

# Iran Update, January 27, 2024

Andie Parry, Annika Ganzeveld, Johanna Moore, and Nicholas Carl

Information Cutoff: 2:00 pm EST

*The Iran Update provides insights into Iranian and Iranian-sponsored activities abroad that undermine regional stability and threaten US forces and interests. It also covers events and trends that affect the stability and decision-making of the Iranian regime. The Critical Threats Project (CTP) at the American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) provides these updates regularly based on regional events. For more on developments in Iran and the region, see our [interactive map of Iran and the Middle East](#).*

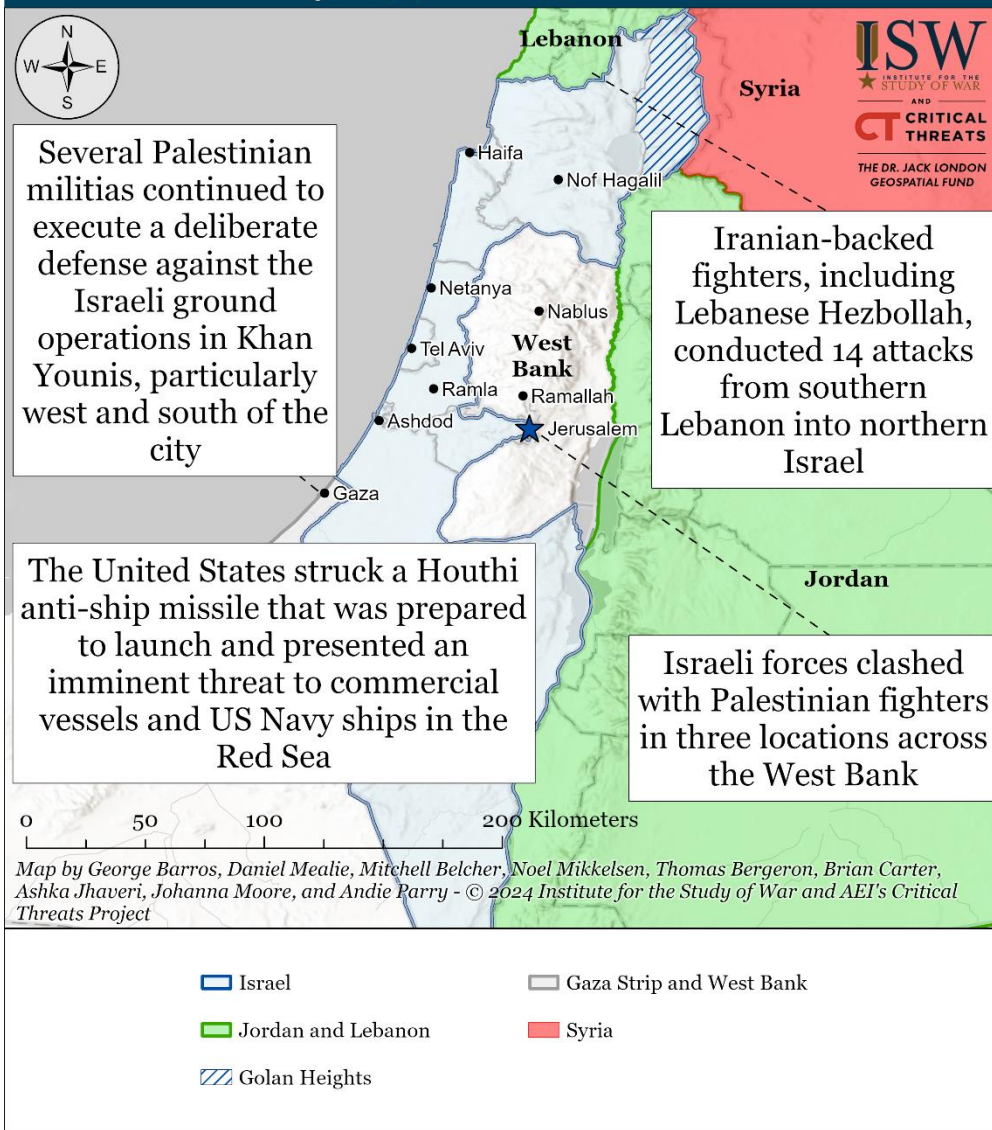
*Note: CTP and ISW have refocused the update to cover the Israel-Hamas war. The new sections address developments in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as noteworthy activity from Iran's Axis of Resistance. We do not report in detail on war crimes because these activities are well-covered in Western media and do not directly affect the military operations we are assessing and forecasting. We utterly condemn violations of the laws of armed conflict and the Geneva Conventions and crimes against humanity even though we do not describe them in these reports.*

