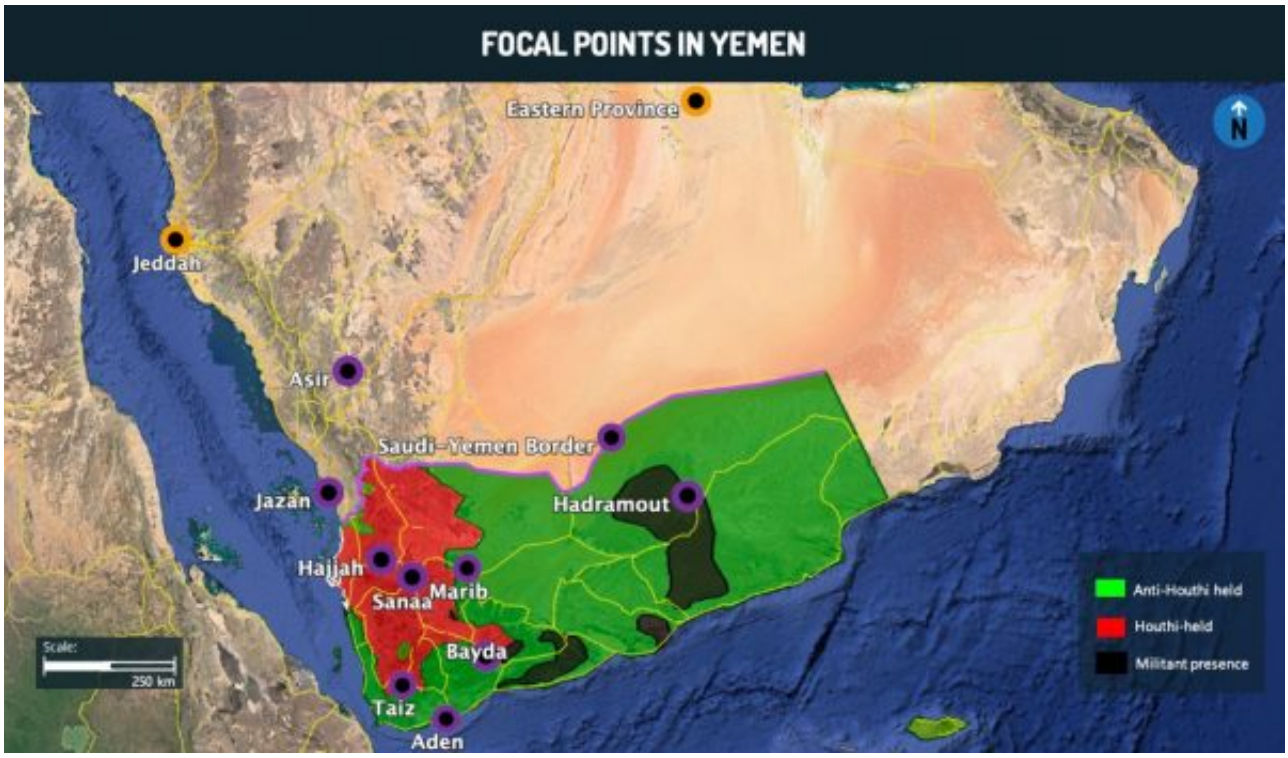
Protest

17
MAR
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Yemen SITUATION UPDATE: Pro-STC protesters storm Presidential Palace in Aden on March 16; liable to fuel distrust between STC, Hadi officials

Executive Summary:

- On March 11, several new missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and naval mines were showcased by the Houthis in an exhibition. This includes the “Zaid” UAV, which is stated to have an operational range of 2500 km, significantly exceeding the proclaimed operational ranges of other explosive-laden UAVs.
- On March 13, the Houthis rejected a US-proposed ceasefire claiming that it represents the “Saudi and international vision”. Although no details regarding the plan have been disclosed, it nevertheless underscores Washington’s resolve to increase its diplomatic engagement in Yemen.
- Anti-Houthi forces have claimed several advances in Taiz Governorate between March 2-16. They will likely focus on gaining as much territory south of the N3 highway that are under Houthi control, between Taiz city and Mocha over the coming days.
- On March 16, pro-STC protesters stormed the Presidential Palace in Aden, which is guarded by STC-linked security forces. This is particularly liable to fuel the distrust between the STC and Hadi officials.
- On March 16, the Saudi-led Coalition intercepted a Houthi-launched explosive-laden vessel near Hodeidah’s al-Salif. This highlights the continued threat to maritime activity in the Red Sea’s international waters.
- Overall, heavy fighting is likely to persist between the Houthi and anti-Houthi forces across Marib, Taiz, and Hajjah governorates over the coming days. Additionally, further socio-economic protests, which have the potential to turn violent, are likely in the southern provinces of Aden and Hadramout.



