

## LATEST NEWS BULLETIN – YEMEN

### LATEST UPDATE

#### **1. Yemen troops make gains as air raids pound Houthi-held Hodeidah:**

source: [Al-Jazeera](#)

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/yemeni-troops-gains-air-raids-pound-houthi-held-hodeidah-181103110909016.html>

***Saudi-backed Yemeni forces claim to have captured two areas on the outskirts of the port city of Hodeidah.***

The Saudi-UAE military alliance at war with [Yemen](#)'s Houthi rebels says it has advanced towards the western city of Hodeidah, hours after residents reported a barrage of air raids targeting the strategic port city.



Residents in Hodeidah told Al Jazeera on Saturday that the United States-backed alliance launched more than 25 air raids, targeting rebel-held locations on the city's edges.

Yemeni journalist Manal Qaed said the sound of fighter jets dropping bombs pierced through the sky late into the afternoon, with civilians fearing to venture out of their homes.

The Houthi-affiliated Al-Masirah news outlet said more than 60 raids targeted Kilo-16 and its surrounding areas, wounding four civilians.

Kilo-16 is the main highway linking Hodeidah city with the rebel-held capital, Sanaa.

Aid agencies have long warned that fighting in Hodeidah risks escalating the [dire humanitarian crisis](#) in Yemen, where about [half the population](#) - some 14 million people - could soon be on the verge of [famine](#).

"This is not the first time the city has been attacked and sadly residents have grown accustomed to the sounds of air strikes and shelling," Qaed said.

"Throughout the day, we've heard the sound of jets in the sky, intense shelling and air strikes," she added. "As for me, I will only leave once clashes flare in the city."

Meanwhile, the dpa news agency reported that Yemeni forces, backed by the Saudi-UAE alliance, gained territory on the eastern and southern outskirts of Hodeidah.

A military source told dpa on condition of anonymity: "The forces will not stop until they take control of the strategic Hodeidah port."

On Tuesday, the alliance sent more than 10,000 troops to Hodeidah in a new offensive aimed at securing the so-called "liberated areas".

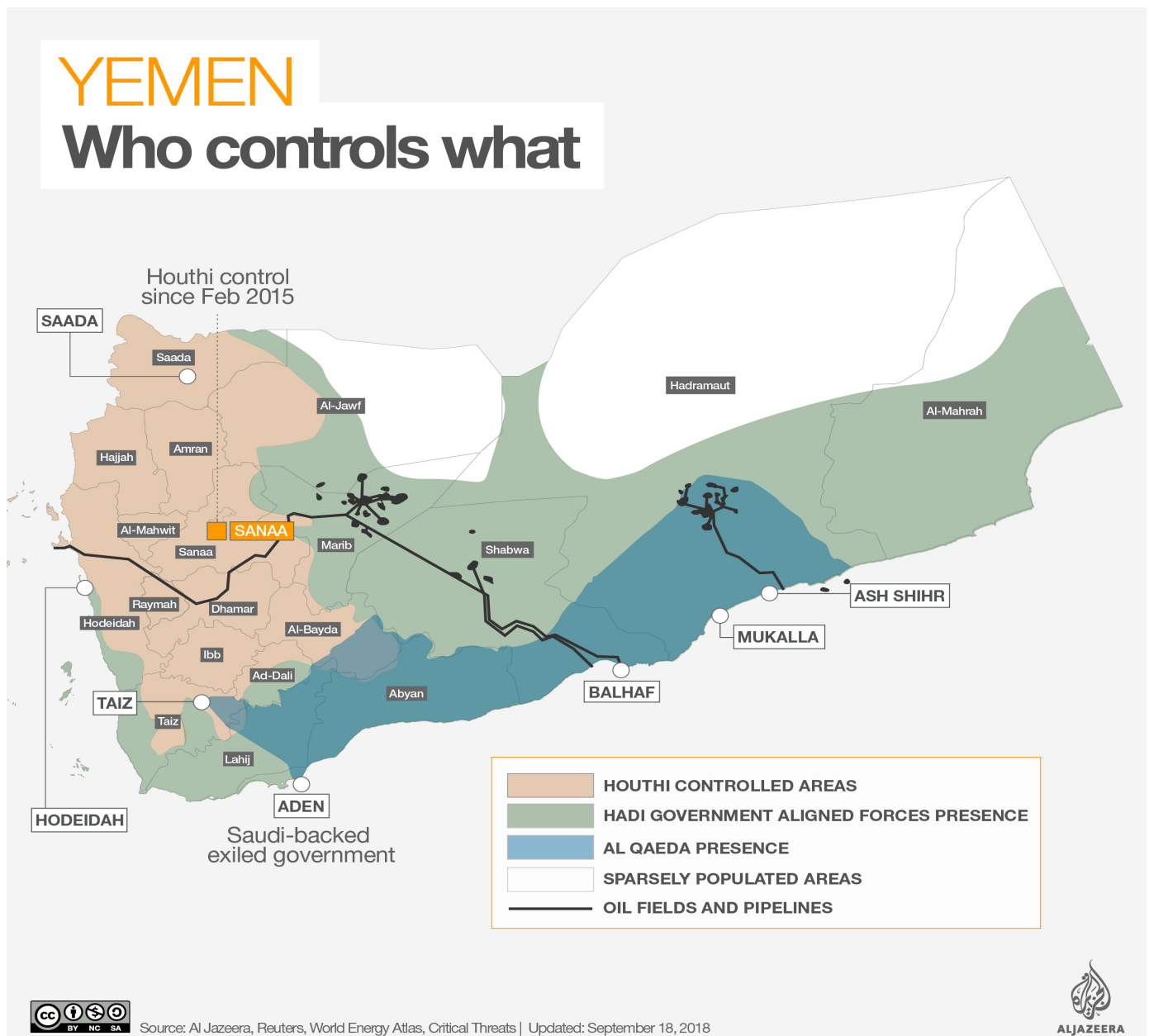
So far, the Yemeni forces and the alliance had held Kilo 7 and Kilo 10, areas which sit less than five kilometres from the city's busy fish market.

