

Houthi Attack Sinks Cargo Ship in Red Sea Escalation



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Sanaa, July 8 – Yemen’s Houthi group confirmed that the Liberian-flagged bulk carrier MAGIC SEAS sank in the Red Sea after being attacked on Sunday, citing violations of its declared ban on vessels linked to Israel.

“The ship sank completely in the depths of the Red Sea after our armed forces targeted it,” said Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea in a statement on Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV. He said the ship’s owner had ignored multiple warnings by sending vessels to Israeli ports, with three entries reported just last week.

“The sinking was fully documented in audio and video,” he added.

Earlier, the UAE’s Foreign Ministry confirmed that all 22 individuals aboard—including crew and security personnel were successfully rescued following the attack.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) had reported Sunday that MAGIC SEAS came under fire from multiple small boats 51 nautical miles southwest of Yemen’s Hodeidah. The attackers used small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. The vessel’s onboard security team returned fire before two unmanned explosive-laden boats struck the vessel’s port side, breaching the hull and causing it to take on water.

Later that night, Israeli forces launched retaliatory airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen’s Hodeidah Province, hitting locations believed to be used for maritime attacks.

On Monday, the Houthis claimed they used ballistic missiles, drones, and remote-controlled boats in the strike on MAGIC SEAS. The group, which controls much of northern Yemen, has intensified operations against Israeli-linked shipping in the Red Sea since November 2023, citing solidarity

with Palestinians amid the ongoing Gaza conflict.

The attack marks a dangerous escalation in the maritime dimension of the regional conflict.