



# INTEL OVERVIEW

- **Regional Security Overview**
- **YEMEN Conflict**
- **Overall events in AOO**
- **Piracy**
- **Threat Assessment**
- **Suspicious approaches**



CDR. Rodrigo Rodriguez-Kabana Parras  
CJ2 ACOS

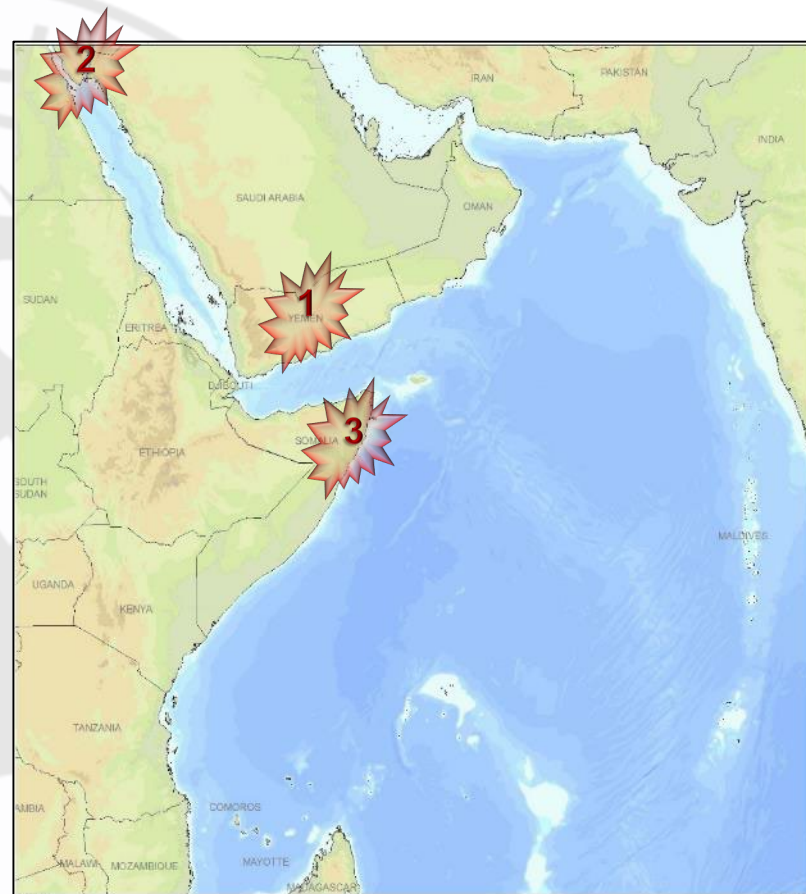
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# Regional Security Overview



Country	Remarks
(1) YEMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Houthi insurgency. Proxy but own agenda</li><li>• Saudi Arabia leading the ongoing peace negotiations with Houthis. Assess to seek peace agreement.</li><li>• Houthi against Israel since the conflict against Hamas begun on 07th Oct.</li></ul>
(2) HAMAS-ISRAEL (Red Sea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Houthis supporting Hamas and are threatening, attacking any Israeli interests within the GOA, BAM and RS (AQABA).</li></ul>
(3) SOMALIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Puntland political unrest in view of the upcoming elections in early 2024.</li><li>• Somaliland unrest in the border with Puntland.</li><li>• UNSC lifts arms embargo to the FGS on 05<sup>th</sup> Dec.</li><li>• Iran footprint in Somalia</li></ul>



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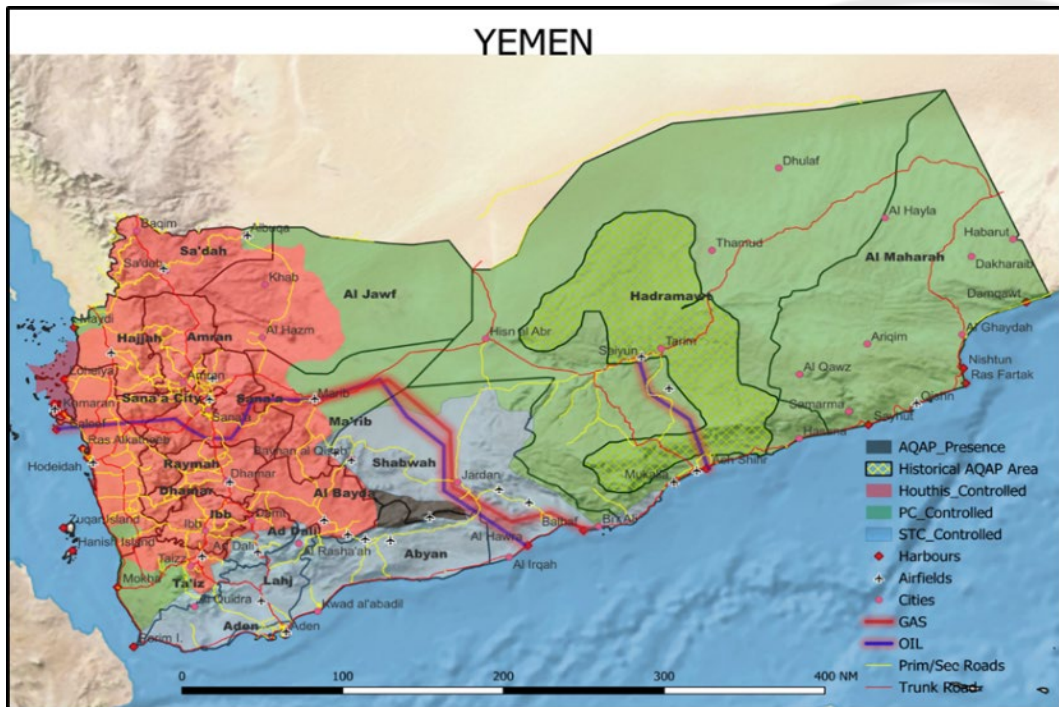


## Yemen

- Actor: **HOUTHIS**

### (1) Capabilities:

- Surface and aerial means to operate within the RS
- Mid and long range missiles (up to 2,000Km).
- Drones and access to additional resources and the knowledge to build and operate ISR and attack drones.
- MDA control over the majority of the West Yemeni coastline (RS)



### (2) Support from Iran:

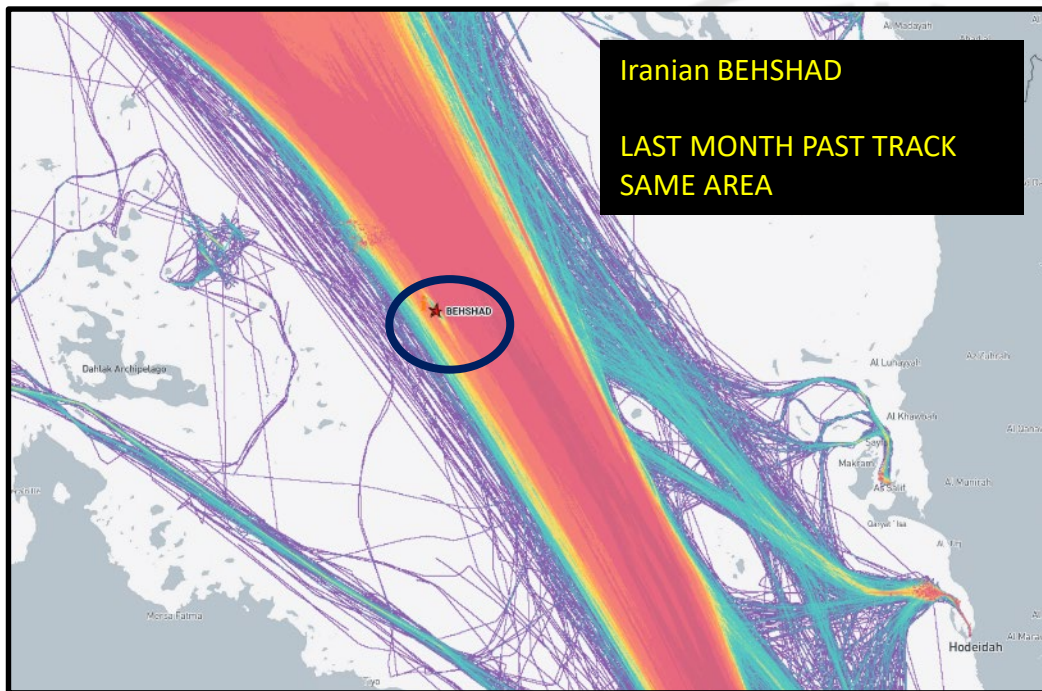
From Iran.

