



[Saudi Arabia Renews its Shelling of Yemen Despite Ongoing Talks of an Armistice](#)

Saudi Arabia continues to launch artillery attacks, resulting in civilian casualties, despite ongoing talks between themselves and the Houthis. Yemen has already suffered through eight years of brutal war that has resulted in more than 150,000 casualties due to the fighting. The war has crippled Yemen's economy, starved its people, and devastated families. Saudi Arabia and Yemen have been in recent talks of an armistice since their previous agreement expired in October. The two sides hoped to make the currently unofficially agreed upon cease-fire stronger in efforts to build toward an end to this bloody civil war. Amidst these talks, two civilians were recently killed in the Shada'a District located north of Yemen. In this area, there has been consistent shelling for weeks according to reports from the ground. The Yemeni Ministry of Health (YMH) in the Sanaa government has disclosed that 3,258 civilians have been killed and injured during the shelling in the Shada'a district. In a report released in late 2022, the YMH uncovered the Saudi-led coalition was purposefully targeting civilians in the bordered areas of Saada Governorate, using artillery shelling and machine guns. Concerns of war crimes by Saudi forces are being reported from practices of electrocution, use of acid, and other torture mechanisms on Yemeni victims according to human rights organizations. Just at the beginning of this month, 8 civilians were killed by missile strikes and shelling by the hand of the Saudi-led coalition.

This war began when the Houthis (an Islamist political, militant movement emerging from Saada Governorate in northern Yemen in the 1990s) descended from northern Yemen and seized the capital of Sanaa in 2014, forcing the government in the south into exile in Saudi Arabia. In 2015, Saudi Arabia joined in this Yemeni Civil War along with the UAE, other Arab nations, and support from the United States, all in response to the calls from Yemen President Abdrabbuh Muansur Hadi for military support after being ousted by the Houthi movement. The Houthis currently maintain a strong grasp over the north and much of the west. The war has spilled into Saudi Arabia and the UAE with missiles and drone attacks from the Houthis.

Talks between Houthi and Saudi leaders were sporadic starting in 2019 until the U.N. intervened with a more formal truce in April 2022. This truce halted full-on war but has since expired. All sides have grown weary from the fighting; however, it is very difficult to procure a resolution to a conflict that involves so many parties. Recently there have been conversations between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia's diplomats to find a solution to the conflict. The Houthis demand that the coalition pay salaries to all state employees from oil and gas revenues and open airports and ports under Houthi control. The Saudi diplomats are against paying military salaries unless Houthis accepted security guarantees that include Houthi areas that line the Yemen-Saudi border to be turned into buffer zones. Saudi diplomats also asked for The Houthis to join official talks with other Yemeni stakeholders. These talks continue as the Saudi diplomat says they are working toward solutions that are "more satisfactory for all sides." These continued attacks on Yemen during negotiations only hurt peace prospects and result in the death of more civilians. It is also important that those guilty of the inhumane treatment of Yemenis are brought to justice. This will allow the country to begin to heal as they move forward.