

Daily



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MAX - MENA Region Daily Summary - July 5, 2026

The following report reviews current events in the MENA region and their possible effect on business continuity and security.

Highlights of the Day

- **Red Sea:** UMT0 reports attack on vessel southwest of Yemen's Hodeidah during morning hours on July 5; avoid all travel to waterway
- **Israel:** Police arrest Jerusalem resident on July 5 after seizing IEDs, weapons from residence; highlights risks posed by arms proliferation
- **Turkey:** Authorities block LGBTQ+ cruise from docking in Kusadasi, per July 3 reports; reflects risks to LGBTQ+ travelers, businesses
- **Turkey:** Road closures, air traffic restrictions slated in Ankara ahead of, during NATO Summit on July 6-9; allot for disruptions

Actionable Items

Red Sea: UKMTO reports attack on vessel southwest of Yemen's Hodeidah during morning hours on July 5; avoid all travel to waterway

Current Situation - The UK Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO) reported a maritime incident 30 Nautical Miles (NM), approximately 56 km, southwest of Yemen's Hodeidah during the morning hours (local time) on July 5. A cargo vessel triggered a distress alert indicating that they were under attack by "unknown armed assailants." At the time of writing, there is no credible information on the targeted vessel or the attacker's identity.

Assessments & Forecast - While no group claimed responsibility for the attack, the incident follows the Houthis' announcement of a "complete ban" on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea on [June 8](#) and comes amid [escalating tensions](#) with Saudi Arabia, wherein the group warned on July 3 that they would take steps against the alleged "Saudi-US blockade" of Yemen. If confirmed to have been carried out by Iran's Yemen-based ally, likely due to the vessel's alleged links to Israeli or Saudi interests, it would mark the first maritime attack against commercial shipping since [September 2025](#). This would terminate the lull in the Houthis' maritime campaign and significantly elevate the risk of similar incidents near Houthi-controlled territorial waters in the coming days.

Recommendations - Those managing or operating vessels in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb Strait on July 5 and over the coming days are advised to take necessary precautions due to the reported incident. Avoid all travel through these waterways at the current juncture, given the risk of additional attacks.

Source: [UKMTO](#)

Morocco: Lawyers' protest over legal profession reforms slated outside Parliament in Rabat at 11:00 on July 6; allot for disruptions

Current Situation - Lawyers and activists associated with the "Association of Bar Associations in Morocco" (ABAM), an umbrella organization representing Moroccan lawyers and bar associations, will hold a sit-in outside the Parliament building in Rabat at 11:00 (local time) on July 6. The protest is being held to denounce a bill that critics accuse of weakening lawyers' independence and autonomy and reducing their financial and professional protections.

Assessments & Forecast - Given the ongoing nature of the ABAM's protest campaign and the turnout at a June 29 demonstration at the same location, the slated sit-in is likely to draw a turnout in the mid-hundreds. The protest is expected to transpire largely peacefully without any major instances of unrest, consistent with previous demonstrations. However, security forces are likely to be deployed in the vicinity of Parliament due to the sensitivity of the site. Localized disruptions to travel are anticipated in the area, including on Mohammed V Avenue, during the late morning hours on July 6.

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in Rabat during the morning hours on July 6 are advised to allot for travel disruption in the vicinity of the Parliament due to the

slated protest.

Source: [Ouissi Mohamed](#)

Turkey: Anti-NATO, pro-Palestinian protests slated in Istanbul, Izmir on July 5; avoid vicinity of protests

Current Situation - The United Communist Party (BKP) has called for an anti-NATO march from **Mehmet Ayvalitas Square in Istanbul's Kadikoy** district at 17:00 (local time). Socialist student groups have called for participation in the demonstration. The Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) called for anti-NATO protests at 18:00 in front of the **Ataturk Cultural Center at Taksim Square in Istanbul's Beyoglu** district and on **Forbes Road in Izmir's Buca** district. The Communist Movement in Turkey (TKH) will hold a protest at 19:00 at [Kadikoy's Bull Statue](#). The **Kadikoy** District Governor's Office announced a district-wide ban on protest activity and gatherings until 23:59 on July 5. Meanwhile, the "Open Rafah" group called for a pro-Palestinian demonstration from 17:30 at **Eminonu Square in Istanbul's Fatih** district.

