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Government’s Unilateral Truce Ends Amid Heavy Clashes

The Middle East: History threatens to repeat itself

By James M. Dorsey

The news that Iran-backed Shia Houthi rebels have ended the latest ceasefire agreed last October following three months of intense fighting in Yemen has raised doubts about the impact of the Mehragam peace talks’ initial results, to which Iran has agreed. The Houthis reportedly agreed to end the truce, which was brokered in Switzerland in October, citing their frustration at the lack of progress in the peace talks. The ceasefire was supposed to be in effect until at least 18 May, but it was repeatedly extended. The Houthis reportedly claimed that their forces were still under attack by the government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is backed by a Saudi-led coalition. They also claimed that their forces had not received the promised support from Iran, which is the de facto power in Yemen.

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