



As part of the Yemen Armed Violence Assessment (YAVA), media reports of armed violence in Yemen were monitored and recorded. Coded incidents were tabulated and the results presented in the first YAVA publication, *Fault lines: tracking armed violence in Yemen*.¹

The armed violence timeline below covers incidents reported in the media over the 12-month period from September 2008 to August 2009, inclusive. Both printed and online publications were monitored, primarily but not exclusively in English.

Yemen’s press was classified as ‘Not Free’ in the 2009 Freedom of the Press Index and Yemen was ranked 172nd out of 195 countries (Freedom House, 2009). In particular, the government has imposed considerable restrictions on reporting political developments in the south since early 2009, and more generally on the war in Sa’dah. The 199 incidents documented below should therefore be read as indicative of the manifestation of armed violence in Yemen rather than as a comprehensive audit. Nevertheless, they encompass incidents in which approximately 740 people were killed and at least a further 734 injured.

Incident coding

The primary classification of the incidents is indicated in {curly brackets} at the end of each incident with abbreviations as follows:

Type	Abbreviation	Definition
Political violence	{Polit}	Armed violence or conflict relating to the acquisition and conduct of political power, including electoral processes and government policies
Social conflict	{Soc}	Armed conflict between non-state groups; often sustained over a period of time, particularly in the context of collective responsibility and revenge norms
Ransom	{Rans}	Seizing people, goods or infrastructure as collateral in support of material demands
Criminal violence ²	{Crim}	All other forms of criminal violence (i.e. all those not included in the other definitions presented here)
Domestic violence ³	{Dom}	Violence between spouses or other co-habiting individuals, including directed towards children.
Unintended violence	{Unin}	Unintentional injuries and deaths
Ambiguous	{Ambig}	Insufficient information reported to reasonably classify an incident

The numbers killed and injured as reported are included in [square brackets]. Where assumptions have been made, e.g. interpreting ‘several killed’ as three killed, this is recorded as, for example, <3>.

The source(s) for individual incidents are then found in (round brackets) at the end of each item, in most cases in the form of an abbreviation of the news medium’s title. The abbreviations are provided in an appendix at the end of the timeline, e.g. (YP) refers to the *Yemen Post* newspaper/website. Where no date is given in the source, the article was published on the day to which the incident relates. Conversely, the publication date is stated where it differs from the incident date.

Non-violent but relevant incidents are provided in *italics*. These incidents are not coded and do not form part of the analysis.

1 Available from <<http://www.yemen-ava.org>>.

2 The ‘criminal’ category is somewhat problematic, given the weaknesses of the justice system and the predominance of armed conflicts arising from civil disputes, e.g. in relation to land tenure.

3 No incidents of domestic violence were recorded over the period.

The armed violence timeline

September 2008

1: Apparent suicide bombing (grenade) outside a mosque in Hajjah, north-west Yemen; the bomber was killed and eight worshippers injured; the official account pointed to a family dispute between the killer and his brother; local sources suggested a more complex history, including the attacker having previously shot at his father. [1 dead, 8 injured] {Crim} (YP)

17: Al-Qaeda (AQ) attack on the US Embassy in Sana'a using two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, explosive vests, and small arms; 18 killed and many injured outside the embassy compound. [18 dead, many <10> injured] {Polit} (AJ, 18 September 2009; US State Department, 2009a, p. 25)

22: Three tribesmen were killed and several injured in a firefight with Huthis in al-Jawf governorate [3 dead, several <3> injured] {Polit}; elsewhere there was an exchange of gunfire in Dhahian city in Sa'dah governorate, which left three worshippers injured. [3 injured] {Polit} (YP)

22: Two Colombian engineers, plus driver and security guards kidnapped in Shabwa. {Rans} (YP)

24: Police officer and tribesman killed 'in a clash between armed forces and tribes' over a road-block. 'Local sources told NY confrontation started when tribesmen belong to different tribes of al-Shomailat blocked a road to al-Osaimat tribes. They said that katusha and RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] and other light and heavy weapons used in the clash. Armed confrontations between al-Shomailat and al-Osaimat reportedly started two weeks ago over revenge issues.' The origins of this conflict relate to land disputes. [2 dead] {Soc} (NY)

24: Two bomb explosions were reported in Zinjibar outside the Central Security facility, a third explosion occurred outside the Criminal Investigation Department in Abyan; no casualties were reported. {Polit} (NY)

29: An American couple and their three children were kidnapped on the road south from Sana'a to Dhahran (escaped on the same day). {Rans} (US State Department, 2009a, p. 27)

October 2008

10: Seven killed and 13 injured by a gunman in a mosque in Kohal village, 'Amran; reports suggest the attacker had mental health problems. [7 dead, 13 injured] {Crim} (YP, 13 October 2008)

13: A seven-year-old child was killed and two citizens injured in al-Dhale' when a man opened fire inside a mosque; reports suggest the attacker suffered from mental health problems. [1 dead, 2 injured] {Crim} (YP)

20: A security official was killed by an explosive parcel in Marib; reports stated that this was the first such attack in Yemen. Later reports claimed that the explosive was sent by AQ. [1 dead] {Polit} (NY; YT, 6 October 2009)

20: Nine killed, seven injured in 'Amran in a tribal border dispute between al-Osaimat and al-Suda tribes. [9 dead, 7 injured] {Soc} (YP)

27: One killed in Sa'dah during clashes between Huthis and a group of tribes from Saqeen; explained as being either related to a school or access to Saqeen market. [1 dead] {Soc} (YP)

28: Explosion in the Hadda area of Sana'a city; motive not clear; no injuries. {Ambig} (NY)

November 2008

2: Joint Meeting Parties (JMP; the opposition political coalition) member killed in Sana'a by 'a mine planted under his car seat'. [1 dead] {Polit} (NY)

10: Soldier injured in Lahj during an exchange of gunfire when armed groups attacked and closed a voter registration centre. [1 injured] {Polit} (YP)

15: Sixteen-year-old shot dead by police during demonstrations at a voter registration centre in the south of Yemen; police claimed they fired in self-defence. [1 dead] {Polit} (AP; US State Department, 2009b)

