

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1230h (BST), 15 May 2026

Executive Summary

Negotiations have been ongoing between Israel and Lebanon, the United States and China, and between BRICS foreign ministers. In all negotiations, the state of the conflict with Iran has been a key point of discussion.

Violent conflict has continued in southern Lebanon.

Diplomacy

Delegations from Israel and Lebanon began a new round of negotiations yesterday afternoon (14 May) in Washington, which are set to continue through today (15 May). The official Israel-Lebanon ceasefire is due to expire on Sunday (17 May). Hezbollah representatives continue to reject the talks.

The BRICS foreign ministers have been meeting in Delhi, with several reported discussions on a solution for the Middle East, particularly between the foreign ministers of India, the UAE and Iran.

China has reportedly been clear in the Beijing summit with President Trump that it seeks the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz without restrictions or tolls. President Xi made comments about the importance of a sustained ceasefire, and that China will contribute to achieving peace, without any tangible commitments.

Iran

US Admiral Brad Cooper told a US Senate committee yesterday (14 May) that Iranian munitions had been degraded by approximately 90 percent, in contrast to previous reports that Iran had in fact been able to retain at least 70 percent of prewar stockpiles.

Israel

Projectiles launched from Lebanon were intercepted over northern Israel yesterday evening (14 May).

A Hezbollah drone reportedly hit a northern Israeli town yesterday afternoon, wounding three people.

United States

Last night (14 May), President Trump warned the Iranian government to reach an agreement with Washington or “get annihilated”. He added this morning that the United States may have to “go back and do a little cleanup work” in Iran, implying that further attacks are intended.

Strait of Hormuz

Under the new Iranian procedures for shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian state media has reported that dozens of vessels have been permitted through the strait since Wednesday (13 May), including Chinese vessels that have been permitted access after coordination between Iranian and Chinese authorities.

Regional

Lebanon

Israeli air and artillery strikes on settlements across southern Lebanon continued yesterday afternoon (14 May), yesterday evening and into this morning (15 May). Hezbollah continued attacking Israeli military targets, including a tank, near the Israeli border. International media reported that an Israeli soldier was killed last night in combat, reportedly the 20th Israeli soldier killed in Lebanon since the start of the Iran conflict.

This morning, the Israeli military issued another evacuation order for five settlements across southern Lebanon.

Syria

Last night, Syrian state media reported Israeli fighter jets flying over Deraa province.

Amnesty International has called for war crimes investigations into increased Israeli raids and shelling in southern Syria, which have reportedly led to the destruction of farmland and homes.

Advice

- Do not travel to Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye 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.



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