

# Sanaa power outages

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The country's Electricity Ministry said in a statement Tuesday that assailants attacked power lines located along the road linking the capital, Sanaa, with Marib, immediately causing the power outage early Monday. The ministry said the whole country of 23 million people was without power after the attack.

The country's energy ministry reported power lines linking the capital, Sanaa, with the al-Qaeda stronghold of Marib were attacked on Tuesday, leaving the entire nation of 23 million people without power.

"The act of sabotage at Kilometre 78 suspended the entire national power and energy grid, including at Marib's gas plant, and cut power in all provinces," a ministry spokesman told the defence ministry news website.

The country has suffered repeated power outages in recent months, with the absence of reliable electricity supplies further complicating the lives of Yemenis, who already suffer water and food shortages.

The majority of the Yemeni capital Sanaa was plunged in darkness after more than 90 percent of private power plants stopped operating in protest against the oppression and violations committed by the Iran-backed Houthi militias. The majority of residents depend on solar energy nowadays.

Informed sources in Sanaa told Asharq Al-Awsat that all owners of the plants launched a partial strike on Saturday, shutting the doors of all stations that provide homes and various stores in Sanaa with electricity for hours.

The sources pointed out that the owners threatened to escalate gradually and increase the period of power outages during the coming period, should the Houthi-run oil company continue to cut off their diesel supply.

"Houthi practices and violations came after they opened the Haziz power station in an effort to tighten the noose around investors in the energy sector," a power station owner, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Asharq Al-Awsat.

An offer of NATO membership to territory under Kyiv's control would end "the hot stage of the war" in Ukraine, but any proposal to join the military alliance should be extended to all parts of the country that fall under internationally recognized borders, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a broadcast interview.

Zelenskyy's remarks on Friday signaled a possible way forward to the difficult path Ukraine faces to future NATO membership. At their summit in Washington in July, the 32 members declared Ukraine on an "irreversible" path to membership. However, one obstacle to moving forward has been the view that Ukraine's borders would need to be clearly demarcated before it could join so that there can be no mistaking where the



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alliance's pact of mutual defense would come into effect.

"You can't give an invitation to just one part of a country," the Ukrainian president said in an excerpt of the interview with Sky News, dubbed by the UK broadcaster. "Why? Because thus you would recognize that Ukraine is only that territory of Ukraine and the other one is Russia."

Since the start of the war in 2022, Russia has been expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls in east and southern Ukraine.

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