#### **'Losing Hodeidah will be a big blow'**

Adam Baron, a Yemen analyst and visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, called the port city a "key prize", adding it would be a "big blow" if the [Houthis](#) lose control of the installation just weeks before peace talks demanded by the [United Nations](#) and the US are to be held.

"Hodeidah is arguably Yemen's most important port and is one of the Houthis' main sources of revenue," Baron said.

"In any conflict [control of a port is] a key prize. It would be a big blow [if the Houthis lost the port to the alliance], but not a killer blow," he added.



Analysts expect the rebels to use Hodeidah as a bargaining chip when they enter into UN-brokered talks scheduled in Sweden [later this month](#).

The UN has [repeatedly warned](#) a military campaign on Hodeidah would have devastating consequences for the country's residents.

Addressing reporters at the world body's headquarters in New York on Friday, UN Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres](#) said the warring parties [must seize](#) on this "opportunity for peace".

"To avert imminent catastrophe, several steps are required. First, violence must stop everywhere with an immediate halt around critical infrastructure and densely populated areas," he said.

"We must do all we can now to end human suffering and avoid the worst humanitarian crisis in the world from getting even worse," he added.

According to the Yemen Data Project, the Saudi-UAE alliance carried out at least 335 air raids on Hodeidah between June 1 and September 30, with civilians frequently bearing the brunt.

At least 15 people were killed in September when raids hit a road linking Hodeidah with Sanaa.

The Saudi-UAE military alliance acknowledged mistakes in its air operations, but has mostly defended its record.

It has denied deliberately targeting civilians, but Riyadh's narrative over its actions in Yemen has faced mounting criticism following the killing of [Jamal Khashoggi](#), a dissident Saudi journalist and Washington Post columnist.

The [conflict in Yemen](#), the Arab world's poorest country, began with the 2014 takeover of by the Houthi rebels, who toppled the internationally recognised government of President [Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi](#).

Concerned by the rise of the Houthis, believed to be backed by [Iran](#), the Saudi-UAE military-led coalition launched an intervention in 2015 in the form of a massive air campaign aimed at reinstalling Hadi's government.

Earlier this week, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), an independent watchdog, said around 56,000 Yemenis had been [killed](#) in the violence. The UN says the conflict has killed at least 10,000 people, but has not updated its death toll in years.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/yemeni-troops-gains-air-raids-pound-houthi-held-hodeidah-181103110909016.html>

## **2. Saudi-UAE troops in Yemen preparing for major offensive:**

source: [Al-Jazeera](#)

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/saudi-uae-troops-yemen-preparing-major-offensive-181102131036364.html>

***Reports that thousands of soldiers are arriving near the besieged port city of Hodeidah are raising fears of a new Saudi-UAE offensive after the US and UN backed the resumption of peace talks.***

The UN's special envoy to [Yemen](#) is relaunching talks to try and end the war, as the Saudi-UAE coalition deploys thousands of soldiers to the main port city of Hodeidah.

The build-up has come alongside a series of coalition air raids on a base in Sanaa that [Saudi Arabia](#) claimed is used to launch missiles and drones.

Hodeidah, on the Red Sea, has served as a vital lifeline for humanitarian supplies into Yemen, where a deepening food crisis is affecting 11 million Yemeni children and the UN says 14 million Yemenis could face [famine](#).

Al Jazeera's Mohamad ElBardicy has this report.

## **3. Britain pushes for U.N. Security Council action on Yemen crisis:**

source: [Reuters.com](#)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-britain/britain-pushes-for-u-n-security-council-action-on-yemen-crisis-idUSKCN1NA009>

***LONDON (Reuters) - British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt said on Monday he would push for new action at the United Nations Security Council to try to end hostilities in Yemen and find a political solution to the war there.***



Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries, is locked in a nearly four-year-old war that pits Iran-aligned Houthi rebels against the government backed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the West. The conflict has killed at least 10,000 people and caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Hunt had agreed with UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths that the time was right for the Security Council to act to bolster the UN-led process, the Foreign Office said in a statement, without specifying exactly what action Britain would take.

