



Situation Room

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

Period under review: from 25 June 2025 to 24 July 2025

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(25 June)** Saudi aid agency KSrelief delivered 3120 crates of dates to Yemen. Israeli media outlets N12 and Israel Hayom reported that the Israeli Air Force attempted to intercept a drone launched from Yemen.
- **(26 June)** The Saudi-led Masam demining project has destroyed more than 4600 explosive devices left behind by the war in Yemen in the Wadi Dufs region of Abyan province.
- **(27 June)** The US attacked the Houthis in Operation ROUGH RIDER for 50 days before they agreed to stop attacking ships in the Red Sea. However, they remain a serious threat – building underground bases and using advanced drone systems. The commander of US Central Command, Admiral Brad Cooper, warned that the Houthis are becoming increasingly technologically advanced and resistant to conventional military pressure.
- **(28 June)** Houthis launched a ballistic missile at Israel. The Israeli military said the missile was successfully intercepted. This was the first attack by the Houthis since the ceasefire between Iran and Israel on 24 June. According to the Houthis, the target was Beersheba.
- **(1 July)** Israel threatened the Houthis with military retaliation and a blockade after a missile was intercepted from Yemen. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz stated that Yemen will suffer the same fate as Tehran.
- **(6 July)** Houthis fired ballistic missiles at the Israeli city of Jaffa and Ben Gurion Airport, which were intercepted by Israeli forces. Israel responded by threatening an air and naval blockade of Yemen if the attacks continued. The group successfully attacked a cargo ship, the *Magic Seas* in waters south of the port of Hodeidah. The vessel was attacked with small arms, rocket propelled grenades, and explosives-laden drones. This was the first attack on a commercial vessel since April 2025.
- **(7 July)** Israeli forces carried out airstrikes on Houthi ports and infrastructure in Yemen (Hodeidah, Ras Isa, Salif, Ras Kanatib) in response to an attack on the *Magic Seas*. The attack on the ship, caused a fire and the evacuation of the crew, and raised fears of a renewed campaign against shipping. The crew reported that the ship was taking on water and evacuated. The *Magic Seas* later sank, and the crew were picked up by another cargo ship in the area. The Houthis responded with a missile attack on Israel and announced that attacks would continue until the Israeli offensive in Gaza ended.
- **(8 July)** Houthis attacked and sunk the cargo vessel Eternity C in the Red Sea, killing three sailors and leaving the ship damaged and out of control. The drone and missile attack raised fears of a renewed campaign against shipping.
- **(9 July)** Oil prices rose as attacks on ships in the Red Sea and forecasts of lower US production loomed. Markets remained stable despite OPEC+ output increases due to high consumption. The UN Security

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Council condemned the Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, the first in seven months, which have caused civilian casualties and environmental damage. Four sailors were killed and fifteen are missing. The ship Eternity C was attacked with drones and rocket launchers and sank. The US accuses the Houthis of kidnapping the survivors and demanded their release. The incident once again highlights the danger to maritime traffic in the region. UN special envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg, warned that the attacks threaten freedom of navigation and could drag Yemen into further regional conflicts.

- **(10 July)** In a statement to the press, the UN special envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg, warned that Houthi attacks and Israeli airstrikes are further destabilising the country. He called for the resumption of peace talks and the release of prisoners. Pakistan has called for immediate action, political dialogue and condemned the Houthi detention of aid workers in the UN Security Council.
- **(11 July)** UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the attacks by the Houthis on ships in the Red Sea, where two Greek-registered ships (Magic Seas and Eternity C) were sunk in the space of a week. Four sailors died and eleven are still missing. Guterres said it was a dangerous escalation of violence that violated freedom of navigation and threatened maritime traffic, the environment and an already vulnerable coastal area. He called on the Houthis not to hinder the search for the missing sailors. Admiral Brad Cooper warned that the Houthis, like other Iranian-allied groups, are developing underground bases and advanced drone systems with which they can overwhelm their opponents. Although the Trump doctrine emphasises the swift and decisive use of force without prolonged engagement, questions remain about the long-term effectiveness of such an approach.
- **(12 July)** Merchant ships in the Red Sea are sending public messages to help other ships avoid attacks by the Houthis.
- **(13 July)** The deaths of five children in Taiz, killed after an unexploded ordnance (UXO) detonated while playing football, have raised the number of child casualties from landmines and UXO's in Yemen to at least 40 this year. Yemen remains among the world's most heavily contaminated countries, with decades of conflict leaving a persistent threat to civilian safety, particularly children.
- **(14 July)** The search for those missing after the Houthis attacked and sank the Eternity C in the Red Sea has concluded. Ten survivors were rescued, at least four people are presumed dead and 11 are still unaccounted for, according to private security firms Ambrey and Diaplous Group. Houthis claimed to have captured some crew members, though no evidence has been provided. The US Embassy in Yemen stated it believes the rebels have kidnapped members of the vessel's crew.
- **(15 July)** The UN Security Council has renewed its mandate to monitor and report on Houthi attacks against maritime vessels in the Red Sea, amid ongoing violations by the Iran-backed group, which has disregarded previous demands by the Council to cease such actions. The Israeli military reported successfully intercepting a drone, launched by the Houthis towards Eilat. Meanwhile, regional military posture is shifting as the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson departed the region, along with its strike group. The departure leaves the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, accompanied by its own strike group which includes at least two destroyers, alone in the Middle East at a time when Iran-backed Houthi rebels have resumed their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

