also targeted wedding halls and artistic events to enforce strict ideological censorship.

May 27

## Humanitarian Scene



The humanitarian crisis in Yemen deepened throughout May 2025, driven by persistent violence and a severe shortage of international funding. A government report highlighted that half of Ma'rib's displaced population faces food insecurity, while a devastating explosion at a Houthi weapons depot in Sana'a added to the tragedy. Despite European aid efforts, humanitarian response funding covered only about 10% of the urgent needs.

Humanitarian Scene

A government report revealed that over two million displaced people in Ma'rib suffer from food insecurity due to worsening living conditions and declining aid, raising alarms about a looming humanitarian disaster and prompting calls for a recovery fund and increased financial support.

May 2



Amnesty International reported that a U.S. air strike on a migrant detention center in Sa'ada killed 68 people and injured 47, calling for an immediate investigation over violations of international humanitarian law. The strike involved GBU-39 bombs, which have caused numerous civilian casualties since March 2025.

May 19

A coalition of 116 UN, international and national organizations urged the global community to act urgently to prevent Yemen's crisis from worsening, noting that funding for the humanitarian response plan had covered only 10% of the needs since early 2025, severely limiting aid delivery.

May 20

Humanitarian Scene

The European Commission announced €80 million (\$90 million) in humanitarian aid for Yemen in 2025, targeting food security, health, malnutrition, epidemics, water and sanitation, education, protection programs and mine clearance.

May 22



An explosion at a Houthi weapons depot in Sarf, north of Sana'a, destroyed 15 homes and killed more than 40 people, injuring dozens, including entire families. The Houthis restricted media access and sealed off the area.

May 25

Shelling in Sa'ada Governorate targeted a gathering of African migrants, resulting in 10 deaths and injuries. Migrants continue to flee conflict and economic hardship in their home countries, seeking safety in Yemen despite the dangers.

May 26



## General

Yemenis at home and abroad celebrated the 35th anniversary of Yemeni unification amid the country's ongoing hardships. Presidential Leadership Council Chairman Rashad al-Alimi emphasized that building a modern state requires safeguarding the republican system, reinforcing pluralism, and achieving fair unity. He stressed the priority of ending the Houthi project, ensuring justice for southerners, and the state's readiness to decisively resolve the conflict.

May 29



## Statistics

Since 2015, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has recorded a total of 2,014 violations of media freedom. Of these, 1,187 violations (58%) were attributed to the Houthis, 376 violations (18%) to the legitimate government and 113 violations (5.6%) to the Southern Transitional Council (STC).

### The recorded violations include:

482 detentions	74 cases of torture
244 assaults	72 bans on media coverage
223 threats	55 attempted murders
212 website blockings	46 murders
175 trials	165 suspensions of media outlets
125 salary suspensions	



اليمن

المخا  
للدراستات الاستراتيجية  
MOKHA  
for strategic studies



WWW.MOKHACENTER.ORG

INFO@MOKHACENTER.ORG

@MOKHACENTER

