



Security Council

Distr.: General
15 January 2024

Original: English

Letter dated 12 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to report to the Security Council that on 11 January 2024 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland conducted precision strikes against Houthi military targets on the territory of Yemen in exercise of the inherent right of individual self-defence.

Since 19 November 2023, Houthi militants have carried out a series of attacks on vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. These have employed one-way unmanned aerial vehicles, anti-ship cruise and ballistic missiles, a helicopter-borne commando assault and small boats. On 1 December 2023 the United Nations Security Council issued a statement condemning Houthi attacks against commercial vessels transiting the Red Sea and demanding that all such attacks cease immediately (SC/15513). On 3 January 2024 a joint statement was issued by the Governments of Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. The statement noted that the ongoing Houthi attacks in the Red Sea were illegal, unacceptable and profoundly destabilizing and warned that the Houthis would bear the responsibility of the consequences should they continue their attacks. Despite these statements, on 9 January 2024 Houthi militants launched a further attack, employing more than 20 unmanned aerial vehicles, 3 anti-ship missiles and a combat aircraft. The ships attacked included the Royal Navy destroyer HMS *Diamond*. On 10 January 2024, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution [2722 \(2024\)](#), which took note of the right of Member States, in accordance with international law, to defend their vessels from attacks.

In view of the armed attack against HMS *Diamond* and the ongoing risk to British ships, the United Kingdom conducted precision strikes against Houthi military facilities used as unmanned aerial vehicle and missile launch sites. These strikes were necessary and proportionate measures taken in exercise of the individual right of self-defence.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Barbara Woodward