*Click [here](#) to see CTP and ISW's interactive map of Israeli ground operations. This map is updated daily alongside the static maps present in this report. Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Iran Update.*

## **Key Takeaways:**

- **Northern Gaza Strip:** Palestinian fighters claimed clashes with Israeli forces. Hamas and other Palestinian fighters have contested Israeli raids in certain areas of the northern Gaza Strip throughout January 2024.
- **Central Gaza Strip:** Palestinian Islamic Jihad's militant wing targeted an Israeli supply line with mortars and rockets.
- **Southern Gaza Strip:** The Israel Defense Forces 98th Division destroyed weapons warehouses and clashed with Palestinian fighters in western Khan Younis. Several Palestinian militias, including Hamas, continued to execute a deliberate defense against the Israeli ground operations in Khan Younis, particularly west and south of the city.
- **West Bank:** Israeli forces clashed with Palestinian fighters in three locations.
- **Southern Lebanon and Golan Heights:** Iranian-backed fighters, including Lebanese Hezbollah, conducted 14 attacks from southern Lebanon into northern Israel.
- **Iraq and Syria:** The Islamic Resistance in Iraq—a coalition of Iranian-backed Iraqi militias—claimed responsibility for four attacks targeting US positions in Iraq and Syria.
- **Yemen:** US Central Command announced that the United States struck a Houthi anti-ship missile that was prepared to launch and presented an imminent threat to commercial vessels and US Navy ships in the Red Sea.

# Israel-Hamas War as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



## Gaza Strip

### **Axis of Resistance campaign objectives:**

- Erode the will of the Israeli political establishment and public to launch and sustain a major ground operation into the Gaza Strip
- Degrade IDF material and morale around the Gaza Strip.

**Palestinian fighters claimed clashes with Israeli forces in the northern Gaza Strip.** The al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which is the self-proclaimed military wing of Fatah, targeted Israeli forces in the al Atatra area north of Gaza City.[1] Hamas and other Palestinian fighters have contested Israeli raids in certain areas of the northern Gaza Strip throughout January 2024.

**Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)'s militant wing targeted an IDF supply line into the central Gaza Strip with mortars and rockets on January 27.[2]**

**The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) 98th Division destroyed weapons warehouses and clashed with Palestinian fighters in western Khan Younis on January 27.** The IDF stated its 89th Commando forces have killed over 100 Palestinian fighters operating in western Khan Younis in the past week.[3] The IDF Magallan Unit operating under the 89th Commandos raided Palestinian militia weapons sites as the corresponding fire group conducted airstrikes on three Palestinian fighters burying charges near IDF ground forces.[4] The Egoz Command Unit raided a house that belonged to an associate of Yahya Sinwar and a weapons warehouse in Khan Younis.[5]

Several Palestinian militias, including Hamas, continued to execute a deliberate defense against the Israeli ground operations in Khan Younis, particularly west and south of the city. The militant wings of Hamas, PIJ, the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) claimed several attacks targeting Israeli infantry and armor with small arms, RPGs, and mortars in western Khan Younis.[6] The DFLP is a leftist Palestinian militia aligned with Hamas in the war.

# Reported Israeli Ground Operations in the Gaza Strip as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



Palestinian fighters attacked Israeli forces north of Gaza City

Palestinian militias conducted attacks targeting Israeli supply lines in the central Gaza Strip

The IDF Magellan Unit raided Palestinian militia weapons warehouses in western Khan Younis

