HOUTHIS AND TERRORISM
Facts on Hidden Coexistence and Interdependence
June 2019
INTRODUCTION

For decades, the Republic of Yemen has combated terrorist organizations and their activities through direct confrontation, intelligence, cultural and social methods, and cooperation with partners, including the United States. The exchange of information and cooperation to combat terrorist threats has been and continues to be very important for the quick and effective prevention of any possible terrorist attacks against national, regional or international interests.

On February 21, 2012, President Hadi assumed his duties as President of the Republic of Yemen in extremely difficult circumstances. One of his first major initiatives was a series of orders to use all available military, intelligence and defense capabilities to combat terrorism and extremism in Yemen.

But following the coup d’état launched by the Houthis, with the backing of Iran, Yemen has been forced into civil conflict, which allowed terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda (AQAP) and Daesh (ISIL) to find more footholds in Yemen than were previously established. Further, the Houthis have forged a symbiotic relationship with these terror groups to extend the chaos and conflict that they have sown in the country and have even adopted doctrines and teachings of these terror groups as a means of motivating young people to fight for their causes.

This paper outlines the current danger posed by terrorists organizations in Yemen; how these groups have aligned themselves with the Houthis; what the Government of Yemen is doing to enhance the tracking of terrorist elements and to reduce as well as remove their activities and movements; and, finally, why it is of critical importance for the United States and other allies of Yemen to maintain their support for and cooperation with the Yemeni government to combat any and all terrorist threats. Because with their agenda and intentions, what happens in Yemen doesn’t stay in Yemen.

Terrorist Organizations in Yemen

The activities of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant–Yemen Branch (ISIL-YB) in cooperation with the Iranian-backed Houthi militias pose a clear and present danger not just to Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula region but also to the United States and the global community.

The government of Yemen has shown its commitment to confronting and combating these terrorist organizations. His Excellency President Hadi and his government has proven itself a reliable international partner in the global war against terrorism utilizing the full extent of its military and intelligence capabilities to challenge the Houthis, AQAP, ISIL-YB and their international terrorism state partner and sponsor, Iran.

This conflict has come at great cost to Yemen and its people in terms of civilian casualties, humanitarian suffering, disease, starvation...
and significant national economic losses including the destruction of the nation’s infrastructure, once vibrant tourism industry and oil production.

Since the Houthi coup in September 2014, thousands of Yemeni civilians have been killed and wounded, and many more displaced. Many of these brutal terrorist attacks would have been even worse if not for the strength of Yemen’s social, cultural and religious diversity to resist Houthi, AQAP and ISIL-YB attempts to promote sectarian and social division.

Yemen remains one of the primary fronts in the global fight against terrorism and extremism. The continuing support of the Arab Coalition and United State for the legitimate Yemeni government is essential in undermining the regional and global goals of this terrorist network in Yemen. Without the assistance and cooperation of its international partners, it is quite possible that the Houthis, AQAP and ISIL-YB would have successfully transformed Yemen into a terrorist operational and training safe haven with deadly consequences for the United States and the international community.

The struggle against these terrorist groups has not been without challenges, difficulties and shortcomings. The cooperation between Yemen and its global partners ensures the safe and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to the millions of civilians and prevents Yemen from becoming an extremist refuge that threatens the international community.

The Importance of United States Engagement in Yemen

The war against terrorism is a global fight and The Yemeni government cannot successfully confront the Iranian backed Houthis, AQAP and ISIL-YB without the continued counterterrorism assistance of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen (The Coalition) and the United States.

If unchecked, AQAP and ISIL-YB could succeed in converting Yemen into a terrorist-controlled sanctuary capable of exporting extremism well beyond the Arabian Peninsula.

The United States has assisted the Yemeni government and the Coalition in countering AQAP and ISIL-YB, working together to eradicate the operational capacity and funding for these terrorist groups, through joint operations, intelligence and information sharing and the revitalization of joint security programs, like PISCES, an effective international terrorist interdiction program.

Yemen has been a valued counterterrorism partner of the United States and the international community. Through joint efforts, the
AQAP and ISIL-YB threat has been contained to Yemen but if given the opportunity, these extremist organizations would extend their reach and attacks beyond the region, especially against those nations that have been supportive of the Government of Yemen.\(^iv\)

We should not forget or tolerate the cooperation\(^v\) between the Iranian-backed Houthi militias with AQAP and ISIL-YB, whose goals are clear and shared as evidenced by the Houthis’ strident slogan: Death to America, Death to Israel, Victory to Islam, and Curse upon the Jews.

