

Middle East Situation

Intelligence Cut-Off: 0800h, 16 March 2026

Executive Summary

Iran fired missiles and drones at Gulf countries overnight and this morning.

In Fujairah port, oil loading was suspended after a fire broke out at the Fujairah industrial zone.

A drone struck a fuel tank in the vicinity of Dubai International Airport. The airport was temporarily closed and flights were diverted; services resumed at 1000h local time.

Iran

Intense bombardments have been reported in Tehran this morning, but no injuries have yet been confirmed.

At least 18 people have been arrested for working with Iran International, a news channel critical of the regime. The individuals are accused of sending photos of bombings. Rights groups have warned over 500 people have been arrested for such acts.

US officials have reported that President Trump is considering seizing Kharg Island (which accounts for 90% of Iranian oil exports). The claims cannot be independently verified.

Israeli Brigadier Effier Defrin has said that Israel has thousands of Iranian targets left to attack. The military added that attacks would likely continue for weeks.

Israel

Iranian missile fire has triggered sirens in southern and central areas of Israel this morning. Hezbollah rocket fire also triggered sirens in northern areas. No damage or injuries have been confirmed.

Iranian missile debris struck a building hosting US diplomats in Jerusalem yesterday. No injuries have been confirmed.

Schools in select areas deemed by authorities to be at low risk will reopen this week. This includes the Beit She'an Valley, the Dead Sea area and some schools in the West Bank.

Regional

Saudi Arabia

Dozens of drones have been intercepted in Riyadh and the Eastern Province overnight and this morning, causing no confirmed injuries or damage.

United Arab Emirates

Iran fired drones and missile at the country this morning and overnight: a fire has been triggered in the Fujairah industrial zone, causing no confirmed injuries. Oil loading was consequently suspended at the Fujairah port.

One person has been killed in Abu Dhabi, where a missile impacted a vehicle.

Kuwait

A drone struck the Ali Al Salem airbase yesterday, no injuries have been confirmed but an Italian drone was damaged. At least two drones have been intercepted in the country this morning; at least 14 drones were intercepted yesterday.

Lebanon

The Israeli military conducted a "targeted ground operation" in southern Lebanon this morning to neutralise Hezbollah infrastructure and militants in the area. Before operations, artillery fire and airstrikes struck Hezbollah positions.

Israeli air strikes impacted Khiam and southern Beirut this morning, no injuries or damage have been confirmed.

Iraq

An airstrike has hit the headquarters of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (an Iranian-backed militia) in Jurf al-Sakahr this morning, killing two people.

Overnight, drones were reported near the US embassy in Baghdad, and near the Balad airbase in Salah a-Din. No impact or damages have been reported.

Travel

Aviation

Dubai International Airport was temporarily closed and flights were diverted this morning after a drone struck a fuel tank in the vicinity of the airport. Emirates will operate a limited schedule today from 1000h local time. Some flights were diverted to Al Maktoum International Airport.

Flydubai has cancelled flights to Israel until 30 April, citing security conditions.

Qatar Airways will continue its limited repatriation service, with further flights announced between 18 and 28 March.

Several rockets fired by Iranian-aligned militia groups landed near Baghdad International Airport this morning. The groups claimed to have been targeting US military installations. A similar attack injured five people yesterday. Iraqi airspace was already closed.

Maritime

The US Transportation Secretary has said the US is preparing a government-backed insurance scheme for ships navigating the Strait of Hormuz. The official added that the insurance component has been finalised, but implementation requires military assistance.

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.

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