



Israel-Houthi Escalation Projectile Tracker: 12/20/24 Update

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The Jewish Institute for National Security of America's (JINSA) [Iran Projectile Tracker](#) presents regularly updated charts and graphs on missiles, rockets, drones, and mortars that Iran and its regional proxies have fired at U.S. personnel, partners, and interests in the Middle East, as well as data for other Iran-linked malign activity. With an escalation of strikes by the Houthis, the United States, and Israel, JINSA is releasing this update detailing their exchanges of fire.

1. Strategic and Operational Insights

- Although the number of Houthi attacks against maritime targets has generally declined since September, the terrorist group has increased [attacks](#) against Israel and U.S.-owned vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
 - » All commercial vessels targeted by the Houthis so far in December have been U.S.-owned, -operated, and -flagged vessels and being convoyed by two U.S. Navy vessels, likely indicating that the Houthis desired to exert more concerted pressure and raise costs on the United States, even as they launched fewer total attacks.
 - » There have been two Houthi ballistic missile attacks on Israel in just the last week, on December 16 and December 19. Despite being intercepted, a Houthi warhead [struck and collapsed a school](#) in Ramat Gan on December 19.
 - With Israel's severe degradation of Hezbollah and Hamas, the Houthis are Iran's last standing proxy and have likely increased their attacks against Israel in an attempt to demonstrate that the Iranian "Ring of Fire" has not been totally extinguished.
- These Houthi attacks have triggered [Israel](#) and the [United States](#) to escalate their strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, albeit using very different strategies.
- The United States has launched intermittent strikes against the Houthis in Yemen since January, but fearing escalation, these have been too infrequent, focused primarily on launchpads and weapons stores, and, consequently, failed to bolster deterrence or diminish the capacity of the terrorist group to launch attacks.
 - » While recent U.S. strikes have focused more heavily on command-and-control and communication sites, most U.S. strikes throughout the war have been against launchpads to preemptively destroy Houthi missiles and UAVs or weapons stores.
 - On December 16, the United States [conducted a strike](#) against a Houthi command-and-control facility in Sanaa. A statement from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) indicated that the location was a "hub for coordinating Houthi operations, such as attacks against U.S. Navy warships and merchant vessels in the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden."

- Israeli [strikes](#) in the early morning hours on December 19 focused on destroying the Houthis' ability to arm and fund themselves—a better path toward disrupting further aggression.

Strike on Military Targets of the Houthi Terrorist Regime in the Sana'a Area and the Western Coastline of Yemen



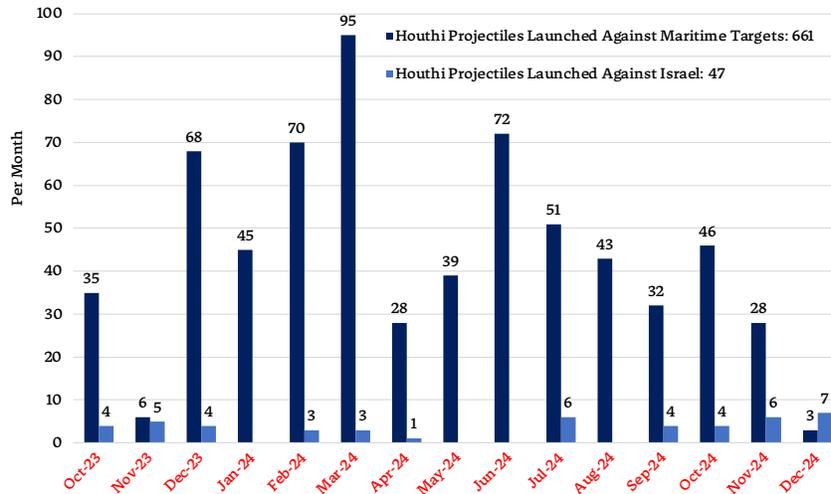
Source: [IDF](#)

- » The Israeli Air Force launched [two waves](#) of strikes and dropped [60 munitions](#) against dozens of Houthi targets at five main locations in Yemen: the Haziz power plant; the D'Habban power station; the Al-Hodeidah port; the Ras al-Issa oil facility; and the Salif Port. Israel also targeted eight tugboats to shut down ports by blocking access into them.
- » Israel faces geographic constraints that likely limit its ability to conduct consistent strikes in Yemen, but its clear successes on other fronts have made it a more active and important partner against the Houthis, Iran's last remaining proxy.
- In contrast to the costly attritional warfare in which the United States has engaged with the Houthis, Israel targeted the means that the Houthis use to arm and finance themselves.
 - » Deterring the Houthis and moving toward a policy of rolling back its regional influence requires damaging the group's ability to maintain power over western Yemen. Targeting key ports, power plants, and oil infrastructure all undermine the Houthis ability to effectively control territory and use the Yemeni economy to bolster its military posture.
 - The Iranian regime primarily funds the Houthis through [hydrocarbon imports](#) that are offloaded at ports.
 - » Neither the United States nor Israel has conducted military operations against the Houthi leadership or Iranian assets associated with enabling the terrorist group's aggression.
- Israel likely has had greater operational freedom and willingness to conduct such devastating operations against the Houthis because of its successes on other fronts, namely the dismantlement of Hamas in Gaza and achievement of a ceasefire in Lebanon after the degradation of Hezbollah, which also contributed to the fall of Bashar al-Assad in Syria.
 - » Israeli operations to methodically dismantle Iran's "Ring of Fire" composed of proxies throughout the Middle East has substantially strengthened regional security and stability against Iran-backed aggression.