17: Four Yemenis killed by Saudi Arabian border guards while trying to smuggle *qat* [a stimulant leaf that is chewed] from Yemen into Saudi. [4 dead] {Crim} (YP)

18: Two voter registration centres in al-Dhale' hit by explosions, one caused by a hand grenade thrown from a motorbike; no reports of casualties. {Polit} (YT, 20 November 2008)

19: 'Two soldiers, a civilian and a bodyguard of a security official were killed on Wednesday in clashes between suspected militants and government forces in Abyan province.' [4 dead] {Polit} (NY)

19: *Widespread protests organized by the main opposition coalition JMP against the voter registration process in advance of parliamentary elections planned for April 2009; large numbers of arrests. (YT, 20 November 2008)*

22: Reports that 140 kg of dynamite and explosive devices were discovered and defused near a security official's office in Khanfer, Abyan. {Ambig} (YP, 24 November 2008)

26: Two militants killed in motorcycle bomb blast in Zinjibar, Abyan; apparent accidental detonation. [2 dead] {Unin} (AJ, 27 November 2008; NY, 29 November 2008)

27: Three killed and four wounded in a blast on a bus in Sana'a (possible bomb, possible liquefied natural gas tank fault); incident occurred at the same time as political protests in Sana'a. [3 dead, 4 wounded] {Ambig} (AJ)

27: Eleven people, including two policemen, injured in political protest clashes in Sana'a; protesters were calling for a boycott of the parliamentary elections in April 2009; police fired warning shots. [11 injured] {Polit} (AJ)

December 2008

1: Eight-year-old schoolboy kidnapped from his school in Sana'a by tribesmen in a case of mistaken identity; was believed to be the son of a wealthy businessman whose family has been involved in a long-running dispute with the tribe concerned (released unharmed 1 January 2009). {Rans} (YT, 17 December 2008; NY, 1 January 2009)

11: Twelve killed and four injured in tribal disputes in one week: ten killed and three injured in a long-running armed land and revenge dispute in 'Amran between the al-Osaimat and al-Suda tribes [10 dead, 3 injured] {Soc}; one man shot dead in a different land dispute in 'Amran [1 dead] {Soc}; a child shot and a man injured during a land dispute in Sana'a [1 dead, 1 injured] {Soc}; a man shot dead by his brother in an accident in Ibb [1 dead] {Unin} (all Saba).

12: Yemeni Jew shot and killed in 'Amran; anti-Semitic motive; reports that the gunmen had shot and killed his wife two years earlier and suffered mental health problems. [1 dead] {Crim} (Ynet News)

15: Three Germans kidnapped from Bayt Baws on the outskirts of Sana'a city by armed tribesmen; kidnappers demanded the release from custody of two fellow tribesmen jailed for a previous kidnapping in 2007, in addition to compensation relating to 'lost land' and the release of two other fellow tribesmen in US custody (kidnap victims released 18 December 2008). {Rans} (AFP, 18 December 2008; AP, 19 December 2008; DPA, 23 December 2008)

28: Three allegedly gay men murdered in the central market in Ja'ar, Abyan. [3 dead] {Crim} (Attagammua.net, 28 December 2008; quoted by MPJ, 17 January 2009)

28: Oil pipeline blown up in Khowlan. {Ambig} (Reu, 29 December 2008)

30: Protesters in 'Aden stormed and vandalized the Egyptian consulate in protest against Egypt's role in the blockade of Gaza during the Israeli offensive against Gaza. {Polit} (IHT)

30: The acting head of the intensive care unit at the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a was stabbed and killed by a deceased patient's tribesmen; 18 men armed with guns and knives broke into the hospital after being informed that their elderly relative had died. [1 dead] {Crim} (YT, 1 January 2009)

January 2009

1: Death threats made against Yemen's Jewish community in the context of the Israeli offensive against Gaza. {Polit} (NY)

2: South African woman and her two sons kidnapped in Abyan (freed next day). {Rans} (AFP, Reu, YP, 5 January 2009)

13: Five demonstrators injured in 'Aden when riot police opened fire; the protesters were army veterans protesting about wanting their jobs back. [5 injured] {Polit} (IHT)

16: One Yemeni fisherman killed during an anti-piracy operation that also left three others dead. [4 dead] {Crim} (AP)

18: One German gas pipeline engineer and two Yemeni colleagues kidnapped by tribesmen in Shabwa; kidnappers demanded the release of a fellow tribesman who was imprisoned for murder

(kidnap victims freed two days later). {Rans} (NY, IHT, DPA; BBC, 19 January 2009; Reu, 20 January 2009)

19: Two AQ suspects killed, third injured in security operation in Sana'a; all three were Saudi born. [2 dead, 1 injured] {Polit} (NY)

26: US Embassy in Sana'a reported that it had received an attack threat. {Polit} (CNN)

26: Exchange of gunfire at a checkpoint near the US Embassy in Sana'a; three men arrested; no injuries reported. {Ambig} (AJ, 27 January 2009)

26: Report about tribal clashes in 'Amran, notably between the al-Osaimat and al-Suda tribes, states that at least 63 people have been killed in the past four months, of whom around 40 per cent were children; report highlights the issue of child soldiers involved in tribal conflicts. [63 dead in four months] {Soc} (TML)

27: AQ groups in Yemen and Saudi Arabia announced their merger to form AQ in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). (AJ, 28 January 2009)

29: Oil pipeline bombed near Marib. {Ambig} (IHT)

February 2009

3: Gunmen forced the closure of a primary court in Lahj when the judge, who they subsequently pursued, delivered a guilty verdict against one of their relatives. {Crim} (YP)

4: One killed in a military aircraft attack on the 'hideout' of a group of bandits in the al-Saifa area of al-Jawf; the report stated they were wanted for murder. [1 dead] {Crim} (NY)

9: Reports quoting Yemeni security officials that they had released variously 108, 112, 170, and 176 men arrested on suspicion of having ties to AQ; subsequently denied by the Yemeni government, which said 108 men had been released, but none had links to AQ. (AP, AKI, VOA; CNN, 10 February 2009)

