# Merchant Ship Damaged in Drone Attack near Yemen's Coast



A merchant ship was damaged in a drone attack near Yemen's coast in the Red Sea early Sunday morning, as confirmed by two maritime security agencies. The attack occurred approximately 65 nautical miles west of the Yemeni port city of Hodeida. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), a unit of Britain's Royal Navy, reported that the "Master of a merchant vessel" noted damage from an uncrewed aerial system (UAS), but no casualties were reported. The vessel is continuing to its next port of call, and authorities are investigating.

British maritime security firm Ambrey identified the affected ship as a Liberia-flagged, Greece-owned bulk carrier. Later in the day, UKMTO reported receiving a distress call from another vessel near Yemen's southeastern coast, which had become uncontainably flooded. The crew abandoned this second ship and were rescued by an assisting vessel.

Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, claimed responsibility for the attacks, stating that one ship was targeted in the Red Sea and another in the Indian Ocean. The Houthis have been targeting commercial ships in the region since November, citing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

These recent events follow the Houthis' unconfirmed claim of an attack on the US aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower on Saturday, a claim disputed by two US officials. In response to increasing Houthi attacks, the US formed a coalition of over 20 countries to protect commercial traffic in the Red Sea. US and British forces have launched several strikes against Houthi targets, but the Houthis remain undeterred, continuing their operations.

This information comes amid a backdrop of ongoing Houthi activities in the Red Sea, including a recent attack on the MV Tutor ship. The Houthis assert these attacks are due to the ship's routes to Israeli ports, ignoring their warnings.