



Defeat for the U.S. and Saudi Arabia – Iran's Allies Advance

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Dimitri Lascaris: Good day, this is Dimitri Laskaris coming to you from Greece for Reason2Resist on September 11th, 2026. Within the past two days, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the United States have suffered humiliating defeats on the ground in Yemen. And unless they can somehow reverse those defeats, the forces of Ansar Allah will maintain a vice grip of control over the vitally important Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a far greater degree of control than it has been able to maintain thus far. In this report, we'll share footage of Ansar Allah's dramatic military advances and we'll also discuss increasing turmoil in global energy markets. Before we begin, please remember to like and share this video if you find it to be informative and do become a subscriber of Reason2Resist. We warmly encourage you, if you are not already a subscriber, to help us to expand the reach of our unapologetic, on-the-ground, resistance journalism. So with that, let's get into it.

First off, it's important to understand why the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is so crucial to the global economy. And I'm putting up here on the screen a map detail published today by the BBC, which shows the Red Sea, the strait in the lower left-hand quadrant of the map. And there, right at the northern tip of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on the coast of Yemen, lies the port city of Mokha. And then you'll see on the right side, the lower right-hand quadrant is the Arabian Sea. And through this passage, a huge amount of maritime shipping passes from North America and particularly Europe to markets in Southeast Asia, which are, of course, enormous markets. Named the Gate of Tears for its perilous navigation conditions, the strait at the southern end of the Red Sea is located between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea on the African coast. The strait lies on the opposite side of the peninsula to the Strait of Hormuz, which is obviously the exit point from the Persian Gulf. Now the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is 29 kilometers wide at its narrowest point, limiting traffic to two channels for inbound and outbound shipments divided by the Yemeni island of Perim, P-E-R-I-M, or in Arabic, Mayyun. To the north of Perim lie the Hanish Islands, positioned between the port cities of Hodeidah and Mokha, giving whoever controls the islands a commanding view over approaching vessels. And here I've put a more detailed map of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. And that red dot you see in the center is the island of Perim. So you can see that it is extraordinarily important in terms of controlling maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. And then further up in the upper left-hand quadrant of this map detail, you can see the Hanish Islands in the Red Sea.

Now, Ansar Allah has long controlled the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, which they have used as a base for their broader campaign of attacks on Red Sea shipping. In the past 24 hours, Ansar Allah have not only seized Mokha to the south, they have also seized Perim Island and possibly the Hanish Islands as well. So, which shipments pass through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait? Well, the strait is one of the world's most important routes for global seaborne commodity and goods shipments, particularly from Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal. It's also a vital point for traffic from the Suez Mediterranean pipeline on Egypt's Red Sea coast, as well as commodities bound for Asia, including Russian oil. It serves as the southern gateway to the Suez Canal, meaning ships must pass through it to access the canal from the south. Disruption of shipping in the strait forces vessels to reroute around the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa, adding weeks and considerable costs to what would otherwise be a straightforward journey. According to Kepler, a complete closure of the Bab el-Mandeb strait would disrupt about 7.4 million barrels of oil per day, representing roughly 7 % of global oil production, and that would be on top of the other major oil disruptions we are seeing in the region of West Asia thanks to this criminal war of aggression on Iran.