10: Warnings of a growing piracy threat in the Gulf of 'Aden. (DPA)

March 2009

10: Attempt to kidnap four German archaeologists in Marib foiled by security. {Rans} (YP, 12 March 2009)

11: Two soldiers injured, one later died, after being attacked in Abyan. [1 dead, 1 injured] {Ambig} (YP, 14 March 2009)

12: Fighting stopped between tribes from al-Baidha and Marib; reports it had 'so far left dozens killed and injured from both sides'. [dozens dead <24> and injured <24>] {Ambig} (YP)

12: One killed in Mukalla during the rescue of a university professor and his wife who had been kidnapped in the context of a land dispute. [1 dead] {Rans} (YP)

12: Two soldiers injured by a landmine in Sa'dah. [2 injured] {Polit} (YP)

12: Two shot dead in Hudaydah by a drunk man [2 dead] {Crim}; it was also reported that a man was found stabbed to death in Sana'a. [1 dead] {Crim} (YP)

12: Soldier shot dead trying to check the weapons' licences of the occupants of car at a checkpoint in al-Dhale' [1 dead] {Crim}; soldier injured in Shabwa when shot by bandits. [1 injured] {Crim} (YP)

12: At least two killed and 'nearly a dozen injured' in Sa'dah in clashes between Huthis and government forces. [2 dead, <11> injured] {Polit} (YP)

15: Four South Korean tourists and two Yemenis killed in AQAP suicide bomb attack in Shibam, Hadramout. [6 dead] {Polit} (BBC)

15: Socialist Party leader in 'Amran murdered. [1 dead] {Ambig} (MPJ/Marib Press, 19 March 2009)

17: Sana'a university student shot and killed by security; entrance to university was later surrounded by large crowd of armed tribesmen. [1 dead] {Crim} (YP; YO, 18 March 2009)

18: AQAP suicide bomb attack against a South Korean delegation driving in convoy on the road to Sana'a airport; attacker killed, no other injuries. [1 dead] {Polit} (BBC)

19: Socialist Party deputy secretary in 'Amran murdered along with his son. [2 dead] {Ambig} (MPJ quoting Marib Press, 19 March 2009)

22: Armed Huthi rebels reported to have seized relief convoy supplies. {Polit} (YP)

23: Civil servant and his assistant shot dead in Taiz, four others injured; reported related to a dispute over the civil servant's appointment. [2 dead, 4 injured] {Polit} (YO, 24 March 2009)

25: Three border security personnel shot dead by tribesmen in al-Mahara (eastern Yemen) in revenge for the police shooting dead a people trafficker at the Yemen/Oman border. [4 dead] {Crim} (YP)

25: Tens of fishermen injured in clashes using sticks and stones between rival groups in Mukalla. [<20> injured] {Soc} (YO)

28: Massive security operation launched against Jihadists in Ja'ar in Abyan, supervised by minister of defence: four policemen killed and more than a dozen injured, plus one jihadi injured. [4 dead, <14> injured] {Polit} (BBC; *The National*, YP, 29 March 2009; YO, 31 March 2009 and 7 April 2009)

29: Police used teargas and live ammunition to break up a political demonstration in al-Dhale'. {Polit} (YP, 31 March 2009)

29: Gunmen blocked Sana'a-'Aden road in protest at the relocation of a *qat* market in al-Dhale' (separate incident to demonstration on same day); during initial protest troops exchanged fire with armed civilians, one of whom was injured. [1 injured] {Soc} (YP)

29: Yemeni fisherman shot dead and second injured by Somali pirates. [1 dead, 1 injured] {Crim} (YP)

29: Eight Huthis and two soldiers killed in Sa'dah. [10 dead] {Polit} (DPA)

31: Dutch couple kidnapped from Sana'a, taken as hostages to force government to pay compensation for injuring five tribesmen five months earlier (kidnap victims freed 13 April 2009). {Rans} (YP, Reu; AFP, 13 April 2009)

April 2009

4: Ten-year-old child killed in Sana'a by a stray bullet fired during a land dispute. [1 dead] {Soc} (YP)

6: Bomb blast between the houses of the governor and deputy governor in Zinjibar, Abyan. {Polit} (YP, 8 April 2009)

11: Tribal elder shot and killed, escort injured, in Sa'dah. [1 dead, 1 injured] {Ambig} (YP, 13 April 2009)

12: Car bomb targeted the house of a judge in al-Dhale'. {Ambig} (YP, 13 April 2009)

13: Two road workers killed and two injured in Sa'dah; motive unclear. [2 dead, 2 injured] {Ambig} (YP)

13: Four killed, five injured in land dispute bombing in Sana'a governorate. [4 dead, 5 injured] {Soc} (YP, 14 April 2009)

14: Armed tribesmen in 'Amran set up a roadblock on the Sana'a-Sa'dah road, demanding the release of a cement truck taken by a rival tribe. {Soc} (YP)

14: Five injured in Hudaydah during a land dispute involving security forces and armed tribesmen. [5 injured] {Soc} (YP, 15 April 2009)

15: Two civilians and a soldier killed, at least 22 citizens injured, in Lahj governorate during protests over the location of a military post. [3 dead, 22 injured] {Polit} (Reu, YP)

18: One killed, four injured in alleged Huthi attack on sheikh in Sa'dah. [1 dead, 4 injured] {Polit} (YP)

19: *Woman executed at Sana'a Central Prison for shooting dead her husband in 2002; she said because he was abusing their daughter.* (YT, 22 April 2009)

19: Manager of Dhamar Public Hospital attacked by tribesmen, sustaining serious injuries. [1 injured] {Ambig} (YP)

19: Soldiers attacked a state official in Dhamar after he refused to sign documents for them. [1 injured] {Soc} (YP)

19: General manager of 'Dhambar' (Dhamar?) Endowments and Guidance Office fatally wounded by armed tribesmen. [1 dead] {Ambig} (YP)

19: Local security chief in Marib survived assassination attempt when a mine attached to his car fell off and did not detonate. {Ambig} (YP)

20: Ex-MP's son shot dead in 'Aden. [1 dead] {Ambig} (YP)

