

Security Council

Topic 1: The Issue of Reforming the UN's Legislation

Articles:

<https://research.un.org/en/docs/uncharter/unreform>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/g4-countries-seek-early-reform-of-un-security-council/articleshow/60776007.cms>

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/germany-seeks-reform-as-it-begins-security-council-stint-a-1247228.html>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1030592>

<http://www.risingkashmir.in/news/unsc-reform-difficult-without-strong-political-will-general-assembly-prez-embly-prez->

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190115/p2g/00m/0in/015000c>

Overview:

Security Council

In the Security Council committee there are 5 countries that have the power to veto a resolution if they do not agree with it. These countries are Russia, United States, China, United Kingdom, and France, they are called the Permanent Five (P5). The P5 reflects the power and structure of the United Nations as it was in 1945. There have been many proposed plans for the expansion of its permanent and non-permanent members. Many countries believe that such reform is essential to make the most powerful branch of the UN more representative and effective, reflecting the ground realities of the 21st century. One of the first plans was proposed by the 7th Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, whose time in office finalized in 2006, and mainly backed by the G4 nations which members are; Brazil, Germany, India and Japan. This movement is called the Uniting for Consensus.

Overall Reform

Primarily reform proposed by the Four Nations Initiative, a cooperation project by Chile, South Africa, Sweden and Thailand to promote governance and management reforms, aims at increased accountability and transparency. The UN Secretariat Transparency reform calls for reforming the UN demand to make the UN administration more transparent, more accountable, and more efficient, including direct election of the Secretary-General by the people as in a presidential system. (is a democratic and republican system of government where a head of government leads an executive branch that is separate from the legislative branch. This head of government is in most cases also the head of state, which is called president.) Another reform that has been

recently demanding is for the UN to be “more democratic”, and a key institution of a world democracy. The UN is not a world government, rather a forum for the world's sovereign states to debate issues and determine collective courses of action.

Misrepresentation

The misinterpretation of bodies that aren't government is a issue that has been very present, and has been a problem basically since the UN has been formed. Countries that do not have international recognition, and are not officially considered a country, even if they have a stable government, have their own sovereignty in their borders, and laws, as if they are a separate country. They are not given a seat or vote in the UN, nor they are recognized by by the UN as a whole. Although some have Observer Status, like Palestine and the Holy See, they do not have full membership. While these regions / countries are not *de jure* (what is recognized by the law) recognised as separate and independent countries, *de facto* (the reality with facts) many of them have a clear independence due their control over trade, military, rule of law...

Topic 2: The issue of cybersecurity

Terrorist use of the Internet is a transnational problem, requiring an integrated response across borders and among national criminal justice systems. Nowadays, cybersecurity is more important than ever. Hackers not only have the ability to access electronic bank accounts and a nation's classified material, but also possess the ability to remotely hijack planes and other vehicles. Cyberterrorism is already being used to recruit Jihadist extremists and has been cited as a very possible cause of the disappearance of the Malaysia flight MH370. Cybersecurity is especially important in terms of nuclear missiles. Hackers in the Middle East, China, or Russia can hack missile systems and kill millions with a click of the button. Unlike other issues, the internet is uncharted territory and perpetrators of cyber-attacks are incredibly hard to detect, let alone bring to justice. The United Nations plays a pivotal role in this regard, facilitating discussion and the sharing of good practices among Member States, as well as the building of consensus on common approaches to combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. The applicable international legal framework related to counter-terrorism is contained in a range of sources, including resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, treaties, jurisprudence and customary international law. Security Council resolutions may impose legally binding obligations on Member States or provide "soft law" sources of political commitments or emerging norms of international law. The duty to bring perpetrators of acts of terrorism to justice rests primarily with domestic authorities, as international tribunals do not generally have jurisdiction over such acts. United Nations resolutions, universal legal instruments, regional agreements and model laws against terrorism play a key role in establishing common standards accepted across multiple jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND REPORT -

Topic 3: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE SITUATION IN YEMEN

Introduction

Two years of conflict have left 18 million Yemenis in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. According to UN Security Council research reports and a study by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, more than 56,000 civilians have been killed and almost 100,000 injured ever since the conflict between forces loyal to exiled President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and those allied to the Houthi rebel movement escalated in March 2015.

Definition of Key Terms

Houthi Rebels:

Mainly Zaidi Shia (and some Sunnis) military rebel group against the Yemeni government and military.

