

# UAE Deeply Involved in Yemen Despite Claims of Withdrawal: Expert

SANA’A (Dispatches) – While Saudi Arabia has taken the bulk of criticism for its role in war-torn Yemen, experts say the United Arab Emirates (UAE) remains deeply involved in the impoverished country despite claims of disengagement.

The UAE announced in October that it had ended its military involvement in Yemen, but four months later, those documenting the war have insisted otherwise. From strategic islands to air and sea ports, military bases and militias, the UAE is accused of being heavily active in the war.

Justin Russel, head of the New York Center for Foreign Policy Affairs (NYCFPA) think-tank, which is levying a lawsuit against the U.S. State Department over a now-paused arms deal to the UAE, told Middle East Eye that his organization has documented continued Emirate involvement in Yemen.

“The UAE, either in the spotlight or under the radar, continues to be an aggressor in the region,” Russel said.

“The UAE’s withdrawal announcement drew international attention away and basically took the rest of the world off the scent of what they are actually doing in the region... But in our research, there is still funding and other battlefield support from the UAE in Yemen on a regular basis,” he continued.

Described by the UN as “the world’s worst humanitarian crisis”, the conflict has displaced millions and nearly 250,000 people have been killed, mostly at the hands of the Saudi-led coalition, which includes the UAE as its main partner.

While the UAE and Saudi Arabia began their involvement in the country on the side of Yemen’s internationally recognized government,



*The Saudi-led conflict in Yemen has killed more than 250,000 people and brought the impoverished country to the brink of famine.*

in 2017 the Emirates took a slightly separate path, focusing on supporting the so-called Southern Transitional Council (STC).

In the latest development in the country, victory appears to be on the horizon in the heated battle for Yemen’s strategic central province of Ma’rib as army troops, backed by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have reportedly taken control of most areas there and dislodged Saudi-led coalition forces and Riyadh-backed militants from those regions.

A Yemeni military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Arabic service of Russia’s Sputnik news agency that Yemeni sol-

diers and their allies had encircled Ma’rib city, following weeks of fierce clashes with Saudi-led coalition forces and their mercenaries.

The source added that Yemeni forces had cut off the main supply route into the eastern flank of Ma’rib, which leads to the Arab country’s largest province of Hadhramaut.

Meanwhile, the governor of Yemen’s southern province of Aden has warned that the al-Qaeda-affiliated Salafist Islah Party is transferring Takfiri militants from southern areas to Ma’rib to join the ranks of Saudi-led coalition forces and Hadi loyalists in battles against Yemeni soldiers and their allies.

## Rockets Hit Baghdad’s Green Zone, Draw Ire From Officials

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least two rocket attacks hit Baghdad’s so-called Green Zone, where the U.S. Embassy is located, the Iraqi military said on Monday.

The Green Zone hosts foreign embassies and government buildings and is regularly the target of rockets fired.

One of newly launched rockets reportedly fell within the borders of the high-security zone, while the others landed in surrounding residential neighborhoods.

No casualties were reported and no group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Senior Iraqi officials and

Kata’ib Hezbollah resistance group, which is part of the Popular Mobilization Units, denounced the rocket attack, blaming rouge elements for the “unjustifiable” assault.

“We strongly condemn the resumption of attacks on diplomatic centers and spread of terror among the residents of Baghdad,” Hadi al-Amiri, the head of the Fatah (Conquest) Alliance in Iraq’s parliament, said in a statement.

Kata’ib Hezbollah’s military spokesman Jaafar al-Husseini also called the rocket attack on the high-security Green Zone of Baghdad an attempt to foment unrest in Iraq.

Furthermore, influential Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called on the Baghdad government to take proper actions to stop attacks on diplomatic missions.

Additionally, the leader of the National Wisdom Movement (al-Hikma), Ammar al-Hakim, deplored attacks on diplomatic missions, especially in the Green Zone in the center of Baghdad.

He said those individuals who launch such assaults are not concerned about the dire consequences of their actions, which tarnish the reputation of Iraq, damage the prestige of the government in the global public

opinion, and endanger the lives of people residing in the nearby areas.

