

# Middle East Situation

**Intelligence Cut-Off: 1600h (GMT), 20 March 2026**

## Executive Summary

Iran launched multiple drone and missile attack waves toward Gulf countries this afternoon. While authorities have confirmed no new fatalities from today's strikes, one person in Saudi Arabia died from injuries sustained in an earlier attack this week.

The head of the International Energy Agency warned today that restoring regional energy flows could take six months, and political leaders are currently underestimating the scale of the disruption.

Iran announced today it will permit vessels to transit the Strait of Hormuz, provided they follow the Iranian coastline and obtain prior authentication.

## Iran

The Foreign Minister claims to have intelligence that Israel plans to strike Iranian energy infrastructure again. Tehran warned it will show "zero restraint" if these facilities are targeted. Iran has previously warned it would attack all energy infrastructure if its utilities are again targeted.

Iranian officials also reported the arrest of 45 individuals described as mercenaries and separatists this afternoon.

A military spokesperson threatened to target Israeli and US officials globally, including in public recreational areas.

Israel announced this morning that it has killed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesman in overnight airstrikes.

## Israel

Iran has fired at least eight missile waves at the country today, triggering sirens in northern, southern, and central areas. Missile fragments fell in a car park 400 meters from the Al Aqsa Mosque / Temple Mount compound, causing no confirmed injuries. At least two people have been lightly injured by an Iranian cluster munition in Rehovot this afternoon.

Hezbollah rocket attacks triggered sirens in northern areas of the country this afternoon, including in Nahariya. No injuries or damage have been reported so far.

The Haifa refinery released an update today, saying that Iranian attacks yesterday have damaged key electrical infrastructure. It added that most production units remain operational and that operations will be restored to normal levels in the coming days.

The Health Ministry reported this morning that 150 people have been injured in the ongoing fighting in the previous 24 hours, bringing the total injuries to over 4,000 people. Of those injured in the last day, two are in serious condition, two in moderate condition, and the remainder in good condition.

## Region

### **UAE**

Authorities announced today they have arrested 109 people for filming and sharing “misleading information” amid the ongoing conflict.

The Ministry of Defence reported at 1330h this afternoon (local time) that 26 drones and four ballistic missiles have been intercepted today.

### **Saudi Arabia**

One person died today from injuries sustained during an attack on Wednesday (18 March).

Interceptions have been reported in the Eastern Province this afternoon, causing no confirmed injuries or damage.

### **Bahrain**

Sirens have been triggered this afternoon, and authorities have rescued eight people from a fire at a multi-storey residential building in the Amwaj area. It is unclear whether the fire is related to Iranian hostilities.

### **Kuwait**

Authorities announced this afternoon that they have intercepted one ballistic missile and 15 drones (out of 25) today.

## **Iraq**

NATO announced the evacuation of its country headquarters today, citing persistent instability. The decision follows a series of recent attacks on the nearby US Embassy.

## **Lebanon**

Two people were killed this morning by an Israeli airstrike in Bafliyah, near Tyre. Attacks in recent hours have also been reported in Bint Jbeil, al-Tayri, and Kfar Tebnit.

## **Syria**

The Israeli military said today it has attacked Syrian military infrastructure in southern areas of the country. It claimed this was in response to attacks on the Druze people yesterday.

## **International**

The head of the International Energy Agency has said that it could take six months to restore usual oil and gas flows in the Gulf region. He warned that politicians are underestimating the scale of disruption.

Ukraine has deployed drone interceptor units to five unnamed Middle Eastern countries to guard critical and civilian infrastructure.

A facility tied to Israeli arms company Elbit Systems was set on fire this morning in Czechia. Authorities are investigating a possible terrorist link; a group called "The Earthquake Faction" have claimed responsibility.

