



Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



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## Volume 2, Issue 1

### ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

### DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW

DPG West Asia Review contains major developments in West Asia of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open source media. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at [sanket@dpg.org.in](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

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#### Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,  
India Habitat Centre,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.  
[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)

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## Bahrain

### [Bahrain's Manama is named as Capital of Arab Tourism for 2020](#)

December 31, 2019, The National

Manama, the capital city of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has been named Capital of Arab Tourism for 2020. The announcement was made during the 22nd session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism, which was held last week in Saudi Arabia's Al Ahsa.

### [Bahrain Condemns Turkish Decision to Send Forces to Libya](#)

January 5, 2020, Asharq Al-Awsat

Bahrain condemned on Sunday a decision by Turkey on the deployment of troops to Libya. Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed in a statement that Ankara's "decision is a rejected interference in the internal affairs of Libya and a violation of international legitimacy and relevant Security Council resolutions."

### [Bahrain Names GCC Chief Country's New Foreign Minister](#)

January 2, 2020, The New York Times

Bahrain has appointed the head of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council al-Zayani as the country's next foreign minister.

### [Bahrain's Gulf Air halts flights to Iraq's Baghdad and Najaf](#)

January 3, 2020, Reuters

Bahrain's Gulf Air suspended flights to and from Iraq's Baghdad and Najaf cities on Friday until further notice due to security issues. The company's announcement on Twitter came after a U.S. air strike killed Qassem Soleimani, architect of Iran's spreading military influence in the Middle East, in Baghdad.

### [Bahrain's Parliament raps India's citizenship bill](#)

January 3, 2020, Gulf News Digital

Parliament yesterday voiced deep concerns over the issuance of the Citizenship Act in India, which grants all refugees and residents in India the right to obtain Indian citizenship except Muslims, and even legitimises revoking their citizenship.

## [Concern over persecution of Uighur Muslims in China](#)

January 3, 2020, Gulf News Digital

Bahrain's Parliament yesterday voiced deep concern over inhumane and painful conditions Uighur Muslims in China are subjected to, including the detention of more than one million Muslims in mass detention camps, denial of their most basic rights including prayers and religious practices, separation of their children, wives and families, ill-treatment and torture.

## Egypt

### [Egypt talks Turkey's intervention in Libya with US, EU ambassadors](#)

January 5, 2020, Egypt Today

The Foreign Ministry held on Sunday a series of meetings with several European ambassadors in Cairo to discuss the latest escalation caused by the Turkish intervention in Libya, according to the ministry's Sunday statement.

### [Egypt holds war games in Mediterranean as Turkey declares military intervention](#)

January 5, 2020, The National

Egypt says it has staged large-scale naval war games in the Mediterranean, throwing into the drills some of its most valuable and recent acquisitions, including a French-made helicopter carrier and a German-made submarine.

### [British tourists in Egypt are warned they could be soft targets for terrorists loyal to Iran](#)

January 5, 2020, Daily Mail

British tourists in Egypt were yesterday warned to be vigilant over the risk of terror attacks. Echoing warnings for Turkey and Dubai, the Foreign Office advised travellers to the country to be on guard.

### [Haftar promises to take Tripoli 'in hours' if Egypt sends troops to Libya](#)

January 1, 2019, The New Arab

Libyan militia leader Khalifa Haftar asked Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi for military support as his forces failed to capture Libya's capital.

### [France, Egypt urge 'restraint' in Libya as Turkey weighs sending troops](#)

December 30, 2019, France 24

France and Egypt called for the "greatest restraint" by Libyan and international authorities to avoid escalating the conflict in Libya, a statement from President Emmanuel Macron's office said.

## Iraq

[Iraqi prime minister says Qassem Soleimani was in Iraq to 'discuss de-escalating tensions between Iran and Saudis' when he was killed](#)

January 6, 2020, Daily Mail

Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian Quds Force commander who was killed in a US drone attack in Baghdad on Friday, was in Iraq to negotiate a de-escalation in tensions with Saudi Arabia, according to the Iraqi prime minister.

[Rockets target Baghdad's Green Zone for second successive night](#)

January 6, 2020, Al Jazeera

Six Katyusha rockets fell in Baghdad, including three inside the capital's heavily fortified Green Zone housing government buildings and foreign missions, the Iraqi military said.

[Trump warns Iran of major retaliation, threatens sanctions on Iraq](#)

January 6, 2020, Khaleej Times

US President Donald Trump threatened "major retaliation" on Sunday if Iran avenges the killing of a key military commander and he warned of massive economic sanctions against ally Iraq if the country expels US troops based there.

