

Escalation in Maritime Incidents: Increased maritime hostility in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, including missile attacks, suspicious approaches, and targeted strikes, largely attributed to the Houthi Movement.

Rising Armed Conflict: Significant clashes involving tribal forces, AQAP, and Houthi militants across Yemen, coupled with targeted killings and aerial strikes.

Civil Unrest and Hazardous Incidents: Protests related to fuel shortages, electricity outages, and political grievances occurred alongside numerous hazards such as flooding, fires, and building collapses.



Weekly Overview

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden have seen a significant escalation in maritime threats over the past week, with incidents highlighting increased hostility from the Houthi Movement. Missile attacks, such as the strike on the Panama-flagged Anadolu S cargo vessel, illustrate the Houthis' strategic targeting of vessels associated with perceived violations of their territorial declarations. Suspicious approaches, including the pursuit of a yacht by multiple small vessels southwest of Aden, have raised alarms regarding potential piracy or harassment in vital maritime routes. Additionally, naval missile incidents, such as missile landings near commercial vessels, further demonstrate the precariousness of maritime security in the region. These developments emphasize the need for enhanced naval coordination and secure transit corridors to protect international shipping and humanitarian aid flows.

Armed conflict across Yemen has intensified, marked by significant clashes and targeted operations. Tribal disputes remain a prominent feature of the conflict landscape, with heavy fighting reported between Houthi forces and the Beni Nouf tribe in al-Jawf following retaliatory attacks. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has also escalated its activities, including sniper attacks on Southern Transitional Council forces and ambushes resulting in multiple casualties. The week also witnessed targeted killings, such as the assassination of a Houthi official in Sanaa, alongside aerial strikes by US-UK coalitions targeting Houthi positions. These developments highlight a multi-dimensional conflict environment, posing severe risks for civilian populations, displacement, and NGO operations, particularly in regions with limited access and fragile governance structures.

In addition to conflict-related challenges, Yemen continues to face widespread civil unrest and hazardous incidents. Protests have erupted in response to fuel shortages and electricity outages, with demonstrations in Hadramout and Sanaa reflecting deep public dissatisfaction with governance and living conditions. Urban areas are increasingly vulnerable to hazardous incidents, such as the residential fires in Aden and a building collapse in Abyan, underscoring the fragility of infrastructure and the inadequacy of emergency response systems. Furthermore, heavy rainfall has caused flooding in Mukalla and other areas, compounding displacement and resource shortages for already vulnerable populations. These concurrent challenges highlight the intersecting pressures of conflict, governance failures, and environmental risks, demanding coordinated and context-specific humanitarian responses.

Maritime Incidents and Related Airstrikes

The week of November 15-21 witnessed a significant escalation in maritime threats in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, with **six maritime incidents** reported. These incidents included missile attacks, suspicious approaches, and naval threats, reflecting the Houthis' determination to assert control over these strategic waterways. Key incidents included the missile strike on the Panama-flagged Anadolu S cargo vessel and coordinated suspicious approaches by small vessels southwest of Aden, raising concerns about piracy or harassment. The Houthis have explicitly tied these



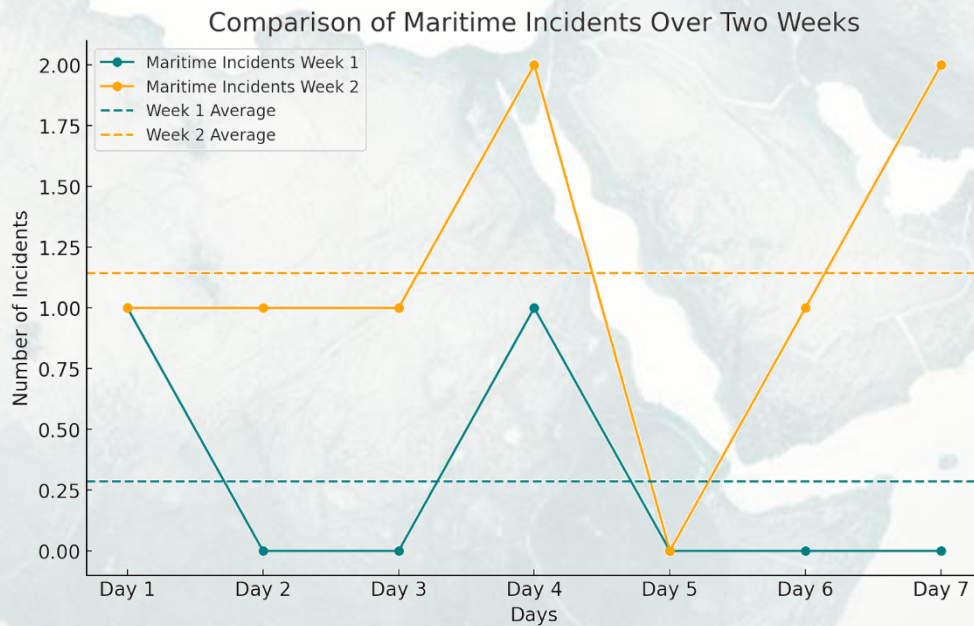
operations to their ongoing ideological and political agenda, stating that they will persist in targeting Israeli and affiliated vessels as long as the conflicts in Lebanon and Palestine continue.

