



Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: December 2024

Ari Cicurel
Assistant Director of Foreign Policy

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. Below is an update reflecting the major trends from the last month.

1. Major Trends

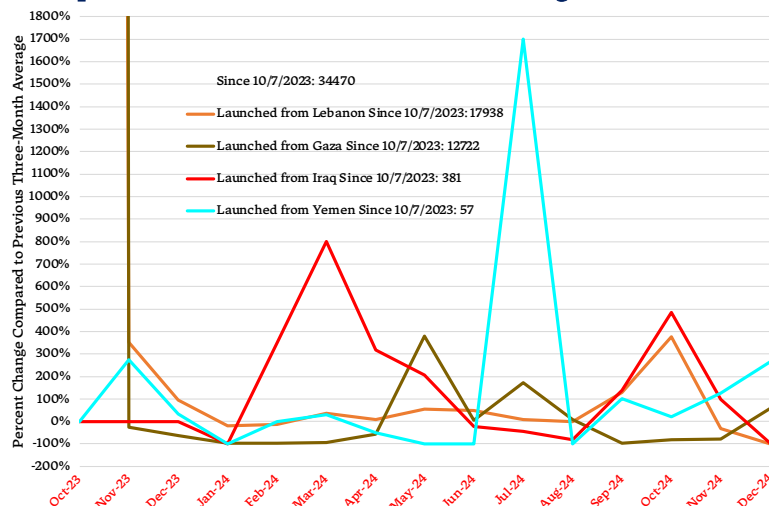
- In December, the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, the last and strongest remaining Iranian proxy after Israel degraded Hamas and Hezbollah, switched the target of their attacks from maritime traffic to Israel. The few maritime targets they did attack were U.S.-affiliated ships, not just general commercial traffic.
 - » The Houthis launched nearly three times as many projectiles that reached Israeli territory or were intercepted by Israeli forces en route to Israel in December as in any other month and conducted the longest periods of sustained fire against Israel with daily attacks from December 19-21 and 23-27.
 - As JINSA Distinguished Fellow IDF MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin noted during a JINSA webinar, the Houthis have “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.
 - » The Houthis continued to decrease their fire against maritime targets, launching five attacks in December (compared to six in November), all at U.S.-affiliated ships.
- Hezbollah launched two rockets against Israel on December 2, violating the ceasefire agreement that went into effect on November 27, but has not launched any projectiles since, marking the longest timeframe without an attack since the war began.
 - » As IDF BG Effie Defrin and JINSA Policy Analyst Yoni Tobin argued in a [JINSA report](#) before the ceasefire, ensuring enforcement of the agreement's terms to not allow Hezbollah to reenter southern Lebanon and that Israel maintains freedom of action, to prevent it from reconstituting itself, will be critical to the deal's long-term viability.
- Although not a party to the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire agreement, Iran's proxy militias in Iraq ended two consecutive months of unprecedented fire against Israel, launching only two projectiles against Israel during December.

- » After launching at least 100 projectiles at Israel in both October and November, Iran-backed militias in Iraq launched only two attacks against Israel during December, with their latest attack occurring ten days after Hezbollah had stopped firing.
- » A report in the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Akhbar* indicated that Tehran’s proxies in Iraq agreed to stop firing at the request of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia’ al-Sudani but that they were waiting for President Donald Trump to take office in January to determine how he would handle the region.
- Iran’s proxies in Iraq and Syria continued to decrease the number of attacks they launched against U.S. personnel, conducting the least number of attacks since June 2024.
 - » Iran-backed militias also conducted one attack against U.S. troops in Syria during December, an 80 percent decrease from the five attacks in November.
 - » There have now been at least 210 Iran-backed attacks targeting U.S. troops in Iraq, Syria, or Jordan since October 2023.

