

Yemen Research

8/7/2013 Plot Foiled

[Yemen says it foiled major al-Qaeda plot](#)

SANAA, Yemen (AP) – Authorities foiled plots by al-Qaida to take over key cities in southern Yemen and attack strategic ports and gas facilities, a government spokesman said Wednesday amid a heightened alert that has seen Western embassies evacuated and a new suspected U.S. drone strike that killed seven alleged militants from the terrorist group.

Al-Qaida planned to target the cities of Mukalla and Bawzeer, then send militants disguised as Yemeni troops to attack two strategic oil ports in the impoverished country on the Arabian Peninsula, government spokesman Rageh Badi said.

[hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_YEMEN?SITE=7219&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2013-08-07-10-19-58](#)

A strike carried out by a U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle on Aug. 7 killed at least six suspected al Qaeda militants in southern Yemen's Shabwa province, Reuters reported, citing witnesses and local officials. At least six missiles were fired at two vehicles in an area about 70 kilometers (50 miles) north of the provincial capital, Ataq.

Yemeni tribesmen shot down an army helicopter with a rocket, killing eight soldiers, during a clash regarding repairs to a sabotaged pipeline, a tribal chief said, AFP reported Aug. 6. Tribesmen attacked the pipeline Aug. 4, stopping the flow of crude exports.

[Yemen says major al Qaeda plot thwarted as another suspected drone strike kills at least 6 militants – CBS News](#)

AQAP

For the West, AQAP presents three dangers:

- locally, to western embassies and citizens in Yemen
- inspirationally, to potential jihadists around the world

- through its online magazine Inspire
- globally, by putting bombs on planes

[BBC News – Why al-Qaeda in Yemen scares the West](#)

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP; Arabic: القاعدة في جزيرة العرب, *Al-Qaida fi Jazirat al-'Arab*) is a militant Islamist organization, primarily active in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. It was named for al-Qaeda, and says it is subordinate to that group and its now-deceased leader Osama bin Laden, a Saudi citizen whose father was born in Yemen. It is considered the most active^[3] of Al-Qaeda's branches, or "franchises," that emerged due to weakening central leadership.^[4]

[Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[BBC News – Yemen security crackdown as UK and US withdraw staff](#)

[US military evacuates embassy staff from Yemen over terror threat, Americans urged to leave | Fox News](#)

[BBC News – US embassy closures extended over militant threat fears](#)

[BBC News – Al-Qaeda leaders' talks 'sparked US embassy closures'](#)

About Yemen

Yemen ⁱ/ˈjɛmən/ (Arabic: اليَمَن *al-Yaman*) officially known as the **Republic of Yemen** (Arabic: الجمهورية اليمنية *al-Jumhūriyyah al-Yamaniyyah*), is an Arab country located in [Western Asia](#), occupying the southwestern to southern end of the [Arabian Peninsula](#). It is bordered by [Saudi Arabia](#) to the north, the [Red Sea](#) to the west, the [Gulf of Aden](#) and [Arabian Sea](#) to the south, and [Oman](#) to the east.

Yemen is one of the oldest centers of [civilization](#) in the [Near East](#).^[5] Its capital and largest city is [Sana'a](#). Yemen's

territory includes more than 200 [islands](#), the largest of which is [Socotra](#), about 354 km (220 mi) to the south of mainland Yemen. It is the only state in the Arabian Peninsula to have a purely [republican](#) form of government.^[6] Yemen was the first country in the Arabian peninsula to grant women the right to vote.^[7] [Yemeni unification](#) took place on 22 May 1990, when [North Yemen](#) was united with [South Yemen](#), forming the Republic of Yemen.

The majority of Yemen's population is divided into tribal groups, especially in the northern areas of the country where 85% of local residents belong to various tribes^[8] There are also small groups of peoples of [Turkish/Ottoman](#) origin in urban areas.^[9] Yemen is a member of the [United Nations](#), the [Arab League](#), and the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](#) and [Ali Abdullah Saleh](#) was the first elected president of the reunified Yemen. Since the 1990s, the [Houthis](#) (an armed [Zaydi](#) group) has attempted to establish Zaydi [Shia](#) principles in the country^[10].

[Yemen – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[The World Factbook](#)