

[Houthi militants from Yemen seize South Korean ship in Red Sea](#)

Mon, 2019-11-18 18:37

RIYADH: Houthi militants from Yemen have seized a ship in the southern Red Sea, the Arab Coalition said Monday.

The Iran-backed militia used two small boats to hijack the vessel as it was towing a South Korean drilling rig late on Sunday, spokesperson Col. Turki Al-Maliki said.

“The Houthi militia pose a real terrorist threat to the freedom of navigation and trade,” he added.

The coalition said the militia were responsible for securing the safety of all ships and crew members from any country.

The Houthis have been involved in a number of attacks against shipping in the Red Sea and near the Bab Al-Mandeb Strait – a major conduit for global trade.



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7 Yemeni soldiers killed by Houthi missile in Marib military base
Aid group says hospital hit during Houthi attack in Yemen

Yemeni government back in Aden under deal with separatists

Author:

AP

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Mon, 2019-11-18 14:35

ADEN: Yemen's internationally recognized government returned to the war-torn country on Monday for the first time since it was forced out by southern separatists during clashes last summer.

Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed landed in Aden, fulfilling a key point in the power-sharing deal brokered by Saudi Arabia that ended months of infighting with separatists in Yemen's south.

"The government's priorities in the next stage are to normalize the situation in Aden first and then consolidate state institutions on the ground ... as a guarantor of stability," Saeed told The Associated Press when he disembarked onto the tarmac.

He described the government's return as "foundational for the improvement of civic services," but added that "security challenges cannot be overlooked, especially at this stage."

Saeed, accompanied by five key ministers from President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's government, was received by local officials and Saudi forces at the air base.

"Today we are uniting our efforts to defeat the Iranian project in Yemen and restore the state," the government said in a statement.

In August, the separatists, overran Aden and drove out forces loyal to President Hadi, who has been based in Saudi Arabia since 2015.

The outbreak of violence between nominal partners in the coalition fighting against Iran-allied Houthi rebels added a new twist to the country's complex civil war.

The power-sharing deal, signed earlier this month in Riyadh, calls for both sides to pull their forces out of Aden. That leaves the city under the coalition's control, with only a presidential guard for Hadi's protection if the exiled president were to return.

The agreement also asks that the separatists break up their militias and integrate them into Hadi's forces.

"The plan for incorporating the security services needs to be clear and transparent," Saeed told The Associated Press. "We have the support of the Saudis and the coalition leaders, factors that will help to implement the

agreement through promising steps on the ground.”

The conflict in the Arab's world's poorest country started in 2014, when the Houthi rebels captured the capital, Sanaa, along with much of the country's north. The Saudi-led alliance intervened in 2015 to drive out the Houthis and restore Hadi's government.









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Yemeni president directs state agencies to implement Riyadh agreement
Yemen president Hadi meets separatists chief in Riyadh

[Protesters regain control of third bridge in Baghdad](#)

Author:

Reuters

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Sun, 2019-11-17 16:16

BAGHDAD: Iraqi protesters regained control of a third bridge leading to Baghdad's Green Zone on Sunday, taking further ground in the biggest wave of anti-government demonstrations in decades.

Security forces used tear gas and stun bombs to prevent protesters from getting right across Ahrar Bridge in central Baghdad, part of a weeks-long attempt to disrupt traffic and reach the Green Zone housing government ministry and embassies.

Protesters made a barricade of old cabinets, trash cans and metal sheeting on the bridge while security forces took positions behind blast walls installed to prevent protesters from crossing to the other side. Protesters who choked on the tear gas were evacuated by tuk-tuk, a Reuters cameraman said.

On Saturday, Iraqi demonstrators reoccupied part of adjacent Sinak Bridge and a nearby tall building in Baghdad that security forces had pushed them away from a week before. They have held a third bridge, Jamhuriya, since October 25.

More than 300 people have been killed since the start of mass unrest in Baghdad and southern Iraq in early October, the largest demonstrations since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Protesters are demanding the overthrow of a political class seen as corrupt and beholden to foreign interests.

In Basra in the south, dozens of protesters burned tires and briefly blocked some roads on Sunday, before police managed to restore control and reopen them, police said.

The unrest has shattered the relative calm that followed the defeat of Islamic State in 2017.



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Iraq officials: Protesters surge toward Baghdad's Green Zone
Four killed in Baghdad as Iraq protests see no letup

Algeria kicks off presidential campaign, 5 candidates to run

Author:

By AOMAR OUALI | AP

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Sun, 2019-11-17 14:28

ALGIERS: Algeria's presidential campaign officially kicked off Sunday with five candidates vying to replace the country's longtime leader, who was pushed out in April amid sustained protests.

Two former prime ministers, Ali Benflis and Abdelmadjid Tebboune, are among those running in the Dec. 12 election to succeed former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Big crowds took to the streets Friday for a 39th consecutive week to demand an end to Algeria's post-colonial political system. Protesters say they don't trust those currently in power to ensure democratic elections, citing their past links to Bouteflika.

Benflis and Tebboune are considered the favorites of the vote.

The other candidates are: former tourism minister and moderate Islamist Abdelkader Bengrina; former culture minister and current interim secretary of the RND party that was in the governing coalition, Azzedine Mihoubi; and Belaid Abdelaziz, who heads the small El Moustakbel (Future) party that's close to the FLN, both of which remain part of the ruling coalition.

In some neighborhoods of Algiers, protesters have hung black trash bags on billboards featuring the candidates' portraits, often sprayed with the words "election of shame" and "traitors."

Benflis said this week that "this election is not held in ideal conditions, I know that, but I consider it is the shorter and less risky path to get Algeria out of the political impasse caused by the former regime."

Tebboune acknowledged the "special climate" of the electoral process.

Speaking on television earlier this month, he justified his candidacy by saying he wanted to "put Algeria back on good tracks."

"Some Algerians are against the election, but I know a majority are for it," he said.

Army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah, who has emerged as the country's authority figure, repeatedly vowed that "all security conditions will be met so that Algerians can fulfill their electoral duty in full serenity."



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[Presidential election](#)

[Blast in northern Sinai kills 3 Egyptian troops](#)

Author:

Sun, 2019-11-17 18:29

EL-ARISH, Egypt: A roadside bomb killed at least three members of the security forces in northern Sinai province, The explosion hit their armored vehicle Sunday in the town of Sheikh Zuweid. Four other security force members were wounded, including an officer. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Egypt has for years been battling an insurgency in the northern Sinai Peninsula that's now led by a Daesh affiliate.



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Egypt army kills 83 militants in North SinaiEgypt: At least 20 killed in airstrikes in northern Sinai