

Information Cut-Off: 1445h (BST), 29 July 2026

Executive Summary

The US and Iran have clashed for the first time since Friday (24 July). Iran launched surprise attacks on US forces in Jordan last night (28 July). Hours later, Saudi Arabia and the US conducted airstrikes on Iran-aligned groups in Iraq. This was in retaliation for recent strikes on Saudi oil infrastructure by Iran-aligned militants in Iraq.

In response to yesterday's Iranian attacks on US bases, President Trump said that "We'll be hitting them hard. They're going to get a beating".

Iranian officials have publicly signalled that they reject Omani calls for joint control over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's insistence that it controls the Strait has been a leading cause of recent fighting with the US.

Conflict

Iran launched a surprise attack on US forces in Jordan yesterday (28 Jul). In response, President Trump said: "We'll be hitting them hard. They're going to get a beating".

The US conducted missile strikes in Iran's West Azerbaijan province this morning, according to Iranian media (29 July).

Saudi Arabia intercepted drones targeting oil facilities in the Eastern Province yesterday evening. The drones were fired from Iraqi territory by Iran-aligned militant groups, according to the Saudi military.

Saudi Arabia and the United States then conducted retaliatory airstrikes on Iran-aligned militant groups in Iraq shortly after, killing at least 20 militants and injuring 32 others. Explosions were reported in Baghdad, Wasit, Nineveh, Basra, Kirkuk, Karbala and Diyala.

On Monday evening (27 July), drone attacks were reported in Erbil, primarily targeting the US consulate. Iran-aligned groups have in recent weeks conducted attacks on US military and diplomatic sites.

Diplomacy

Iranian officials briefed international media this morning (29 July) on their rejection of Omani proposals to jointly manage maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. The official said that Iran seeks total control over the Strait. Iranian insistence that vessels transit along Iranian coasts has been a cause of recent clashes with the US.

President Trump warned yesterday (28 July) that Iran’s Pickaxe Mountain, bridges, and other civilian infrastructure may be targeted if a deal is not made. He added that there have been “good talks”, however.

Strait of Hormuz / Bab al-Mandeb

The Houthis said yesterday (28 July) that they had fired ballistic missiles at Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operation (UKMTO) centre said that a tanker reported an explosion near the vessel but that no damage or injuries occurred.

The Houthis are considering imposing fees on vessels transiting through the Red Sea, according to international media, citing unnamed regional officials. The Bab el-Mandeb is a vital waterway linking Europe and Asia, and has been used as an alternative export route for Gulf countries amid Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran said it halted three tankers in the Strait of Hormuz this morning (29 July).

Yesterday (28 July), the Iranian military said that vessels belonging to companies that accept compensation from Iranian frozen funds will be barred from transiting the Strait of Hormuz. This came after President Trump suggested that damages on vessels from Iranian attacks could be paid by frozen Iranian assets.

