

Splash

247.com

Houthi claim to have attacked ship in the Indian Ocean

Sam Chambers

April 8, 2024



Indian Navy

The Houthis claimed over the weekend to have widened their area of operations, saying in a televised address they had targeted three merchant ships as well as US frigates, including one attack in the Indian Ocean. Security consultants however have not confirmed the attacks and there is a history of the Houthis overstating the

success of their naval attacks in the six months that they have been conducting strikes on merchant shipping in support of seeking a truce between Israel and Hamas.

The Houthis claimed to have launched missiles against Borealis Maritime's 3,534 teu *Hope Island*, as well as Mediterranean Shipping Company's 4,056 teu *MSC Gina* and the *MSC Grace F*, a 24,300 dwt multipurpose ship.

The ships were in three separate locations – the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, a significant ramp-up in terms of the geographic spread of attacks if confirmed. Early indications suggest none of these ships has been damaged.

"The element to note is the claim to have attacked vessels in the Arabian Sea which is essentially the northern end of the Indian Ocean, as well as in the Indian Ocean," pointed out Lars Jensen, the CEO of Vespucci Maritime, who has been providing a daily update on the Red Sea shipping crisis via LinkedIn.

"If this is true, it would constitute an expansion of the risk area to now also include the approach routes to the major container hubs on the south coast of Oman as well as approach routes towards the Strait of Hormuz," Jensen added.