0 5 10 20 Kilometers

Map by George Barros, Daniel Mealie, Mitchell Belcher, Noel Mikkelsen, Thomas Bergeron, Brian Carter, Ashka Jhaveri, Johanna Moore, and Andie Parry  
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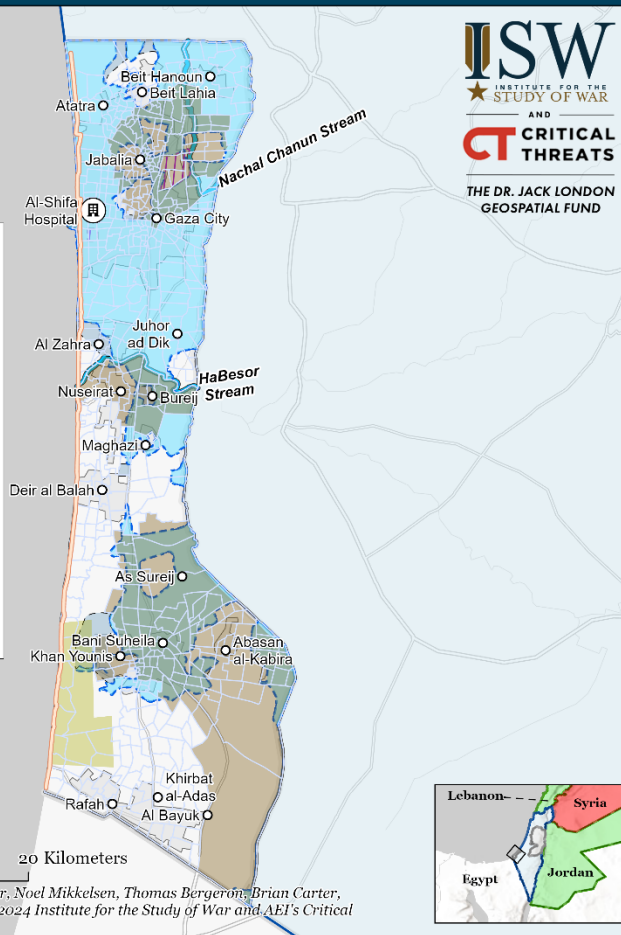
- Israel
- Reported Israeli Clearing Operations\*
- Al-Mawasi Humanitarian Zone
- Significant Water Obstacles
- Gaza Strip
- Claimed Furthest Israeli Advances
- IDF-Declared Humanitarian Corridor on Road 230
- Densely Urban Areas
- Jordan and Lebanon
- Assessed Furthest Extent of Israeli Clearing Operations
- Significant Fighting in the past 24 Hours
- Areas Reportedly Infiltrated by Palestinian Militias
- Syria

\* ISW-CTP's "Reported Israeli Clearing Operations" layer uses the US military's doctrinal definition of clearing which is an operation that "requires the commander to remove all enemy forces and eliminate organized resistance within an assigned area." Clearing operations frequently take weeks and sometimes months to complete

# Israeli Announced Evacuation Zones in the Gaza Strip as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



CTP-ISW's "Israeli Announced Evacuation Zones" layer shows Israeli evacuation zones announced by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). CTP-ISW used IDF maps and statements to create this layer. Where IDF maps cover part of a zone this layer covers the whole zone to avoid understating the evacuation order. The IDF began announcing these evacuation zones on December 2, 2023, at 0222 ET on X (Twitter)



