



ISRAEL HIT, BLAMES IT ON HUMAN ERROR

(Maj Gen Harvijay Singh, SM)

Whatever we simulated and tested over so many years, has proven itself. **Moshe Patel, Director of Israeli Missile Defense Organization (IMDO).**

Moshe Patel was commenting on Israel and its allies thwarting the most significant test of Israeli systems on 13 April, when Iran fired an unprecedented 300 missiles and drones at Israel. Israel did well to intercept almost all the projectiles. There was relatively little damage, no lives were lost. *Notable Israel and its allies had been pre warned by Iran which worked well for them.*

Three months later on 19 July, a slow flying drone broke through Israel’s impregnable Air Defence and crashed into buildings in central Tel Aviv. This time there were casualties, one dead and ten injured. Seemingly, the Drone is an Iranian manufactured **Samad-3**, launched by the Houthis of Yemen.

Yemen..... ranked highest on the *Fragile States Index*, second-worst on the *Global Hunger Index*, the *least developed countries in the world*.

Houthis (*allegedly an Iranian Proxy*) are just around 15% of Yemen’s total population of 34.4 million. Houthis are Zaidi Shias, in Sunni majority Yemen. According to estimates, they perhaps have 100 thousand fighters. A Saudi Arabian led intervention in Yemen has been fighting the Houthis since 2015 supported by USA, UK, Southern Yemenis and North African Sunni Arab States.

Yemen was never always so bad. Historically, the Romans called this area “*Arabia Felix*”: flourishing (or happy) Arabia. The country was home to Queen of Sheba. Coffee was commercially first cultivated in the world in Yemen. Yemen coffee is unique and flavourful, it gave the world the taste of **Mocha**, the name derived from the city of Mocha, a port city on the Red Sea coast of Yemen.

As of now, USA, leads a 10-country coalition force called **Op Prosperity Guardian** to patrol the Red Sea and prevent cargo ships from being attacked by the Houthis. The coalition includes Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Seychelles, and United Kingdom. The Houthis have meanwhile sunk at least three cargo ships since November 2023. Add to this the expenditure on ships forced to take the circuitous route around Africa out of fear.

Distance from Yemen to Israel is about 2000 Kms. The Houthi fired Drone would have travelled across the Red Sea where American Navy and its coalition is in good strength. Or, the entire territorial length of its ally Saudi Arabia. Crossed into Israel and reached its target Tel Aviv.

According to an Israeli Spokesman – “a very big drone that can travel long distances crashed into an apartment building at 03.12 AM local time”. He candidly added that:

“the drone had shockingly been detected by the military while airborne but the alarm was not immediately raised due to 'human error’..... human error!!!!!!

With the modern technology at their command, this attack like 7 Oct should never have happened.....that is what they like the world to believe.

Israel’s boastful claims of superior technology can only be accepted if it is right 100 percent of the time. The Houthis have to be right only once, and as of now they seem to be right on top.

Our ships took no hits, and that’s attributable not just to weapons and sensors but to the skill and elan of the crews using them. **James Holmes, chair of the maritime strategy program at the Naval War College on USS Eisenhower’s combat deployment in the Red Sea.**

No matter what, the man/woman behind the weapon still matters.