Airstrike:

“an offensive operation carried out by attack aircraft.” - DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms

Famine:

“extreme and general scarcity of food, as in a country or a large geographical area.” - Dictionary.com

Cholera:

“an infectious disease that causes severe watery diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration and even death if untreated. It is caused by eating food or drinking water contaminated with a bacterium called *Vibrio cholerae*.” - WebMD

Coalition:

“a temporary alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states for joint action” - Merriam-Webster

Shia and Sunni Muslims:

Two branches of the Muslim religion. “Members of the two sects have co-existed for centuries and share many fundamental beliefs and practices. But they differ in doctrine, ritual, law, theology and religious organisation.” - BBC News

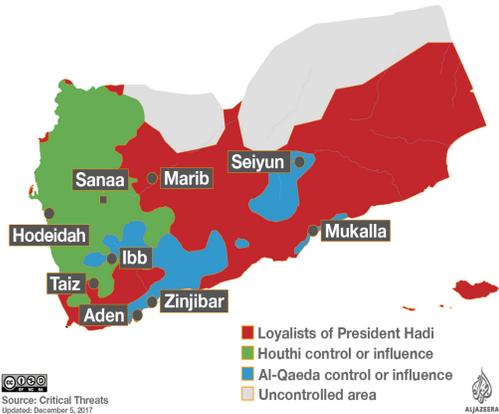
General Overview



Houthis, a political Shia rebel group and people loyal to Saleh, still attempt to take over Yemen. Feeling threatened and fearing Iran would take the opportunity to gain a foothold on their border, Saudi Arabia established an alliance in 2015, the Saudi-led coalition, and began a military campaign with the purpose of restoring Hadi's government. Fighting on the ground and air strikes on rebel-held areas by the Saudi-led coalition backed by the US and UK have displaced more than three million people. Meanwhile, Al-Qaeda, the Arabian Peninsula and affiliates of ISIS are taking advantage of the

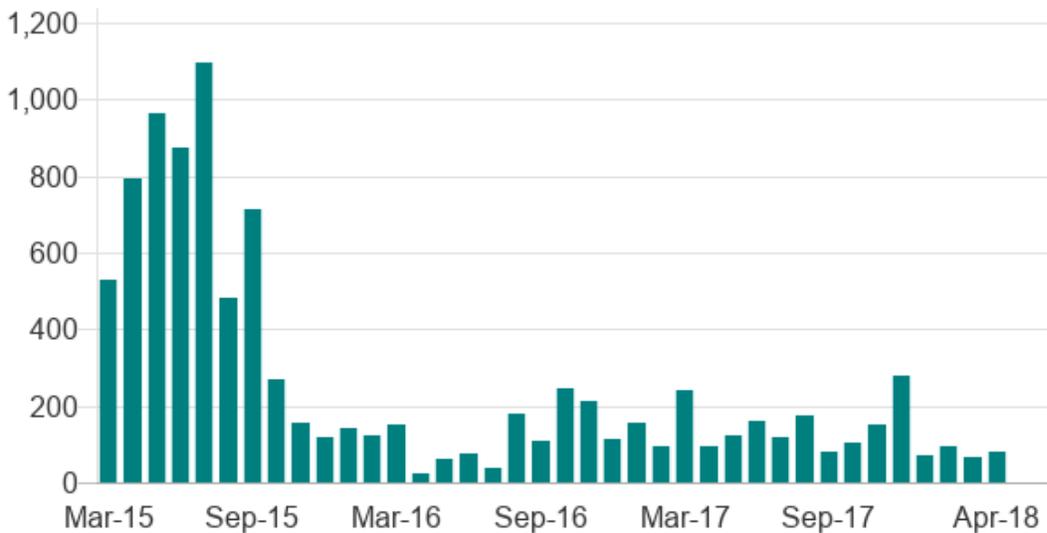
chaos by seizing parts in the south and attacked Aden. Destruction of infrastructure and restriction

Yemen: Who controls what



from food and fuel imports are causing millions of Yemenis to face famine which has now led to a cholera outbreak. Although Saudi airstrikes have exacerbated the outbreak, the majority of the outbreaks have occurred in the garbage-filled streets of Houthi governed areas. Two thirds of Yemenis have no access to clean water. Since both sides refuse to back down, The United Nations has, since the uprisings in Yemen began in early 2011, been actively engaged through the exercise of its good offices in helping Yemenis to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and enable the resumption of a peaceful, orderly and inclusive political transition. As evidenced by the bar graph illustrating conflict-related deaths from 2015 to 2016, while still dire, the fatal effects of the Yemen situation are fortunately shrinking. However, if a mediation on the issue or an agreement is not reached, Yemenis will continue to starve and suffer.