Regional Information

Lebanon

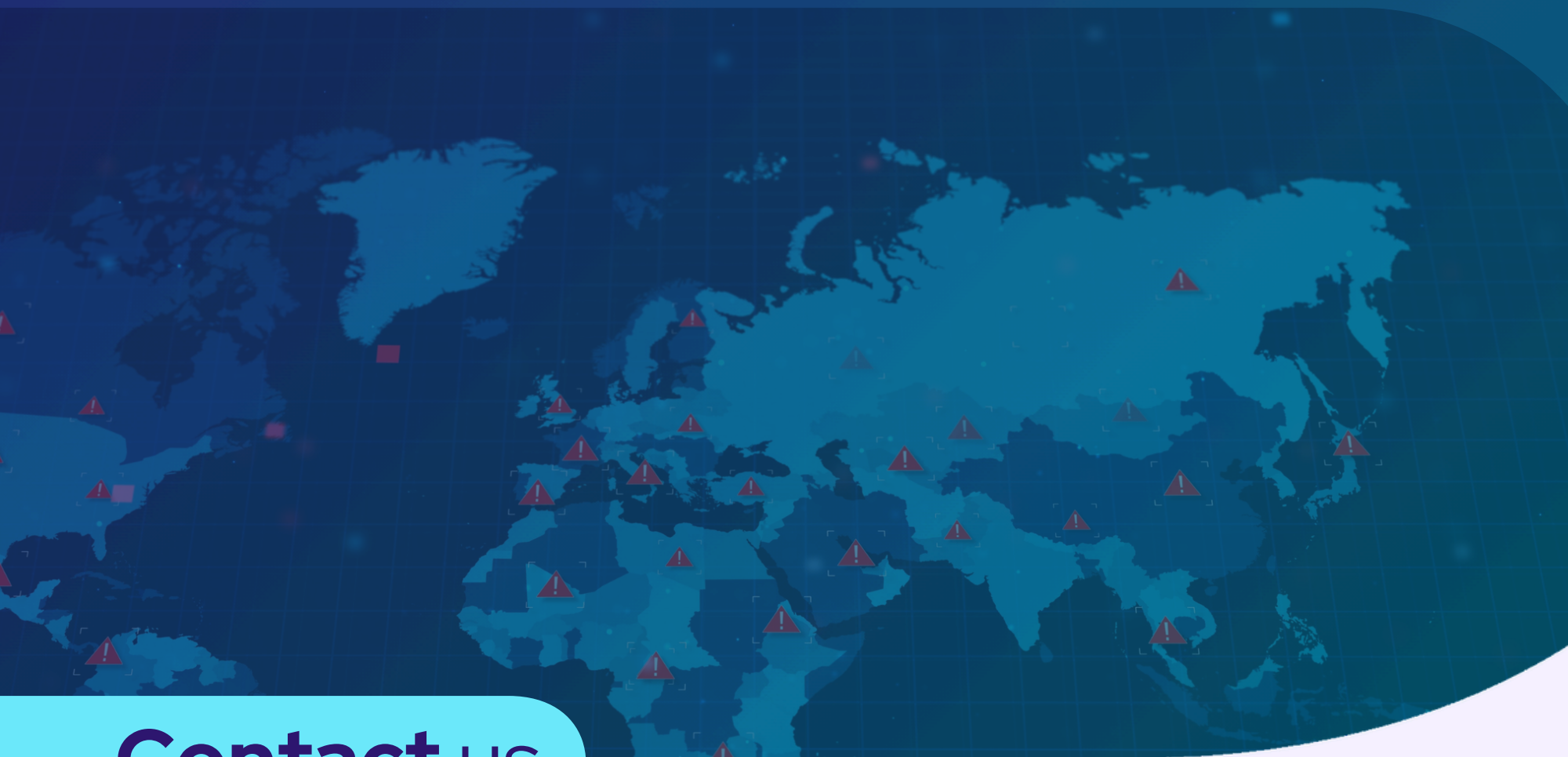
Hezbollah fired drones towards Israeli army vehicles in the e Ali Taher Ridge area, southern Lebanon, overnight (28-29 July) according to Israel. The Israeli military said the incident is a breach of the ceasefire with Hezbollah. This morning, Israeli artillery fire was reported in Nabatieh al-Fawqa.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Aramco closed its Jazan oil refinery yesterday (28 July), after sustaining damage from Houthi attacks on Saturday (25 July).

Advice

- Reconsider all travel to Israel, Iran and Lebanon (especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley).
- Be aware that US facilities throughout the Gulf are potential targets for Iranian attacks, and avoid all such sites whenever possible.
- Monitor international media and relevant embassy/diplomatic advisories to remain aware of any fresh developments and to ensure receipt of all attack warnings, and follow all guidelines.
- Ensure awareness of the nearest shelter in the event of air sirens.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region that appears to be linked to the US/Israel – Iran conflict.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- Aviation travellers should anticipate schedule changes and limited seat availability, should allow additional connection time and should confirm flight status directly with the operating airline before travelling to the airport.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.



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