

The New York Times

Israel Intercepts Houthi Missile and Threatens Militant Group's Leaders

By Aaron Boxerman Matthew Mpoke Bigg and Ephrat Livni

Aaron Boxerman reported from Jerusalem.

Dec. 24, 2024

Israel said it had repelled an attack, which came hours after Israel's defense minister vowed to "behead" the Yemeni group's leadership.

The Houthi militia group in Yemen fired a missile at Israel on Tuesday, hours after Israel's defense minister suggested that his government would seek to kill its leadership, highlighting the difficulty Israel faces in confronting the Iran-backed militants as they ramp up their assaults.

Sirens wailed in Tel Aviv and other parts of central Israel early on Tuesday morning, and loud booms could be heard as far away as Jerusalem as the country's aerial defenses repelled the attack. The Israeli military later said the missile had been successfully intercepted outside of its territory; there were no reports of casualties.

[...]

"What we've done so far — I don't want to call it a complete failure, but our operational successes have not yet brought the desired results," said Danny Citrinowicz, a former Israeli military intelligence officer and research fellow at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies. "And our options aren't good, either."

The Houthis are unlikely to abandon their newfound leverage even if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, according to analysts. Simply by firing a ballistic missile every few days, setting off air-raid sirens across Israel, the Houthis could have a profound psychological and economic impact on the country, said Mr. Citrinowicz.

...

For full article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/24/world/middleeast/israel-houthis-yemen-missile.html>