



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 3-4. The IDF continued to target arms manufacturing-related sites in several areas of the country, including Tehran.

On April 3, A US aircraft with two crew members crashed within Iranian territory. One pilot was rescued while search operations for the second one are ongoing, with both US and Israeli forces participating in the operation. An Iranian news anchor asked residents of Iran's Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province to search for the pilot. President Trump indicated that this development would have no effect on negotiations between Iran and the US.

Israel's public broadcaster reported on April 3 that preparations are underway in Israel for another two weeks of war, adding that the ongoing campaign is extending beyond President Trump's originally planned timeline. The broadcaster further reported that the downing of the US aircraft in Iran could trigger a "harsh response" from Washington.

On April 3, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that Israel has destroyed approximately 70 percent of Iran's steel production capacity, describing it as a "tremendous achievement" that deprives the IRGC of both funding sources and the ability to produce large quantities of weapons.

An unconfirmed April 4 report indicates the ongoing ceasefire discussions between the US and Iran, facilitated by Pakistan, have reached a "dead end." Tehran has allegedly conveyed to intermediaries that it is unwilling to meet US officials in Islamabad in the coming days, asserting that Washington's current demands remain unacceptable.

Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward Israel and several Gulf states on April 3-4.

Multiple locations in Israel were hit by either debris or missile bomblets, including the Neot Hovav chemical industrial zone in southern Israel, resulting in a fire at the facility.

Jordan intercepted two missiles launched from Iran over the past two days and responded to 17 reports of falling shrapnel and projectiles. Two individuals were moderately wounded, and material damage was reported to a house in Zarqa Governorate. A vehicle was also struck by debris in the Karak Governorate. On April 3, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy stated that one of its power generation and water desalination plants was subjected to an Iranian attack, resulting in material damage to some components of the facility. This constitutes the second Iranian attack against such a facility in the country within days.

In the UAE, on the morning of April 4, Dubai authorities stated that debris from the interception of an Iranian projectile fell on the facade of the Oracle building in Dubai Internet City. The authorities also reported another instance of falling debris on an unspecified building in the Dubai Marina. On April 3, the fall of shrapnel from an intercepted projectile triggered fires at the Habshan gas facilities. One foreign national was killed, and four others were wounded in the incident, which also caused significant damage to the facility. On April 3, Emirati forces engaged 47 UAVs, four cruise missiles, and 18 ballistic missiles targeting the country. On April 3, seven foreign nationals were wounded after missile fragments fell in Abu Dhabi's al-Ajban area following a successful interception by UAE air defense systems.

Other notable developments

Iraq: Militia attacks continued on April 3-4, including against the Victory Base at Baghdad International Airport. An oil storage facility associated with a US oil firm was reportedly struck.

Israel-Lebanon: the IDF and Hezbollah continued to clash in southern Lebanon on April 3-4. Israeli forces destroyed two additional bridges in the Litani River that were allegedly used by Hezbollah to reinforce its personnel. Israeli assessment indicated that Hezbollah could sustain the current pace of rocket fire into northern Israel for several weeks before a change can be felt. On April 3, three UN personnel stationed at a UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) post were wounded after a purported Hezbollah rocket struck the facility in southern Lebanon's al-Aadaissah, near the border.

Persian Gulf/Strait of Hormuz: According to an unconfirmed April 3 report citing ship-tracking data, a French-owned ship has exited the Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first known safe transit by a Western European-linked ship since the onset of the US/Israeli-Iran war. Additionally, reports from April 3 indicate that three Oman-operated tankers and a Japanese-owned gas carrier also transited through the waterway. This reportedly marks the first time since the conflict began that a Japanese vessel and an LNG tanker have transited the strait.

According to an unconfirmed April 3 report citing US intelligence assessments, Iran is unlikely to reopen the Strait of Hormuz in the near term, as its control over the waterway represents one of its primary sources of leverage against the US, and the most significant channel through which it can pressure

President Trump to seek a swift de-escalation of the conflict.

According to April 3 reports, the UNSC is now expected to vote next week on a Bahraini-drafted resolution aimed at protecting commercial shipping in and around the Strait of Hormuz. A meeting on the matter had initially been scheduled for April 4.

Red Sea/Gulf of Aden: Iran's Parliament Speaker, Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf, issued a tacit threat against shipping through the Red Sea on April 3, asking in a social media post, "What share of global oil, LNG, wheat, rice, and fertilizer shipments transits the Bab al-Mandab Strait...?" This likely represents a warning that the Houthis in Yemen could still join the war and block commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

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**.
- On April 3, the US State Department issued a security alert for **Lebanon**, warning of Iranian intent to target American universities across the MENA region, including those in Lebanon. It also urged US citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial flight options remain available.
- **Iraq** extended the closure of its airspace by an additional week on April 3.
- **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. Starting in the evening hours on April 4, the number of passengers on outgoing flights from Ben Gurion International Airport will rise to 80, with about 20 seats reserved for special humanitarian reasons.

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