

## Houthi movement

### Israel launches new round of strikes against Houthis in Yemen

Bombing of two ports comes after rebels repeatedly fired missiles into Israel despite truce with US



Yemenis demonstrate in Sana'a on Friday to show their solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza © Adel Al Khader/Reuters

**Mehul Srivastava** in London

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The Israeli military struck two ports in Yemen on Friday in retaliation for Houthi missile fire towards Israel that has continued even after the rebel group agreed a truce with the US this month.

The extent of the damage from the strikes, which targeted the Hodeida and Salif ports, was not immediately clear. But it came 10 days after [Israel](#) disabled Yemen's only functioning airport in similar strikes.

It was the first time Israel said it had struck the Houthis since US President Donald Trump announced on May 6 that the US would stop its bombing campaign in [Yemen](#) in response to assurances that the Iranian-backed group would halt its attacks on ships.

Since then, however, the Houthis have fired three ballistic missiles into Israel, continuing an assault that they began in "solidarity" with Palestinians in Gaza after

Hamas's October 7 2023 cross-border raids into Israel sparked a war that has destabilised the region.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday that the attacks would continue until the Houthis backed down, while defence minister Israel Katz threatened to assassinate the militant group's leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi.

"If the Houthis continue to fire missiles at the state of Israel, they will be severely damaged and the leaders will also be damaged," said Katz, listing senior Hamas and Hizbollah leaders that the Israel Defense Forces has killed in recent months. "So we will also do to Abdul Malik al-Houthi."

The Houthis have said their assaults will continue until Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza.

A Houthi missile earlier this month evaded Israel's sophisticated aerial defences to land within the perimeter of Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv. The group has fired more than a dozen missiles since early March when Netanyahu abandoned a short ceasefire with Hamas.

There was no immediate response from the group to Friday's strikes, but a Houthi-linked channel showed fires at both ports. A third port that Israel had issued evacuation orders for appeared not to have been struck as of Friday evening.

The strikes came shortly after Trump left the Middle East following a four-day trip to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The US truce was an attempt to reopen Red Sea shipping lanes that had been severely constricted by the Houthi attacks.

It came after weeks of intense US strikes on Yemen that marked the most intense American bombing campaign in a decade. Israel's warplanes have also launched repeated long-range sorties since last summer.

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