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U.S. Faces Role in Yemen After Deadliest Month in Five Years of War



Sources: The Jump

The Biden administration may further complicate the situation if it reclassifies the Houthi organization as terrorist, leading to sanctions and more difficulties in accessing humanitarian aid.

The war in Yemen continues to add up to years and the worst news is that there are no signs of improvement. January was the bloodiest month since the Saudi Coalition launched its offensive in 2015. The Yemen Data Project campaign recorded 139 civilian

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deaths over the past month as a result of Saudi bombings, with 287 people injured in those attacks.

Globally, 19,000 civilians have already been killed during a conflict that began in 2015. January 2022 has been the worst month since October 2016, according to Yemen data project. The Saudi campaign has intensified after the UN Human Rights Council decided in October 2021 following a vote to end the mandate of the Panel of Eminent Experts on Yemen. Since the dissolution of that body, designated by the UN to monitor human rights abuses in Yemen, there has been no international observation of human rights violations, according to Oxfam.

"The intensification of the bombing campaign in January included two airstrikes on hospitals; two bombed water reservoirs, 11 airstrikes on civilian vehicles; the bombing of a radio and television station; a food truck and a food storage unit," explains Yemen Data Project.

On January 22, the deadliest attack since 2020 took place. Three attacks followed on the pre-trial detention in the city of Sa'ada. At least 82 people were killed and 266 injured, according to the Yemeni Ministry of Health. "In recent days we have witnessed a worrying escalation in the war in Yemen," explained the Chief of Mission of Médecins Sans Frontières in Yemen. "There has also been intense fighting recently at the front across the country. All this shows that, despite the fact that the war has been going on for seven years, there is no end in sight to the suffering of the people of Yemen."

In this context, 20 pacifist organizations in the United States have asked U.S. President Joe Biden to reflect on the recent announcement that his administration plans to reclassify the Ansar Allah organization within the register of foreign terrorist organizations (FTO) and on the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Ansar Allah is the "official" designation of the Houthi insurgency, which controls the Sa'dah region, the epicenter of the Saudi Coalition's airstrikes.

The Pentagon would be willing to return the Houthis to terrorist status even though one of Biden's first decisions was to revoke Trump's order to do so. The reason the White House

has argued is the drone attack by the Houthis on the Al Dhafra air base in Abu Dhabi, one of the Saudi coalition partners, on January 24. The attacks were intercepted and caused no casualties.

This is not a rhetorical move, but classification within the FTO would entail significant sanctions on areas controlled by the insurgency and make it impossible for humanitarian NGOs to work on the ground. The experience of sanctions applied under the Trump-approved designation made it difficult to access food and basic medicines. "Designating the Houthis as an FTO could have a devastating impact on efforts to bring humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people, which is why the Administration revoked Trump's appointment a year ago," an expert at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy told [The Intercept](#).

The discrepancies in the Democratic Party over the U.S. role in the Yemen conflict run deep. Two congressmen, Tom Malinowski and Jim McGovern, have proposed a two-year moratorium on licensing for Assistance to Saudi Aviation, which would apply to U.S. companies. The project would suspend existing supply licenses.

"When you have Saudi planes killing dozens and dozens of civilians in attacks that seem completely unjustifiable, using planes that are kept in the air by a contract approved by the U.S. government, I think we have an obligation to look at what we're doing," Malinowski told The Washington Post.

Yemen is currently in its fourth wave of Covid-19, and many displaced people lack access to basic services such as latrines and clean water, Oxfam warned this week.

Source: <https://www.elsaltodiario.com/guerra/bombardeos-guerra-yemen>

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