Houthis threaten independently of Iran

[Dean Shmuel Elmas](#) / 22 Dec, 2024

Iran may not have complete control of its Yemeni client, which continues to fire at Israel and international shipping.

After fourteen months of war, the ceasefire in Lebanon is holding, the fighting in the Gaza Strip is at low intensity, and the number of missiles launched at Israel from Iraq has dropped, but the Houthis in Yemen aren't stopping. In the early hours of Saturday morning, they fired a ballistic missile at Tel Aviv that landed in a park in Jaffa, injuring sixteen people, after a similar incident last week sent millions of Israeli scurrying to air-raid shelters.

[…]

Dr. Yoel Guzansky, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), adds: "The independence of the Houthis has always existed, and Iranian control of them has never been as tight as it was over Hezbollah and the Assad regime. It's not clear how much coordination there is at present, and it could be that the Iranians have an interest in presenting their axis as active, despite the situation."

[…]

Beni Sabti, an expert on Iran at INSS, stresses that when the ceasefire agreement with Hezbollah was signed, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei declared that the "resistance" would continue, and offers an alternative explanation for the Houthis' behavior. "'The resistance' is a supreme goal as far as Iran in concerned. There are tactical intermissions along the way, which sometimes apply to everybody and sometimes to some only. There are also vague orders that allow partial freedom of action to remote militias such as the Houthis."

[…]

"The Houthis will continue to be a global security threat for several reasons: their position on Bab el-Mandeb; their proximity to an important oil producer, Saudi Arabia; and their capabilities provided by Iran alongside development of independent capabilities," explains Dr. Guzansky.

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