2. Charts and Trends

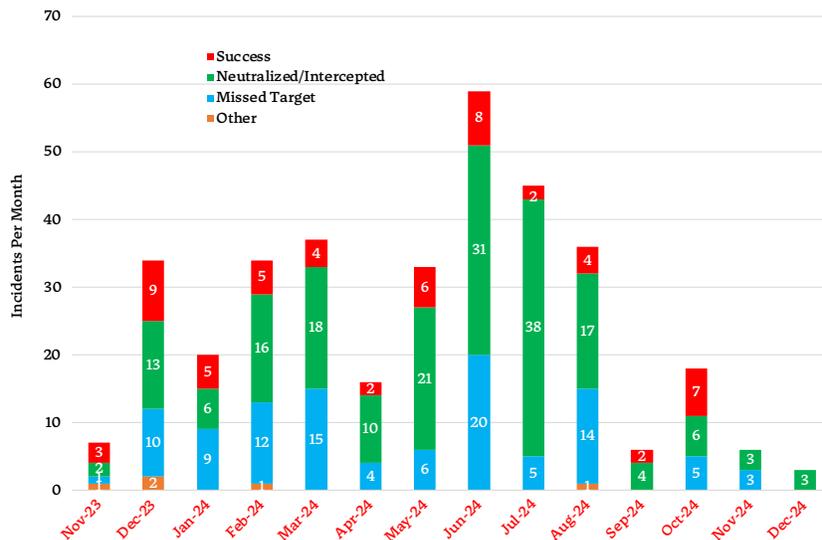
- Houthi attacks against Israel have increased by 62.5 percent in November and December compared to September and October.
 - » The Houthis have launched at least seven projectiles so far in December that reached Israeli territory or Israeli forces intercepted en route to Israel and six such projectiles during November, compared to four projectiles each in September and October.
 - Since U.S. and Israeli forces intercept numerous Houthi projectiles over the Red Sea before they near their targets, the total number of attacks against Israel may be higher.

Houthi Attacks Against Israel and Maritime Targets Since the 10/7 Attack



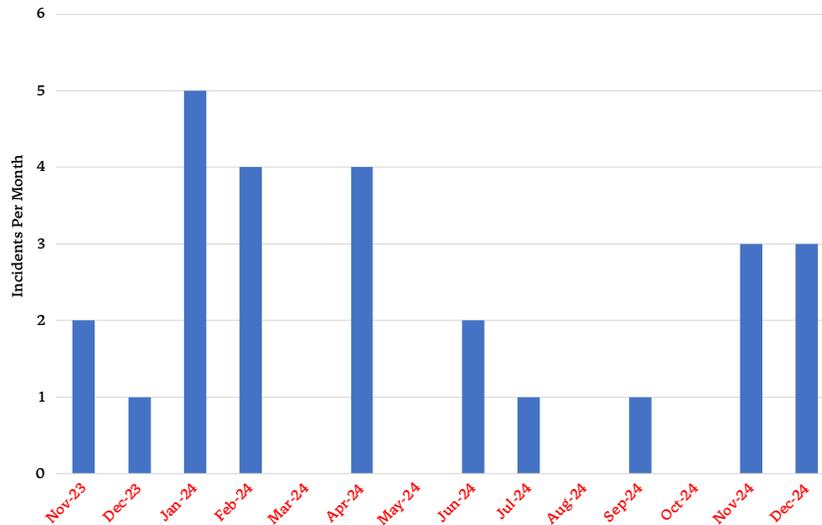
- While the overall number of Houthi attacks against maritime targets so far in December has declined by 50 percent compared to November, continuing a generally downward trend since August, the terrorist group has made a more concerted effort to target ships with U.S. flags, ownership, or operators that U.S. naval vessels have been convoying through the now dangerous Red Sea and Gulf of Aden waterways.
 - » The Houthis have not conducted a successful maritime attack since October, marking the longest timeframe that the Houthis failed to hit a ship since the war began.
 - November 2024 was the first month without a successful attack against a maritime target since the Iran-backed terrorist group’s escalation began in November 2023.