[Iraq could become 'very dangerous' as US-Iran tensions ramp up, says former ambassador](#)

January 6, 2020, CNBC

While much of the world is fearing a potential escalation in tensions between the U.S. and Iran, a former American ambassador has warned that violence within Iraq could also become a major source of instability in the Middle East.

[Iraq moves to expel foreign troops as Hezbollah threatens to strike](#)

January 6, 2020, The Sydney Morning Herald

Iraq's Parliament has voted to expel US troops and their allies - including Australia - from the country as the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group warned that US military across the region "will pay the price" for killing a top Iranian general.

[Trump says Iran will be held 'fully responsible' for attack on the US embassy in Iraq](#)

December 31, 2019, CNBC

President Donald Trump on Tuesday blamed Iran for planning an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Iraq and promised to hold Tehran "fully responsible."

### [Pro-Iranian Protesters End Siege of U.S. Embassy in Baghdad](#)

January 1, 2020, The New York Times

After a second day of tense protests at the American Embassy in Baghdad, thousands of pro-Iranian demonstrators dispersed on Wednesday, ending a siege that had trapped American diplomats in the embassy compound overnight and winding down a potentially explosive crisis for the Trump administration.

### [More US troops deployed to the Middle East after Baghdad embassy siege](#)

January 1, 2020, The Guardian

The US defence secretary, Mark Esper, announced that 750 airborne troops would be deployed to the region immediately, with more to follow in the next few days.



## Iran

### [Iranian general replacing Soleimani vows revenge for US killing](#)

January, 6, 2020, Times of Israel

An Iranian general who replaced the leader killed by a US airstrike in Baghdad vowed Sunday to take revenge as Tehran abandoned the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in response to the slaying.

### [Developments have taken serious turn, deeply concerned: India to Iran](#)

January 5, 2020, Livemint

India on Sunday said the situation in the Gulf region has taken a very serious turn after the killing of a senior Iranian Quds Force commander in a US drone strike exacerbated tensions and triggered a war of words and threats between the US and Iran.

### [Crude oil tops \\$70 as US-Iran tensions escalate](#)

January 6, 2020, CNN International

Oil prices continued to rise Monday as tensions escalate between the United States and Iran. Futures for Brent crude, the global benchmark, gained 2.4% to reach \$70.24 per barrel – the first time prices have hit that amount in more than six months. US oil futures advanced 2.1% to reach \$64.36 per barrel.

### [Iran abandons nuclear limits after US killing](#)

January 6, 2020, Associated Press

The blowback over the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general mounted Sunday as Iran announced it will no longer abide by the limits contained in the 2015 nuclear deal and Iraq's Parliament called for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil.

### [Senior US officials say there is widespread opposition within the Trump administration to targeting cultural sites in Iran](#)

January 5, 2020, CNN International

Two senior US officials on Sunday described widespread opposition within the administration to targeting cultural sites in Iran should the United States launch retaliatory strikes against Tehran, despite President Donald Trump saying a day before that such sites are among dozens the US has identified as potential targets.

[Donald Trump sees Iran's threat against 35 US targets and raises them by vowing to strike 52 Iranian sites](#)

January 5, 2020, Daily Mail

President Donald Trump has threatened to hit 52 critical targets in Iran in retaliation if Tehran strikes any American interests in the region, upping the stakes after Iran said it had identified 35 targets for potential strikes and raised the red 'flags of revenge' over a key mosque.

[U.S. Strike Kills One of Iran's Most Powerful Military Leaders](#)

January 2, 2020, Foreign Policy

General Qassem Suleimani's death could mark the most dramatic escalation of the Middle East conflict since the Iraq War.

[Oil prices surge as US confirms that Iran's top commander was killed in airstrike](#)

January 2, 2020, CNBC

Oil prices rocketed in the morning of Asia trading hours, following confirmation by the Pentagon that Iran's top commander was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad.

[U.S. sees signs Iran or proxies may be planning more attacks: Pentagon chief](#)

January 2, 2020, Reuters

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Thursday there were indications Iran or forces it backs may be planning additional attacks, warning that the "game has changed" and it was possible the United States might have to take preemptive action to protect American lives.

[Iran's Zarif says U.S. responsible for the consequences of 'rogue adventurism'](#)

January 3, 2020, Reuters

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday the assassination of Iran Quds Force chief Qassem Soleimani was, "an extremely dangerous and foolish escalation." "The U.S. bears responsibility for all consequences of its rogue adventurism," he said in a post on Twitter.

