



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

On March 29-30, the US-Israeli military campaigns in Iran continued. Israel announced strikes in Tehran and other areas in Iran, focusing on weapons manufacturing and research sites. This focus appears to be predicated on the prospects for a ceasefire and the apparent limited success in bringing regime destabilization, leading Israel to shift away from degrading regime-stability assets, such as the Basij targets. Parallely, Israel continued to strike major economic assets on March 29, causing damage at Tabriz's petrochemical facility.

Following the arrival of around 3,500 sailors and Marines aboard the USS Tripoli, the US also dispatched the USS Boxer, carrying the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, to the region. This highlights the US's continued military buildup in the region, intended to give the President some escalation capacity in the event of a plausible failure in mediation efforts, ahead of President Trump's April 6-7 deadline.

Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward several Gulf states on March 29-30. During the overnight hours on March 29-30, Saudi forces intercepted five ballistic and one cruise missile targeting the country's Eastern Region. Other states also intercepted Iranian attacks. In a notable development on March 29, an Iranian projectile struck a service building at an unspecified power and water desalination plant in Kuwait, resulting in the death of one individual and significant material damage to the compound. This constitutes one of the only times in which Iran targeted power and desalination installations, likely signaling its willingness to escalate attacks while demonstrating its ability to continue to use precision strikes against strategic assets across the Gulf.

Iranian launches against Israel also continued and caused damage to strategic sites. This includes the Neot Hovav complex, Israel's primary hazardous materials and chemical-industrial hub. It also caused damage to Haifa's Bazan Refinery complex.



Meanwhile, Iran continues to project a defiant stance publicly vis-a-vis negotiations with the US. Iranian officials highlighted that there are only third-party mediation efforts, with no direct talks between the parties.

Other notable developments

Persian Gulf: As of March 30, marine traffic data suggests that two China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO)-owned vessels crossed the Strait of Hormuz. This comes against the backdrop of Iran's selective enforcement of a closure of the waterway.

Yemen, Red Sea/Gulf of Aden: The Houthis conducted additional attacks against Israel on March 29-30, highlighting their current stance of focusing on targeting Israel without escalating further, which will likely depend on further escalation scenarios implemented by the US.

Iraq: Iraqi militias continued to launch attacks against perceived US targets, particularly the Baghdad International Airport's Victory Base. At this camp, the militias damaged an aircraft, which was later understood to be an Iraqi Federal government asset. Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Iraq issued an advisory indicating that Iran and its allies may intend to target the American Universities in Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk, along with other universities perceived to be associated with the US. It reiterated that US nationals should leave Iraq.

Lebanon-Israel: Israeli forces continue their ground maneuvers within southern Lebanon's territory, clashing with Hezbollah militants on the ground. The IDF is also conducting further airstrikes against Hezbollah assets in Beirut. Meanwhile, Hezbollah continued to fire UAVs and rockets into Israeli territory, leading to damage and casualties. A UNIFIL soldier was killed when a projectile hit a UN position in southern Lebanon. As of the time of writing, the source of the fire remains unclear.

On March 29, the deadline for Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon to leave the country expired, after he was declared persona non grata by the Lebanese government. However, as of March 30, Iran declared that the Ambassador remains in the Embassy compound in Beirut to continue performing his role.

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.
- Airspace restrictions and sudden closures continue to disrupt travel across the region. Risks to travelers also remain high despite states' inclination to facilitate commercial flight operations.
- Evacuations outside of certain countries and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning, especially if power and desalination plants will potentially be targeted and cause utility-related threats.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.**



- **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.
- **Oman** remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments.
- The US Embassy in **Qatar** removed its shelter-in-place advisory. It announced a change to its “mission posture,” stating that the embassy is conducting “reduced operations” with remaining emergency personnel. It advised US citizens to remain vigilant and follow the Qatari authorities’ instructions if an alert is issued.
- **Israel** is still mulling alleviating some regulations at Ben Gurion International Airport, from the current one departing flight per hour with a maximum capacity of 50 travelers. Meanwhile, El Al announced the cancellation of all flights until after the Passover Holiday on April 11.

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