



## Situation Room

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

**Period under review: from 01 June 2024 to 28 June 2024.**

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

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

- **(1 June)** The US military's Central Command reported that Yemen's Houthis launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles and one drone over the Gulf of Aden and four drones over the Red Sea. Three of the drones fired over the Red Sea were destroyed by US forces and one crashed into the sea, no damage or injuries were reported because of the anti-ship ballistic missiles. Military spokesperson Yahya Saree said Houthis conducted six operations targeting the aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower*, a US Navy destroyer, and the cargo vessels *Abliani* and *Maina*. Joint British-US airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels killed at least 16 people and wounded 42 others. The strikes hit a wide range of underground facilities, missile launchers, command and control sites, a Houthi vessel and other facilities. The Houthis described all those killed and hurt in Hodeida as civilians, although that claim has not been confirmed. A court run by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Saturday sentenced 44 people to death, on espionage charges, including a businessman working with aid groups.
- **(2 June)** Saudi Arabia's Project Masam cleared 1,406 mines in Yemen between May 25 - 31 that were laid by the Houthis. A total of 444,858 mines have been cleared since the start of the initiative in 2018.
- **(3 June)** The Houthis claimed that they targeted the Israeli port of Eilat with a new ballistic missile. The missile was apparently shot down by Israeli air defences.
- **(4 June)** Yemen's Human Rights Ministry accused the Houthis of torturing those kidnapped, as well as jeopardising peace talks to end the war in Yemen and a new prisoner exchange deal. Local and international organisations have increased pressure on the Houthis as well as sent appeals to the international community to put pressure on the Yemeni militia to stop the executions of scores of Yemenis.
- **(6 June)** The leader of Yemen's Houthi militia, Abdul Malik Al-Houthi said his troops launched their first attack on Israel with the assistance of the Iraqi Islamic Resistance. The Houthis used missiles and drones against two ships in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. The ships in question are thought to be the *Roza*, and the *Vantage Dream*. Yemen's Houthi militia have unveiled a new, solid-fuel missile in their arsenal that resembles aspects of one earlier displayed by Iran. Tehran described their solid-fuel missile having the capability of flying at hypersonic speed. Rashad Al-Alimi, Chairman of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council visited Saudi Arabia and met with defence minister Prince Khalid bin

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Salman. They discussed the ongoing efforts to reach a comprehensive political solution in Yemen under UN supervision.

- **(8 June)** The 160th Ministerial Council meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) convened in the Qatari capital, Doha. The GCC-Yemeni meeting will discuss and the bloc's firm position in support of the internationally recognised legitimate government in Yemen and the resolution of the Yemeni crisis through a political solution. Human rights groups strongly denounced the Houthi's abduction of Yemenis working for the UN and for US organizations in Yemen.
- **(9 June)** The Houthis launched a series of rockets that struck two cargo vessels, the *Norderney* and the *MSC Tavvishi*. They also claimed to have hit the Royal Navy destroyer *HMS Diamond*. The UK Ministry of Defence denied that the ship had been damaged.
- **(10 June)** Yemen's Houthi rebels said they had arrested 11 people, working for the UN and humanitarian organisations, which the Houthis claim are members of an America-Israeli spy network. The Houthis said that the claimed members of the spy cell and American officers exploited their positions at the American embassy to carry out their sabotage activities. UN human rights office flatly rejects allegations that any captured UN personnel were part of a spy network in Yemen.
- **(10 June)** Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) rehabilitated a fish landing centre in Yemen's Hodeidah.
- **(11 June)** The United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that at least 49 have died and 140 are missing after migrant boat capsized off Yemen. Local fishermen are said to have rescued 78 individuals. President Rashad Al-Alimi, chairman of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council, returned to Aden after visiting several countries in the region to discuss ways to bring peace and prosperity to the war-torn nation. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated his concerns about the rise of detention of civilians by the Houthi militia.
- **(12 June)** The US military destroyed two anti-ship cruise missile launchers in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen. UKMTO reported that Greek-owned coal carrier *Tutor* had suffered damage to its engine room because of an impact produced by a "drone boat" and an unknown airborne projectile.
- **(13 June)** A fire erupted onboard a merchant vessel east of Yemen's Aden after being hit by two unknown projectiles. Also, a separate vessel issued a distress call reporting the impact of a missile east of Yemen's Aden.
- **(14 June)** The heads of six UN agencies and three international humanitarian organisations issued a joint appeal to Yemen's Houthi rebels for the immediate release of 17 members of their staff. The Houthi rebels launched two anti-ship missiles and struck a commercial ship, the *Verbena*, in the Gulf