- **ALMOST CERTAIN**: Weapons. Manufactured Locally, spare parts and designed by foreign Countries
- **HIGHLY LIKELY**: Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)





## Yemen



• Actor: **HOUTHIS**

### (3) Most Probable Scenario

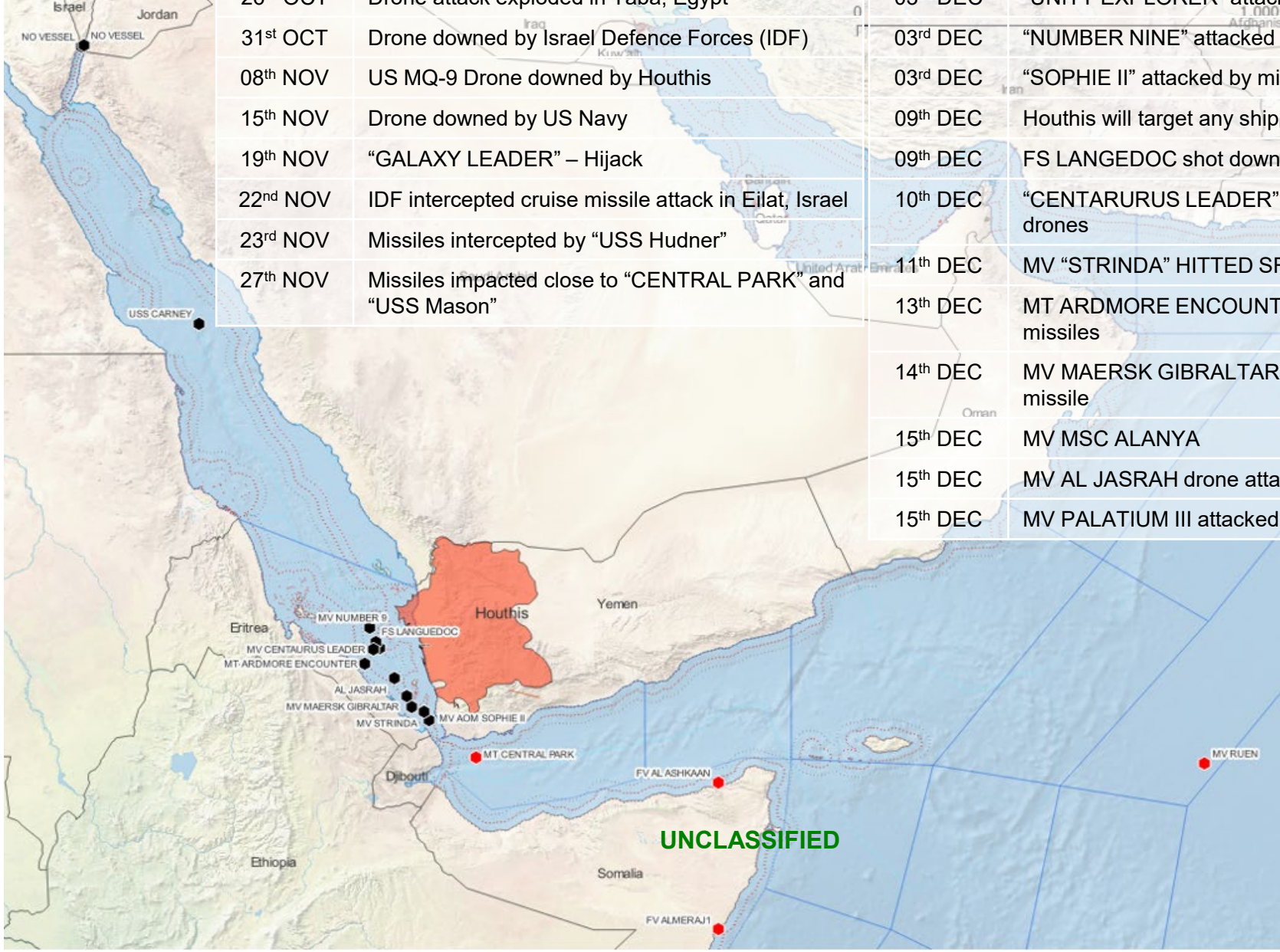
- Houthis will continue to harass Israel-related vessels in the RS with drones, ASM and hijacking attempts.
- Iranian vessel “BESHAD” may support the Houthis with information about traffic of Israeli vessels in the RS.
- Houthis will continue to attack Israeli territory with drones and/or ballistic missiles.

### (4) Most Dangerous Scenario:

- HOUTHIS Engage ships allegedly related to Israel
- HOUTHIS seeking international attention. Looking for disruption in commercial shipping in the RS and GOA.



# Overall Events in RS/GOA/BAM



19 <sup>th</sup> OCT	Missiles intercepted by "USS Carney"
26 <sup>th</sup> OCT	Drone attack exploded in Taba, Egypt
31 <sup>st</sup> OCT	Drone downed by Israel Defence Forces (IDF)
08 <sup>th</sup> NOV	US MQ-9 Drone downed by Houthis
15 <sup>th</sup> NOV	Drone downed by US Navy
19 <sup>th</sup> NOV	"GALAXY LEADER" – Hijack
22 <sup>nd</sup> NOV	IDF intercepted cruise missile attack in Eilat, Israel
23 <sup>rd</sup> NOV	Missiles intercepted by "USS Hudner"
27 <sup>th</sup> NOV	Missiles impacted close to "CENTRAL PARK" and "USS Mason"

29 <sup>th</sup> NOV	Drone intercepted by "USS Carney"
03 <sup>rd</sup> DEC	"UNITY EXPLORER" attacked by missile
03 <sup>rd</sup> DEC	"NUMBER NINE" attacked by missile
03 <sup>rd</sup> DEC	"SOPHIE II" attacked by missile
09 <sup>th</sup> DEC	Houthis will target any ship heading Israel
09 <sup>th</sup> DEC	FS LANGUEDOC shot down 2 drones
10 <sup>th</sup> DEC	"CENTARURUS LEADER" reports two failed drones
11 <sup>th</sup> DEC	MV "STRINDA" HITTED SRS
13 <sup>th</sup> DEC	MT ARDMORE ENCOUNTER skiffs and missiles
14 <sup>th</sup> DEC	MV MAERSK GIBRALTAR attacked by missile
15 <sup>th</sup> DEC	MV MSC ALANYA
15 <sup>th</sup> DEC	MV AL JASRAH drone attack
15 <sup>th</sup> DEC	MV PALATIUM III attacked by projectile

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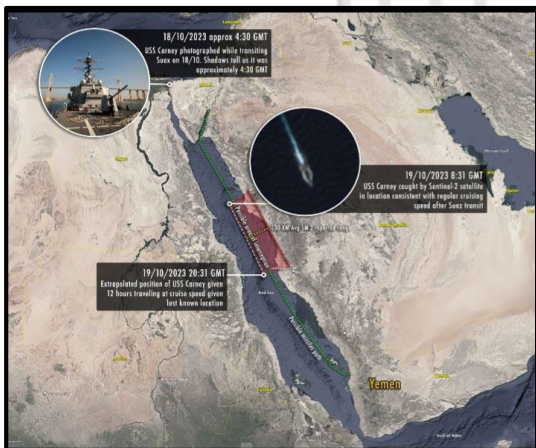
# Houthi claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



## Intend to reach Israel

- Houthi claimed attacks targeting Israel on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and US on 08<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023
- The above attacks were conducted with ballistic missiles an/or drones launched from Houthi controlled areas in YEMEN heading to Israel.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 02<sup>nd</sup> Nov the military Houthi spokesperson vowed to launch further strikes, encouraged Arab countries to mobilise their armies in support for Palestinians.

**19<sup>th</sup> Oct – Houthi launched missile attack but intercepted by USS Carney**



**The aftermath of the drone explosion at TABA hospital on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>**



**31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Israel Defence Force (IDF) shot down Houthi drone**



**08<sup>th</sup> Nov– US MQ-9 type drone shot down by Houthi allegedly close to Yemen coast**



# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



## Swift to Israel related shipping

- US shot down a Houthi drone on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 by US Navy warship deployed in the area of southern RS.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nov, Houthi political leader stated that the Houthis reserve the right to retaliate against the US for the interception of their projectiles.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nov, Houthi media stated that the militants' group took a “historic decision” to search for Israeli ships in the RS which would result in the closure of the Strait of BAM to Israeli commercial and military maritime traffic.

