# Cargo Ship Abandoned After Yemen's Houthi Rebels Launch Missile Attack in Gulf of Aden



### Crew Abandons Cargo Ship Following Missile Attack in Gulf of Aden

**Sana'a** – The United States Military reported on Saturday that the crew of the bulk cargo carrier M/V Verbena has abandoned the ship after it came under missile attack by Yemen’s Houthi rebels in the Gulf of Aden. The incident occurred on Thursday, resulting in uncontrollable fires on the vessel, which is Palauan-flagged, Ukrainian-owned, and Polish-operated.

The ship issued a distress call that went unanswered by the nearby Iranian frigate IRIN Jamaran. Subsequently, another cargo vessel rescued the crew. One sailor sustained severe injuries and was evacuated by U.S. forces.

The attack is part of a series of assaults by the Houthis in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which they claim are in solidarity with Palestinians amid the Israel-Hamas war. These attacks have increased since November 2023.

In a related incident, the UK Maritime Trade Operations reported that another cargo ship, M/V Tutor, was hit by a sea drone off the rebel-held city of Hodeida on Wednesday, causing significant flooding. The crew abandoned the ship, and it remains adrift in the Red Sea.

The Houthis, who seized Yemen's capital, Sana'a, in 2014, have intensified their targeting of maritime vessels. U.S. Central Command stated that it has destroyed seven Houthi radars and two bomb-laden drone boats in fresh strikes. Additionally, the USS Philippine Sea rescued the crew of M/V Tutor, with one Filipino sailor reported missing.

The ongoing conflict has severely disrupted commercial shipping and humanitarian aid delivery in the region, with the Houthis responsible for more than 50 attacks on shipping routes since November.