2. Iran-linked Attacks Against Israel

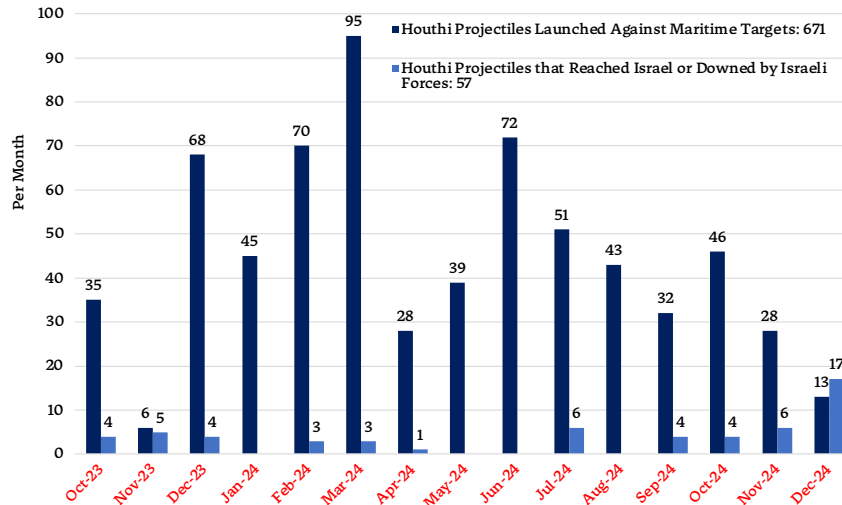
- Since Hamas started the current conflict with its attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, there has been a common pattern of aggression by Iran-backed proxies: as soon as one is degraded or deterred by Israel and reduces its attacks on Israel, another proxy steps up to become the main aggressor. In December, with Hamas, Hezbollah, and even the Iraqi militias having largely ceased their attacks, the Houthis have increased their attacks against Israel threefold.
 - » As Hezbollah and Iran’s proxies in Iraq decreased the number of projectiles they fired against Israel by nearly 100 percent in December, the number of projectiles that the Houthis in Yemen launched that reached Israeli territory or Israeli forces needed to intercept increased by nearly 300 percent compared to the previous three-month average.
 - Iran’s proxies followed a similar dynamic in July: Hezbollah and the Iran-backed Iraqi militias decreased their fire relative to the previous three months and the Houthis increased fire by roughly 1,700 percent.
 - Conversely, when Hezbollah and the Iraqi militias escalated against Israel in October, the Houthis’ fire held roughly constant compared to the previous three-month average.

Percent Change in Projectiles Launched At Israel Compared to Previous Three-Month Average 



- The Houthis launched 183 percent as many projectiles that reached Israeli territory or were intercepted by Israeli forces en route to Israel in December than in November, which had been the previous high point. Houthi attacks against Israel also escalated as December went on.
- » The increased number of Houthi projectiles that reached Israel or that Israeli forces needed to intercept before reaching Israeli territory was likely due to the terrorist group increasing the number of launches against Israel and reducing the weight of the war-heads to enable higher, faster, and more distant flight trajectories that made interception closer in the Red Sea more difficult.

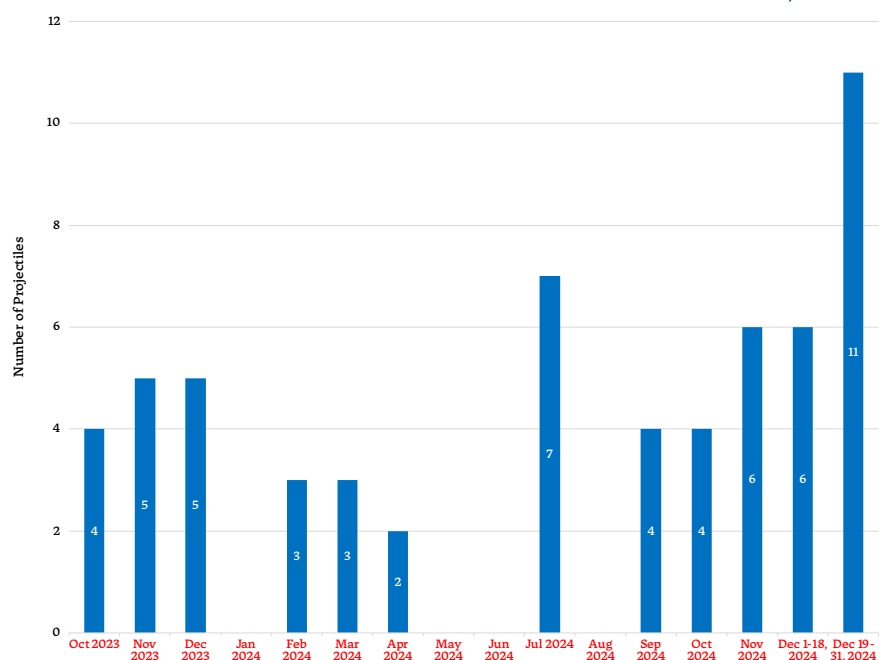
Houthi Attacks that Reached Israel or Downed by Israeli Forces and Maritime Targets Since the 10/7 Attack



- » The Houthis launched at least 17 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.
- » From December 19-31, the Houthis launched 66 percent more projectiles (11 total) against Israel per day than during December 1-18. The terrorist group launched almost double the number of projectiles at Israel during this 13-day period than any entire month.

