



Bab el-Mandeb: a cargo ship struck, then the rescue attacked

A small cargo ship carrying food to a Yemeni government-held port was hit by three ballistic missiles. A fourth then struck the rescue. Yemen's coastguard reports six dead - four seafarers and two rescue workers.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who Unclaimed by the movement, though an aligned news agency says it struck a Saudi ship carrying military equipment. The vessel is the Tihamah, Tanzania-flagged, Egyptian-owned.

What Yemen's transport ministry states the ship was hit by three successive ballistic missiles, and that a fourth then struck the site of the rescue effort, killing responders.

Where At the Bab el-Mandeb off the government-held port of al-Makha. Accounts differ on whether she was at anchor or under way.

When Tuesday 11 Aug 2026; the toll and the vessel's identity were revised through the afternoon.

Why Unclaimed and not established. The ministry says she carried food supplies; reports of military supplies are unconfirmed.

How Stand-off ballistic missiles against a small coastal trader, then a further weapon at the rescue. Casualties contested - see impact.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- A** 20 Jul 2026: a blockade declared on Saudi-linked shipping
- B** 9-10 Aug: al-Makha struck twice; this ship had left that port
- C** The vessel: a 520-tonne coastal trader, 63 m, built 2024
- 1** The ship departs al-Makha on the Saturday
- 2** 11 Aug: struck by three successive ballistic missiles; fire aboard
- 3** Those aboard lose control of the vessel
- 4** A fourth missile strikes the rescue, killing responders
- 5** Toll rises to six killed and ten wounded per the coastguard

IMPACT

- Human: six killed and ten wounded per Yemen's coastguard - four seafarers and two rescue workers; the transport ministry gives four dead.
- Rescue: two rescue workers killed by a fourth missile aimed at the response: Coastguard also targeted by drone; a naval vessel came under fire.
- Supply: a vessel reported carrying food to a government-held port, struck while serving it.
- Commercial: transits down from about 50 a day to 32; Hormuz down to six in a day against a pre-war 130 to 140.

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A separate strike on the rescue killed the people who came - assisting a struck vessel here is now a lethal act.
- The near-claim converts a small trader carrying food into a legitimate military target.
- Small coastal traders carry the supply risk and have none of the protection.
- The toll doubled because of the second strike; the two official counts still differ.