

# Committee Guide



*Yemen - A War With No End In Sight*

*Security Council*

## Table of contents:

1. Personal Introduction
2. Committee Introduction
3. Topic Explanation
4. Possible Solutions
5. Helpful Sources

## 1. Personal Introduction

Dear delegates, I am Clara von Kirchbach and I will be chairing this OLMUN's Security Council with Isabella.

I am 17 (I will be 18 by the time we'll meet for the OLMUN 2022) and am in the 12th grade of the Liebfrauenschule Oldenburg.

This MUN conference will be my second. My first was the OLMUN in 2019, in which I attended as a delegate for the Human Rights Council.

Aside from the OLMUN, I enjoy doing sports and playing the piano and the organ, as well as volunteering at my local church's youth organization.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to the debates in our committee! Clara

Dear delegates of the Security Council,

I am very excited to be your chair with Clare this year! My name is Isabella von Jan and I am 21 years old. At the moment I am studying law at the European Business School in Wiesbaden. If you are also interested in studying law, please feel free to ask me about the workload, my university and anything else you might be interested in, I am very happy to help!

My hobbies are playing tennis and I enjoy skiing and snowboarding. In the past, I have attended six conferences as a delegate (about half of those at OLMUN), and I have chaired the General Assembly's 1st Committee at OLMUN 2019. I am eager to attend this year's conference (hopefully in person) and hearing all your fruitful debates! I believe our topic this year is an especially interesting and relevant one, so I hope all of you come well prepared and ready to debate.

We are lucky, the Security Council is a very small one, so I would really like to encourage you all to feel free to give speeches and actively participate in the debate. We have enough time for all of you to thoroughly present your countries stance on the topic, please take advantage of that. Especially if you have conducted enough research, I am confident that you will be able step out of your comfort zone and help to develop a superb resolution we are all willing to pass. Despite debating this very serious and relevant issue, don't forget to have fun and make lots of new friends!

I am looking forward to meeting all of you soon in a hopefully very friendly and productive environment.

Isabella

## 2. Committee Introduction

The Security Council is the UN's most powerful body, with the power to create international sanctions and to establish and legitimize military operations for peacekeeping. It is the only UN organ able to pass internationally binding resolutions. It consists of 15 members, five of which are permanent member states. The permanent member states are France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. The others are elected by the General Assembly every two years. In 2022 those countries are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the United Arab Emirates. In June, Albania will have the Presidency. The permanent members have special rights in the council like the right to veto important resolutions or decisions.

## 3. Topic Explanation

In the 1990s Yemen reunified and Ali Abdullah Saleh, the former president of North Yemen was elected to be the president of the Republic of Yemen we know today. In this time the Houthis slowly gained power with the support of the new President Saleh. In 1994 the armies of the north and south fought against each other in a brief civil war, with the army of the north winning. This resulted in the unification of Yemen.

The former support of President Saleh of the Houthis was overturned with the Treaty of Jeddah between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in 2000. Tensions rose in the following years between the government of Yemen and the Houthis, ultimately leading to a rebellion against the Yemeni government in 2004. The government started arresting hundreds of Houthi members and killing the leader of the time. The fighting between the government and the Houthis continued until June of 2005, killing hundreds in the process. An agreement between Houthis and the government was reached. Between 2005 and 2006 the Houthis and the Yemeni government continued to clash occasionally, until in March of 2006 Saleh granted amnesty to 600 Houthi fighters. He won the 2006 election, continuing his presidency. He had been president for the previous 28 years.

Fighting between the Houthis and the government started back up in 2007, until a ceasefire agreement with the help of Qatar was established after five months. In 2008 this agreement was broken with more fighting between the two groups. The operation "Scorched Earth" was launched in August of 2009 to crush the Houthi rebellion in the Saada governorate. The Houthis simultaneously launched their first attacks on Saudi Arabia.