Qais al-Khazali, leader of Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, which is also part of the PMU, also slammed the rocket attack on Baghdad’s Green Zone.

It was the third attack over the past few days to target western diplomatic, military or commercial buildings in Iraq, after months of a relative lull in violence.

On 15 February, a contractor was killed and at least nine other people, including a U.S. trooper, were injured in a rocket attack on a military base used by U.S. forces in Erbil, Iraq.

### Iran ... (Continued From Page One)

two cascades of even more advanced centrifuges at its nuclear enrichment facilities.

On Monday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Iran would refuse to capitulate U.S. pressure over its nuclear program. Ayatollah Khamenei said that Iran could enrich uranium up to 60% purity if necessary, but reiterated that the country forbids nuclear weapons.

“That international Zionist clown has said they won’t allow Iran to produce nuclear weapons. First of all, if we had any such intention, even those more powerful than him wouldn’t be able to stop us,” the Leader said, in an apparent reference to Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

### South Korea... (Continued From Page One)

in South Korea and \$3 billion in Japan.

Iranian officials have sought ways of setting up channels to allow Tehran to use the funds blocked in Japan and South Korea to buy humanitarian goods.

The United States reimposed sanctions on Iran in 2018 after then President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal with six major powers.

Earlier this month, a South Korean foreign ministry official said Seoul was finalizing talks with Washington about using some of the frozen funds to pay Tehran’s UN dues in arrears.

In the past, South Korea has claimed it was seeking to use the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA) channel to pay back Iran’s debt through Swiss companies’ sales of goods to Iran, but the plans have remained on shelves so far.

Iranian officials have said that South Korea alone is holding between \$7 billion and \$10 billion in oil payments.

The government released a separate statement on the deal, quoting Hemmati saying it would continue to demand compensation from South Korean banks.

“The South Korean side needs to make a lot of efforts to erase this negative record,” he added.

Teheran was a key oil supplier to resource-poor South Korea un-

til Washington’s rules blocked the purchases.

### UK... (Continued From Page One)

The Omani activist Khalfan Al-Badawi, for example, has written about the way in which he was detained and tortured after satirizing the decision of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said to airlift horses to London for Queen Elizabeth II’s diamond jubilee celebrations in 2012.

The report is the first of a week-long series of articles that Declassified UK is planning to publish highlighting the British royal family’s activities in the Middle East.

The website calculates that the UK taxpayer has spent at least £1.4m on royal tours of the Middle East since 2011.

The true figure is likely to be higher, it notes, as records only disclose trips that cost more than £10,000.

However, Prince Charles’ overnight visit to Oman following the death of Qaboos cost £210,000.

The details of what is said during these meetings are not disclosed: the British royal family’s archives remain secret and many government files about the visit are withheld from the country’s national archives.

U.S. diplomatic cables made public by WikiLeaks underlined the importance of royal links as tools of UK and Middle Eastern foreign policy.

One cable from 2006 noted that a visit to Riyadh by Prince Charles in March that year, and a follow-up visit by then foreign secretary Jack Straw, had helped ease tensions created by the imprisonment and torture of five British citizens between 2001 and 2003, and criminal investigations in the UK into British Aerospace weapons sales to Saudi Arabia.

During the first visit, the cable said, “members of the two royal families spoke at length about their respective family members and traditions allowing the House of Saud and the House of Windsor [to] build upon their royal commonality.

“With the arrest cases and fraud investigation largely behind them, HMG [Her Majesty’s Government] is trying hard to improve relations with Saudi Arabia.

“At stake is the renewal of the al-Yamamah project to which British Aerospace’s fortunes in the kingdom are largely tied”.

