



# Israel-Houthi Escalation Projectile Tracker: 1/3/25 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

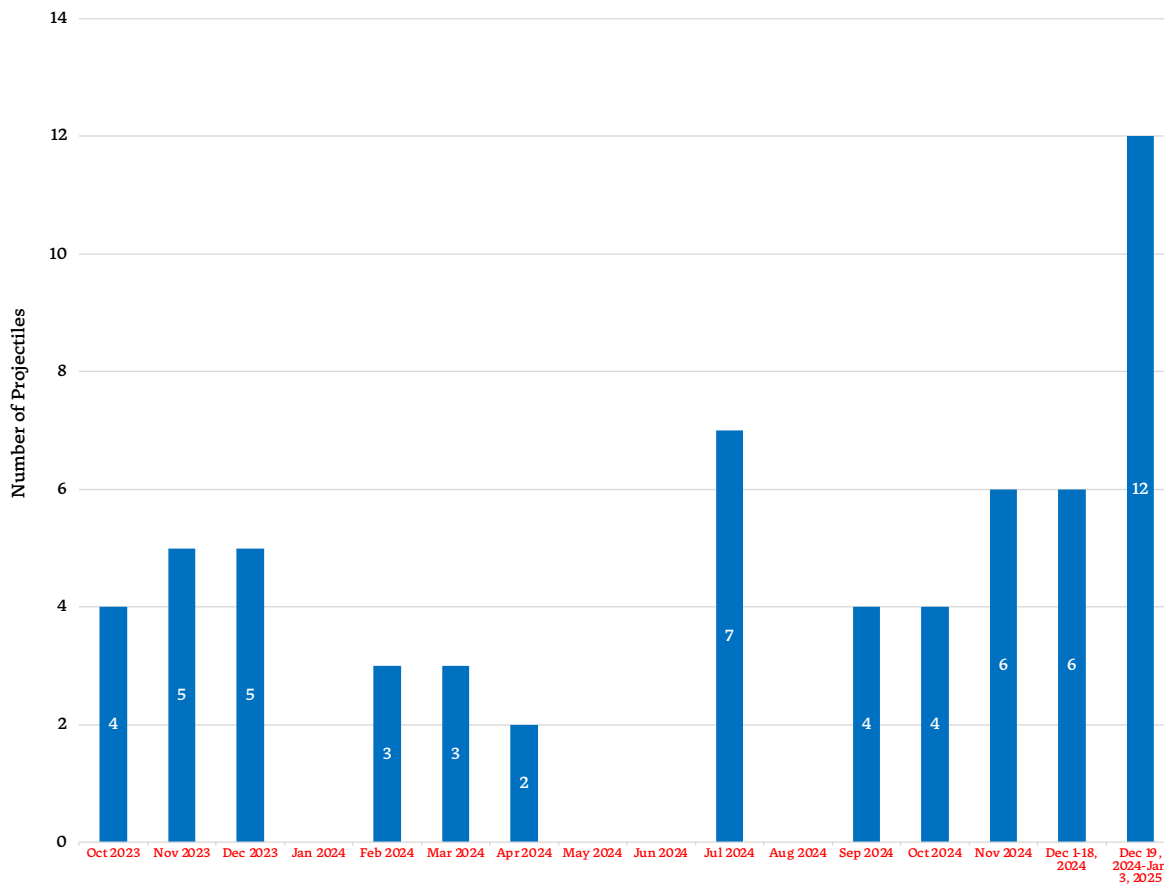
- From December 19, 2024 to January 3, 2025, the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen launched more attacks against Israel than during any entire month since the war began, conducted the longest periods of sustained fire against Israel with daily attacks from December 19-21 and 23-27, and briefly increased their attacks against maritime targets after months of generally declining fire.
  - » With [fewer ships](#) sailing through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as a result of the Houthi attacks, the terrorist group has decreased its fire against maritime targets and shifted its focus towards increasing attacks against Israel.
  - » As IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin noted during a JINSA webinar on January 2, the Houthis have also “reduced the weight of the warhead[s], and by that they reached more distance” needed to attack Israel from over 1,000 miles away in Yemen.
  - » On December 27, U.S. forces, forward-deployed in Israel, fired an interceptor from a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery against a Houthi ballistic missile, marking the first time that U.S. forces fired a THAAD during combat operations, an important demonstration of U.S. air defense capabilities and strong signal of its support for Israel's defense.
- These Houthi attacks have triggered [Israel](#) and the [United States](#) into escalating their strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, albeit using very different strategies.
  - » The sustained high intensity of U.S. operations over the past year to counter the Houthis' aggression has created risks to U.S. service members.
    - After the guided-missile cruiser USS *Gettysburg* mistakenly shot down an American F/A-18F Super Hornet on December 21, both of the two U.S. Navy aviators in the aircraft were safely recovered but one of them suffered minor injuries.
- The United States has expanded the scope of its operations, with U.S. strikes on [December 21](#) and [30-31](#) hitting command-and-control and communication sites. These operations also struck weapons storage facilities, despite previous U.S. strikes against similar sites failing to diminish the terrorist group's willingness or capacity to conduct further aggression.