More recently, President Hadi and the Yemen government have been able to reconstitute its counter-terrorism efforts\(^vi\) and along with Coalition and US counterterrorism cooperation and coordination in Yemen has succeeded in tracking, arresting and eliminating terrorists, reducing their capabilities, limiting their funding, disrupting their recruitment, and even monitoring and interrupting their digital and internet propaganda efforts.

However, these victories will be short lived if the Yemeni Government does not continue to receive the assistance and support of its international partners especially the U.S. The gains against the Houthis, AQAP and ISIL-YB will vanish if these groups are given the opportunity to operate free of international pressure and with the support of nation states like Iran.

GLOBAL TERRORISM ORGANIZATIONS IN YEMEN SINCE THE HOUTHI COUP

**Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**

AQAP is the most dynamic terrorist organization in Yemen, destabilizing communities and provinces and exacerbating the poverty, oppression and persecution committed by the Houthi militias.

Historically, Al-Qaeda has not been a part of Yemeni society as anything more than a fringe influence. AQAP took advantage of the Houthi coup and the subsequent collapse of state institutions and disintegration of government security and intelligence forces to gain greater influence on the ground, expand across several Governorates and attract large numbers of youth and tribal members and even IDPs.\(^viii\)

AQAP took control of a number of Yemeni cities as well as returned to cities in Abyan and Shabwah where they had previously lost influence. AQAP exploited the violations committed by the Houthis to recruit large numbers of tribal members. The Houthis’ sectarian racism and harassment compelled Yemeni youth to look for a refuge, providing Al-Qaeda an opportunity to attract them.
In areas under its control, AQAP released its members from prisons including the third in command of the Organization Khalid Batarfi who had been designated a terrorist by the United States and released secured large caches of military equipment and munitions.

AQAP and the Houthis share common tactics to fund themselves such as the looting and trading of valuable Yemeni antiquities. In 2011, during its control of Zinjbar city, AQAP destroyed the Zinjbar Museum and looted around 500 valuable pieces of antiquities. The organization sold them to local antiquity traders in order to fund their activities. This kind of business has also been done by the Iranian-backed Houthi militias. Yemen's cultural heritage has been subjected to looting, smuggling, and illicit trading abroad, and many of Yemen's museums have been exposed to destruction and robbery, including the Museums of Sana’a, Taiz, Dhamar, Aden, Zinjbar, and Baynoun Museum in Dhamar by both the Iranian-backed Houthi militias and AQAP.

### AQAP Major Terrorist Attack Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date of Operation</th>
<th>Locations of Attacks</th>
<th>Results of Terrorist Operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April 2, 2015</td>
<td>Mukalla city-Hadramout</td>
<td>Controlled the city, looting of banks, obtaining military equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March, 2016</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Targeted military checkpoints, killing and wounding many soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March, 2016</td>
<td>Sheikh Othman city, Aden</td>
<td>Breaking into senior citizens home, killing 25, among them four women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>August, 2016</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Targeted government center for recruitment by car bomb, killing 50 people and wounding 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>October, 2016</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Targeted central bank by car bomb, wounding four soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>August, 2017</td>
<td>Shabwah</td>
<td>Targeted military forces during their operation in Al-Saaid district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 5, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>Targeting Security checkpoint in Arqoub district, killing six soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 30, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>An Al-Qaeda operative tricked an officer pretending to cooperate, then killed him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>June 10, 2018</td>
<td>Hadramout</td>
<td>The soldier Awad Ahmed Ba Miftah, a member of the investigation unit was assassinated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>June 10-11, 2018</td>
<td>Hadramout</td>
<td>Assassinated the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department and another officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>June 12, 2018</td>
<td>Hadramout</td>
<td>Assassinating security director of Shibam city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>June 13, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>Car bomb exploded, killing three soldiers and wounding seven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### AQAP Major Terrorist Attack Operations (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Results of Terrorist Operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>June 13, 2018</td>
<td>Hadramout</td>
<td>Two soldiers from the 13th brigade stationed in Huta Hadramout were assassinated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>June 15, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>A car bomb exploded near the Central building in Wadia-Abyan central station, killing three soldiers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>June 6, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>Explosive devices were planted in the path of a patrol in Khaba-Al-maraqishih, killing five soldiers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>June 24, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>Planting an explosive device which Killed five soldiers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>July 29, 2018</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Assassinating Nasir Mugirah, the Military intelligence director in Khormaksar District near Aden international Airport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>August 3, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>The leader of the Rapid Intervention Forces, Jamal Al-Akmah was ambushed. He was killed along with four others, and their equipment was burned. One Al-Qaeda member was also killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>August 4, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>A gathering of security forces was attacked by an explosive car east of Mudiyah. Also, the headquarters of the security belt forces in Mahfid district was under attack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>August 29, 2018</td>
<td>Abyan</td>
<td>A checkpoint in the Ahwar area was attacked. Five people were killed, and two civilians were wounded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Islamic State in Iraq and Levant–Yemen Branch (ISIL-YB)**