Tweet by Mohammed Al Houthi: "The Yemeni army will reserve the right to respond to the destruction of its drone, which America claimed to have destroyed." 15 November 2023, 2315hrs GST







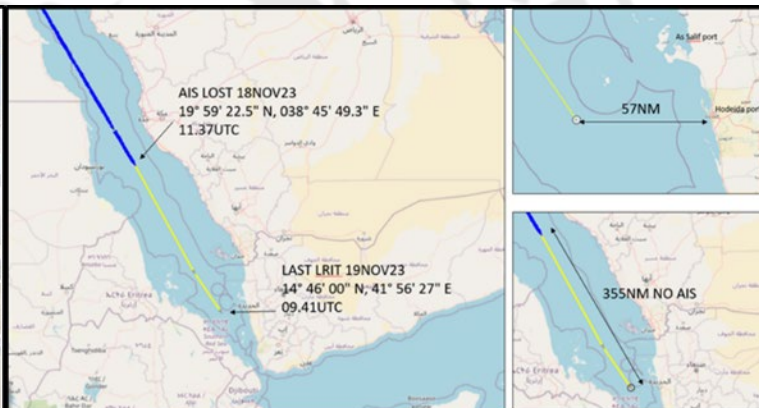
# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



## Action by HOUTHIS

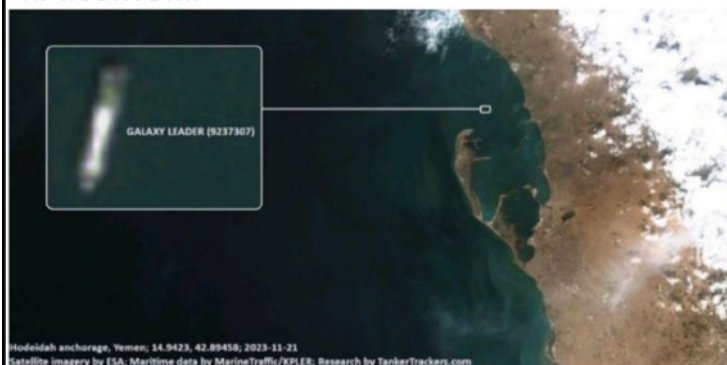
- Early on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, Houthi military spokesperson announced specific targets for Houthi forces in the RS and BAM which are: **1:** Israeli-flagged ships, **2:** Ships operated by Israeli companies, **3:** Ships owned by Israeli companies.
- Houthi Hijacked MV “GALAXY LEADER in southern RS by Helicopter operation on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 after announcing the above specific targets.

Images of the Houthi Seizure of the Cargo Ship in the Red Sea, 19 November 2023



“GALAXY LEADER” was transiting from Turkey to India.

IMAGE PURPORTEDLY SHOWING THE GALAXY LEADER IN HUDAYDAH



### GENERAL INFORMATION

IMO: 9237307  
 Name: GALAXY LEADER  
 Vessel Type - Generic: Cargo  
 Vessel Type - Detailed: Vehicles Carrier  
 Navigational Status: Active  
 MMSI: 311408000  
 Call Sign: C6502  
 Flag: Bahamas [BS]  
 Gross Tonnage: 48710  
 Summer DWT: 17127 t  
 Length Overall x Breadth Extreme: 189.2 x 32.29 m  
 Year Built: 2002  
 Home Port: NASSAU  
 Classification Society: DET NORSKE VERITAS  
 GERMANISCHER LLOYD  
 Builder: GDYNIA SHIPYARD  
 Owner: -  
 Manager: STAMCO SHIP MANAGEMENT CO LTD



Flag State:  
**BAHAMAS**  
 Owners:  
**ISRAELI's**  
 Crew:  
**22 (no Israeli).**





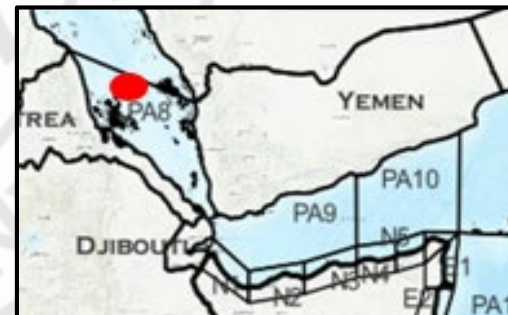
# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, Houthi released video footage and stated that the seizure of the “GALAXY LEADER” is *a significant shift in the course of the war with the Zionist entity and “the start” of a new pivotal phase.*
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, Israeli Defence Forces claimed to have intercepted a cruise missile out of its territorial heading towards Eilat.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, “USS Thomas Hudner” and “USS Carney” intercepted one-way attack drones while patrolling both in the southern RS launched from Houthi controlled areas in YEMEN.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, Houthis rejected a G7 statement calling on the rebels to cease their threats to international shipping lanes, stressing that the Houthis have been “extremely careful to protect international trade routes in the RS and Arabian Sea”.



23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – USS  
Hudner  
intercepted drone  
attack



29<sup>th</sup> Nov – USS  
Carney  
intercepted drone  
attack

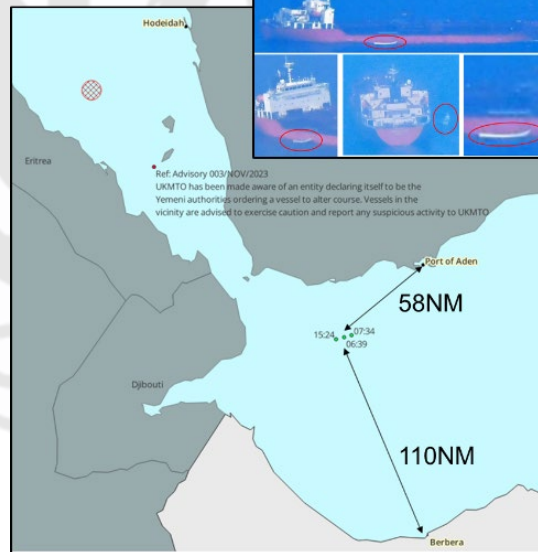
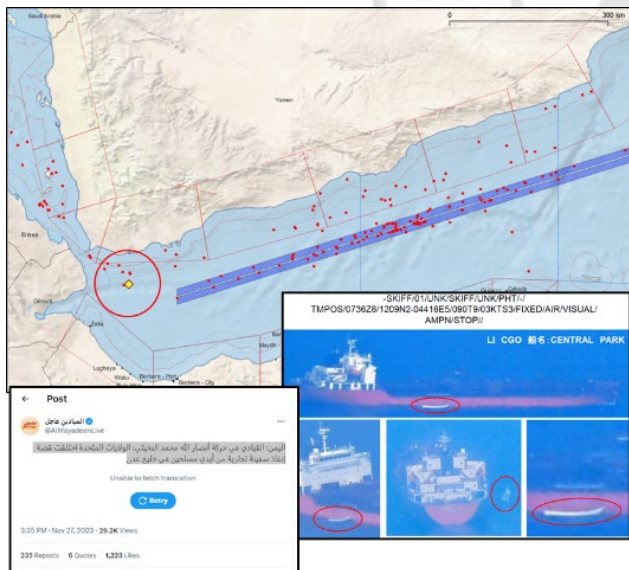


# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



## M/T CENTRAL PARK (Piracy or Conflict Related).

- 27 Nov M/T CENTRAL PARK was boarded by armed personnel. No success on taking control.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, two missiles launched from Houthis controlled areas were impacted in the vicinity of “USS Mason” and “M/T CENTRAL PARK” in GOA.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, Houthi spokesperson declared that the US fabricated the story of “the rescue of a commercial ship from the hands of gunmen in GOA”
- Later on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, US Pentagon official said that “the attempted attack on a commercial Israel-linked vessel MT CENTRAL PARK in the GOA appeared to have been carried out by Somali pirates and not by Houthi rebels.