Earlier in the month, on November 12, Houthi forces launched a multi-pronged assault on US naval vessels in the Red Sea. This assault demonstrated the Houthis' advanced capabilities and strategic intent, involving:

- 8 one-way attack drones
- 2 unmanned aerial systems
- 5 anti-ship ballistic missiles
- 3 cruise missiles

These aggressive actions underscore the Houthis' operational perseverance and their aim to disrupt maritime routes and challenge regional powers. Their persistence signals a long-term threat to maritime security, particularly in the context of heightened regional tensions.

Comparative Analysis with the Previous Week



In the previous week (November 8-14), only three maritime incidents were reported, characterized by isolated attacks and missile splashes. In contrast, the week of November 15-21 showed a twofold increase in incidents, alongside greater complexity and coordination. The involvement of drones, anti-ship ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles in recent weeks marks a significant escalation in both scale and technological sophistication.



Additionally, the increased tempo of US-UK airstrikes this week reflects the growing urgency to counter Houthi operations. Airstrikes targeting Houthi weapons facilities in Sanaa and other locations aim to degrade their capabilities and address the maritime threats they pose. This broader strategy aligns with the Houthis' intensified rhetoric and operational tempo, as they openly declare their intent to sustain attacks linked to regional conflicts.

The sharp rise in maritime incidents and the Houthis' demonstrated ability to conduct coordinated assaults highlight an increasingly volatile maritime environment. These developments demand heightened security measures and regional cooperation to ensure the safety of shipping lanes critical for international trade and humanitarian aid.

AQAP Targeting of Southern Transitional Council (STC) and Yemeni Government Forces

The week of November 15-21 highlighted an escalation in Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) activities targeting Southern Transitional Council (STC) and Yemeni government forces. Notable incidents include sniper attacks, ambushes, and tribal-linked violence, demonstrating AQAP's ongoing strategy of undermining the STC's military and governance presence in southern Yemen.

Key incidents from this week include:

- **November 20:** AQAP claimed responsibility for a sniper attack in the al-Qalah area of Shabwah, targeting an STC soldier. This incident reflects AQAP's tactical focus on eliminating key personnel within STC ranks.
- **November 17:** AQAP conducted an ambush in Mudiyah, Abyan, resulting in the deaths of four STC forces and injuries to seven others. A separate vehicle explosion in the same area killed five and injured approximately ten STC members.
- **November 18:** AQAP-linked tribal militants engaged in heavy clashes in Shabwah, with reports of significant casualties and disruption to local governance structures.

These incidents demonstrate AQAP's adaptive strategies, which leverage local tribal disputes and geographical complexities to mount effective attacks against both STC and Yemeni government forces.

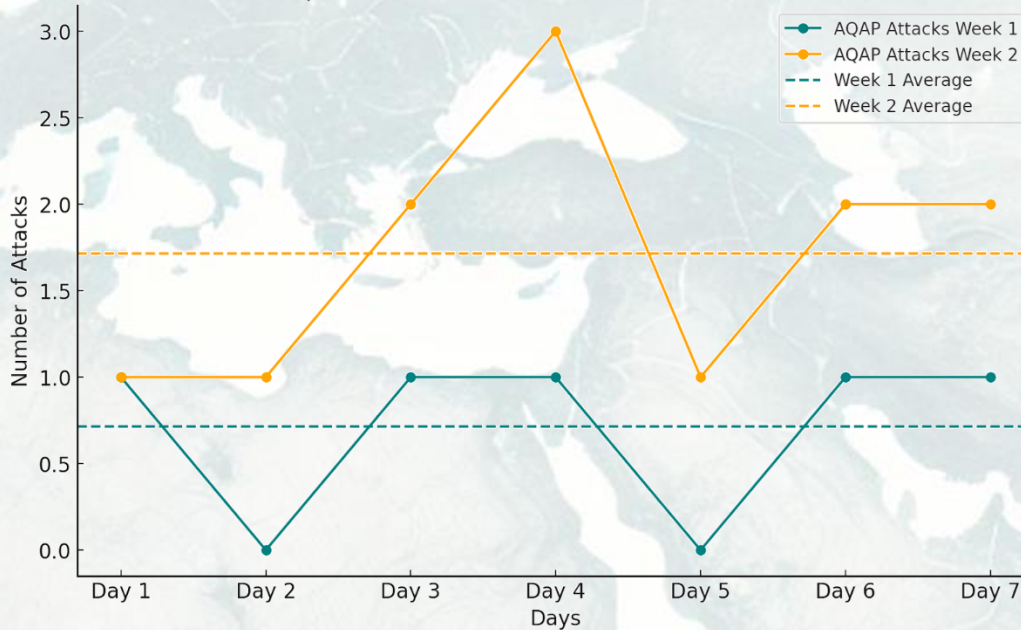
Comparative Analysis with the Previous Week

In the previous week (November 8-14), AQAP's activities were less pronounced but still impactful. Key incidents included isolated ambushes and IED attacks targeting government forces. However, the operational scale and frequency of attacks in the week of November 15-21 represent a notable escalation.