0 5 10 20 Kilometers

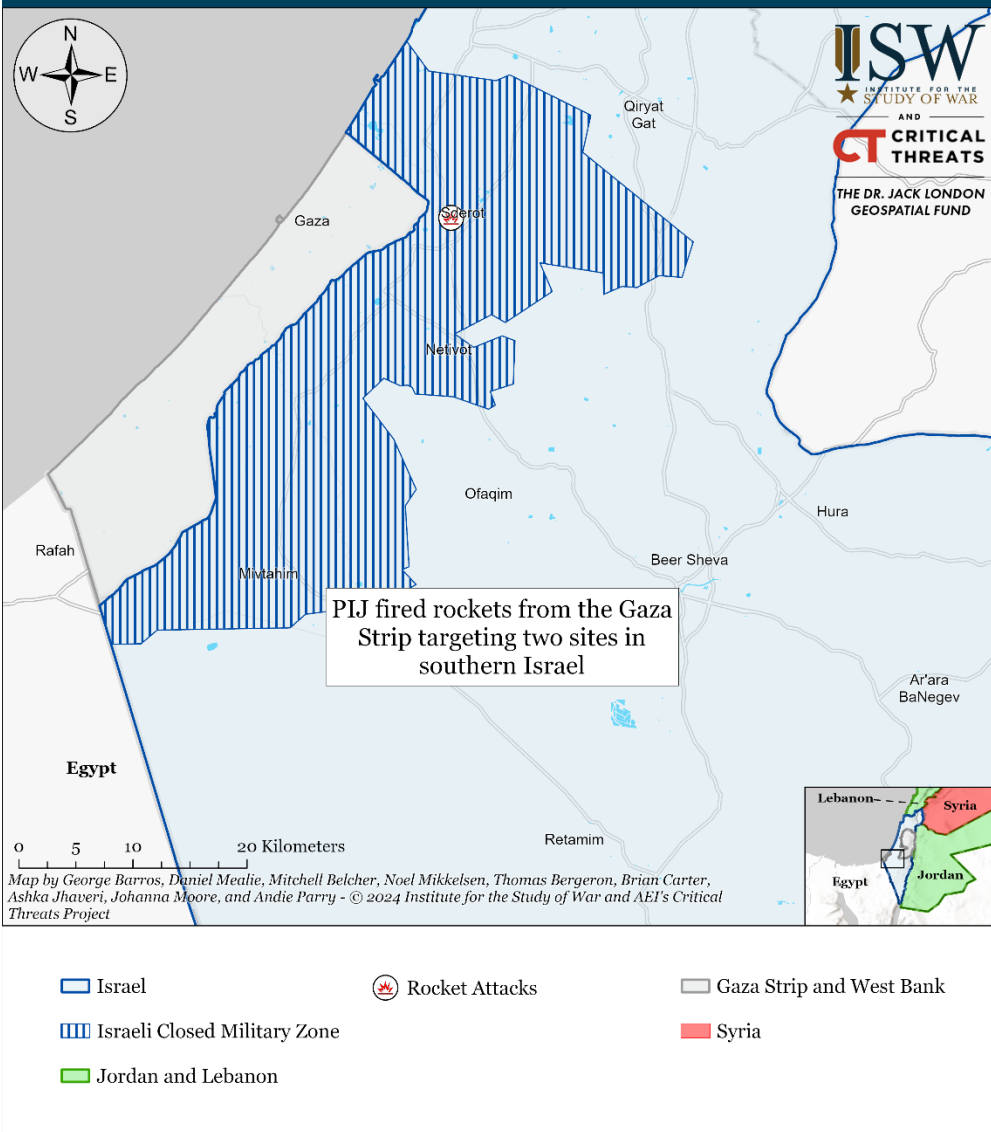
Map by George Barros, Daniel Mealie, Mitchell Belcher, Noel Mikkelsen, Thomas Bergeron, Brian Carter, Ashka Jhaveri, Johanna Moore, and Andie Parry - © 2024 Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project

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**Palestinian militias conducted two indirect fire attacks from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel on January 27. PIJ fired rockets targeting Sderot and Nir Am.<sup>[7]</sup>**