“CENTRAL PARK” is managed by London-based, company ZODIAC Group, controlled by Israeli businessperson



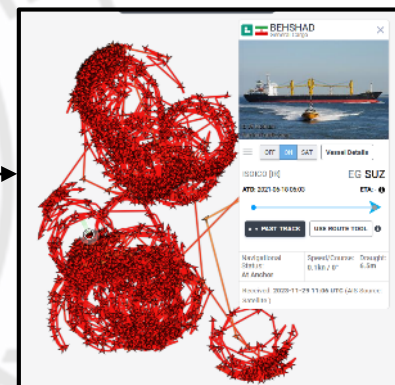
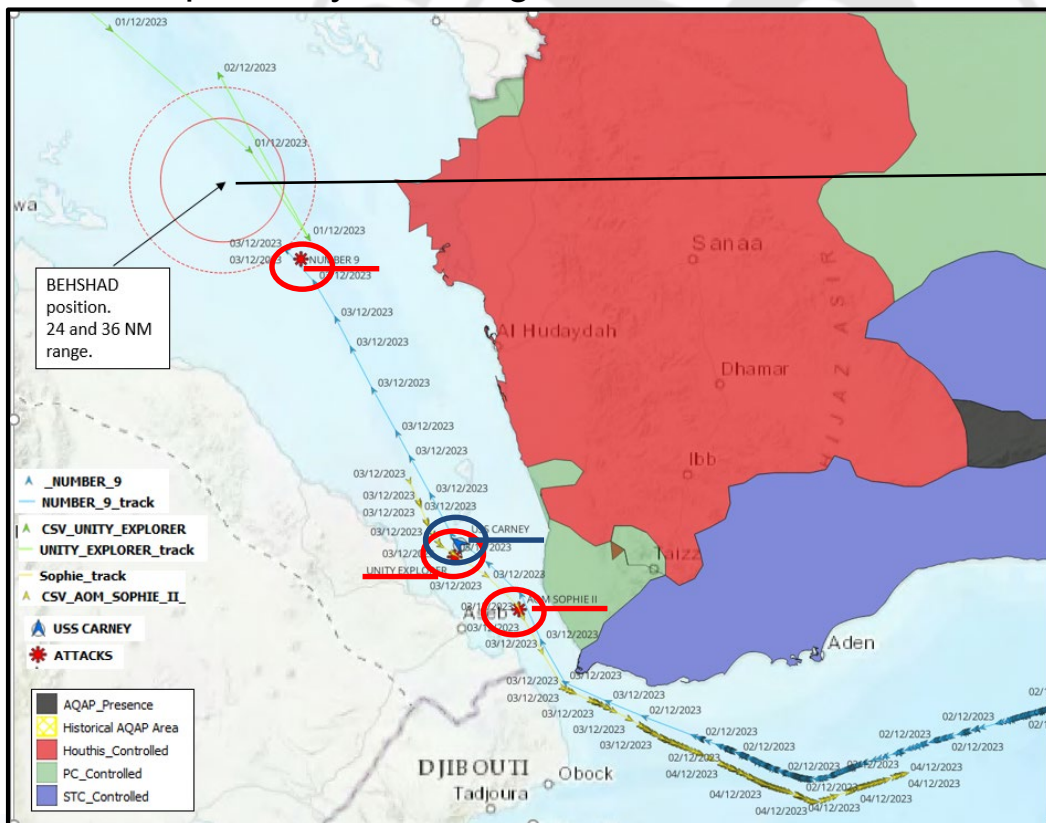


# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



## Three attacks in SRS in single day

- 01<sup>st</sup> Dec, shortly before the truce between Israel and Hamas expired, Houthis spokesperson announced that they are fully prepared to resume attacks against Israeli in the event that attacks on Gaza will continue.
- 03<sup>rd</sup> Dec, Houthis claimed attacks on two (2) Israeli ships (“UNITY EXPLORER” and “NUMBER 9”) in the RS. However, three (3) commercial vessels were involved in missile/drone attacks in BAM and RS respectively including “SOPHIE II”.



Iranian **MV BEHSHAD** (VOI List Vessel) is associated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).



# EVENTS FROM 08 – 09 DEC



## Houthis more attacks between 08 – 09DEC

- 08<sup>th</sup> Dec, UKMTO reported that an entity declaring to be Yemeni authorities, ordered a vessel to alter course in SRS.
- 09<sup>th</sup> Dec, Houthis stated “they will consider as viable targets all the ships heading to Israeli ports, regardless of their nationality, until Israel allows humanitarian aid into Gaza.”
- 09<sup>th</sup> Dec, MV PANTA REI reported in BAM a VHF call from Yemen Navy to alter course to HODEIDAH port.

### Houthis statement on 09<sup>th</sup> Dec

### MV PANTA REI

### UKMTO on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

**UKMTO Advisory 003/DEC/2023**

**IRREGULAR ACTIVITY**

Incident Date:	Incident Time:	Latitude:	Longitude:
07/DEC/2023	2245UTC	141700N	0421400E

Source: Master  
Issued: 08 DEC 23 0930 UTC

UKMTO has received reports of an entity declaring itself to be the Yemeni authorities, ordering a vessel to alter course in the Southern Red Sea. Vessels in the vicinity are advised to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity to UKMTO.



**UKMTO**  
United Kingdom Trade Operations

Yahya Sare'e @Yahya\_Sare'e

Following the success of the Yemeni Armed Forces in imposing its decision to prevent Israeli ships from navigating in the Red and Arab Seas, and as a result of the Zionist enemy's ongoing horrific massacres, genocide, and siege against Palestinians in Gaza.

6:23 PM · Dec 9, 2023 · 18.5K Views

26 220 608 14

Post your reply

Yahya Sare'e @Yahya\_Sare'e · Dec 9

2-The Yemeni Armed Forces announce that they will prevent navigating all the ships heading to the Zionist entity from any nationality, if the food and medicine keep not accessing the Gaza Strip, and the will become a legitimate target for our armed forces.

Yahya Sare'e @Yahya\_Sare'e · Dec 9

3-Out of concern for the safety of maritime navigation, we warn all ships and companies to avoid dealing with Israeli ports.

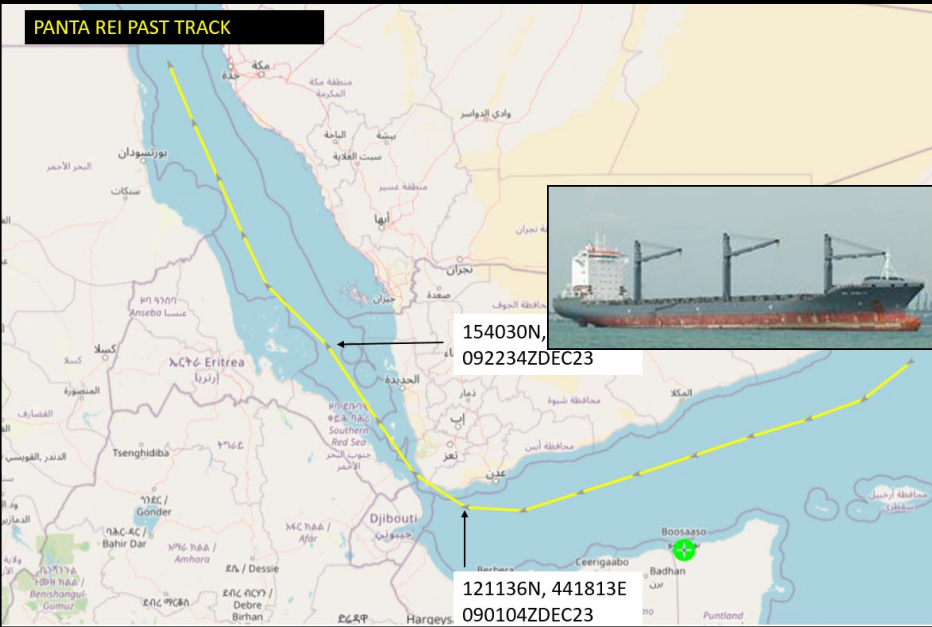
Yahya Sare'e @Yahya\_Sare'e · Dec 9

4-The Yemeni Armed Forces reaffirms its full commitment to the safe continuation of the global trade movement through the Red and Arab Seas for all ships and all countries with the exception of ships affiliated to Israel or transporting commodities to Israeli ports.

Yahya Sare'e @Yahya\_Sare'e · Dec 9

5-The Yemeni Armed Forces will implement this decision from the moment this statement was issued.