### The Day ... (Continued From Page One)

*women before me because Asiya bint Muzahem (the monotheist wife of the Egyptian tyrant Pharaoh) worshipped Allah secretly in a place that was not meant for the worship of Allah except when necessary. Maryam bint Imran (the Virgin Mary whom God had commanded to leave the sacred precincts of Bayt al-Moqaddas as the birth of Prophet Jesus neared) shook a dry palm tree and ate ripe dates, but I entered the Holy House of Allah and I ate the food of Paradise.”*

*Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), who had not yet been commanded by God to declare the universal mission of Islam, stepped forward to take his cousin in his Oarms from his aunt and virtual mother.*

*Only God knows what transpired between the two cousins when their eyes met with smiles on their lips but definitely, Divine Providence had decided on the final cleansing of the Holy Ka’ba by these two illustrious offspring of Abraham.*

*No wonder the Prophet used to say: “O Ali your position is like that of the Ka’ba.”* (Kunooz al-Haqa’eq)

*What could be written of a person, the praise of whom the celestial angels chant and the writing of whose merits exhausts ink and paper!*

*Born in the House of God, and martyred while in communion with his Creator in the Grand Mosque of Kufa (also a House of God), with face turned towards that very site of his birth (the Holy Ka’ba), every single moment of the 63-year life of Imam Ali (AS), was dedicated to and spent in the service of Islam.*

*Without the least doubt, the legacy of Imam Ali (AS) that transcends history and historical developments continues to glow as a mirror of Divine attributes for the guidance of mankind.*

*To be more precise, the 13<sup>th</sup> Rajab is the day of coming into the transient world of the Barometer of Belief, the Fulcrum of Faith, the Paragon of Piety, the Paradigm of Patience, the Key of Knowledge, the Wizard of Wisdom, the Touchstone of Truth, the Criterion of Courage, the Model of Magnanimity, the Mirror of Munificence, the Epitome of Eloquence, and the Indicator of Justice. Imam Ali (AS), as administrator of the only instance in history of the rule of social justice, has left lasting statements of guidance for all humanity, whether Muslim or not, as is evident by the tribute paid to him by scholars of various creeds, including the Christian George Jordaq, who has written several volumes, comparing the Imam’s excellence over philosophers, beginning from the Greeks and up to the French Revolution, and calling him “The Voice of Human Justice”.*

## Hamas: Zionist Regime’s Demolition of Palestinian Homes Is War Crime

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas says the Zionist regime’s demolition of Palestinian homes and displacing women and children is “a war crime” that should be punished under international law.

In a press release on Monday, Hamas lambasted as “a war crime” the occupying regime’s persisting campaign of demolishing Palestinian homes in the occupied East al-Quds and displacing their occupants, including women and children.

The resistance movement said the action is “punishable under international law, which stipulates the provision of protection and assistance for the population under occupation,” the Palestinian Information Center re-

ported.

The Zionist regime’s “policy of emptying al-Quds of its people and imposing Judaization on the city will fail, and al-Quds will remain the capital of Palestine, bearing its Arab and Islamic identity,” the resistance movement stressed.

The occupying regime has frequently demolished Palestinian homes, while at the same time expanded its settlements for Zionists in occupied Palestinian territories, which are all illegal under international law.

The Israeli rights group B’Tselem said last month that the regime had demolished 729 Palestinian buildings in 2020 on the pretext of lacking construction permits.

## Egypt, Qatar Hold First Meeting Since Accord Ending Row

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Delegations from Qatar and Egypt met in Kuwait on Tuesday for the first time since an agreement last month to end a rift, Qatar’s foreign ministry said, in a further push to bury a diplomatic feud with repercussions around the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt agreed in January at a summit in Saudi’s al-Ula to restore diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Doha, which had been severed in

2017 over accusations that Qatar supported terrorism, a charge it denies.

Qatar on Monday similarly met a delegation from the United Arab Emirates in Kuwait for their first bilateral talks.

“The two sides welcomed measures each has taken since signing the al-Ula statement, as a step on the path of building confidence between the two fraternal countries,” the statement said.

Since the agreement, air and travel links have resumed between Qatar and the four states. Each state is to arrange bilateral talks with Qatar to resolve individual issues.

Bahrain’s foreign ministry said last month it had written to Qatar inviting Doha to send a delegation to Bahrain to start bilateral talks to implement the al-Ula agreement. Qatar has not yet responded, Bahrain’s foreign minister has said.