"The action the UK takes forward at the UN Security Council will help towards that goal, ensuring that a full ceasefire, when it comes, is fully implemented," the statement said.

U.N. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Britain was working with the United States on a draft resolution to stop the fighting in Yemen. This follows U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's call last week for a cessation of hostilities in Yemen.

Britain said a ceasefire would only have an effect on the ground if it was underpinned by a political deal between the warring parties

Griffiths is trying to salvage peace talks that collapsed in September. He said last week he hoped consultations could restart within a month. He is due to brief the Security Council on Nov. 16.

Black box from Lion Air jet is damaged - officials

The United States and Britain have called for an end to the conflict, raising pressure on Saudi Arabia as it faces a global outcry over the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

Hunt echoed U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who on Friday appealed for an end to the war and said recent political developments had created signs of hope for a settlement.

"Now for the first time there appears to be a window in which both sides can be encouraged to come to the table, stop the killing and find a political solution that is the only long term way out of disaster," Hunt said.

"The UK will use all its influence to push for such an approach."

#### 4. UK backs UN call for Saudi Arabia and Houthis to end Yemen bloodshed:

source: [The Guardian](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/05/uk-backs-un-call-for-saudi-arabia-and-houthis-to-end-yemen-bloodshed>

***Jeremy Hunt says cessation of hostilities could 'alleviate suffering' of Yemeni people.***

Britain is to end its opposition to the tabling of a UN security council resolution designed to put pressure on [Saudi Arabia](#) and the Iranian-backed Houthis to end the bloodshed in Yemen and allow the free flow of humanitarian aid.



The foreign secretary, [Jeremy Hunt](#), criticized both the Saudi-led coalition and opposition Houthi rebels backed by Iran on Monday, saying: "For too long in the Yemen conflict, both sides have believed a military solution is possible, with catastrophic consequences for the people."

His remarks appear to presage plans to table a UN security council resolution on the crisis, something the

UK has resisted for many months, leading to claims that it is siding too much with the Saudis in the bloody four-year civil war. The UK is the penholder at the UN over [Yemen](#), and some former Conservative cabinet ministers, notably Andrew Mitchell, say Britain has been protecting Saudi Arabia from criticism there.

Martin Griffiths, the UN special envoy for Yemen, has been pressing privately for greater UN involvement and is due to brief the security council in the next fortnight on his efforts to get peace talks started.

Hunt said in the statement that the UK was talking to the other 14 security council member states about increasing action to help the population of the Arab state, which has been torn apart by sectarian fighting since 2015.

He said: "Now, for the first time, there appears to be a window in which both sides can be encouraged to come to the table, stop the killing and find a political solution that is the only long term way out of disaster."

“The UK will use all its influence to push for such an approach. I met UN special envoy Martin Griffiths on Tuesday, and there is a small but real chance that a cessation of hostilities could alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people. This must be the first priority as we seek to put in place a longer term solution.”

The UK is understood to be working with Sweden, which has offered to host any peace talks if their terms can be agreed.

In a surprise move, the US last week called for a ceasefire in Yemen, or a cessation of hostilities within a minimum of 30 days, a deadline that appeared to lead to an escalation in fighting as both sides sought to strengthen their military positions.

Hunt’s statement does not specifically vow to table a resolution, but he appears to be heading in that direction. A resolution has greater force than a presidential statement and would in effect tie Riyadh into not trying to escalate the war by capturing Hodeida, the strategic port held by the Houthis on the Red Sea coast through which most aid flows. Saudi-backed forces have been gathering on the outskirts of Hodeidah, but it is not clear if Saudi Arabia believes it could capture the port before any ceasefire came into force.

Saudi Arabia has been thrown on the defensive diplomatically after the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but the UK has been reluctant to sanction Riyadh in response. Diplomats believe that the weakening of the position of the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, may provide a brief window to get peace talks started.

Labour has been calling for the UK to table a Yemen resolution at the UN for over a year.

Saudi Arabia is a long-term defence partner of the UK and signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this year with the UK government to buy 48 jets in a deal worth billions of pounds.

At a press conference in Amman, Jordan on Sunday, Geert Cappelaere, the regional director for the Middle East and north Africa at UN children’s agency Unicef, called on the warring parties to join proposed peace talks later this month and agree to a ceasefire. “Yemen is today a living hell – not for 50% to 60% of the children – it is a living hell for every boy and girl in Yemen,” he said.

According to Unicef, 1.8 million Yemeni children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition. It said both sides in the conflict were impeding the flow of aid.

The UNHCR special envoy, Angelina Jolie, also issued a statement, saying: “As an international community, we have been shamefully slow to act to end the crisis in Yemen.”