

YEMEN ORDER OF BATTLE

By Charles Caris

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The Yemen Order of Battle (ORBAT) describes the structure and disposition of the Yemeni Armed Forces down to the brigade level. It includes units of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Presidential Protective Forces, Special Forces, and Missile Defense Command. It does not include Central Security Forces, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry.

The Yemeni military is not as rigidly structured as other more developed militaries. Its basic hierarchy consists of seven numbered military districts divided geographically. Within these districts the units are sometimes split into axes, which the Critical Threats Project has assessed to be roughly equivalent to a Task Force, each comprising a number of camps and brigades. A Yemeni "brigade" is much smaller than the U.S. equivalent and is estimated to include about 1,500 troops. Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh declined to conduct audits of the military's assets and personnel, and since brigade commanders were in charge of distributing salaries to their soldiers, brigade sizes were often exaggerated.²

The information in this document is drawn in great part from the Yemeni state and Armed Forces media outlets, and uses the most recent data available for commanders and locations.

Yemen Air Force: YAF Yemen Army: YA

Yemen Border Guard: YBG

Yemen Navy: YN

Military officials appointed to the Supreme Security Committee on February 6, 2015, by the al Houthi-led government will be denoted with "SSC" following their names.

Command of the Armed Forces

Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces: Position Unfilled[†]

Adviser to the President for Security and Military Affairs: \$ Staff Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al Ahmar³

Adviser to the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces: Maj. Gen. Mohammed Ali al Maqdashi⁴

Yemeni Defense Minister (Acting):5 Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammed Ahmed Salem al Subaihi (SSC)6

Adviser to the Minister of Defense: \$\frac{1}{2} \text{ Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Aziz al Hujairi}^7\$

Chief of the General Staff (Acting):8 Staff Brig. Gen. Hussein Naji Khairan (SSC)9

Deputy Chief of the General Staff: Maj. Gen. Zakaria Mohammed al Shami (SSC)¹⁰

Chancellery for Military Advisers^{§, 11}

Maj. Gen. Mehdi Maqwala

Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saleh al Ahmar

Maj. Gen. Ruwais Abdullah Mujawar

Staff Maj. Gen. Saif Saleh Mohsen al Dhala'i

Maj. Gen. Sharaf Mohammed Ahmed

Brig. Gen. Yahya Abdullah al Saqladi

1st Military District – Sayun, Hadramawt Governorate¹²

Commander: Staff Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman al Halili¹³

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Abd al Karim Qasem al Zumhi¹⁴

Chief of Operations: Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed al Muhamshi¹⁵

Stationed in Hadramawt Governorate

37th Armored Brigade (Staff Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman al Halili, YA)¹⁶ – al Khasha'a, Hadramawt¹⁷

315th Armored Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ali Hadi, YA)¹⁸ – Thamud, Hadramawt¹⁹

[†] Position held by the President of Yemen. Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi submitted his resignation on January 22, 2015.

[‡] These positions were appointed by former President Hadi and may be invalidated after Hadi's resignation.

[§] These advisors were appointed by former President Hadi and may be invalidated after Hadi's resignation.

23rd Mechanized Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Hamoud Naji Daras, YA)²⁰ – al Abr District, Hadramawt²¹

11th Border Guard Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Saleh Timis, YBG)²² – al Rumah, Hadramawt²³

135th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Yahya Mohammed Abu Awja, YA)
 $^{24}-$ al Qatan, Hadramawt 25

2nd Military District – al Mukalla, Hadramawt Governorate²⁶

Commander: Maj. Gen. Muhsen Naser Qasem²⁷

Chief of Staff: Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim al Saadi²⁸

Chief of Operations: Brig. Gen. Ali al Khaymshi²⁹

al Riyan Airbase - al Mukalla, Hadramawt Governorate

27th Mechanized Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Abdulaziz Qaid al Shamiri, YA)³⁰ – al Riyan Airbase, al Mukalla, Hadramawt³¹

190th Air Defense Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Yahya al Rusayshan, YAF) 32 – al Riyan Airbase, al Mukalla, Hadramawt 33

Ghaidah Axis (Brig. Gen. Abdullah Mansour)³⁴ – al Mahrah Governorate

123rd Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdullah Mansour, YA)³⁵ – al Hat Camp, al Mahrah³⁶

137th Infantry Brigade (Staff Col. Mohammed Yahya al Qadi, YA) 37 – al Ghaidah District, al Mahrah 38

