

# Yemen conflict raises regional tensions

The conflict between Yemeni troops and Houthi rebels belonging to the Zaidi sect – a branch of Shia Islam in the mainly Sunni country – is spreading, with Yemen accusing Iran of supporting the rebels, and the Houthis accusing Saudi Arabia of backing the Yemeni government

## SAUDI ARABIA

Fears al Qaeda is exploiting instability in Yemen to establish stronger base for operations in region



**Nov 5, Jizan region:** Saudi forces launch assault on Yemeni rebels after cross-border incursion that killed Saudi officer

**Saudi fighter jets and artillery enforcing 10km-deep buffer zone inside Yemen**

**Saudi naval blockade**

Areas of fighting  
Areas with displaced people

150km  
90 miles

SAADA

JAWF

Sanaa

AMRAN

HAJJAH

Y E M E N

Aden

Gulf of Aden

ERITREA

ETHIOPIA

DJIBOUTI



**Houthis:** Claim they are fighting discrimination in Yemen and deny receiving support from Iran

**Government:** President **Ali Abdullah Saleh**, who stepped up military campaign against Houthis in August, also facing secessionist movement in south and increased presence of al Qaeda