Yemen's Red Sea port city of Mokha is quite possibly the most important city that had been held up until now by Saudi-backed forces in Yemen. It's also a UNESCO World Heritage List contender, the birthplace of the coffee trade and a geostrategic prize situated just 60 to 80 kilometers from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The Houthis – although I shouldn't call them the Houthis, really, they are the forces of Ansar Allah – they shattered the stronghold's defenses in a mere week, launching a rapid coordinated ground offensive on September 3rd surrounding the city and cutting off enemy logistics and reinforcement routes. And we've been reporting on the advances on Mokha for quite some time, and despite the corporate media's studious efforts to avoid what has been happening on the ground in this region, we were predicting that the forces in Mokha, the Saudi-backed forces, might well be forced to retreat because of the impressive victories of Ansar Allah as they approach the port city. Now, the Ansar Allah forces entered Mokha itself yesterday, September 10th, and ahead of the advance fighters spent much of August bombarding key port targets and crippling its operations. Before Saudi-backed forces retreated from Mokha, Mokha's defending forces were considered amongst the most elite, disciplined, and well-equipped of the Saudi-backed forces in all of Yemen. They were paid directly by the Gulf monarchies and were armed with tanks, howitzers and anti-missile batteries. The Saudi-backed forces in the Mokha area numbered, according to reports I've seen, about 50,000 men, and their defense of the city crumbled rapidly and ended in an ignominious and hasty retreat, much of which reminds one of the debacle when US forces made a hasty retreat from Afghanistan back in late 2021. Now, as they left in a hurry, the Saudi-backed forces left behind them some US-supplied military equipment such as this.

Now, that vehicle appears to be a US-made Oshkosh M-ATV or all-terrain vehicle. The website of the Oshkosh manufacturing company describes it as "purpose-built to protect personnel against roadside bombs, mines, and ambush threats". These vehicles, it says, feature "V-haul designs, ballistic glass, and blast attenuating seats to maximize survivability".

I imagine that the forces of Ansar Allah will be able to make good use of these prizes, these war trophies. Now, reports suggest that up to three-fold brigades of Saudi-backed forces, with their complete equipment, surrendered to Ansar Allah's forces as they approached the city. And here's a video of what is reportedly many of those captured troops. You can see in that video, the vast majority of the soldiers there were dressed in obviously military fatigues and the vast majority of them don't appear to be carrying any weapons indicating that they have been disarmed. Now there is also a video of Ansar Allah's entry into the port city of Mokha itself. Here's a video of the Ansar Allah forces on the outskirts of the city about to enter. Another dramatic video has emerged of Ansar Allah's capture of a prison in which opponents of the Saudi-backed regime were being held and here is that video. Unfortunately, I don't have a translation of those comments, and I don't myself speak Arabic, but if people who are watching this and who do speak Arabic want to enlighten us as to what they were saying in the comments, we certainly encourage you to do so.

Now, militarily speaking, what does Ansar Allah's seizure of Mokha mean? The port city's capture puts on Salah's artillery and shorter range drones within striking distance of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, meaning those forces no longer have to use costlier missiles and UAVs to target Saudi shipping in and around the Strait. In addition, the seizure of Mokha deprives defenders in Taizz, Yemen's third largest city, of their main logistics artery, leaving them semi-isolated and vulnerable to encirclement. Ansar Allah's capture of Mokha cripples the Saudi-backed regime's ability to disrupt Sana'a's modest foreign resupply corridors. Another way to put that is that it greatly complicates the Saudi-backed regime's and Saudi Arabia's ability, to impose the criminal inhumane blockade that it has inflicted with the full support of the West and other Gulf autocracies on Yemen for more than a decade causing what was in effect the conditions of genocide. So it may be at the end of the day that Saudi Arabia will be forced, whether it wants to or not, to lift that blockade, which is the core demand of Yemen in the most recent round of fighting.

With Mokha captured, Ansar Allah's forces are now a 45-kilometer drive to Dhubab on the south. This is the last Red Sea coastal town still in control of Saudi-backed forces. Energized by the collapse of enemy defenses around Mokha, Ansar Allah's forces have now seized Perim Island as well. This island, I think, can properly be characterized as the crown jewel of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, as I just showed you on that map. I'll put it back up on the screen. It is situated right in the middle of this vital waterway it separates the Bab el-Mandeb Strait into two channels, a 26 kilometer wide deep water western one and a shallower three kilometer wide eastern one. If Ansar Allah can maintain control over the 13-square kilometer island, it will mean Ansar Allah's de facto control over the Red Sea. Ansar Allah's forces have also reportedly completed the seizure of the Hanish archipelago, about 75 to 100 nautical miles to the north, as you can see there in green in the upper left-hand quadrant of this map. And the major islands of the Hanish archipelago are Zuqar, Greater Anish and Little Anish. Control of both Perim and the Hanish Islands effectively means Ansar Allah has total supremacy over the Bab el-Mandeb Strait from both ends, allowing for defense in depth and total monitoring of the entire area. In other words, it will be much harder, if not impossible, for large ships to slip through Ansar Allah's monitoring and enforcement of this area. And at

