

The Monthly Briefing

April 2021


April in Review

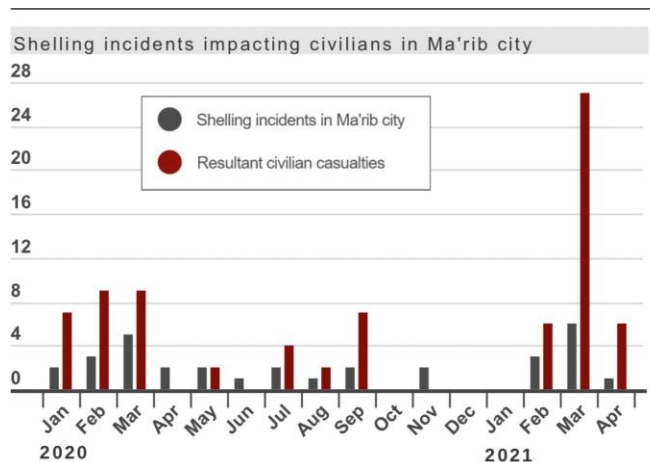
- The International Community continued to unanimously, except of Iran and its network of proxies, [condemn](#) Houthi attacks on Marib governorate. The Houthi militia, however, carried on recklessly and:

- ✚ Displaced more than 25,000 IDPs;
- ✚ Deliberately fired more than 35 ballistic missiles on residential neighborhoods in Marib since the beginning of 2021, killing and injuring scores of vulnerable civilians, and damaging infrastructure. On April 4, for example, a Houthi ballistic missile killed 6 children and injured several others.



- ✚ Continued to deliberately shell IDP camps to increase humanitarian costs – in a systematic show of complete disregard of the lives of IDPs, who, in fact, escaped the Houthi militia's atrocities and viciousness;
- ✚ Hundreds of casualties on the Government's side, including senior Armed Forces commanders and popular resistance figures; and thousands on the Houthis' end.

- For its part, the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (2021), under the Protection Cluster in Yemen, [documented](#) a significant rise in Houthi shelling in Marib and resultant civilian casualties. The figure  sums up some of these trends.



- Against the backdrop of barbaric Houthi attacks, Marib Humanitarian Conference, which thoroughly discussed the Houthi militia's offensive vis-à-vis Marib from legal, humanitarian and political angles, [appealed](#) to the international community to increase protection duties, citing several types of Houthi-committed war crimes.
- Ramping up solidarity with and support for IDPs, the Swedish Special Envoy for Yemen, Peter Semneby, [paid](#) an extraordinary visit to Marib. His Excellency also met with the local authority leadership and toured IDP camps with the Deputy Governor and the Director of the Executive Unit of the Management of Displaced People Camps. Semneby saw the humanitarian risks first-hand, the cost of inhumane Houthi attacks, and

expressed grave concern over the continuity of such irresponsible assaults on a governorate that hosts an estimated population of 2 million IDPs.



- The Supreme Economic Council [published](#) a detailed infographic on the amount of fuel entering Yemen, showing the following:

- ✚ 1,053,377 metric tons of fuel entered the country between January 1 and March 31;

- ✚ 624,517 metric tons (59%) of fuel imports went to Houthi-held areas;

- ✚ The Houthis looted more than 70 billion Yemeni Riyal from fuel derivatives in Hodeidah and diverted these revenues from paying civil servants to funding their war;

- ✚ The Government of Yemen allowed, in cooperation with the UN Special Envoy's request, the entry of 40 fuel ships, in hopes that the Envoy will exercise credible pressure on the Houthis to deposit fuel revenues to pay civil servant salaries.

- The published information above undermines Houthi propaganda on fuel crisis. For a fact, the Houthis run a black market and sell fuel products three times higher above the actual price to finance their war effort. The fuel crisis, in short, is largely fabricated and designed for external audiences.
- In mid-April, the Energy Minister [signed](#) an agreement with the Saudi Program for Development and Reconstruction of Yemen to

import 1,260,850 metric tons of fuel for \$422 million and to support around 80 power stations.

- On April 8, Prime Minister Dr Maeen Abdulmalik [met](#) with HRH Prince Khaled bin Salman, the Saudi Vice Minister of Defense, who affirmed economic support for the Government of Yemen, discussed the Riyadh Agreement's progress and committed to upping development contributions. They also reaffirmed commitment to a nationwide cease-fire, contrary to the Houthi militia.



- PM Dr. Maeen [announced](#) the urgent allocation of 5 billion Yemeni Riyal for the Supreme National Emergency Committee for COVID-19 to support confronting the second wave of the pandemic.
- On April 14, the Minister of Health [launched](#) Yemen's vaccination campaign against COVID-19, prioritizing frontline health workers and the elderly. Alongside the Health Ministry leadership, they announced the distribution of vaccine jabs across 13 governorates. His Excellency [affirmed](#) that medics, who have largely been denied vaccination in Houthi-held areas due to ungrounded reasons, can get vaccinated by reaching out to the government's respective authorities across governorates.
- Prime Minister Dr. Maeen, accompanied by several ministers, flew to Hadramawt. Upon arrival, his excellency [inaugurated](#) the opening of Engineer Awadh Sa'ad Al-Soqatri Power Plant

with a capacity of 40 megawatts, which can be expanded to 60 megawatts, to enhance the electricity service in the governorate. His excellency also inaugurated several projects.

- In Mukalla, the Governor of Hadramawt, in the attendance of PM Dr. Maeen and high-level political, military, and social leaders, commemorated the fifth anniversary of liberating the coast of Hadramawt from Al-Qaeda.



