

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1100h (BST), 01 May 2026

Executive Summary

The ceasefire between Iran and Israel/US has held, though Iranian air defence systems targeted reconnaissance drones over Tehran yesterday (30 April).

The UAE has banned its nationals from travelling to Iran, Lebanon and Iraq, and advised its citizens in these countries to leave immediately.

Diplomatic

Iranian officials threatened “long and painful strikes” on US assets in the region yesterday (30 April) if the conflict resumes.

A US Democratic Senator warned yesterday that government briefings suggest “an imminent military strike [on Iran] is very much on the table”.

The Iranian Supreme Court Chief Justice denied allegations today (01 May) that Iran has halted negotiations with the US, claiming that Iran “always welcomed negotiations”.

During a press conference yesterday, President Trump said that direct talks between Israel and Lebanon would occur within two weeks. An initial ceasefire was agreed on 17 April and extended on 23 April for three weeks.

Iran

Air defence systems engaged reconnaissance aircraft over Tehran, state media reported yesterday (30 April).

Israel

The Israeli Defence Minister said yesterday (30 April) that operations may have to resume against Iran to ensure it “does not once again become a threat to Israel”.

The military intercepted at least four Hezbollah drones today (01 May), with sirens triggered in Rosh Hanikra; no damage or injuries have been reported.

United States

The Trump administration is arguing that the war in Iran has formally ended, given that the ceasefire was implemented on 07 April. Under US law, any military action lasting more than 60 days requires congressional approval, a threshold the administration can avoid if the war is considered concluded.

Unconfirmed media reports released yesterday (30 April) suggest that President Trump has been briefed by the military on plans for potential renewed fighting with Iran. Speaking with US media yesterday, President Trump said “I don’t know that we need it [resuming the war]... we might need it”.

The US government authorised the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve yesterday (30 April). It is expected to be delivered to oil companies between June and August.

Regional

Lebanon

Israeli airstrikes killed at least 32 people in southern Lebanon yesterday (30 April), the Health Ministry reports. This includes a Lebanese soldier, who was killed alongside several family members in Kfar Reman, Nabatieh region.

Hezbollah claimed yesterday it had also attacked Israeli forces in Bint Jbeil, Yarin, Nabatieh, al-Qantara, Shamaa, Biyyada, Meiss al-Jabal, Taybeh and Taybeh. These incidents cannot be independently verified, but at least one Israeli soldier was killed and 12 injured, according to international media.

The Israeli military issued evacuation orders for several locations in southern Lebanon yesterday, including: Jebchit, Habboush, Harouf, Kfar Jouz, Upper, Nabatieh, Ebba, Adchit al-Shaqif, Arab Salim, Tallet el-Khoury, Upper Humin, Al-Mujaddal, Arzoun, Doueir, Al-Humayri and Maaroub.

Israeli military officials said yesterday that infantry operations are ongoing 10km into southern Lebanon and “do not intend to pull back”.

United Arab Emirates

Authorities have banned Emirati citizens from travelling to Iran, Lebanon and Iraq. Citizens already residing in these countries have been advised to leave immediately.

Travel

Maritime

Israel interdicted 22 boats carrying aid for Gaza near Crete yesterday (30 April). Over 175 people were detained, and boat engines have been disabled. Reporters Without Borders accused Israel of kidnapping three journalists covering the flotilla mission: Hafeedh Mribah, cameraman Mahmut Yavuz and Alex Colston. Israeli officials have announced that two people have been taken to Israel for questioning: Saif Abu Keshek, suspected of ties to terrorist organisations, and Thiago Ávila, suspected of unspecified illegal activity.

Advice

- Do not travel to Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, Dahiyeh 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