Map 1

Source: Panel of Experts.

15. On 7 December 2021, Houthi forces launched the "7 December" military operation, which, according to a Houthi spokesperson, Yahya Sare'e, involved attacks on military targets in Riyadh, Jeddah, Jazan, Najran and Asir with ballistic missiles and uncrewed aerial vehicles,⁵ some of which were intercepted by Saudi forces. Coalition forces responded the same day with "precision bombing" on targets in Sana'a, Ma'rib and Jawf Governorates.⁶

16. On 1 January 2022, the Amaliqah Brigades, under the authority of the Government of Yemen, launched Operation "Southern Cyclone" in Shabwah Governorate, regaining control of the centre of Usaylan and Bayhan districts. In a statement delivered on 10 January, a spokesperson for the Amaliqah Brigades announced that they had pushed Houthi forces out of Ayn in the third phase of the operation and had taken control of Shabwah. He also thanked the Coalition led by Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, for their support.⁷

17. The support of the United Arab Emirates for Operation "Southern Cyclone" triggered the launch of "Yemen Cyclone" (I'sar al-Yemen)⁸ by the Houthis, with a series of attacks on targets in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Politil

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34. During the reporting period, a total of six serious maritime security incidents involving commercial vessels occurred off the coast of Yemen. Map 2 shows the distribution of the incidents.

Map 2

Source: Panel of Experts.

35. On 2 January, at 11.57 p.m. (local time), the United Arab Emirates-flagged landing craft *Rwabee* (International Maritime Organization (IMO): 9834351) was attacked by the Houthis approximately 23 nautical miles west of the Ra's Isa marine terminal, inside Yemeni territorial waters. The ship was diverted to Hudaydah, where it was detained along with its crew. According to the Coalition, the *Rwabee* was transporting equipment from a dismantled field hospital on Socotra to the port of Jazan in Saudi Arabia when it was attacked in an "act of piracy".³¹ On 14 January, the Security Council discussed the incident and released a press statement, calling for the "immediate release of the vessel and its crew".³²

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Figure 18.24

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