



# Houthi Attacks On Commercial Shipping

U.S. ARMY

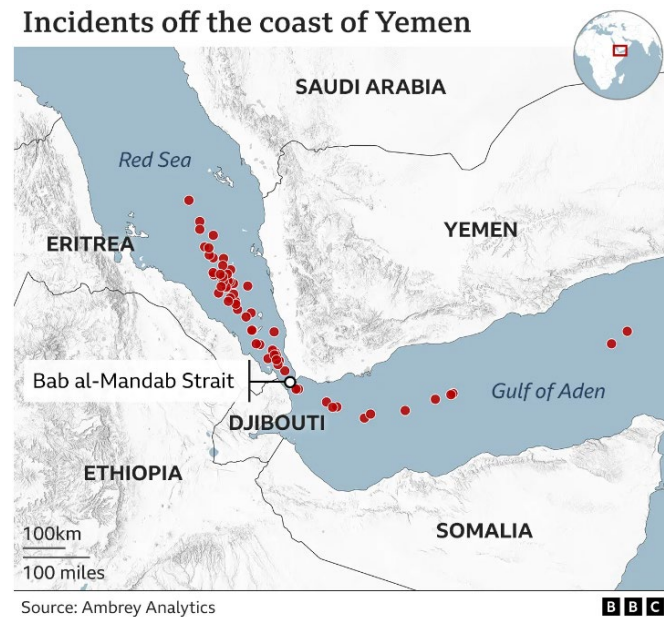
**(U) This infographic provides information on the impacts of Houthis attacks to commercial shipping.** Yemen's Houthis have been disrupting Red Sea maritime trade for the past two months, attacking ships owned by Israelis or ones they determine are enroute to Israel. The first ship targeted was the Galaxy Leader, partially owned by a British company controlled by Israeli shipping magnate Rami Unger. The Houthis commandeered the ship and sailed to Yemen, and other takeovers have since been attempted. U.S. Navy destroyers deployed to the region since the beginning of the war in Gaza have managed to thwart some attempts. Nonetheless, the Houthis have also targeted many other ships with no links to Israel - with cruise missiles, drones, and anti-ship ballistic missiles. These attacks took place in the southern Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Gulf of Aden and even in the Arabian Sea.

Impacts: Merchant shipping groups are now diverting freight from transiting through the Red Sea. Freight going through the Suez Canal has dropped by 45% in the two months since attacks by Yemen's Houthis. This is disrupting already strained maritime trading routes.

The Suez Canal handles 12-15% of global trade and 25-30% of container traffic. 39% fewer ships than at the start of December transited the canal, leading to a 45% decline in freight tonnage. Container shipments through the canal were down 82% in the week to Jan 19 from early December.

Since the outbreak of fighting in the Middle East, the cost of shipping a standard container from China to Europe has soared to more than \$4,700 from less than \$1,000. It has also increased travel time. A Rotterdam to Singapore trip through the Suez Canal is around 8500 nautical miles in 26 days. The trip around the southern tip of Africa, is 11,800 nautical miles in 36 days. Most analysts conclude that the Red Sea fighting is not currently having an impact on the U.S. economy, but that could change.

Sources:  
[Houthi attacks are starting to reshape shipping flows](#) (The Washington Post)  
[Threat Update – Red Sea and The Gulf of Aden](#) (Ambrey Analytics LTD)  
[Tracking Houthi attacks in the Red Sea](#) (BBC)  
[Exclusive: China presses Iran to rein in Houthi attacks in Red Sea, sources say](#) (Reuters)



Affiliated ships with heightened risk. [Ambrey Analytics Ltd](#), has grouped affiliations into four tiers:

- 1. First tier: Israel.** Commercial shipping affiliated with Israel is at significant risk as part of Houthi's response to the Israel-Gaza conflict.
- 2. Second tier: The US, and the UK.** Merchant shipping is heightened following US/UK strikes on Houthi military targets beginning 11 January 2024.
- 3. Third tier: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, and the Netherlands.** Based off of individual statements made by these countries following the US and UK strikes on Houthi military.
- 4. Fourth tier: Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.** Based off a joint statement issued collectively following the US and UK strikes on Houthi military targets.

- The main threat to merchant shipping remains linked to affiliation.
- If Israel, US, or UK-affiliated, it is advised to avoid transits through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden where possible at present.
- If affiliated with Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, or the Republic of Korea, it is advised to proceed with caution, and with all necessary security measures.
- The Houthis are assessed to retain capability throughout the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Container ships are rerouting to avoid Red Sea



## Weapons

Houthi weapons primarily originate from Iran. They are known to use surface-to-surface missiles, artillery rockets, loitering munitions and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). They have several missiles and UAVs capable of reaching Israel from Yemen:

[Toufan](#) – a surface-to-surface missile, with a range of 3.5 km (2 mi).

[Soumar family of cruise missiles](#) – with strike ranges of about 2,500 km (1,200 mi).

[Quds-2 missile](#) – supposedly with a range of 1,350 km (840 mi) but made to strike Israel.

[Samad-3](#) and [Samad-4](#) – UAVs/loitering munitions with ranges of 1,800 km (1,100 mi)+.

Wa'id drones – similar to Iran's [Shahed 136](#), loitering munition with a range of 2,500 km (1,600 mi).

