

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1700h (GMT), 21 March 2026

Executive Summary

A US-Israeli air strike hit the nuclear facility at Natanz, although no radiation leak has been reported.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has claimed to have shot down an Israeli jet: this has been denied by Israel and remains unverified.

The UK government has announced that RAF Akrotiri on Cyprus will not be used for strategic bombing operations against Iran.

Iran

Today is Nowruz and the first day of Eid al-Fitr. Air strikes on Iran have continued, including across Tehran, Ahvaz (in Khuzestan province), Langroud (Gilan province) and on the coastal city of Ramsar (Mazandaran province, on the Caspian Sea).

Another IRGC commander, Brigadier Ali Mohammad Naini, was killed in an air strike overnight; his funeral service was held this morning in Tehran.

In Isfahan province, the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility was attacked in a US-Israeli air strike this morning, according to Iranian media, reportedly using GBU-57 “bunker buster” munitions for the first time in this conflict. There is reportedly no danger to local residents from leakage of radiation. The government has denounced the attack as a violation of safety regulations, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Russian government has called for an international assessment.

This afternoon, the Israeli military claimed to have hit an IRGC compound in Tehran that produces ballistic missile components (this is unverified).

25 people in West Azerbaijan province have been arrested for sharing images of “sensitive sites” with Western media, according to Iranian state media.

The Royal United Services Institute has commented that Iran may have been able to launch the missiles yesterday at Diego Garcia (at 4,000km, twice as far as the range of its standard ballistic missiles) by utilising a “space launch vehicle” that offers greater range.

Israel

The Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz has announced that US-Israeli strikes on Iran will escalate over the coming days.

The IRGC claimed that its air defences shot down an Israeli Air Force jet this morning; this has been denied by the Israeli military.

Settlements in northern Israel have continued to be hit by rockets fired from Lebanon.

Hackers have reportedly broken into the email account of a senior Israeli military officer, with Iran-linked groups claiming responsibility.

United Kingdom

The UK government announced this afternoon that it will not use RAF Akrotiri, its air base on Cyprus, for offensive operations on Iran, after a call between Prime Minister Starmer and the Cypriot president.

Regional

Iraq

At least four drones reportedly targeted Victory Base, Baghdad, this morning. A significant fire was reported near the complex afterwards. Although there was no reported damage to Baghdad International Airport, there have been few reported flights transiting through the hub.

Iraqi security services have reported that a drone hit Mansour district in Baghdad this morning, including the Iraqi National Intelligence Service headquarters, where a military officer was killed. The drone was reportedly launched by Iran-linked militants in Iraq.

Jordan

The Jordanian military said this afternoon that 36 Iranian drones and missiles have been launched into Jordanian territory in the last week, with at least one person reported injured.

Lebanon

The Israeli military has claimed that four Hezbollah militants were killed and several Hezbollah headquarter buildings damaged in southern Lebanon overnight.

Today, Israeli attacks have continued against Hezbollah targets in southern Beirut. The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) issued evacuation warnings for seven neighbourhoods in the area.

The Israeli military said today that the IDF was conducting a targeted ground operation in southern Lebanon, killing at least four militants in the village of Khiam.

United Arab Emirates

Interceptions have been conducted successfully on three missiles and eight drones today.

The Iranian media has claimed that Iranian missiles and drones have destroyed facilities at the Al-Minhad Air Base: there has been no comment from Emirati authorities.

Kuwait

The Iranian media has claimed that Iranian missiles and drones have destroyed facilities at the Ali Al Salem Air Base: there has been no comment from Kuwaiti authorities.

Travel

Aviation

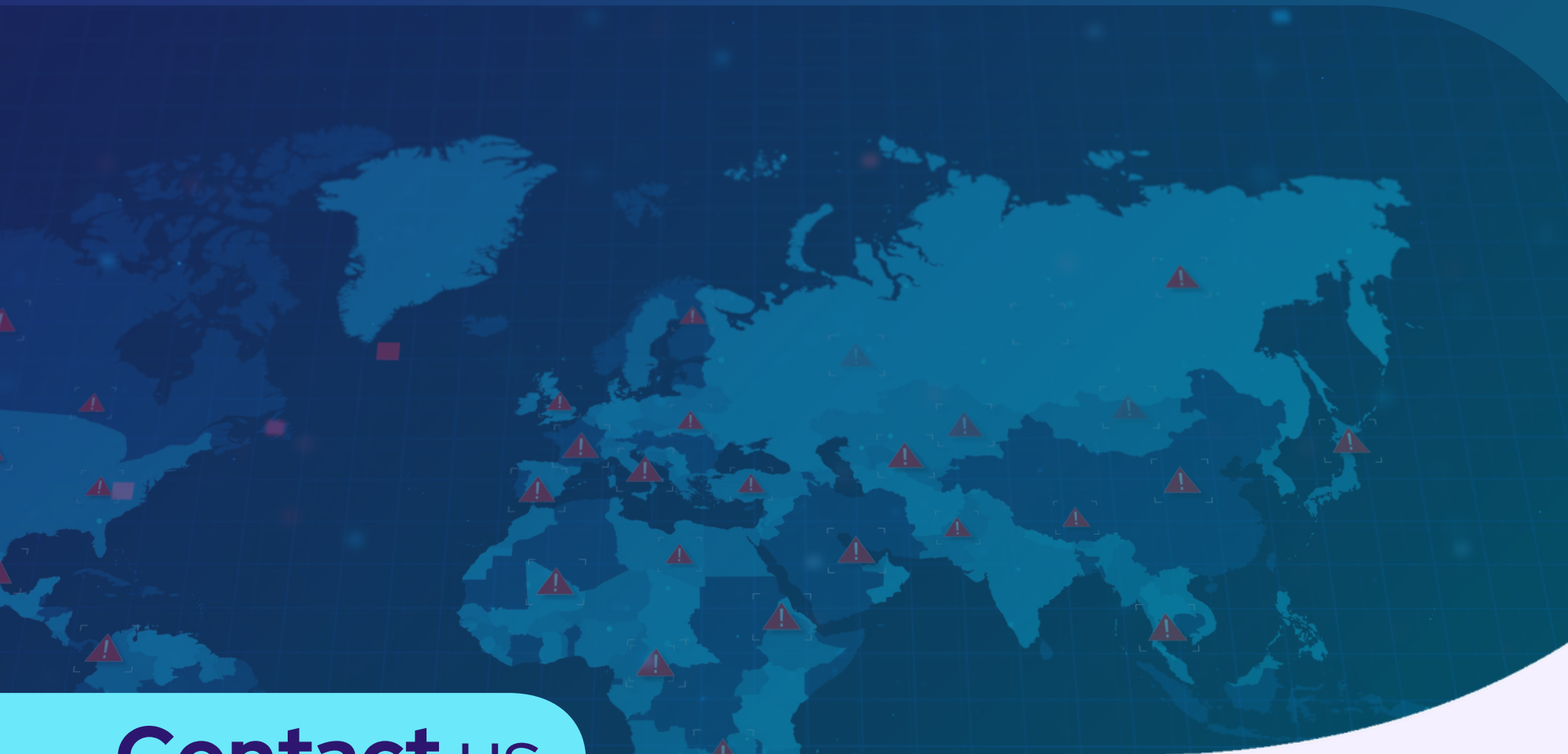
Iranian drone attacks have been conducted on fuel tanks and refuelling aircraft at Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv, prompting some delays to flights (this evening it has resumed good traffic flow).

Maritime

According to US Central Command, US military attacks on key targets on the Iranian coastline have successfully degraded Iran's ability to threaten ships transiting 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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