# Attacks into Israel from Gaza as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



*Recorded reports of attacks; CTP-ISW cannot independently verify impact.*

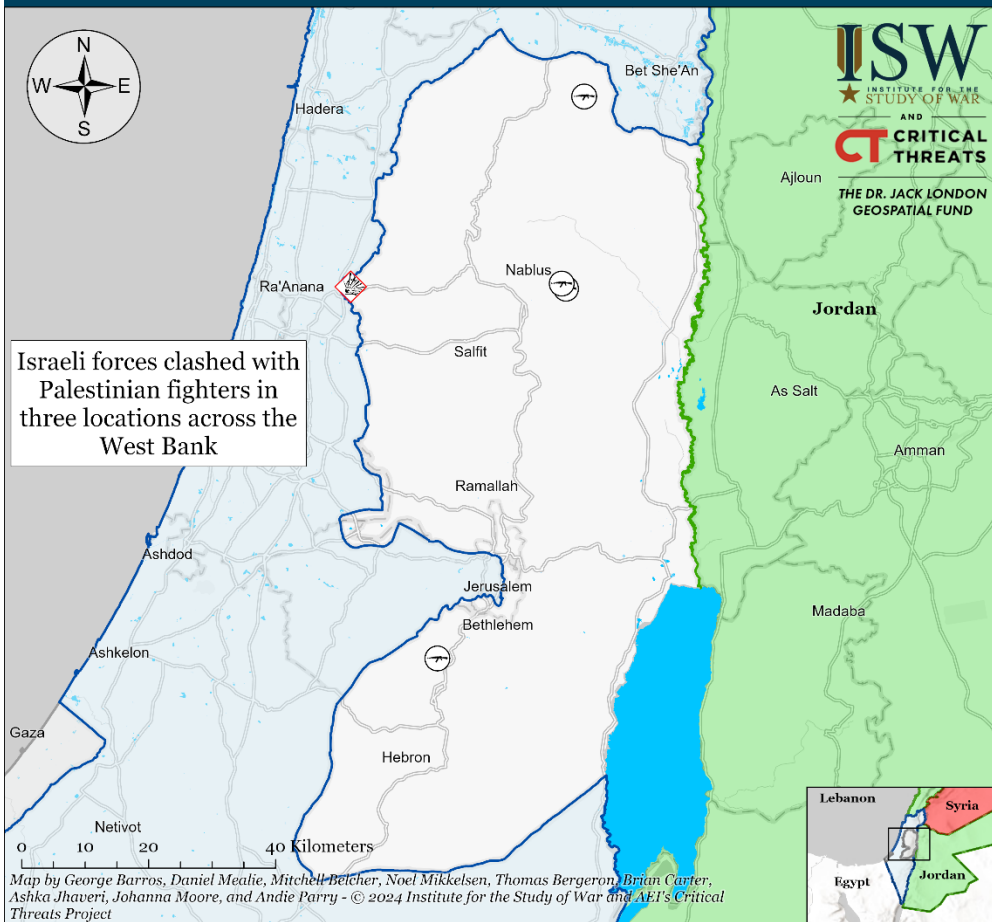
## West Bank



### Axis of Resistance campaign objectives:

- Draw IDF assets and resources toward the West Bank and fix them there

**Israeli forces clashed with Palestinian fighters in three locations across the West Bank.**[8] The al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades targeted Israeli forces three times using small arms fire and IEDs.[9] Its fighters also fired on an Israeli settlement near Hebron.[10]

# Clashes in the West Bank as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



- Israel
- Jordan and Lebanon
-  Clash (Small Arms Combat)
-  IED Detonated
- Gaza Strip and West Bank
- Syria

*This map is not an exhaustive depiction of clashes and demonstrations in the West Bank.*

