

# The Crisis in South Yemen and the Saudi-UAE Rivalry

written by Noa Lazimi | 06.01.2026

Noa Lazimi details how the UAE-backed STC's territorial gains in South Yemen provide a strategic opportunity to weaken the Houthis and disrupt Iranian smuggling, despite ongoing friction between Saudi and Emirati interests. Simultaneously, Israel's recognition of Somaliland secures a critical vantage point for intelligence and UAV operations near the Bab el-Mandeb strait. She recommends pragmatic cooperation with these regional actors to counter Houthi threats while carefully safeguarding normalization efforts with Saudi Arabia.

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