Key Names and Organizations

General People’s Congress (GPC)
- Northern-based ruling party of united Yemen
- Current leader: Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had led party since its founding in 1982
- Presumed successor: the president’s son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh
- Rival to succeed the president: Gen. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, military commander and member of Saleh’s local Hashid tribe from Sanhan near Sanaa. Al-Ahmar also tied to Islamic groups
- Current vice president: Abdo-Rabo Mansour Hadi, formerly of the southern YSP before an intra-regime battle in Aden in 1986 caused him to leave into exile

Islah (Reform)
- Northern-based Islamic opposition party
- Led by Sheikh Abdullah Hussayn al-Ahmar from its founding after unification in 1990 until his death in 2007; Sheikh al-Ahmar also led Saleh’s Hashid tribe. Tribal leadership has passed to al-Ahmar’s son, Sadeq
- Interim leader Muhammad al-Yadumi; other key figures include Sheikh al-Ahmar’s son, Hamid Abdullah al-Ahmar; and president of Iman University Sheikh Abdul-Magid al-Zindani, who has long associated with Islamic militant movements and was linked in the past to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)
- Former southern ruling party and partner in unity with GPC
- Led by Ali Salem al-Beidh, who served as vice president of Yemen until a 1994 war with Saleh forced him into exile; other YSP members in exile include former prime minister Haider al-Attas, and former southern president Ali Nasser Muhammad, who fled South Yemen in 1986 after clashing with a faction led by al-Beidh
- Currently led by the secretary general of the party inside Yemen, Dr. Yasin Said Noman
The “Southern Movement”

- Loosely organized regional opposition in southern provinces
- Initially started by retired southern army general Nasir Ali an-Nuba, but currently serves as a political umbrella for multiple southern opposition groups, some who claim former YSP leader and vice president Ali Salem al-Beidh as the champion of their cause. The movement was joined in 2009 by Sheikh Tareq al-Fadhli, a former southern ally of President Saleh in the GPC

Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP)

- Local branch of the international terrorist group
- Led by Nasser al-Wahayshi, presumed to operate in the northern province of Marib

Al-Huthi Rebellion

- Armed northern Zaydi religious opposition
- Led by Sheikh Abdul-Malik Badreddin al-Huthi, who took charge after his older brother Hussayn was killed by the Yemeni army in 2004