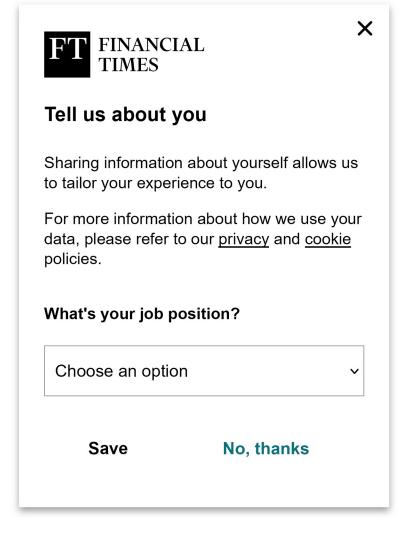
Middle East war

Israel hits Yemen capital Sana'a in strikes against Houthi militants

Strikes on port and energy infrastructure aim to weaken Iran-backed group's military capabilities





Firefighters extinguish a fire at a power station following Israeli air strikes in Sana'a, Yemen © Khaled Abdullah/Reuters

Neri Zilber in Tel Aviv YESTERDAY

Israeli warplanes have hit port and energ strikes on the capital Sana'a, marking the backed Houthi militants this year.

The Israeli military said it had launched "contributed to [the Houthis'] military a Sea coast at Hodeida, As-Salif and Ras Is Nine people were killed in the strikes, ac media.

The strikes early on Thursday came shor launched ballistic missiles at the country defences. Residents of central Israel wer outside Tel Aviv was severely damaged b missile fragments.

Israeli defence minister Israel Katz issue Thursday, saying "Israel's long hand will

"Whoever raises a hand against the State Whoever harms us — will be harmed sev



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Firefighters work at the scene of an Israeli air strike on the Haziz power station in southern Sana'a, Yemen © Osamah Abdulrahman/AP

The Houthis began firing on merchant shipping in the Red Sea and launching

drones and missiles at Israel after Gaza-2023 attack, saying they were acting in s assaults severely disrupted shipping thromaritime trade routes.

Together with Hamas, Lebanese militan Syria, the Houthis formed an Iran-led "a been severely degraded by Israel in recei

A multinational naval task force, led by I merchant vessels in the region. On Monomilitary said was a Houthi "command ar

The Houthis have launched "hundreds" according to the Israeli military, including targeted central Israel on Monday. An Iswere "already in the air" early on Thursd fired.

"This operation was already planned... minutes of a ballistic missile launch," the



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A Houthi drone strike last July <u>killed one person in Tel Aviv</u>, in what was believed to be an operation targeting a US embassy building. That attack led to the first direct long-range strikes by Israel on Yemen, targeting port facilities in Hodeida. Continued Houthi missile barrages on Israel led to a subsequent bombing raid in September.

The Houthis have vowed to maintain their attacks on both Israel and international shipping until the war in Gaza ends.

General Yahya Sare'e, the Houthis' military spokesperson, on Thursday claimed the group had launched two "hypersonic ballistic missiles" on Israeli military targets, calling it a "natural and legitimate response" to air strikes on Yemen.

"The Israeli aggression will not deter Yemen and the Yemenis from performing their religious and moral duty in responding to [Israel's] massacres in the Gaza Strip," the spokesman said in a statement.

Additional reporting by Ahmed Al Omran