- » While the United States has launched intermittent strikes against the Houthis in Yemen since January 2024, these have been too focused on avoiding escalation, infrequent, and primarily targeted launchpads and weapons stores. These strikes consequently failed to diminish the will of the terrorist group to launch attacks.
- Israel's [strikes](#) on December 26 continued to focus on destroying the Houthis' ability to arm and fund themselves—a better path toward disrupting further aggression.
  - » In contrast to the costly attritional warfare in which the United States has engaged with the Houthis, Israel has focused on targeting the means that the Houthis use to arm and finance themselves.
    - The Houthis have [launched](#) missiles and drones that cost only tens of thousands of dollars and are readily replaceable so long as Iran's resupply lines remain intact. On the other hand, destroying command-and-control sites and port access can have a more widespread and long-term effect on Houthi operations.
    - Long-term deterrence against the Houthis and moving toward a policy of rolling back its regional influence requires damaging the group's ability to maintain power over its primary support base in western Yemen. Targeting key ports, power plants, and oil infrastructure all undermine the Houthis' ability to effectively control territory and exploit Yemen's fragile economy for its own military purposes. The Iranian regime primarily funds the Houthis through [hydrocarbon imports](#) that are offloaded at Yemeni ports.
  - » 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 currently conducting significant attacks against U.S. and/or Israeli targets.
- However, it remains unclear whether Israel's expanded operations have severely degraded Houthi capabilities or bolstered deterrence over the long-term, considering the Houthis continued attacks against Israel.
  - » The Iran-backed terrorist group launched a ballistic missile at Israel on December 27, only 12 hours after Israeli aircraft struck Houthi targets in Yemen on December 26, fired another ballistic missile on December 30, and [launched](#) a ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) on January 3.
- 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. Such strikes could be a stronger option to bolster deterrence and disrupt command-and-control.
- 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.
  - » On December 22, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [indicated](#) "just as we acted forcefully against the terrorist arms of Iran's axis of evil, so we will act against the Houthis."

