

Middle East Situation

Intelligence Cut-Off: 1630h (GMT), 22 March 2026

Executive Summary

Iran has threatened retaliatory attacks on regional energy and oil infrastructure if President Trump follows through with his ultimatum of striking Iranian power plants if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened.

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) has continued to destroy civilian infrastructure in Lebanon, leading to regional concerns that it is preparing for an invasion.

Iran

After President Trump's warnings yesterday that he would attack Iranian power plants if freedom of navigation is not restored to the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian government has warned that any attacks on power plants will be met with immediate retaliatory strikes on energy and oil infrastructure across the Gulf. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) subsequently also released a statement to say that it would completely close the Strait of Hormuz if power plants are targeted.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society has said that more than 81,000 civilian units have been damaged in air strikes across Iran, accusing the US and Israel of a violation of the Geneva Convention.

Israel

After last night's Iranian attack on Arad and Dimona, Prime Minister Netanyahu has called on world leaders to join the war on Iran, as the latter was targeting civilians and had the intent and capability to launch attacks deep into Europe.

A wave of missile strikes on central Israel this afternoon resulted in some major road damage and reports of 15 civilian injuries.

This afternoon, the Iranian military claimed to have launched drones at Israel Aerospace Industries, Israel's state-owned defence and aerospace company.

Regional

Lebanon

This afternoon, the IDF destroyed the Qasmiyeh Bridge, key transport infrastructure along the coastal highway in southern Lebanon, raising fears that Israel intends to cut off the south from the rest of the country, and making civilian evacuations from the south increasingly difficult. This morning, the IDF had issued a warning that it would conduct the attack today. The Lebanese government has condemned the policy of targeting civilian infrastructure, warning that it may preface Israeli expansion into Lebanese territory.

This morning, the IDF claimed it had killed a Hezbollah commander in a strike in southern Lebanon. The IDF also claimed it has killed a major Hamas operative in Lebanon, a figure involved in financing Hamas operations. (Claims are unverified).

Israeli air strikes and shelling have been reported in towns across southern Lebanon this morning, including Arnoun, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Yahmar al-Shaqif, as-Sultaniyah and as-Sawana.

Hezbollah has reported that it has conducted missile attacks on IDF outposts near the border at Marj, Taybeh and Jal al-Hammar.

The Israeli defence minister this afternoon said that he and Prime Minister Netanyahu have ordered the IDF to accelerate the demolition of Lebanese homes in border villages to end the threats to communities in northern Israel.

United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Defence said it had intercepted four missiles and 25 drones this morning.

Qatar

Seven people have been confirmed killed in this morning's helicopter crash, including three Turkish security personnel.

Saudi Arabia

This afternoon, the Iranian military claimed to have launched drones at a US reconnaissance aircraft at Prince Sultan Air Base (90km south-east of Riyadh).

Travel

Maritime

22 countries, including the UK, France, Germany, Japan and the UAE, have now joined to express their readiness to contribute to ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

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.



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