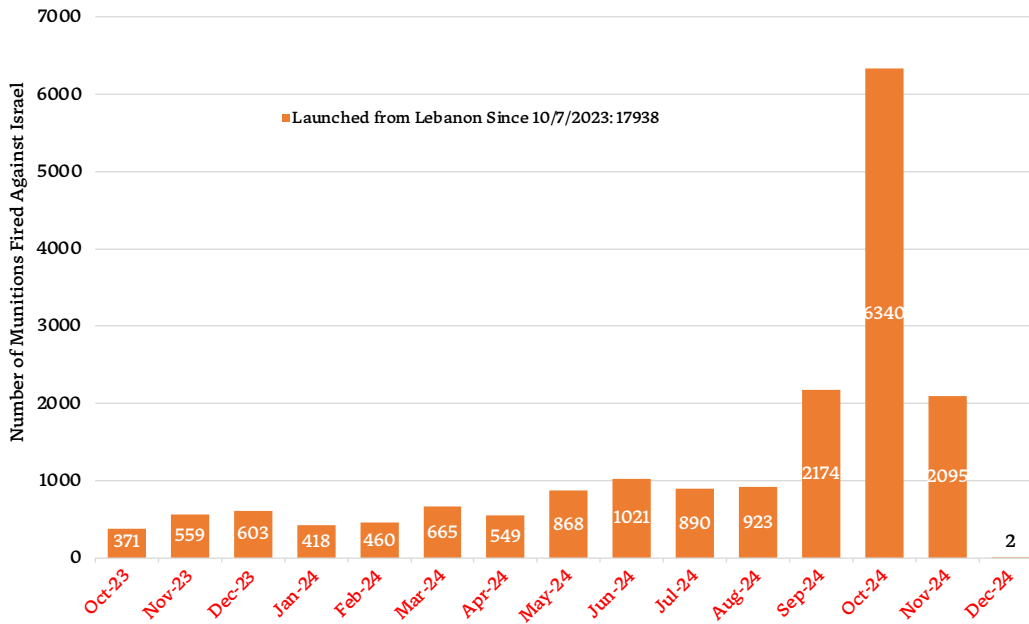
- The Houthis launched at least one attack per day against Israel from December 19-21 and 23-27, marking the longest periods of sustained daily fire since the war began.

The Houthi Escalation Against Israel



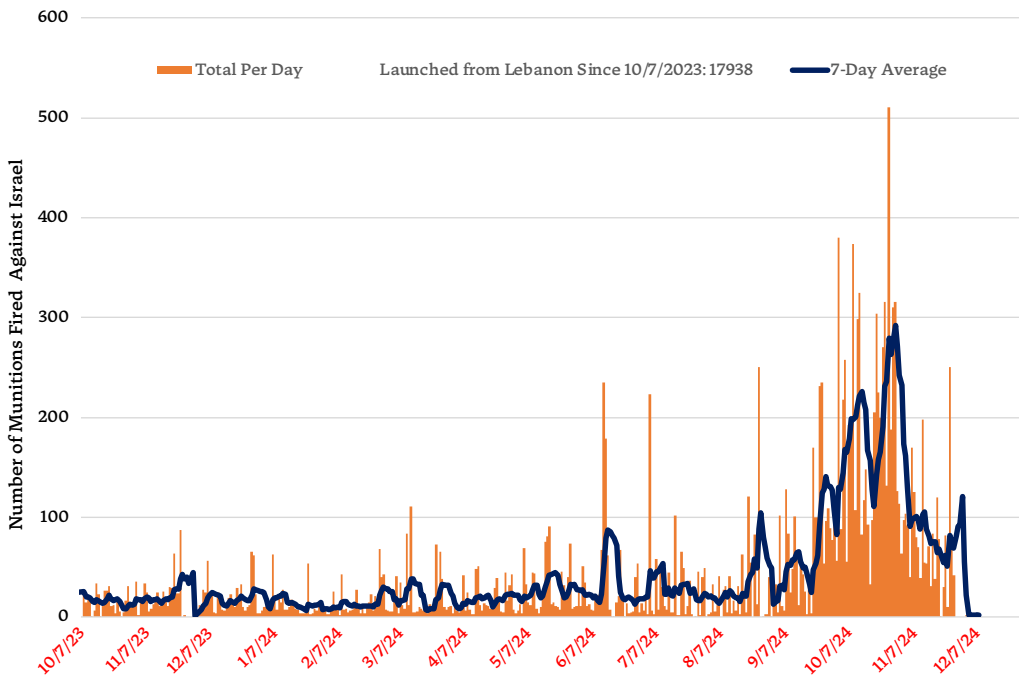
- In response to the ceasefire that took effect on November 27, Hezbollah decreased its fire against Israel during December over 99 percent.
- » Since firing two rockets at Israel on December 2, Hezbollah has not launched an attack against Israel in at least 36 days, marking the longest timeframe that the terrorist group has not launched an attack since the war began.