Stationed in Socotra Governorate

1st Naval Infantry Brigade (Col. Ahmed Abdul Wali al Dhahab, YN)³⁹ – Socotra⁴⁰

3rd Military District - Ma'rib City, Ma'rib Governorate⁴¹

Commander: Staff Maj. Gen. Ahmed Saif Muhsen al Yafa'i (SSC)⁴²

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Amin Abdullah Hamid al Wa'ili⁴³

Chief of Operations: Unknown

Sahn al Jin Camp – Ma'rib City, Ma'rib Governorate

13th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Mohammed al Faqih, YA)⁴⁴ – Sahn al Jin Camp, Ma'rib City, Ma'rib⁴⁵

14th Armored Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Mohsen al Da'ari, YA)⁴⁶ – Sahn al Jin Camp, Ma'rib City, Ma'rib⁴⁷

180th Air Defense Brigade – Sahn al Jin Camp, Ma'rib City, Ma'rib⁴⁸

Ataq Axis (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hussein al Jamaa'i)49 – Ataq, Shabwah Governorate

21st Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hussein al Jamaa'i, YA)⁵⁰ – Ataq City, Shabwah⁵¹

19th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hamid al Somali, YA)⁵² – Bayhan District, Shabwah⁵³

Stationed in Shabwah Governorate

2nd Naval Infantry Brigade (Staff Admiral Qasem Rajeh Labouza, YN)⁵⁴ – Belhaf, Shabwah⁵⁵ 2nd Mountain Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Ahmed Saleh al Hamzi, YA)⁵⁶ – al Nusaybah, Shabwah⁵⁷

Stationed in Ma'rib Governorate

107th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Khaled Nasser Yaslim, YA)⁵⁸ – Safir District, Ma'rib⁵⁹
312th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdu Rabbu al Shadadi, YA)⁶⁰ – Sirwah District, Ma'rib⁶¹
3rd Mountain Infantry Brigade** (Brig. Gen. Mansour Ali A'id, YA)⁶² – Ma'rib⁶³ [Disbanded in place on May 22, 2013.]

4th Military District – Aden City, Aden Governorate⁶⁴

Commander: Staff Maj. Gen. Nasir Abdu Rabbu al Taheri⁶⁵

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Saleh Ali Hasan⁶⁶

Chief of Operations: Unknown

Stationed in Aden Governorate

39th Armored Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Mehdi Shaklia, YA)⁶⁷ – Badr Camp, Khormaksar District, Aden⁶⁸

120th Air Defense Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Muhsen Mohammed al Khabi, YAF)⁶⁹ – Aden City, Aden⁷⁰

Abyan Axis (Staff Brig. Gen. Haidara Lahtal)⁷¹ – Abyan Governorate

15th Infantry Brigade (Staff Col. Mohammed Ali al Muazeb, YA)⁷² – Zinjibar, Abyan⁷³

^{**} The 3rd Mountain Infantry Brigade left Ma'rib in May 2013 and was effectively dissolved. See Sasha Gordon, "Mutiny in the Yemeni Military," *AEI's Critical Threats Project*, July 10, 2013. Available: http://www.criticalthreats.org/yemen/gordon-mutiny-yemeni-military-july-10-2013

111th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hussein al Bukhaiti, YA)
74 – Ahwar District, Abyan
75

115th Infantry Brigade^{††} (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Abdullah al Shamba, YA)⁷⁶ – Shaqra District, Abyan⁷⁷

119th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Faisal Rajab, YA)⁷⁸ – Jaar, Abyan⁷⁹

Taiz Axis (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Musad Hussein)80 – Taiz Governorate

17th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Saleh Muhsen al Sabari, YA)⁸¹ – Bab al Mandab District, Taiz⁸²

170th Air Defense Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Abdullah al Haddad, YAF)⁸³ – Bab al Mandab District, Taiz⁸⁴

35th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mansour Muhsen Ahmar, YA)⁸⁵ – Mocha and Taiz Airport Camp, Taiz⁸⁶

22nd Armored Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Hamoud Ahmed Dahmash, $YA)^{87}$ – al Janad Camp, Taiz City, Taiz⁸⁸

Anad Axis (Brig. Gen. Marzouk Mohammed Sayadi)⁸⁹ – Anad Airbase, Lahij Governorate (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Atiq al Ansi, base commander)

