

Middle East Situation

Intelligence Cut-Off: 1530h, 16 March 2026

Executive Summary

The International Energy Agency (IEA) announced earlier today that, if necessary, it will release more emergency oil, in addition to the 400m barrels that it released last week. It is understood to still have 1.4bn barrels available.

President Trump has demanded support from seven countries with a naval deployment that can keep the Strait of Hormuz open. International response so far is understood to have been mixed.

Iran

The Iranian security minister has issued a call to arms to the Muslim world, demanding their support against the US and Israel.

The Israeli military claimed today it has destroyed a compound in Iran that develops Iranian military satellite and space capabilities.

Airstrikes reportedly killed several people in an electricity department building to the east of Tehran this afternoon. Attacks were also reported in Shiraz and Tabriz.

The local government in Khuzestan has said today that over 900 civilian buildings have been damaged since fighting began.

President Trump has said today that US forces did not strike oil pipes on Kharg island when it attacked the oil hub on Friday.

Israel

Iran fired missiles towards central areas and Jerusalem around 0900h and 1330h (GMT) today, causing no confirmed injuries or damage. Missile debris from interceptions landed in several central areas including Shoham, Rishon LeZion, Lod and Ness Ziona this morning. It is unclear whether this caused injuries or damage.

Later this afternoon, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed to have targeted the Israeli military's Southern Command and the facilities of Israeli arms company Rafael.

The Israeli Health Ministry announced this morning that 3,369 people (including military personnel and civilians) have been injured since fighting began, including 142 people in the last 24 hours.

Regional

The international pharmaceutical industry has warned that the conflict is disrupting the flow of critical medicines to the Gulf states, particularly for cancer drugs and other treatments that require refrigeration.

Qatar

Missiles were intercepted at 1230h and 1330h (GMT) this afternoon. No injuries or damage have been reported. Explosions were heard in Doha.

The IRGC has claimed this afternoon that it has hit the Al-Udeid Air Base, where US military assets are based.

United Arab Emirates

A drone attack on a building in Umm Al Quwain caused a fire this morning. No injuries have been confirmed.

Authorities announced at 1230h (GMT) that they had intercepted six missiles and 21 drones so far today. Since fighting began, 304 ballistic missiles, 15 cruise missiles and 1,627 drones have been intercepted.

Bahrain

Sirens were triggered early this afternoon, with strikes causing no confirmed injuries or damage.

Iraq

The oil minister has said that a new oil pipeline from Kirkuk into Turkey (capacity 250,000 bpd) will be operational within a week, allowing the resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

International

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has said that all its 32 member countries are prepared to release more emergency oil if necessary, in addition to the 400m barrels released last week (the largest release of oil reserves in history). 1.4bn barrels are understood to be still available.

President Trump has demanded naval support from seven countries to assist in keeping the Strait of Hormuz open, without naming the countries. It is not thought that many countries support such a deployment.

Travel

Maritime

The Iranian foreign minister has said that the Strait of Hormuz is “closed only to our enemies”. This comes after several vessels claimed to have safely passed the waterway. Oil prices fell slightly today.

Aviation

Starting today, restrictions on the number of passengers on flights between Ben Gurion International Airport and North America will be lifted. The 100-seat limit will remain for other destinations.

The number of Emirates flights yesterday continued to rise (369), while Etihad ran more than 100 flights (113) for the first time since the conflict began.

Advice

- Do not travel to the Middle East.
- Avoid all travel within the region unless safe travel can be guaranteed.
- Shelter in place in a secure location.
- Follow instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- Monitor official updates and ensure phones are set up to receive alerts.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.

Contact us

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