In February 2010 a ceasefire agreement was made between the Yemeni government and the Houthis, although the military of Yemen carried out the operation "Blow to the Head" during that time. This operation's aim was to both crackdown against the Houthis and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. In 2011 the Arab Spring reached Yemen, demonstrations to end Saleh's 33-year presidency spread throughout the country. Promises of Saleh, for example to not run for re-election had little impact. A crackdown against these protesters was launched, leaving between 200 and 2,000 people dead.

Saleh's party, the General People's Congress (GPC) agreed to a Gulf Cooperation Council brokered deal to hand over power, however Saleh refused to sign. The opposition in Yemen gained traction with the Hashid tribal federation and several army commanders switching sides. In June 2011 Saleh was injured and left the country to seek medical attention in Saudi Arabia. He returned in September that same year, resulting in more clashes and protests. In November Saleh signed a deal, transferring his power to his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and letting him form a unity government. Hadi ran for presidency unopposed and was sworn in for a two-year term in February of 2012.

At the beginning of 2014 the National Dialogues Conference concluded, agreeing to a document on which the new constitution would be based. Furthermore, a presidential panel approved a political transition plan, which organized Yemen into a federation of six regions. In August 2014, after two weeks of protests, President Hadi dissolved his cabinet.

The following September the Houthis took control over most of Sanaa (Yemen's capital) and the Red Sea port city of Hodeida in the following months.

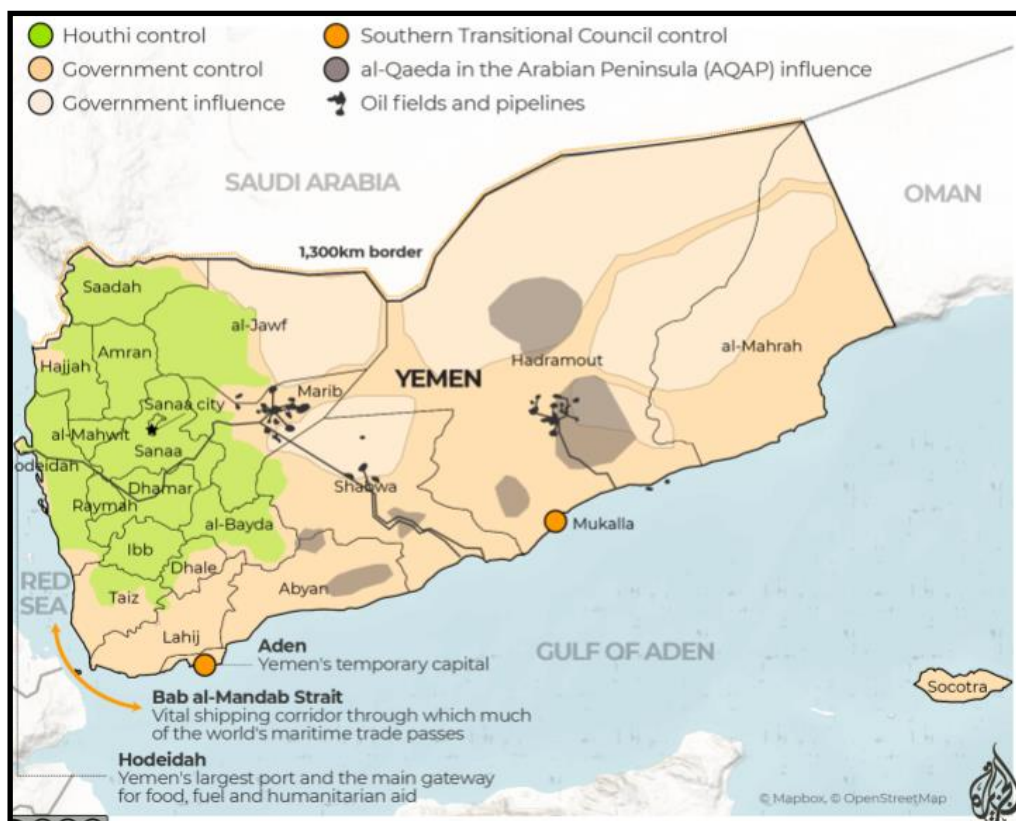
At the beginning of 2015 Hadi was placed under house arrest by the Houthis and resigned as president. The sharing of power between the government and the Houthis fell through, resulting in further clashes. The Houthis took control of the government and were denounced by the United Nations. Hadi managed to flee the capital Sanaa to Aden. Here he rescinded his resignation and declared the Houthi takeover a coup. In March 2015 the Islamic State set off two suicide bombs in Shia mosques in Sanaa, while the Houthis attacked the government forces. They advanced towards the south of Yemen, forcing President Hadi to flee and take refuge in Saudi Arabia. During this time, Saudi Arabia, together with a coalition of Arab States (UAE, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan and Kuwait) initiated the Operation Decisive Storm to support Hadi. The coalition launched air strikes, deployed ground forces and imposed a naval blockade. The United States increased its arms sale for the campaign in Yemen. Despite various efforts of the United Nations and various neutral and non-neutral interventions and peace talks the situation in Yemen grew dire. This left the millions of inhabitants in Yemen at the brink of