- **Tactical Shifts:** This week saw a shift from sporadic attacks to coordinated ambushes and sniper operations, indicating a focused effort to destabilize STC strongholds.
- **Geographic Spread:** While AQAP's activities last week were concentrated in Shabwah, this week's incidents extended to Abyan and other southern governorates, suggesting an expansion of their operational footprint.
- **Increased Casualties:** The number of casualties inflicted on STC and Yemeni government forces was significantly higher this week, reflecting AQAP's intensified assault on state and allied forces.

Comparison of AQAP Attacks Over Two Weeks



Strategic Implications

AQAP's continued targeting of STC and Yemeni government forces highlights the group's resilience and ability to exploit regional instability. Their alignment with local grievances, particularly in tribal disputes, provides them with a platform to challenge governance structures and maintain influence. This growing threat underscores the need for coordinated security measures and enhanced intelligence-sharing among STC, Yemeni government forces, and regional allies to mitigate AQAP's operational capabilities. The week's increased attacks also suggest AQAP's intent to capitalize on the broader conflict environment, positioning themselves as a persistent threat to both governance and security in southern Yemen.



Rise in Tribal Conflict

Tribal conflicts across Yemen remain a significant driver of instability, further exacerbating the already complex security landscape. During the week of November 15-21, tribal disputes, often fueled by long-standing grievances and local power struggles, led to violent clashes and substantial disruption in affected areas. These conflicts, while localized, have wider implications for humanitarian access, governance, and security.

Key incidents this week include:

- **November 20:** Heavy clashes between the Houthi forces and the Beni Nouf tribe erupted near Labnat Camp in al-Jawf Governorate. The violence was triggered by a retaliatory attack by tribal members on a Houthi checkpoint, following the killing of a tribal member earlier that day. The incident resulted in casualties and significant material losses.
- **November 18:** In Shabwah, tribal militants engaged in clashes using heavy weaponry. These conflicts, while linked to AQAP influence, also reflect broader local disputes over land and resource control.
- **November 17:** In Abyan, members of the "Al-Dawla" and "Al-Yaslam" tribes clashed in the central market of Ahwar District, leaving one person dead and another injured. The violence stemmed from a prior tribal vendetta, highlighting the enduring impact of unresolved disputes.

Analysis of Hazardous Issues

The week of November 15-21 highlighted a range of hazardous incidents across Yemen, including flooding, fires, and road traffic accidents. These events not only exacerbate the vulnerabilities of affected populations but also present significant risks to NGOs and agencies operating in the country.

Key incidents this week included:

- **Flooding:** Heavy rains caused flooding at Boish Bridge in Mukalla, disrupting transportation and access to critical areas. Flooding in urban and semi-urban areas continues to pose challenges for infrastructure and mobility, particularly during the rainy season.
- **Fires:** Multiple fire incidents were reported, including a commercial store fire in Ibb and residential fires in Aden. These incidents underscore the inadequacies in urban fire safety measures and emergency response systems.
- **Road Traffic Accidents:** A number of RTAs were recorded, including a tragic two-vehicle collision in Qaa al-Daylami, Dhamar, resulted in ten fatalities and four injuries, reflecting the ongoing risks associated with poor road conditions and limited enforcement of traffic safety regulations.



Recommendations:

To ensure the safety of both staff and beneficiaries, NGOs and agencies must:

- 1. Uphold Operational Safety and Security Standards:** Given the complex and dynamic nature of Yemen's environment, maintaining robust operational safety measures is critical. This includes regular risk assessments, contingency planning, and staff training on emergency response.
- 2. Enhance Occupational Health and Safety Protocols:** Hazardous incidents such as fires, floods, and accidents demand a greater emphasis on occupational health and safety. Organizations should implement clear OHS policies, ensure access to first aid and firefighting equipment, and conduct routine safety drills.
- 3. Address Environmental Hazards Proactively:** Flood-prone and high-risk areas should be identified in advance, and mitigation measures such as improving drainage systems and road maintenance should be prioritized where feasible.

Closure of Illicit Money Exchange Offices

As part of ongoing efforts to combat financial instability, Yemeni authorities closed two illicit money exchange offices in Aden during the week of November 15-21. These closures are part of a broader crackdown aimed at curbing unauthorized financial activities and mitigating their impact on the already fragile Yemeni economy.

The targeted offices were identified as engaging in unregulated currency exchange, which has contributed to currency depreciation and financial speculation. This action reflects the government's determination to enforce financial regulations and stabilize the economic environment. Authorities emphasized the importance of collaboration between security and financial oversight agencies to ensure compliance and deter further violations.

The closures of these offices highlight the critical need for NGOs and international agencies operating in Yemen to remain vigilant in financial transactions, ensuring compliance with local regulations to avoid disruptions in their operations and safeguard their financial practices. Mitigation efforts and diligence in selecting financial services vendors are necessarily vital as NGOs and other agencies may consider the use of alternative financial institutions as a result of recent developments with banks across the country.