



## Security Council

Distr.: General  
29 January 2024

Original: English

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### **Letter dated 26 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Over the past few months, Yemen-based Houthi militants have engaged in a series of illegal and reckless armed attacks against United States military forces, including ships and aircraft, and against maritime commercial shipping, operating in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab strait and the Gulf of Aden. These attacks pose a threat to the safety of United States forces and commercial ships and their crews, regional political and economic stability, and navigational rights and freedoms. On 12 January 2024, my Government reported that, in response to several Houthi attacks against United States Navy ships in the Red Sea, the United States had undertaken discrete strikes against Houthi facilities in Yemen in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defence.

In response to continued Houthi attacks, and the threat of future attacks, against United States Navy ships in the Red Sea and surrounding waterways, the United States has taken further actions in the exercise of the inherent right of self-defence against Houthi militants. On several occasions, including after the events described in our letter of 12 January (S/2024/56), United States forces have been forced to defend against threats posed by incoming Houthi missiles and Houthi missile launchers preparing to fire. On 22 January, the United States, as part of a multinational operation alongside the United Kingdom with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands, conducted additional strikes. The strikes on 22 January targeted a Houthi underground storage site and locations associated with the Houthis' missile and air surveillance capabilities in Yemen that facilitate Houthi attacks in the Red Sea region.

These necessary and proportionate strikes were taken after non-military options proved inadequate to address the threat. The strikes were conducted to degrade and disrupt the ongoing pattern of attacks threatening the United States and deter the Houthi militants from conducting further attacks threatening vessels transiting the Red Sea. These military responses will preserve navigational rights and freedoms, both for naval ships and for commercial vessels, in this important maritime passageway.

The United States took these necessary and proportionate actions consistent with international law and in the exercise of the United States' inherent right of self-defence as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The United States and its partners are prepared to take further action against the Houthis as may be necessary in the exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence to respond to future attacks or threats of attacks. In this connection, the



United States notes that Denmark, acting in collective self-defence of the United States, decided on 24 January to join Australia, Bahrain, Canada, the Netherlands and New Zealand, in supporting operations of the United States and United Kingdom. New Zealand announced on 23 January, subsequent to the operation of 22 January reported above, that it would join in providing support to these United States and United Kingdom operations.

These narrowly tailored strikes are specific to the situation in the Red Sea and do not constitute a shift in our approach to other conflicts. We continue to urge all State and non-State entities not to take action that would escalate into a broader regional conflict.

I request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**  
Ambassador  
Representative of the United States  
to the United Nations

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