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Israel prepares for a new battlefield against the Houthis in Yemen

The Houthis have ramped up their attacks on Israel, while Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu says the fight against the militant group “is only getting started.”

By Shira Rubin / December 27, 2024

TEL AVIV — Israel is preparing for a new front against the Houthis in Yemen, another chapter in a war that continues to expand beyond Israel’s physical borders, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying Thursday that the fight against the Iran-backed militant group “is only getting started.”

[...]

“The Houthis want a war of attrition on Israel, to continue firing so that they can say, ‘We are the real resistance,’” said **Yoel Guzansky, a former official on Israel’s National Security Council who is now a senior fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv.

But the cost calculus is complicated for Israel. Houthi drones and missiles cost around several thousand dollars each — while each interception costs Israel tens of thousands of dollars, at least.

“Because it’s so cheap for them to try to get a drone or a missile every few days or weeks into Israel, they can win this,” Guzansky said. “The question is now, how does Israel avoid falling into their trap?”

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