



## Situation Room

### **\*\* MONITORING SECURITY IN THE RED SEA \*\***

**Period under review: from 1. May 2024 to 30. May 2024.**

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

#### **Situation analysis recap:**

- **(1 May)** The US military said it destroyed an uncrewed surface vessel located near shipping routes. It was determined the vessel presented an imminent threat to US. coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region.
- **(2 May)** Abdul Malik Al-Houthi stated that the Houthi are preparing for a fourth round of escalation if Israel and the US continue their intransigence.
- **(3 May)** According to recent reports, Yemen's Houthi militia has announced that it is offering a place for students suspended from U.S. universities after participating in anti-Israeli protests.
- **(4 May)** A Houthi spokesman said the militias will begin attacking all ships with ties to Israel and that are trying to reach Tel Aviv port regardless of which flag they are sailing under.
- **(5 May)** Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said on Friday strikes against Israel-linked ships would be expanded to the Mediterranean.
- **(6 May)** Dozens of aid groups have called for more donor funding to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of Yemen. Their appeal came a day before a meeting of high-ranking EU officials in Brussels to discuss the aid program for Yemen. Houthi militants in Yemen have stepped up attacks on vessels in the Red Sea. Some shipping companies have responded by instructing vessels to sail around southern Africa instead, on a longer and therefore more expensive route. Experts have expressed concerns that the Houthis are the only element of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance with anti-ship ballistic missiles. These might be paired with anti-ship cruise missiles, drones, mines, and speed boats to maximize the harassment threat. Security measures taken by the entrance of the Red Sea, because of the war in Gaza and the Houthi attacks, harm the economies of the regional countries that have bilateral agreements with Israel.
- **(7 May)** The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said on Tuesday two explosions were reported in the proximity of a merchant vessel 82 nautical miles south of Yemen's Aden.
- **(8 May)** Mahdi Al-Mashat, head of the Houthi Supreme Political Council, said on Tuesday that the US had offered incentives to the group in return for halting their attacks on shipping. However, he vowed attacks on ships linked to Israel would continue. The World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned that Yemen would be facing a lean period from June to September due to a decrease in humanitarian food assistance in Houthi-controlled areas and a projected increase in food prices in areas held by the legitimate government.
- **(9 May)** Yahya Saree the Houthi spokesperson said the *MSC Diego* and the *MSC Gina* were attacked with ballistic missiles and drones in the Gulf of Aden. Another ship, *MSC Vittoria*, was allegedly hit twice with missiles, first in the Indian Ocean and then in the Arabian Sea
- **(10 May)** A European naval force detained six suspected pirates after they opened fire on an oil tanker traveling through the Gulf of Aden likely part of a growing number of piracy attacks emanating from Somalia. The attack on the Marshall Islands-flagged *Chrystal Arctic* comes as Yemen's Houthi rebels have also been attacking ships traveling through the crucial waterway, the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait connecting them. UKMTO has received a report of an incident east of Aden, Yemen. The report stated a transport vessel being approached by one small

Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.

Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at [www.euroatlantic.org](http://www.euroatlantic.org) or contact us at [info@euroatlantic.org](mailto:info@euroatlantic.org).



craft with 6 people onboard carrying weapons and ladders. After shots were fired from the small craft at the transport vessel the armed security team returned fire.

