

High and Extreme Severity Events: US-Israel-Gulf-Iran Conflict (April 12-13, 2026)

Maritime Blockade Operations

- President Trump announced on April 12, 2026 that the US Navy would immediately begin blockading the Strait of Hormuz, preventing all vessel transit through the waterway.
- The US Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed implementation of the blockade starting at 17:30 (local time) on April 13, 2026, targeting all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports.
- The blockade applies impartially to vessels of all nations accessing Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.
- CENTCOM stated US forces will not impede freedom of navigation for vessels transiting to non-Iranian ports through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Maritime travel through the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, and Persian Gulf remains extremely dangerous due to sustained risk of attacks.

Israel

- Throughout April 12, 2026, multiple waves of hostile aircraft intrusion sirens activated in northern communities including Kfar Giladi, Kfar Yuval, Tel Hai, Ghajar, Ma'ayan Baruch, Dafna, Kibutz Dan, and Snir.
- At 18:41 on April 12, 2026, Color Red sirens activated in Misgav Am, Kiryat Shmona, Kfar Giladi, Tel Hai, Eilon, Goren, Ga'aton, and Margaliot.
- Despite stalled US-Iran negotiations, immediate escalation remains unlikely as of April 12, 2026.
- The security environment remains extremely volatile with sustained rocket and hostile aircraft threats from Iranian-backed forces.

Lebanon

Civil Unrest and Military Warnings

- The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) issued warnings on April 11, 2026 against mobilization that could threaten internal stability.
- Protesters gathered in Beirut's Riad al-Solh Square on April 11, 2026 to denounce direct negotiations between Lebanon and Israel.
- Demonstrations expressed support for Hezbollah amid historic direct negotiations with Israel.
- The LAF affirmed the right to peaceful expression while warning of intervention against threats to stability.
- Anti-negotiation protests carry elevated risk of civil unrest, traffic disruptions, clashes with security forces, and potential attacks on government and Western-linked assets.

Iraq

Political Developments

- Iraq's Parliament elected Nizar Amedi of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) as President on April 11, 2026.

- Amedi received 227 ballots in a second round of voting after no candidate achieved the required two-thirds threshold initially.
- The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) boycotted the parliamentary session and rejected Amedi's election.
- This breakthrough ends months of deadlock between the KDP and PUK over the Presidential nomination.
- Parliament now has 15 days to elect a Prime Minister, intensifying political tensions amid US warnings against Iran-backed candidate Nouri al-Maliki.