Results of Iran-linked Maritime Incidents



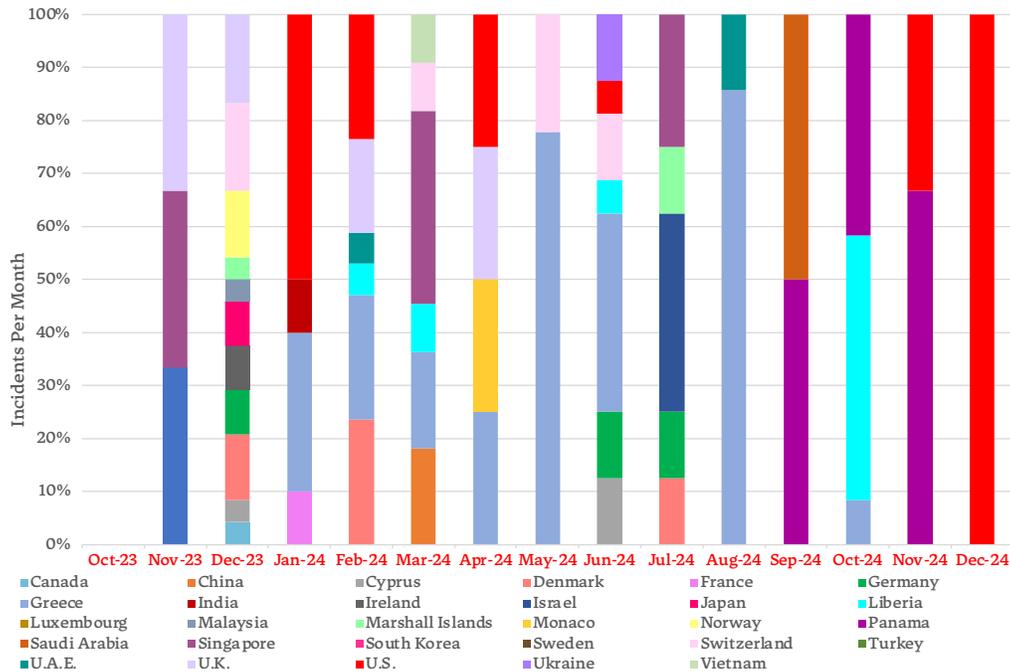
- » Even as the Houthis have decreased their overall attacks against maritime targets, the terrorist group increased its attacks against U.S. naval vessels and ships with U.S. flags, owners, and operators in November and December by roughly 350 percent compared to the period from May to October.
 - The Houthis launched six attacks in November and December against U.S.-affiliated vessels (three in each month) for an average of one attack every 11 days, compared to six attacks from May to October for an average of one attack every 46 days.

Houthi Attacks Against U.S. Naval and U.S. Commercial Maritime Targets



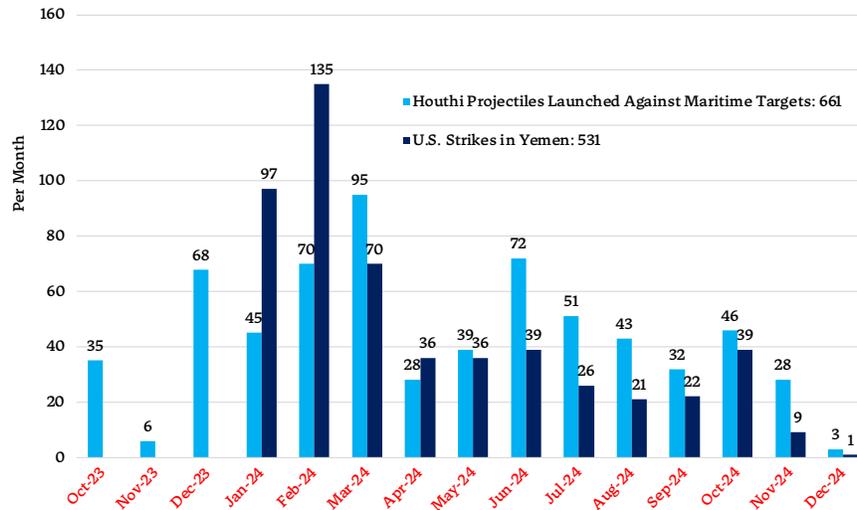
- » In particular, all Houthi attacks against commercial vessels in December and one-third of the attacks in November were against U.S.-owned ships.
 - Before the attack in October, the Houthis had not launched an attack against a U.S.-owned vessel since June.

Known Owners of Commercial Ships the Houthis Have Targeted Since 10/7



- The one U.S. strike against the Houthis so far in December marks roughly an 89 percent decrease compared to the three U.S. strikes in November.
 - » The United States has conducted over 530 strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen, primarily targeting projectile launchers and stockpiles, although recent operations have also struck command-and-control and communications sites.

Houthi Projectiles Launched Against Maritime Targets and U.S. Strikes in Yemen Since 10/7



- Israel has continued to expand the scope of its operations against the Houthis, with its strikes on December 19 targeting three more locations than its previous strikes on September 29.
 - » In the early morning hours local time on December 19, the Israeli Air Force launched [two waves](#) of strikes against dozens of Houthi targets at five main locations in Yemen.
 - » On September 29, dozens of Israeli aircraft struck locations in Ras Issa and Hodeidah, including power plants and ports that the Houthis used to import oil.
 - » Israeli [strikes on July 20](#)—the first time Israel had targeted the Houthis in Yemen—only targeted one location, the Hodeidah port. The strike crippled four large container cranes at the port after a deadly Houthi UAV attack in Tel Aviv.

Number of Locations Struck in Israeli Operations Against the Houthis in Yemen

