

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1130h (BST), 30 April 2026

Executive Summary

US-Iran negotiations have not resumed, with President Trump reportedly having rejected Iran's latest peace proposal. Both sides are still in disagreement over the major issues (Iran's nuclear programme, Iran's uranium stockpile, the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian frozen assets).

Democratic party Congress members have questioned the defence secretary about the conflict, including about the high costs involved and the request for further military funding.

Israeli strikes have continued to target southern Lebanon.

Diplomacy

The White House said yesterday (29 April) that its negotiators are continuing to engage with the Iranian regime, but that discussions are now being held by telephone. It claimed the Iranians are "struggling to sort out their leadership situation". The Pakistani prime minister also stated that attempts to establish peace in the region are "still ongoing".

It was reported in US media yesterday that President Trump has rejected Iran's peace proposal, and the US Navy will continue to blockade Iranian ports until Tehran agrees on a nuclear deal.

Iran

Iranian media have reported that six Iranian crew members who were on board the *Touska*, a container ship seized by US forces on 20 April, have been freed and returned to Iran. 22 crew members remain detained.

The head of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday that the majority of Iran's highly-enriched uranium is likely still at the Isfahan nuclear complex, after being hit in air strikes last year.

Israel

A car was set on fire after a Hezbollah drone strike near Shomera, along the border with Lebanon.

Israeli forces yesterday (29 April) reportedly issued demolition orders for Palestinian homes in Silwan, occupied East Jerusalem.

United States

Yesterday (29 April) Defence Secretary Hegseth addressed Congress for the first time since the start of the conflict. He received more than five hours of questions. Defending the White House's request for a USD1.5tn defence budget request, he said that President Trump is looking to put the US defence industrial base "back on a wartime footing". The Pentagon says the US has spent approximately USD25bn on the Iran war so far, a figure that has been criticised by the opposition as something that could have been spent on domestic healthcare.

President Trump yesterday threatened to reduce US troop numbers in Germany after Chancellor Merz commented that the US was being "humiliated" by Iran and that it "had no strategy".

Yesterday Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Washington has seized "close to half a billion" in Iranian cryptocurrency assets and that it is "freezing bank accounts everywhere".

Regional

Lebanon

During a visit to southern Lebanon, Israel's military chief has promised to strike Hezbollah targets north of the River Litani.

Five people were killed yesterday afternoon (29 April) in Israeli attacks on Jouaiyya and Al-Hanniye. This morning (30 April), Israeli air strikes have been conducted on the southern Lebanese towns of Toul, Haris, Beit Yahoun and Ghandouriyeh. Artillery strikes have reportedly been conducted on Zawtar al-Sharqiya, Yahmar al-Shaqif and Bayt al-Sayyad. At least nine people have reportedly been killed, including three emergency workers. Israeli forces reportedly destroyed a water station in Batouliyah.

A UN-backed report yesterday said that more than 1.2m people in Lebanon are expected to face "acute hunger" due to the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, with all population groups affected, particularly recently arrived populations from Syria.

Travel

Aviation

Turkish Airlines has said it will resume flights to Damascus, Beirut and Amman from 01 May.

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 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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