- **(11 May)** Suspected pirate attack in the Gulf of Aden raises concerns about growing Somali piracy. Yemenis are worried about a rise in teen kidnappings, blaming the Houthi leaders for using the abductions for extortion and recruitment. Yemeni government sources have recently accused Houthi militias of training hundreds of children and teens in combat at over 626 summer camps in Yemen's Ibb province.
- **(12 May)** An uncrewed aerial system was launched from a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen into the Gulf of Aden. The US Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces were reported to have successfully destroyed it. Additionally, the US-led Red Sea marine coalition destroyed another four drones fired by Yemen's Houthis.
- **(14 May)** The United States called on Iran to halt its transfer of weaponry to Houthi rebels, enabling its fighters to carry out reckless attacks on ships in the Red Sea and elsewhere.
- **(15 May)** The Houthis launched two drones and one ballistic missile over the Red Sea, but all failed to reach their targets as they were destroyed in-flight by ships from the US Navy
- **(16 May)** USCENTCOM reported, that its forces had destroyed four drones in an area controlled by the Houthi militia, thwarting a strike on ships in international commercial waterways.
- **(17 May)** Houthi rebels claimed to have shot down an American MQ-9 Predator drone. If confirmed, this would be yet another Predator downed by the Houthis since they started their campaign in response to the Hamas-Israel war in the Gaza Strip.
- **(17 May)** Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council Chairman Rashad Al-Alimi and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi met during the Arab League Summit in Bahrain. They reportedly discussed the importance of security in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden for the region's stability. The Presidential Leadership Council is the internationally recognised government of Yemen.
- **(18 May)** UKMTO received a report of a vessel that was hit by an unknown object and suffered slight damage northwest of Al Hudaydag. Houthi sources claimed this was a strike on a Panamanian-flagged tanker. The vessel and crew were reported as safe.
- **(19 May)** The EU Red Sea mission "ASPIDES" reported it had successfully defended 120 ships from Houthi attacks.
- **(20 May)** Four Yemeni government troops were killed on Monday while battling the Houthis in the province of Taiz, bringing the total number of soldiers killed in Houthi attacks to 11 in less than a week. Yemen's Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Mohsen Al-Daeri met the UN Yemen envoy's military adviser, General Antony Hayward, in Aden to discuss Houthi attacks on government troops across the country, peace efforts to end the war, and the smuggling of Iranian weapons to the Houthis.
- **(21 May)** The Houthis claimed to have shot down another US MQ-9 drone over the central province of Al-Bayda, marking the fifth such claim by the militia since the start of their Red Sea attacks. The drone was supposedly targeted with a locally made surface-to-air missile.
- **(22 May)** USCENTCOM reported its forces successfully engaged four uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) in a Houthi controlled area of Yemen.
- **(24 May)** The head of the Houthi Prisoner Affairs Committee, Abdul Qader al-Murtada, said the Iran-backed movement would release 100 prisoners belonging to government forces. On the same day, the Houthis launched attacks on three ships in the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Sea
- **(26 May)** The Houthis released more than 100 detainees in Sanaa on Sunday, calling the move a unilateral humanitarian initiative to pardon prisoners and return them to their families.
- **(27 May)** Three sources from Yemen's government and the rebel Houthis reported that 44 flights carrying a combined total of 8,200 pilgrims from Yemen's Sanaa International Airport to Saudi Arabia's Jeddah will start operating from May 28. This will be the second operational flight service

Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.

Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at [www.euroatlantic.org](http://www.euroatlantic.org) or contact us at [info@euroatlantic.org](mailto:info@euroatlantic.org).



from Sanaa since flights to Jordan resumed in April 2022 after the airport was closed for over ten years due to the civil war.

- **(28 May)** Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmad Awad bin Mubarak said that while the peace process with the Houthis is “clear,” a formal accord remains out of reach, as he emphasized the crucial role the media must play in shaping the narrative.
- **(29 May)** Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said that the missile and drone forces hit a Greece-flagged oil and chemical ship, *Minerva Antonia*, in the Mediterranean. He also said the militia had attacked the Marshall Island-flagged bulk ship *Laax* and the Malta-flagged bulk carriers *Morea* and *Sealady* in the Red Sea. The spokesperson claimed those vessels were targeted because they were sailing to Israel.
- **(30. May)** US sources confirmed another MQ-9 Reaper drone went down in Yemen. The Houthis claimed to have shot it down, although no official confirmation has yet emerged. If confirmed, this would be the sixth MQ-9 downed in Yemen.

Review by: **Krištof Jagodic**

Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.

Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at [www.euroatlantic.org](http://www.euroatlantic.org) or contact us at [info@euroatlantic.org](mailto:info@euroatlantic.org).



