

Intelligence Section

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Port of Hudeidah Under Houthi Control

Following a month long campaign by the Houthis (Shia rebels), centred around the capital Sanaa, in which the group had seized control of a number of official state, media and military buildings and the main airport in Sanaa, the Houthis movement has now expanded its control away from the capital and seized control of the strategic port city in the country's western region, the port of Hudeidah.

Hudeidah is Yemen's second-biggest port and is the location of its largest oil refinery and capital of Hudeidah province. Reports also say that the group have seized the city's harbour and its civil and military airports.

In a UN-broker agreement signed on September 21st, between the Houthis and President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, it was agreed that the group would remove its forces from their current locations, handing back all weapons seized from military installations, in return for the nomination of a new Prime Minister and a major cut in fuel prices.

Hadi named his former aide Ahmed Al-Mubarak as Prime Minister last week, but Mubarak declined the nomination following his rejection by the Houthis. On Monday, Hadi appointed the country's UN representative, Khaled Bahah, as the new premier, a choice which met with agreement from the Houthis. Despite this, the group has continued to forge ahead with their campaign to expand their presence in Yemen.

At the present time, this has not affected port operations, (operating at Security level 1) but the situation remains vulnerable and could change at any time. It would be advisable to have Masters working at the security levels required for level 2 and the precautions that this entails.

It would not be advisable for crews to disembark at this port and Masters will need to stay aware of the changing situation. All vessels should brief their crew on the Ship Security Plan and all Masters should consult their CSO for further advice.

It also needs to be noted that the southern secessionist Al-Hirak movement, who want independence for the south of Yemen, have rallied in the southern port city of Aden and have vowed to stay there in a 'sit in' protest until their requests for independence are met. This means that there are daily protests involving hundreds of members, making the city a hot bed of political protest.

Care will need to be taken if using the Port of Aden and again, close attention will need to be given to the changing circumstances in the city.

It may not be viable for crews to embark or disembark at this port.

Allmode will keep clients up to date with the situation in Yemen, as it unfolds.

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