Projectiles Hezbollah Launched At Israel During the 2023-24 War



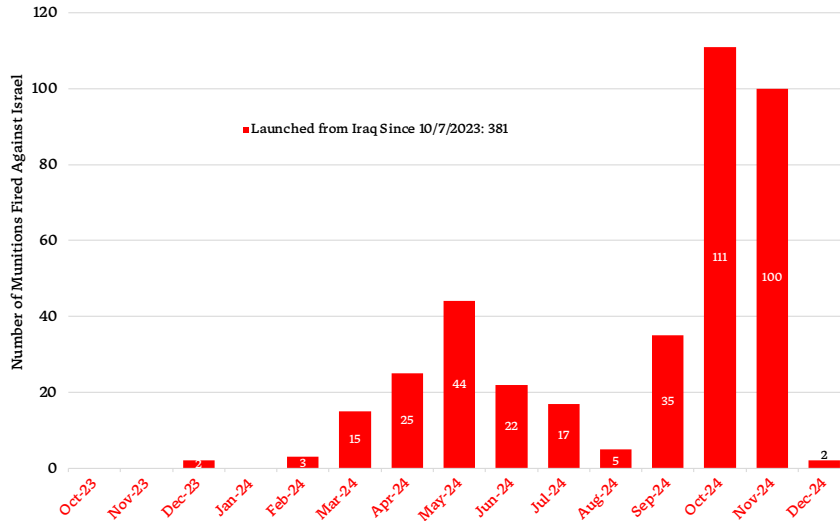
- Hezbollah has launched roughly 17,940 projectiles at Israel since the war began in October 2023.

Projectile Hezbollah Launched At Israel Per Day During the 2023-24 War



- Although not a party to the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire, Iran’s proxies in Iraq similarly decreased their attacks against Israel in December by 98 percent.
- » Iran’s Iraqi proxies also launched two attacks against Israel in December. Like Hezbollah, Iraqi militias also launched a projectile at Israel on December 2, but they targeted Israel again on December 12, ten days after Hezbollah’s last attack.

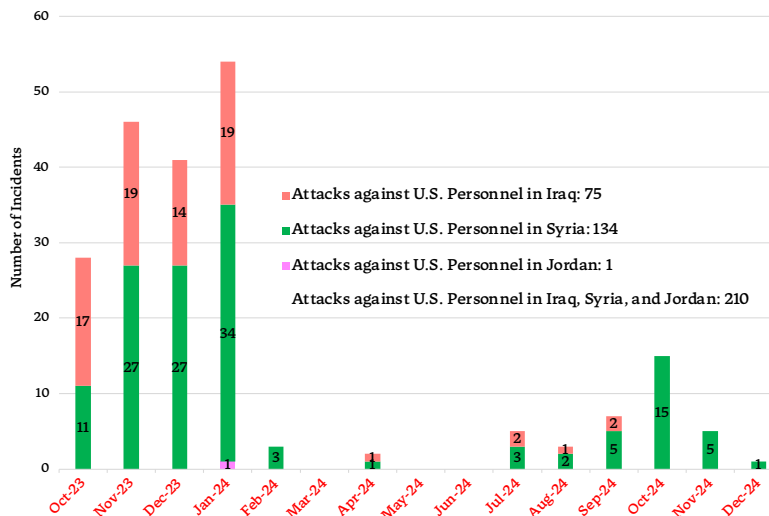
Iran-backed Iraqi Militia Escalating Fire During the 2023-24 War JINSA



3. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Targets

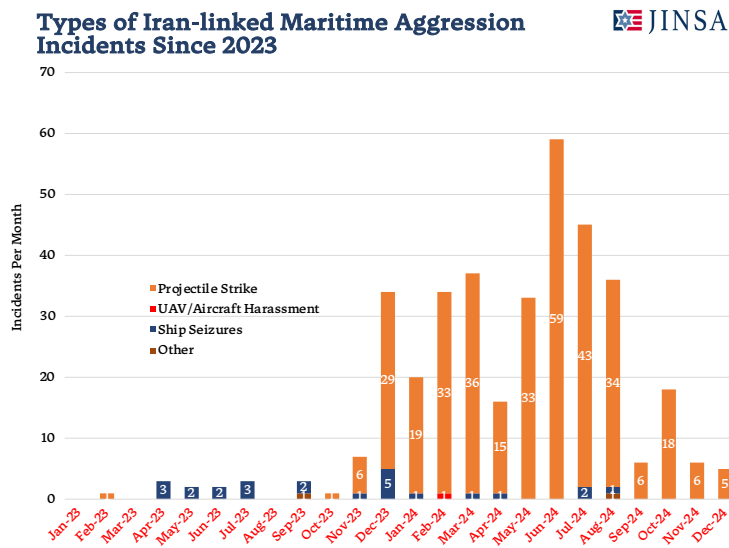
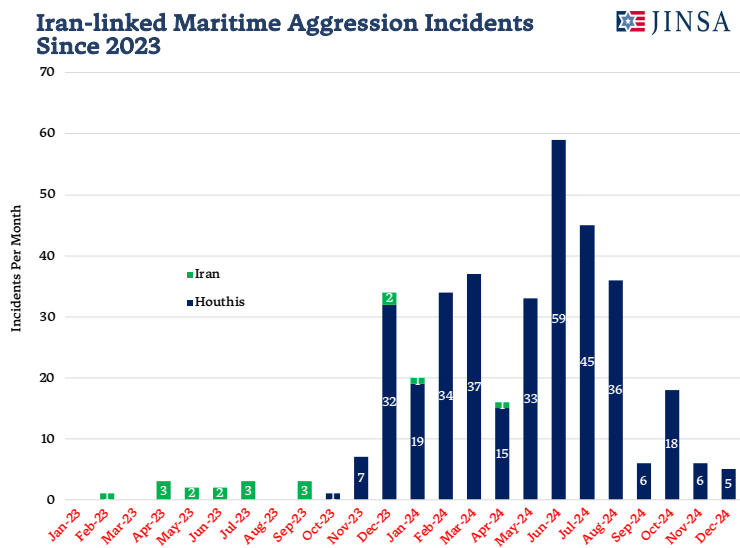
- In December, Iranian proxies decreased their attacks against U.S. personnel in the Middle East by 80 percent compared to November, with only one attack in Syria on December 3.
- » In response to the attack on December 3, U.S. forces targeted the military hardware of Iranian proxies in Syria, including three truck mounted multiple rocket launchers, a T-64 tank and mortars.
- Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria have launched at least 210 attacks involving over 360 rockets, missiles, and drones against U.S. personnel since October 17, 2023.

Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Personnel Since the Start of the Israel-Hamas War JINSA

