

Saudi airstrikes in Yemen's capital kill 29

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Sanaa (Yemen): Saudi-led coalition'sÂ airstrikes against Yemen's Shiite rebels and their allies have killed 29 people, including civilians, in the capital Sanaa, security and medical officials there said today.

The coalition's airstrikes hit an apartment building in the centre of the capital, a UNESCO world heritage site, killing a family of nine, the officials who remain neutral in the conflict that has divided Yemen's security forces said.

One more civilian was killed and the search for more that may be buried under rubble is ongoing. The rebels, known asÂ Houthis, lost 19 fighters in the overnight attack, the officials said.

"It was a terrifying night," said Sanaa resident Mohsen Faleeh. "The airstrikes were heard in every corner of the city."

Yemen's fighting pits the internationally recognisedÂ President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's forces backed by the coalition against the Houthis and troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The strikes targeted some of Saleh's estates, promptingÂ pro-Saleh media to circulate a defiant statement from the former president, saying "the person they are searching for lives in the hearts of 25 million Yemenis."

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to brief reporters.

- AP