

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1230h (BST), 14 May 2026

Executive Summary

The Iranian navy has interdicted an Emirati vessel in the Strait of Hormuz today. Tehran has stated that the strait is open but that commercial traffic must receive approval from the Iranian military. Unconfirmed media reports suggest that a vessel sank off the coast of Oman yesterday, after a suspected drone / missile attack.

Israel conducted several strikes in southern Lebanon yesterday (13 May) and this morning (14 May), causing fatalities and injuries. This morning, a Hezbollah drone has injured three people in an Israeli parking garage near the Lebanese border; two people are severely injured.

Diplomatic

Lebanese and Israeli officials will meet in Washington DC today (14 May) to continue peace talks ahead of the ceasefire formally expiring today. The Israeli ambassador to the US has said that Israel will present a staged framework to demobilise Hezbollah.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Jordan delivered a letter to the United Nations yesterday (13 April) calling for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

South Korea has pledged “diplomatic retribution” over attacks on its cargo vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, once the perpetrator has been confirmed. Unconfirmed media reports have blamed Iran for the 04 May attack.

The International Energy Agency warned yesterday that the oil market will face severe shortages through to the end of Q3 2026, even assuming the conflict ends in early June. It added that supply losses already exceed 1 billion barrels of oil, and that inventories are being drained at an “unprecedented” rate.

Israel

Prime Minister Netanyahu announced yesterday that he secretly travelled to the UAE during the Iran conflict and met with President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed. He claims they had a "historic breakthrough". Emirati authorities have denied that the meeting occurred.

A suspected Hezbollah drone crashed and injured three people in Rosh Hanikra parking lot, near the Lebanese border, this morning (14 May); two people sustained serious injuries. The drone used a fibre optic cable, which are difficult to intercept.

Sirens were triggered this morning in southern areas of the country; it is unconfirmed whether it was false alarm. Drones triggered sirens in Shlomi and Betzet, Western Galilee, this afternoon, causing no injuries or damage.

The Israeli parliament submitted a dissolution bill yesterday (13 May) to trigger early elections; a general election must be held by 27 October.

Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described reports of the UAE meeting with Israel as "unforgiveable", and that "those colluding with Israel to sow division will be held to account". He went on to accuse the UAE of direct aggression against Iran during recent fighting.

Separately, the foreign minister accused Kuwait of unlawfully attacking an Iranian boat and detaining four Iranian nationals following Kuwait's statement yesterday about alleged IRGC members who had attempted to enter Kuwait by sea on 03 May.

United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said to US media this morning (14 May) that Iran had developed its drone and missile stockpiles to deter foreign intervention in its attempts to secure a nuclear weapon. He added, "once they had that immunity, then they would break out towards a weapon".

The US senate failed to pass legislation limiting military operations against Iran yesterday (13 May).

Unconfirmed media reports by Axios released today suggest that the Trump administration is discussing military operations to end the ongoing diplomatic deadlock with Iran.

Strait of Hormuz

Iranian authorities are developing a mechanism to manage maritime transit in the Strait. Ships are expected to submit detailed information, including cargo, ownership and destination, under the Persian Gulf Strait Authority. Vessels seen to be hostile towards Iran will not receive authorisation.

Reuters reported this morning that a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker managed by a Japanese company had successfully transited the strait. Yesterday, a Chinese oil tanker transporting oil from Iraq successfully transited the strait. Iranian state media reports from today suggest that Iran has agreed to allow Chinese vessels to transit the strait, following cooperation with Iranian control over the waterway. The Iranian military claimed today that over 30 vessels transited the strait; far below usual capacity, which exceeds 150 vessels daily.

The Iranian navy interdicted an Emirati vessel in the Strait this morning; the vessel was anchored 70km from Fujairah, and was last seen heading towards the Iranian coast.

Unconfirmed reports by international media claim that a vessel, MSV Haj Ali, sank yesterday off the coast of Oman after an attack by a suspected drone/missile attack caused an explosion on board.

Regional

United Arab Emirates

The UAE has rejected a formal statement by Israel this morning (14 May) that suggests Prime Minister Netanyahu and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met in private to discuss a “historic breakthrough” in relations.

Lebanon

Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire have hit several towns in southern Lebanon since yesterday evening (13 May), including Aaitit, al-Abbasiya, al-Mansouri, Roumin, al-Haniya, Srafa, al-Qulayla, Kfer Melki, and Zibqin. The strike in Zibqin impacted a residential area, injuring at least nine people.

This morning, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for Libbaya, Sohmor, Tefahta, Kfar Melki, Yohmor al-Beqaa, Ain al-Tineh, Houmine al-Faouqa and Mazraat Sinay.

The Lebanese Health Ministry announced yesterday that eight people died after Israeli drone strikes targeted three vehicles on a coastal highway near Barja, Jiyeh and Saadiyat, approximately 20km south of Beirut. Israeli drone strikes also killed six people in Arab Salim, three people in Roumine, and one person in Harouf.

Hezbollah claimed this morning that it has conducted several attacks on Israeli forces near Biyyada, including a drone attack on a tank near Kfar Kila. It claimed it had conducted over 17 separate attacks on Israeli forces.

The Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research said yesterday that over 10,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed since the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon was signed on 16 April.

Iraq

A drone strike hit an Iranian opposition group's camp in Erbil yesterday, no injuries have been confirmed.

Travel

Aviation

Lufthansa Group announced yesterday (13 May) that its carriers will resume flights to Tel Aviv from June. Austrian Airlines will resume from 01 June; Swiss Airlines and Lufthansa on 01 July; and Brussels Airlines on 24 October. Yesterday, Wizz Air announced it will resume flights from Ben Gurion Airport from 28 May.

Advice

- Do not travel to Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley.
- Reconsider travel to the Middle East, especially Israel, Iran and Iraq, but also the wider Gulf region.
- Remain aware of ongoing tensions, given the possibility of a sudden resumption in fighting.
- Monitor instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- 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

Operational assistance: +44 207 183 8910 / ops@northcottglobalsolutions.com

Bespoke reporting or security-related advice: risk@northcottglobalsolutions.com

24/7 assistance: +44 2071 8389 36 / tracking@northcottglobalsolutions.com