

Casualties

# Houthis tell 64 shipowners they face consequences for failing to avoid Israel

Militants say companies have ignored their demands over port calls



Damage caused by the attack on the Eternity C before it sank in the Red Sea on 9 July. (Photo: Houthi armed forces)

**Paul Peachey**

TradeWinds correspondent | London



The Houthi have told 64 shipowners that their fleets face being attacked in the Red Sea for calling at Israeli ports.

The Yemen-based group said the owners had been sent “pre-penalty notices” before making port calls to Israel, but they had been ignored.

It said it was banning both ships and the owners’ entire fleets from the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and Bab el-Mandeb strait, and they would be targeted if they came within range of its military forces.



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Houthis tell shipowners to check their records or risk attack

The measures may be expanded to entities that have dealings with the shipowner, said the group’s Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center (HOCC).

“The HOCC continues to sanction companies that ignore pre-penalty notices and proceed to violate the naval blockade imposed on the usurping Israeli entity,” it said.

“Consequently, such companies bear full responsibility for the resulting consequences.”

The shipowners were not identified. The Houthis have been contacted for further details of the targeted companies.

The group announced last month that it was launching its “fourth phase” of operations against ships linked to port calls in Israel. It launched its campaign against commercial shipping in November 2023 in support of Palestinians in Gaza fighting Israel.



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The latest announcement followed the sinking of two Greek-operated bulkers, the 36,800-dwt Eternity C (built 2012) and 63,300-dwt Magic Seas (built 2016).

Four seafarers are believed dead after the sinking of the Eternity C, while 11 members of the crew are being held captive.

Although the ships had not made recent Israeli port calls, their operators, Cosmship Management and Stem Shipping, are understood to have other vessels that had.

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