starvation and faced with various serious plagues. Former President Saleh, siding with the Houthis for a short period of time, made efforts to negotiate peace and was killed by the Houthis in December of 2017, further escalating the situation. The United Arab Emirates, before siding with Saudi Arabia and many other Arab states, began backing a new separatist movement, which took control over Aden in January of 2018.

With an abundance of air-strikes led by Saudi Arabia, in 2018 and the previous years, international opinions of the coalition’s war and the US support plummeted. At the end of 2018 the former Obama Administration apologized for their support. The US Senate voted to end the US military’s participation in the Yemen war. In April of the following year, President Trump vetoed this decision. In the following years attacks from all sides continued and all attempts of solving the conflict failed. The Houthis were classified as a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States. This stance was changed with the election of current US president Biden, who announced the new US policies in February of 2021, revoking this classification and ending the US Support for the Saudi-led coalition. As of April 2022, a two month truce has started between the clashing parties. President Hadi has stepped aside, ceding his power to a Saudi Arabian council, which the Houthis reject.

Due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, international aid is partially redirected, leading to even more wheat shortages and famine, lending more urgency to an issue already considered to be one of the worst humanitarian crises. The UN continues their work as an attempted mediator for peace negotiations.

Map of the current situation:



## 4. Possible Solutions

As you can probably tell from the timeline, the war in Yemen is a long running, complex issue that doesn't have a simple solution. Nevertheless, we ask you to consider your countries position and keep these aspects in mind, while coming up with a long term solution.

- Should humanitarian aid be offered?
- If yes, which humanitarian aid should be offered? How should the aid be provided, financed, and distributed?
- Should peace talks take place?
- If yes, between which parties? Who could act as a mediator? Should any sanctions be imposed on parties who broke the Geneva Conventions?
- What is your country's stance on ceasefires in Yemen? How should the UN go about enforcing a possible ceasefire?
- How could the country be stabilized after the war? What type of government should be installed?

## 5. Helpful Sources

Here are some helpful sources but keep in mind that you are welcome to use other sources to inform yourself about our topic.

<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/a-timeline-of-the-yemen-crisis-from-the-1990s-to-the-present/>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2686133>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/yemen/>

[https://carnegieendowment.org/files/war\\_in\\_saada.pdf](https://carnegieendowment.org/files/war_in_saada.pdf)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/ceasefire-agreement-signed-marib>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14671.doc.htm>

<https://sgp.fas.org/crs/mideast/R43960.pdf>

And finally, these two videos might aid you in getting a quick overview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jCdym4SmMM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkyXDDXzPyw>