



Wa3i Youth Platform

# Houthi Lies Revealed by Media Facts

## Media Report





## Houthi lies Revealed by Media facts...

EeKad Satellite and security investigations reveal the suspects in bombing Aden Airport terminal.



**This report recounts what goes on behind the scenes of the enemies of the south.**

The militia of the de-facto authority<sup>1\*</sup>, which has overthrown the legitimate President of Yemeni Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, has spread misleading and false information through its mass media and social media since the seizure of power in most of the northern governorates of the Republic of Yemen in 2014.

In an attempt of their frantic war to capture the remaining parts of Yemen, Houthis, further, distorted the image of the opposing southern political factions. The de-facto authority also played an important role in the emergence of some outlawed groups, such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda to remain a thorn at the Yemeni structure's side. Houthis have signed agreements with such terrorist groups to serve reciprocal benefits. Houthis carry out assaults and misinform the public opinion about the presence of the terrorist groups among the southern factions. They took the terrorist groups as a pretext to invade southern Yemen, but the reality proves their claims wrong.

Documents confirm that disinformation is Houthis' second nature. They justify the Killing of more than (200) victims at sea in Al-Tawahi District, in Aden Governorate on the pretext that they belong

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\* It is a group affiliated with Mr. Abdul-Malik al-Houthi. It carried out a coup on 9/21/2014, during which it seized power in most of the northern governorates of the Republic of Yemen.



to Al-Qaeda and ISIS. However, results confirm that these victims were old people and children who had no dog in this fight. They fled their homes to escape the ravages of war. They had no business with any extremist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

The presence of Al-Qaeda or ISIS elements in the southern factions is a hypothesis that needs research to be proven or rejected.

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The conditions that the Republic of Yemen has experienced during the past seven years have helped develop imbalances in various aspects of life. The most dangerous is the formation of terrorist entities that include more than one organization and militia.

The writer Abdul Razzaq Al-Jamal, a journalist interested in violent groups, points out that “one of the advantages that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula gained was the exit that the Houthi group made from its stronghold in Sa’ada and its seizure of power in Sana’a. This incident slackened the pace of the war on Al-Qaeda in light of an irresponsible government towards Houthi expansion.”<sup>(1)</sup>

In his research paper entitled “Al-Qaeda’s Retreat in Yemen... Abandoning Ideology Amid the Leadership Crisis,” published by the Sana’a online newspaper, Al-Jamal adds that the decision of the Islah Party not to fight the Houthi movement disappointed some students of Al-Iman University, which is affiliated with Al-Islah. The students were eager to confront Houthis”<sup>(2)</sup>, According to our point of view - this decision helped to strengthen the power of the de-facto authority.

### Exchange Benefits

This is reinforced by journalist Abdul-Khaleq Al-Houd, who notices that “the Houthis’ entry into al-Bayda gave Al-Qaeda the opportunity to gain influence on the ground and return to the sites from which they were expelled in early 2013.”<sup>(3)</sup>



The de-facto authority not only paved the ground for the terrorist organizations but also sought to conclude various deals with Al-Qaeda. They exchanged prisoners, agreed with them on attacking Hadi’s weak-willed legitimacy and the southern political factions and stigmatized southern faction as Al-Qaeda and ISIS affiliates. These factions hold animosity towards Houthis owing to their incompatible ideology with Islamic Sharia and Sunnah of Prophet Mohammed. The southern factions left no stone unturned to undermine Houthis’ penetration in the southern governorates.

In a televised speech, the 24-France TV channel reported that the leader of the de-facto authority, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, called on his supporters for general mobilization to attack al-Qaeda and ISIS



in southern Yemen. <sup>(4)</sup> The Houthis' authority takes advantage of the mobilization as a pretext to justify its repeated attempts to invade southern Yemen. Mobilization is exploited to convince its supporters as well as the international community and its interests that the Republic of Yemen is in jeopardy. Houthis plan to control the capabilities of Yemen and to spread the Shiite *medhab*.

In this regard, the journalist and political analyst Madin Miqbas says, "The de-facto authority has invested psychological warfare against its enemies within the framework of the launched war to expand to the central and then southern Yemen. He added that the presence of extremist elements in southern Yemen has been exploited as a justification to convince Houthis' supporters and to implement their plans and goals. Given this grain of truth provides Houthis with a chance of fabricating baseless news, aiming to psychologically affect its supporters, the public, regional and international opinion. Houthis' well-known goal is seizing power and spreading the extremist sectarian ideology. Houthis classify anyone who counters their expansion as "ISIS" and *taKfirist*.

These tactics helped Houthis, to a large extent, in conquering regions forcefully. Houthis were also successful in mobilizing fighters and brainwashing them with sectarian mobilization. Houthis attracted them, on the one hand, and mislead the local and international community on the other hand to gain local and external sympathy. "<sup>(5)</sup>

Al Masirah TV channel, a de-facto authority affiliate, broadcast news that Houthi forces repelled an attempt to storm Al-Anad airbase in Lahj, southern Yemen, by what it described as ISIS and Al-Qaeda militants, Hadi agents, and the mercenaries of the Saudi aggression in southern Yemen. The channel further confirmed - according to Press - that the heroes of the army and the popular committees inflicted heavy losses on the militants of the southern popular resistance and the national army, whom the channel described as Hadi' militias and Riyadh's mercenaries." <sup>(6)</sup>

In light of its relentless efforts, the de-facto authority tries to propagate information on its mass media and social media, assuming that everyone will believe it. It further released that Al-Qaeda and ISIS live peacefully with the southern factions and they exchange benefits. However, media facts are disclosed every day and Houthis' disinformation becomes glaringly obvious.

The journalist Issam Al-Sufyani published a report in 'Al-Ain News' revealed that the first direct cooperation between Houthi' militia and the well-known Al-Qaeda branch, the 'mother of the organization in the Arabian Peninsula' dates back to 2015. Houthis were tools to implement a



prisoner exchange deal between the Tehran regime and the terrorist organization to release an Iranian diplomat Kidnapped by Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch in exchange for five (5) senior leaders of Al-Qaeda from Iranian prisons".<sup>(7)</sup>



The forces of the de facto authority took several security headquarters by storm, such as in the southern governorate of Lahj in 2015 implementing the agreement with al-Qaeda to facilitate the escape of their elements. Al-Ain News report — reported according to an official Yemeni security source - added that the Houthi's militia set free more than 400 leading members of Al-Qaeda since Houthis' coup in late 2014. They released Al-Qaeda prisoners from the political and national security headquarters in Aden, Sana'a, Al-Bayda, and other governorates in 2017.<sup>(8)</sup> The source attributed the reasons behind these deals - in the same report - to the fact that "Houthi militia used Al-Qaeda as a card to justify the invasion of several Yemeni cities, especially in the south."<sup>(9)</sup>

### Batarfi Threat to southern Yemen

In a desperate attempt the emir of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, Khaled Batarfi denies his relationship with the de-facto authority in a video recording broadcast by Al-MuKalla Channel<sup>(10)</sup>. However, the journalist Al-Houd confirms, in the context of his speech, that "there is coordination between the Houthis and Al-Qaeda. The Houthis released the imam of Al-Yaqin Mosque, SheiKh Yahya Abu AKram, after two years of detention in Al-Hodeidah Governorate. Abu AKram was one of the preaching leaders of Al-Qaeda."<sup>(11)</sup>





## Common Interests

The Houthis' complicity with Al-Qaeda is evident when Al-Qaeda captured Mukalla, the capital city of Hadhramaut Governorate, in April 2015 and they kept a hold of the city. Afterward, the Hadrami Elite Forces purged the city of Al-Qaeda's disgrace- by the Grace of the Almighty Allah - along with other southern forces that match in goals and visions. The southern forces defied death boldly where they demonstrated great fighting capabilities and proved their reliability in securing the governorate of Hadhramout. The security and normalized conditions that the city enjoys today have been tangible evidence. However, in complicity, Al-Qaeda did not attack governorates under the control of the de-facto authorities and their leaders. The suicide attacks and assassinations of the terrorist organizations focused on Aden Governorate. Batarfi - in the same recording - accused the southern factions of having dreams to turn southern Yemen to the socialism era, a period of stigma for underdevelopment in southern Yemen <sup>(12)</sup>. It was an embedded sign that southern factions are unwelcomed.



## Diverting Attention

The de-facto authority took advantage of the ambiguity of the bomb blast in Aden Airport terminal in December 2020, when members of the Yemeni government arrived from Riyadh. On the principle of "attack is the best means of defense," Houthis hastened to point accusation at the Southern Transitional Council (STC) to misinform the public opinion and divert suspicion. Houthis claimed that STC was the perpetrator. However, investigations with indicators <sup>(13)</sup> and as according to the EeKad



platform<sup>(14)</sup> later- proved that Houthis were responsible for firing missiles at the airport from some areas it controls, such as (Taiz).

The facilities of southern Yemen remained under threat from outlawed terrorist organizations. In one of its bulletins, Al-Jazeera channel stated that the Yemeni authorities utilized additional guards to protect several government interests in Aden Governorate. The government feared that these facilities are at the risk of infiltrating Houthis and Al-Qaeda's attacks. They received 'intelligence' information, as described by Al-Jazeera channel, from security services.<sup>(15)</sup>

The social media and mass media of de-facto authority propagated lies that the victims who escaped from At-Twahi District to Al Buraiqeh were Al-Qaeda and ISIS affiliates. These victims escaped in small boats via Tourists Quay (DeKa). The incident became infamous as At-Twahi Massacre later. Facts confirm that the Houthis de-facto authority fired mortar shells and artillery shells at unarmed civilians on May 6, 2015. They Killed about two hundred (200) victims including eighty-six (86) children, women, and old people martyrs. None of the victims belonged to any outlawed organizations.<sup>(16)</sup> These facts confirm Houthi's involvement in Killing innocent civilians out of desperate defeat in Aden Governorate.

The journalist Miqbas revealed fabrications of the Houthi group. He stated that the Houthis held a sectarian and Twelver doctrinal ideology. They adopted sectarian language in the disinformation of Yemeni society to justify their criminal acts via a media discourse based on false content, misinformation, procrastination, and reversed facts<sup>(17)</sup>.

The president of the Coalition of Democratic Forces for Peace and Harmony, Ali Hassan Al-Khulani substantiated Miqbas' accounts. Mr. Al-Khulani pointed out that Houthis are an ideological group, that has no popularity in northern or southern Yemen and their decision center is in Qom in Iran. They promote themselves as anti-Al-Qaeda and anti-ISIS to gain sympathy in the United States of America and the European Union since these countries suffered from terrorist organizations. Houthis' reality, however, contradicts their propagation totally<sup>(18)</sup>.

### Stigmatization of Southern Yemen as ISIS

The observer of the situation in the Republic of Yemen notices that the exterminations that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula carried out have always targeted the southern factions, with different



pretexts. However, no other component has been the main target for such violence, especially the de-facto authority. This shows the extent of the damage that the southern forces of various formations inflicted on Al-Qaeda, contrary to the harmonious relationship with other factions, sometimes with the legitimate authority.

### Figures of their Crimes

It is noteworthy that the southern governorates in general, and the transitional capital Aden in particular, witnessed counter-terrorism measures after the expulsion of the Houthis militia. Some of the measures included storming dens and sites of terrorist elements and seizing different kinds of explosives and firearms. The southern forces seized (904) anti-armor mines, (84) booby-trap improvised explosive devices, (58) improvised explosive devices, (4) heat-seeking missiles, (144) mines, (42) RPG shells, (77) mortar shells, (7) mortars, and (209) tank shells.<sup>(19)</sup>

A security source in Aden Police, who preferred not to be named, added that 'two booby-trapped cars and (14) explosive belts were dismantled. Plants for manufacturing explosive belts and preparing booby-trapped cars and 1264 C-4 explosives were seized. Documents containing a list of names of officers whom the terrorist elements were planning to assassinate were also found'.<sup>(20)</sup>

The security services in the transitional capital Aden arrested more than (100) suspects, whose evidence proved their involvement in carrying out assassinations targeting military, security, and civilian figures, including Aden Governor Hamid Lamlas, and clerics. Also, on April 28, 2018, the special anti-terrorism unit eliminated the emir of ISIS, the terrorist Saleh Nasser Al-Bakhshi, nicknamed (the iron man). The unit stormed his den and killed him after a resistance lasted for hours and arrested a number of his bodyguards. The Iron man was the first responsible mastermind behind terrorist operations in and around the capital city of Aden, and responsible for suicide operations.<sup>(21)</sup>





### The Most Competent for Confrontation

The operations of the terrorist groups have been qualitatively aimed at military, security, and civilian figures to eliminate them individually and collectively. However, the southern security services are on the lookout to extirpate them. The mission of the southern security services has gained the satisfaction of the international community in combating terrorism. Dr. Saddam Abdullah, media special advisor to the president of STC, Aidarous Al-Zubaidi commented that "the forces that fight the terrorist organizations the most are the southern forces" began. He explained his viewpoint by highlighting the great role the southern forces played in eliminating terrorist organizations. The southern forces have been backed up by the United Arab Emirates, since the beginning of the liberation of the southern governorates".<sup>(22)</sup>

In a report published on Al-Marsad online newspaper, the writer Hussein Al-Hanashi documented the views of the international community about the southern security formations and their achievements in combating terrorism. The report of the international eminent experts submitted to the UN Security Council described southern security as 'active'.

The report of international, eminent experts noted that 'The Security Belt Forces, the Shabwani and Hadhrami Elite Forces are among the most active forces in combating terrorism. The Security Belt Force - trained by the United Arab Emirates - is one of the most active forces in combating Al-Qaeda and ISIS in the Arabian Peninsula.'<sup>(23)</sup>

Many forms have been taken to combat Houthi disinformation, in all aspects, including religious, media, and public ones. As a result, misinformation does not affect decisions taken and does not gain popularity among the target circles.

### Precious Advice

Professor of information society at the University of Algiers (3), Muhammad Laqab commented that fighting terrorist organizations can be done through disseminating accurate information. He added "and moving to the spot, with the camera escorting the army, giving the soldiers and the specialists the ultimate word in the battlefield." Such procedures make up a counterattack on Houthis, provided that they are conducted within an ongoing campaign, rather than an ad hoc one."<sup>(24)</sup> Laqab went on to say, "Do not forget to opt for the appropriate media to broadcast the information. The Saudi



channel is not suitable; neither is the official one". He added further, "look for foreign media outlets to deliver your mission, such as Al-Jazeera, the Turkish channel, the Russian RT, and the Anadolu Agency." When asked about exploiting social media, Lagab pointed out that its impact is provisional, so it does not establish awareness. <sup>(25)</sup>

### Flimsy Excuses

Professor of Radio and Television at the Faculty of Mass Communication, the Jordanian Yarmouk University, Dr. Khouzim AlKhazzam AlKaldy underscores that the Houthi group spreads misinformation and fabrication of facts in southern Yemen and areas beyond its control, such as Taiz. The Houthi group attempts to deceive citizens that ISIS and Al-Qaeda are present in the areas that do not fall under its control. On this basis, the group exterminates anyone who opposes it, so achieves its psychological goals before field ones <sup>(26)</sup>. AlKaldy disagrees with Laqab regarding the media type that should be used in the face of false information. He commented information might be obtained from their official media and the official pages of social media celebrities of honest national reputation. He further emphasized not be drawn into the false media of the Houthi movement. <sup>(27)</sup>

### They are Terrorists

Dr. Saddam Abdullah further continues "We in the media of the STC seek to provide the accurate information to any party without a slightest of fallacy.... He adds that the STC refutes Houthis' disinformation via tangible proofs". He defended the STC against the accusation of the de-facto authority that the council harbors elements affiliate to outlaw organizations. He said that "Houthis cannot accuse STC directly, because no one will believe them. The STC is the most targeted faction through booby-traps and assassinations, returning the ball in the Houthi's court. He continues to explain that it is well known that the majority of Houthi advisors are Iranians, or have been trained and supported by Iran, a globally classified as a terrorist state. Iran sponsors, supports, and spreads terrorism in the majority of Arab countries. <sup>(28)</sup>



### Southern Transitional Council is on Guard

The openness of SCT to everyone and embracing the cause of the people of the south as a national salvation project made it vulnerable to false information. The vice president of women's affairs in Block and Inclusive Hadhramout Confederation for the SaKe of the South, Dr. Doaa Salem Bawazeer began her speech with a conclusion disproving reasons for the spread of false information about the STC. She explained that hostile parties to the liberation and national project for the independence of southern Yemen, which the STC adopts, strive to confront the council. They exploit different approaches, whether claiming that the council harbors terrorist elements, fabricating facts, distorting STC leaders' reputation, and questioning their administration capabilities for running southern Yemen. The overall goal of these parties is to destroy the south, but they are incapable<sup>(29)</sup>. Dr. Doa Bawazeer went on to reinforce that STC should have grand media institutions run by specialized personnel. She emphasized that the media institutions should have extensive media databases to confront false information. She, moreover, called on the leadership to approach the people's suffering and to deal with everything that disturbs public order, provokes strife and chaos."

(30)

### For these Reasons, They Fear STC!!

With regards to the reasons for the spread of false information about the STC, the viewpoint of the engineer Abdul Aziz Al-Namis, ex-chairperson of the STC in the district of Dar Sa'ad district is similar to that of Dr. Doa Bawazeer. Mr. Al-Namis explained that the hostile and competing parties, such as the occupation, other local parties and their local media channels, as well as abroad TV channels, such as Al-Jazeera, Al Hadath, and Al Arabiya, perceive that the STC will cut the ground from under their feet, influence, prestige, and interests. They perceive that STC will independently take over the administration of the south. Therefore, they fight STC.

Al-Namis called on members, STC proponents, and its societal committees to be approachable to the ordinary people to confront such false information about STC because it offends everyone.<sup>(31)</sup>



### Verification First!!

A journalism and media graduate Hussein Al-Attas urges that the false information broadcast by the Houthi group in news reports and its supporters' analyses should not be taken care of. He cautions the audience not to deal with news from such sources. He said, "as a physically challenged, such false information affects me, but I usually try to verify news before swallowing it." <sup>(32)</sup>

### Conclusion

We can say that the Houthi de-facto authority's attempts of media disinformation have started to unfold over time. The past seven years of the Yemeni-Yemeni war have been capable to make it evident to the observer how to separate the wheat from the chaff.

The media war is not an easy matter to deal with. Whoever is involved in it must be armed with credibility, provide accurate information coupled with evidence, facts, audio, and video. Involved parties in media war are presumed to give the audience space for interaction with news, which means respecting the recipients' mentality.



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