21: Three killed, dozens injured in a tribal war relating to seizing vehicles. [3 dead, <36> injured] {Soc} (YP)

22: Two boys killed when a 'bomb they were playing with went off at the family house' in Sana'a. [2 killed] {Unin} (YP, 24 April 2009; AP, 29 April 2009)

26: Three pirates killed, two injured by Yemeni coast guard forces off the coast of Abyan. [3 dead, 2 injured] {Crim} (YP)

27: Clashes between police and protestors in Mukalla, during which cars and shops were attacked. {Polit} (Reu, 28 April 2009)

28: Numerous injuries in clashes between soldiers and armed civilians in Lahj relating to the location of army bases. [<10> injured] {Polit} (YP)

28: Soldier killed and 14 people injured (including ten soldiers) when 'gunmen attacked a police checkpoint' in Lahj governorate. [1 dead, 14 injured] {Polit} (DPA)

29: 'Soldiers and citizens wounded in clashes in Radfan' (between Lahj and al-Dhale'). [<10> injured] {Polit} (YP)

30: Two killed, six injured in land dispute between two tribal groups in Dahmt; took place in the market. [2 dead, 6 injured] {Soc} (YP)

31: Army started shelling positions in Radfan district in al-Dhale'. {Polit} (YP, 1 May 2009)

31: One civilian killed and at least ten injured during clashes with the military in al-Habilayn town in Lahj. [1 dead, <10> injured] {Polit} (*Jerusalem Post*, 1 May 2009)

May 2009

1: Reports of the Yemeni army shelling villages in al-Dhale', Radfan; no information on any victims. {Polit} (YP)

1: 'Gunmen armed with grenades and assault weapons' encircled army forces in Radfan; no information on any victims. Separate report from same day says: 'In Radfan, Lahj, soldiers and citizens were wounded as clashes erupted between the troops and the fans of the Southern Mobility'. [<10> injured] {Polit} (YP)

1: Civilians besieged a newly established military post in Halmeen, Lahj, and bombed a water truck; two injured. [2 injured] {Polit} (YP)

1: Various reports about violence in Sa'dah, with claims of kidnapping, one death, and several injured. [1 dead, <3> injured] {Polit} (YP)

2: Five soldiers and two tribesmen killed in clashes in and near Radfan. [7 dead] {Polit} (*Jerusalem Post*)

2: One killed, five injured in al-Habilayn, Lahj [1 dead, 5 injured] {Polit}; two army officers injured in al-Dhale' when two armoured personnel carriers were ambushed. [2 injured] {Polit} (both DPA)

3: *Reports of at least 127 families fleeing fighting in Lahj.* {Polit} (YP)

3: One killed, four injured in al-Habilayn, Lahj, during clashes between troops (using artillery) and armed civilians. [1 dead, 4 injured] {Polit} (YP)

3: Reports that in total three killed (one by a grenade) and 20 injured during clashes in Lahj. [3 dead, 20 injured] {Polit} (Reu)

[Note: possible problem of double counting of fatalities: most subsequent reports state eight killed in Lahj clashes.]

3: Armed man shot dead nine and injured one at a *qat* chew in Rada'a; shooter was then shot dead; mental illness cause reported; threats of revenge by victims' families and suggestion that shooting may itself have been motivated by revenge for a previous murder. [10 dead, 1 injured] {Crim} (YP)

4: Three school pupils killed and six injured in al-Mahweet when playing with a hand grenade they had found. [3 dead, 6 injured] {Unin} (YP, 5 May 2009)

4: Journalist kidnapped in Sana'a by tribesmen who claimed he was indebted to one of them; media-tors pledged he would pay YER 17 million (USD 85,000) (released 2 August 2009). {Rans} (YO, 4 August 2009)

5: Four Huthis and a soldier killed during clashes in Sa'dah. [5 dead] {Polit} (AFP)

[Note: at this point, the Yemeni government implemented a clampdown on media freedom; seven newspapers were closed over reporting of political protests in the South.]

10: Four tribesmen killed and another wounded in al-Safra'a district in Sa'dah—government accused the Huthis; fears expressed of outbreak of sixth Sa'dah war. [4 dead, 1 injured] {Polit} (YP)

12: *Troops withdrew from new military posts in Radfan after intervention of a committee led by former government, Minister Abdul Qader Hilal.* (YP)

13: A traffic policeman in Sana'a reported to have smashed a car's windows with his firearm in a 'fit of rage'. {Crim} (YP)

13: Civilian passer-by killed and another injured, plus two guards injured, when a gun battle broke out between the police and guards at the offices of the *al-Ayyam* newspaper in 'Aden; claims police had tried to break into offices to arrest the managing editor in relation to a death during a land dispute in Sana'a; tear gas and bullets fired by police. [1 dead, 3 injured] {Polit} (YP, *Jerusalem Post*, CPJ)

13: AQAP declared support for South Yemen and called for Islamic rule. (AFP, Reu)

14: Tariq al-Fadhli, jihadi veteran and Yemeni government ally, announces he is joining the Southern (Secessionist) Movement. (YP; BBC, 21 May 2009)

15: Five killed in Marib in 'security shooting'. [5 dead] {Ambig} (NY, 22 May 2009)

20: Soldier killed in firefight with 'an armed fugitive' in Abyan, who was then shot and killed. [2 dead] {Ambig} (YP)

21: Unity Day (celebration of 1990 unification between North and South Yemen).

