



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

MENA Executive SITREP

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**MAX
INTELLIGENCE**



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

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.

Operational Overview

The joint US-Israeli military campaigns in Iran continued on April 4-5. On April 4, US President Trump reiterated the ultimatum he gave Iran for making a deal or opening the Strait of Hormuz. He stated that "time is running out – 48 hours before all hell will reign down on them."

On April 4, Israel struck Iran's petrochemical hub in Mahshahr. Subsequently, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that this is part of his pledge to continue "crushing" Tehran. He stated that after Israel destroyed 70 percent of Iran's steel production, it today attacked Iran's petrochemical factories. He added that "these two things are their money machine with which they fund their terror war against Israel." Netanyahu further pledged to continue "crushing" the Islamic Republic.

The US and Israel also struck compounds near or associated with Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, killing a security guard. Russian media reported that Rosatom has evacuated 198 personnel from the site, while the site continues to function normally. The IAEA reported no indications of radiation following the strike. Israel and the US are highly unlikely to seek to severely damage the Bushehr site, given its potential to cause an enormous environmental radiation catastrophe that would contaminate Gulf waters.

During the overnight hours of April 4-5, President Trump shared footage that appeared to have been taken in Tehran on April 3, and stated that "many of Iran's military leaders, who have led them poorly and unwisely, are terminated, along with much else, with this massive strike in Tehran."

President Trump also confirmed that US forces have rescued the second air crew member of the aircraft that crashed in Iranian territory during the overnight of April 4-5. This concludes the rescue operation.

Iranian actions

According to an April 4-5 report by an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-affiliated outlet, Tehran expanded its bank of targets in response to the strikes against Iran's petrochemical plants. It identified the Israel Electric Corporation, Saudi Arabia's Marafiq Company, the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Energy



Company (TAQA), and QatarEnergy's utilities branch as legitimate targets. It indicated that this time, Iran's purpose would be striking a series of targets simultaneously to demonstrate the ability to bypass multiple defense systems and "deliver a coordinated shock to the critical infrastructure of several countries."

Together with Trump's ultimatum and the Israeli strike against the Mahshahr petrochemical hub, this highlights the very high stakes and the increased potential for attempted attacks on critical utilities, which could dramatically impact the security landscape in the Gulf, especially if major power and desalination plants are severely impacted by Iran. This necessitates refreshing business contingency plans (BCPs) and being prepared for relocation and evacuation options.

Meanwhile, Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward Israel and several Gulf states on April 4-5. Multiple locations in Israel were hit by either debris or missile bomblets, including Tel Aviv. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance announced that overnight, an Iranian UAV caused material damage to the Ministries Complex building in the capital. On April 5, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) reportedly stated that an Iranian UAV caused a fire in its Shuwaikh oil sector complex, which houses the Oil Ministry and KPC Headquarters. On April 5, the Abu Dhabi Media Office announced that authorities responded to multiple fires at the Borouge Petrochemicals facility caused by shrapnel from air defense interceptions. Operations at the facility have been immediately suspended while damage assessments are ongoing.

Other notable developments

US: The US State Department revoked the green cards of several relatives of Iranian government/IRGC leaders, including the nephew of slain IRGC-QF commander Qassem Soleimani.

Iraq: On April 4, Iraqi authorities temporarily closed the Shalamchah border crossing with Iran after airstrikes on the Iranian side killed an Iraqi citizen and left five injured. Movement at the border crossing returned to normal in subsequent hours.

Israel-Lebanon: The IDF and Hezbollah continued to clash in southern Lebanon on April 4-5. Like Iran-backed groups in Iraq, Hezbollah released footage showing its use of First Person View (FPV) drones against IDF forces. It also continued to launch rockets and UAVs into Israel, despite a several-day downtick in overall Hezbollah-claimed attacks. The IDF targeted additional bridges on the Litani River and has also called for the evacuation of the Masnaa Border Crossing along the Syria-Lebanon border, arguing that Hezbollah is utilizing the crossing to transfer goods. In addition, the IDF also evacuated Kfar Hatta, a village located several km north of the Zahrani River, in Lebanon's South Governorate.

Persian Gulf/Strait of Hormuz: On April 4, Turkey's state broadcaster reported that two additional Turkish-owned ships passed through the Strait of Hormuz, adding that there are 13 more Turkish ships waiting for permission to pass through the waterway. April 4 reports indicated that Iran granted Iraq an



exemption from any restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz. On April 4, Iran's state-affiliated news agency reported that Iran has agreed to allow ships carrying essential goods and humanitarian aid to pass through the Strait of Hormuz to Iranian ports or nearby waters, "in accordance with specific protocols."

The IRGC claimed on March 4 that it struck the Liberia-flagged MSC Ishyka in the Strait of Hormuz, alleging it was linked to Israel. The vessel was reportedly near the Khalifa Bin Salman port in Bahrain. As of the time of writing, the UKMTO has not corroborated the claim.

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.
- Evacuations outside of certain countries and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning, especially if power and desalination plants will potentially be targeted and cause utility-related threats.
- Airspace restrictions are broadly being alleviated, and commercial traffic is picking up in several Gulf states.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt**.
- **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.
- **Oman** remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments.
- **Israel's** national carrier, El Al, announced the cancellation of all flights until after the Passover Holiday on April 11.

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