Despite all that has taken place in the region since the formation of ISIL in 1999, the Yemeni government and Yemeni people have stood firmly against its incursions. ISIL-YB has not been able to assert itself as successfully as al-Qaeda or its parent organization in Iraq and the Levant. It has not been able to find a solid base of support in Yemen; and its extremist ideology has been unable to penetrate Yemen's tight knit tribal communities.

ISIL-YB's fighters are the most extremist defectors from AQAP. In order to gain recognition as a branch of Islamic State, on March 20, 2015, ISIL-YB attacked several Zaydi mosques in Sana'a murdering 170 people and wounding hundreds.

As for funding, ISIL-YB primarily relies on outside support smuggled via intermediaries from Syria into Yemen or smuggled through seaports into Hodeidah and along the coastal strip. Additionally, ISIL-YB ransoms foreign captives, robs banks, exchange bureaus and jewelry stores, and engages in money laundering.
ISIL’s Major Terrorist Operations

<table>
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<th>Locations of Attacks</th>
<th>Results of Terrorist Operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>March 20, 2015</td>
<td>Sana’a</td>
<td>Attacked several mosques, killed 170, wounding more hundreds by ISIL organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March 20, 2015</td>
<td>Sada’a</td>
<td>Targeted Al-Hadi Mosque, killing and wounding tens people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>June 17, 2015</td>
<td>Sana’a</td>
<td>Targeted green dome mosque, killing 30 people and wounding others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>June 20, 2015</td>
<td>Sana’a</td>
<td>Targeting Al-Hadi Mosque, killed 2 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nov 6, 2015</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Targeted palace hotel and two sites of police forces, killing 57 people and wounding more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nov 20, 2015</td>
<td>Hadramout</td>
<td>Conducted operations on Military and security sites, killing and wounding tens soldiers in different sites in Hadramout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dec 6, 2015</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Killed the Governor of Aden Mr. Jafar Mohammed Saeed, and his bodyguards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The beginning of 2016</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Executed 24 people in three different brutal ways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Feb 17, 2016</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Targeted the coalition military site in Ra’as Abbas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Feb 24, 2018</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Killed 15 soldiers and wounding others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 13, 2018</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Attacked Headquarters of Security Forces, killing 34 people, most of them were civilians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>August 31, 2018</td>
<td>Al-Byda</td>
<td>Conducted an Ambush on one of the government officers, killing and wounding tens of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Feb 26, 2018</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Four suicide bombers attacked Headquarters of counterterrorism Forces, killing and wounding several soldiers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How the Houthis, with Iran backing, Support Terrorist Organizations

Iran backed Houthi militias have developed wide-ranging relations with terrorist entities all around the world, utilizing the vast network of the Iranian regime and Hezbollah to support and assist their activities.

Official reports from the United Nations, international organizations and Yemeni government agencies have provided concrete evidence detailing the continuity of support from the Iranian regime and Hezbollah to the Houthi militias.

Houthi militias over the two past decades have received money and sophisticated weapons from both terrorist entities (the Iranian regime and Hezbollah). Numerous Iranian experts, officers and Hezbollah elements continue to travel to Yemen to train Houthi militias to use heavy weapons, assemble explosives, fabricate land mines and use them against the people of Yemen and neighboring countries. Some Iranian and Hezbollah troops have been captured by legitimate government forces and detained.
Just as Iran and Hezbollah support the Houthi militias, the Houthis also provide support and assistance to both AQAP and ISIL-YB.

The relationship between the Houthi militias and AQAP can be reliably tracked to a June 2006 meeting between former AQAP leader Mohammed Al-Oufi with Houthi leaders Abdulmalek Al-Houthi and Hammed Badruddin Al-Houthi. Following that meeting, the Houthi leaders provided AQAP leaders with financial support, trained AQAP fighters in the Al-Ratab region of the Sa’ada Governorate, provided safe refuge for AQAP members and leadership.

