

Yemeni forces affirm direct hit on British ship in Gulf of Aden

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UK-owned the Galaxy Leader cargo ship was targeted by rocket fire in the Red Sea in November 2023.

Sanaa, February 15 (RHC)-- Yemen says its armed forces fired missiles at a British ship passing through the Gulf of Aden on Thursday and scored a "direct hit" in their latest operation in solidarity with the

Palestinians.

The forces carried out "a military operation targeting a British ship... while it was sailing through the Gulf of Aden", military spokesman Yahya Saree said on social media. Two Western maritime security agencies earlier reported an explosion near a vessel off the coast of Yemen.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said the ship reported "an explosion in close proximity to the vessel" east of Yemen's Aden, adding the vessel was sailing to its next port of call. Security firm Ambrey said a "bulk carrier was targeted by an explosive projectile whilst transiting" east of Aden.

The projectile, Ambrey said, exploded off the vessel and caused "minor damage due to shrapnel impacting a diesel generator pipe which led to a diesel leak." Yemen's armed forces have been targeting Israeli ships and those bound for Israeli ports since November in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza which has been subject to five months of ferocious airstrikes and a ground invasion.

The Yemeni operations have prompted some shipping companies to detour around southern Africa to avoid the Red Sea, which normally carries about 12 percent of global maritime trade. The Yemeni army says only Israeli, U.S. and British ships are targeted, stating that other countries can rest assured of the safety of their cargoes.

Last November, UK-owned ship The Galaxy Leader sailing through the Red Sea was hit by rocket fire, according to Ambrey. Yemen has declared an open war against US and British interests since the two countries launched a military campaign against the Arab country in support of Israel.

On Thursday, the U.S. military said it conducted strikes against what it claimed as mobile anti-ship cruise missiles, mobile unmanned aerial vehicles, and an explosive unmanned surface vessel in Yemen.

Yemen's Saba news agency reported several strikes on the Red Sea coastal province of Hudaydah. CENTCOM said an anti-ship ballistic missile was launched from Yemen into the Gulf of Aden.

In a speech on Thursday, Yemen's Ansarullah leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi said the United States had launched around 40 strikes this week, most of them on Hudaydah. "This equation of America threatening and everyone being a spectator is over," he said.

Al-Houthi said U.S. attacks would fail to deter Yemeni forces from striking vessels if a ceasefire in Gaza is not reached. "We will continue our operations as long as Israel continues its crimes," he said.

"According to the enemies' own admission, the American and British aggression has failed to achieve its goals. Our American and British enemies have admitted the influence of the Yemeni front in supporting Gaza against the Israeli enemy," he added.

The effectiveness of Yemen's operations at sea, al-Houthi said, has reached the point of preventing the traffic of ships related to the Israeli regime where their movement has almost reached zero.

Al-Houthi also warned the European Union against being drawn into the U.S. and British military campaign after member states last month gave initial backing to a naval mission in the Red Sea.

"European countries should not listen to the Americans or the British, and should not involve themselves in matters that do not concern them or affect them," he said.

Al-Houthi said the U.S. bears the primary responsibility for the destruction and crimes in Gaza and the continuation of the war. "The Israeli enemy has dropped more than 25,000 tonnes of American munitions and bombs to kill the children and women of Gaza and destroy their homes."

Al-Houthi said the amount of explosives used by the enemy against the people of Gaza is equivalent to four atomic bombs that the US dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in 1945.

According to the Ansarullah leader, the U.S. is directly involved in Israeli crimes through participating in the flight of warplanes, spying and identifying and providing the necessary information and planning operations and aggression against Gaza.

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