

Attacks in the Red Sea

Chatham House, London | 29 February 2024

Recent attacks by Yemen's Houthis on ships crossing the Red Sea have taken centre stage in world news. The strikes by the Iran-backed armed group aim to retaliate against Israel's war in Gaza and demonstrate support for the Palestinians, but it has also put pressure on international shipping and trade prompting a military response from the US and UK. Washington has also re-designated the Houthis a terrorist organization.

This public event convenes Yemeni and international policymakers and experts to discuss the impact and trajectory of the instability in the Red Sea. Panellists will address the following key questions:

- How are the Houthi attacks impacting global trade and economic dynamics?
- What are the prospects for further military escalation in the region? What can we expect from the Houthis and how would western countries respond?
- What are the implications for the UN-led peace process in Yemen?
- How are GCC countries responding to those attacks?
- What is the position of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council on these attacks?
- What is Iran's position and role on these dynamics?
- How is the escalation impacting Yemen's population and humanitarian situation?

Agenda

11.00 – 12.00 Session 1: What are the local, regional, and global impacts of the attacks in the Red Sea?

Speakers

Maged Almadhaji, Co-founder and Chairperson of Sana'a Center
Iona Craig, Journalist, specialising in Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula
Dr. Thomas Juneau, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa

Moderator: Professor Lina Khatib, Director, SOAS Middle East Institute

12.00 – 12.30 *Coffee Break*

12.30 – 13.15 Session 2: In conversation with General Tareq Saleh

Speaker: General Tareq Saleh, Vice President, Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), Commander of the Yemeni National Resistance

Moderator: Farea Al-Muslimi, Research Fellow, MENA Programme, Chatham House