



Situation Room

**** MONITORING SECURITY IN THE RED SEA ****

Period under review: from **25. 10. 2024** to **24. 11. 2024**

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(25 October)** Iranian and Houthi media sources reported that the United States and United Kingdom conducted two overnight airstrikes on Hudaydah Airport between 23-24 October. The US airstrike was said to have targeted a Houthi military tunnel within the airport grounds.
- **(26 October)** According to the Wall Street Journal, Russia had provided targeting intelligence to support Houthi attacks on international shipping in 2024, with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reportedly facilitating the data transfer. Between 18-24 October, US Central Command (CENTCOM) reported destroying 15 Houthi and Iranian drones and missiles.
- **(27 October)** Houthi forces unveiled a new unmanned submarine, "Al-Qari'a," capable of delivering underwater explosions against large naval targets. The submarine had been showcased during military exercises on Yemen's western coast. The drills included defending Yemeni territory from a simulated enemy airdrop, with officials warning the US and UK of potential retaliation for any further intervention in Yemen.
- **(28 October)** After an 18 day pause in attacks, Houthis resumed hostilities by targeting three Liberian-flagged container ships. Houthi military spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Sarea confirmed the strikes using drones and cruise missiles on the *SC Montreal* and the *Maersk Kowloon* in the Arabian Sea, while ballistic missiles targeted the *Motaro* in the Red Sea, causing three explosions near the vessel, 25 nautical miles south of al Mokha. No injuries or damage occurred. In parallel, the Houthis conducted military drills along Yemen's Red Sea coast, simulating defence against large-scale naval and air threats. Germany's defence ministry announced that two naval ships, the frigate *Baden-Wuerttemberg* and the supply ship *Frankfurt am Main*, will avoid the Red Sea due to the high threat level from Houthi attacks, and sail around Africa instead.
- **(29 October)** Reports indicated that a Russian warship had evacuated senior Iranian IRGC Quds Force commander Brigadier General Abdolreza Shahlai from Hudaydah, Yemen, in April 2024. Shahlai, who has a history of orchestrating attacks on US forces and plotting operations against American and Saudi targets, directed the Houthi strikes in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea in October 2023. Although the exact timing remains unclear, the evacuation likely occurred after Iran's 13 April drone and missile assault on Israel. Shahlai is also noted for planning a 2007 attack on a US base in Iraq and a 2011 assassination attempt on the Saudi ambassador in Washington, DC.
- **(30 October)** Houthi rebels announced the development of a new, advanced torpedo designed to strike the lower hulls of large vessels in the Red Sea, enhancing their maritime threat capabilities.

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- **(31 October)** Houthi media reported a new airstrike by US and British air forces in the al-Hawak district of Al Hudaydah Province, Yemen. The strike had occurred just hours after two prior airstrikes on Al Hudaydah Airport. Al Hudaydah is a strategic province with crucial ports along Yemen's western coast.
- **(2 November)** The IDF claimed that they had intercepted three drones over the Red Sea, believed to have been launched from Iraq. The drones hadn't entered Israeli airspace.
- **(3 November)** Houthi rebels announced they will continue their maritime blockade on Israeli-linked vessels. The announcement came amid ongoing naval campaigns in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, part of their claimed support for Hamas and Hezbollah. Separately, Air France suspended flights over the Red Sea after crew members had reported seeing a luminous object near Sudan. The airline emphasised safety precautions, rerouting or cancelling several flights.
- **(4 November)** US Special Envoy to Yemen, Timothy Lenderking, stated that Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, want to avoid escalating the conflict, but need to bolster support for the US-led coalition to deter Houthi attacks on commercial shipping. The Houthis had launched over 270 strikes on commercial vessels, with military spokesperson Yahya Sarea affirming the group will continue targeting ships even if ownership or flags change. Meanwhile, a UN report alleged that the Houthis had been extracting around \$180 million monthly in fees from certain shippers for safe passage.
- **(7 November)** Houthi Supreme Leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi stated that the re-election of former US President Donald Trump will not affect the Houthis' strategy, confirming that attacks on merchant vessels, US and British Royal Navy ships in the Red Sea, and Israel will continue.
- **(8 November)** A 12th US MQ-9 drone has been reported shot down in Yemen over Al-Jawf.
- **(9 November)** The US conducted airstrikes on Houthi weapons storage sites across Yemen, targeting facilities used for attacks on Red Sea shipping.
- **(10 November)** The US carried out a second consecutive night of airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen, reportedly hitting weapons storage facilities in Amran and Saada.
- **(11 November)** Yemen's Houthi rebels launched a significant missile and drone attack on US Navy warships, including the destroyers *USS Stockdale* and *USS Spruance* in the Red Sea, and reportedly targeted a third vessel in the Arabian Sea. The Pentagon confirmed that the US ships had intercepted at least eight drones, five anti-ship ballistic missiles, and three anti-ship cruise missiles, with no reported damage or injuries. Additionally, Houthi media reported three US-UK airstrikes in the al Faza neighbourhood of al Tuhayta district in southern al Hudaydah Governorate.
- **(12 November)** Houthi media reported a US-UK airstrike targeting what they claimed was a civilian car in al Sawmah District, western al Bayda Governorate. The vehicle was said to be transporting members of the Houthi forces, though CENTCOM did not confirm the strike.
- **(13 November)** The UN Security Council unanimously renewed the Resolution 2140 Yemen sanctions regime, extending targeted financial and travel ban measures on designated individuals and the arms embargo on the Houthis for another year, until 15 November 2025. Despite US calls for stronger measures, including freezing assets and enhanced monitoring of maritime activities, the resolution was just a technical rollover, with no substantive changes.

