



## **Society for Indian Ocean Studies**

### **SIOS NEWS BRIEF: 1-6 April**

#### **Houthis Attack in the IOR**

The Houthi militia said that they had fired a barrage of ballistic missiles and drones against American, Israeli, and British commercial and navy ships in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea. The Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sarea said that they had launched five attacks including firing naval missiles at MSC Grace F and MSC Gina in the Indian Ocean and at Hope Island (British Ship) in the Red Sea. He added that the attacks were in support of the Palestinian people and retaliation to UK and US bombings on areas of Yemen under their control. Sarea said, “The Yemeni Armed Forces continue to carry out the decision to block Israeli ships and those travelling to occupied Palestinian ports from sailing in the Red and Arab Seas, as well as the Indian Ocean, until the aggression stops and the siege on the Palestinian people in Gaza is lifted”. Since November, the Houthis have launched hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones at international naval and commercial vessels in the Red Sea, Bab Al-Mandab Strait and Gulf of Aden.

URL: <https://english.almanar.com.lb/2082093>

#### **‘ON-the spot Unit Citation’ to INS Sharda**

The naval chief Admiral R Hari Kumar awarded a unit citation to INS Sharda for anti-piracy operations at the sea. The ship was involved in the release of all 19 crew members (8 Pakistani and 11 Iranian) of *Omari* (Iranian fishing vessel) which was held hostages by the pirates. The Navy Chief commended the team INS Sharda and interacted with the team, “responding to piracy attack with alacrity leading to safe and successful conduct of operations at sea under challenging conditions”. He also added that the professional approach of the team has resulted in the international recognition of the Indian Navy as the preferred security partner in the IOR.

URL: <https://brahmand.com/news/Indian-Navy-Chief-awards-unit-citation-to-INS-Sharda-for-antipiracy-ops/20520/1/10.html>

#### **Japan to Join AUKUS in expected expansion to deter China: Report**

The Financial times reported that the U.S., Britain, and Australia will begin talks to expand the AUKUS trilateral pact as Washington plans to include Japan in the group as part of its deterrent strategy against China. The countries defence ministers will announce discussions on “Pillar Two” of the pact which commits members to jointly develop cyber, quantum computing, undersea, artificial intelligence, undersea, and hypersonic technology. They are not considering expanding the first pillar which is designed to deliver nuclear powered attack submarines to Australia said the Financial Times. AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific signed in 2021.

URL: <https://www.reuters.com/world/aukus-weighs-expanding-security-pact-deter-china-ft-says-2024-04-07/>