## 2. Charts and Trends

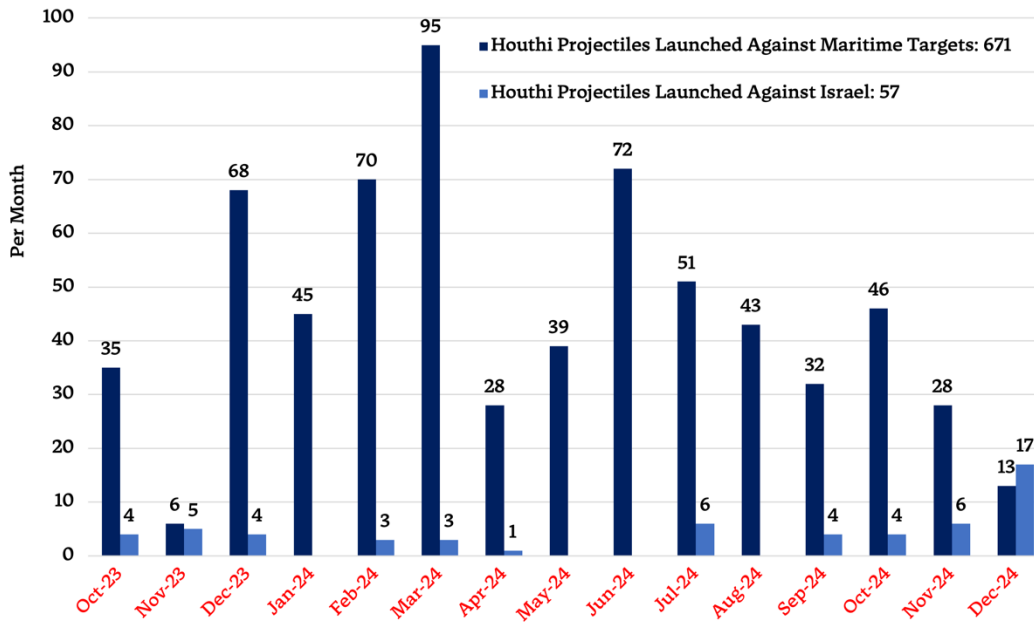
- From December 19, 2024 to January 3, 2025, the Houthis launched 127 percent more projectiles against Israel per day than during December 1-18. The terrorist group launched more projectiles at Israel during the period from December 19 to January 3 alone than any entire month since it began launching attacks in October 2023.
  - » The terrorist group launched 12 projectiles at Israel from December 19 to January 3, twice as many as the six the group fired between December 1-18.
    - The six projectiles fired from December 1-8 had already matched the total that the group launched throughout all of November.
  - » The Houthis launched at least one attack per day against Israel from December 19-21 and 23-27, marking the longest periods of sustained daily fire since the war began.

### The Houthis Escalation Against Israel



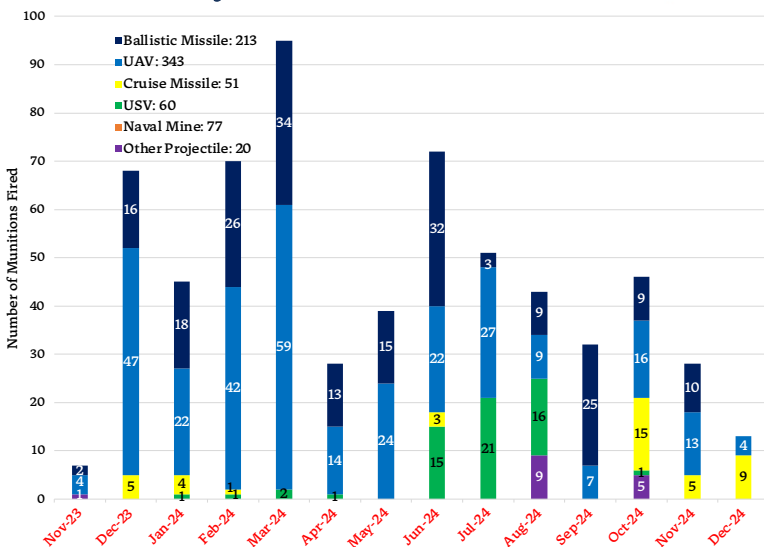
- The Houthis launched 167 percent more projectiles against Israel in December than in November.
  - » The Houthis launched at least 16 projectiles in December that reached Israeli territory or Israeli forces intercepted en route to Israel and six such projectiles during November.
    - Since U.S. and 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

