

FORUM - TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

ISSUE - THE DISPUTE OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN-YEMENI BORDER CONFLICT

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Abstract

Even though a common border was depicted by the Taif Settlement in 1934, Saudi Arabia and Yemen have had proceeded conflict over the issue. The possible oil saves, civil war, and Saudi interventions in Yemeni legislative issues have driven the struggle for much of the past century. Whereas numerous of the encounters have been generally intermittent, within the late 1990s a number of building tensions came to a head, coming about in violent strife. A clash over possession of three islands within the Red Sea brought about a number of deaths and yet another peace understanding. The question remains, will these modern understandings lead to maintain peace, or is it temporary in expanded strife.

Introduction

A money struggle involving a Yemeni politician named Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Houthis, begun tension when the Houthis blamed Saudi Arabia of taking \$25 billion from Saleh in 2004. The tension started to develop when the Yemen government called Saudi Arabia to assist with a Houthi “takeover”. Amid the first few years including 2011 and on, there has been a consistent bombing from both sides of the border, especially within the Saudi Arabian areas of Aseer and Jizan, and the capital of Riyadh. Both sides of the war have endured from loses of families and soldier from the bombings. In general, after five years of military operations against the Yemeni government and Saudi-led coalition, it would seem that the Houthis are better equipped with high-level weaponry than in prior disputes against its rivals. According to one observer, “We have witnessed a massive increase in capability on the side of the Houthis in recent years, particularly relating to ballistic missiles and drone technology.... The current capability is far more advanced than anything the Yemeni armed forces had before the civil war.”

Definition of Key Terms

Legislative

Having the authority to make laws for a political entity such as a country or city.

Defiance

Open resistance, the behavior in which you refuse to obey someone or something.

Taif Treaty

an agreement that ends hostilities and calls for the withdrawal of troops from both countries. It provides the mechanisms by which the boundary dispute between the parties will be resolved and establishes the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference for the normalization of relations between the parties.

Houthi Movement

An Islamic political and armed movement officially called Ansar Allah and colloquially simply Houthis, that emerged from Sa'dah in northern Yemen in the 1990s.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

An unmanned aerial vehicle is an aircraft without a human pilot on board and a type of unmanned vehicle.

General Overview

When Saudi Arabia executed Shia Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr to try and portray defiance, it caused more rebuke to the Saudi embassy in Tehran. The leader of the Houthis decided to continuously bomb the Aseer Province, and to launch ballistic missiles at Najran. Undecided years of the bombing of innocent Saudi Arabians and Yemeni, soldiers, and Houthi, due to the religious viewpoint of the Houthis (Shia) being against the Sunni. In 1934, Saudi Arabia and its southern neighbour, Yemen, signed a treaty which ended the rough war. The Taif Treaty essentially fixed a common border between the two countries. Interestingly enough, despite the treaty being signed, the border issue never appeared to be absolutely resolved. Much of the

conflict has arisen from the confusion caused inside Yemen, which then scattered into its relations with Saudi Arabia. In the late 1980s after battling a lengthy violent civil war, Southern Yemen was desolated to the point where it had no choice but to unite with the North. The newly unified country sided with Iraq, and essentially against the Saudi's, in the Gulf War, moreover disjoining any positive relations.

In 1992 intermittent talks revived to resolve the border questions between the two governments. This shared territory signifies a single ecosystem for tribal kinships and connections, informal economy, architecture, and cultural heritage. Nevertheless, dangers were restored when Saudi Arabia sponsored Southern rebellious groups, which were eventually defeated, against the central government in the Yemeni civil war in 1994. In no time a new conflict started up in the Najran area, where there are believed to be oil reserves. The war between the Shia and Sunni is continuing because of most countries ideals: there is only one religion to be had in this country. The war is a fight between religions, and it most likely won't stop until either sides of the conflict decide to give up, instead of just making a resolution where the two religions would live together in either country. The war began in 2011, but truly began in 2014 with the Saudi government intervention, and it still goes on past 2018.

Since 2015, the Saudi military and its coalition partners have made a persistent air campaign against the Houthis and their allies. This air campaign has at times drawn worldwide criticism for growing civilian casualties from coalition air strikes. Quite recently, on September 1, 2019, the Saudi-led coalition conducted air strikes against a Houthi-run detention center, killing over 100 individuals. The coalition claims that it struck a legitimate military target, which was both a prison and a storage site for Houthi unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). On September 14, 2019, drone and missile attacks against two key Saudi oil sites deep inside the kingdom led to a dramatic intensification in the constant struggle. The attacks against Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq refinery plant and the Khurais oil field temporarily disrupted an approximated 5.7 million barrels of crude oil production per day, equivalent to more than 5% of the world's day by day supply. The Houthis claimed accountability for the attack, boasting that they had exploited "vulnerabilities" in Saudi Arabia's air defenses.

Relevant United Nations Treaties and Events

- Treaty of Islamic friendship and Arab brotherhood - Treaty of Taif (1934)
- President Obama authorized "the provision of logistical and intelligence support to GCC-led military operations," (2015)

- Identical letters dated 26 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (March 27, 2015)

Possible Solutions

North Yemen would be supported by the international community as a separate state beneath Houthi control, diplomatic connections between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis could be started. This would have two positive results. One is the protection of the Saudi border, and high-profile establishments like airplane terminals and oil refineries, from Houthi attacks. The second is the permanent end of Saudi airstrikes, which have slaughtered thousands. Moreover, the barricade would be removed and universal help would shortly arise.

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