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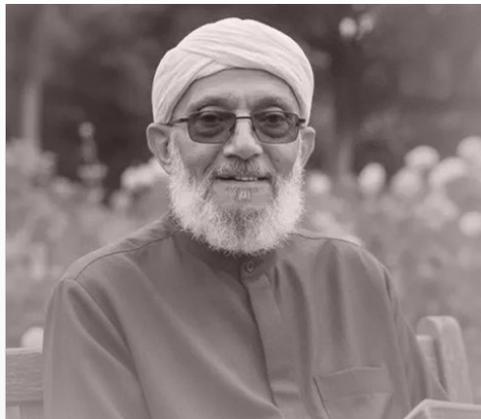


MONTHLY BRIEFING

FOREIGN STUDIES UNIT

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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



November 2025 witnessed heightened political movement in Yemen, marked by intensified diplomacy, renewed international pressure on the Houthis, and internal tensions within the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC). Despite active engagement from regional and global actors, the month underscored the enduring challenges of achieving stability amid competing authorities and escalating security threats.



Political Scene

UN Envoy Hans Grundberg ended a tour to Oman and Bahrain, holding talks with Houthi, Yemeni and regional officials on reviving the political process. He stressed a chance for de-escalation and again demanded the release of detained UN staff, while Yemen's foreign minister warned against international complacency and urged stronger backing for the government.

3 November



The UN Panel of Experts reported ongoing Houthi acquisition of advanced weapons and drones through Aden's port, the Shahn and Sarfait crossings and maritime routes, in violation of Resolution 2216, noting their use in attacks on international shipping and urging tighter anti-smuggling oversight and stronger accountability.

2 November

The UN Security Council extended sanctions under Resolution 2140 for another year, keeping asset freezes and travel bans on Houthi leaders and their group, condemning cross-border and maritime attacks, as well as extending the Panel of Experts' mandate to December 2026.

15 November

Political Scene

President Rashad Al-Alimi instructed the Ministry of Legal Affairs to formalize appointment decisions issued by Southern Transitional Council (STC) President and council member Aidarous Al-Zubaidi, despite controversy over exceeding presidential authority, preparing them for official announcement.

13 November



The United States asked the Yemeni government to join an international force planned for deployment in Gaza as part of President Trump's proposed peace plan, according to sources in the PLC and diplomatic channels.

19 November

Grundberg concluded a visit to Muscat, where he met Omani officials and Houthi spokesperson Mohammed Abdulsalam to review UN mediation efforts and stress the need for conditions conducive to dialogue.

19 November

Political Scene

President Rashad Al-Alimi and Council member Abdullah Al-Alimi met UK Minister for the Middle East Hamesh Falukner in Aden — the first British ministerial visit in seven years — to discuss bilateral ties, maritime security and Houthi threats to international shipping.

18 November



Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi and Grundberg discussed efforts to push Yemeni parties toward negotiations, coinciding with the Omani-Yemeni meetings on political developments and bilateral relations.

24 November

Al-Alimi appointed Salem Al-Khanbashi as Governor of Hadhramaut, replacing Mabkhout bin Madi, amid rising tensions among local leaders and the growing influence of UAE-aligned STC Security Support Forces in coastal areas.

27 November

Military Scene



November saw a sharp escalation in fighting between the national army and Houthi forces, alongside rising tensions in Taiz, Al-Jawf and Saada. Hadhramaut witnessed intense tribal and military mobilization amid Saudi-UAE rivalry, as clashes erupted between STC forces and local units. Other regions experienced assassination attempts and increased Houthi drone activity, underscoring the fragility of the security landscape and continued military attrition.



Military Scene



A consultative meeting in Taiz, convened by the Supreme Resistance Council under the leadership of Sheikh Hamoud Al-Mikhlafi, addressed rising security unrest and campaigns targeting the army. Al-Mikhlafi called for unified ranks to complete the liberation of the city. The statement urged stronger security support, responsible media messaging and the formation of a committee to liaise with national leadership.

15 November

The Yemeni army announced that its forces in the Sixth Military Region repelled a Houthi attack on positions in the Jawas sector east of Al-Jawf, then launched a counteroffensive that secured front-line positions and inflicted heavy losses on the attackers — the third such operation since recent redeployments.

18 November

Army units in the Razamat Axis of Saada shot down a Houthi Samad-1 attack drone over Al-Safra district after close monitoring by air-defense units, amid a noticeable increase in Houthi drone use.