Then, in 2014, they agreed to release AQAP leaders and terrorists from Houthi prisons. **prisoner exchanges included the following:**

- The release of the AQAP leader Marwan al-Raymi, the security officer of AQAP in Taiz, and the terrorist leader Arif Barrouq. They were released from prisons under Houthi militias control.
- In early 2015, Houthi leader Hasan al-Kahlani released Mazen Souda (Abu martyr) from prison. Souda is one of several AQAP leaders who operate in the Marib Governorate.
- AQAP element “Abu Israel” is one of AQAP elements who lives in Sana’a. Abu Israel is the coordinator between AQAP leaders and Houthi militias regarding to the release of AQAP members from prisons in Sana’a.
- The cooperation between Houthi militias and AQAP includes training terrorist cells to fight and conduct operations in the cities and spread violence in the Governorates that have been liberated by legitimate forces.

The relationship between the Houthi militias and ISIL-YB developed as a result of ISIL’s failure to find a following in Yemen’s tribal society. ISIL conducted sectarian brutal attacks targeting Al-Zydia mosques in Sana’a that killed and wounded hundreds in order to attract shafi’i “Sunni” youths and tribesmen to join them and fight against Iranian Houthi militias. All Yemenis rejected those brutal attacks and ISIL’s hateful ideology. In order to survive, ISIL sought an alliance with the Houthis and the two terrorist groups agreed to support, not fight each other.

As a result of this alliance, ISIL-YB killed Aden’s Governor- Mr. Jaafar Mohammed Saad. Houthi militias also transported medium-range artillery from Dhamar Governorate and delivered it into ISIL hands in Yakla district in Al-Bayda Governorate and ISIL shelters and training camps reside in geographical proximity to Houthi militia without provocation or conflict.

Other activities have included:

Former Aden’s Governor — Mr. Jaafar Mohammed Saad assassination scene.
• Positioning ISIL’s shelters and training camps near Houthi sites. (And in spite of this geographical proximity, ISIL elements haven’t launched any attacks against Houthi militias).

• Continued targeting of the national army and resistance forces and bombings in the interim capital, Aden and other cities under legitimate government control. ISIL has not undertaken any terrorist operations against the Houthi militias-controlled areas. We did not observe any intention of ISIL’s leadership to expand their territory to the areas controlled by the Houthi militias. On the contrary, ISIL is very eager to expand in the areas that are controlled by the legitimate government.

The Success of Counterterrorism Efforts by Yemeni Government

The Yemeni Government has reshaped specialized counterterrorism units with the support of the Arab Coalition and our international partners especially the U.S, empowering intelligence agencies to effectively collaborate in the fight against terrorism. Despite the current crisis in Yemen that has often disrupted military efforts and security agencies in their efforts to combat terrorism, the Yemeni Government has worked hard to reform these agencies and distribute them throughout regions where the government operates.

The presence of government forces in the urban areas where ISIL had operated has resulted in the expulsion of ISIL. As a result, AQAP and ISIL-YB have fled the main cities and now find themselves unable to launch the same brutal attacks as before. Both terrorist groups have had to relocate their leadership to the Bayda Governorate, forming small cells to carry out their activities. The presence of government security forces in urban areas has led to a significant reduction in AQAP and ISIL-YB activities as well as recruitment.

Additionally, the shelters and training camps these terrorist groups operate in Al-Bayda have come under attack by government army forces and security agencies, severely limiting the operational capacity of these groups.

Military and Security Activities

• Raising the level of cooperation and coordination with the security authorities of partner and neighboring states in combating terrorism, sharing intelligence information, and training qualified special counterterrorism teams to deal with terrorist targets.

• Launching counterterrorism operations in Aden, Hadramout, Al-Bayda, Shabwah, Abyan, and continued operations in Al-Bayda supported by Yemeni government forces, the Arab coalition and the United States. As a result, terrorist groups have been eliminated from most governorates, training camps destroyed, weapons and explosives factories seized, and many terrorists killed or arrested.

• Eliminating the leadership of several terrorist groups, including the death of AQAP leader Nasser al-Wahishi and his terrorist deputy Sa’id al-Shahri.

