

Who's Fighting Who?

Hadi vs Houthis vs AQAP

BY ERIN ARCHER

YEMEN - In midst of a power struggle, the Yemeni Government has attempted to reach out to rebel group Houthis, who have violated their cease-fire agreement.

President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi's Government has attempted peace talks with the rebel group, but President Hadi said they have been less than willing, and have restored to throwing insults to not only the Yemeni government but also their allies.

Military forces have confirmed the Houthis fired missiles at the Jizan and Najran areas in Saudi Arabia, one of Yemen's allies, as well as firing upon and shelling neighbourhood housing in Taiz in Yemen.

President Hadi has openly stated if the rebel group is not willing to cooperate diplomatically, Yemen and its allies will enter a united front to confront the rebel forces.

The Houthi have told the The New York Times, Saudi Arabia has been giving money and arms to anyone who claims they will support them, including religious extremists.

In response to this allegation, President Hadi has stated the claim to be completely outrageous.

"It seems that the Houthis have realised that the world has seen them for who they really are."

He said the Houthis comments are a way of manipulating and taking advantage of vulnerable individuals.

"They have never sought anything but power and control for themselves."

The comments come as the Red Cross announced on Thursday, they will no longer be sending workers into North Yemen, as the danger has increased in the area, after a car bombing attack by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula against the Houthis. .

The attack was in direct retaliation to the Houthi's statement on Wednesday claiming three missing Red Cross Workers were kidnapped by AQAP.

AQAP denied the statement by the rebel group, stating they welcome all medical aid afforded to their Yemeni brothers and sisters.

Whilst a civil war is quickly descending, both President Hadi and the Houthis are opposed to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, stating they cannot be trusted.

"Their claims that they are

fighting the Houthis must be taken with a grain of salt. Their allegiances seem to change on a daily basis: One day they are fighting the Houthis, the next they are fighting myself and my government," President Hadi stated.

The AQAP claim they have the support of local Yemen people, but have been held responsible for an attack on a Yemen hospital in 2013 that killed 56 people and wounded 162. Following the incident the group announced that the attack had been an accident.

When asked by The New York Times about why the AQAP would risk the safety of Yemen locals, with a retaliation attack of such magnitude, the Houthis said their actions are not logical, nor is their word to be trusted. The AQAP have stated they condemn the kidnapping of the three Red Cross workers.

"Only the lowest of the low would attack unarmed non-combatants...regardless of their religious affiliation," said an AQAP spokesperson.

Whilst condemning the attack on the Houthis by AQAP, President Hadi still blames the rebel group for kidnapping the humanitarian workers, and are using AQAP as a deception tactic.



Houthi rebel members showing a solidified stance. *Phoebe Newling for The New York Times*