



TOP STORY • SAUDI ARABIA AND YEMEN

"Airports for Airports": Yemen's War Targets Air Travel

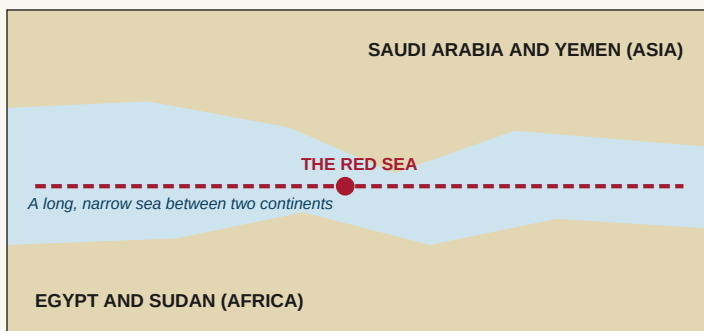
Saudi officials counted at least 20 deaths at airports between October 6 and 11.

Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

Saudi Arabia is now in open conflict with the Houthis, a group that has held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, and parts of the north-west since 2014. A United Nations-brokered truce, in place since 2022, had largely held until it collapsed. The Houthis are aligned with Iran; the Saudi-backed Yemeni government fights them.

The Houthi leader has described a tit-for-tat policy of "airports for airports, ports for ports, and a blockade for a blockade," after Sanaa's airport was hit. The Yemeni government says that strike was meant to stop an Iranian plane from landing there. The Houthis have declared Saudi airports and airspace "legitimate targets," except Mecca and Medina.

Saudi civil aviation authorities report at least 20 deaths and 356 injuries at airports between October 6 and 11. The deadliest strike, on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on October 10, killed at least 12 people, including an American. Dammam, Abha, Jazan and Najran airports were also hit. On Wednesday the Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted a missile launched toward Riyadh. Many Houthi claims could not be independently verified.



Saudi Arabia and Yemen sit on the eastern shore of the Red Sea.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The Red Sea's Bab el-Mandeb strait is an important alternative shipping route while Iranian attacks raise risks near Hormuz, so this fight reaches well beyond Yemen. Who controls that strait is disputed: a Reuters-based report said the Houthis had taken it, while pro-government forces say they have secured it.

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WORLD • ALBANIA

Albanian Students Press Their Prime Minister to Resign

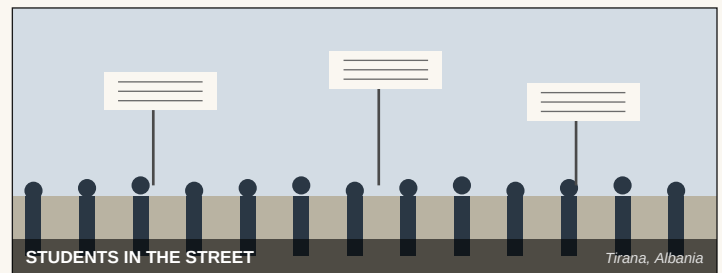
Protests reached a third day, and a fire broke out at the Education Ministry.

Albania is a small country in south-eastern Europe whose capital is Tirana. This week students there protested for a third straight day. Police said demonstrators broke into the Education Ministry overnight and lit a fire inside. Police used tear gas and water cannon and made 16 arrests.

The students say their complaints are about university conditions, the cost of higher education, a lack of financial support and few jobs after graduating. They also want Prime Minister Edi Rama to resign.

Rama's Socialist Party still holds a majority in parliament after winning a fourth consecutive term last year, so the protests have not changed the government.

Reuters reported that a nearby bank branch also caught fire. Deputy Prime Minister Albana Kociu said on Facebook that protest is a legitimate right but cannot be an excuse for violence. Reports differ on the size of the crowd, with Al Jazeera describing hundreds of students and a Reuters-based report describing tens of thousands.



Student protests in Albania entered a third day.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Young people have often led protests about the cost of education and the chance of a job, because those decisions shape their own futures. In Albania, where the government has a clear majority, street protest is one way students can press for change between elections.

