

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1200h, 29 April 2026

Executive Summary

Unconfirmed media reports suggest that President Trump has instructed his aides to prepare for a prolonged blockade of Iran, prompting oil futures to rise. The ceasefire between Iran and the US continues to hold, however, with no reported Iranian attacks in the region.

Attacks between Hezbollah and Israel yesterday (28 April) and today (29 April) continue to be reported in southern Lebanon.

Diplomatic

President Trump alleged that Iran continues to face political infighting over a peace deal and threatened, "they better get smart soon".

Yesterday (28 April), unconfirmed media reports citing US officials stated that President Trump told his aides to prepare for an extended blockade of Iran. Brent Crude prices for June deliveries subsequently rose above USD 111.

Representatives from Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia jointly denounced Iran's hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel was "not done yet" in Lebanon, and that the Israeli military will continue to attack Hezbollah's drone capabilities. This is despite an ongoing ceasefire with Lebanon, and Tehran's warnings in recent weeks that it views Israeli attacks in Lebanon as a breach of the Iranian ceasefire with the US/Israel.

Iran

State media reported yesterday (28 April) that several airports are now operational, including in Tehran, Mehrabad, Mashhad, Shiraz, Zahedan, Gorgan and Urmia.

United States

Budget US airlines lobbied the government for aid yesterday (28 April) as rising jet fuel prices threaten their operational models. Airlines include Frontier, Allegiant, Avelo, Sun Country and Spirit.

US authorities sanctioned over 35 entities yesterday for allegedly facilitating Iranian financial flows to evade ongoing sanctions.

Israel

Several ultra-orthodox Jews stormed the home of the Israeli military police chief yesterday (28 April). This came after the High Court ordered the state to cut financial benefits to those who dodge the draft. Ultra-orthodox Jews plan to rally on major roads into Jerusalem from 1700h today (29 April, local time); such protests often involve blocking traffic.

Hezbollah drones triggered sirens in the Galilee region yesterday, including in Kiryat Shmona, Shlomi, Hanita, Betzet, Metzuba and Rosh Hanikra. No injuries or damages were reported. This morning, a drone was intercepted over Avivim, the Galilee region, causing no injuries or damage.

Regional

United Arab Emirates

Authorities announced yesterday (28 April) that the UAE will withdraw from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on 01 May. OPEC membership regulates members' oil quotas and controls prices. International observers have consequently expressed scepticism over the immediate-term boost to oil supplies, noting that the UAE is already operating at full capacity.

Bahrain

Over 30 people accused of assisting or showing support for Iran were sentenced to between 10 and 30 years imprisonment, the public prosecutor said yesterday (28 April).

Lebanon

Israeli airstrikes were reported in Jebchit, Chakra, Tebnine and Kafra in southern Lebanon yesterday (28 April). Israeli military authorities had previously issued evacuation orders. At least 11 people were killed and over 30 injured, according to local media. This morning (29 April), Israeli airstrikes killed a Lebanese soldier and his brother in Khirbet Selm. Israeli drone and air strikes have also been reported in Ghandouriyeh, Burj Qalaouiyah and Hanine, but casualties are unconfirmed.

Lebanese President Aoun accused Israel of a war crime yesterday, citing an Israeli airstrike that killed three emergency personnel conducting a rescue mission for people injured in a previous airstrike.

The Israeli military destroyed Hezbollah tunnels in the Qantara area of southern Lebanon yesterday. Israeli authorities said that a high-yield explosion targeted over 1.2km of tunnels and registered on the Richter scale.

Hezbollah drone attacks targeted Israeli troops in unspecified areas of southern Lebanon yesterday, killing a Defence Ministry civilian contractor.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said yesterday that 2,534 people have been killed, and 7,863 others injured since the conflict started on 02 March.

Travel

Maritime

The US Navy in the Arabian Sea boarded but subsequently released a commercial vessel suspected of sailing toward Iranian ports, which are under blockade.

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

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