21: Four killed (initial reports said three) and at least 25 injured during protests in 'Aden; live rounds and tear gas fired by police. [4 dead, 25 injured] {Polit} (YP, BBC, MPJ; *The National*, 8 June 2009)

23: Sheikh in Sa'dah detained 14 trucks from Saudi Arabia in a dispute over an unpaid debt. {Rans} (YO, 3 June 2009)

26: An 'American-made' shoulder-launched missile was reported to have been found in 'Aden. {Polit} (YO)

28: 'Two Yemeni fishermen were killed [and one wounded] by a landmine' [2 dead, 1 injured] {Unin} 'two days after two other fishermen were killed in the Red Sea by a missile fired by an international anti-piracy patrol'. [2 dead] {Crim} (both Reu)

31: Two Yemeni convicts killed and a soldier wounded when armed gunmen tried to help the convicts escape in Hadramout. [2 dead, 1 injured] {Crim} (YP)

31: A soldier shot and killed a colleague in Hajjah; blamed on mental health problems. [1 dead] {Crim} (YP)

31: Three civilians and a policeman killed, 13 injured, in two days of protests in the south: Lahj, al-Dhale', Hadramout; total killed since late April now reported as 16. [4 dead, 13 injured] {Polit} (AFP, AJ)

June 2009

1: In Sana'a a man killed his wife and two sons and seriously injured two other sons with an axe; also tried to kill two other children—mental health problems blamed. [3 dead, <4> injured] {Crim} (YP)

2: Two killed and one injured in landmine explosion on an island in Hudaydah governorate [2 dead, 1 injured] {Unin}; further report that a woman and two children were injured in al-Baidha governorate when a bomb the children had found and were playing with exploded. [3 injured] {Unin} (both Saba)

5: Médecins Sans Frontières reported it had treated 41 war wounded in Razeh Hospital in Sa'dah in the month since 5 May 2009; most civilians: 22 men, 9 women, 6 children; reports that fighting has occurred 'nearly every day' in the area and that 'security conditions have worsened considerably'. [41 injured in past month] {Polit} (MSF)

5: Shabwa: 'Manager of the Tribal Affairs and member of the local council' shot dead in a restaurant, 'presumably in a revenge incident'. [1 dead] {Ambig} (Yemen Online)

7: Reports of extensive military mobilizations and ongoing tribal confrontations in relation to Sa'dah. {Polit} (YT)

8: Either two or four killed and either three or four injured during a funeral march from 'Aden to Lahj for six protestors killed during May; reports of 'armed mourners' and a gun battle that broke out (reports say total dead now 18). [<3> dead, <4> injured] {Polit} (MPJ, *The National*, Reu)

11: Twenty-four 'local and foreign health workers' kidnapped in Sa'dah by tribesmen demanding the release of two prisoners; released the following day after the tribesmen were given satisfactory assurances. {Rans} (AJ, 12 June 2009)

12: Reports (disputed) of AQ fighters leaving Pakistan and moving to Yemen and Somalia. (NYT)

12: German family (two adults, three children), two German nurses, a British engineer, and a South Korean teacher kidnapped in Sa'dah; the two nurses and the teacher were found shot dead three days later; fate of remaining six remains unclear; Yemeni government accused the Huthis, who denied involvement; strongest theory about motive seems to relate to proselytizing/missionary activities; government says victims were warned against any travel. [3 dead] {Ambig} (DPA, 13 June 2009; *Spiegel*, 20 June 2009; *Times* (London), 21 June 2009; numerous reports since)

13: Soldier killed, officer injured, three civilians also injured in clash with tribesmen in al-Jawf relating to tribal claims over mineral rights and employment; both sides used medium and heavy weapons; two company employees and two further locals also injured. [1 dead, 8 injured] {Soc} (YP; YP, 29 June 2009)

17: *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that clashes in Sa'dah governorate had forced 3,500 to flee to Sa'dah city; UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported 100,000 people displaced by conflict; more than 7,400 internally displaced people (IDPs) in three camps in Sa'dah city.* {Polit} (IRIN)

27: 'One killed, three wounded as gunman opens fire at Yemen market' in al-Baidha: report that a 'hand fight' escalated until a gunman opened fire; injured included a woman. [1 dead, 3 injured] {Ambig} (Saba)

29: Summary of incidents over previous week (not otherwise documented above) included: one murder in al-Dhale' [1 dead] {Crim}; one killed and two injured in grenade explosion in Dhale' city [1 dead, 2 injured] {Ambig}; 13 killed in conflicts in Sa'dah among Huthis, a pro-government sheikh and soldiers [13 dead] {Polit}; one shot dead in 'Aden [1 dead] {Ambig}; release of two Saudi kidnap victims kidnapped in Harf Sufian to demand a prisoner release in United Arab Emirates—release followed mediation {Rans}; protests in Lahj over water supply {Polit}. (all YP, 29 June 2009)

July 2009

1: Reports of 'heavy armed clashes' over the previous week in Sa'dah; no details about casualties. {Polit} (YT)

2: Oil pipeline blown up in Shabwa. {Ambig} (NY)

6: *Execution at Sana'a Central Prison of man convicted of raping and murdering a ten-year-old boy in Sana'a seven months earlier.* (YO)

6: At least 12 killed and two injured in a gun battle between two tribal groups in Jabal Ras in Hudaydah governorate; conflict reported to be related to the rape of a child. [12 dead, 2 injured] {Soc} (YP)

7: Protests in the south to mark the 15th anniversary of the end of the 1994 civil war; hundreds arrested; four protesters injured and one killed in 'Aden [1 dead, 4 injured] {Polit}; three policemen wounded in al-Dhale', where there were reports of 'shooting at random' [3 injured] {Polit}; one citizen killed by police and two policemen injured in Mukalla where a shop was burned down [1 killed, 2 injured] {Polit}. (AFP; NY, Reu, AJ, 8 July 2009)

8: Police in Khawlan detained two men on suspicion of planning to bomb a pipeline. {Ambig} (UPI)

8: *Reports of a Jewish bride being kidnapped in Sana'a; later confirmed that she had eloped.* (NY)

10: Three retailers from the north of Yemen killed and one seriously injured in a shooting incident in Radfan district, Lahj in the south; linked in reports to the Southern Movement and North-South sectarian tensions. [3 dead, 1 injured] {Polit} (Saba, AFP, 11 July 2009; YP, 20 July 2009; *The National*, 21 July 2009)

11: 'One soldier and three civilians wounded in clashes between government forces and protestors in southern provinces.' [4 injured] {Polit} (YP)

12: Reports of violent demonstrations in Hadramout governorate; no information on any injuries. {Polit} (Saba)

12: Reports that 'tribesmen fired [an] RPG at an electricity generator in Marib'. {Rans} (NY)

15: One killed and three injured in a gunfight between a company director and a member of his staff; fight escalated rapidly; dead and injured were all caught in the cross-fire. [1 dead, 3 injured] {Soc} (Saba)

