# US airstrikes hit Yemen’s capital Sanaa, causing multiple deaths amid intensified campaign



US conduct airstrikes in Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, resulting in multiple fatalities according to Houthi sources

Overnight US airstrikes on 26-27 April 2025 in Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, have reportedly killed at least eight people, the Houthi rebel group stated. The strikes targeted the Bani Al Harith district, an area within Houthi-controlled territory. Graphic footage released by the rebels showed blood stains, bodies, and children’s belongings amidst the rubble, underscoring the impact of the attacks.

The al-Masirah satellite news channel, operated by the Houthi movement, reported the fatalities, although Yemen’s Health Ministry officials have yet to confirm these figures. The strikes are viewed as part of an intensifying US military campaign that began last month under the administration of former President Donald Trump. This campaign aims to impede Iran’s regional influence, especially regarding its nuclear programme, by targeting allied groups such as the Houthis.

The US Central Command has acknowledged carrying out more than 800 airstrikes across Yemen from 15 March to 15 April as part of an operation named ‘Operation Roughrider’. A statement from Central Command noted, “The operation has killed hundreds of Houthi fighters and numerous Houthi leaders,” including senior figures involved with the group’s missile and drone programmes, though specific identities were not disclosed. The statement continued: “Iran undoubtedly continues to provide support to the Houthis,” and asserted that Houthi attacks on US forces are sustained by backing from the Iranian regime.

The Central Command statement also explained the strategic objectives of the campaign: “We will continue to ratchet up the pressure until the objective is met, which remains the restoration of freedom of navigation and American deterrence in the region.” The group is considered a significant threat due to its attacks on shipping routes in the Red Sea—a vital artery for global trade—as well as its ability to strike Israel, making them the only militant force within Iran’s self-described "Axis of Resistance" capable of regularly targeting the Israeli territory.

In addition to the assault in Sanaa, overnight strikes reportedly hit Yemen’s Amran and Saada governorates. The Houthis reported two additional deaths on Sunday from related military actions. However, precise casualty numbers remain difficult to verify, as the US military has not disclosed detailed information about individual targets or the full extent of the damage. The Houthis maintain strict control over information from areas affected by bombardment, and typically restrict access, which complicates independent assessments.

Among the dead, funeral notices suggest that high-ranking Houthi officials have been killed by US strikes, although operational security concerns have led the American military to limit public disclosure on the specifics of the campaign. Central Command emphasised: “We have intentionally limited disclosing details of our ongoing or future operations... but will not reveal specifics about what we’ve done or what we will do.” Notably, the US military has not publicly acknowledged any civilian casualties, a point raised by outside activists given the intensity of the campaign.

The US is currently conducting these airstrikes using two aircraft carriers deployed in the region: the USS Harry S. Truman in the Red Sea, and the USS Carl Vinson in the Arabian Sea. A significant strike took place on 18 April at the Ras Isa fuel port, reportedly killing at least 74 people and wounding over 170 in what is considered the deadliest attack of the US campaign so far. Central Command justified the operation by stating, “US strikes destroyed the ability of Ras Isa Port to accept fuel which will begin to impact Houthi ability not only to conduct operations, but also to generate millions of dollars in revenue for their terror activities.”

Meanwhile, the Houthis have tightened control over communication channels within their territories. On 27 April, the group issued an order demanding the surrender of Starlink satellite internet receivers, threatening arrests for those found possessing the technology. The rebels warned of an impending “field campaign... to arrest anyone who sells, trades, uses, operates, installs, or possesses these prohibited terminals.” Starlink systems have previously been instrumental in providing wartime communications, especially in Ukraine's conflict with Russia and amidst unrest in Iran, raising concerns about information access within Houthi areas.

This series of air strikes reflects an escalation in US efforts to counter the Houthis' influence and Iranian involvement in Yemen. The ongoing military operations continue amid a complex and multifaceted conflict landscape, with limited independent verification of casualty figures and the evolving control of information in the territories affected.

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

## Bibliography

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3. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-april-28-2025/> - Confirms that US Central Command acknowledged more than 800 airstrikes conducted from March 15 to April 15, killing hundreds of Houthi fighters and leaders, as part of 'Operation Roughrider,' including the strategic intent to counter Iranian influence.
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