

# UN says Yemen sliding towards civil war

The UN has warned that Yemen is on the brink of civil war, as Shia rebels moved to finalize their takeover of the Arab nation. The U.S., UK and France are closing their embassies due to the political turmoil

## TIMELINE OF YEMEN'S INSTABILITY

■ **2011:** Arab Spring protests erupt across Yemen, raising hopes of end to over 30 years of autocratic rule by President **Ali Abdullah Saleh** (right)

■ **2012:** Saleh steps down in favour of his deputy – **Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi** (far right) – but continues to wield considerable power

■ **2012-13:** Government beset by internal tensions, allowing peripheral groups to vie for control – Shiite **Houthi** rebels in north, and separatist movement and **Al Qaeda** in south

■ **July 2013:** U.S. steps up drone strikes against Al Qaeda in Yemen

■ **2014:** Government proposal to divide country into six federal states opposed by Houthis, who instead back separatist plan for two regions



■ **Sep 2014:** Houthi rebels overrun capital, **Sanaa**. UN-brokered peace deal provides for rebel withdrawal and formation of new government

■ **Jan 2015:** Houthis reject draft of new constitution. Hadi government resigns in protest

■ **Feb:** Houthis proclaim government takeover and establishment of transitional five-member council to end Yemen's power vacuum

## Approximate areas of control: As of Jan 30, 2015

Regime
  Houthi
  Separatist
  Al Qaeda presence

