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Houthis renew attacks against merchant shipping

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- by Shipping Telegraph

Yemen's Houthis launched drones towards the industrial zone of the Israeli Ashkelon region, the Houthi spokesperson of the Yemeni armed forces Yahya Saree said on Tuesday.

The Yemeni fighters, who have been attacking ships crossing the Red Sea since November of last year, say the operation was carried out with a number of drones, that have successfully achieved their objectives.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthis said on Monday that they targeted three ships in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea, attacks they called part of their efforts to enforce a naval blockade on Israel.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said in a televised address the vessels were targeted "owing to the violation of ban decision of entry to the ports of occupied Palestine."

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) pointed out in an advisory update on Monday that it has received a report of an incident 25 nautical miles south of Al Mukha, Yemen.

In three updates, UKMTO said that the master of a merchant vessel reported an explosion in close proximity to the vessel. At 1503UTC the master of a merchant vessel reported a second explosion in close proximity to the vessel.

At 1637UTC the master of a merchant vessel reported a third explosion in close proximity to the vessel.

As informed, the vessel and all crew are reported as safe. Authorities are investigating and UKMTO advises all vessels to transit with caution.