



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 Israeli-US aerial campaign against Iran continued on March 25–26. Israel managed to assassinate IRGC Navy commander Alireza Tangsiri, who oversees Iran's effort to block the Strait of Hormuz.

The White House spokesperson, Levitt, stated that the US operation in Iran is continuing unabated and that US forces are ahead of schedule, given the original four-to-six-week timeframe. She stated that President Trump favored negotiations to prevent further death and destruction but that if "Iran fails to accept the reality of the current moment...President Trump will ensure they are hit harder than ever. She added that Iran should not miscalculate again. This reiterates a hardline stance and Washington's desire to continue projecting resolve, which is lent credence by the continued US military deployment to the region.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Foreign Minister stated that US-Iran indirect talks are taking place through messages being relayed by Pakistan. In this context, the SU has shared 15 points, which Iran is deliberating upon.

Iranian actions

Formally, Iran rejected the US proposal for a ceasefire on March 25, reflecting its emboldened stance. Tehran outlined five maximalist conditions to end hostilities, which the US is likely to reject, highlighting significant challenges to reaching a diplomatic off-ramp. This particularly revolves around the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's nuclear project. This raises the possibility of two primary scenarios: the continuation of talks or, should they fail, escalation. The second possibility is supported by continued US force deployments to the region, which Iran continues to monitor, and will undermine trust for negotiations.

Meanwhile, Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward several Gulf states, leading to an impact in Bahrain's Muharraq area, a casualty from a missile interception around the Abu Dhabi Zayed International Airport, and more. Iran also continued to launch missiles toward Israel, with an emphasis on the Tel Aviv metropolitan area and on missiles with cluster munition warheads that spread small munitions that are not being intercepted.



Other notable developments

Israel-Lebanon: The Israeli security establishment is gearing to set a buffer zone of around eight km into Lebanon as part of operational plans, amid preparation to expand the ground maneuver in southern Lebanon. The IDF indicates that around 700 militants have been killed thus far. Meanwhile, Hezbollah continues to launch rockets and UAVs mainly into northern Israel.

Strait of Hormuz: A report citing the Secretary General of the GCC suggested that Iran is charging fees for ships to transit safely in the Strait of Hormuz.

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.
- Inclement weather conditions are also reported across the **Gulf region**, requiring vigilance, extra time for travel, and adherence to authorities' updates.
- Airspace restrictions and sudden closures continue to disrupt travel across the region. Risks to travelers also remain high despite **Gulf** authorities' eagerness to facilitate commercial flight operations.
- Evacuations outside of the country and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning.
- **Qatar's** security environment appears to be improving since the March 19 Iranian attack on Ras Laffan, with no recent indications of sirens or aerial attacks.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt**. Despite not releasing formal statistics, Saudi Arabia appears to be increasingly impacted by Iranian attacks.
- **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, as tensions increase.
- **Oman** remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments. The US Embassy implemented a shelter-in-place procedure for all areas of Oman except for Muscat on March 23.
- **Israel** is mulling alleviating some regulations at Ben Gurion International Airport, from the current one departing flight per hour with a maximum capacity of 50 travelers.

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