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of Aden, setting it on fire and severely wounding one civilian. The Houthis are mounting near daily attacks causing the US led campaign in the Red Sea to turn into the most intense running sea battle the US Navy has faced since World War II. The US military destroyed two Houthi patrol boats.

- **(15 June)** The US military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The crew of a Greek-owned vessel, the *Tutor*, that was hit by a missile on 12 June, had been evacuated and the ship is on fire and sinking. The abandoned ship is drifting in the Red Sea.
- **(17 June)** Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan spoke on the phone with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The two officials discussed developments in the Gaza Strip, Yemen, and Sudan. The Saudi aid agency KSrelief has distributed nearly 1,600 food parcels across Yemen, benefiting more than 11,000 people. The project KSrelief removed 1,556 mines across Yemen: 52 anti-tank mines, 1,503 items of unexploded ordnance, and one explosive device. The Houthi militia's army spokesman, Yahya Saree declared that attacks on Israel-linked shipping will persist until Israel ends its war on Gaza and lifts the siege on Palestinian territories. He also emphasized that the Yemeni army would continue to defend its territory against US-UK "aggression".
- **(18 June)** Yemen's Houthi rebels and its internationally recognised government are locked in a fight for control of the country's banks. The rivalry over the banks is throwing Yemen's financial system into deeper turmoil. Houthis, who control the north and centre of the country, and the government, that control the south, use different currency notes with different exchange rates. The escalating money divide is eroding the value of Yemen's currency, the riyal. US imposed new sanctions on the Houthis to obstruct the flow of military materials into Yemen. Houthi militia conducted an attack on government officials in Taiz. Managers of the cargo ship *Galaxy Leader* on Tuesday renewed calls for the release of the vessel's 25 crew being held by Yemen's Houthi militants for seven months.
- **(19 June)** As attacks on merchant ships by the Houthi rebels persist, increasing numbers of crewmember are refusing to sail through the Red Sea. Shipping industry urge the international community to stop the attacks in the red sea. The coal carrier *Tutor*, that was hit on 12 June had sunk. The crew were evacuated on 15 June.
- **(22 June)** US forces destroyed three Houthi uncrewed surface vessels in the Red Sea. US warships have successfully intercepted almost daily Houthi attacks and repeatedly struck Houthi targets inside Yemen. Yemen's Houthis claimed they had conducted a joint military operation with the militant group calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq. The targets of the alleged attack were four ships in the norther Israeli port of Haifa.

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- **(25 June)** The new target of the attack by Yemen's Houthis was a cargo ship that was farther away from nearly all previous assaults conducted in the Red Sea. The attack may indicate the possibility of an expanded area of operations by the rebels.
- **(26 June)** Human Rights Watch urges the Houthi authorities in Yemen to release dozens of arrested UN personnel. A ship operated by the Russian shipping group Sovcomflot, which is under Western sanctions, rescued the crew of a tanker, the *Levant*, that was taking on water off Yemen's coast. A missile, which was apparently launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels, landed near a ship south of Yemen's southern port city of Aden. The event happened hours after the Houthis claimed to be deploying a new long-range missile in their anti-ship campaign.
- **(28 June)** The UN Security Council has demanded that Yemen's Houthi rebels halt all attacks on ships and urged the international community that the disruption of maritime security needs to be addressed. Yemen's Houthi militant group claimed responsibility for attacking a Liberia-flagged vessel in the Red Sea that a maritime agency said had survived five missiles while also saying they targeted three other vessels including two in the Mediterranean. No damage to the vessels was reported.

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