**Sources/Further Reading:**

- Al-Batati, Saeed. (1 May 2024). US military destroys Houthi drone boat. Available via: <https://arab.news/yueuh>
- Al-Batati, Saeed. (2 May 2024). Houthi leader vows 'fourth phase' of Red Sea ship attacks. Available via: <https://arab.news/2cqf5>
- Reuters. (3 May 2024). Houthis offer education to students suspended in US protest crackdown. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/houthis-offer-education-students-suspended-us-protest-crackdown-2024-05-03/>
- Cengiz, Sinem. (3 May 2024). New NATO chief must work with Turkiye on Middle East file. Available via: <https://arab.news/b5byt>
- Apnews. (3 May 2024). Tens of thousands protest in Sanaa in support of Palestinians in Gaza. Available via: <https://apnews.com/video/gaza-strip-yemen-sanaa-protests-and-demonstrations-war-and-unrest-fcc8c476ecb24104afc6dd48b2e88d2f>
- Rabih, Ali. (4 May 2024). Houthis Threaten to Take 'Ships War' to Mediterranean. Available via: <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/4999576-houthis-threaten-to-take-%E2%80%99ships-war%E2%80%99-mediterranean>
- Al-Batati, Saeed. (5 May 2024). Houthis claim Red Sea victory against US Navy. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2505071/middle-east>
- Arab News. (5 May 2024). Saudi project clears 719 Houthi mines in Yemen. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2504961/saudi-arabia>
- Aljazeera. (6 May 2024). 'Yemen at a crossroads': Nearly 200 aid groups issue urgent funding appeal. Available via: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/6/yemen-at-a-crossroads-nearly-200-aid-groups-issue-urgent-funding-appeal>
- Reuters. (6 May 2024). Shipping firms respond to Houthi attacks in Red Sea. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/shipping-firms-avoid-red-sea-houthi-attacks-increase-2023-12-18/>
- Mongilio, Heather. (6 May 2024). Houthis Threaten to Expand Range of Targets in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden. Available via: <https://news.usni.org/2024/05/06/houthis-threaten-to-expand-range-of-targets-in-the-red-sea-gulf-of-aden>
- Cafiero, Giorgio. (6 May 2024). Erdogan v. Netanyahu: Where does this go? Available via: [https://responsiblestatecraft.org.translate.goog/israel-trade-turkey-gaza/?x\\_tr\\_sl=en&x\\_tr\\_tl=sl&x\\_tr\\_hl=sl&x\\_tr\\_pto=sc](https://responsiblestatecraft.org.translate.goog/israel-trade-turkey-gaza/?x_tr_sl=en&x_tr_tl=sl&x_tr_hl=sl&x_tr_pto=sc)
- AFP. (6 May 2024). Houthis 'dismantle spy network aiding Israel, US'. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2505851/middle-east>
- AFP. (6 May 2024). Aid groups issue urgent appeal for Yemen funds. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2505486/middle-east>
- Reuters. (7 May 2024). UKMTO receives report two explosions south of Yemen's Aden. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/ukmto-receives-report-maritime-incident-south-yemens-aden-2024-05-07/>
- Al-Awsat, Asharq. (7 May 2024). UKMTO Receives Report Two Explosions South of Yemen's Aden. Available via: <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/5004181-ukmto-receives-report-two-explosions-south-yemens-aden>
- Reuters. (7 May 2024). UKMTO receives report two explosions south of Yemen's Aden. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/ukmto-receives-report-maritime-incident-south-yemens-aden-2024-05-07/>
- Al-Batati, Saeed. (8 May 2024). US says Houthis targeted Gulf of Aden with four drones and missiles. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2506921/middle-east>
- Nasser, Mohammed. (8. May 2024). UN Warns of Four-Month Lean Period in Yemen. Available via: <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/5006011-un-warns-four-month-lean-period-yemen>
- Aljazeera. (9 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis say they attacked ships in Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean. Available via: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/9/yemens-houthis-say-they-attacked-ships-in-gulf-of-aden-indian-ocean>
- Al-Batati, Saeed. (9 May 2024). Houthis vow to widen attacks after targeting 3 cargo ships. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2507196/middle-east>
- Gambrell, Jon. (10 May 2024). Suspected pirate attack in the Gulf of Aden raises concerns about growing Somali piracy. Available via: <https://apnews.com/article/mideast-piracy-somalia-yemen-houthi-israel-hamas-war-463b3f1c87b059152cbbc21133c3266e>
- UKMTO. (10 May 2024). Attacked-UKMTO-IO #683. Available via: <https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents#683>
- AP. (11 May 2024). Suspected pirate attack in Gulf of Aden raises concerns about growing Somali piracy. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2508211/middle-east>
- Al-Awsat, Asharq. (11 May 2024). Yemen: Houthi Accused of Teen Abductions in Ibb for Recruitment. Available via: <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/5011456-yemen-houthis-accused-teen-abductions-ibb-recruitment>
- Al-Batati, Saeed. (12 May 2024). US-led Red Sea coalition downs four Houthi drones. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2509091/middle-east>
- Al Awsat, Asharq. (12 May 2024). CENTCOM: Uncrewed Aerial System Launched from Yemen's Houthi Area, No Injuries Reported. Available via: <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/5012731-centcom-uncrewed-aerial-system-launched-yemens-houthi-area-no-injuries-reported>

Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.

Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at [www.euroatlantic.org](http://www.euroatlantic.org) or contact us at [info@euroatlantic.org](mailto:info@euroatlantic.org).