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- **(14 November)** The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) intercepted a missile over the Red Sea targeting the city of Eilat in southern Israel, using its Arrow long-range air defence system. Israel confirmed the missile had been intercepted before entering its airspace.
- **(16 November)** Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea claimed that the Houthis had launched drones targeting military and vital targets in Tel Aviv and Ashkelon in Israel, though the IDF reported no evidence of such launches. In addition, a ballistic missile launched from Yemen triggered alerts in Eilat. The IDF also stated it had intercepted two drones launched from Iraq over the Red Sea the same day. The drones did not enter Israeli airspace.
- **(17 November)** Houthi attacks targeted the Panama-flagged bulk carrier *Anadolu S* under Turkish ownership in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The vessel encountered two missile splashes—one 25 nautical miles west of Al-Mukha and another 70 miles southeast of Aden. No damage or injuries were reported. Houthi military spokesperson Sarea also claimed responsibility for the ballistic missile attack on Eilat in southern Israel reported on November 16.
- **(18 November)** The *USS Abraham Lincoln*, the US Navy's sole aircraft carrier in the Middle East, departed the region over the weekend (16–17 November) after months of counter-Houthi operations. The Pentagon confirmed no carrier is currently in the Middle East, though additional destroyers and aircraft had been deployed as part of ongoing deterrence efforts.
- **(19 November)** The UN Security Council marked the first anniversary of the Red Sea crisis by calling on the Houthis to release the *Galaxy Leader* and its 25 crew members, hijacked on 19 November 2023. The US also accused Russia of increasing support for the Houthis, enhancing their targeting capabilities for attacks on US and allied ships.
- **(20 November)** Turkey condemned the Houthi missile attack on 17 November on the *Anadolu S*, a Turkish-owned cargo ship, and announced measures to prevent future incidents. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin promised to intensify strikes against the Houthis, citing their escalating attacks on shipping and Israel.
- **(21 November)** The Association of German Shipowners (VDR) reported that Yemeni Houthi rebels had been sending threatening emails to German shipping companies, targeting vessels calling at Israeli ports or transiting the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean. German ships continue to reroute around Africa to avoid attacks, adding significant costs and delays.
- **(22 November)** Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea claimed that the Houthis had fired a *Palestine-2* hypersonic ballistic missile targeting the IDF Nevatim airbase in the Negev desert. The IDF reported intercepting the missile on 21 November.
- **(24 November)** According to The Financial Times, Russia recruited hundreds of Yemeni men, including some through coercion, to fight in Ukraine. Many had been lured with promises of high-paying jobs and Russian citizenship but were forcibly conscripted upon arrival. A Houthi-linked company was allegedly facilitating this recruitment. US officials expressed concern over Russia's growing ties with the Houthis, including discussions on arms sales and targeting assistance.

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