**PANTA REI PAST TRACK**



154030N, 092234ZDEC23

121136N, 441813E 090104ZDEC23



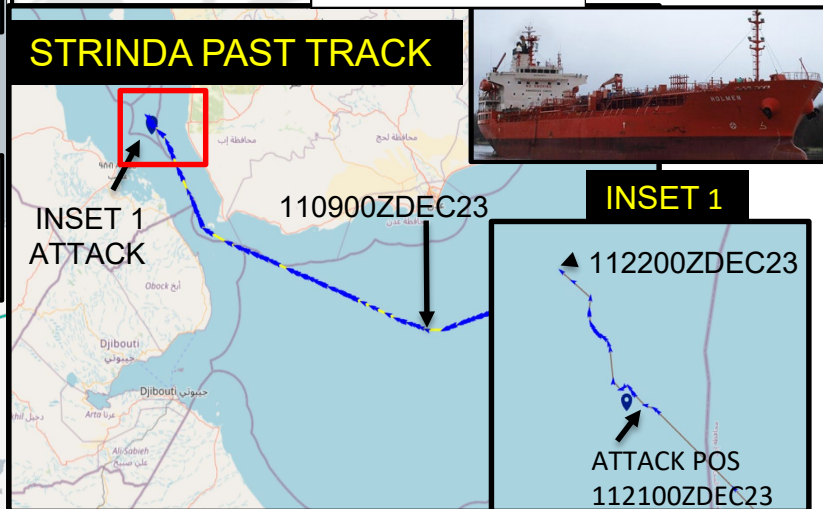
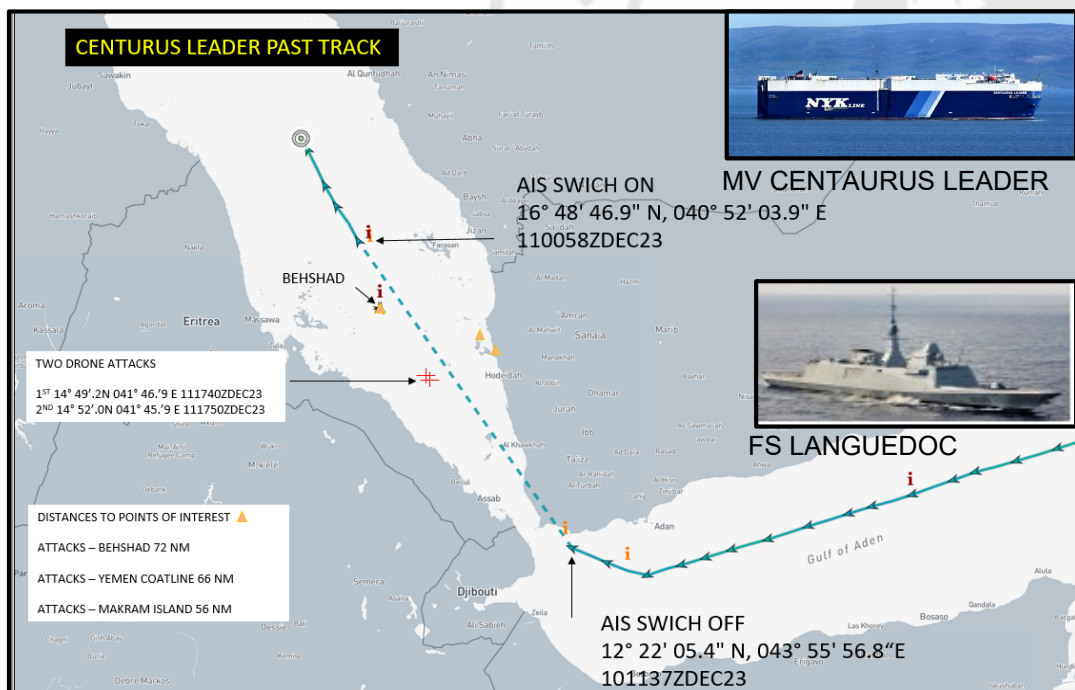
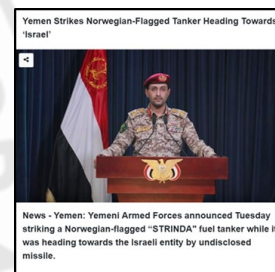


# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/GOA/BAM



## Houthis more attacks between 09 – 11DEC

- 09<sup>th</sup> Dec, FS LANGUEDOC in SRS shot down 2 drones allegedly launched from Yemen coast.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, MV CENTAURUS LEADER reported 2 drone attacks, both of them fell into the sea (astern approx. 500m)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, Houthis attacked Norwegian-flagged **MT STRINDA** (Oil /Chemical tanker) by X1 drone and X1 possible missile while transiting through the BAM strait. (approx 15NM off YEMEN coast)



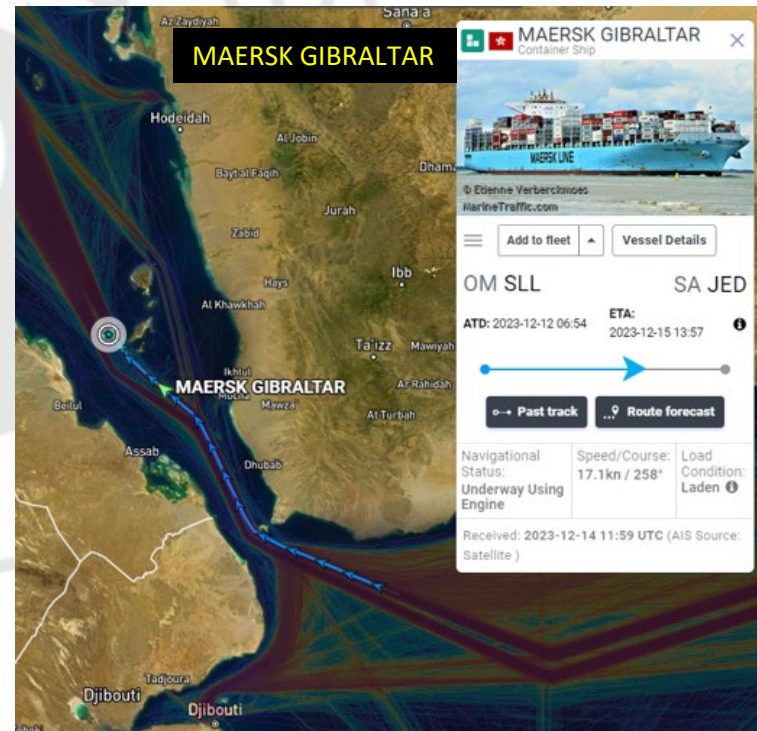
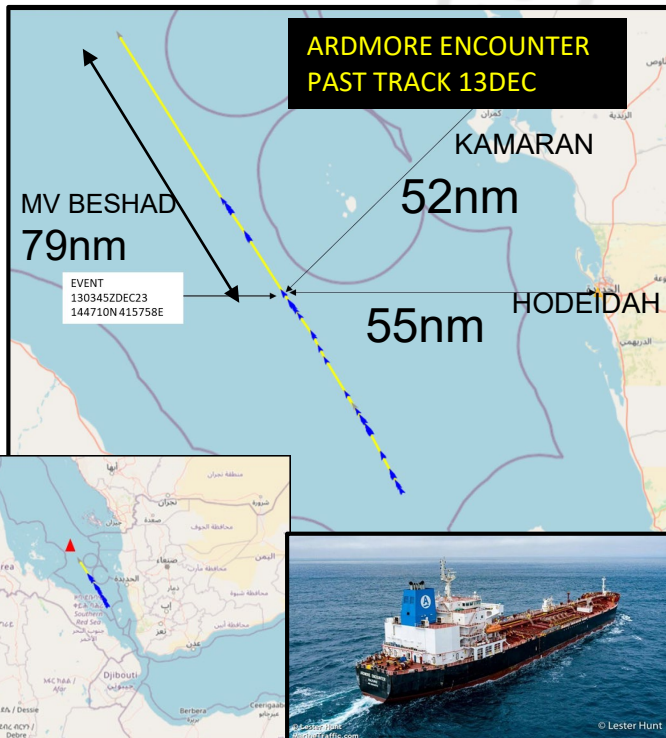


# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/BAM



## Houthis more attacks between 13 – 14 DEC

- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, MT ARDMORE ENCOUNTER reported an approach by a small craft with 3 POB's exchanged firing shots with PAST team. Then received orders from an unidentified entity to alter course to YEMEN port. Later, x2 projectiles were fired. 1st shot down by US Mason, 2nd fell 200m astern the ship.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, JOC BWO received a recorded VHF radio call from MV SAN CLEMENTE addressed to MV MAERSK GIBRALTAR . Later, UKMTO advised that same vessel reported an explosion approx. 50m from a port quarter in the area.





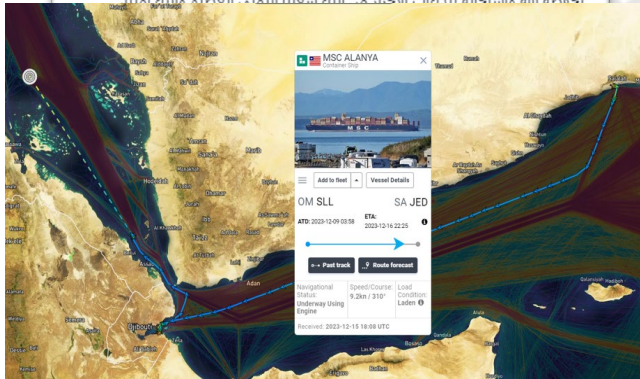


# Houthis claimed attacks in RS/BAM

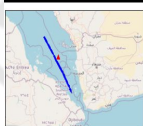


## Houthis attacked 3 vessels in a single day (15 DEC) and assumed responsibility for 2 attacks.

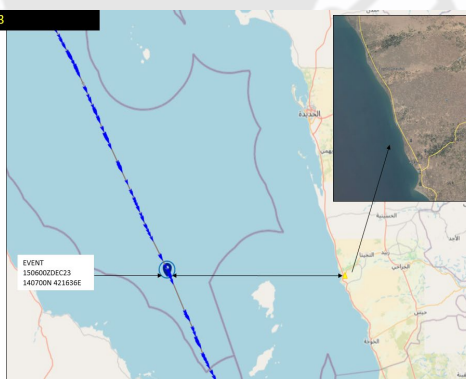
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, MSC ALANYA reported armed skiffs in SRS and unidentified entity declared as Yemeni Naval forces instructed the vessel to alter course to HODEIDAH Port and threatened that if the vessel will keep proceeding north they will open fire.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, MV AL JASRAH has been targeted with a missile/drone while transiting south, fired from Houthis control territorial areas in YEMEN. It is reported that the projectile hit the port side of the vessel and one الرحيم container fell into the sea due to the explosion. The vessel broadcasted that there is a fire on deck via VHF.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, MV PALATIUM III reported an explosion on board on the forward stb side while transiting in the vicinity of BAM strait.



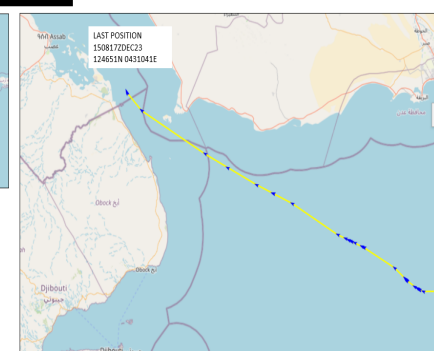
AL-JASRAH PAST TRACK 13DIC23



DISTANCES TO POINTS OF INTEREST  
INCIDENT - BEHGHAH 124 NM  
INCIDENT - YEMEN COAST 48 NM



PALATIUM III PAST TRACK



الصامدين في قطاع غزة من عداء ودواء.

والله على ما نقول شهيد

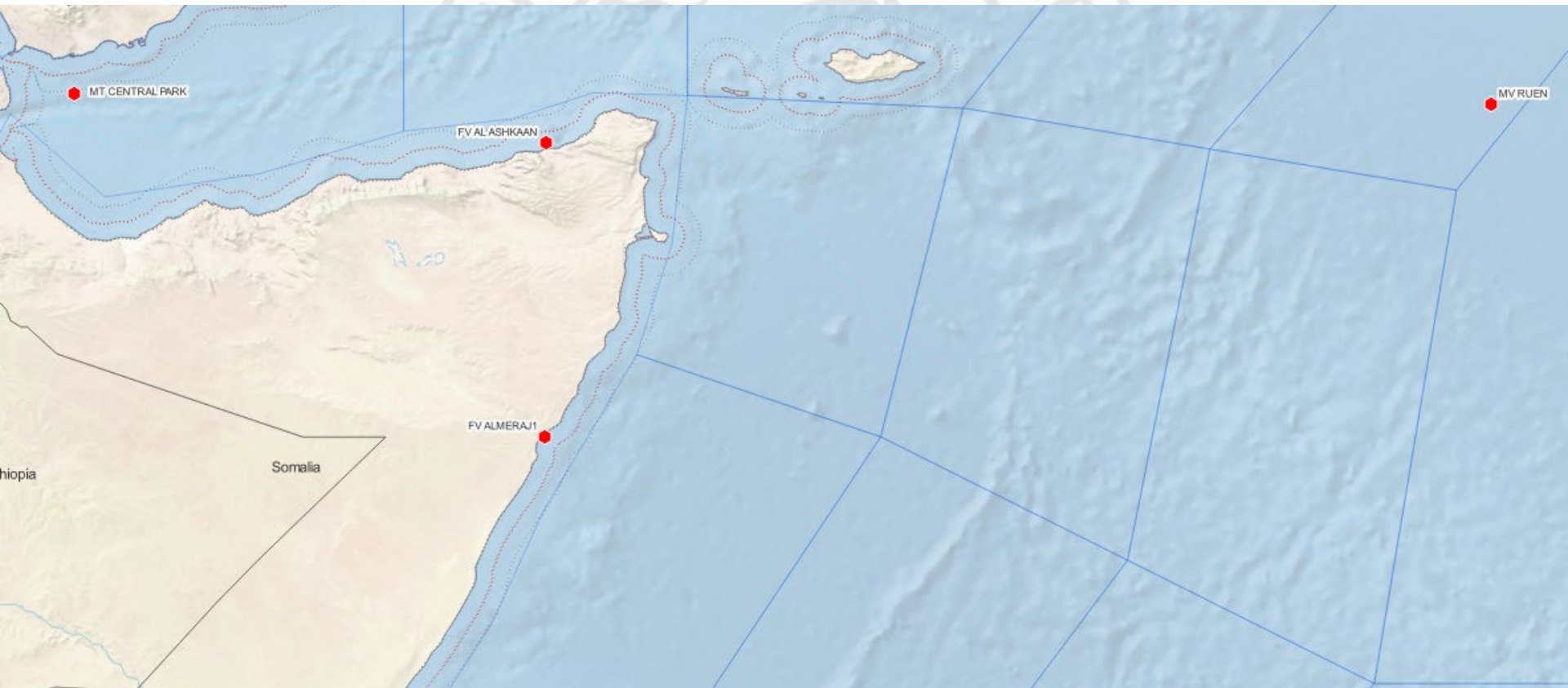
صنعا 2 حملي الأخرة 1445 حملي



# Somalia attacks in GOA / AS / SB



Ser No.	Date	Events	Area
1	24 <sup>th</sup> NOV	Fishing Dhow "ALMERAJ1" – <b>Hijack</b>	SB
2	27 <sup>th</sup> NOV	MV CENTRAL PARK – <b>Piracy attack</b>	GOA
3	29 <sup>th</sup> NOV	Fishing Dhow "AL ASHKAAN" – <b>Hijack</b>	GOA
4	14 <sup>TH</sup> DEC	MT RUEN - <b>Pirated</b>	AS



OP ATALANTA



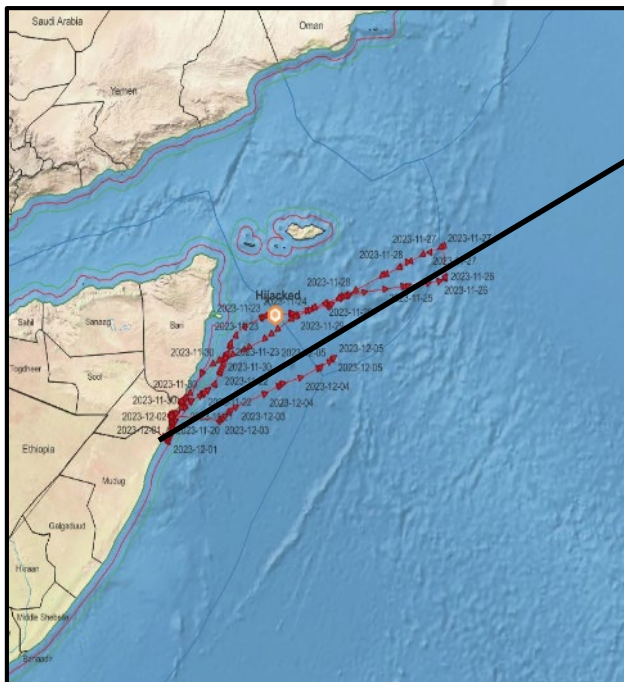


# Somalia attacks in GOA / HOA



## ALMERAJ1

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has been informed about an Iranian fishing dhow “ALMERAJ1” allegedly Hijacked by armed personnel from EYL, PUNTLAND to facilitate further attacks against vessels.
- EUNAVFOR ATALANTA assets monitored closely this event until it sailed back to Somalia territorial waters. PMPF detained some of the aggressors for any legal actions on 02<sup>nd</sup> Dec.