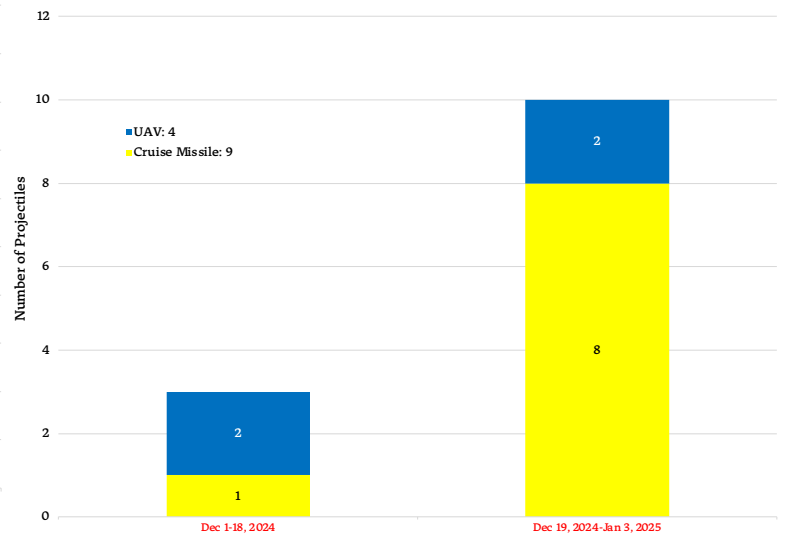


- While the Houthis continued a generally downward trend since July of launching fewer projectiles at maritime targets throughout December, the Houthis launched 233 percent more projectiles at maritime targets from December 19 to January 3, compared to earlier in December.
  - » After only launching three projectiles from December 1-18 (all on December 9), the Houthis launched eight cruise missiles and two UAVs from December 19 to January 3 during two attacks on December 21 and 31.

## Iran-linked Projectiles in the Maritime Domain



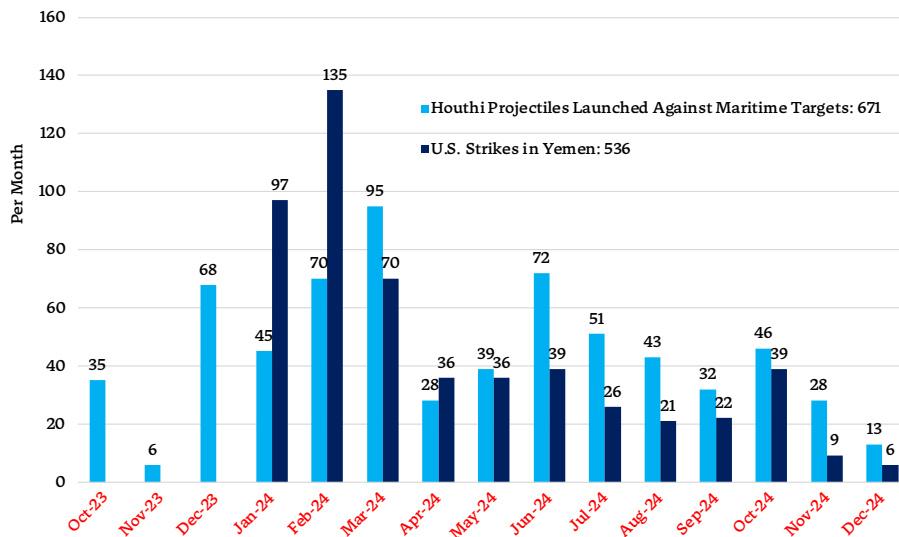
## Houthi Maritime Attacks in December 2024



- The six U.S. strikes against the Houthis in December marks roughly a 33 percent decrease compared to the nine U.S. strikes in November. Five of those U.S. strikes occurred on December 21 and 31, indicating an increased U.S. response to the Houthis' escalation.

- » 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 continued to expand the scope of its operations against the Houthis, with its strikes on December 26 targeting one more location than its previous strike on December 19.
  - » On December 26, Israeli aircraft struck the Sana’a International Airport, the Hezyaz and Ras Kanatib power stations, and military infrastructure at the Al-Hudaydah, Salif, and Ras Kanatib.
  - » 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: 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.

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

