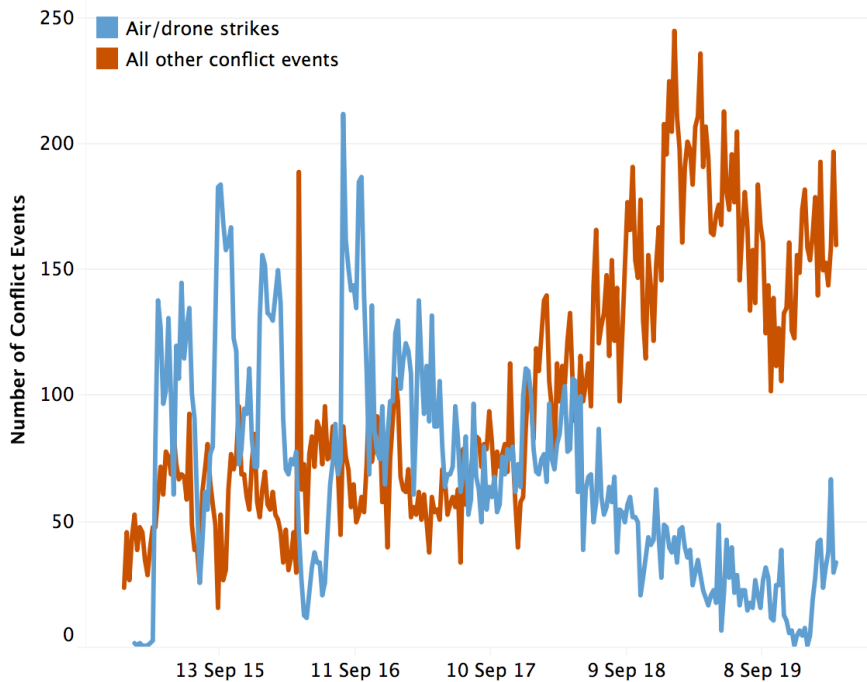


**22-28
MAR
2020**

**CONFLICT
ESCALATION IN**

YEMEN

On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Saudi-led air campaign, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Yemen's warring parties to suspend hostilities to prepare for a COVID-19 outbreak. This comes as Yemen enters a new spiral of escalating conflict, characterized by renewed ground clashes and an intensification of coalition air strikes and Houthi missile attacks.

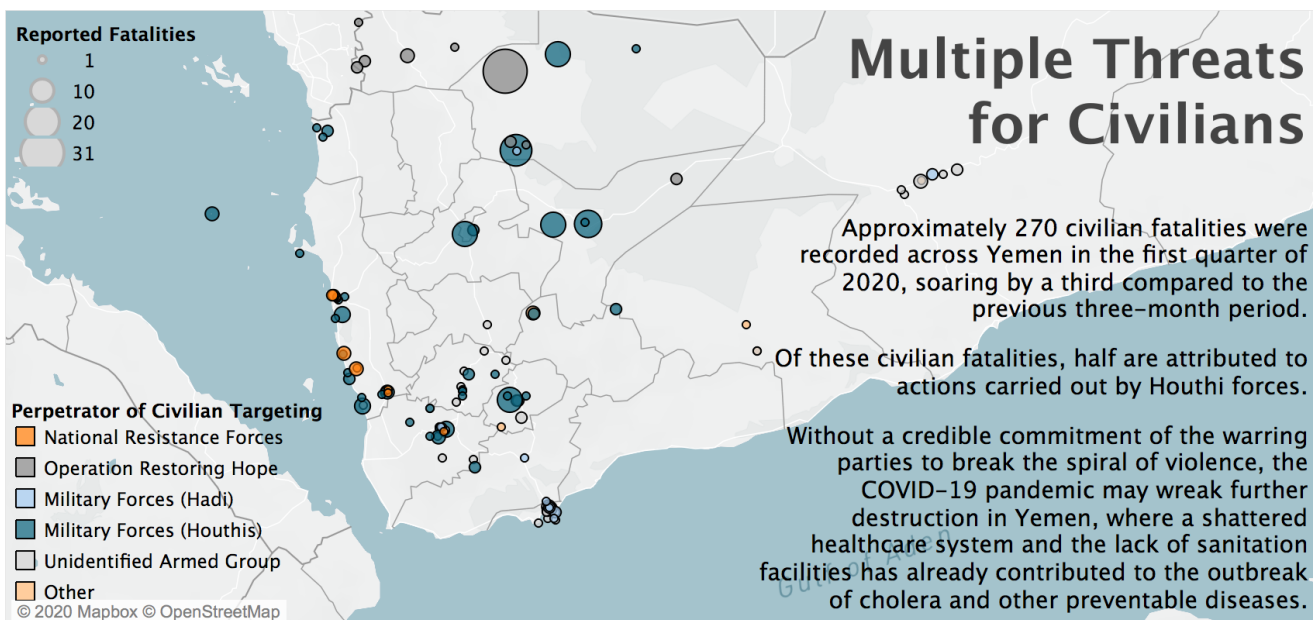


Rising Violence

In late 2019, de-escalation efforts succeeded in bringing Yemen to one of its 'quietest periods' since the start of the conflict.

However, following a suspected Houthi missile attack on government forces east of the capital Sana'a last January, fighting has flared up across northern Yemen, as Houthi forces advanced in Al Jawf and Marib governorates.

Despite both Houthi and anti-Houthi forces agreeing to a ceasefire on 26 March, fierce clashes erupted in Marib over the following days, accompanied by a barrage of air and drone strikes.



**Multiple Threats
for Civilians**

Approximately 270 civilian fatalities were recorded across Yemen in the first quarter of 2020, soaring by a third compared to the previous three-month period.

Of these civilian fatalities, half are attributed to actions carried out by Houthi forces.

Without a credible commitment of the warring parties to break the spiral of violence, the COVID-19 pandemic may wreak further destruction in Yemen, where a shattered healthcare system and the lack of sanitation facilities has already contributed to the outbreak of cholera and other preventable diseases.



ACLED is the highest quality, real-time, and widely used data and analysis source on political violence and protest in the developing world. Practitioners, researchers and governments depend on ACLED for the latest reliable information on current conflict and disorder patterns. Data, analysis and process details are found on acleddata.com.

© 2020 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). All rights reserved.