

NEW INSIGHTS ON RED SEA ATTACKS



WHAT HAPPENED

Unlawful attacks in the Red Sea are impacting global trade and supply chain.

The Houthis is a Yemen-based Islamist political and military organisation. In November 2023, the Houthis threatened to target Israel-linked ships or ships heading into Israeli ports.

Despite what they said earlier, the Houthis have been indiscriminately targeting commercial vessels unlawfully, including a Singapore-flagged container vessel and two that were bound for Singapore.

Currently, more than **80% of the world's trade is carried out by sea**, and around **12% of global trade passes through the Red Sea**, including as much as **30% of container traffic and over US\$1 trillion worth of goods a year.**

Global impact of attacks:



About 30% drop

in number of ships passing through the Sea Line of Communication (SLOC) in the Red Sea

What are SLOCs?

SLOCs are primary maritime routes between ports used for trade, logistics, and naval forces.



Estimate

10 days delay

to container ship journeys



15% increase

to shipping costs



More than

62% increase

in shipping rates for routes through the Suez



Potential

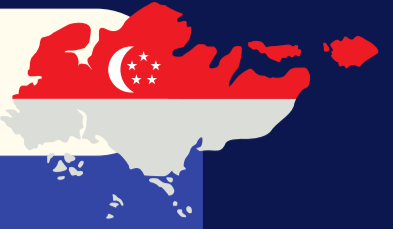
33% increase

in crude oil prices per barrel



Suggested reading: What escalating Red Sea tensions mean for the world, including Singapore
<https://go.gov.sg/redseatensionscna>
 CNA, 6 Jan 2024

WHY IT MATTERS TO SINGAPORE



Such unlawful attacks in the Red Sea and other vital waterways are a violation of international law.

Singapore has been a consistent supporter of international law and a responsible member of the international community.

The disruption of the Red Sea SLOC may impact Singapore economically and our way of life although the immediate impact is expected to be limited.



#1
transshipment hub
in the world
SG handles 1/7 of
world's transshipment
containers



7%
of our GDP
is from
maritime trade



More than
90%
of our food is imported
Heavy reliance leaves us
exposed to external
forces

It is therefore imperative for Singapore that key SLOCs remain safe and open for international shipping, and that naval freedom of navigation is protected.



HOW ARE WE RESPONDING

Singapore will support international efforts to protect maritime security.



[It is in] our interest for Singapore to join cause with the international community to protect and ensure that key SLOCs around the world remain open, especially if threatened by unlawful acts by non-state actors or terrorist groups.

Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen's reply to Parliamentary Question on the SAF's contribution to Maritime Security in the Red Sea, 9 Jan 2024



Singapore will join multiple countries in **Operation Prosperity Guardian** and contribute to Combined Task Force (CTF) 153's efforts in operations planning, info-sharing, and engagement outreach.



HOW ARE WE RESPONDING

Operation Prosperity Guardian is a US-led defensive coalition comprising more than 20 nations. The objective is to ensure maritime security and protect free flow of commerce and safe passage for vessels transiting the vital international waterways of the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden. Operation Prosperity Guardian focuses on protecting vessels against security threats, such as through information sharing and maritime patrols, and is unrelated to the military strikes against the Houthis.

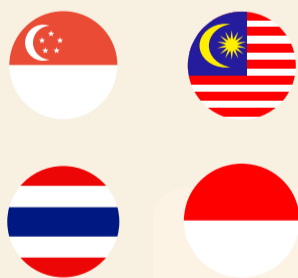


Read MINDEF's statement on SAF's participation in Ops Prosperity Guardian, MINDEF Facebook, <https://go.gov.sg/redseainfographic>
9 Jan 2024



Read MINDEF's media clarifications on SAF's involvement in Ops Prosperity Guardian, <https://go.gov.sg/mindefredsea>
13 Jan 2024

This is not the first time that Singapore has sent military personnel and assets to support regional and global counter-piracy efforts.



Set up the Malacca Straits Patrol with militaries of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.



Deployed ships, aircraft, and personnel to CTF 151 dedicated to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden from 2009 to 2023.



SINGAPOREANS CAN PLAY A PART



Support Singapore's overseas participation

Understand that regional and international maritime security is of utmost importance to Singapore and that we have a part to play to ensure that the Red Sea SLOC is protected, even in a far-off region.

Be ready for potential impact of supply chain disruptions

Singaporeans may feel this impact, potentially in the form of rising costs of daily essentials and supply chain shocks, but even so:

1

Remain calm.

Singapore has built and strengthened its food and critical supplies resilience over the years.

2

Be adaptable and flexible with our consumer goods and nutritional options.

Find suitable alternatives if we need to.

3

Buy only what you need.

Do not over-buy.

4

Refer to official sources for information.

Do check the origin of sources and stay vigilant.



Find out more about Singapore's food security strategies on SG101: <https://go.gov.sg/sg101foodsecurity>



**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**

Any feedback on this issue?
Let us know through
<https://go.gov.sg/neinsights>
or email us at nexus@defence.gov.sg

