



Situation Room

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

Period under review: from 24. 5. 2025 to 24. 6. 2025

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(24 May)** - Five members of Al-Qaeda were killed in a US airstrike in southern Yemen, according to Yemeni security forces. Explosions were also reported near Hodeidah Naval Base, with some local sources pointing to potential foreign involvement, including Israel, while others suggest Houthi mishandling.
- **(25 May)** - A ballistic missile was launched toward Israel by the Houthis. There were no reports of casualties or damage. In recent weeks, the Houthis have intensified their missile and drone attacks against Israeli targets in response to Israel's war on Gaza.
- **(26 May)** - The Houthis reported that US and Israeli airstrikes between July 2024 and May 2025 caused an estimated \$1.4 billion in damage to Yemen's key Red Sea ports: Hodeidah, Salif, and Ras Issa. The attacks reportedly destroyed critical infrastructure, including docks, cranes, power facilities, and logistics hubs, severely impacting maritime operations and supply chains.
- **(27 May)** - The Houthis launched two ballistic missiles at Ben Gurion airport and another key site near Tel Aviv. Both were intercepted by Israeli air defences.
- **(28 May)** - The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) launched an airstrike on the Houthi-controlled Sana Airport in Yemen, in response to the near daily ballistic missile attacks targeting Israeli territory. The strike reportedly destroyed the last operational aircraft of Yemenia Airlines and caused severe damage to the airport and other civilian infrastructure, making it inoperable. The United Nations warned of the risk of further escalation between Israel and Yemen and urged both sides to pursue dialogue.
- **(29 May)** - Air traffic at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv was suspended after the IDF intercepted a missile launched from the Houthi group in Yemen. This attack is believed to be a retaliatory response to Israel's strike on Sana Airport in Yemen.
- **(30 May)** - The Houthis have threatened to escalate their campaign against Israel by targeting civilian aircraft operated by El Al and other Israeli carriers.
- **(1 June)** - A ballistic missile launched at Israel from Yemen was intercepted by Israeli air defences. The Houthis claimed responsibility, stating Ben Gurion Airport was the target.
- **(2 June)** - The IDF successfully intercepted a ballistic missile fired by the Houthis at Ben Gurion Airport.
- **(3 June)** - The Houthis launched a ballistic missile targeting Ben Gurion Airport, as part of their ongoing campaign to enforce an economic blockade on Israel. The missile was intercepted by the IDF.
- **(4 June)** - The IDF intercepted a Houthi drone targeting Ben Gurion Airport in Israel. US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation banning entry, to the United States, for citizens of 12 countries, including Yemen, citing terrorism and national security concerns. The UN Security Council condemned the Houthis for detaining UN personnel and humanitarian workers, demanding their immediate and unconditional release. Human Rights Watch called for an investigation into the 17 April 17 US airstrike on a Yemeni port,

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which resulted in civilian casualties and disrupted critical humanitarian aid deliveries, claiming it is a war crime.

- **(5 June)** - The IDF intercepted a missile launched by the Houthis targeting Ben Gurion airport. Rear Admiral Vasileios Gryparis, Commander of EUNAVFOR Aspidis, reported that maritime traffic in the Red Sea has increased by 60 percent since August 2024. However, it remains below pre-October 2023 levels, when the Houthis began targeting international shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- **(6 June)** - According to the Institute for the Study of War, Iran may supply its proxies and partners, including the Houthis, with newly produced ballistic missiles or key components for their development.
- **(7 June)** - Saad bin Atef al-Awlaki, the leader of al-Qaeda's Yemen branch and a wanted terrorist, released a video message condemning US support for Israel's war in Gaza. In the statement, al-Awlaki threatened US President Donald Trump and Elon Musk, and called on lone actors to carry out assassinations of leaders in Egypt, Jordan, and several Gulf Arab states.
- **(9 June)** - UKMTO advised commercial ships to reconsider docking at Hodeidah port, citing security risks. The Israeli military issued an urgent evacuation order for civilians at three Yemeni ports, in anticipation of strikes on Houthi infrastructure. The Houthis launched one ballistic missile during this period, which landed outside Israeli territory.
- **(10 June)** - The IDF intercepted a Houthi missile targeting Ben Gurion Airport. In response to recent drone and missile attacks, the Israeli Navy struck Houthi targets at Yemen's Hodeidah Port, aiming to impede the port's potential military use. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned that continued Houthi aggression could prompt a broader naval and air blockade against the Iran-aligned group.
- **(11 June)** - The Houthis warned that any US or Israeli attack on Iran could trigger a major regional escalation. UKMTO issued a rare warning to shipping, citing increased military activity that may pose a threat to commercial shipping in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and Strait of Hormuz.
- **(12 June)** - The US criticised Iran's support for the Houthis in Yemen, accusing Tehran of violating UN arms embargoes and enabling attacks on Arab states and Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that Israel has launched military operation Rising Lion, targeting Iran's nuclear program, regime leadership, nuclear scientists, and ballistic missile programs. Iranian media confirmed that Israeli airstrikes killed several high-ranking officials and nuclear scientists.
- **(13 June)** - Israel conducted covert operations on Iranian ballistic missile launchers. Iran launched retaliatory airstrikes at Israel, with explosions reported in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. US forces assisted in intercepting Iranian missiles. The Houthis expressed support for Iran and launched multiple attacks on Israel, including a missile that landed in Hebron, and another aimed at Ben Gurion Airport, which was intercepted by the IDF. Israel also intercepted three drones launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen.
- **(14 June)** - The IDF intercepted three drones and one ballistic missile launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen. These attacks further strained Israeli air defence capacity when combined with Iranian strikes. The IDF reported that a targeted strike in Yemen may have killed Houthi Chief of Staff Muhammad