the time of publication, this blockade that Ansar Allah has declared is limited only to Saudi shipping, and particularly Saudi oil tankers. But once they have consolidated their control over the southern Red Sea, basically all maritime traffic will be subject to the will of Ansar Allah. And if at some point in time they decide they want to start charging tolls in order to rebuild their devastated country, who's going to stop them, frankly? The United States and the whole of NATO in, I think it was called Operation Prosperity Garden, or some nonsense like that, utterly failed to stop Ansar Allah attacks on Red Sea shipping. And then there was a further attempt by the Trump regime and as we've reported on this program and many others have as well, the US Navy was forced to retreat in an ignominious manner from the Red Sea while leaving the genocidal Israeli entity subject to ongoing attacks by Ansar Allah in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Now, Perim and the Hanish Islands are so important that I doubt very much that Saudi Arabia, the other Gulf autocracies in the United States, will simply allow Ansar Allah uncontested control of these islands. At a bare minimum, one would expect given their past depravity – and they have absolutely no basis in international law to do this, none whatsoever, it's pure aggression – I expect at a bare minimum they're going to bomb these islands relentlessly to at least prevent Ansar Allah from consolidating its control there and building up its military defenses. Now, the question then arises will they go further than that and attempt some kind of amphibious landing? Frankly, I find that to be highly implausible. They can't even hold the major port city of Mokha. Will they be so daring as to attempt an amphibious landing on these to retake control of them? I really doubt that. And if they do, it would very likely result in yet another humiliation for the United States and its proxies in the region. But whether one or more of them will attempt an amphibious landing and risk another humiliating ground defeat, the fact of the matter is that this is an extraordinary change of circumstances on the ground in Yemen and in the Red Sea. And one which could easily have very significant consequences for the entire global economy. Finally, reports also suggest that the Ansar Allah forces have advanced beyond Mokha, further south along the Red Sea coast, and they are either fighting for or on the verge of taking that Red Sea coastal town of Dhubab that I mentioned, the last coastal city held by back forces along the Red Sea. And if the latter reports are accurate, this could mean the total collapse of enemy forces along the entire Western Front in Yemen.

Not only has Ansar Allah inflicted humiliating defeats on Saudi-backed forces in Yemen, it has also escalated its attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure. And a video was just published of new fires burning at the all-important Saudi Aramco refinery complex in Jazan, Saudi Arabia, which lies on the Red Sea coast of the country, just north of the border with Yemen. And here is that video. Not only has Ansar Allah struck the Jazan refinery again, but perhaps even more importantly, the Sentinel-3 satellite has captured a huge plume of smoke about 100 kilometers long rising from the vicinity of Saudi's strategically important east-west oil pipeline. Here is a report, just hours ago in the Gulf news: Saudi oil pipeline may be hit as Houthi attacks escalate. That image is the satellite image from Sentinel-3 and you can see that huge black plume right to the east of Yanbu. Yanbu is in the upper left-hand quadrant – near the edge of this satellite image, the word Yanbu is written, and that is where the east-west