## EVRO-ATLANTSKI SVET SLOVENIJE EURO-ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF SLOVENIA

USCENTCOM. (12 May 2024). May 12 CENTCOM Update. Available via: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3772701/may-12-centcom-update/>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (13 May 2024). No pollution from ship hit by Houthis in Red Sea, Yemeni minister says. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2509601/middle-east>

USCENTCOM. (13 May 2024). May 13 Red Sea Update. Available via: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3773882/may-13-red-sea-update/>

AP. (14 May 2024). US calls on Iran to halt 'unprecedented' weapons transfers to Yemen's Houthis for attacks on ships. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2509716/middle-east>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (14 May 2024). 2 Houthi drones, 1 missile destroyed over Red Sea, says US. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2510201/middle-east>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (16 May 2024). US destroys 4 Houthi drones in Yemen. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2511626/middle-east>

AP. (17 May 2024). Houthis say they downed US MQ-9 drone over Yemen's Maareb. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2511946/middle-east>

UKMTO. (17 May 2024). Attacked-UKMTO-IO #687. Available via: <https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents#687>

Arab News. (17 May 2024). Yemen, Egypt presidents discuss Red Sea security. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2511851/middle-east>

UKMTO. (18 May 2024). Attacked – UKMTO-IO #686. Available via: <https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents#686>

Reuters. (18 May 2024). Houthis hit Panamanian-flagged tanker with missile off Yemen, CENTCOM says. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/ukmto-reports-incident-76nm-northwest-yemens-hodeidah-2024-05-18/>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (19 May 2024). Houthi missile strikes China-bound oil tanker in Red Sea. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2512871/middle-east>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (19 May 2024). EU Red Sea mission says it defended 120 ships from Houthi attacks Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2513266/middle-east>

USCENTCOM. (19 May 2024). May 19 U.S Central Command Update. Available via: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3780530/may-19-us-central-command-update/>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (20 May 2024). US says Houthis fired ballistic missile over Gulf of Aden. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2513756/middle-east>

Reuters. (21 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis say they downed US drone over al-Bayda province. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-houthis-say-they-downed-us-drone-over-al-bayda-province-2024-05-21/>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (21 May 2024). Houthis claim 5th US drone shoot-down since November. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2514456/middle-east>

Reuters. (21 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis say they downed US drone over Al-Bayda province. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2514081/middle-east>

USCENTCOM. (22 May 2024). May 22 U.S. Central Command Update. Available via: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3784984/may-22-us-central-command-update/>

UKMTO. (23 May 2024). Attacked – UKMTO-IO#690. Available via: <https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents#690>

Reuters. (23 May 2024). Ship off Yemen reports missile strike nearby, vessel and crew safe, UKMTO says. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/ukmto-ambrey-receive-reports-incident-south-yemens-hodeidah-2024-05-23/>

USCENTCOM. (23 May 2024). May 24 U.S. Central Command Update. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/ukmto-ambrey-receive-reports-incident-south-yemens-hodeidah-2024-05-23/>

Reuters. (24 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis say they launch attacks on 3 ships including one in Mediterranean. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-houthis-say-they-launch-attacks-3-ships-including-one-mediterranean-2024-05-24/>

Reuters. (24 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis to release 100 prisoners on Saturday, group says. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-houthis-release-100-prisoners-saturday-group-says-2024-05-24/>

Reuters. (24 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis postpone release of 100 prisoners belonging to government forces. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-houthis-release-100-prisoners-saturday-group-says-2024-05-24/>

Ghobari, Mohammed. (26 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis free more than 100 prisoners. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-houthis-free-more-than-100-prisoners-2024-05-26/>

Reuters. (27 May 2024). Flights for pilgrims from Yemen's Sanaa to Saudi's Jeddah to resume on Tuesday. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/flights-pilgrims-yemens-sanaa-saudis-jeddah-resume-tuesday-2024-05-27/>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (27 May 2024). Outcry as Houthis put prominent judge on trial over 'fake news'. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2518126/middle-east>

*Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.*

*Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at [www.euroatlantic.org](http://www.euroatlantic.org) or contact us at [info@euroatlantic.org](mailto:info@euroatlantic.org).*



**EVRO-ATLANTSKI SVET SLOVENIJE**  
**EURO-ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF SLOVENIA**

Malvisi, Gabriele and Al-Faour, Nadia. (28 May 2024). 'Path to peace is clear but accord is still distant, media must fix its narrative,' Yemeni PM tells Arab Media Forum. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2518821/media>

UKMTO. (28 May 2024). Attacked – UKMTO-IO#694. Available via: : <https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents:%20https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents#694>

Al-Batati, Saeed. (29 May 2024). Houthis claim second ship attack in Mediterranean. Available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2519496/middle-east>

Reuters. (29 May 2024). Yemen's Houthis say they downed US MQ-9 drone in Yemen's Maareb. Available via: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-houthis-say-they-downed-us-mq-9-drone-yemens-maareb-2024-05-29/>

Gambrell, Jon. (30 May 2024). Another US MQ-9 Reaper drone goes down in Yemen, images purportedly show. Available via: <https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-rebels-us-military-reaper-drone-7acd2a91856fe78e5d0c5c308e9460a8>

*Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.*

*Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at [www.euroatlantic.org](http://www.euroatlantic.org) or contact us at [info@euroatlantic.org](mailto:info@euroatlantic.org).*