

Treasury Targets Houthi Leaders Involved in Smuggling and Procuring Weapons

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is taking action against seven high-ranking members of Ansarallah, commonly known as the Houthis. These individuals have smuggled military-grade items and weapon systems into Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and also negotiated Houthi weapons procurements from Russia. OFAC is also designating one Houthi-affiliated operative and his company that have recruited Yemeni civilians to fight on behalf of Russia in Ukraine and generated revenue to support the Houthis' militant operations.

HOUTHİ POLITICAL AND MILITANT FIGURES

Houthi political operatives, including some of the group's most prominent members, have sought new sources of advanced weapons, military grade materiel, and foreign support to drive attacks. **Mohammad Abdulsalam** (Abdulsalam) is the Houthis' Oman-based spokesman and has played a key role in managing the Houthis' internal and external financing network. Abdulsalam has also facilitated the Houthis' efforts to secure weapons and other support from Russia. As part of this effort, Abdulsalam has traveled to Moscow to meet with Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel and has coordinated with Russian military personnel to arrange for additional Houthi delegations to visit Russia.

Eshaq Abdulmalek Abdullah Almarwani (Almarwani) is a high-ranking Houthi operative and aide to Abdulsalam. Almarwani has participated in high-level Houthi delegations to Russia for discussions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow and has coordinated with other high-ranking Houthi operatives to advance Houthi interests internationally.

Mahdi Mohammed Hussein Al-Mashat (Al-Mashat) is the Chairman of the Houthi-aligned Supreme Political Council (SPC). As SPC Chairman, Al-Mashat has worked to increase cooperation between the Houthis and the Government of Russia, including with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Also, Al-Mashat issues official statements on behalf of the Houthis outlining the group's militant and diplomatic positions.

Mohamed Ali Al-Houthi (Mohamed Ali) is an important operative within the Houthi group, serving as a member of the SPC and former chairman of the SPC's predecessor, the Supreme Revolutionary Committee. Amid the Houthis' ongoing maritime attack campaign, Mohamed Ali has communicated with officials from Russia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) to ensure that Houthi militants do not strike Russian or PRC vessels transiting the Red Sea. Speaking on behalf of the Houthis, Mohamed Ali has outlined the Houthis' commitment to guarantee safe passage for Russian vessels. Mohamed Ali has also planned travel to Russia with other Houthi militant and intelligence operatives to discuss Russian aid to the Houthis.

Ali Muhammad Muhsin Salih Al-Hadi (Al-Hadi) is the head of the Houthi-aligned Sanaa Chamber of Commerce (SCC), having served in this role since the Houthis raided and took control of the SCC in May 2023. Following his appointment to the SCC, Al-Hadi became a key financier of Houthi weapons procurement, using his position on the SCC and shell company to fund and obfuscate purchases of military-grade equipment on behalf of the Houthis. As part of this effort, he has traveled to Russia to secure defense equipment for Houthi militants and investment in Houthi-controlled industries.

Abdulmalek Abdullah Mohammed E Alagri (Alagri) is a senior Houthi operative. Alagri has traveled as a member of prominent Houthi political and military delegations to Moscow, where he has represented Houthi interests in meetings with high-ranking Russian officials, as well as to the PRC. Alagri has also issued official statements on behalf of the Houthis describing the group's efforts to counter international economic pressure against Houthi-aligned banking institutions in Yemen.

Khaled Hussein Saleh Gaber (Gaber) is a Houthi operative who has traveled on Houthi delegations to Russia, where he has participated in meetings with Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. Gaber also maintains a close relationship with Houthi financial official Said Al-Jamal and coordinates illicit procurement and finance activities with Al-Jamal's network.

RECRUITMENT OF YEMENIS TO FIGHT FOR RUSSIA

Houthi leaders have devised numerous revenue-generating schemes to enable their attack campaign, often at the expense of Yemen's most vulnerable populations. In one such effort, individuals acting on behalf of the Houthis operated a lucrative human smuggling operation, recruiting Yemeni civilians to fight for Russia in Ukraine, often under false and misleading pretenses.

Abdulwali Abdoh Hasan Al-Jabri (Al-Jabri), a Houthi militant operative who served as a so-called major general in the Houthi militia, facilitated a key part of this effort using his company, **Al-Jabri General Trading and Investment Co** (Al-Jabri Co). Through Al-Jabri Co, Al-Jabri facilitated the transfer of Yemeni civilians to Russian military units fighting in Ukraine in exchange for cash, generating a new source of revenue on behalf of Houthi leaders.

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated persons described above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons is/are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked.

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