pipeline ends, and that is the port through which millions of barrels of Saudi oil per day are exported in normal times. And here is the first ground level image that I've been able to find of that massive plume of smoke rising from Saudi Arabia's east-west crude pipeline. This was captured within the past 24 hours. You can see it is truly enormous, suggesting that there has been a lot of oil burning in that area. And although, as far as I can tell, Ansar Allah has not claimed responsibility for this attack, if in fact the oil pipeline has been sabotaged in some way and is now on fire, I think the most logical inference is that this was an attack by Ansar Allah, possibly using drones or maybe even ballistic missiles. Ansar Allah appears to have struck the all-important east-west pipeline on multiple points. There are also satellite images circulating showing fire anomalies along a significant stretch of that pipeline. In addition, a new video has emerged of the fires caused by attacks from Ansar Allah on the Jazan oil refinery earlier this week and here is that video footage. I just try to imagine how difficult it would be to get a fire like that under control. It probably would take days and considerable effort and risk on the part of firefighters. But that's not damage that you can hide from your critical infrastructure, obviously.

At the outset of this report, I stated that it's not only Saudi Arabia and the UAE that have suffered humiliating defeats in Yemen, but it's also the United States that has suffered a humiliating defeat. Why do I say that? Well, in part because of this report from CNN, published yesterday, I believe it was: More than 100 US Military advisors are on the ground in Saudi Arabia, according to CNN, "providing intelligence and targeting support to the kingdom in its military campaign against the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, multiple sources familiar with the efforts say. The assistance comes as fighting on the peninsula intensifies and risks spilling into open war with the Houthis, threatening a second major shipping corridor out of the Middle East. The US Military personnel are working as part of a newly established Joint Forces Command, which was formed in recent weeks amid signs Iran was ramping up its own efforts to aid Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, one of the sources, a US official said. That official put the total at roughly 200 troops". Now this is interesting for a number of reasons. First of all, they're using the phrase "Joint Forces Command", indicating that the US military is in a commanding role. They would undoubtedly want to portray the Saudis as their equal partners in this military misadventure, but anybody with a functioning brain and an ounce of objectivity knows that Saudi Arabia's military and dictatorship, they take orders from Washington. And although they may very well be consulting with senior Saudi military commanders, the Americans, taking their views into account, I think we can safely assume that insofar as the war on Yemen is concerned, the US has ultimately been calling the shots from day one and that that continues to be true. Because after all, the United States has a strategic interest in an open and unimpeded Bab el-Mandeb Strait, as do its European vassals. So with so much at stake, it is extremely unlikely that the Americans would allow themselves to be dictated to insofar as how this military campaign is being conducted, the ultimate objective of which has been and remains to this very day to wipe out any resistance to the domination of the region in Yemen by the United States. That's what this is all about. That is what all these wars in West Asia are about. It is about eliminating any and all resistance to US oligarchic hegemony over this vitally important region. This is the last gasp of the Western-based oligarchy to maintain its position of global dominance, as is, by the way, the

NATO proxy war on Russian Federation. The United States, at least insofar as the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is concerned, is failing yet again. And I can only imagine that in the longer run, this is going to serve to diminish considerably fear of the United States military and respect for its capabilities.