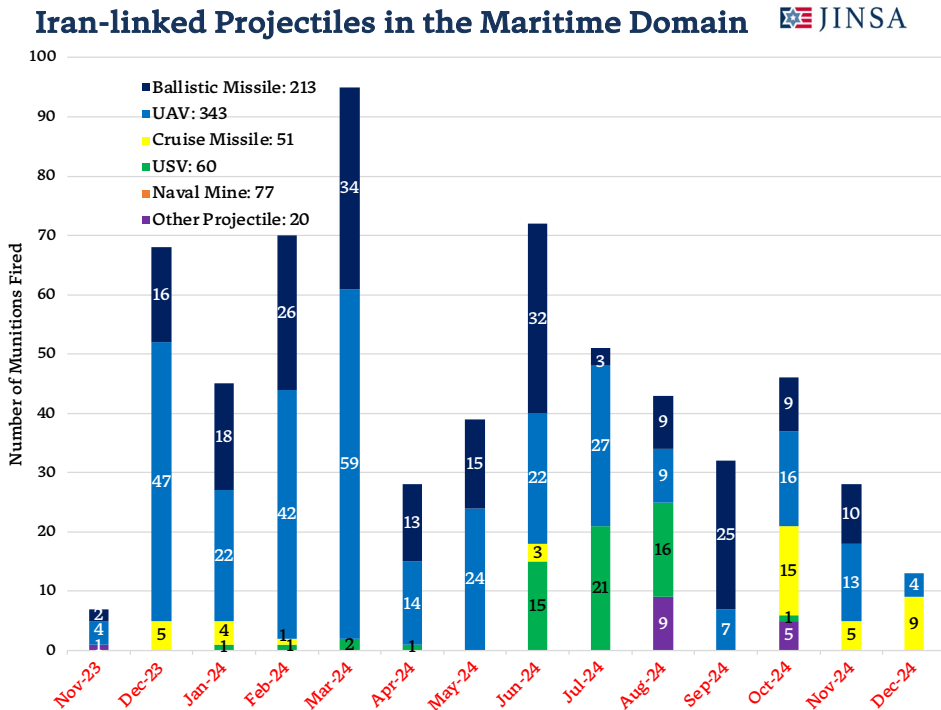


4. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against Maritime Targets

- The Houthis' maritime aggression decreased by roughly 17 percent during December to at least five cases, down from 6 incidents in November.

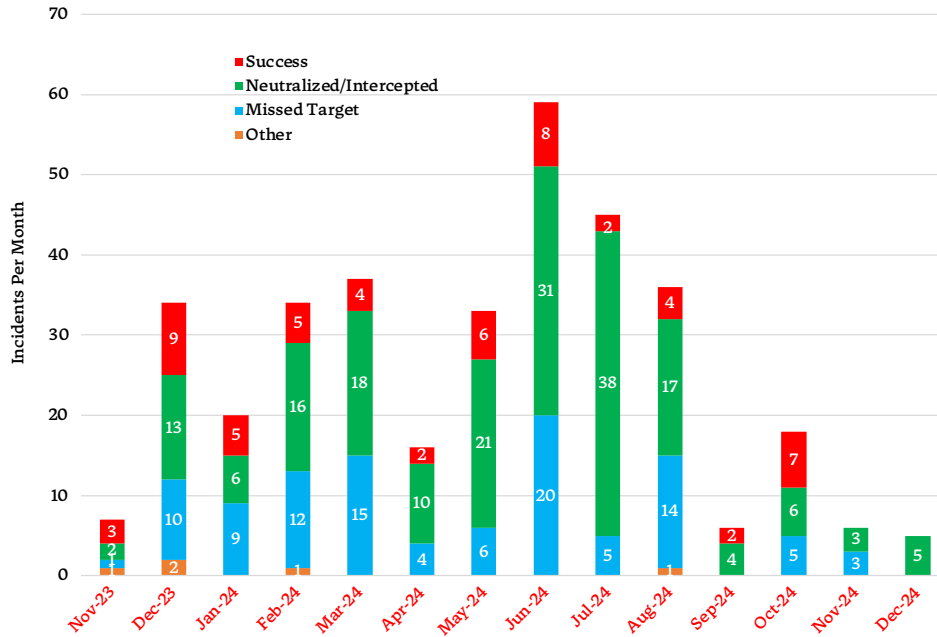


- » Houthi aggression decreased roughly 80 percent from September to December compared to the period from May to August, with 0.29 incidents per day during the former period compared to the peak of 1.4 incidents per day on average during the latter.
- » The number of projectiles that the Houthis launched during December decreased by 54 percent. The Houthis launched 13 projectiles at maritime targets in December compared to 28 in November.



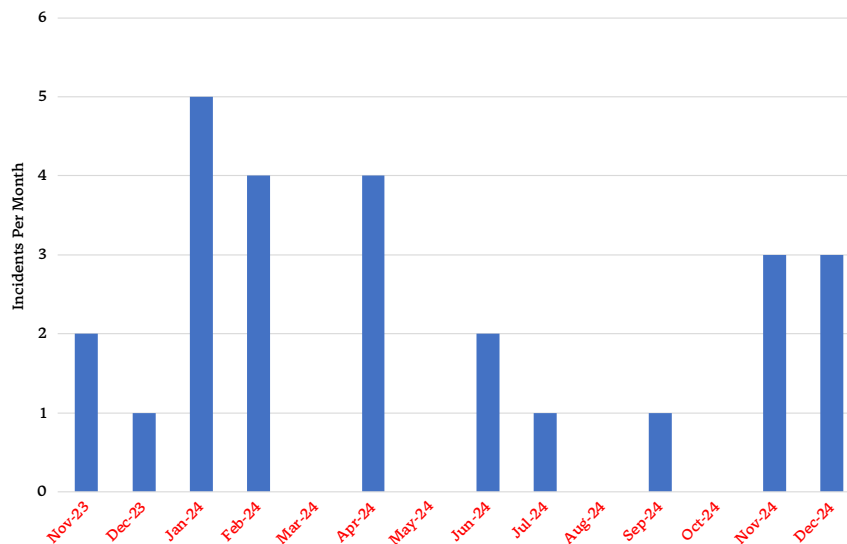
- » No Houthi attacks struck a maritime target in December, continuing a streak that began in November.
 - U.S. forces neutralized all five Houthi attacks against maritime targets during December, the first month in which all such attacks have been defeated.