18-19: At least ten killed in clashes over control of a mosque in Zahra in al-Jawf governorate between Huthi Zaidi Shi'ites and members of the Islamist Islah Party. Three Islah members were reported killed at the mosque and another two when a group of mourners were later attacked; five

Zaidi Shi'a were then reported killed in the resulting clashes; the number of injured is unknown. [10 dead, <10> injured] {Soc} (YO, News24, 20 July 2009)

19: An armed group kidnapped a prominent Yemeni businessman from a road in Sana'a, in the context of a long-running dispute with his family about land, a killing (in the context of a previous kidnap attempt) and an unpaid compensation payment of YER 250 million (USD 1,250,000). {Rans} (YO, 20 July 2009; YO, 4 July 2009)

19: An army colonel and two bodyguards reported killed in Sa'dah. [3 dead] {Polit} (Reu, 21 July 2009)

20: Mosque closed and 30 arrested in Ibb after clashes between Salafi and Islah Party followers about control of the mosque; at least one person was injured when he was stabbed with a *jambia* (knife). [1 injured] {Soc} (YP)

20: Two killed, one injured by a bomb blast in Hudaydah. [2 dead, 1 injured] {Ambig} (Saba)

22: Report that a Yemeni oil tanker was attacked by 14 pirate boats in the Red Sea, but the attack was foiled by Yemeni marines. {Crim} (Saba)

23: Reports of variously 8, 12, 16, and 20 killed and 'scores' injured (one report states 30), including 12 police, when security forces opened fire on 5,000 protestors in Zinjibar, Abyan (South Yemen); governor claimed protestors fired first; reports the protests were called by Tariq al-Fadhli; later reports that al-Fadhli's house was put under siege. [<14> dead, <30> injured] {Polit} (BBC, AP; Saba, AFP, 24 July 2009; YP, 26 July 2009)

24: Various reports of clashes between Huthi rebels and government forces near the Saudi border in Sa'dah; reports variously mention three, four, six, and seven soldiers reported killed and an unknown number injured; Huthis sources claimed 53 soldiers had been captured. [<5> dead, <5> injured] {Polit} (DPA, Reu, AFP; YT, 27 July 2009)

25: One protestor killed and four or five people injured—including three police—during protests in Zinjibar following the clashes of 23 July. [1 dead, <5> injured] {Polit} (AFP, Reu; YP, 26 July 2009)

25: 'Powerful explosion' reported outside the Central Security headquarters in Mudiah city in Abyan; no reports of casualties. {Polit} (YP, 26 July 2009)

25: One killed and one wounded in Lahj in clashes between protesters and security forces. [1 dead, 1 injured] {Polit} (YP, 26 July 2009)

26: Abyan governor's house reportedly attacked with RPGs and medium-sized weapons; no casualties; reports of 'hundreds' of tribesmen travelling to Abyan city to try and break the siege on Tariq al-Fadhli's house; further reports of three RPGs being fired at a cotton storage facility in Abyan owned by the president's nephew, Yahya Saleh. {Polit} (YP)

26: One killed, four injured in al-Dhale' during clashes between security forces and protesters who were protesting about the killings in Abyan on 23 July 2009 [1 dead, 4 injured] {Polit} (YP)

28: Four soldiers killed and one injured in an attack on a checkpoint at Lawder on the Abyan–Hadramout road, allegedly by ten supporters of Tariq al-Fadhli; subsequent reports say that two of the suspects were killed in the initial incident and the remainder were arrested in Marib the next day. [6 dead, 1 injured] {Polit} (AFP, Reu, YP; YP, 29 July 2009)

28: Reports of a bomb explosion in Zinjibar, 'outside the People's General Congress building, causing big damages in Islah party's building nearby'. {Polit} (YP)

28–29: Eighteen people killed in two days of tribal clashes in 'Amran governorate (northern Yemen); total killed since the current conflict started in November 2008 reported to stand at more than 74; historical grievances relate to tribal border disputes. [18 dead, <18> injured] {Soc} (YP, 29 July 2009)

30: Clashes between AQAP and government troops in Marib resulted in four dead (reports variously state none, one, or two AQAP; a farmer; and two or three soldiers killed) and four to six soldiers injured; later reports said AQAP affiliates had attacked a military vehicle. [4 dead, <5> injured] {Polit} (YP; AFP, 31 July 2009; YP, 2 August 2009). A statement subsequently released by AQAP claimed the army attacked first and that five tanks were destroyed or damaged by AQAP, who also captured seven soldiers and seized military weapons and equipment (see: NEFA Foundation, 2009).

30: Reports that at least 338 civilians have been killed, more than 200 injured, and 500 kidnapped in Sa'dah over the last 12 months. {Polit} (Saba; Arab News, 31 July 2009)

30: MSF reported that between January and July 2009 it had performed around 100 acts of surgery in Sa'dah related to war injuries. {Polit} (MSF, 18 August 2009)