[Iran's top ayatollah stokes Twitter war with President Trump](#)

January 1, 2020, Boston Herald

As Americans waited to see how the U.S. would respond to an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia's embassy attack, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei taunted President Trump on Twitter Wednesday — taking Trump on at his own game.

[More sanctions on Iran are coming in 2020, US State Department says](#)

December 30, 2019, CNBC

The US State Department officials said Monday that the maximum pressure campaign on Iran will intensify in 2020, as the U.S. seeks to rein in Tehran's pursuit of nuclear infrastructure and regional aggression.

[China, Iran Ministers Meet, Criticize 'Bullying Practices'](#)

December 31, 2019, Voice of America

China's foreign minister has decried international "bullying practices" while meeting with his Iranian counterpart Tuesday, in the country's latest criticism of American foreign policy under the Trump administration.

## Israel

### [Israel Lauds Suleimani Assassination, Though With Caution](#)

January 3, 2020, The New York Times

The assassination of the Iranian commander in an American drone strike in Baghdad early Friday was greeted with satisfaction in Israel, though also with a degree of caution as the country went on alert for possible retaliation.

### [Netanyahu, in apparent stumble, calls Israel 'nuclear power'](#)

January 5, 2020, Reuters

In an apparent slip of the tongue on Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Israel as a nuclear power before correcting himself with a bashful nod and an embarrassed smile.

### [Ex-chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guards says Haifa, Tel Aviv are targets](#)

January 5, 2020, Times of Israel

A former leader of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Sunday that the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa could be targeted to avenge the general killed by a US drone strike in Baghdad.

### [Israel supreme court dismisses 'premature' Netanyahu petition](#)

January 2, 2020, The Guardian

The supreme court in Israel has declined to weigh in on whether Benjamin Netanyahu can return to his post as prime minister now that he has been indicted, postponing any ruling on his political future until after March elections.

### [Trump Envoy to Visit Israel, Discuss Middle East Peace Plan After Months of Standstill](#)

January 3, 2020, Haaretz

U.S. President Donald Trump's special assistant Avi Berkowitz, who is leading the Middle East peace plan, will arrive in Israel next week, signaling the White House hasn't fully given up on promoting the initiative.

### [Netanyahu Seeks Immunity From Israeli Corruption Charges](#)

January 1, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked lawmakers to grant him immunity from prosecution on corruption charges, ahead of an election in March that will decide his personal and political future.

### [Gaza releases recording it says proves PA helped Israel kill Islamic Jihad leader](#)

January 2, 2020, Middle East Eye

Officials in Gaza have accused a Palestinian Authority intelligence officer of helping Israel assassinate a senior Islamic Jihad leader in November, and on Thursday posted online a recording of a phone call purportedly between the officer and an Israeli intelligence agent.

### [Hermon ski resort shut as Iran plots revenge for Soleimani killing](#)

January, 3, 2020, Times of Israel

An Israeli ski resort near the Syrian border that was the site of a previous missile attack was closed to visitors on Friday, amid fears of Iran exacting revenge on Israel for the killing of a powerful Iranian general.

### [Greece, Israel, Cyprus, move to build East Med gas pipeline](#)

January 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

The governments of Greece, Israel and Cyprus have signed an agreement to build a pipeline that could supply Europe with 4 percent of its annual gas needs by the middle of the decade.

## Jordan

### [Jordan's king reaffirms importance of Iraq's stability](#)

January 6, 2020, Xinhua Net

King Abdullah II of Jordan reaffirmed the country's keenness to maintain Iraq's security and stability, according to a Royal Court statement.

### [Jordan, EU discuss ties, Mideast developments](#)

January 6, 2020, Outlook

Jordan and the EU have discussed means to enhance their ties and regional developments. At a meeting in Amman between Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and Chairman of the EU Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee David McAllister, the two sides discussed means to enhance Jordanian-European partnership and increase economic and development cooperation, according to a statement by the Jordanian Foreign Ministry.

### [Jordan: Massive rally against gas agreement with Israel](#)

January 4, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Thousands of Jordanians participated in a massive rally to drop the gas agreement signed with Israel in 2016. This comes as a part of the popular demands, which started in the early days of the signing of the agreement, and only two days after Amman and Tel Aviv announced the start of experimental operations of gas pumping.

### [Jordan receives first delivery of natural gas from Israel](#)

January 2, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Jordan's National Electricity Company (NEPCO) announced yesterday that it has started receiving natural gas from Israel's Leviathan offshore natural gas field in implementation of the agreement signed between the two sides in 2016.