201st Mechanized Brigade (Brig. Gen. Marzouk Mohammed Sayadi, YA)90 – Anad Airbase, Lahij91

90th Aviation Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Atiq al Ansi, YAF)92 – Anad Airbase, Lahij93

31st Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abu Bakr Faraj al Atiqi, YA)94 – Anad Airbase, Lahij95

39th Aviation Training Brigade (Saleh Tamis, YAF)% – Anad Airbase, Lahij%

Stationed in Dhaleh Governorate

33rd Armored Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Abdullah Dhabaan, YA)98 – Dhaleh City, Dhaleh99

5th Military District – al Hudaydah City, al Hudaydah Governorate¹⁰⁰

Commander: Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammed Rajeh Labouza¹⁰¹

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Ismail Ahmed Ali al Mushki¹⁰²

Chief of Operations: Staff Brig. Gen. Khaled Khalil¹⁰³

^{††} The 115th Infantry Brigade is in Shaqra District, Abyan, but there is either a unit with the same name or a detachment also stationed in al Jawf.

al Hudaydah Air Force Base (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Yahya al Damin)¹⁰⁴ – al Hudaydah Governorate

67th Aviation Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Yahya al Damin, YAF)¹⁰⁵ – al Hudaydah Air Force Base, al Hudaydah¹⁰⁶

130th Air Defense Brigade – al Hudaydah Air Force Base, al Hudaydah 107

Stationed in al Hudaydah Governorate

82nd Infantry Brigade (Col. Omar Jawhar, YA)¹⁰⁸ – al Salif, Hudaydah¹⁰⁹

121st Infantry Brigade (Staff Col. Faisal Qasem Saleh Jabari, YA)¹¹⁰ – al Khawkhah, al Hudaydah¹¹¹

al Malahaidh Axis - Hajjah Governorate

105th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim al Sayadi, YA)¹¹² – al Malahaidh, Hajjah¹¹³

2nd Border Guards Brigade (Ali Amr A'ata, YBG)¹¹⁴ – Haradh District, Hajjah¹¹⁵

Stationed in Hajjah Governorate

25th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Jazaa Ahmed Hydra, YA)¹¹⁶ – Abs District, Hajjah¹¹⁷

6th Military District - Amran City, Amran Governorate¹¹⁸

Commander: Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammed Yahya Ghaleb al Hawiri¹¹⁹

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Nasir Said Ali¹²⁰

Chief of Operations: Staff Col. Ali Mohammed Daifullah al Awadi¹²¹

Sufyan Axis - Amran Governorate

310th Armored Brigade – Amran City, Amran¹²² [Surrendered to al Houthis and likely disbanded in July 2014.]#

72nd Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Saleh al Hamasi, YA)¹²³ – Harf Sufyan, Amran¹²⁴

29th Mechanized Infantry ("Giants") Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hafizullah Ahmed Yahya al Sadmi, YA)¹²⁵ – Harf Sufyan, Amran¹²⁶

Sa'ada Axis (Staff Brig. Gen. Hassan Labouza)¹²⁷ – Sa'ada Governorate

103rd Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Omabd Mohammed Abdullah, YA)¹²⁸ – Sa'ada¹²⁹

[#] The 310th Armored Brigade reportedly surrendered its weapons to the al Houthis. Its former commander, Brig. Gen. Hamid al Qushaybi, was killed in July 2014. See: "President condoles martyrdom in Brigadier Hamid al Qushaybi," SABA, July 20, 2014. Available: http://sabanews.net/ar/news361703.htm.

127th Infantry Brigade (Col. Jihad Ali Antar, YA)¹³⁰ – Sa'ada¹³¹

133rd Mountain Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Saleh al Mayuf, YA)¹³² – Sa'ada¹³³

122nd Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Abbas Abdullah Mus'ad, YA)¹³⁴ – Sa'ada¹³⁵

1st Artillery Brigade (Brig. Gen. Sadeq Ali Sarhan, YA)¹³⁶ – Sa'ada¹³⁷

125th Infantry Brigade (Col. Muhsen al Harmali, YA)¹³⁸ – Sa'ada¹³⁹

101st Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Abdul Wahab Abdu Rabbu Qashim, YA) 140 – al Buqa', Sa'ada 141