- On April 21, U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen, Timothy Lenderking, [briefed](#) the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Near East, South Asia, Central Asia and Counterterrorism. Here is a brief overview on:

✚ **Marib:** *“The single biggest threat to our efforts right now is the Houthis’ single-minded focus on a military assault on the city of Marib. In the midst of six years of war, Marib has been a haven of stability, and a refuge for nearly one million internally displaced persons who have fled conflict elsewhere and have nowhere else to go.”*

✚ **Support:** *“We must continue to work with the legitimate government of Yemen as we seek to reach a political solution.”*

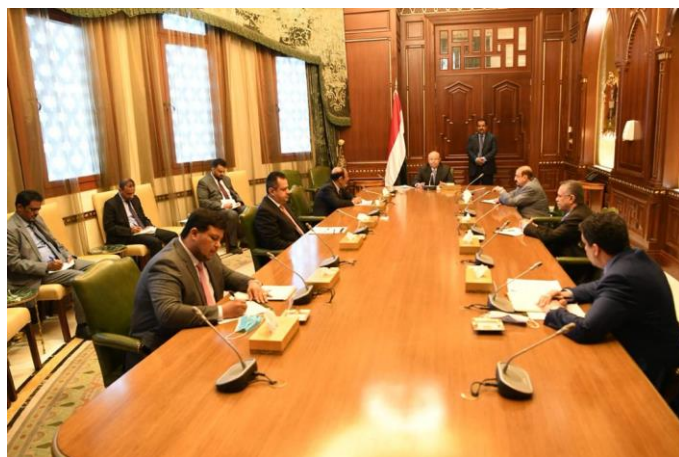
✚ **Economy:** *“We ask all concerned parties to join us in finding ways to support the legitimate government economically. The Yemeni Prime Minister and his new unity cabinet have demonstrated a real*

commitment to strengthening the economy and providing services, consistent with the Riyadh Agreement.”

✚ **Iran:** *“The Houthis receive considerable funding, training, and other support from Iran. Last October, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps General named entered into Houthi-controlled areas of the country and is being called the Iranian “ambassador” “ambassador” to the Houthis. His continued presence in Sana’a casts doubt upon the Houthi assertion that they are not a proxy of Iran.”*

✚ **Human Rights:** *“Unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers, especially by the Houthis and serious restrictions on the exercise of the right to freedom expression, including by the press and through the internet, including violence, threats of violence, or unjustified arrests or prosecutions against journalists, remain of serious concern.”*

- On April 22, President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi chaired a meeting with the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament, and the Chief of Shura Council to discuss economic and security issues, enhance public service delivery, support recovery and stability, and peace efforts.



- The Supreme National Emergency Committee for COVID-19 [ordered](#) temporary suspension of

flights from and to India over COVID-19 concerns, including the spread of a new variant.

- Isobel Young of Vice News [published](#) an eye-opening, well-examined and insider documentary titled 'How Children in Yemen Became Collateral Damage' from the frontlines in Yemen, including Marib. The documentary:

- ✚ Sheds light on the Iranian-backed Houthi militia's offensive in Marib;
- ✚ Exhibits heavy pressure on medical facilities in Marib and shortage of medics, due to infighting, direct Houthi shelling, brain drain and psychological effects;
- ✚ Documents the humanitarian stakes in Marib, most notably the impact of Houthi offensive on IDPs, given that the governorate hosts the largest displaced population country-wide. Naji Juma'an, who was forcibly displaced due to the Houthi offensive, said:

*"I forced my kids out for their safety."
"Cannons were all over the place, near the children at home." A child also added: "We were taking our furniture and they were bombing us. We were scared, and so we escaped and left the furniture there."*

"Day and night, we are in fear."



- ✚ Unveiled the impact of inhumane Houthi siege on Taiz and indiscriminate targeting of civilians;

- ✚ Exposed the damage inflicted on children, most notably via Houthi child soldier recruitment. It clearly establishes how the Houthis pushed their death-based ideology on kids, denying children the right to live, the right to education and the right to safety;

✚ Testimonies:

A former child soldier recruited by the Houthi militia told Isobel at a rehabilitation facility: *"We really like our classes. We didn't study anything back then. We learned how to use different types of guns and military equipment. They told us we're going to heaven for fighting. You will ensure Yemen's victory. It turned out we were fighting our Yemeni brothers."*

Another ex-child soldier recruit said: *"It was the first time I saw someone dying in front of me. I didn't know how to hold a gun, or how to plan battles, or how to fight."* Answering Isobel's question (what was the difficult thing about it), the child replied: *"Once I went to the frontline. That was the hardest thing for me. Seeing all the dead bodies. We would be in the front, ahead of (Houthi militia) in the back."* He added: *"I hated life. I wanted to die."* This clearly shows how the Houthi militia sacrifice children; they put them at the first line.

The child added: *"We will never go back. I want my future to be big. I want to succeed and go to college. I will never go back, never."* This very statement calls on the international community to remember that the children of Yemen need and want a way to life, not death, as prompted by militias. Militia replace life with death, and therefore, cannot hold a promise for a better life in Yemen.

- Worth to note, our sister Embassy in Berlin published its Weekly Newsletter on key developments in Yemen, including on the Houthi recruitment of tens of thousands of child soldiers. To learn more and up-to-date, you are highly recommended to check the Republic of Yemen Embassy to Germany's [website](#) or [twitter](#) account.