# Escalating conflict in Yemen sees significant U.S. military campaign against Houthis



The ongoing conflict involving Iran-backed Houthi militants in Yemen and the United States has escalated recently, marked by a significant bombing campaign launched by U.S. President Donald Trump. This military operation aims to counter the Houthis' attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea that have intensified since November 2023. The situation has gained new dimensions since a series of strikes were ordered by Trump on 15 March 2025, with implications that extend beyond military engagements, touching aspects of both domestic and international politics.

Pentagon officials have disclosed to congressional aides and allies that the financial toll of Trump's bombing campaign could surpass $1 billion by next week, primarily due to the cost of munitions used in the strikes, which have already reached approximately $200 million. This assessment contrasts sharply with Trump's recent claims that the Houthis had been "decimated" by U.S. airstrikes. Pentagon assessments suggest that instead of weakening, the Houthis have displayed adaptability—reinforcing their positions and maintaining their missile capabilities despite the campaign.

Houthi spokesperson Nasruddin Amer confirmed on Friday that the group had successfully attacked U.S. warships in the Red Sea using drones and cruise missiles, highlighting the group's sustained operational capabilities. In the past week alone, Houthis reportedly shot down two MQ-9 Reaper drones, indicating a continued resilience against U.S. military efforts.

Critics within Trump's own political circle have expressed discontent over the current military strategy, arguing that it runs counter to the president's commitments to curtail "endless wars" and uphold an "America First" ideology. Notably, Iona Craig from the Yemen Data Project reported that the bombing campaign has resulted in the deaths of approximately 28 civilians, including children, raising concerns about the humanitarian impact of these military operations.

In a recent incident, a leaked chat among Trump's national security team revealed the triumph they felt over a strike targeting a Houthi operative. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz noted that the operation had met its objective but did not provide transparency about the civilian toll involved.

The backdrop to this military action is a larger geopolitical conflict which intensified in October 2023 following a surprise attack by Hamas on Israel. The U.S. response included airstrikes against Yemen, an initiative that has seen limited success, as Houthi attacks on shipping routes have persisted, leading to disruptions in global maritime trade. Despite previous operations led by former President Joe Biden, the situation has not significantly improved, prompting the current administration to escalate its actions.

As the conflict drags on, the U.S. aims to reopen key shipping lanes, crucial for international trade. However, the Houthis have strategically partnered with other nations, including Russia and China, further complicating the situation in a maritime domain that has historically been vital for global commerce.

In a statement, Trump expressed his retaliatory stance against Houthi attacks, asserting, "We will use overwhelming lethal force until we have achieved our objective." He conveyed frustration over the ongoing maritime threats, emphasising the significance of maintaining freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

Houthi leaders, for their part, have vowed to continue their military operations as long as U.S. attacks persist. Abdul Malik al-Houthi reiterated that retaliation would only cease with a halt to U.S. aggression, highlighting the ongoing cycle of violence that characterises this conflict.

As the situation develops, key political stakeholders in the U.S., including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have underscored the implications of Iran’s support for the Houthis, while Iranian officials maintain that the Houthis operate independently. The complexity of military and diplomatic interactions in this regional conflict continues to challenge U.S. strategic objectives and raise pressing questions about the humanitarian costs involved in such engagements.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March%E2%80%93April_2025_United_States_attacks_in_Yemen> - This Wikipedia page documents the recent escalation of U.S. military operations in Yemen under President Donald Trump, targeting Houthi forces due to their maritime threats. It corroborates the initiation of strikes on March 15, 2025, and their ongoing impact.
* <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/u-s-launches-new-strikes-against-houthis-in-yemen-apparently-killing-at-least-1-person> - This PBS NewsHour article reports on recent airstrikes by the U.S. against Houthi positions in Yemen, highlighting the military campaign's evolution and its humanitarian consequences. It also mentions the strategic deployment of U.S. assets like B-2 bombers.
* <https://www.justice.gov/> - While not directly related to the current Yemen conflict, the U.S. Department of Justice website hosts various reports and statements on national security issues, including past investigations into presidential actions and their implications.
* <https://in.reuters.com/world/middle-east-africa/iran-accuses-israel-us-massive-attack-syria-2023-10-08/> - Though not specifically about the current U.S.-Houthi conflict, this Reuters article discusses broader regional tensions in the Middle East, including Iran's involvement, which is relevant to understanding Houthi activities and U.S. responses.
* <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2023/10/09/695226/Iran-Israel-Hamas-Saudi-Arabia-Tel-Aviv> - This Press TV article provides context on the regional geopolitical tensions that have been exacerbated since October 2023, including Iranian responses to Israeli actions and their indirect impact on U.S.-Houthi relations.
* <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-09/israel-says-it-s-under-attack-from-hamas-after-gaza-violence-escalates> - Bloomberg's coverage of regional conflicts, such as the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel, helps understand the roots of the current U.S. military engagement with the Houthis and the broader Middle Eastern crisis.