

Netanyahu vows Houthis will pay 'heavy price' for missile attack on Israel

Israeli military investigating apparent failure of its air defence system to intercept hypersonic projectile

Thomas Helm / Sep. 15, 2024

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would inflict a "heavy price" on the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen, after they reached central Israel with a missile for the first time on Sunday.

The group claimed responsibility for the hypersonic ballistic missile attack on central Israel, praising it for causing "fear and panic" throughout the country.

[...]

Yoel Guzansky, a senior researcher at Israeli think tank, the Institute for National Security Studies, told *The National* the attack was "a big deal". He added: "It appears to have penetrated Israel's very sophisticated missile defence systems and it shows that the Houthis continue to launch attacks just months after Israel attacked Hodeidah."

Mr Guzansky also described the attack as a "weapon of terror". "For a little while they achieved such terror as so many Israelis ran for shelter this morning," he added.

Israel's military said: "The result of the interception is under review." Social media showed shrapnel from failed interceptions scattered throughout the region, causing limited damage.

INSS senior researcher Yehoshua Kalisky, a missile expert who witnessed the attack, said the fire he saw was caused by "debris of not only the missile but also interceptor rounds".

"This was probably a regular Iranian ballistic missile. Israeli air defence layers do not have an 100 per cent success rate," he added. "The main issue is that the missile itself decomposed in the air, which is why it proved impossible to intercept over Israel."

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