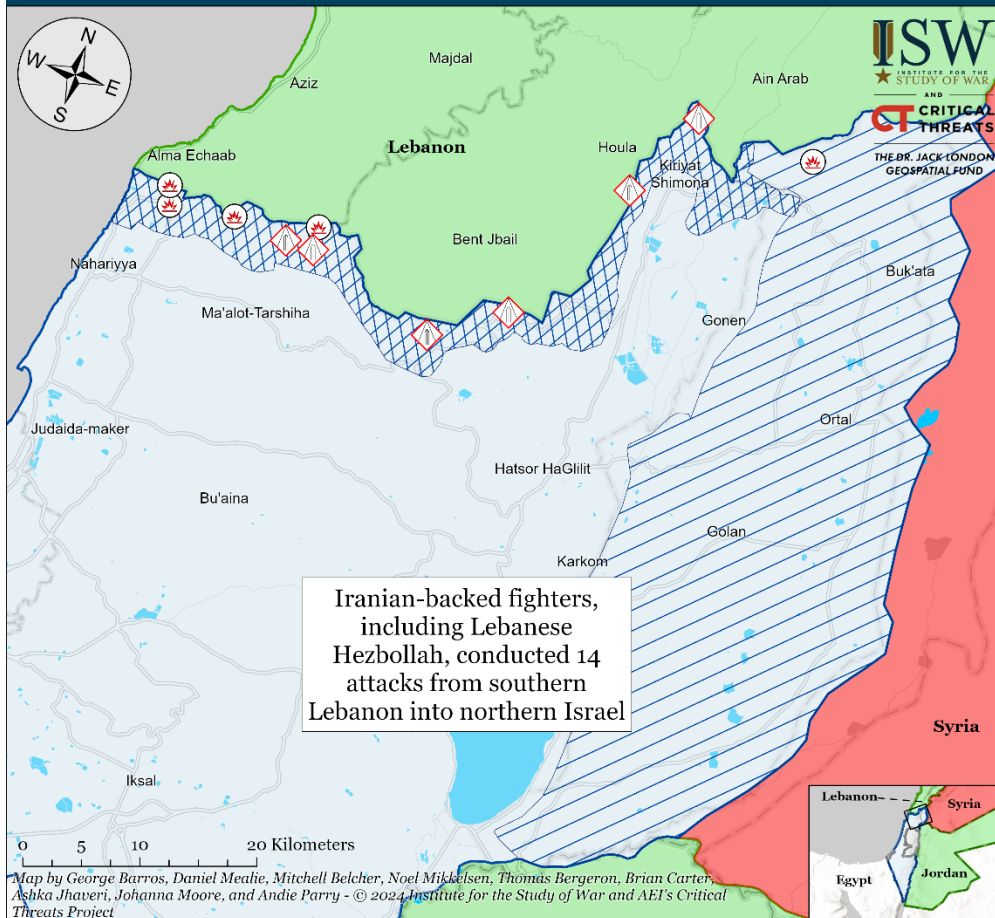
## Southern Lebanon and Golan Heights

### Axis of Resistance campaign objectives:

- Draw IDF assets and resources toward northern Israel and fix them there
- Set conditions for successive campaigns into northern Israel

**Iranian-backed fighters, including Lebanese Hezbollah, conducted 14 attacks from southern Lebanon into northern Israel on January 27.**<sup>[11]</sup> This rate of attacks is well over double this week's average of 5.8 attacks per day. Hezbollah conducted 13 attacks primarily targeting Israeli military forces and infrastructure.<sup>[12]</sup>

# Attacks into Northern Israel from Lebanon as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



Iranian-backed fighters, including Lebanese Hezbollah, conducted 14 attacks from southern Lebanon into northern Israel

- |                         |                           |                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Israel                  | Clash (Small Arms Combat) | Jordan and Lebanon |
| Israeli Evacuation Zone | Rocket Attacks            | Syria              |
| Golan Heights           | Anti-Tank Fire            |                    |

*Recorded reports of attacks; CTP-ISW cannot independently verify impact.*

## Iran and Axis of Resistance

### Axis of Resistance campaign objectives:

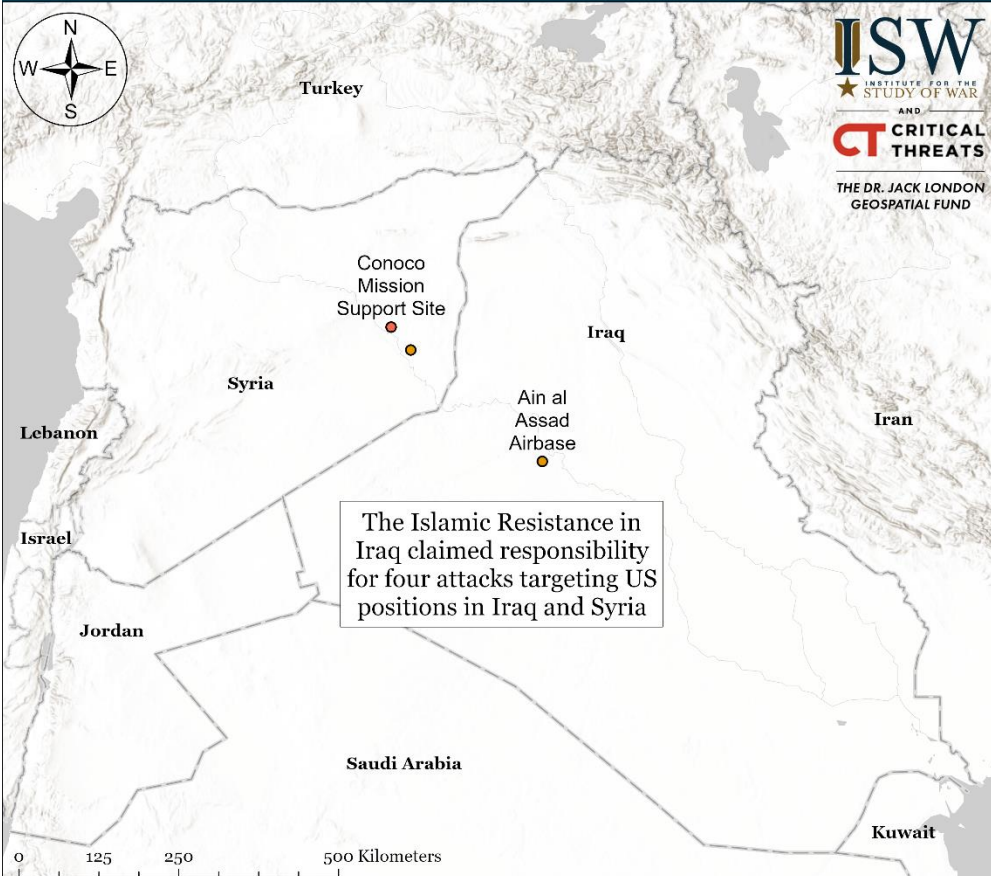
- Demonstrate the capability and willingness of Iran and the Axis of Resistance to escalate against the United States and Israel on multiple fronts
- Set conditions to fight a regional war on multiple fronts



