



Armed Conflict

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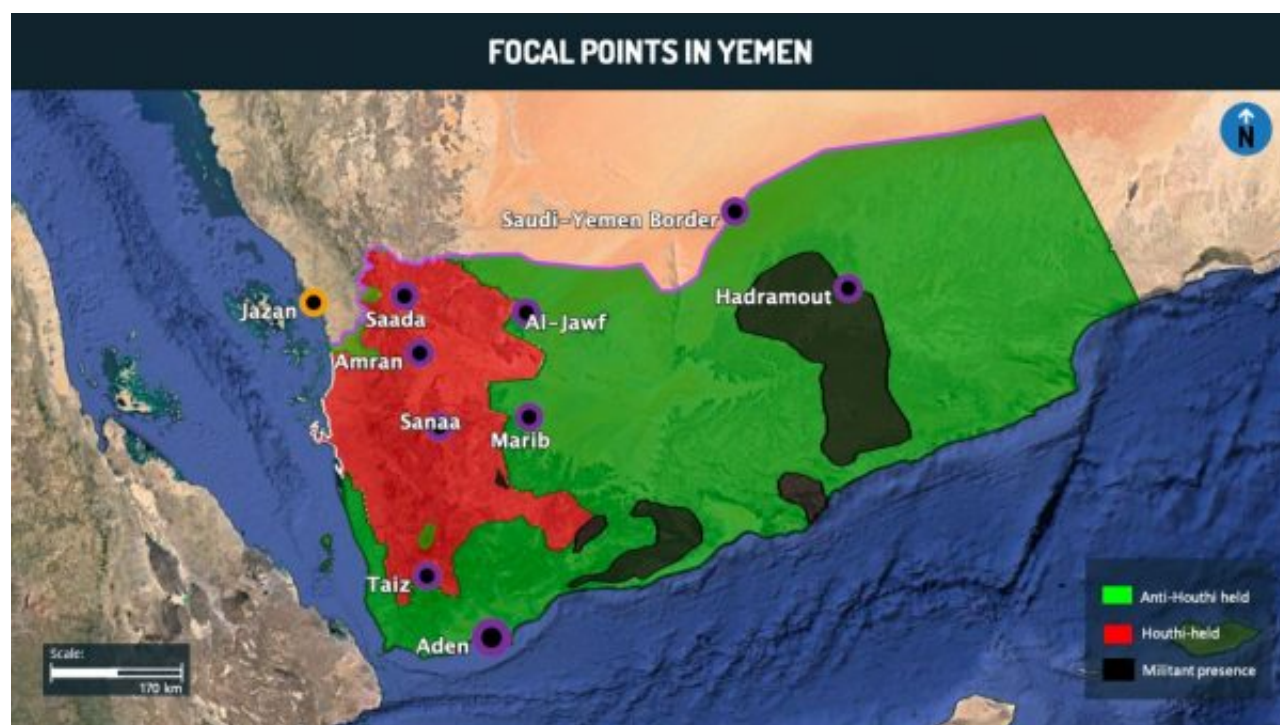
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Yemen SITUATION UPDATE: US President announces on February 4 end of support for Saudi-led offensive in Yemen; liable to hinder Riyadh's campaign against Houthis

Executive Summary:

- Several security-related incidents were recorded in Aden between January 28 and February 1, including an attack against the headquarters of an international organization and a VBIED explosion along a road located north of Aden International Airport. This underscores the exceedingly destabilized security environment in Aden.
- On February 4, US President Joe Biden announced the end of all American support for the Saudi-led offensive in Yemen. This constitutes a reversal of US's policy vis-a-vis Saudi Arabia's military intervention in Yemen, which Washington has supported since 2015.
- According to February 6 reports, the US Congress has been "formally notified" of Secretary of State Antony Blinken's "intent" to remove the Houthis from the list of "Foreign Terrorist Organizations" (FTO). The revocation is likely based on the fact that the designation is liable to hinder potential peace talks to resolve the ongoing conflict in Yemen.
- On February 4, the UN confirmed the arrest of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) leader Khalid Batarfi in an operation in Mahra Governorate's al-Ghaydah in October 2020. This highlights that AQAP has suffered significant leadership losses over the past year, which likely explains its overall diminished activity and recent lack of formal claims.
- Overall, despite the end of US support for the Saudi-led Coalition and potential revocation of the FTO designation, the Houthis are unlikely to alter their strategy vis-a-vis Saudi Arabia over the coming weeks and months. Therefore, the Shiite group will continue to conduct cross-border attacks to pressure the former to end its offensive and lift the blockade over Houthi-held territories.



Current Situation:

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Across the country, the following incidents have been reported:

Aden Governorate

Map #	Date	District/City	Brief Description
1	January 28	Mansoura	Reports indicate that clashes broke out following a dispute over a plot of land, resulting in material damage to civilian residences and vehicles, in Mansoura.
2	January 29	Khormaksar	An explosion targeted the headquarters of an international organization. Reports citing local sources state that the explosion was caused by unidentified individuals hurling an IED.
3	January 31		