

South Yemen Update



Dream no small dreams for they do not have the power to move the hearts of men



Comprehensive Narrative on the Situation in Hadramout

First: Roots of the Crisis with Amr bin Habrish

•The crisis with Amr bin Habrish is long-standing, caused by the Presidential Leadership Council's failure to address the issue and leaving it exposed to overlapping political and security complications.

•Local authority and judicial decisions classify Bin Habrish's actions as an armed rebellion requiring decisive handling.

•During enforcement, dangerous external support emerged for the rebellion from:

•Individuals linked to Al-Qaeda.

•Networks connected to the Houthis. This activity is concentrated in Wadi Hadramout, still influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood, providing:

1. Safe zones for terrorist camps.
2. Facilitation of weapons smuggling to the Houthis.
3. A protective cover for extremist movements.

Second: Activity of Al-Shabaab (Somalia) – UN Panel of Experts

•The UN Panel of Experts confirmed operational Al-Shabaab cells inside Hadramout.

These cells—mostly Somali members—are tasked with:

•Buying weapons from groups linked to the Houthis.

•Smuggling weapons to Somalia using routes through Wadi Hadramout.

•This evidence shows that the Wadi has transformed into a regional corridor for terrorist networks, not just an Al-Qaeda hotspot.

Third: Key Terrorist Attacks Targeting Saudi Forces in Seiyun & Wadi Hadramout

[2019 – Seiyun](#)

A terrorist attack resulted in the martyrdom of five Saudi soldiers, including Colonel Bandar Al-Otaibi, Coalition Commander in the Wadi.

[2020 – Al-Abr](#)

An attack by cells linked to Houthis and ISIS killed two Saudi soldiers

[2024 – Training Camp in Seiyun](#)

A First Military Region soldier opened fire on Saudi forces inside the camp:

- Resulted in the martyrdom of an officer and NCO, with one injured.
- The attacker had confirmed ties to terrorist groups and fled.

Ongoing Threats

Multiple assassination attempts and IED attacks over past years targeting Saudi forces

Fourth: Al-Qaeda's Economic Statement – August 2025

•On 9 August 2025, Al-Qaeda issued an economic statement on Hadramout.

•It attacked the government's financial reforms.

•Explicitly/implicitly called for preventing oil exports from Hadramout.

•Its rhetoric mirrored the Houthi narrative on state resources.

Fifth: Alignment Between Al-Qaeda Rhetoric & Houthi Port Blockade (Since 2022)

•Since October 2022, the Houthis halted oil exports by drone attacks on Hadramout & Shabwa ports.

•This caused a severe financial crisis for government-controlled areas.

•In 2025, Al-Qaeda created the same effect via incitement and media campaigns, not drones.

•Both groups achieved the same outcome: drying up government revenues and weakening state stability.

Sixth: Convergence of Objectives – Houthis, Al-Qaeda & Bin Habrish Rebellion

Houthis

Method : Military force to disrupt oil production

Objective: Destabilise government

Al-Qaeda

Method : Economic incitement & propaganda

Objective: Block revenue & weaken state

Bin Habrish

Method: Groups Armed assaults, route blockades, facility attacks

Objective: Disrupt operations

Seventh: Strategic Conclusion

Wadi Hadramout has become:

- A haven for Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and Al-Shabaab cells.

- A smuggling artery serving the Houthis and regional networks.

- A high-risk zone directly threatening Saudi forces.

Risks of leaving the Wadi as it is:

- Heightened threat to Saudi and local national security.
- Opportunity for Houthis to build strategic depth in the east.
- Continuation of rebellion, smuggling, and extremist activity

Stability requires:

- Dismantling Muslim Brotherhood influence in the Wadi.
- Eliminating terrorist enabling environments.
- Ending the Bin Habrish rebellion.
- Rebuilding professional security forces capable of restoring control & stopping smuggling.



Southern forces secure the city of Seiyun in Hadramout

Wadi Hadramout witnessed rapid developments today as Southern Armed Forces entered the city of Seiyun at dawn, launching a wide-scale military operation dubbed “Promising Future.” Within hours, the forces took control of key positions belonging to the First Military Region — including government facilities and strategic points — before announcing the full securing of Seiyun and its airport following limited clashes. The confrontations resulted in the deaths of four Southern servicemen, in addition to casualties among First Military Region forces.

The Southern forces also succeeded in gaining control over several cities and districts in Wadi Hadramout, including Seiyun, Tarim, Al-Raddood, Al-Khasha'a, as well as the headquarters of the First Military Region and Seiyun International Airport.

The advance came amid widespread local support, with military leaders stating that the operation aims to restore security and stability in the valley. The events were accompanied by notable political decisions, most prominently the announcement of a general amnesty by Presidential Leadership Council member and STC President Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi — excluding perpetrators of serious crimes — along with orders for the immediate release of detainees in Wadi Hadramout, in a move aimed at calming the situation and reducing tensions.

On the tribal front, the local authorities announced that, under Saudi supervision, they had reached an agreement with Sheikh Amr bin Habrish, whose armed men stormed the PetroMasila oil company facilities last Saturday. The agreement stipulates the withdrawal of his forces from the sites.

Southern Transitional Council
On Developments in Wadi Hadhramaut**
Aden – Wednesday, 3 December 2025

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) is closely monitoring the unfolding security, military, and political developments in Wadi Hadhramaut. The Council affirms that Operation Promising Future—launched today—comes after all peaceful and political options were exhausted over recent years to restore stability, end persistent security disorder, and halt the exploitation of the region by external forces operating within the valley and the governorate.

For many years, areas of Wadi Hadhramaut have been transformed into corridors for smuggling operations benefiting the Houthi terrorist militia, as well as safe havens for extremist groups including ISIS and Al-Qaeda. These conditions have contributed to the continued loss of Southern lives and posed serious threats to our partners in the Arab Coalition.

In response to this reality, the STC reiterates that the South will not serve as a gateway for threats to regional security, nor as a refuge for terrorism, nor as a supply artery for the Houthi terrorist militia.

The Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the objectives of the Arab Coalition and its support for regional security and stability. It stresses that the forces removed today had unfortunately become a conduit through which the Houthis, the Muslim Brotherhood, and other terrorist organizations advanced their agendas, exploiting their positions for influence and personal gain at the expense of national and public interests.

President Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi has issued the following directives:



- Declaration of a general amnesty for all individuals who cease hostile or destructive acts, with the exception of those implicated in blood crimes, terrorism, or grave violations against civilians.

- Immediate care for the wounded, ensuring full medical support, and the prompt release of all detainees.

- Protection of civilians and safeguarding of public and private property, with firm legal action against any individual violations.

The STC calls on civilians and military personnel with families to remain in their homes over the coming hours, prioritizing their safety until security is fully restored and the situation stabilizes.



The STC affirms that Hadhramaut remains a cornerstone of the Southern state project, and will not be allowed to fall prey to agendas of terrorism, dominance, or smuggling.

The Council assures the Southern public that security will be restored and that Wadi Hadhramaut is moving toward a new phase of stability, reassurance, and development.

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