



## **MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY NO. 04-2023**

**TO:** DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS, ISM OPERATORS,  
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, SHIPPING AGENTS, GENERAL SAFETY  
INSPECTORS

**SUBJECT:** SECURITY INCIDENTS IN THE RED SEA

**DATE:** 7 December 2023

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this advisory is to remind shipowners/operators of the Israel-Hamas war as reflected in our MSA No. 02-2023, in addition to bring awareness of the major escalation of a series of ongoing maritime security incidents when transiting or operating the Red Sea, the Bab-el Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden (GOA).

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the Yemen's Houthis, a rebel group, carried out a series of drone and missile attacks against suspected Israel-linked vessels in the southern Red Sea. The first attack occurred during the morning near Yemen when a Bahamian-flagged vessel was hit by a missile and suffered minor damage.

Later during that day, two (2) Panamanian-flagged vessels as well experienced missile attacks, one vessel suffered minor damage while the other had no significant damage. Furthermore, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, UKMTO reported an incident involving a suspected drone over the Red Sea. As a result, an Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) was involved in the incident situated west of Port of Hodeidah, Yemen.

### **NEW DIRECTIVE:**

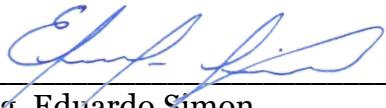
The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) would like to prompt all Belize flagged vessel operators, crew, charters and owners of the ongoing attacks by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia tied to Israel's war against Hamas. The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a strip of water that runs past Yemen, is a vital shipping lane that is responsible for 10% of global trade, however this passage has become a high-risk area to operate through.

Our Belize flagged vessels are encouraged to use the Northern Sea Route (NSR) or Cape of Good Hope Route as alternate routes, as done by some shipping companies for the safety of their ships and crew members, since the Gulf of Aden, the Bab-el Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea have become more problematic for commercial shipping with increasing maritime security attacks on ports and vessels. Nevertheless, vessels that are required to operate through this region are recommended:

- To contact local port authorities and ship's agent to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable information.

- For vessels transiting the Red Sea and the GOA are to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity to the Maritime Security Centre as well as to record the information in the ship's logbook.
- To implement extra protective measure in accordance with the Ship Security Plan if necessary, in the Gulf of Aden, the Bab-el Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea.
- To ensure that all available recommendations from the Best Management (BMP5) have been followed and all necessary actions are taken prior to and while transiting through the GOA and the Red Sea.
- To inform our administration before entering this region by means of email along with whether or not the vessel will carry armed personnel for their intended voyage. Also, to notify our administration when the ship has departed the area for us to be aware that the ship is clear of any risks or incidents.

We anticipate your cooperation and encourage all ship owners, operators and charters to take note of the contents of this advisory and to confirm receipt of this email.



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Eng. Eduardo Simon  
Technical Manager  
International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize,  
IMMARBE