### [Jordan holds solidarity rally with China's Uyghurs](#)

January 2, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Dozens of Jordanians on Tuesday participated in a protests against China's treatment of Uyghur Muslim in China's Xinjiang province. The demonstration was organised by the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, in front of the Chinese embassy in the capital Amman.

## Kuwait

### [Kuwait, Qatar sign long-term gas supply agreement](#)

January 5, 2020, Xinhua Net

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and Qatar Petroleum signed on Sunday a long-term sale and purchase agreement for the annual supply of up to 3 million tons of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Kuwait, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

### [US Embassy in Kuwait issues security alert](#)

January 5, 2020, Arab Times

The US Embassy in Kuwait is aware of heightened security tensions in the region. Out of an abundance of caution, the Embassy is increasing its security posture.

### [Kuwait stresses indivisible GCC security](#)

January 1, 2020, Gulf News

Security of other countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is an "indivisible part" of Kuwait's security, Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaikh Ahmad Al Mansour has said.

### [Kuwait has least number of Pakistani workers in GCC](#)

January 3, 2020, Arab Times

About 500,000 Pakistani workers who moved to the GCC countries in 2019 account for 95 percent of emigrant workers. However, Kuwait has 116 of those workers, representing less than 0.5 percent, which is the least among its peers in the region.

## Lebanon

[Hezbollah chief urges attacks, including suicide bombings, on US bases in region](#)

January 5, 2020, Times of Israel

The leader of the Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization said on Sunday that the United States' killing of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in an airstrike in Iraq marked the start of a "new war" on the US in the Middle East.

[Lebanon needs a \\$20-\\$25bn bailout, says former economy minister](#)

January 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

Lebanon needs a \$20-\$25bn bailout including International Monetary Fund (IMF) support to emerge from its financial crisis, former Minister of Economy Nasser Saidi told Reuters news agency on Friday.

[Lebanon receives Interpol notice for ex-Nissan fugitive Carlos Ghosn](#)

January 3, 2019, The Hindu

Interpol issued a wanted notice Thursday for former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn, who jumped bail in Japan and fled to Lebanon rather than face trial on financial misconduct charges in a dramatic escape that has confounded and embarrassed authorities.

[Lebanon's Hezbollah warns of attempts to besiege PM-designate](#)

December 31, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Naim Qassem yesterday warned of what he said were "attempts to besiege" the Prime Minister-designate Hassan Diab in an effort to force Lebanon into a political vacuum.



## Oman

### [Oman calls on U.S., Iran to give precedence to dialogue](#)

January 6, 2020, Xinhua Net

Oman on Sunday called on the U.S. and Iranian governments to give precedence to dialogue and look for diplomatic means to resolve their conflict.

### [Oman condemns attack on US embassy in Baghdad](#)

January 2, 2020, Times of Oman

Oman on Thursday condemned the attack on the US embassy in Baghdad. In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said: "The Sultanate condemns the attack on the United States embassy in Iraq. It is a violation of international agreements and norms."

### [Oman's Sultan is in stable condition](#)

December 31, 2019, Times of Oman

The Diwan of Royal Court yesterday issued a statement reading as follows: "His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said is in stable condition, thanks and praise be to the Almighty Allah, and is continuing the programme of prescribed treatment.

### [Indian rupee expected to touch 190 per Omani rial](#)

December 30, 2019, Times of Oman

With the Indian rupee (INR) being highly volatile this month against Omani rial (OMR), exchange experts forecast the currency to reach at INR190.

## Qatar

### [US Chief Negotiator to Meet Taliban in Qatar](#)

January 2, 2020, Voice of America

U.S. lead negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad is expected to meet Qatar-based Taliban envoys later this week to find out whether the insurgent group is ready to reduce violence in Afghanistan for the sake of resuming peace talks.

### [Qatar makes huge leap in North Field Expansion, LNG production boost](#)

December 30, 2019, Gulf Times

Qatar's recent decision to scale up its liquefied natural gas (LNG) production capacity to 126mn tonnes per year (tpy) by 2027 is among the major strides the country's energy sector made in 2019.

## Saudi Arabia

[King Salman calls Iraqi president, expresses Kingdom's keenness on stability in Iraq](#)

January 4, 2020, Arab News

King Salman called Iraqi President Barham Salih on Saturday and expressed the Kingdom's keenness on establishing stability in Iraq, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

[Gulf markets plunge on U.S-Iran tensions, Aramco at lowest since IPO](#)

January 5, 2020, Reuters

Kuwaiti and Saudi stocks led Gulf stocks sharply lower in late afternoon trade on Sunday in the wake of a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad that killed Iran's military commander.