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Abdulkarim al Ghamari, who oversaw Houthi military operations and maintained ties to Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

- **(15 June)** - Attacks between Israel and Iran intensified, with the IDF striking several nuclear sites in Iran. The strikes reportedly killed the head of the IRGC intelligence unit and two other generals. In response to the growing tensions, US President Donald Trump stated that American involvement in the conflict remained a possibility. Meanwhile, Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sarea announced that the group, in coordination with Iran, launched multiple ballistic missiles targeting key sites in the Tel Aviv and Jaffa area.
- **(16 June)** - Iran continued to reject negotiations on its nuclear program, signalling no readiness to end hostilities with Israel. The US deployed additional forces to the region to defend its assets and interests. The IDF intercepted a ballistic missile launched from Yemen before it entered Israeli airspace.
- **(17 June)** - Israel continued striking Iranian military infrastructure, including missile and chemical weapons sites. Iran launched five limited missile attacks on Israel, indicating reduced missile capabilities. US officials noted that the Houthis would likely resume attacks against international shipping in the Red Sea if the US strikes Iran, and that Iran may attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian-backed militias, including the Houthis, have reportedly coordinated plans to target US forces if the US joins Israel's campaign against Iran. The Trump administration told regional allies that it will not enter the conflict unless US assets are targeted.
- **(19 June)** - Iran has expressed interest in ending the conflict with Israel but has not moderated its negotiating stance. The IDF continued strikes on Iranian nuclear, military, and energy infrastructure. Iran maintained missile attacks on Israel despite losing up to two thirds of its launchers. The US was reportedly preparing to support a potential strike on the Fordow nuclear site if Iran rejects US conditions to resume negotiations. Houthi Supreme Leader Abdulmalik al Houthi stated that the group will continue to attack Israel.
- **(20 June)** - The US Treasury Department imposed counterterrorism-related sanctions on Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis over alleged illicit oil trading and shipping. The IDF continued to strike Iranian ballistic missile systems and air defences. Iran persisted with drone attacks on Israel, though these have had limited impact due to early detection. Tehran attempted to pressure the US and the international community to accept its nuclear terms or face the challenge of locating hidden nuclear material. European partners, alongside the US, demanded that Iran accept zero uranium enrichment levels, restrict its ballistic missile program, and end its support for its proxy forces, which Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi again rejected.
- **(21 June)** - Two squadrons of US B-2 bombers, capable of carrying bunker-busting munitions, departed Whiteman Air Force Base and were reportedly heading for the island of Guam. The IDF continued the air campaign against Iran's ballistic missile and drone infrastructure. Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei enacted emergency succession measures, relocated to a secure bunker, and suspended digital communications amid fears of Israeli and possible US escalation. The Houthis again threatened that they would attack US naval assets in the Red Sea if the US entered the conflict.

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- **(22 June)** - The US launched Operation Midnight Hammer, directly entering the war against Iran with coordinated strikes on three key nuclear facilities: Fordow, Natanz, and Esfatah, using B-2 stealth bombers and Tomahawk cruise missiles. The operation was tactically successful as Iran failed to respond militarily during the strike. Iran began retaliatory measures, with Parliament approving the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, threatening global oil flow. The IRGC signalled possible retaliatory attacks on US bases. The UN Security Council convened urgently, with Russia, China, and Pakistan pushing for an immediate ceasefire. The Houthis condemned the US airstrikes and stated that retaliation was imminent. The US evacuated some personnel and assets from the Persian Gulf and stated it will not launch further strikes unless attacked. Israel continued its campaign against Iranian missile, drone, and air defence infrastructure.
- **(23 June)** - Iran launched a retaliatory strike on US assets in the Middle East, firing 10 ballistic missiles at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Qatar's air defences successfully intercepted the missiles. Tehran claimed responsibility, framing the strikes as a response to Operation Midnight Hammer and warning of further retaliation if provoked. Washington had previously warned Tehran not to retaliate, threatening massive military consequences. Despite this, Iran reportedly informed both US and Qatari officials hours before the strike. The attack signals Iran's willingness to escalate by directly targeting US forces and allied nations in the region.
- **(24 June)** – A ceasefire agreement, mediated by Qatar, was agreed to between Iran and Israel. Despite both sides accusing each other of violating it in the first few hours, the ceasefire appeared to be holding.

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