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- **(16 July)** The Yemeni National Resistance Forces (NRF), aligned with the internationally recognized Yemeni government, intercepted and seized a large Iranian weapons shipment bound for Houthi militants. The cargo included over 750 tons of munitions and hardware comprising advanced cruise, anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles, warheads, drone engines, air defence systems, radar systems and communications equipment. While Iran continues to deny supplying arms to the Houthis, Tehran-manufactured weaponry has repeatedly been discovered in both battlefield recoveries and intercepted maritime shipments, despite a UN arms embargo in place. In a separate development, Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council claimed to have foiled a Houthi-linked plot to assassinate UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg in an effort to destabilise liberated regions and undermine international confidence in the Yemeni government. Chairman Rashad Al-Alimi shared the information during a meeting with EU ambassadors, linking the cell to previous high-profile attacks.
- **(17 July)** Houthis claimed responsibility for launching a Zulfiqar ballistic missile and a drone targeting Ben Gurion Airport. The Israeli military confirmed intercepting a missile fired from the Arabian Peninsula. In a video statement, Houthi military spokesperson Yehya Saree announced additional drone strikes targeting military sites and the Israeli port city of Eilat.
- **(18 July)** Houthis claimed responsibility for a ballistic missile targeting Israel's Ben Gurion airport. According to the Israeli military, the missile was successfully intercepted.
- **(20 July)** Israel's Ports and Shipping Authority has announced that operations at Eilat Port will be suspended as of 20 July due to an escalating debt crisis. The port's closure has raised concerns over possible disruptions to logistical support for the Israeli Navy in the Red Sea, particularly amid elevated regional tensions. The port had found itself in financial difficulties due to frequent closures as a result of Houthi attacks.
- **(21 July)** The Israeli military conducted a series of airstrikes on Yemen's Hodeidah port, targeting what it described as Houthi-affiliated sites used to launch drone and missile attacks. Defence Minister Israel Katz emphasised that Israel is committed to dismantling the group's operational capabilities. He also warned that Yemen's fate could be the same as Tehran's.
- **(22 July)** A ballistic missile launched at Israel by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen was intercepted by Israeli air defences. A second missile, fired several hours later, fell short outside Israeli territory. In response to ongoing regional threats, the United States announced sanctions targeting an oil smuggling and sanctions evasion network linked to the Houthis, operating across Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. The action comes as part of a broader series of measures aimed to suppress the group's destabilizing activities.
- **(23 July)** Local officials and fishermen in Yemen's western coastal region accused the Houthis of coercing civilians into supporting their military operations in the Red Sea. According to Ali Al-Ahdal, Director of the Media Office in Al Hudaydah Governorate, fishermen have reportedly been pressured to lease their vessels to armed operatives or to personally sail near commercial shipping lanes under threat of retaliation. Al-Ahdal described the practice as using civilians as human shields and called for an international investigation into the alleged violations, citing serious concerns for both civilian safety and maritime security.

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- **(24 July)** Multiple explosions occurred at the Al-Anad military base in southern Yemen, causing alarm among residents in the surrounding Tuban district. The blasts reportedly originated from a weapons and ammunition depot. Al-Aad is the largest air base in Yemen, which is considered one of the most strategically significant military installations held by pro-government forces.

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