A very active Skiff Staging Area (SSA) can be observed in the picture. 35 skiffs are observed, close to the shore and unknown material stored in the vicinity of the skiffs.

Human activity detected (03 x trucks and 02 x civilian vehicle).

A new building with human activity observed, likely related with fishing.

EYL Beach, Puntland confirming existing skiffs in the area

- ▲ 03 x CIVILIAN TRUCKS
- ▲ 02 x CIVILIAN VEHICLE
- ▲ 35 x SKIFF
- + RP: 075/52N 495059E



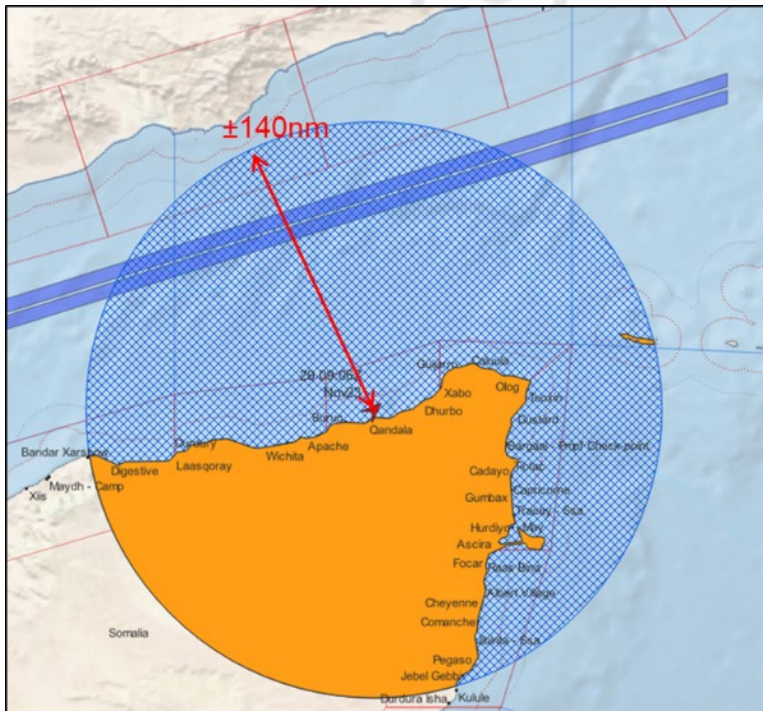


# Somalia attacks in GOA / HOA



## AL ASHKAAN

- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, EUNAVOR ATALANTA was informed by PMPF that an Iranian fishing dhow “AL ASHKAAN” was hijacked close to Qandala coast, north of SOMALIA, PUNTLAND.
- PMPF pursued the fishing dhow and no further updates received on this event.
- The owner of the AL ASHKAAN is the same owner of the fishing dhow ALMERAJ1 who support PUNTLAND President Deni’s new election system proposal while the “pirate” crews related to a clan who oppose to this system.





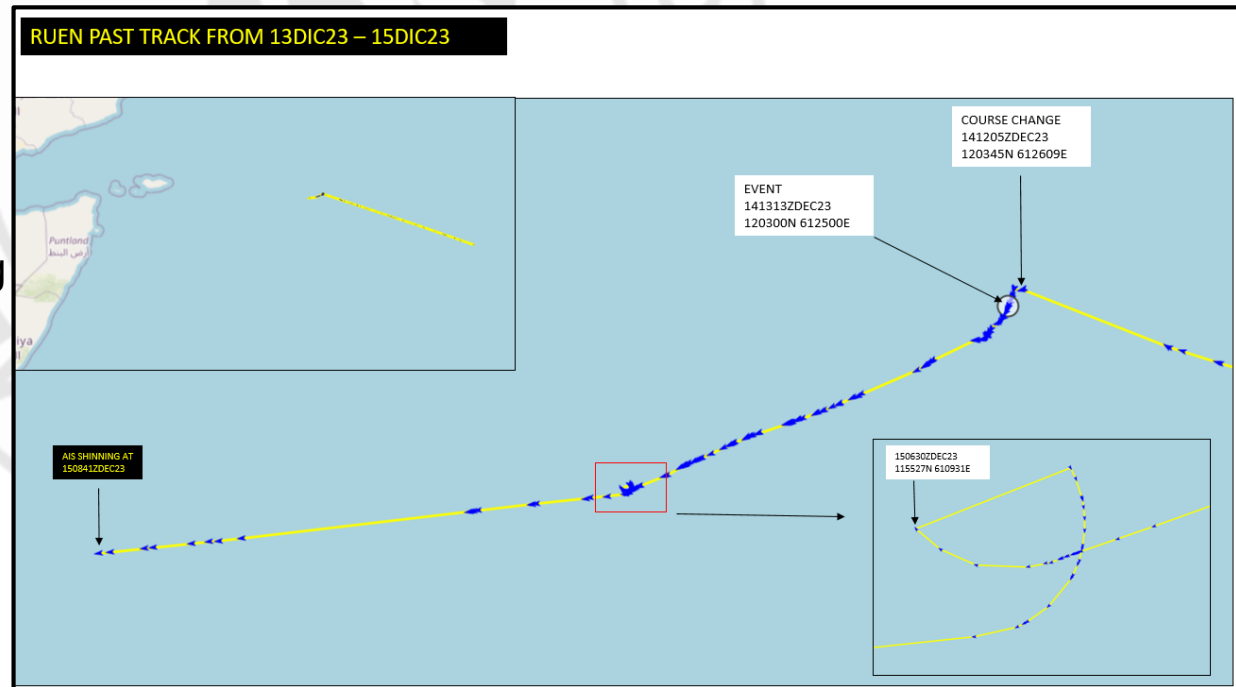


# Somalia attacks in GOA / HOA



## MV RUEN

- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Malt-flagged MT RUEN (IMO 9754903), issued a MayDay Message stating that they have been boarded by 6 persons. Initially it was reported that the crew were safe in the citadel.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, MT RUEN headed to Somali territorial seas and confirmed to be pirated by the crew who was given permission to inform the Manager of the Company.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, MT RUEN entered STW and proceeded to XABO to pick up the doctor.



➤ MT RUEN was approached by a Fishing Dhow while transiting in ARABIAN SEA from Rep of Korea to NPOC in Turkey. The FV dispatched small skiffs and boarded the MT RUEN.

➤ EUNAVFOR SP Navy VICTORIA and Indian WS KOCHI monitored closely this event.



# Suspicious approaches



## Case study 05 oct 23:

- Following advisory concerning a suspicious approach, ladder reported on board skiffs
- Ship and plane committed (SPS NAVARRA, JP MPRA)
- Post mission analysis: not a maritime security event
- Known fishing behaviour

**Suspicious approaches to merchant vessels:**  
 Still happening (GoA, BaM, North IO)  
 Most probable vs Most Dangerous  
 Focus Ops conducted.

UNCLASS/FOUO/REL TO USA, CMFC

-FISH GROUP/04/UNK/SKIFFS/UNK/9/2000Y2/PHT/-/  
 TMPOS/0618Z5/1216N0-04543E6/000T0/00KT0/FIXED/AIR/VISUAL/  
 AMPN/NO SPECIAL INFORMATION, NO SUSPICIOUS/TOTAL : 9 SKIFFS//



Report from JP DAPE

**UKMTO ADVISORY 01/OCT/2023**  
**Suspicious Approach**

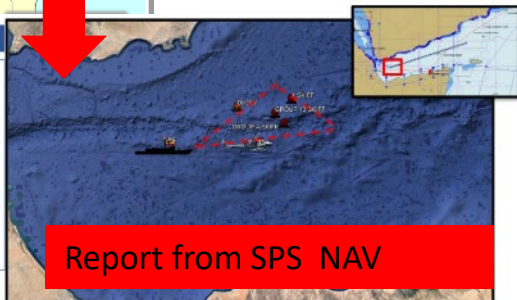
Incident Date:	Incident Time:	Latitude:	Longitude:
05/Oct/2023	09:00UTC	1157.5N	04525.2E

Source: Master  
 Issued: 05 Oct 23 13:00UTC  
 UKMTO have been made aware of approximately ten small craft with seven to eight persons onboard in position Lat 1157.5N-Long 04525.2E 59NM south of ADEN that approached an MV to within 50 to 100 metres. Ladders were seen on two boats and alarm raised, small craft continued to follow for fifteen minutes. Vessel and crew are safe.

