

# The Weekly Intelligence Brief

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## ***\$400 MILLION POLISH WALL BILL PASSED AMID BELARUSIAN BORDER TENSIONS***



*Migrants Caught Up in a Stand-Off Between Poland and Belarus Guards  
Image Credit: The Times*

**By Clay Penegar, Europe Deputy**

In October of this year, the Polish government proposed a bill allowing the construction of a \$400 million wall along the border between Poland and Belarus. This bill was in response to the mass influx of Afghan migrants traveling toward Western Europe via Poland, through Belarus. The migrant surge is believed to be a form of retribution for the sanctions placed on the regime of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko by EU member states. Accordingly, on November 2, Polish President Andrzej Duda signed the bill for the wall. Construction of the wall is said to begin in a few weeks. It is expected to take several months to complete.

The announcement of the wall's construction appears to be leading to a spike in tensions between Polish and Belarusian forces along the border. For example, on November 1, three armed men in uniform were reported to have crossed into Poland from the Belarusian border. Upon being confronted by a Polish patrol, the men fled back across the border. Additionally, on November 3, Polish border guards prevented the crossing of approximately 250 migrants escorted by Belarusian forces. Reportedly, the Belarusian troops threatened to fire upon the Polish guard, though the incident did not escalate further. Two additional incidents occurred on November 5, with a Belarusian guard trying to shoot flares at Polish forces and other Belarusian troops attempting to destroy border fencing.

With the wall in place, migrant crossings would become much more arduous along the Polish border. Thus, Belarusian forces may be increasing their efforts to send migrants westward before they are no longer able to exit Belarus. It can be estimated with moderate confidence that further incidents involving troops of both nations will continue until the wall's construction.

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*The Aftermath of the Air Raids*  
Image Credit: The New York Times

### Air Raids Intensify in Yemen Civil War **By Gabe Hoehn, Middle East Deputy**

On October 31, two ballistic missiles struck a mosque and religious school, killing and injuring more than 29 civilians south of the Yemen city of Marib in the al-Jubah district. Yemen's Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani blamed over Twitter the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels for the attack. On November 2, Houthi military spokesperson Yahia Sarea confirmed that the rebel forces had seized the al-Jubah and Jabal Murad districts. The Houthi rebel forces are now marching towards Marib City, the last northern stronghold of the Saudi-led coalition.

The city of Marib is home to around 3 million people, with more than a quarter of its current population coming from other parts of Yemen. The Marib governate is the only gas-filled region in the country, making it an important land mass for the Houthis. The Houthi rebels are a Zaydi Shiite group that invaded and seized Yemen's capital Sanaa in September 2014. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies stepped in to prevent the rebel group's advance.

Due to the resilience of the Houthi forces against the coalition's air and ground attacks, as well as Saudi Arabia's weakening influence in the war, the Saudi-led coalition is unlikely to maintain control over the city. Therefore, we can say with high confidence that it is likely the city will fall in the next several months.

### Houston Men Arrested for Child Sex Trafficking **Grace Thompson, Special Topics Desk**

Demetrius White and Deonte Bailey-Roach both pled guilty to child sex trafficking charges on January 27, 2021. On November 1, 2021, US District Judge Kenneth M. Hoyt sentenced White to 240 months of imprisonment and Bailey-Roach to 144 months. Both men will have to pay restitution to the victim, and, after their release, have five years of supervised release. This instance will also land them on the registered list of sex offenders. These charges were decided after testimony from both the victim and her mother, which detailed the lasting impact of the event.

Back in 2017, White and Bailey-Roach recruited the teenage victim through social media. They brought her to Houston, Texas from Stephenville, Texas. Once there, they kept their victim for 4 days, exploiting the teen for their own sexual gratification. They also posted advertisements of the victim online, bringing the teen to motel rooms, a truck stop, and clients' houses to make a profit.

Additionally, they had her walk Bissonnet Street—which is notorious for facilitating the sex trade. To keep the victim from escaping, the men drugged her before all commercial sex acts. White and Bailey-Roach kept all the profits they made from these instances. Both men are currently awaiting transfer to a yet-to-be-decided US Bureau of Prisons facility.



*The Seal of the United States Department of Justice*  
Image Credit: Reuters