




# Yemen on brink amid senior defections

A succession of resignations by senior members of Yemen's ruling elite has increased pressure on President Ali Abdullah Saleh to end his 32-year rule. Clashes between soldiers siding with protesters and those still loyal to Saleh have heightened fears of civil war



◀ **Ali Abdullah Saleh**, 64, ruler of **North Yemen** from 1978 and unified country from 1990. Says he will stand down by end of this year

-  *Al Qaeda presence*
-  *Provinces seeking independence*
-  *Area affected by civil war*

**Sanaa, Mar 18:**  
52 protesters shot dead

SAUDI ARABIA

OMAN

100 miles  
160km

*Hadramawt*

Y E M E N



**Al Mukalla, Mar 22:** Clashes between army and elite Republican Guard – two reported dead

**Aden:** Governor **Ahmed Qaatabi** resigns

*Gulf of Aden*

◀ Opposition coalition, led by **Yassin Noman**, rejects offer of early elections



◀ Sheikh **Abdel-Majid al-Zindani** – spiritual leader of Islamic party **Islah** – on U.S. list of terrorists

General **Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar**, commander of northwestern region, backed by Saleh's **Hashid** tribe as possible replacement, defected with most of brigade. Also defected: General **Mohammed Ali Mohsen** (eastern), General **Nasser Ali Shuayb** (Hadramawt) and General **Faisal Rajab** (Lahij province)