

## US Navy's Confrontation with Houthi Forces in the Red Sea

A recent tense encounter in the Red Sea between the US Navy and Houthi forces marked a significant escalation in regional tensions. The incident involved the US Navy destroying Houthi "small boats" in self-defense, as they approached the Maersk Hangzhou container ship.

- **Context of the Maritime Confrontation:** This incident follows a previous attack on Hangzhou, underscoring the increasing frequency and intensity of such maritime confrontations in the Red Sea. The US Navy's response was part of Operation Prosperity Guardian, a coalition effort that has attracted criticism for its perceived alignment with Israeli interests.
- **Houthi Rebels' Retaliation and Regional Implications:** In retaliation, Houthi rebels have threatened action against any nation involved in the US-led operation, aligning their resistance with the Palestinian cause. The Houthi narrative, framing their actions within the wider Iran-Israel proxy conflict, raises the stakes for regional stability and maritime security.
- **Yemen's Armed Forces and the Communication Cables Challenge:** Yemen's armed forces have cautioned against US involvement, pledging to defend their territory against perceived aggression. Concerns about the safety of vital submarine communication cables in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, essential for global communications, have been heightened by the Houthis' increased drone and missile attacks.
- **Geopolitical and Economic Impact of the Red Sea Conflict:** The conflict in the Red Sea transcends maritime skirmishes, emerging as a crucial front in the Iran-Israel proxy war. The risk to submarine cables, which carry over 95% of global communications, highlights the strategic importance of this maritime zone, linking the East and West.