131st Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Fadal Hasan Mohammed, YA)¹⁴² – Kitaf, Sa'ada¹⁴³

al Jawf Axis - al Jawf Governorate

115th Infantry Brigade^{§§} (Staff Brig. Gen. Adel al Qamiri, YA)¹⁴⁴ – Hazem, al Jawf¹⁴⁵

7th Military District – Dhamar City, Dhamar Governorate¹⁴⁶

Commander: Staff Maj. Gen. Ali Muhsen Ali Muthanna¹⁴⁷

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ali Abadi¹⁴⁸

Chief of Operations: Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed al Radi¹⁴⁹

Stationed in al Bayda Governorate

26th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Khaled Ali Mohammed al Jaifi, YA)¹⁵⁰ – al Sawadiyah, al Bayda¹⁵¹

139th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Col. Ahmed Abdul Wali Mohammed al Dhahab, YA)¹⁵² – Rada'a, al Bayda¹⁵³

117th Mechanized Infantry (al Majed) Brigade (Ali Ahmed al Hayani, YA) 154 – al Mukayras, al Bayda 155

Stationed in Ibb Governorate

30th Armored Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hajab, YA)¹⁵⁶ – Hamza Camp, Ibb¹⁵⁷

55th Artillery Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed al Sayani, YA)¹⁵⁸ – Yarim, Ibb¹⁵⁹

203rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade – Ibb160

M The 115th Infantry Brigade is in Shaqra District, Abyan, but there is either a unit with the same name or a detachment also stationed in al Jawf.

Stationed in Amran Governorate

9th Mechanized Infantry Brigade*** (Brig. Gen. Ali Dhafif, YA)¹⁶¹ – Amran¹⁶²

Defense Reserve Forces – Sawad Camp, Sana'a Governorate¹⁶³

Commander: Maj. Gen. Mohammed al Jaifi (SSC)¹⁶⁴

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Sanad Abdullah Mohammed al Rahwa¹⁶⁵

Stationed in Sana'a Governorate

61st Artillery Brigade – al Sawad Camp, Sana'a¹⁶⁶

102nd Mountain Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hamid al Tawiti, YA) 167 – al Jumaymah, Bani Hushaysh, Sana'a 168

63rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade - Bani Jarmouz, Nihm District, Sana'a¹⁶⁹

7th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Taher Sabran Qasem, YA)¹⁷⁰ – Khawlan District, Sana'a¹⁷¹

Deployed to Anad Airbase, Lahij Governorate

4th Armored Brigade (Defense Reserve Forces) (Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed Abdullah al Sayaghi, YA)¹⁷² – Anad Airbase, Lahij¹⁷³

al Sami Axis - Sana'a Governorate

62nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Khaled al Jaifi al Main, YA)¹⁷⁴ – al Farijah Camp, Arhab District, Sana'a¹⁷⁵

83rd Artillery Brigade - Sana'a

Bureau of Logistical Support (Staff Maj. Gen. Ahmed al Wali) - Haffa Camp, Sana'a Governorate

89th Infantry Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed Ali Sanad) – Haffa Camp, Sana'a¹⁷⁶

Ghamdan Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmed al Ansi) – Haffa Camp, Sana'a¹⁷⁷

^{***} The 9th Mechanized Infantry Brigade may also be under the jurisdiction of the 6th Military District, which is headquartered in Amran.

Strategic Reserve Forces

Special Operations Command

Commander: Staff Brig. Gen. Majali Mijidia al Muradi¹⁷⁸

Chief of Staff: Staff Brig. Gen. Abd al Raqib Thabit al Subaihi (SSC)¹⁷⁹

Special Forces Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmed Hussein Dahhan al Shiani)¹⁸⁰

1st Mountain Infantry Brigade (Mohammed Ahmed al Jaradi)¹⁸¹

10th Storm Brigade (Col Salim Muhsen Musad Zarman)¹⁸² – Bajil, al Hudaydah¹⁸³

Counter-terrorism Units (task-assigned)

Missile Defense Command / Missile Batteries Group

Commander: Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed Nasir Ahmed al Atefi¹⁸⁴

Chief of Operations: Col. Ahmed Ali Ahmed Masoud¹⁸⁵

Sabra Camp – Bilad al Rus, Sana'a Governorate

8th Missile Brigade (Col. Masoud Ahmed Hussein al Ghabash)¹⁸⁶ – Sabra Camp, Bilad al Rus, Sana'a¹⁸⁷

