



MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY NO. 04-2023r1

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS, ISM OPERATORS,
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, SHIPPING AGENTS, GENERAL SAFETY
INSPECTORS

SUBJECT: SECURITY INCIDENTS IN THE RED SEA

DATE: 30 January 2024

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this advisory is to remind shipowners/operators of the Israel-Hamas war in addition to bring awareness of the major escalation of a series of ongoing maritime security incidents when transiting or operating the Red Sea, the Bab-el Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden (GOA).

CURRENT SITUATION:

Iran-backed Houthi rebels have been striking ships in the Red Sea, disrupting global shipping. Many shipping companies are diverting their cargo away from the Suez Canal, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden as attacks by the Houthi group in Yemen intensify in response to the ongoing siege of Gaza.

On Friday 26th January, 2024 a British-owned tanker, “MT Marilyn Luanda” was hit by a Houthi anti-ship missile in the Gulf of Aden after transiting the Red Sea and as a result one of the cargo tanks on the vessel’s starboard side caught on fire. The incident took place 60nm southeast of Yemen. The blaze was eventually extinguished, and all crew were reported safe.

Moreover, on Saturday 27th January, 2024 a British warship, “HMS Diamond” destroyed a drone that was about to attack her from the Yemen’s Houthi group in the Red Sea. No injuries or damage were sustained to the vessel or crew.

NEW DIRECTIVE:

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) would like to prompt all Belize flagged vessel operators, crew, charterers, and owners of the ongoing attacks by the Iranian- backed Houthi militia tied to Israel’s war against Hamas. The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a trip of water that runs past Yemen, is a vital shipping lane that is responsible for 10% of global trade, however this passage has become a high-risk area to operate through.

Our Belize flagged vessels are encouraged to use the Northern Sea Route (NSR) or Cape of Good Hope Route as alternate routes, as done by some shipping companies for the safety of their ships and crew members, since the Gulf of Aden, the Bab-el Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea have become more problematic for commercial shipping with increasing maritime security attacks on ports and vessels. Nevertheless, vessels that are required to operate through this region are recommended:



- To contact local port authorities and ship's agent to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable information.
- For vessels transiting the Red Sea and the GOA are to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity or observed security incidents to the Maritime Security Centre as well as to record the information in the ship's logbook.
- To implement extra protective measure in accordance with the Ship Security Plan if necessary, in the Gulf of Aden, the Bab-el Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea.
- To ensure that all available recommendations from the Best Management (BMP5) have been followed and all necessary actions are taken prior to and while transiting through the GOA and the Red Sea.
- To inform our administration before entering this region by means of email along with whether or not the vessel will carry armed personnel for their intended voyage. Also, to notify our administration when the ship has departed the area for us to be aware that the ship is clear of any risks or incidents.
- Lastly, we request that all Belize-flagged vessels transiting the Red Sea and the GOA to send an email to technicalservices@immarbe.com twice a day, at 12 a.m. and 12 p.m., informing us of its position and providing a brief update of the crew and the vessel.

We anticipate your cooperation and encourage all ship owners, operators, and charters to take note of the contents of this advisory and to confirm receipt of this email.

Eng. Eduardo Simon
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International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize,
IMMARBE

