



Situation Room

** MONITORING SECURITY IN THE RED SEA **

Period under review: from **01 April 2024** to **30 April 2024**.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

Situation analysis recap:

- **(4 April)** Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the leader of the Iran-aligned Houthi movement claimed that 424 US and UK airstrikes in Yemen have to date killed 37 and wounded 30 people. The Houthis, who control Yemen's capital Sanaa, and most other populous areas in the country, have attacked international shipping in the Red Sea since November 2023, claiming solidarity with the Palestinians in the war between Israel and Hamas militants. US and UK-led multinational retaliatory strikes began in February 2024 to protect global shipping.
- **(6 April)** British maritime security firm Ambrey claimed it had received information that a vessel had been targeted around 61 nautical miles southwest of Hodeidah in Yemen. Separately, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said it had received a report of an incident at almost the same point where the master of a vessel reported two missiles in the vicinity of the ship that did not cause damage.
- **(7 April)** UKMTO received a report from another cargo ship 59NM southwest of Aden, Yemen. The Master of the vessel reported a missile impacted the water near the vessel's port quarter. No damage to the vessel reported and crew reported safe.
- **(8 April)** Yemen's Houthi rebels, said they had targeted a British ship and two Israeli vessels after a British maritime security firm reported three separate attacks off Yemen's coast. This marked an increase in Houthi attacks on cargo ships passing through the Red Sea, following a relatively calm period of several weeks.
- **(9 April)** The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on X its forces had destroyed an air defence system with two missiles ready to launch, a ground control station in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and one unmanned aerial system launched by the Houthis from Yemen over the Red Sea.
- **(10 April)** Houthi spokesman Yahya Sarea claimed in a televised speech that the group had attacked four vessels, including what they described as a US warship, with drones and naval missiles in the Gulf of Aden. The ships claimed to have been attacked were the *MSC Darwin*, *MSC GINA*, *MV Yorktown* along with an unnamed US destroyer.
- **(14 April)** A Houthi spokesman stated that Iran's attack on Israel was a legitimate act in response to a suspected Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus on 1 April 2024. He added that the Yemeni group had been in direct confrontation with Israel since 7 October 2023, by attacking the southern Israeli port of Eilat with missiles and drones and by preventing Israeli ships from sailing through the Red Sea.
- **(16 April)** The commander of EUNVAFOR "Aspides", Greek Rear Admiral Vasileios Gryparis stated that the situation in the Red Sea has not worsened since the beginning of the EU operation The EU's Red Sea naval mission, named EUNAVFOR "Aspides", was launched in February 2024 to protect vessels from attacks launched by Iranian-aligned Houthi militants and is headquartered in the

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Greek city of Larissa. The mission has so far destroyed ten drones, intercepted four ballistic missiles launched by the Houthis, and has provided escort to 79 merchant vessels in the area.

- **(17 April)** The US Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, stated at a press conference that the US is using financial sanctions to isolate Iran and disrupt its ability to fund proxy groups and support Russia's war in Ukraine. According to Yellen, the US Department of the Treasury has targeted more than 500 individuals and entities connected to terrorism and terrorist financing by the Iranian regime and its proxies since the start of the Biden administration in January 2021. That has included targeting Iran's drone and missile programs and its financing of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Iraqi militia groups.
- **(19 April)** A joint letter from the international shipping industry to UN Secretary-General has called for an increase in protection for global shipping. The letter was prompted by a recent increase in Houthi strikes as well as the Iranian seizure of the container ship *MSC Aries* in the Persian Gulf. The letter stated that merchant ships and seafarers are increasingly in peril at sea as attacks escalate in the Middle East and the United Nations must do more to protect supply chains.
- **(25 April)** US military confirmed that Houthis launched an antiship ballistic missile from their territory towards a vessel, which it identified as a US-flagged, owned, and operated vessel with 18 US and four Greek crew members. In a statement, the UK Royal Navy reported that the destroyer *HMS Diamond* shot down a missile fired by the Houthis from Yemen targeting a merchant vessel.
- **(26 April)** UKMTO received a report of an incident 14NM southwest of Al Mukha, Yemen. The report mentioned two attacks in a short period of time. During the first attacks, the vessel, later identified as the *Andromeda Star*, experienced an explosion in close proximity to the vessel, which was felt by the crew on board. The second attack consisted of what is believed to be two missiles, which resulted in damage to the vessel.
- **(26 April)** Tens of thousands of Yemenis joined a recurring Friday demonstration in Sanaa in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Demonstrators were seen chanting slogans while holding Palestinian and Yemeni flags, machine guns and placards.
- **(27 April)** The ship *Andromeda Star* was damaged when it was attacked twice with multiple missiles off Yemen's coast on Friday, 26 April 2024. Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed responsibility for the attack in a post on X. He said Houthi forces "had targeted a British oil ship in the Red Sea with a number of appropriate naval missiles, and the ship received a direct hit directly. Additionally, the group claimed to have shot down another US MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle in the Saada region. The statement ended with a threat of further attacks.
- **(29 April)** According to the UKMTO, a suspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels damaged a ship in the Red Sea off the coast of the town of Mokha. Although the ship sustained damage in the attack, the crew were unharmed, and the vessels was able to continue to its next port of call. The agency urged vessels to exercise caution in the area. Italian Defence Ministry said its frigate, the *Virginio Fasan* shot down a Houthi drone that morning near the Bab El-Mandeb Strait between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

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