
Key Names and Organizations

General People's Congress (GPC)

- Northern-based ruling party of united Yemen
- Current leader: Yemeni President **Ali Abdullah Saleh**, who had led party since its founding in 1982
- Presumed successor: the president's son, **Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh**
- Rival to succeed the president: **Gen. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar**, military commander and member of Saleh's local Hashid tribe from Sanhan near Sanaa. Al-Ahmar also tied to Islamic groups
- Current vice president: **Abdo-Rabo Mansour Hadi**, formerly of the southern YSP before an intra-regime battle in Aden in 1986 caused him to leave into exile

Islah (Reform)

- Northern-based Islamic opposition party
- Led by **Sheikh Abdullah Hussayn al-Ahmar** from its founding after unification in 1990 until his death in 2007; Sheikh al-Ahmar also led Saleh's Hashid tribe. Tribal leadership has passed to al-Ahmar's son, Sadeq
- Interim leader **Muhammad al-Yadumi**; other key figures include Sheikh al-Ahmar's son, **Hamid Abdullah al-Ahmar**; and president of Iman University **Sheikh Abdul-Magid al-Zindani**, who has long associated with Islamic militant movements and was linked in the past to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)

- Former southern ruling party and partner in unity with GPC
- Led by **Ali Salem al-Beidh**, who served as vice president of Yemen until a 1994 war with Saleh forced him into exile; other YSP members in exile include former prime minister **Haider al-Attas**, and former southern president **Ali Nasser Muhammad**, who fled South Yemen in 1986 after clashing with a faction led by al-Beidh
- Currently led by the secretary general of the party inside Yemen, **Dr. Yasin Said Noman**

The "Southern Movement"

- Loosely organized regional opposition in southern provinces
- Initially started by retired southern army general **Nasir Ali an-Nuba**, but currently serves as a political umbrella for multiple southern opposition groups, some who claim former YSP leader and vice president **Ali Salem al-Beidh** as the champion of their cause. The movement was joined in 2009 by **Sheikh Tareq al-Fadhli**, a former southern ally of President Saleh in the GPC

Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP)

- Local branch of the international terrorist group
- Led by **Nasser al-Wahayshi**, presumed to operate in the northern province of Marib

Al-Huthi Rebellion

- Armed northern Zaydi religious opposition
- Led by **Sheikh Abdul-Malik Badreddin al-Huthi**, who took charge after his older brother Hussayn was killed by the Yemeni army in 2004