

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 0800h, 22 March, 2026

Executive Summary

Tensions escalated overnight following an ultimatum from President Trump demanding that Iran reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours or face the destruction of its power plants. In response, Iran has threatened to target all US-affiliated energy, information technology, and desalination infrastructure across the region if attacked.

Separately, Iranian missile strikes appeared to target the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Centre overnight, an installation widely believed to house Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal. The attacks impacted residential areas in Dimona and Arad, injuring over 175 people.

Iran

Last night President Trump has threatened to destroy Iran's power plants unless Iran opens the Strait of Hormuz. Trump issued an ultimatum of exactly 48 hours, expiring at 2344h on Monday 23 March. If the US attacks proceed, Iranian state media have stated they would retaliate by destroying all energy, information technology, and desalination infrastructure belonging to the US in the region.

Israeli airstrikes targeted Tehran this morning; injuries and damage have not been confirmed. Overnight, attacks were also reported in Karaj and Isfahan.

Last night, President Trump claimed that Iran wants to negotiate but that the US does not.

Twenty-five people have been arrested in West Azerbaijan province for spreading rumours. Authorities stated they would be dealt with decisively as a lesson and a deterrent.

Israel

Iranian missile attacks have injured over 175 people in Dimona and Arad overnight. Iranian missiles landed 13km from the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Centre, which is widely believed to store Israel's undeclared nuclear weapons. Iran stated the attack was in retaliation for yesterday's strikes on its Natanz nuclear facility.

Restrictions have consequently been tightened in southern areas: until 2000h on Tuesday 24 March, public gatherings are limited to 50 people provided a shelter is nearby, and workplaces can only open if a shelter is accessible. Separately, the government has closed all schools today and tomorrow.

Iranian missile attacks have triggered sirens in northern and central Israel this morning, but no further injuries or damage have been reported. Locals have reported that the frequency of attacks has increased this morning.

One person was killed this morning in Misgav Am by a projectile fired from Lebanon.

The Health Ministry reported this morning that over 303 people have been hospitalised due to the ongoing conflict in the last 24 hours; eight are in serious condition, 29 are in moderate condition, and the remainder are in good condition. Over 4,564 people have been admitted to hospital since fighting began.

Regional

Saudi Arabia

Iran fired three ballistic missiles targeting Riyadh this morning; one was intercepted, and two landed in an uninhabited area. At least eight drone attack waves have targeted the Eastern Province overnight, with no confirmed injuries or damages.

Iranian officials, including the military attaché, were expelled from the country this morning. Officials cited Iran's violations of international law and repeated attacks throughout the region.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian drone and missile attacks have been reported this morning, with no confirmed injuries or damage.

Qatar

The Ministry of Defence stated this morning that a helicopter on "routine duty" crashed in regional waters due to technical difficulties. There is no official confirmation that the incident is linked to ongoing Iranian hostilities.

Lebanon

Israeli airstrikes were reported yesterday evening in Kfar Tebnit, causing no confirmed injuries or damage.

Hezbollah stated this morning that it targeted Israeli soldiers in Markaba and al-Aadaissah. These claims cannot be verified, and no injuries have been reported.

Iraq

Explosions were reported near Baghdad International Airport overnight. A US logistics camp is stationed in the area.

Maritime

Overnight, a projectile exploded near a bulk carrier 15nm north of Sharjah, UAE. All crew are reported safe.

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