**The Islamic Resistance in Iraq—a coalition of Iranian-backed Iraqi militias—claimed responsibility for four attacks targeting US positions in Iraq and Syria.** The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed separate drone attacks targeting US forces at al Omar oilfield and Conoco Mission Support Site in Deir ez Zor Province on January 26.<sup>[13]</sup> The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed a rocket attack targeting US forces at Conoco on January 27.<sup>[14]</sup> The group also claimed a drone attack targeting US forces at Ain al Assad airbase in Anbar Province, Iraq, on January 27.<sup>[15]</sup>

**US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that the United States struck a Houthi anti-ship missile that was prepared to launch and presented an imminent threat to commercial vessels and US Navy ships in the Red Sea on January 27.**<sup>[16]</sup> Houthi-controlled outlet al Masirah claimed on January 27 that the United States and United Kingdom conducted two airstrikes targeting Ras Issa, which is Yemen’s main oil export terminal.<sup>[17]</sup> It is unclear whether the CENTCOM announcement and al Masirah claim are referring to the same incident. The US strike follows the Houthis’ anti-ship missile attack targeting the British-owned, Marshall Islands-flagged commercial oil tanker *Marlin Luanda* on January 26.<sup>[18]</sup> The attack caused a 19-hour fire at one of the vessel’s tanks, making it the “most damaging” Houthi attack since the Houthis started their attack campaign targeting international shipping in October 2023.<sup>[19]</sup>

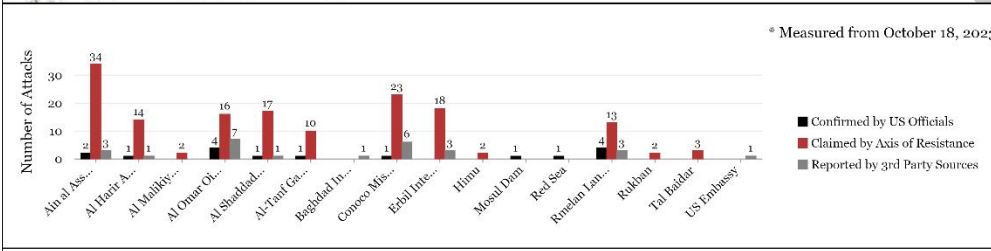
# Attacks against US Bases in the Middle East as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



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THREATS**  
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The Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed responsibility for four attacks targeting US positions in Iraq and Syria

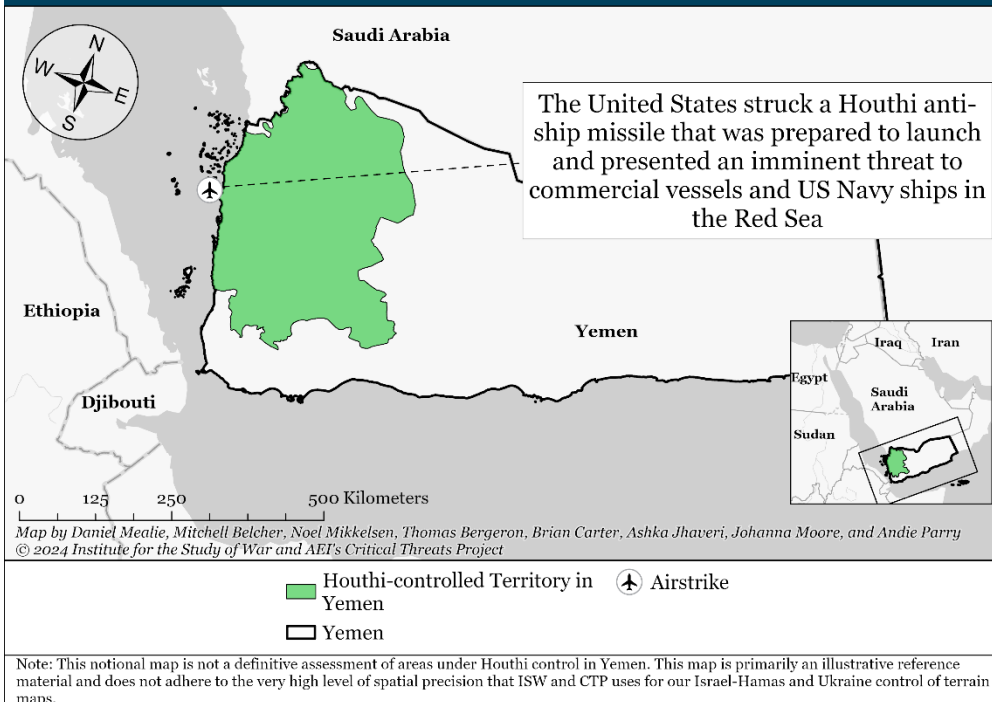
Map by George Barros, Daniel Mealie, Mitchell Belcher, Noel Mikkelsen, Thomas Bergeron, Brian Carter, Ashka Jhaveri, Johanna Moore, and Andie Parry - © 2024 Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project