Results of Iran-linked Maritime Incidents



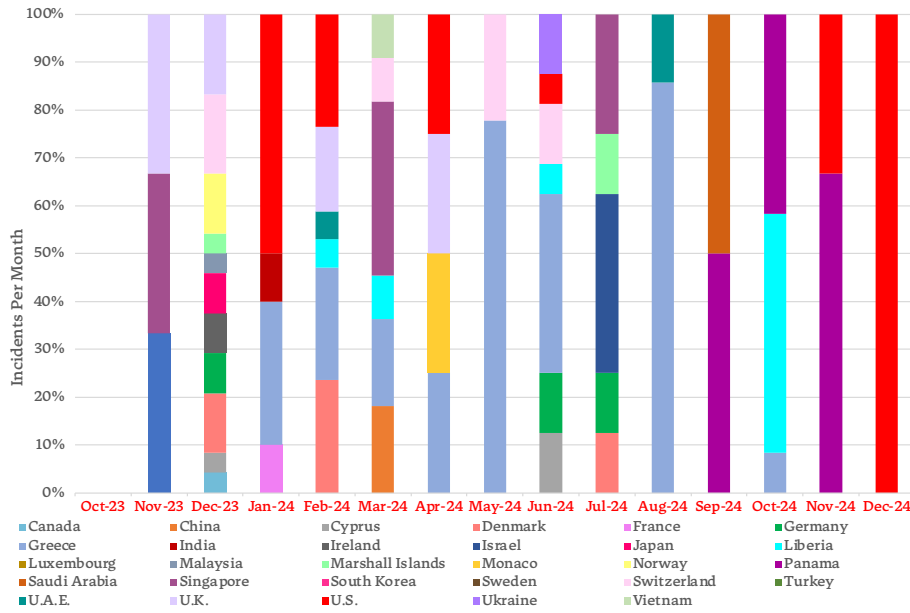
- November was the first month since the Houthi escalation began that the terrorist group did not conduct a successful attack against a maritime target, with three attacks being neutralized and another three missing their target.
- » Even as the Houthis decreased their overall attacks against maritime 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, of the three cases where it was clear what ships the Houthis had targeted, all of them were U.S.-owned ships.

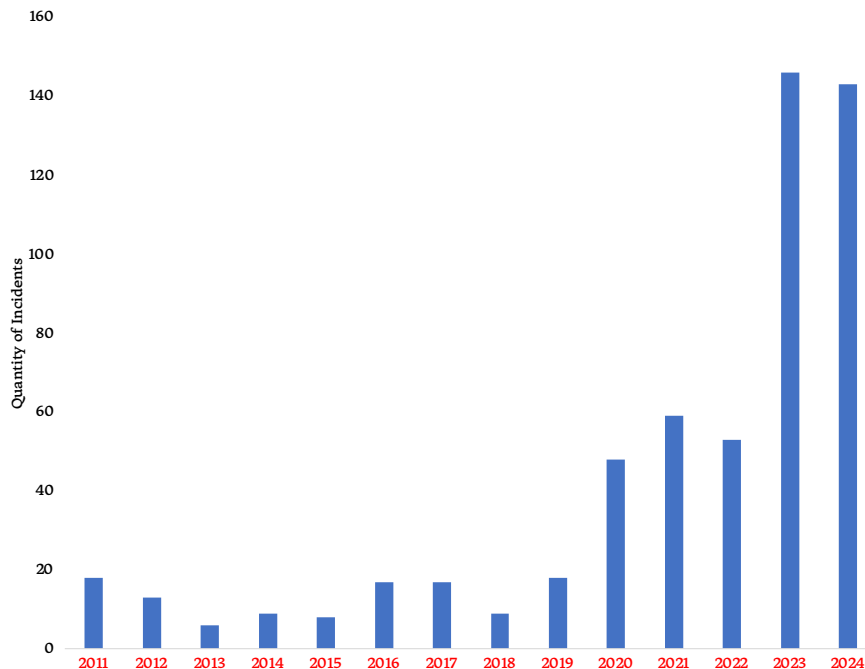
Known Owners of Commercial Ships the Houthis Have Targeted Since 10/7



5. Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States

- In 2024, Iran and its proxies conducted nearly as many incidents of malign activity targeting the United States or U.S. personnel (143) as in 2023 (146), most of which has consisted of projectile strikes by Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria and Houthi strikes endangering U.S. naval vessels in Middle Eastern waters.

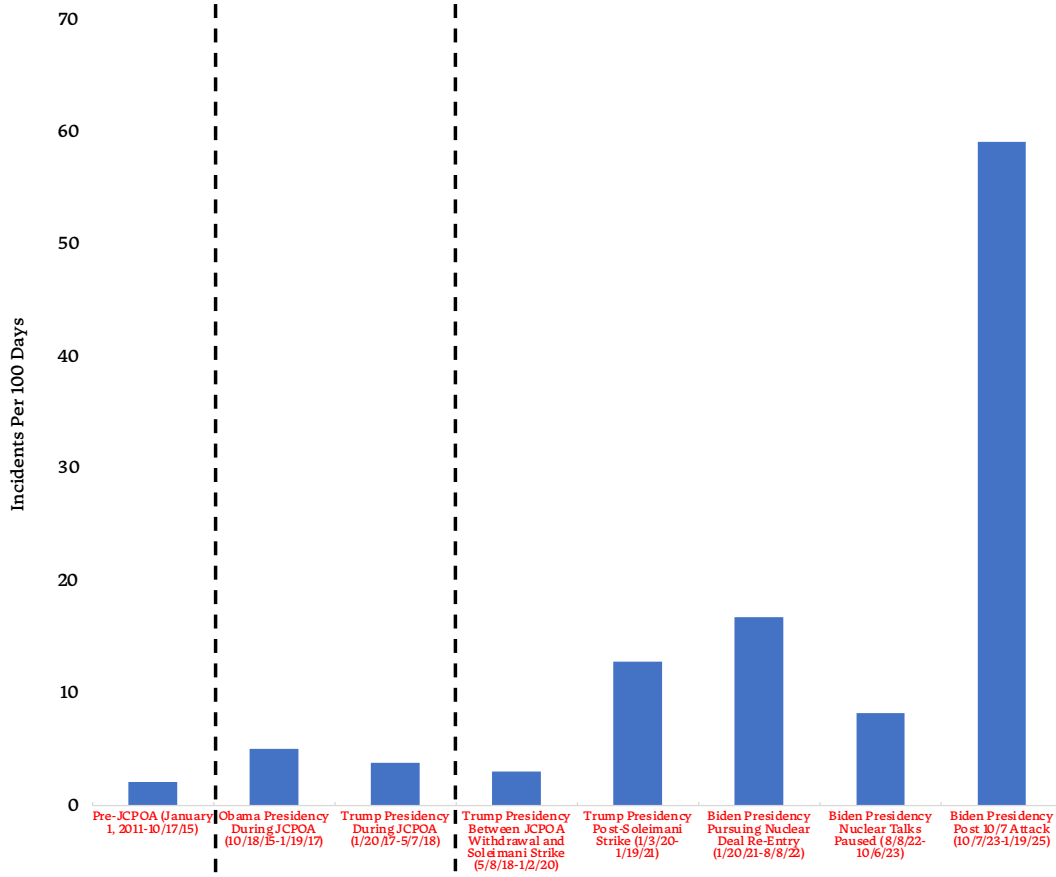
Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States Per Year



Malign activity includes incidents of projectile strikes, maritime aggression, major cyber intrusions and hacking, kidnappings/wrongful detentions, and terrorist attacks.

- » The number of Iran-linked malign activities against the United States during the Biden administration has been unprecedented, and the rate of such activities has skyrocketed by roughly 670 percent since Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States



Malign activity includes incidents of projectile strikes, maritime aggression, major cyber intrusions and hacking, kidnappings/wrongful detentions, and terrorist attacks.