19 November

Military Scene

On the Hadhramaut plateau, clashes broke out between STC forces and the Hadhramaut Protection Forces after the STC advanced toward oil fields. Armed tribal reinforcements moved into Al-Aleeb and Ghail Bin Yamin, forcing STC forces to pull back under tribal pressure as newly appointed governor Salem Al-Khanbashi arrived in Mukalla.

30 November



The armed forces thwarted a Houthi assault on positions east of Al-Jawf, destroying vehicles with drones as fighters attempted to retreat, and the several Houthi members were wounded and killed after a landmine exploded after intense clashes.

22 November

Tensions surged in Al-Waziya west of Taiz after tribal fighters downed a drone and launched attacks on positions held by forces loyal to PLC member Tariq Saleh, following a security operation linked to the theft of humanitarian equipment. The incident triggered heavy clashes, tribal mobilization and military reinforcements.

22 November

Security Scene



November saw a notable rise in efforts to dismantle smuggling and criminal networks, alongside escalating Houthi violations against international organizations and official steps to restructure security institutions. The month highlighted the complexity of balancing crime prevention and civilian protection amid ongoing challenges coordinating the government's multiple intelligence bodies.



Security Scene



Houthi forces raided the Oxfam office in Sana'a, detaining Yemeni staff and confiscating equipment hours after storming the offices of five other international NGOs, including Médecins Sans Frontières and Islamic Relief.

6 November

The Houthis stormed the International Medical Corps office in Sana'a, detaining local staff and seizing equipment as part of a broader crackdown that has included the arrest of around 60 NGO employees since the start of the year and threats to prosecute 43 more.

11 November

The General Directorate for Counter-Narcotics seized over 1.5 tons of drugs and arrested 803 suspects between January 2025 and September 2025 across 411 cases involving drugs trafficked from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Operations uncovered a Captagon and meth lab in Al-Mahra, seized 599 kg of cocaine at Aden Port, confiscated 646,000 pregabalin tablets and intercepted a vessel carrying two tons of methamphetamine north of the Arabian Sea.

5 November

Houthi forces raided the International Committee of the Red Cross office in Sana'a, detaining staff for hours and confiscating servers containing data on beneficiaries and detainees.

13 November

Authorities reported intensified interceptions of weapons shipments smuggled to the Houthis, with major seizures recorded between July and October, indicating expanding Iran-backed smuggling networks.

4 November

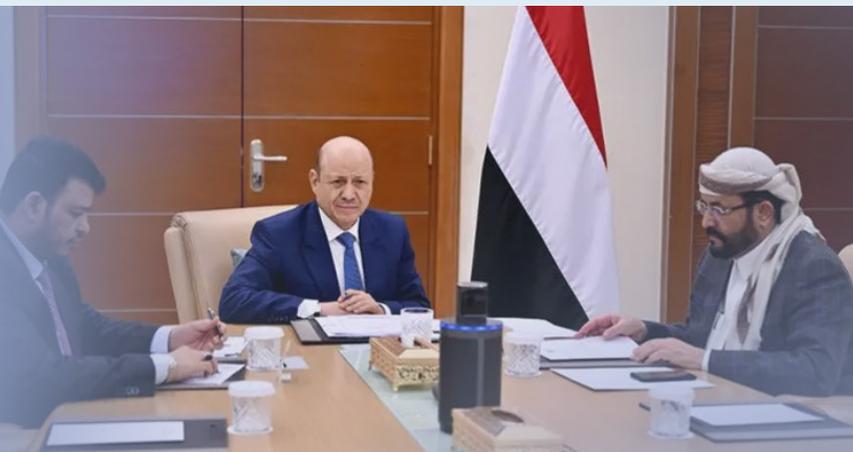
Economic Scene

Yemen's economy remains in severe crisis after nearly two years without oil exports, compounded by institutional fragmentation and delayed external support. Revenues continue to shrink, food prices climb, and public-sector salaries deteriorate, while remittances have become the main source of foreign currency. The government and international partners are offering limited assistance amid mounting risks of financial collapse.

Economic Scene

The Presidential Leadership Council closed the illegal seaports of Qena, Al-Shihr, Nashtoon and Ras Al-Arah, ending unregulated oil and goods imports that diverted state revenues — excluding the Port of Mokha, controlled by Council member Tariq Saleh.

2 November



Saudi Arabia deposited US\$90 million into the Central Bank in Aden, enabling the government to begin paying public-sector salaries delayed for four months amid a severe revenue crisis.

