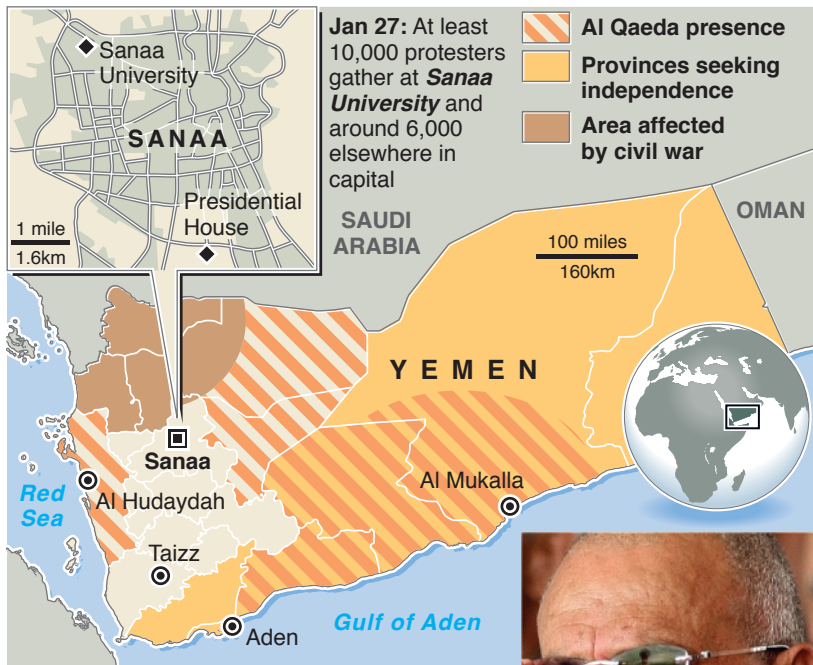


# Thousands rally against government in Yemen

Tens of thousands of Yemenis are calling for an end to the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in demonstrations across the capital inspired by the recent popular revolt in Tunisia



► President **Ali Abdullah Saleh**, 64, has been in power for nearly 32 years

► Has tried to defuse tensions by raising army salaries and denying opponents' claims that he plans to install his son, **Ahmed**, as his successor

► Nearly half of Yemen's population lives below poverty line of \$2 a day. Tens of thousands have been displaced by conflict

► Government is riddled with corruption and has little control outside capital. Its main source of income – oil – could run dry in a decade

► Proposals to abolish presidential term limits could allow Saleh to stay in office for life



**Saleh ruled North Yemen** from 1978 until it merged with **South Yemen** in 1990, when he became president of unified country