• Implementing security measures to protect petroleum and commercial ports, seaports, and airports.
Overview of significant military and security force operations:

• **April 2016**, Mukalla city—Hadramout Governorate and its seaport were liberated from Al Qaeda elements by Hadrami Elite forces affiliated with the Second Military Region and supported by the Arab Coalition.

• **March 2016**, the district of Al-Mansurah in Aden Governorate was cleared of al-Qaeda and ISIL elements.

• **August 2016**, the Yemeni army executed a military operation in the centre and main cities of Abyan Governorate and removed all al-Qaeda elements.

• **August 2016**, al-Hawtah city & Lahj Governorate were liberated from AQAP and ISIL elements.

• **August 2017**, Wadi al-Masni was liberated by Hadrami Elite forces affiliated with the Second Military Region.

• **August 2017**, Oil platforms in Azan city and Balhaf port- Shabwah Governorate were liberated from AQAP and ISIL control.

• **February 2018**, Operation Decisive Sword targeted Al-Qaeda in Shabwah Governorate and succeeded in expelling it from Yashbem village in Sa’id district.

• **March 2018**, Operation Torrential Rain against Al-Qaeda in Al-Mahfid district—Abyan governorate successfully achieved its goals and killed the AQAP leader Muhsin Ba-Sabrian.

• **March 2018**, the terrorist and ISIL leader Ibrahim al-Tamimi (a Saudi Arabian national) was arrested in Ma’rib Governorate.

• **April 2018**, counterterrorism forces raided the shelter of Salih Nasir al-Bakhishi, and so-called leader of ISIL Aden Abyan Emirate, killing him and imprisoning others in Aden.

• **May 2018**, Harem Wadi “Harem Valley”— Abyan Governorate was cleared of AQAP elements.

• **June 2018**, the Governor of Hadramout governorate, the commander of the second military region, announced that security and intelligence forces in the Governorate had foiled a terrorist plot to bomb multiple sites in Mukalla city, the capital city of Hadramout, at the end of Ramadan, during Eid.

• **July 2018**, Military forces from Shabwah Governorate raided an Al-Qaeda camp in Madhab Shab, Sa’id district, killing 12 terrorists.

• **September 2018**, military forces from Shabwah Governorate raided an AQAP location in the Khawrah district, killing Al-Qaeda leader Na’if Tarmum al-Dayani (al-Syari) and imprisoning five operatives, including Awad al-Buriki (Ukashah al-Adani), one of the most deadly assassins in Aden Governorate.
January 2019, military forces in Wadi Hadramout Governorate raided an AQAP shelter and arrested 4 terrorists.

Anti-Propaganda and Rehabilitation Efforts

- Reactivating the Online Combating Center established at the beginning of 2010 to counter online recruitment and propaganda dissemination. The mission of the Center is to combat internet and digital extremist activities by countering Houthi, AQAP and ISIL-YB violent sectarianism with peaceful Islamic teachings.
- Working to establish a Rehabilitation Center, initiated by the Government of Yemen in 2014 at the beginning of 2014 and funded by the United States, but not completed because Houthi militias aggression.
- Directing mosques, schools and universities to unify religious discourse in compliance with the right teachings of Islam that call for peace and prohibit violence.

Disruption of Terrorist Funding

Disrupting and eliminating terrorist access to financial resources is one of the primary counterterrorism tools available to CT operations seeking to restrict the expansion of extremist activities.

The Government of Yemen undertook significant action through the Central Bank of Yemen in Aden against terrorist funding by circulating all lists issued by the UN Security Council concerning funds, assets, and resources of individuals, entities and those associated with terrorism.
• Enable the CBY and regional monetary authorities to block financial transactions, blacklist funders of terrorism, and pursue through legal means the perpetrators of financial crimes.

• Ensure that the Central Bank in Aden could monitor and supervise export and imports remittances to cut the transfer of financial funds to terrorist elements, prepare a list of prominent terrorist elements and circulate these lists to banks & money-exchange companies, obligating them to report any pertinent information.

Unfortunately, after the 2014 coup, the Houthis directed the FIU Sana’a to stop monitoring and reporting on terrorist money laundering activities and to instead investigate Yemeni government officials. As a result, FIU Sana’a in its 2017 annual report designated 1223 Yemeni officials (including President Hadi) as threats to Yemen and ordered banks to seize their accounts. The legitimate government of Yemen has reconstituted the FIY in Aden and is now working with its international partners to rebuild its technical capacity.

