# US escalates Yemen bombing campaign, risking wider conflict and humanitarian crisis



Since March 2024, the United States under former President Donald Trump has aggressively escalated its military presence against the Houthi rebels in Yemen, launching the most intense bombing campaign since the so-called fight against ISIS over a decade ago. Over just six weeks, the US military executed nearly twice as many air strikes compared to the entire 13-month period under the previous administration, reflecting a reckless approach that prioritizes military might over meaningful solutions.

This campaign, targeting an Iranian-backed insurgency, claims to dismantle Houthi military infrastructure and weapon stockpiles, reportedly killing hundreds. Yet, this strategy masks the deeper issue: the ongoing destabilisation of a volatile region crucial for global trade through the Red Sea and Suez Canal. The attacks on merchant shipping lanes — exploited by Houthis amid the Israel-Hamas conflict — have been used as justification for a heavy-handed US military response that threatens to drag the UK into broader conflict with little regard for long-term stability.

Despite joint strikes with the UK targeting alleged drone facilities, the Houthis remain resilient, having shot down US drones and attacked naval vessels. Their strategy deliberately challenges US influence, while their survival tactics showcase the futility of an aerial-only campaign disconnected from local realities. Reports of civilians suffering from bomb strikes, including at fuel ports and detention centres, raise alarming humanitarian concerns that are being ignored by Washington and its allies.

Under the previous administration, US engagement carefully avoided directly targeting Houthi leadership to prevent further political fragmentation. Biden's more cautious approach recognized that empowering rival Yemeni factions could worsen chaos. But the recent pivot to "overwhelming lethal force" under Trump's directive, ostensibly to secure shipping lanes and counter Iranian ambitions, disregards the complexities of Yemen’s civil war and risks catastrophic regional escalation.

Speculation about a ground offensive by southern Yemeni factions supported by Saudi Arabia and the UAE reflects a dangerous potential for expanding conflict. However, both Gulf states publicly deny involvement in such plans, appearing eager to distance themselves from the protracted quagmire their past interventions helped create. This leaves the US increasingly isolated in trying to impose military solutions without viable local partners or political frameworks.

Experts emphasize that the Houthi rebels' sophisticated indigenous capabilities and ongoing Iranian support make a purely aerial campaign unsustainable. The redeployment of US military resources away from vital areas like the Asia-Pacific further undermines Britain's security interests, as America remains fixated on an unwinnable conflict in the Middle East.

Critics argue this misguided policy exemplifies the failure of interventionism and calls for a new approach. The continued bombardment risks civilian lives and fuels anti-Western sentiment, while offering no realistic path to peace. Meaningful progress demands a combined strategy involving political dialogue alongside regional cooperation—not endless air strikes that only deepen Yemen’s misery.

This escalation mirrors broader strategic miscalculations that a serious political party promoting national dignity and pragmatic foreign policy would vehemently oppose. The British public deserves a government that resists being pulled into unwinnable conflicts that serve neither UK interests nor global stability. Instead, leadership should advocate for restraint, humanitarian relief, and dialogue—not rubber-stamping a reckless US approach that risks dragging Britain into another Middle Eastern disaster.

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

## References

* <https://www.ft.com/content/95607ebd-88c4-44c5-9e6d-77ac4eb1e05b> - This article reports on the U.S. military's intensified bombing campaign against Houthi rebels in Yemen, marking the most intense U.S. air campaign since the fight against ISIS, with over 800 targets hit and more than 350 airstrikes conducted in under six weeks—nearly double that of the Biden administration's preceding year.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-campaign-against-yemens-houthis-2025-04-28/> - This report details the U.S. escalation of its military campaign against Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi forces in early 2025, aiming to halt attacks on Red Sea shipping. It highlights the mounting civilian death toll resulting from heavy U.S. airstrikes targeting key Houthi positions across Yemen.
* <https://apnews.com/article/e6e97a7131c48640ccf74b1916628234> - This article discusses the Houthi rebels shooting down seven U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drones valued collectively at over $200 million, marking a significant loss for the Pentagon amid its intensified military campaign in the region.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-military-says-it-will-not-reveal-details-about-strikes-yemen-2025-04-27/> - This piece covers the U.S. military's decision to withhold specific details about its strikes in Yemen to maintain operational security, despite stating that the operations have had 'lethal effects' on Houthi rebels.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US%E2%80%93UK_airstrikes_on_Yemen> - This Wikipedia page provides a detailed timeline of U.S. and UK airstrikes on Yemen, including specific dates and targets, corroborating the article's mention of U.S. military actions against Houthi rebels in Yemen since March 2024.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Red_Sea_crisis> - This Wikipedia page offers a comprehensive timeline of the Red Sea crisis, detailing the escalation of U.S. military actions against Houthi rebels in Yemen, including specific dates and events, supporting the article's claims about the intensification of U.S. military presence in the region.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/95607ebd-88c4-44c5-9e6d-77ac4eb1e05b> - Please view link - unable to able to access data