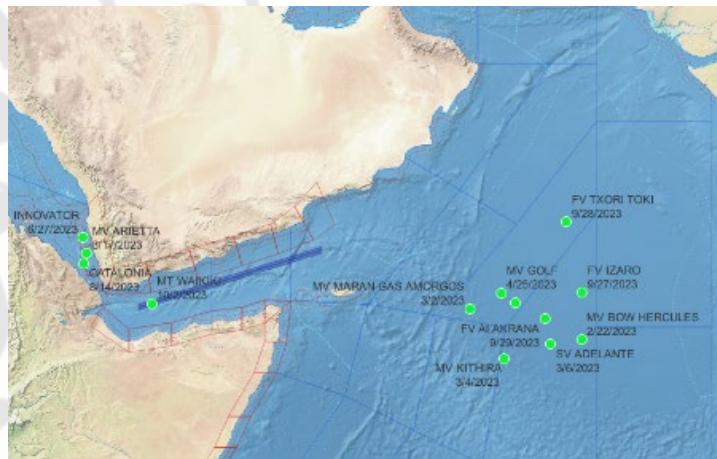
### GENERAL SITUATION

NAV GATO SSC PA09.

- TAKE OFF TIME: 1200Z
- SENSORS: RADAR, FLIR
- TARGET IDENTIFIED: EIGHTEEN (18) SKIFFS AND ONE (1) DHOW
- LANDING TIME: 1400Z
- TOTAL DISTANCE COVERED: 103NM
- COMMENTS: IVO IRTC



Report from SPS NAV





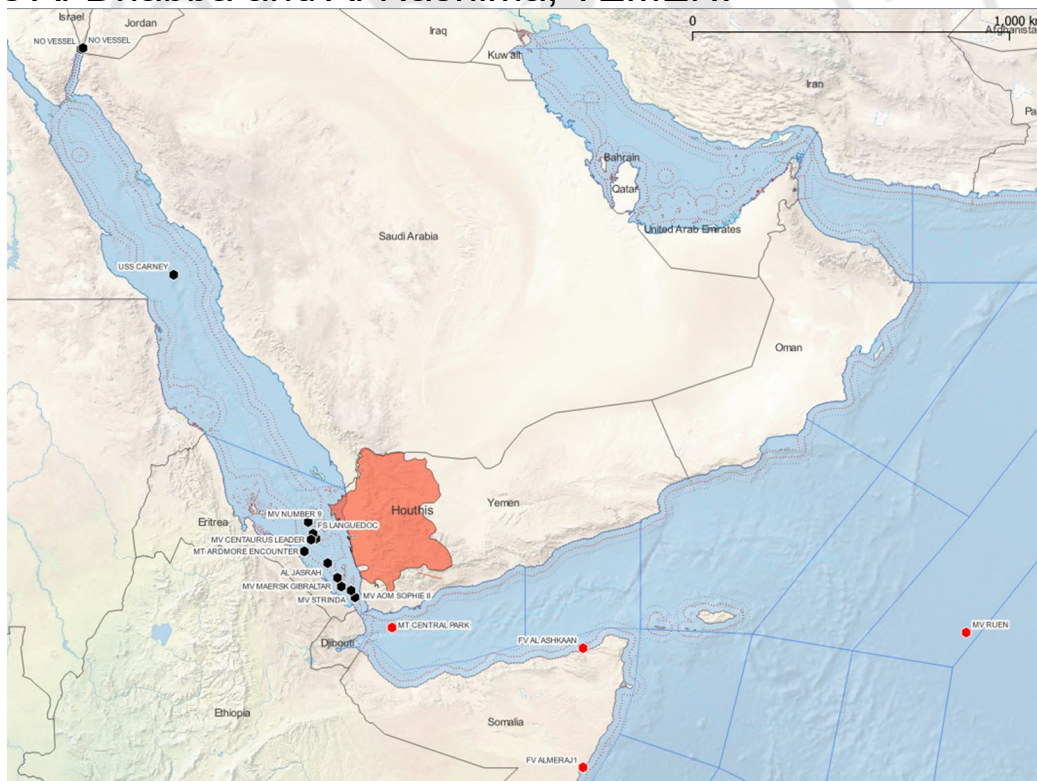


# THREAT ASSESSMENTS



## CONFLICT RELATED

- **MODERATE** (an attack is **REALISTIC POSSIBILITY**) for vessels transiting through the SRS, BAM and GoA.
- **SUBSTANTIAL** (an attack is **LIKELY**) for vessels of Israeli Interests in the RS and BAM area.
- **SUBSTANTIAL** (an attack is **LIKELY**) for vessels involved in the transfer (export) of oil and LNG from ports such as Al-Dhabba and Al-Nashima, **YEMEN**.



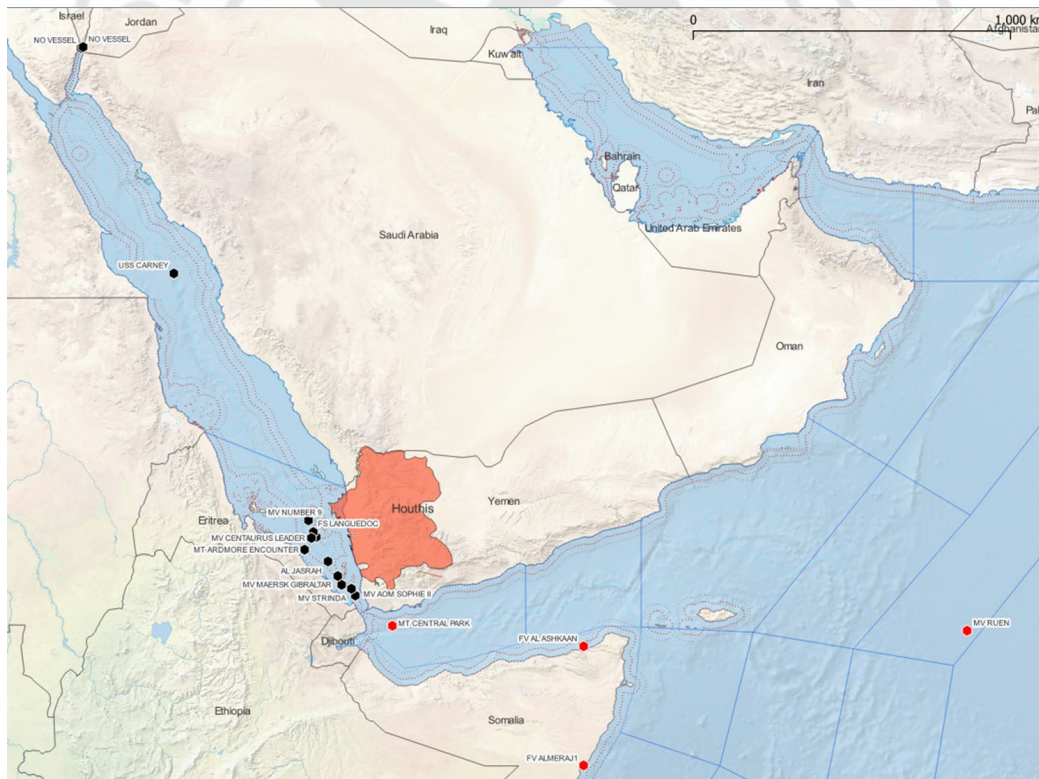


# THREAT ASSESSMENTS



## PIRACY

- **BENIGN.** The general TA in regards to Piracy for the general shipping transiting close to Somalia Coast and is considered as **LOW** (an attack is unlikely), however;
- It is important to consider that in view of the latest Maritime Security Events that were reported in north of Somalia and in GOA, **Piracy can be active at any time. Assessed as not Eradicated.**







**ANY QUESTIONS?**