

Executive Summary

The US conducted additional strikes on Iran overnight (23-24 July), with explosions reported in several areas including Tehran. At least 55 people have been killed since 27 June according to Iranian media; the US said it was targeting military installations and communications networks. Iran retaliated with attacks on US military infrastructure in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain; Iran said it also attacked Amazon data centres in Bahrain for assisting the US military.

President Trump said yesterday (23 July) that he is considering intensifying attacks on Iran, including conducting strikes more intense than those earlier this year. He also threatened to conduct “major military punishment” against Iran and the Houthis for recent attacks on shipping.

Iran deployed military commanders alongside missile and drone capabilities to Yemen on 13 July, according to international media reports released yesterday. The incident raises concerns of the increased intent and capability to disrupt shipping in the Red Sea / Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.

Conflict

The United States completed its thirteenth consecutive day of attacks on Iran overnight (23-24 July), targeting military command centres, drone sites, communication networks and maritime capabilities. Explosions were reported in Tehran, Jask, Khondab, Khorramabad and Konarak. Iran says the strikes have killed over 55 people since 27 June.

Iran retaliated by conducting attacks on US military facilities in Bahrain (Sheikh Isa Airbase), Jordan (Muwaffaq Salti / Al-Azraq base) and Kuwait. Sirens in Bahrain have been triggered at least twice today (24 July). Iran said it was targeting Amazon data centres in Bahrain; it alleged they supported US military operations.

Explosions have also been reported this morning near Erbil International Airport (EIA) in Erbil, Iraq,; the US has military infrastructure in the area, which Iranian-aligned groups have attacked with drones in recent days.

President Trump told US media yesterday (23 July) that he is considering intensifying US attacks against Iran, including strikes more intense than those carried out earlier this year. He also threatened “major military punishment” on Iran and the Houthis yesterday, if the Houthis continue attacking shipping in the region. He added that damage done to maritime assets will be paid for by Iranian money currently held in US possession.

Diplomacy

An Iranian diplomat speaking with international media yesterday (23 July) has said that Iran is open to diplomacy. US officials have issued similar signals and expressed openness to diplomacy in recent days.

United States

The House of Representatives yesterday (23 July) passed a symbolic resolution to halt fighting in Iran. The measure is not legally binding but shows growing frustration in the legislature.

Iran

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the UK a war “accomplice” yesterday (23 July) for letting the US use British territory to stage attacks on Iran, warning that any bases used are “legitimate targets.” UK officials said they are ready to defend themselves.

Strait of Hormuz / Bab al-Mandeb

Just one tanker transited the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, the lowest level since 07 May. Brent Crude Oil prices reached USD100 (Bbl) yesterday (23 July), the highest level since May.

27 vessels transited the Bab el-Mandeb Strait yesterday, down from 38 on Wednesday (22 July). Pre-conflict daily transit averages stood at over 70.

Lebanon

International media have said this morning (24 July) that an Israeli airstrike has wounded two paramedics in Nabatieh al-Fawqa.

Regional

Kuwait

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Defence said the Al-Abdali border crossing was attacked yesterday (23 July). It caused some material damage, but no casualties have been reported.

Yemen

Iran deployed military commanders, advisers, and missile and drone capabilities to Yemen on 13 July, according to four sources cited by international media. This raises concerns about Iran's intent and capability to disrupt Red Sea shipping. The flight was diverted to Hodeidah after Saudi-allied forces attacked Sanaa International Airport.

Travel

Aviation

Qatar Airways has suspended flights to Bahrain, Erbil and Kuwait until 31 July.

Advice

- Reconsider all travel to Israel, Iran and Lebanon (especially south of the Litani River, Dahiyeh in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley).
- Be aware that US facilities throughout the Gulf are potential targets for Iranian attacks, and avoid all such sites whenever possible.
- Monitor international media and relevant embassy/diplomatic advisories to remain aware of any fresh developments and to ensure receipt of all attack warnings, and follow all guidelines.
- Ensure awareness of the nearest shelter in the event of air sirens.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region that appears to be linked to the US/Israel – Iran conflict.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- Aviation travellers should anticipate schedule changes and limited seat availability, should allow additional connection time and should confirm flight status directly with the operating airline before travelling to the airport.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.

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