Unknown Location

5th Missile Brigade (Col. Mansour Abdullah Hussein al Tarmah)¹⁸⁸

6th Missile Brigade

Presidential Protective Forces

Commander: Staff Brig. Gen. Saleh Mohammed al Jaeemalani¹⁸⁹

Stationed in Sana'a City¹⁹⁰

1st Presidential Guard Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Saleh Mohammed al Jaeemalani)¹⁹¹

2nd Presidential Guard Brigade

3rd Armored Presidential Guard Brigade

314th (4th) Armored Presidential Guard Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Hussein Muhsen al Maqdad)¹⁹²

Naval and Coastal Defense Forces

Commander: Staff Brig. Gen. Abdullah Salem al Nukhai¹⁹³

Aviation and Air Defense Forces

Commander: Maj. Gen. Rashed Naser al Janad¹⁹⁴

Daylami Airbase - Sana'a Governorate

2nd Aviation Brigade (Staff Brig. Gen. Ahmed Mohammed al Shami, YAF)¹⁹⁵ – Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

4th Aviation Brigade (Staff Col. Zaid Ali al Akuwa, YAF)¹⁹⁶ – Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

6th Aviation Brigade - Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

8th Aviation Brigade (Brig. Gen. Omar Said Saleh, YAF)¹⁹⁷ – Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

10th Aviation Brigade - Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

101st Air Defense Brigade – Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

110th Air Defense Brigade - Daylami Airbase, Sana'a

Stationed in Sana'a City

140th Air Defense Brigade

160th Air Defense Brigade

Notes

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- ³ "President Hadi issues new army restructuring decisions," SABA, April 10, 2013. Available: http://www.sabanews.net/en/news305422.htm
- ⁴ "Presidential decrees appointing officers in posts in armed forces," SABA, July 15, 2014. Available: http://sabanews.net/en/news360967.htm
- ⁵ "Supreme Security Committee discussed the military and security situation in the capital Sana'a and throughout the governorates," SABA, February 7, 2015. Available:

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- 6 "Al Masdar online published preliminary names of ministers appointed by the decision which was issued in the government," al Masdar, November 7, 2014. Available: http://almasdaronline.com/article/63798
- ⁷ "Presidential appointment decree for command positions in the armed forces," SABA, April 10, 2013. Available: http://www.sabanews.net/ar/news305414.htm
- 8 "Supreme Security Committee discussed the military and security situation in the capital Sana'a and throughout the governorates," SABA, February 7, 2015. Available:

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- ⁹ "Appointing Khayran Chief of General Staff and al Ashwal a member of the Shura Council," 26 September, December 7, 2014. Available: http://www.26sep.net/news_details.php?lng=arabic&sid=109099 ¹⁰ "Presidential decrees issues," SABA, December 28, 2014. Available:
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- ¹⁶ "Commander of the 1st Military District inspects the military units in Sayun and Turayim," SABA, November 30, 2014. Available: http://www.sabanews.net/ar/news377670.htm
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- ¹⁸ "Commander of the 1st District and General Manager of Sayun inspects the conditions of the Sayun Guest Hospital and gives Eid greetings," Ahgaft Today, June 30, 2014. Available: http://ahgaftoday.com/?p=41613 ¹⁹ "A sergeant in the 315th Armored Brigade appeals to the president and minister of defense," Yemen

Today, September 13, 2014. Available: http://www.yemen-today.net/DetailsNews.aspx?Id=16324

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- ²⁴ "Commander of the 135th Infantry Brigade explains to Ahale details of the confrontations with al Qaeda and the ambushes suffered by the brigade," al Ahale Net, August 8, 2014, http://alahale.net/article/17669 ²⁵ "Minister of Defense in Sayun and the enhanced power of the 135th Brigade arrives in Qatan District," SABA, August 8, 2014. Available: http://www.sabanews.net/ar/news363501.htm
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- ³⁹ "Unspoken decision to nominate Houthi commander Colonel Dhahab Commander of the 1st Naval Infantry Brigade in Socotra," Yemen Now, December 31, 2014. http://yemennow.net/news394596.html ⁴⁰ "Yemen troops protest demanding army chiefs' ouster," Agence France Presse, March 1, 2012. Available: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jwEcUr930qgjuiCuEp913gj3QeDQ?docId=CNG .cf8376a3a3e739f097b74afa0373590f.3b1
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