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Houthi Attacks on Israel and the West Put Yemen on the Map – but What Is It Like for Yemenis?

The decade-long civil war in Yemen has had a devastating effect on the already impoverished country of 33 million people, with the Houthi movement causing chronic water and food shortages, weaponizing vaccines and maltreating children

Rachel Fink / Jan 24, 2024

Yemen was a vulnerable country even before the Houthi movement chose to show its support for the Palestinians during the Israel-Hamas war by launching missile attacks on southern Israel and attacking commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

[...]

Ilan Zalayat, a research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, points to a reform implemented by the Houthis at the start of the war, declaring that almost all products would have to be exported rather than kept in the country for domestic use. "All of a sudden, resources that were already scarce became almost nonexistent," he says.

[...]

The same reasoning might explain why the Houthis enjoy widespread popularity among Yemeni people, despite being the source of such deep suffering. "Many families rely on the war for resources," says **Zalayat**. Fighting "is their only way to put food on the table."

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