Let's move on, then, to a related question, and the related question is, what is the much-ballyhooed Mecca Defense Pact doing about all of this? Remember the Mecca Defense Pact announced at Mecca in Saudi Arabia with so much fanfare about six weeks ago, when the forces of Ansar Allah basically declared war on Saudi Arabia because the Saudis attacked in a criminal act of aggression the airport in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, and refused to lift this inhumane blockade. And according to the statement they put out – we've never seen an actual detailed agreement, they just put out a one-page statement or a two-page state that it might have been saying that under this new pact, an attack on one would be an attack on all. Well, I've seen absolutely no indication that Turkey is going to devote any military forces to the attempts to quell the resistance of Ansar Allah. None whatsoever, although the Turkish government has certainly used strong language to condemn the victims of Saudi aggression in Yemen. And Pakistan's government put out a statement in the last couple of days, which was couched as a warning – a warning addressed, of course, to Ansar Allah – but the reports are that the Pakistani military leadership and the Washington puppet regime in Pakistan, that they are taking the position that the Mecca Defense Pact is purely defensive in nature. Which means that at most they're going to beef up their presence on the ground in Saudi Arabia, not attack Yemen, not send forces into Yemen, not send naval forces into the Red Sea, which by the way Pakistan is not particularly capable of doing. It doesn't have a large sophisticated navy, but it appears to be taking the position that it would only become involved in the battle if Yemeni forces were to enter Saudi Arabia, and frankly I doubt that even then Pakistan would put a significant number of its own troops at risk. I would suggest that this is, and this has been our position from day one, nothing but what we refer to as Kabuki deterrence theater. This announcement was conjured up very hastily with no real agreement to back it up, no real intentions to back up and it was a kind of bluff that Saudi Arabia with the help of the Washington puppets in Ankara and Islamabad, they conjured it up to try to deter further attacks on Saudi Arabia by Ansar Allah and by Iran. Well, that didn't work, folks. And it's time to put your money where your mouth is, if you are a leader of Turkey or Pakistan. I hope they don't. I hope that they have the good sense to stay out of this fight and to be on the right side of history. But so far the indications are that they're going to more or less allow Saudi Arabia to deal with this debacle on its own.

As you can imagine, these developments have had a very considerable effect on the price of oil. The price of the oil has gone up even further. It actually went as high as \$109 a barrel of Brent crude within the past 24 hours, but for reasons that are not clear, as of about an hour ago, it settled down back at \$105.60. That was an almost 2 % decline from its peak within the past 24 hours. But this is still well above the level at which the price of Brent crude was situated when we did our last report two days ago. At that point, it was about \$101.50, I believe, maybe as high as \$102. So it is rising inexorably, and you can see here that this is by far the highest point, that \$109 peak would be by far the highest point for the price of Brent

crude in the past month. And in fact, you'd have to go back, I think, six or seven weeks to see the price of oil at that level. We've been saying throughout that time that the war was going to resume, the hot phases of the war, it was going to expand and the price of oil would soar again. And even though Saudi Arabia has suffered these defeats, as has the United States through its proxy Saudi Arabia, there is no indication whatsoever that the Saudis are going to lift this blockade and that they're going to stop bombing Yemen. So why would anybody think that the situation is going to improve from here?

And in connection with the price of oil, a very interesting article was published in the last couple of days in the Western corporate media also by OilPrice.com. *OPEC Sees Oil Demand Growth Explode Sixfold in 2027*. And this article published yesterday says "OPEC now expects global oil demand growth to jump from just 380,000 barrels per day this year to 2.36 million barrels per day in 2027, a more than sixfold increase in the space of a year. The cartel trimmed its 2026 demand growth forecast in its September monthly oil market report, putting total consumption for this year at 105.84 million barrels per day. For 2027, OPEC raised its forecast with global demand expected to reach 108.19 million barrels per day. So that would be an increase of 2.36 million barrels per day as compared to 2026. The swing is especially stark in China. OPEC expects Chinese oil demand to grow by only 10,000 barrels per day this year, leaving consumption essentially flat at 16.9 million barrels per day. In 2027, OPEC expects China to add 380,000 barrels per day, taking demand to 17.28 million barrels per day". And as you may know, if you've been watching this program, the Chinese oil importers dramatically reduced their demand during the most difficult part in the oil markets of this war of aggression on Iran. It's unclear why they did that. But in any case, those happy days are over for the Trump regime. China, it appears, is going to be increasing its consumption of oil. And that is undoubtedly going to contribute to upward pressure on the price of oil in 2027.

