

# Middle East Situation

**Information Cut-Off:** 1745h (BST), 03 April 2026

## Executive Summary

Iranian media has claimed that its air defence has shot down a US fighter aircraft over Iran, and that the pilots are missing. The US has confirmed that a rescue operation is ongoing, but that one pilot has been successfully recovered.

Kuwait has said that a water desalination plant and an oil refinery have been targeted: the Iranian government has blamed the attack on the water plant as having been conducted by the Israelis.

## Iran

More locations in Tehran have been targeted in air strikes today, including Shahid Beheshti University in northern Tehran and the area around Mehrabad International Airport west of the capital.

After President Trump's threat this morning to target Iranian infrastructure, the Iranian military has warned that it will expand its attacks across the Gulf region in response to US strikes on more Iranian infrastructure. The attack on the B1 motorway bridge yesterday has received significant condemnation from Iranians.

After the US-Israeli strikes on critical infrastructure earlier this week, Prime Minister Netanyahu has claimed this afternoon that 70 percent of Iranian steel production capacity has been destroyed.

The US media has quoted intelligence assessments that have said today that Iran still retains half of its missile launchers and half of its drone capacity, despite five weeks of US-Israeli air strikes, and in direct contrast to statements made by President Trump and the US defence secretary in the last few weeks.

## Israel

A rocket barrage this morning targeted the city of Haifa in northern Israel, injuring six.

## United States

Iranian state media has released images of (what it claims is) an F-55 US fighter aircraft shot down this morning by IRGC air defence over western Iran. After several hours, the US Central Command confirmed that a rescue mission for the survivors of a downed aircraft had been under way, but official information has been limited. Iranian television has offered a reward for any Iranian national who finds the pilots. US media subsequently confirmed that one pilot had been recovered.

Iranian state media reported later this afternoon that a US helicopter, on a search mission for the F-55 pilots, was also hit by an air defence weapon: this remains unconfirmed.

President Trump has requested today that Congress increase defence spending by USD1.5 trillion and cut non-military domestic spending by 10 percent.

## Regional

### **Bahrain**

Air raid sirens were heard across Bahrain this morning. Official figures released today have reported that Bahrain's army has intercepted 188 missiles and 429 drones since the start of the conflict.

### **Jordan**

The Iranian military has said that it has launched drone attacks against the site of a US military unit based in Jordan.

### **Kuwait**

The Mina Al-Ahmadi oil refinery port, one of the biggest refineries in the Middle East, has been hit for the third time in two weeks.

A desalination plant has been struck: IRGC public relations have accused Israeli aircraft of conducting this attack, and have condemned the strategy of targeting civilian infrastructure.

A Rapid Sentry air defence system has been deployed to Kuwait from the United Kingdom, according to a UK government spokesman.

The Iranian military has said that it has launched drone attacks against the Arifjan camp, a US military base in Kuwait.

## Lebanon

Israeli strikes have been conducted across southern and eastern Lebanon today, including a mosque in Sahmar. Key water infrastructure and solar power systems across southern Lebanon have been damaged today.

After giving due warning, the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) conducted strikes on the Sohmar and Mashghara bridges in the Bekaa Valley, eastern Lebanon, in order to prevent the movement of personnel and equipment into the region.

An explosion near El Adeisseh, southern Lebanon, has injured three UN peacekeepers.

## Qatar

The Ministry of Defence has said that Qatar has been targeted by drones from Iran today, all of which have been successfully intercepted.

## Saudi Arabia

Six drones have reportedly been shot down over Saudi territory this morning.

## United Arab Emirates

In the latest wave of attacks today, air defence has intercepted 22 missiles and 47 drones. At least 12 people (Indian and Nepalese nationals) have reportedly been injured in Abu Dhabi by falling debris. Debris from an intercepted projectile has caused a fire at the Habshan gas facility, Abu Dhabi, according to local media. No injuries have been reported.

## Travel

### Maritime

A container vessel belonging to French shipping company CMA-CGM has reportedly successfully travelled through the Strait of Hormuz today.

A Japanese LNG tanker has transited the Strait of Hormuz, the first Japanese ship to do so since the start of the conflict.

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