



**IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.**

# **MENA Executive SITREP**

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March 23, 2026

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**MAX  
INTELLIGENCE**

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

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**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](mailto:operations@max-security.com).

### Operational Overview

The Israeli-US aerial campaign against Iran continued on March 22-23. IDF Spokesperson Effie Defrin stated that the IDF has thus far dropped more than 10,000 munitions in Iran, and the achievements from the past three weeks are accumulating to a strategic degradation rendering the "Iranian regime weak and unstable." He indicated that Israel is expecting additional weeks of war with Iran and Hezbollah.

Following US President Trump's ultimatum to Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz or incur the destruction of its power plants by March 23-24 overnight, Trump was cited by the Israeli Channel 13 on the issue. The report indicated that Trump's statement was "Soon you will see what happens with the ultimatum of the power plants. The result is going to be very good (...). There will be a total destruction of Iran...". This constitutes one indication that Trump has not retracted his ultimatum, despite the possibility that he would eventually do so, with the possibility that this was a tactic to gain concessions from Iran or US allies vis-a-vis the Strait of Hormuz. In addition, the son of the former Shah, Reza Pahlavi, the aspiring leader of the anti-government Iranian protest movement, publicly requested Trump to avoid targeting critical infrastructures that serve the Iranian people, while urging him to continue degrading the foundations of the regime itself. The ultimatum will expire overnight on March 23-24 (Iran time).

### Iranian actions

Iran continued to attack states in the region over the course of March 22-23, with multiple states, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, confirming engagement with incoming missiles and UAVs. Saudi Arabia confirmed that it had intercepted additional missiles fired at Riyadh. Emirati authorities confirmed that falling debris from an interception of a ballistic missile resulted in an injury in Abu Dhabi's al-Shawamekh area.

Iran continued to launch ballistic missiles equipped with cluster munitions toward Israel on March 22, with impacts recorded across the Tel Aviv metropolitan area. Multiple injuries were reported due to the attacks.



Iranian officials stated that the Strait of Hormuz is open to anyone but the participants of the military campaign against it. They reiterated threats to hermetically close the Strait and target critical infrastructures in Gulf states and Israel in the event of US attacks against its own power plants.

### Other notable developments

**Iraq:** Kataib Hezbollah (KH), announced a five-day extension of the ceasefire on attacks targeting the US Embassy in Baghdad. However, the organization accused Iraqi federal security establishments, as well as Kurdish factions, of collaborating with US and Israeli efforts. Other Iraqi front militias continued to target US-linked targets in the country, including the Victory Base at Baghdad International Airport and the Erbil Airport.

**Israel-Lebanon:** On March 22, the IDF bombed a major bridge connecting the two banks of the Litani River along the M51 Highway near the coast to derail Hezbollah movements and logistics in and out of southern Lebanon. The IDF Chief of Staff approved operational plans to deepen the ground maneuver within southern Lebanon, while the IDF's 91st and 36th divisions are already operating in southern Lebanon's al-Khiam and Rab El Thalathine areas, respectively. IDF Spokesperson Effie Defrin stated on March 22 that this week, the IDF will expand its ground maneuvers within the territory.

### Travel & Security Aspects

- Regional travel conditions remain highly volatile, with most states in the region exposed to extreme risk due to repeated and unpredictable missile and UAV attacks.
- Airspace restrictions and sudden closures continue to disrupt travel across the region. Risks to travelers also remain high despite **Gulf** authorities' eagerness to facilitate commercial flight operations.
- 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.
- Risks in **Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province**, especially around its oil and gas infrastructures in **Jubail** and **Dhahran**, will be heightened, posing risks to those evacuating from Bahrain into eastern Saudi Arabia.
- **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. Parts of northern Oman are currently experiencing flooding, which may affect travel west of Muscat.
- **Israel** is reducing operations at Ben Gurion International Airport to one departing flight per hour. Arriving flights will not be subject to passenger limits, while outbound flights from Israel will be



restricted to a maximum of 50 passengers per flight. Some Israeli carriers have transitioned to operating flights from Jordan's Aqaba and Egypt's Taba due to current constraints in Israel.

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