INDIA • DELHI

Delhi Ends Jantar Mantar as a Protest Site*Police named three new places for protests as a court fight begins.*

Jantar Mantar in New Delhi has long been where people gather to protest. A Delhi Police standing order dated October 11, signed by Commissioner Anurag Kumar, says it is no longer a designated protest site. Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground in East Delhi replace it.

The order says it follows a committee set up by the Home Ministry. Indian Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib has asked the Delhi High Court to overturn it. Police told the court they acted on a Supreme Court order of October 9, and a separate plea against the standing order is pending before the Supreme Court.

The change came as protests over the Election Commission's revision of voter lists grew. The Supreme Court linked a petition by Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders to another pending case; both are to be heard on October 27. The petition seeks an independent audit and a temporary halt to the revision.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Where people may protest shapes how easily citizens can be heard. Courts will now weigh the police order against that right.

Also in India

- Cockroach Janta Party leaders were detained near Jantar Mantar after trying to enter.
- The Supreme Court has issued notice on the voter-list petition but has not given a final judgment.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Ukraine: Russia attacked all three of Kyiv's heat and power plants, and President Zelenskyy said at least 600,000 people had no power.
- Oil: Brent crude was about \$108 a barrel on Friday as attacks on ships near the Strait of Hormuz continued.

VOCABULARY BUILDER**Words that unlock today's news****Truce**

An agreement to stop fighting, at least for a time. Today: A UN-brokered truce in Yemen since 2022 has collapsed.

Tit-for-tat

Hitting back in the same way you were hit. Today: The Houthi leader describes an "airports for airports" policy.

Standing order

A rule issued by an authority that stays in force until changed. Today: Delhi Police's standing order ended Jantar Mantar's role as a protest site.

Senate

The part of Congress with 100 members, two from each state. Today: 35 of its seats are on the ballot on November 3.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brent crude, the oil price benchmark in the news, is named after the Brent oilfield in the North Sea.

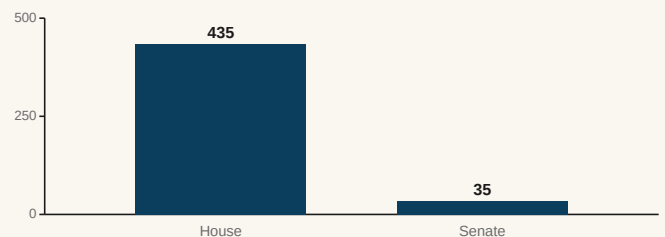
UNITED STATES • ELECTIONS

Three Weeks to the Midterms as Prices Weigh on Voters*All 435 House seats and 35 Senate seats are on the ballot on November 3.*

Midterm elections are held halfway through a president's four-year term. This year's is on November 3, 2026. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for election, along with 35 of the 100 Senate seats. The vote decides which party controls Congress.

Cost of living is a central worry. On October 14 the Labor Department reported consumer prices 3.7% higher than a year earlier, up from 3.4% in August, with gasoline the main driver, according to Reuters.

The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, meets October 27 and 28, and higher inflation puts pressure on it to raise its key interest rate.

SEATS ON THE BALLOT*Out of the seats in each chamber**All 435 House seats; 35 of 100 Senate seats.***WHY THIS MATTERS**

Congress writes laws and controls federal spending, so the result affects what the president can do in his remaining two years.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Why might a House with every seat up react faster to voters than a Senate where only 35 are up? How might rising prices change which issues voters care about?

SPORTS CORNER**FOOTBALL**

The Saudi Pro League moved three games. **Al Ahli v Al Nassr**, Cristiano Ronaldo's team, is now set for 6 March 2027, and two other games move to 19 December. The league cited rest time between matches, not security.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

- What the Supreme Court hears on October 27 about the voter-list revision.
- Whether the Federal Reserve raises interest rates on October 28.

*"A good citizen asks how things work, not only what happened."**You are not just reading the news — you are learning to think about it. See you in two days.*