Legislative Action

The legitimate government of Yemen issued laws and legislation to criminalize involvement with terrorist groups, ratified international conventions and treaties committing Yemen to tracking and eliminating terrorist organizations, as well as assisting investigations with states and partners in international or bilateral agreements and amending regulations defining terrorist financing to be consistent with regional and international agreements.

Judicial Reform

• Established specialized criminal courts to investigate cases of kidnapping, hijacking, creating armed gangs, participating in terrorist groups, bombings and other issues related to terrorism.

• Established specialized criminal courts, criminal divisions and specialized prosecutors for terrorism cases in the following Governorates: Aden, Hadramout, Hodeidah, along with jurisdiction for each Court in neighboring Governorates.

• Approved judicial proceedings against those implicated in planning or executing terrorist operations. Many of the accused were transferred to courts where judgments have been rendered with penalties commensurate with their acts.
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF UNITED STATES SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN ON THE WAR AGAINST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

The Yemeni government has committed itself to strengthening the international coalition to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. President Hadi has affirmed the continuation of the cooperation and coordination between Yemeni security units with international agencies, including the CT agencies of the United States of America, in carrying out counterterrorism operations in Yemen against all terrorist organizations.

The United States has assisted the GoY and Arab Coalition in countering AQAP and ISIL, working together to dry their sources of funding and destroy them, through conducting joint operations, sharing information, reactivating joint security programs, such as the revitalization of the project of security ports of land, sea and air to prevent the infiltration of foreign fighters like (the PISCES).

The Government of Yemen highly appreciates the great ongoing collaboration with American security agencies and the Arab coalition countries led by Saudi Arabia. This collaboration has significant impact on the capabilities of the terrorist threat. Without the support of the Arab coalition and the American government during the first stage of the Houthi Coup, we would have seen a similar series of events as the Syrian Al-Nusrah Front in every village in Yemen. A few years ago, when ISIL was on the retreat and its elements started fleeing Iraq and Syria, they had planned to come to Yemen in order to rebuild their troops and destabilize the Arabian Peninsula. However, the beginning of Arab Coalition operations in Yemen forced them to change their plans. The intervention of the Arab Coalition was a necessity that the legitimate Yemeni government asked for, intended to confront the Coup of the Houthi militias backed by Iranian terrorist state. This intervention prevented the ugly scenario that AQAP and ISIL-YB had in mind, and forced the terrorist organizations to give it up knowing they will be facing the whole Arab coalition and not only the government of Yemen.

Yemen has been a major partner on CT with the international community in general and with United States especially. However, without adequate support from the international community, the unguarded areas in Yemen could be used by extremist organizations. AQAP and ISIL are still interested in carrying out the threat to attack western societies. So far, they haven’t conducted any terrorist activities outside of Yemen; however, they will not miss any chance to conduct operations against America. We should not forget or tolerate the cooperation between these terrorist groups and Houthi militias, who share common Anti-American and Anti-Semitic goals:
Death to America, Death to Israel, Victory to Islam, and Curse upon the Jews.\textsuperscript{xxi}

The Houthi militia with the support of the Iranian regime is directly responsible for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the continued operation of global terrorist organizations inside Yemen.

The Houthis have rejected all attempts to peacefully resolve the current crisis. They have refused to comply with the three references: composed of the National Dialogue Conference outcomes (even though they directly participated in the NDC and were even overrepresented therein, the GCC initiative and its executive mechanisms, and UN Security Council resolutions. They have also failed to abide by the 2018 Stockholm Agreement.\textsuperscript{xxii}

Houthi intransigence and support for AQAP and ISIL-YB has caused the collapse of the Yemen state and the resulting humanitarian crises that threaten the health, safety and welfare of millions Yemeni families and children.

The only hope for peace, security and stability in Yemen is the continued effort by the legitimate government of Yemen with its international partners to create conditions for a political settlement that the Houthi militias cannot walk away from.

This is the only way the international community can effectively undermine and eliminate AQAP and ISIL-YB from Yemen, ensuring that these terrorist groups cannot secure Yemen as a protected base and save haven to launch global terrorist operations.

The continued and solid support from the United States towards the Yemeni Government and its people is imperative in order to help to counter and curtail those terrorist elements that have developed in Yemen which seek to harm the people and interests of America and its allies in the region—especially as has been detailed in this paper by those which are supported either overtly or covertly by Iran. Iran regime, the Houthis and their hidden terrorist networks have been exposed; and those terrorist organizations which are threat to the world must not only be confronted and confined, but also eliminated.

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