

## Yemen civil war

### Why in news?

Hundreds of war prisoners were released as agreed by Stockholm agreement signifying peace in the war ravaged Yemen.

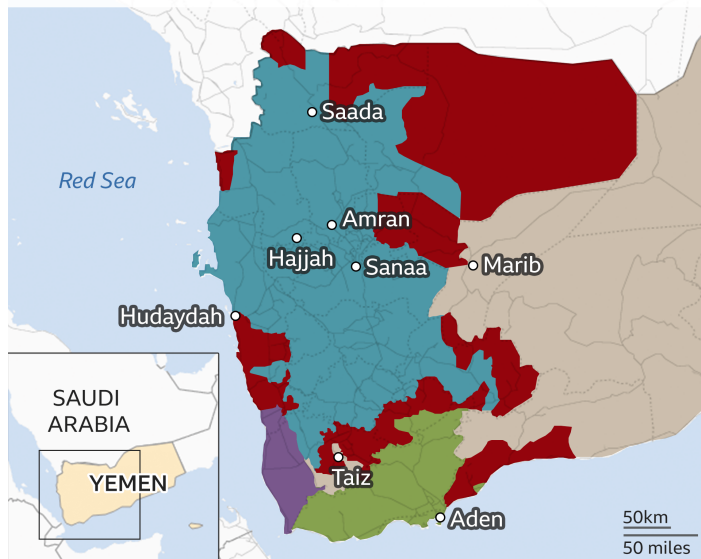
### What led to the civil war?

- **Arab Spring protests** - The conflict in Yemen began in 2011 as part of the Arab Spring protests.
- **Economic and security problems** - President Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to hand over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi when Yemen was having economic and social problems.
- **Houthis** - Took advantage of the [crisis](#) in Yemen and captured Saada province in the north and then Sana'a, the capital of Yemen in 2014.
- Houthis are backed by Iran government.
- **Saudi-led coalition** - Being neighbour and its differences with the Iran led to Saudi-led coalition supporting pro Yemen government.
- Saudi Arabia-led coalition, backed by the US includes other Arab countries and sent troops to Yemen in 2015.
- **Stockholm Agreement** - It was signed in 2018 in which Yemen agreed to free conflict-related detainees/prisoners.
- **Two-month ceasefire** - The civil war had ceased in April 2022, when the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition announced a two-month ceasefire ahead of Ramzan.
- This was Yemen's first nationwide *truce in six years*.

*The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s. It began in Tunisia in response to corruption and economic stagnation.*

## Yemen: Areas of control and conflict

- Conflict zones
- Yemeni government forces
- Houthi forces
- UAE-backed anti-Houthi forces opposed to government
- UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) forces



Source: Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, May 2020

BBC

## What is Stockholm Agreement?

- The [Stockholm](#) agreement was signed by Yemen in 2018 to free conflict-related detainees.
- The agreement brokered by the *United Nations*.
- The *3 main components* of the agreement are
  - The Hudayah agreement,
  - The prisoner exchange agreement and
  - The Taiz agreement.
- The Hudayah agreement includes a ceasefire in the city of Hodeidah.
- The prisoner exchange agreement is the release of prisoners by both sides.
- The Taiz agreement includes the formation of a joint committee with participation from civil society and the UN.

## What are the impacts of the civil war?

- 80% of its population dependent on aid and protection
- Over three million people have been displaced from their homes since 2015
- Public service sectors like healthcare, water, sanitation, and education have either collapsed or are in a dire situation
- Yemen has lost \$90 billion in economic output and more than 6,00,000 people have lost their jobs
- More than half of the country's population is living in extreme poverty

*According to the UN, Yemen is now the largest humanitarian crisis in the world.*

## Quick facts

### International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- ICRC was established in 1863.
- ICRC operates worldwide, helping people affected by conflict and armed violence and promoting the laws that protect victims of war.
- An independent and neutral organization, its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949.
- ICRC is based in Geneva, Switzerland having its presence in more 100 countries including India.
- The ICRC is funded mainly by voluntary donations from governments and from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## References

1. [The Hindu|Yemen Civil War](#)
2. [ICRC|About ICRC](#)