Current Situation:

Across the country, the following incidents have been reported:

Aden Governorate

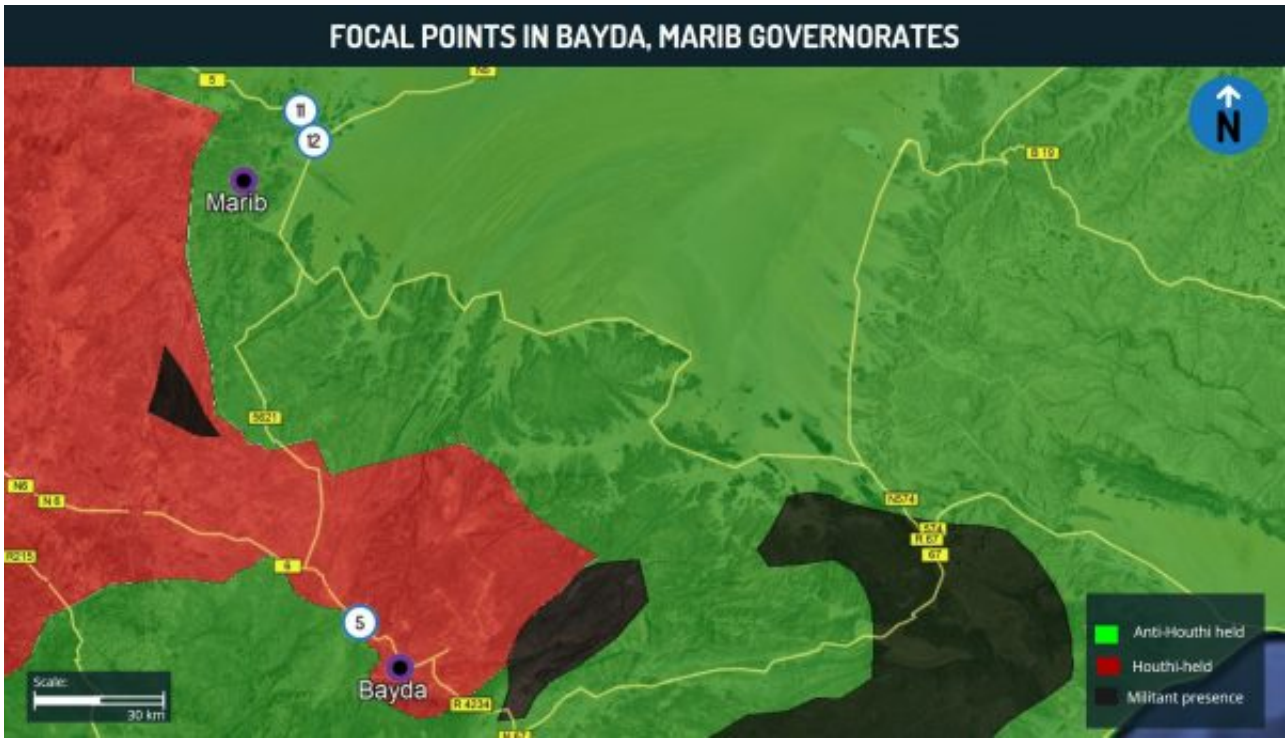
Map #	Date	District/City	Brief Description
2	March 6	Khormaksar	Protests reportedly broke out to denounce the deterioration of electric services and delay in payment of salaries of employees in the Ministries of Defense and Interior. Protesters reportedly blocked roads with tire fires, following which security forces clashed with demonstrators in several parts of the district.
3, 4	March 16	Presidential Palace, Crater	Pro-STC protesters stormed the Presidential Palace as to denounce several socio-economic issues such as corruption, poor basic

services, and delayed salaries for public sector workers. According to an unconfirmed report, some of the protesters chanted slogans calling for the expulsion of Hadi officials. Meanwhile, military officers reportedly held a peaceful protest to demand payment of suspended salaries in Crater's Bank Square.



Bayda Governorate

Map #	Date	District/City	Brief Description
5	March 6	Dhi Naim	al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed an IED attack against a Houthi vehicle.



Hadramout Governorate

Map #	Date	District/City	Brief Description
6	March 6-8	al-Mukalla	Locals reportedly cut off roads, burned tires to protest the rise in price of oil derivatives, transportation, and foodstuff. Security forces reportedly dispersed protesters with live bullets.
7	March 8		