

US strikes may not be hitting home in Iran

Attila Somfalvi / Jan 12, 2024, 21:41 IST IST

Washington's attack won't deter Houthi rebels. The militia will continue a proxy war for Tehran, the latter unconcerned about West Asia's worsening security situation, egging on escalation of conflict

On the surface, from an Israeli, regional, and even global perspective, US-led attacks in Yemen could be the first sign of further deterioration in West Asia's security situation. Americans and the British, together with partners, acted for the first time in weeks against the Iranian proxy that has been disrupting global free trade. Yet, in Israel, there are those who believe this is actually good news — after weeks of seeming hesitation, the West decided to act, sending a message to Iran, the driving force behind Houthis, and those behind destabilisation efforts in West Asia.

Gaza fallout | Last November, when Houthis began attacks in Red Sea, it seemed a joke. Those unfamiliar with Houthis thought it was a parody of pirates or a terrorist group with an excessive fondness for dancing. But it quickly became clear that Houthis' ability to affect the global economy through violent attacks in Red Sea worried the West and also players in West Asia — Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. With war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza as the backdrop, and a conflict simmering between Israel and Hezbollah, Israelis are fully aware Houthis are an Iranian player aiming to stretch and test Israeli capabilities.

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