



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

MENA Executive SITREP

March 15, 2026



**MAX
INTELLIGENCE**



Executive Brief: US – Israeli Operations Against Iran and Regional Implications

Explainer: This daily report provides an executive summary of major developments related to the ongoing war in the Middle East. It complements MAX Security's more in-depth Situation Update reports. If you haven't yet received our situation updates and other reporting amid the current escalation, or would like to receive more details, join our [WhatsApp community](#). For operational support, please contact our Protection Division at operations@max-security.com.

Operational Overview

The Israeli-US aerial campaign against Iran continued on March 14-15. Multiple regime-linked targets were targeted, primarily in Tehran and Isfahan. This includes the Iranian Space Agency's primary research center and the production factories for aerial defense systems in Tehran.

On March 14, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated that the conflict with Iran is now escalating and entering its terminal phase (for defeat) that "will continue as long as needed." He added that Iran is employing regional and global terror and extortion to deter Israel and the US from continuing the war, and is being answered by uncompromising power. He stated that amid that terminal phase, only the Iranian people can put an end to the regime in a struggle to topple it.

Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch attacks against different states in the region over the course of March 14-15. It fired several cluster missiles toward Israel. There were several impacts on the ground in central Israel on March 15 as Iran utilizes cluster munitions.

Iran called for the evacuation of three ports in the UAE, Abu Dhabi's Khalifa Port, Dubai's Jebel Ali, and the Fujairah port, ahead of potential strikes. Following a March 14 attack on Fujairah Port, oil loading continued as of March 15. In addition, a UAV attack impacted a radar system at Kuwait's International Airport. Saudi Arabia stated that it dealt with multiple missile and UAV attacks directed against the Riyadh region and Eastern Province. A March 14 report indicated that an Iranian missile attack damaged five US Air Force refueling planes at Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Air Base.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that, according to his intelligence, Russia has been providing Iran with Iranian-designed UAVs it has been manufacturing for the conflict in Ukraine, to support Iran's war effort.

Iran continued to project governance resilience, demonstrating control on the streets. Unconfirmed



reports suggested that the government started to proliferate small arms to some regime supporters, to bolster popular capacity to defend the Islamic Republic if riots broke out.

Other notable developments

Energy/Maritime domain: In an advisory update issued on March 14, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reaffirmed that the maritime threat environment across the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman remains critical, despite a lack of recorded vessel attacks in the previous 48 hours. It stated that at least 20 maritime attacks involving commercial vessels and offshore infrastructure have been recorded since February 28 across these waterways, with no consistent pattern of targeting, suggesting a campaign aimed at broad maritime disruption.

On March 14, US President Trump claimed that “many countries” would be sending warships in cooperation with the US to keep the Strait of Hormuz open. He indicated that it is easy for Iran to launch UAVs or short-range missiles or drop mines, and hoped that China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK, and others would send ships to the area to secure it. He stated that, in the meantime, the US would continue to shoot Iranian ships out of the water and target the Iranian shoreline. In a subsequent post, President Trump stated that states that states that “receive oil through the Strait must [contribute to] take care of that passage,” adding that “this should have always been a team effort.”

This reflects Trump's acknowledgement of the challenges the US will face in securing the Strait of Hormuz, which may still lead to escalatory steps by the US against Iran.

Iraq: Escalatory trends continued. The US Embassy issued a security alert on March 14, warning of indiscriminate attacks by Iran-backed militias against US citizens and targets across Iraq, including the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The alert urges US nationals to leave Iraq now. The UAE confirmed that its consulate in Erbil was targeted again, and a UAV strike also targeted Erbil's Lanaz Refinery. Damage from attacks was also recorded in other areas of Erbil city. UAV attacks were also recorded at the Victory Camp at Baghdad International Airport.

Israel-Lebanon: On March 14, a French proposal to end the conflict in Lebanon was laid, which is supposed to involve direct Israeli-Lebanese talks and end with a Lebanese recognition of Israel. Nevertheless, the Israeli government is currently denying that it intends to participate in any talks. The escalatory trend between Hezbollah and Israel continued, with Israel gearing up for a more extensive ground operation within Lebanese territory. It continues to conduct airstrikes against Hezbollah assets and personnel across the country, including in Beirut. During the morning hours of March 15, Israeli defenses intercepted a Hezbollah-launched long-range rocket fired at Tel Aviv.



Travel & Security Aspects

- Regional travel conditions remain highly volatile, with most states in the region exposed to extreme risk. Travel to these areas should be avoided, and a shelter-in-place procedure should continue to be implemented.
- In this vein, airspace restrictions and sudden closures continue to disrupt travel across the region. Risks to travelers also remain high despite **Gulf** authorities' apparent eagerness to facilitate commercial flight operations. Continued UAV penetration into Gulf airspaces continues to underscore the threat.
- Evacuations outside of the country and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt**. Despite not releasing formal statistics, Saudi Arabia appears to be increasingly impacted by Iranian attacks.
- **Egypt and Turkey broadly** remain outside direct hostilities and are assessed as medium-risk environments compared with other regional states. Turkey is exposed to risks in its southeastern border areas near Iran and around its NATO bases, as tensions increase.
- Oman remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments. However, Iranian UAVs prompted casualties in the northern Sohar Province, near the Sohar International Airport and along the coastal highway connecting the UAE and Muscat. Vigilance and timely risk assessments should be implemented ahead of any evacuation through that area. Favor the Muscat al-Batinah Expressway rather than Highway 1.
- **Israel** is still allowing commercial flights with foreigners departing from the Ben Gurion International Airport. There are frequent flight cancellations and delays, extensive traffic, and congestion at the airport. Color Red sirens have also been sounded in the airport as part of the general attacks against the country, which now may also include short-notice Hezbollah fire, making it difficult to get to a protected space in time. Starting on March 16, El Al will operate six direct flights to New York intended for American citizens who wish to return to the US. The flights are expected to operate at full capacity, subject to approval by Israeli authorities, upon request by the US Embassy.

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