Conflict-related deaths reported in Yemen 2015-2018



Source: World Health Organization, deaths reported between 19 Mar 2015 and 30 Apr 2018 **BBC**

Other Significant Parties and Organizations Involved

Main Organization that aim to aid the repercussions of the international conflict:

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
 - Help combat cholera
- International Rescue Committee

Positions to keep in mind:

<p>Gulf Cooperation Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Saudi Arabia● Bahrain● Kuwait● United Arab Emirates● Egypt● Jordan● Morocco● Sudan● Senegal <p>Supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● United States of America● Turkey● Somalia● Bangladesh● United Kingdom● France● Germany	<p>Yemen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yemen Air Force● Yemen Military Army● Houthi Rebel Group● Yemeni Republican Guard <p>Supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Iran● Russia● North Korea (DPRK)
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Timeline of Key Events:

2005 March-April - More than 200 individuals are murdered due to fighting between Yemen government powers and supporters of Hussein al-Houthi.

2007 January-March - Scores are executed or injured in conflicts between security powers and al-Houthi revolts in the north. "Rebel Leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi agrees to a ceasefire" in the midyear.

2009 August - The Yemeni army dispatches a new hostile against Houthi revolts. A huge number of individuals are uprooted by the battling.

2010 October - Worldwide fear alert after bundles containing explosives starting in Yemen are found on cargo planes destined for the US.

2012 February - "Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi inaugurated as president after uncontested elections, but is unable to counter al-Qaeda attacks in the capital as the year goes on."

2014 August - President Hadi upsets a questionable fuel price rise following two weeks of hostile to government dissents in which Houthi rebels are intensely involved.

2014 September - Houthi rebels seize control of a large portion of Sanaa and reject draft constitution proposed by government.

2015 March - Islamic State does its first significant assaults in Yemen - two suicide bombings focusing on Shia mosques in Sanaa, in which 137 individuals are killed. Civil war breaks out decisively as Saudi-led alliance dispatches air strikes against Houthi targets and forces maritime barricade, so as to stop their development on Aden.

2017 June-November - Outbreak of cholera executes 2,100 and sickens just about 900,000 others.

2017 December - Previous president Ali Abdullah Saleh is slaughtered after wild battling in the capital Sanaa.

2018 January - Southern Yemen separatists - supported by the UAE - seize control of Aden.

2018 November - US calls for a truce, following quite a while of battling around the key Houthi-held port of Hudaydah and a mounting philanthropic emergency.

Links to Articles and Resolutions of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Measures by countries:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/21/un-yemen-ceasfire-stockholm-resolution-ushttps://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/20/saudi-and-us-resistance-delays-un-resolution-on-yemen>

Here are the links to two resolutions reviewed by the Security Council on the issue of Yemen:

December 2018:

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2451.pdf

February 2015:

http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2201.pdf

Possible Solutions

First and foremost, since the UN has declared the situation in Yemen to be an immense humanitarian crisis, a large portion of the solution should arrange an immediate aid for the people suffering in Yemen. This would include strategies addressing the severely injured through the increased recruitment and contribution of various NGOs, through the provision of medical services and the prevention of a further spread of cholera. The supply of food, medicine, clean potable water and areas for shelter are crucial, scarce, resources Yemenis need immediately in order to survive. This could be achieved through the establishment of temporary refugee camps, at a safe location away from the crisis, or through the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure in the country. As for the military portion of the conflict, the Security Council should come up with a plausible proposal in order for both Houthis and Hadi supporters to come to a mediatory agreement or maybe even a ceasefire. Moreover, while respecting the Houthi group, a possible alleviation of the effects of the crisis could come from increasing military organization and protection in highly conflicted regions, like the North West, so as to prevent a growth in the influence and domination of ISIS in the cities.

Appendix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLRgdFP-s30>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/21/un-yemen-ceasfire-stockholm-resolution-us>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/20/saudi-and-us-resistance-delays-un-resolution-on-yemen>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

Information on UK relations: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37638256>

Information on relations with the

EU: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/1877/yemen-and-eu_da

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Independent, 26 Oct. 2018,

www.independent.co.uk/voices/yemen-war-death-toll-saudi-arabia-allies-how-many-killed-responsibility-a8603326.html. Accessed 9 Jan. 2019.

"Explainer: The War in Yemen Explained in 3 Minutes." *Youtube*, uploaded by Al Jazeera English, 3 July 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLRgdFP-s30. Accessed 12 Jan. 2019.

Mendelsohn, Barak. "Islamic State in Yemen: Why IS is Seeking to Expand." *BBC News*, 21 Mar. 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31998682. Accessed 9 Jan. 2019.

"Yemen Crisis: Why is There a War?" *BBC News*, 18 Dec. 2018,

www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423. Accessed 14 Jan. 2019.

"Yemen's Complicated War Explained." *Youtube*, uploaded by TRT World, 10 Aug. 2018,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkyXDDXzPyw. Accessed 12 Jan. 2019.