August 2009

- 2: Reports of armed groups firing on workers erecting electrical power lines between Marib and Sana'a in the context of locals' demands for compensation for the use of their land. {Rans} (YP)
- 2: Reports of 'fierce clashes' between Huthi and army forces in Sa'dah close to the Saudi border that left 'dozens' injured; light, medium, and heavy weapons were used [24 injured] {Polit}; clashes reported between Huthis and a pro-government sheikh, whose son and other followers were killed [<4> dead] {Polit}; reports Huthi supporters took over prominent sheikh's house in 'Amran {Polit}; reports of an 'unannounced war between Islah party affiliates and Huthi followers' in al-Jawf governorate, concerning control of mosques {Soc}. (all YP)
- 5: *Sheikh Hamid bin Abdullah al-Ahmar of the Hashid tribal confederation calls for Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh to resign during an interview with al-Jazeera TV, Doha (AJ, 5 August 2009: 'Without Borders' programme live broadcast at 19:05 GMT)*
- 5: Bomb detonated near a police building in Abyan with no injuries; second, larger device—later reported to have been a mine—defused near government offices in Abyan. {Polit} (Reu; YP, 8 August 2009)
- 8–9: *Reports that a truce was agreed between government forces and the Huthis and then immediately broken, with both sides trading accusations about responsibility; tribal sources claimed that 'influential military leaders' ordered their troops to attack to foil mediation efforts by an ally of the president. {Polit} (AA, 11 August 2009; YT, 12 August 2009)*
- 9: Clashes between Huthis and Salafis in Sa'dah governorate resulted in eight killed; reports of both government forces and Huthis readying for war. [8 dead] {Polit} (AFP)
- 10: Reports that armed Huthi fighters set up a number of checkpoints blocking the road from Sana'a to Sa'dah; military post in Saqin seized by Huthis after a two-week siege; mediation efforts ongoing, headed by 'arms merchant Faris Mana'a'. {Polit} (AA)
- 11: Operation Scorched Earth launched by the Yemeni military in Sa'dah, with the warning that they would use an 'iron fist' against the Huthi rebels—in effect the official start of the sixth Sa'dah war since hostilities began in 2004. {Polit} (AFP, 12 August 2009)
- 11: Report that the Huthis recorded 30 government air strikes against various locations, along with heavy mortars and 'katyusha' missile strikes; reports that regular army forces were being supported by 'hundreds of tribesmen from Hashid tribe [confederation]'; 'no neutral or reliable reports of casualties on either side'. {Polit} (YT, 12 August 2009)
- 12: Reports that 'army forces and fighter aircrafts launched a massive attack on Huthi's leader Abdul-Malik Al-Huthi's headquarters in Sa'dah province', leading to 'massive displacements of population'. {Polit} (YP)
- 12: Reports that at least 19 people were killed and 51 injured in 2 days of fighting in Sa'dah; a state of emergency was declared in Sa'dah governorate. [19 dead, 51 injured] {Polit} (BBC, citing Saba; Arab News, 13 August 2009)
- 12: Assistant deputy governor of Lahj (South Yemen) survives an assassination attempt with serious burns. [1 injured] {Polit} (YP)
- 13: *The Yemeni government sets the Huthi rebels six conditions for a ceasefire: withdrawal from districts, removal of checkpoints, reveal the fate of the June kidnap victims, hand over the kidnappers, return captured military and civilian equipment, and refrain from interfering in local authority affairs; the conditions were rejected by the Huthi command, accusing the government of seeking to 'mislead the public opinion after the crimes against humanity they committed in Saada villages'. {Polit} (Reu; AJ, 14 August 2009)*
- 13: Fifteen Red Crescent workers reportedly taken from a refugee camp by Huthi rebels; later reports said that they were only held for a 'few hours', but that an ambulance was taken from them. {Rans} (AJ, Reu, 14 August 2009; Reu, 17 August 2009)
- 14: Reports from Sa'dah that 17,000 families had fled their homes in 4 days and that in 1 day at least 37 people were killed (16 rebel fighters, 2 government soldiers, 4 tribal leaders, and 15 civilians). [37 dead, <37> injured] {Polit} (AJ)
- 14: Two soldiers and 16 rebels reported killed in the war (exact location unclear). [18 dead] {Polit} (AFP, 16 August 2009)
- 16: Air and artillery strikes continuing in Sa'dah, with the conflict extending into 'Amran governorate; reports that 17 Huthi fighters and six government soldiers were killed. [23 dead: 18 in Sa'dah, 5 in 'Amran] {Polit} (AJ)

16: Huthi spokesman reports that a total of 120,000 people have fled their homes in Sa'dah governorate; claims unverified due to lack of access; ICRC reported 7,600 IDPs registered in camps over past 3 months, further 4,000 living with host families. {Polit} (IRIN)

16: More than 30 reported killed in clashes in Harf Sufian in 'Amran. [<35> dead] {Polit} (YP)

17: YER 100 million (USD 500,000) stolen at gunpoint in 'Aden while being transported to Yemen's central bank. {Crim} (Reu)

17: Signs of the expansion of Sa'dah conflict into neighbouring al-Jawf, with reports of three Huthis being killed in clashes with local tribesmen while trying to set up a checkpoint. [3 dead] {Polit} (AFP)

18: MSF reports having conducted surgery on 36 war-wounded people since 11 August 2009 at its two rural hospitals in Rازه and al-Talh in Sa'dah governorate. {Polit} (MSF)

18: A Yemeni government spokesman alleges Iranian religious authorities are providing financial and political backing for the Huthis. (Reu)

19: Several killed and injured on both sides in fighting on the outskirts of Sa'dah city; 'many killed and injured' in clashes close to the Republican Palace in Sa'dah governorate. [<20 dead, <20> injured] {Polit} (YP)

19: Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh pledges that the armed forces will 'destroy this group [the Huthis] . . . [and] uproot this cancer that exists in Saada province'. (AFP)

20: Reports suggest an intensification of the fighting, primarily through increased government air raids. {Polit} (AFP)

21: UNHCR reports an estimated 35,000 people have been forced from their homes in the latest round of fighting. {Polit} (AP)

21: Huthis claimed to have captured 80 soldiers; reports that two Huthi leaders were killed. [2 dead] {Polit} (AFP)

23: Yemeni army claims to have killed more than 100 Huthi rebels in the course of seizing Harf Sufian town in 'Amran governorate. [<110> dead] {Polit} (BBC, Reu)

24: At least one shot dead and three injured (including two police) in 'Aden in clashes between police and protesters complaining about cuts to the water supply. [1 dead, 3 injured] {Soc} (Reu)

25: UNHCR warned of worsening humanitarian situation in the north of Yemen, with an estimated 119,000 people displaced from Sa'dah and no water or electricity in Sa'dah city since 10 August 2009; total IDPs estimated at 150,000 spread across the governorates of Sa'dah, al-Jawf, Hajjah, and 'Amran; new refugee camps being built. {Polit} (AFP, IRIN, Reu)

26: At least 16 killed and five injured in clashes between Huthis and Salafis in Dmaj district in Sa'dah. [16 dead, 5 injured] {Polit} (YP)

