

# Israel-Palestine war: Why Arab states are steering clear of anti-Houthi naval task force

**Bahrain is the only regional country to join US-led operations against vessel seizures, as Saudi Arabia and UAE hedge bets amid threat of Yemeni group's reprisal**

The US launched a multinational naval task force to counter Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden on Monday. Observers were quick to notice it featured just one country from the Middle East: Bahrain.

Ten nations were officially announced as participants: the US, UK, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles, Spain and Bahrain. They are set to share maritime intelligence in the region and conduct joint patrols.

The naval group will be coordinated by the Combined Task Force 153 (CTF-153), a US-led initiative set up last April to provide maritime security in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb and the Gulf of Aden.

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