## **Maritime**

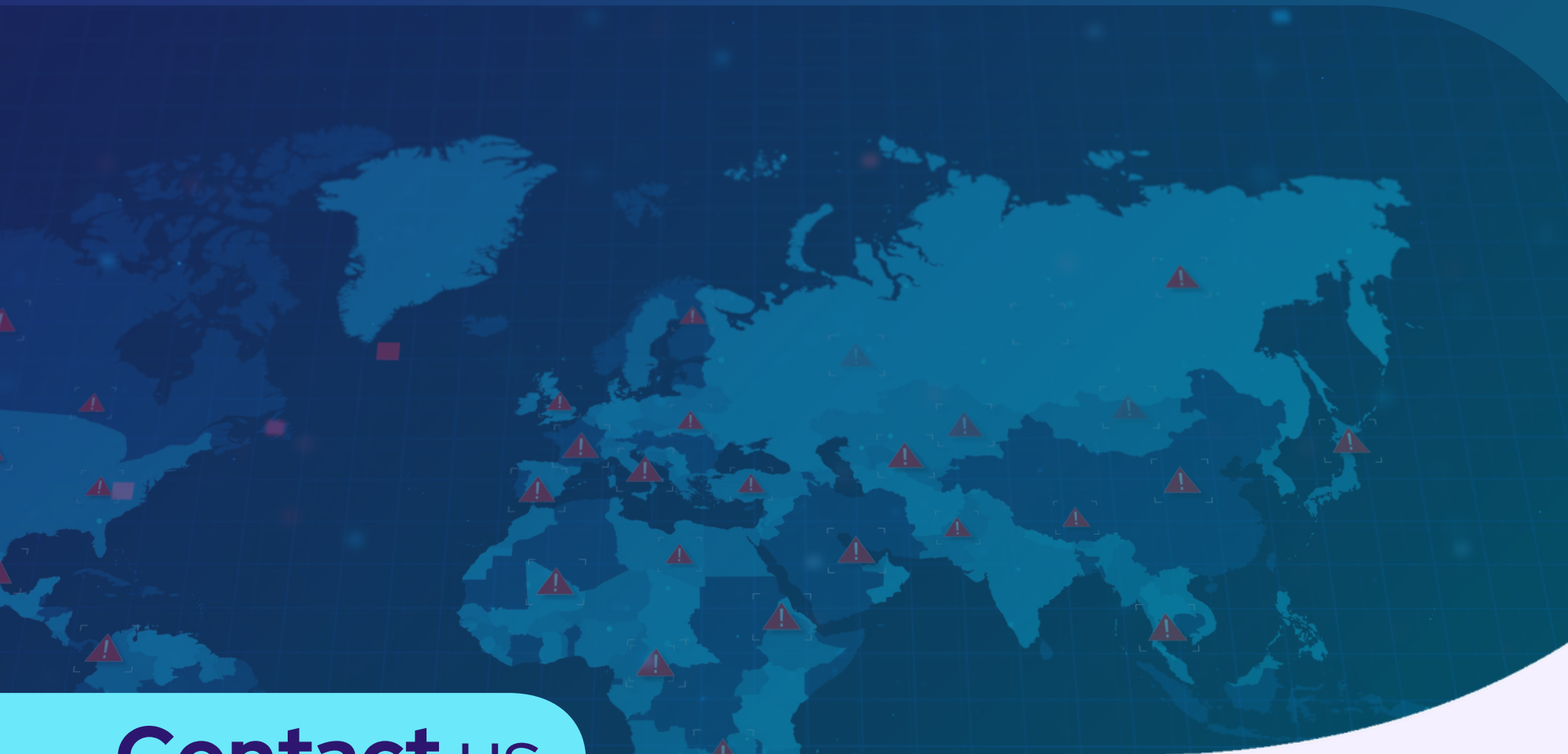
Iran announced this afternoon that it has reopened maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. Under the new requirements, all vessels must transit along the Iranian coast and receive prior approval before passing through the Strait.

## **Aviation**

The Federation of Indian Airlines, including Indigo, Air India, and SpiceJet, warned of possible route withdrawals. The group cited significant financial losses driven by increased fuel prices and the long-term sustainability of current flight paths.

## Advice

- Do not travel to the Middle East.
- Avoid all travel within the region unless safe travel can be guaranteed.
- Shelter in place in a secure location.
- Follow instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- Monitor official updates and ensure phones are set up to receive alerts.
- 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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