Now, in related news, Iran's military has published footage of its destruction of what is referred to as a US sail drone. And here is that video. Let's show it again, it's a very brief clip. So you can see there that this sail drone is on fire. And the sound that you hear in the background, I'm not sure what that is, but I believe that that is one of the Iranian navy's fast attack boats. So that would suggest that this sail drone, after having been identified by the Iranian military, was struck by a fast attack boat. And of course the attack boat hightailed it out of there after completing its mission because the longer it stays out in the water, the more vulnerable it is to attack by a US drone or warplane. So again, this comes on top of the seizure of an unmanned surface vessel, the latest model apparently of the US Navy's unmanned surface vessels. That vessel was captured intact. It has been displayed quite flamboyantly by the Iranian military and lots of informed speculation that the Iranians are likely to reverse engineer this and profit from the technology. They've done this in the past, they're very adept at it. And they also have a strategic partnership with Russia, pursuant to which the Russian and Iranian militaries share intelligence. So I can only imagine that the Russians will be afforded the opportunity to inspect this unmanned surface vessel and acquire a greater understanding of its capabilities. Perhaps also they will participate in the reverse engineering of this military hardware.

In other related news, Algeria has cut its ties to the Mossad operation masquerading as a country, that Mossad Operation being the United Arab Emirates. And here you can see a report published in Middle East Eye yesterday: *Algeria suspends diplomatic relations with UAE after months of tensions*. And the subheading is: "Algeria's president had previously called the gulf country a 'midget state' that was interfering in North Africa". And in a statement the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it had "warned the UAE over its hostile actions and had expended significant effort in drawing the attention of the Emirati side and warning it of the grave consequences that may result from its regrettable and unjustified behavior. Despite these numerous warnings, the United Arab Emirates has persisted in these actions, which have reached a point where they can no longer be considered acceptable or tolerable within the framework of relations between two sovereign states".

Finally, I'd like to comment on the announcement that was made earlier this week by the governments of the United Kingdom, France, and Canada that they were going to impose sanctions on settlers and those who profit from Israel's illegal West Bank settlements at some unspecified future date. And the announcement not only didn't give the date by which those sanctions would be imposed, they provided virtually no detail on what the exact sanctions would be. And I took the position when that announcement was made that it was just more performative theater that was designed to take pressure off of these governments to put a stop to the murderous rampage of the child-killing Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian territories. Well, after I took that position earlier this week, the world-renowned Israeli journalist Gideon Levy authored an op-ed in the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, in which he expressed essentially the same point of view. Here you can see the headline of his op-ed: *It's so easy when you know the rules. Britain is playing the same old sanctions game*. And in the body of his op-ed, he writes as follows: "Britain's decision to impose sanctions on the settlers provides the international community with a way to evade its responsibility. The world, which often deludes itself into believing that the source of all evil is Benjamin Netanyahu, must also remember that Netanyahu did not found the settlement enterprise. The entire Zionist enterprise stands behind the settlements and with it, the Zionist establishment throughout the world". I'll just pause there and repeat what I've said on prior programs. This settlement enterprise has been going on since 1967, long before Benjamin Netanyahu rose to power. It has been supported, perpetrated and deepened by one Israeli regime after another, and it has been not only tolerated, but facilitated by one Western government after another for almost 60 years. Why do you think these governments would all of a sudden now decide after 60 years of enabling the theft of Palestinian land and occupied territory, why would you think they're now serious about putting a stop to it?

Gideon Levy goes on and says: "In terms of efficacy, sanctioning settlers will be of no consequence. The settlers are far removed from world culture and nationalists believe Israel does not need the world. No sanctions on them will stop the extremists from running rampant over the stolen land. Even the sanctions on imports of products from the settlements is of little consequence, because only 2.3 % of Israeli exports to Europe come from the settlements. At the Esh Kodesh outpost, the industry is hatred, not high tech; at Adei Ad, the leading product is violence, not cherry tomatoes. The wine from the settlement is tainted,

made from the grapes of wrath cultivated on stolen land. Israel is not interested in the sanctions imposed on the settlements, the settlers are not overly bothered either, and rightly so. Less than a day after they were announced, the civil administration on Wednesday discussed building 747 housing units in the West Bank. The main thing is that in Westminster, there is glee". I couldn't agree more. That's my report for today, my friends. Please stay safe out there. And we're signing off on September 11th, 2026.

END

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