16 November

The Houthis converted the Ras Issa oil terminal into an alternative commercial port by constructing makeshift berths to receive ships, bypassing UN oversight on Hodeidah and Saleef. Satellite imagery shows expanded construction, including a new 1.56 km berth in Saleef.

9 November



Economic Scene

The World Bank reported unprecedented strain on Yemen's economy, projecting a 1.5% contraction this year due to halted oil exports, declining aid, institutional division, a 26% rise in food prices, a 30% drop in government revenue and humanitarian funding at its lowest level in a decade.

17 November

PetroMasila announced the handover of operations in Sector 5 in Shabwah to Jannah Hunt within a week, following a government directive, pledging to maintain facility readiness. The transition follows years of halted exports and administrative disputes, amid warnings over the new operator's limited experience and potential operational and legal risks.

21 November

An analytical report found that remittances now represent more than 38% of Yemen's GDP, exceeding US\$7.4 billion in 2024, replacing oil revenues as the country's main source of foreign currency. The report warned that sanctions or financial collapse could disrupt this lifeline for millions facing acute food insecurity.

27 November

Violations



Yemen's human rights situation continued to deteriorate in November, marked by rising arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, gender-based violence and widespread violations against women and children. Both the Houthis and STC-aligned forces exert pressure on civilians and opponents, while rights organizations and activists face systematic repression, reflecting a deepening crisis that has persisted since the start of the war.



The Abductees' Mothers Association documented 113 violations of women's freedom of movement in Taiz over the past five years — 55% at Houthi checkpoints and 44% at government-controlled ones — ranging from searches and humiliation to extortion and detention.

2 November

The 2025 UN Panel of Experts report revealed widespread and systematic sexual and gender-based violence in Houthi-controlled areas, including rape, sexual slavery and child marriage. It highlighted the central role of the Zainabiyat units in detaining women and handing them over to fighters, digital blackmail of activists and abuses against children, describing the violations as part of a deliberate strategy to control society.

4 November

The Houthis abducted more than 70 Salafi civilians in Dhamar, according to the Masawat Organization for Human Rights, following late-October raids that targeted former officials, doctors, teachers, students and academics, bringing the number of total detainees in the campaign to over 55.

3 November

The Nobles Foundation for Rights and Development reported 99 enforced disappearances in Ibb between January 2025 and September 2025, mainly targeting teachers. It urged the release of the disappeared and the closure of secret prisons, while the Abductees' Mothers Association called on the UN to act.

8 November

Human Rights Watch reported that the Houthis have abducted dozens of citizens since mid-2025, including political figures and UN employees, and carried out mass arrests in Dhamar, detaining over 70 people in one day and more than 200 members of the Islah Party. The organization highlighted rising fabricated charges, torture and enforced disappearances, and called for the immediate release of all detainees.

27 November

The Yemeni Women's Empowerment Foundation reported that the Houthis committed more than 40,000 violations against women since 2015, including arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, killings by shelling and snipers, mine-related deaths, 42 documented rape cases and thousands of job dismissals and replacements. The group warned of a deepening humanitarian crisis affecting millions of women and displaced persons.

25 November

Rights Radar reported that the Houthis abducted 138 civilians in Dhamar since September 2025, including four children. Eighty-five remain forcibly disappeared, 25 are still detained, and only 28 have been released.

20 November

Humanitarian Scene

A UN report recorded the arrival of 17,685 African migrants to Yemen in October — a 99% increase from September — mostly from Djibouti and Somalia, heading to Abyan, Taiz and Shabwah. Men made up the majority, as tens of thousands continue entering the country annually in search of better opportunities.

8 November



The Houthis accused the World Health Organization of politicizing humanitarian work and halting health programs in their areas, while simultaneously announcing plans to prosecute 43 UN staff amid a sharp decline in aid.

1 November



General News

Belqees TV announced the end of its broadcast operations after 10 years, citing overwhelming constraints. The channel, launched after the Houthi coup, became known for its coverage of human rights violations and advocacy for Yemenis, despite losing staff members and facing raids, prosecution and office seizures. The network expressed gratitude to its young team for sustaining its mission under extreme pressure.

26 November

A digital campaign, led by the Wa'ee platform, succeeded in shutting down hundreds of Houthi-linked accounts on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok that promoted violence and sectarian incitement — the first campaign to achieve this since the start of the war.

12 November

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