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## ***A warning to Israel and the US: Yemen isn't Syria***

Yemen, long seen as a victim of external aggression, is now rewriting the rules of engagement in West Asia. By targeting Israel and the US–UK navies with unflinching precision, Ansarallah has forced its adversaries into an unwinnable corner.

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Since the launch of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood in October 2023, Yemen's Ansarallah-aligned armed forces have emerged as a pivotal force in the Axis of Resistance for their unwavering support for Gaza.

Near-daily [missile and drone strikes](#) targeting Israel, along with disruptions to maritime trade routes linked to Tel Aviv's interests, have complicated strategies for both the occupation state and its US backer.

In yet another bold demonstration of its new military capabilities, Yemen recently claims to have downed a [US F-18 jet](#) and thwarted a US offensive by targeting the [USS Harry S. Truman](#) aircraft carrier, forcing it to retreat to safety over [1,500 kilometers](#) away. This extraordinary operation not only exposed critical vulnerabilities in US naval defenses but also showcased Sanaa's growing military prowess and unrelenting defiance.

In light of these developments, the question remains: How can Israel and the US address the formidable front opened by Yemen?

## **Can airstrikes deter Yemen?**

The US–UK coalition has launched over [700 airstrikes](#) on Yemen since the beginning of the year, allegedly targeting weapons storage sites and retaliating to Yemeni forces' attacks on Israel-linked shipping vessels.

Despite these operations, Yemeni military strikes have only intensified in both frequency and firepower, hitting trade ships connected to Israel, as well as the occupied territory itself with domestically manufactured missiles and drones. This confirms the ineffectiveness of western airstrikes in achieving their intended objectives.

Israel, which has largely relied on US and UK offensives to avoid direct confrontation with the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), recently resorted to bombing the country's already weakened civilian infrastructure in an attempt to save face. [The latest Israeli airstrikes](#), which took place on 2 January, targeted several Yemeni provinces, in addition to Sanaa International Airport.

Commenting on the airstrikes, Ansarallah Spokesman Mohammad Abdul Salam [stated](#): “If the Zionist enemy thinks that its crimes will stop Yemen from supporting Gaza, it is delusional.”

Despite growing hopes among adversaries that the airstrikes carried out by the US and Israel might achieve a breakthrough against Sanaa, the facts point to the impossibility of any significant impact: Between 2015 and 2023, Yemen has been subjected to over a [quarter of a million](#) documented airstrikes by the US-backed Saudi–UAE coalition, making Yemen one of the most bombed countries in history.

Even the notion of targeting Ansarallah leaders through airstrikes, similar to assassination operations against other resistance leaders in West Asia, seems equally impractical.

## **Yemen is not Syria: A flawed comparison**

The idea of replicating Syria's civil war in Yemen, with the involvement of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and now Israel, has gained traction among policymakers. Former Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman criticized Israel's strategy, [advocating](#) for attacks on energy facilities operating under the jurisdiction of the de facto government in Sanaa and funding anti-Ansarallah factions.

He emphasized the need to engage with the internationally recognized Yemeni government in Aden, stating, “The Houthis should be preoccupied within Yemen, not with attacks on Israel.”

Similarly, US [diplomatic efforts](#) have sought to mobilize regional allies, with US officials meeting Yemeni, Saudi, and Emirati leaders in Riyadh to discuss strategies to weaken Ansarallah.

The war drums are constant now. [Hamid al-Ahmar](#), a prominent Islah Party leader, has announced that Ansarallah's downfall is imminent, drawing on regional experiences, particularly in Syria, where the battle to overthrow the government was long and hard-fought. [Major General Saghir bin Aziz](#), head of the Yemeni army loyal to the Saudi–Emirati coalition, also claims that Yemen is heading toward a fight to end “Houthi” rule.

At the same time, these developments coincide with military mobilizations on the western coast by forces loyal to the Aden-based government, supported by the US.

In response, numerous [Yemeni tribes](#) have instead declared their allegiance to Ansarallah, announcing tribal mobilization across several Yemeni provinces to confront any aggression against Yemen.

Unlike the former Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad, Ansarallah has emerged from years of war stronger and more cohesive, developing advanced military capabilities on the battlefield, including becoming the first non-state actor to deploy [hypersonic missiles](#). Ansarallah’s ability to directly threaten US and Israeli interests – in addition to Saudi and Emirati targets – sets it apart from the Syrian conflict dynamics.

Attempts to ignite internal strife or mount large-scale offensives in Yemen risk backfiring, as Ansarallah has demonstrated its ability to mobilize [tribal support](#) and launch devastating counterattacks.

Efforts to rally forces loyal to the Saudi-backed Yemeni government, such as those led by Tariq Saleh on the western coast, face significant obstacles.

The western coastal region, akin to a strategic Philadelphia Axis for Yemen, holds immense importance.

Its capture could pave the way for broader offensives, but Ansarallah’s fortified positions and military preparedness make such ambitions highly precarious. Unlike Damascus, Sanaa is secured by a popular and battle-hardened force that has consistently outmaneuvered its adversaries.



A map showing the distribution of control in Yemen.

### **Sanaa’s perspective on escalation**

For the Sanaa government, the growing involvement of the US and Israel represents desperate attempts to destabilize Yemen. Abdul Malik al-Houthi, Ansarallah’s leader, [dismissed](#) these efforts as “silly and foolish,” asserting that the YAF is fully prepared to confront any escalation.

In a post on X, Hussein al-Azzi, a senior political figure, [noted](#) that key regions like Marib are increasingly leaning toward Ansarallah due to widespread corruption within rival factions and areas. Such shifts signal the potential for Ansarallah to reclaim further territory with minimal resistance.

Defections from coalition-aligned forces further complicate US and Israeli calculations. Over [100 soldiers](#) and officers recently joined Ansarallah, reflecting internal fractures within the western-led coalition.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, head of the Supreme Revolutionary Committee, [warned](#) Saudi Arabia to “restrain the Americans,” threatening retaliation against US interests if the aggression continues. He affirmed that there would be no red lines if the situation worsens.

Similarly, Ansarallah Spokesman Mohammed al-Bukhaiti [responded](#) to Israeli assassination threats by warning of his organization’s capability to target US, British, and Israeli leaders in kind.

**“We affirm to the Americans, the British, and the Zionist entity, that we, in turn, have the capability and boldness to target American, British, and Israeli leaders, whether**

**military or political. If they wish to turn this into a war of leadership assassinations, then we say: welcome to it.”**

### **A defiant Yemen reshapes the resistance**

Yemen’s entrance into the war with Israel has redefined the balance of power in the region. Despite relentless airstrikes, economic blockades, and diplomatic isolation, Ansarallah has emerged as a formidable force, unyielding in its support for Gaza and its resistance to foreign intervention.

With each missile and drone strike, Yemen sends a clear message: it will not bow to the pressures of global powers. As the winds of conflict escalate, Yemen’s resilience serves as a testament to its unwavering and steadfast determination, setting a new tone for the entire Axis of Resistance. It demonstrates that "well-behaved" resistance tactics are ineffective when fighting vicious, lawless adversaries like the US and Israel.

Forged by years of adversity, Yemen is not merely enduring – it is asserting its place as a pivotal player in West Asia’s Axis of Resistance, replacing Syria as an integral Arab state in the regional alliance.

In the face of increased aggression, Yemen’s strength and resolve have turned it into a force that neither Israel nor the US and its allies in the region can afford to underestimate.

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