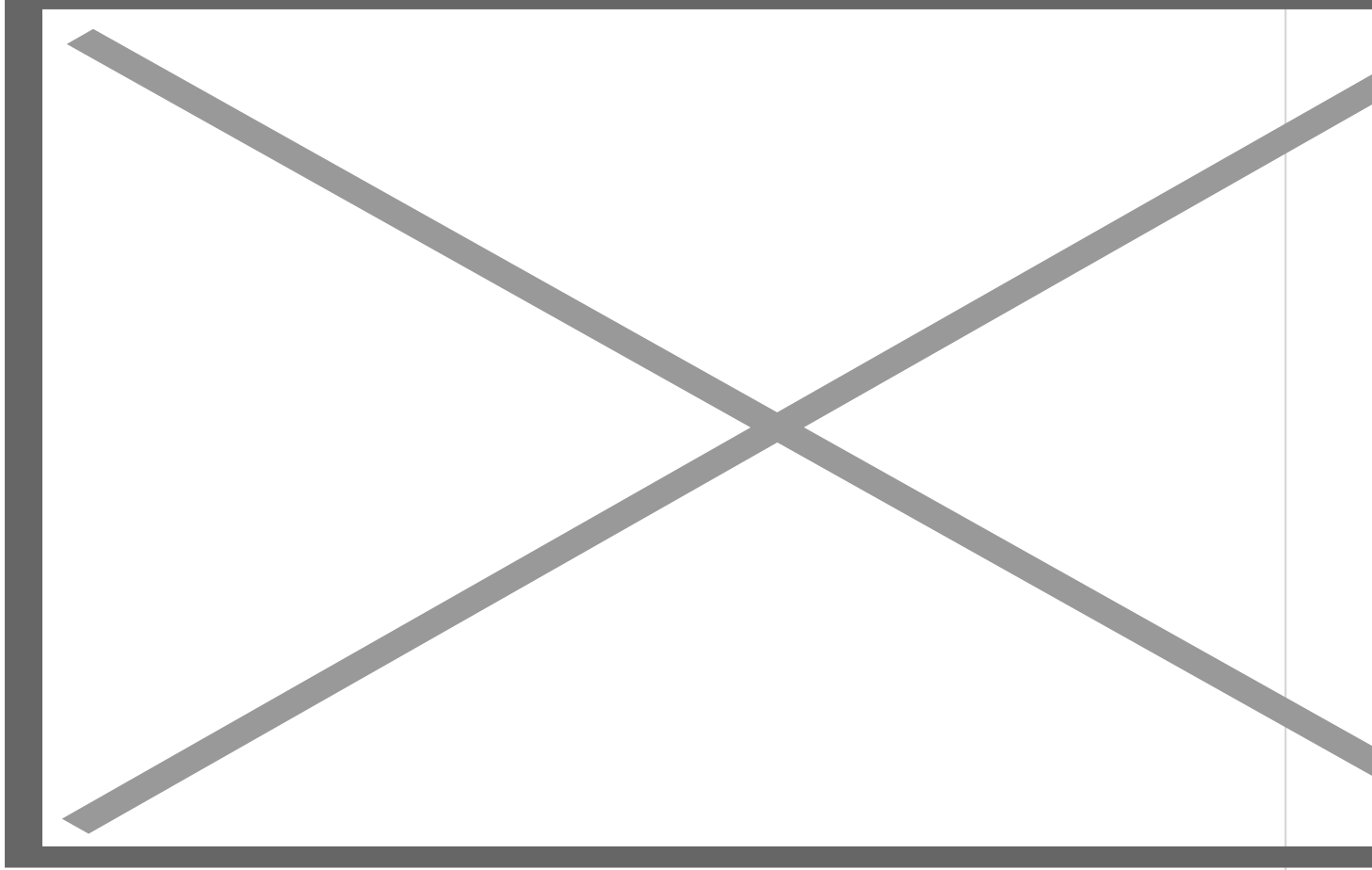


Saudi-led coalition heavily bombs Yemen after Israeli president visits UAE

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**An explosion follows a Saudi-led airstrike on an army base in Sana'a, Yemen, Jan. 11, 2017.
(Photo by AP)**

Sanaa, February 1 (RHC)-- Saudi-led coalition warplanes have carried out heavy bombing raids on various neighborhoods in the capital Sana'a and other provinces across Yemen as part of its recent escalation of the war on the impoverished nation.

They launched five raids on al-Hasabah area, two raids on al-Thawrah district and a raid on Bani-Hushaish district in Sana'a in the early hours of Tuesday, Yemen's al-Masirah television reported. According to the network, the warplanes also launched eight raids on Jabal-Habashi district and three raids on Saber Al-Mawadem district in the southwestern province of Ta'izz.

In Ma'rib, warplanes launched eight raids on al-Jobah district, three raids on Raqwan district and two raids on Majz district. Al-Masirah said four raids were launched on al-Moton and al-Maslob districts, a raid on KhubWalShaaf district and two raids on al-Ajasher in al-Jawf province.

The airstrikes came hours after Yemen carried out a military operation against strategically important targets deep inside the UAE in retaliation for the Persian Gulf country's increased involvement in the Saudi-led war and all-out siege on the country.

The spokesman for Yemeni armed forces, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, said sensitive facilities in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi were targeted with ballistic missiles. Yemeni forces also hit important targets in Dubai with drones.

The operation came as Isaac Herzog visited Abu Dhabi in the first visit by an Israeli president to the UAE. Ahead of the visit, Herzog had pledged to support the UAE in its military campaign against Yemen. Herzog discussed security and bilateral relations with the UAE's de facto ruler Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. "We completely support your security requirements ... We are here together to find ways and means to bring full security" to the region, Herzog said during the meeting, in comments released by his office.

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