\* Measured from October 18, 2023

Note: The color of the dot indicates the total number of attacks against a specific target via an orange color scale. Locations with multiple attacks will receive a darker hue.

## Houthi-controlled Territory in Yemen as of January 27, 2024, 2:00 PM ET



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- [1] [https://t.me/elaqsa\\_1965/5564](https://t.me/elaqsa_1965/5564)
- [2] <https://t.me/sarayaps/17318> ; <https://t.me/sarayaps/17317>
- [3] [https://www idf.il/176602](https://www.idf.il/176602)
- [4] <https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1751136736036421653> ; [https://www idf.il/176602](https://www.idf.il/176602)
- [5] <https://twitter.com/AvichayAdraee/status/1751201817050890283>
- [6] <https://t.me/sarayaps/17319> ; [https://t.me/elaqsa\\_1965/5563](https://t.me/elaqsa_1965/5563) ; <https://t.me/sarayaps/17312> ; <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/1475> ; [https://t.me/kataeb\\_moqawma/4106](https://t.me/kataeb_moqawma/4106) ; [https://t.me/kataeb\\_m\\_oqawma/4107](https://t.me/kataeb_m_oqawma/4107) ; <https://t.me/qassam1brigades/1478>
- [7] <https://t.me/sarayaps/17313>
- [8] <https://t.me/QudsN/363153> ; <https://t.me/QudsN/363159> ; <https://t.me/QudsN/363189>
- [9] [https://t.me/elaqsa\\_1965/5561](https://t.me/elaqsa_1965/5561) ; [https://t.me/elaqsa\\_1965/5560](https://t.me/elaqsa_1965/5560) ; <https://t.me/QudsN/363189>
- [10] [https://t.me/elaqsa\\_1965/5567](https://t.me/elaqsa_1965/5567)
- [11] [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44761](https://t.me/C_Military1/44761) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44763](https://t.me/C_Military1/44763) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44765](https://t.me/C_Military1/44765) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44766](https://t.me/C_Military1/44766) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44778](https://t.me/C_Military1/44778) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44779](https://t.me/C_Military1/44779) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44795](https://t.me/C_Military1/44795) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44797](https://t.me/C_Military1/44797) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44801](https://t.me/C_Military1/44801) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44803](https://t.me/C_Military1/44803) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44815](https://t.me/C_Military1/44815) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44817](https://t.me/C_Military1/44817) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44819](https://t.me/C_Military1/44819) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44781](https://t.me/C_Military1/44781)

[12] [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44761](https://t.me/C_Military1/44761) ; [https://t.me/C\\_Military1/44763](https://t.me/C_Military1/44763) ;  
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[13] <https://t.me/elamharbi/257>  
[14] <https://t.me/elamharbi/258>  
[15] <https://t.me/elamharbi/259>  
[16] <https://twitter.com/CENTCOM/status/1751071115147985236>  
[17] <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/houthis-tv-says-us-british-airstrikes-target-yemen-port-2024-01-27/>  
[18] <https://twitter.com/army21ye/status/1750956891411247542>  
[19] <https://www.ft.com/content/74eca55a-2185-44c8-b367-effbcc0od265>