[More Saudi Arabia oil attacks could be coming in wake of Soleimani's death](#)

January 4, 2020, Fox News

Analysts watching the world's oil markets were fearing Friday that Iran would target energy infrastructure in countries like Saudi Arabia as retaliation for the U.S. killing Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

[Saudi Arabia 'not consulted' over Soleimani drone strike](#)

January 5, 2020, Arab News

Saudi Arabia was not consulted by Washington over the US drone strike that killed Qassem Soleimani, an official from the Kingdom told AFP Sunday. "The kingdom of Saudi Arabia was not consulted regarding the US strike," the official said, requesting anonymity.

## Syria

### [Syria gas field shelled after Soleimani killing](#)

January 5, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias fired three shells at the Conoco gas field in the Deir Ezzor area of eastern Syria and two rockets were fired at the Green Zone where the US embassy is located on Sunday evening in the aftermath of the US airstrike that killed IRGC Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani

### [Syria death toll tops 380,000 in almost nine-year war: Monitor](#)

January 4, 2020, Livemint

Almost nine years of civil war in Syria has left more than 380,000 people dead including over 115,000 civilians, a war monitor said in a new toll Saturday.

### [United Nations Security Council to hear the latest on offensive in Syria's Idlib](#)

January 3, 2020, The Hindu

Syrian troops have captured more than 40 villages and hamlets over the past two weeks in the rebel stronghold in the northwest. The U.N. Security Council is going to receive a closed briefing on the ongoing offensive in the last rebel stronghold in Syria at the request of France and the United Kingdom.

## Turkey

### [Turkey begins deploying troops to Libya, says Erdogan](#)

January 5, 2020, Deutsche Welle

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced that Turkish soldiers had begun deploying to Libya after receiving approval from parliament last week.

### [250,000 migrants fleeing NW Syria headed toward Turkey, Erdoğan says](#)

January 2, 2020, Daily Sabah

As many as 250,000 migrants fleeing from the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib are headed toward Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Thursday as Ankara tries to prevent them from crossing the border.

### [Turkey, Flexing Its Muscles, Will Send Troops to Libya](#)

January 2, 2020, The New York Times

Turkey's Parliament approved plans on Thursday to send troops to Libya, escalating what has become a chaotic proxy war between multiple powers for control of the oil-rich country.

### [Russia concerned over Turkey's Libya motion](#)

January 3, 2020, Anadolu Agency

Russia is concerned over a motion passed by Turkey's parliament authorizing the government to send troops to Libya, a Russian lawmaker said Thursday. Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, told reporters that military intervention is certainly not the best option to resolve the crisis in Libya.

## UAE

[Westerners warned to leave Dubai and Abu Dhabi 'immediately' amid tensions after US airstrike](#)

January 3, 2020, Metro

Experts have warned tourists in the United Arab Emirates and Iraq to leave 'immediately' amid rising tensions between Iran and the US.

[UAE crown prince visits Pakistan](#)

January 3, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, arrived with a high-level delegation for a day-long visit in Islamabad on Thursday afternoon.

[UAE, Pakistan economic ties to grow further: Pak Ambassador](#)

January 2, 2020, Khaleej Times

A top Pakistani diplomat has said his country has immense investment opportunities, which the UAE can further tap into, naming the petroleum sector, infrastructure development, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as top potential areas.

[Pakistan, UAE aim to inject more life into OIC](#)

January 2, 2020, The Nation

United Arab Emirates Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan will visit Pakistan today aiming to inject more life into the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation weeks after Islamabad skipped the Kuala Lumpur summit.

## Yemen

### [Yemen government backs Soleimani's killing: minister](#)

January 4, 2020, Reuters

Yemen's Saudi-backed government on Friday said it considered the killing of top Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani an important step to end conflict in the region.

### [Yemen court sentences Hadi to death over treason](#)

January 2, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Specialised Criminal Court in the Yemeni capital Sanaa has sentenced exiled President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and his Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed to death after convicting them of high treason, abuse of government estates and looting the country's treasury.

### [Yemen's southern separatists pull out of Riyadh agreement committees](#)

January 1, 2020, Reuters

Southern separatists in Yemen have pulled out of committees implementing a November agreement to end a power struggle in the south that had opened a new front in the country's multifaceted war.



**Delhi Policy Group**  
Core 5A, 1st Floor,  
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
India

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)