26: Claims from the Huthis that government troops had failed to advance on Harf Sufian in 'Amran and al-Minzala in Sa'dah; the Sana'a - Sa'dah road remained closed. {Polit} (Reu)

27: UN flash appeal announced for early September; humanitarian situation said to be deteriorating. (IRIN)

27: Saudi deputy interior minister Prince Mohammed bin Nayef was nearly assassinated in his office in Jeddah by a Yemeni-based Saudi AQAP suicide bomber, who claimed he wanted to hand himself in to the Saudi authorities. [1 dead, 1 injured] (BBC, Reu, 28 August 2009; BBC, AP, 30 August 2009)

28: Huthi claims that the Saudi air force had been bombing Huthi positions denied by the Yemeni government; report that there had been 'no reliable casualty figures' since the sixth war was launched two weeks earlier. {Polit} (AFP)

29: UN urges the creation of safe corridors to allow people to flee Sa'dah city and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. (AFP)

30: Unconfirmed reports of hundreds of deaths on both sides in the war; intensive aerial bombing campaign under way; Republican Guard tank divisions being sent to reinforce the campaign; government states commitment to eradicating the Huthis; more than 3,000 Hashid tribal fighters being mobilized to fight alongside regular troops in 'Amran. {Polit} (YT)

30: Reports that nine pro-government tribal fighters were killed and a further 16 injured in a mortar attack at Sawad close to the Saudi Arabian border; a Huthi 'rebel leader' was also reported killed. [10 dead, 16 injured] {Polit} (AFP)

30: Five people, reported to be from the same family, shot and killed during a land dispute relating to the building of a house on contested land in the Ibb district of Radhma. [5 dead] {Soc} (YP)

30: Disputed reports about 20 people killed in clashes when Huthi fighters attacked the house of MP Sheikh Hussein 'Abdallah al-Ahmar in 'Amran; al-Ahmar is reported to be leading a Hashid tribal army in support of the government. [20 dead] {Polit} {YP; NY, YO, 31 August 2009}

Notes

This timeline was produced by Gavin Hales, project coordinator and lead researcher of the Yemen Armed Violence Assessment. He was based in Sana'a, Yemen, from November 2007 to March 2010.

Abbreviations and news source links

Conflict classifications

Ambig	Ambiguous
Crim	Criminal violence
Polit	Political violence
Rans	Ransom
Soc	Social conflict
Unin	Unintentional violence

News sources

AA – *Asharq Alawsat* (London) <<http://aawsat.com>>
AFP – Agence France-Presse <<http://www.afp.com>>
AJ – Al-Jazeera (Doha) <<http://www.aljazeera.net>>
AKI – ADN Kronos International <<http://www.adnkronos.com>>
AP – Associated Press <<http://www.ap.org>>
Arab News (Saudi Arabia) – <<http://www.arabnews.com>>
Attagammua.net (Yemen) – <<http://www.attagammua.net>>
BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation <<http://news.bbc.co.uk>>
CNN – Cable News Network <<http://www.cnn.com>>
CPJ – Committee to Protect Journalists <<http://www.cpj.org>>
DPA – Deutsche Presse Agentur <<http://www.dpa.de>>
IHT – *International Herald Tribune* <<http://www.ihf.com/>>
IRIN – Integrated Regional Information Networks <<http://www.irinnews.org>>
Jerusalem Post – <<http://www.jpost.com>>
Marib Press (Marib, Yemen) – <<http://marebpress.net>>
MPJ – Mypetjawa (blog) <<http://mypetjawa.mu.nu>>
MSF – Médecins Sans Frontières <<http://www.msf.org>>
News24 – <<http://www.news24.com>>
NY – News Yemen <<http://www.newsyemen.net>>
NYT – *New York Times* <<http://www.nytimes.com>>
Reu – Reuters <<http://www.reuters.com>>
Saba – Yemen News Agency <<http://www.sabanews.net>>
The National (Abu Dhabi) – <<http://www.thenational.ae>>
TML – The Media Line <<http://www.themedialine.org>>
UPI – United Press International <<http://www.upi.com>>
VOA – Voice of America <<http://www.voanews.com>>
Yemen Online – <<http://yemenonline.info>>
Ynet News (Tel Aviv) – <<http://www.ynetnews.com>>
YO – *Yemen Observer* <<http://www.yobserver.com>>
YP – *Yemen Post* <<http://www.yemenpost.net/>>
YT – *Yemen Times* <<http://www.yementimes.com>>

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About the Yemen Armed Violence Assessment

The Yemen Armed Violence Assessment (YAVA) is a multi-year initiative administered by the Small Arms Survey, an independent research project of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Designed with the support of the UK Conflict Prevention Pool, the project seeks to collect and disseminate quantitative and qualitative research to support efforts to prevent and reduce real and perceived armed violence in Yemen. The YAVA will focus on addressing the following broad research themes:

- the demand for small arms and other weapons (motivations and means);
- armed violence typologies and the drivers of armed violence (risk factors);
- the impact of small arms and other weapons (on specific demographic groups and geographical areas);
- the market for small arms and stockpiles throughout the country (supply); and
- measuring the effectiveness of various approaches to armed violence prevention and reduction.

The YAVA will draw information from key informant interviews, field research, and secondary analysis of existing data sources, along with a review of publicly available literature (in Arabic and English). Where appropriate, it will triangulate findings with available statistics (e.g. on crime), public health records (e.g. hospital admissions data), and

media monitoring or 'incident reporting'. Summaries of key findings will be periodically released in the form of short policy-relevant *Issue Briefs*, as well as a final report later in 2010. All publications will be made available in both English and Arabic. For more information, see <<http://www.yemen-ava.org>>.

Credits

Project manager: Robert Muggah

Project coordinator: Gavin Hales

Editor: Emile LeBrun

Copy editor: Alex Potter (fpcc@mtnloaded.co.za)

Design and layout: Richard Jones (rick@studioexile.com)

Contact details

For more information or to provide feedback, contact Robert Muggah, Small Arms Survey Research Director, at robert.muggah@smallarmssurvey.org.

Yemen Armed Violence Assessment
Small Arms Survey
47 Avenue Blanc
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

t +41 22 908 5777

f +41 22 732 2738