Assessments & Forecast - These protests reflect efforts by anti-NATO groups to mobilize demonstrations in other parts of Turkey amid Ankara's [ongoing ban on public gatherings](#). Given similar prohibitions in the Kadikoy district and at Taksim Square, authorities are likely to bolster security deployments. Scuffles between protesters and security forces, detentions, and the use of crowd-dispersal methods cannot be ruled out. Localized traffic disruptions are anticipated.

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in Istanbul and Izmir on July 5 are advised to remain cognizant of the aforementioned protests and allot for travel disruptions. Avoid nonessential travel to the vicinity of gatherings in Istanbul's Kadikoy district and Taksim Square.

Source: [BKP](#); [TKP](#); [Kadikoy District Governor's Office](#); [Open Rafah](#)

Turkey: Road closures, air traffic restrictions slated in Ankara ahead of, during NATO Summit on July 6-9; allot for disruptions

Current Situation - The General Directorate of State Airports Authority announced that temporary air traffic restrictions will be in place at Ankara Esenboga Airport between 10:00-18:00 (local time) on July 7 and between 14:00-21:00 on July 8 due to the [36th NATO Summit](#). Civilian and military aircraft carrying foreign heads of state and official delegations are exempt from the restrictions. The Ankara Governorship announced multiple road closures and extensive traffic restrictions on July 6-9 around the Presidential Complex and the ATO Congressium. The road closures include the section of the Ankara Ring Road (Motorway 20) between Mamak's Ortakoy Junction and Yenimahalle's Yuvakoy Road, as well as major thoroughfares including Mevlana, Ozal, Dumlupinar, Anadolu, and Ataturk boulevards. Authorities also announced restrictions around multiple delegation

hotels, including the Alegria Business Hotel, the Crowne Plaza, Divan Ankara, Wyndham, Grand Mercure, Movenpick, Hilton, Sheraton, Lugal, InterContinental, JW Marriott and Metropolitan hotels. Parking restrictions and temporary road closures will also be implemented along routes used by visiting delegations, with motorists advised to expect disruptions on short notice. A detailed and regularly updated map of the road closures and alternative routes can be found [here](#).

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in Ankara from July 5 until July 9 are advised to allot for extensive travel disruptions due to the slated road closures and air traffic restrictions. Reconfirm travel itineraries and allot extra time for travel to and from Ankara Esenboga Airport.

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#); [Ankara Governorship](#)

UAE: Authorities thwart series of cyberattacks targeting financial sector on July 3; adhere to cybersecurity precautions

Current Situation - The Cyber Security Council (CSC) announced that it had thwarted sophisticated cyberattacks targeting entities in the UAE's financial sector. The attacks involved phishing, exploitation of system vulnerabilities, and malware deployment, but were contained under national cybersecurity protocols. The CSC stated that threat actors are increasingly using artificial intelligence (AI) to develop more advanced cyberattack methods.

Assessments & Forecast - The UAE's critical government and financial sectors remain exposed to a high volume of daily cyber threats, ranging from ransomware to cyberterrorism. In February, authorities blocked a large-scale AI-enabled cyberattack targeting government digital platforms. Cyberattacks against financial institutions could disrupt payment services, undermine confidence in the banking sector, and affect the country's standing as a regional financial hub, making the sector an attractive target for state-linked or ideologically motivated actors seeking to exert economic pressure, gather intelligence, or demonstrate their ability to target critical infrastructure. However, the successful thwarting of the latest attacks demonstrates the UAE's strong monitoring and incident-response capabilities. As threat actors increasingly employ AI to enhance the scale and sophistication of cyber operations, the UAE will continue strengthening its cybersecurity capabilities, including AI-enabled systems.

Recommendations - Those operating or residing in the UAE are advised to adhere to recommendations issued by the Cyber Security Council and take necessary precautions in relation to potential exposure to cyberattacks.

Source: [WAM](#)

Notable Events

Israel: Police arrest Jerusalem resident on July 5 after seizing IEDs, weapons from residence; highlights risks posed by arms proliferation

Current Situation - During an operation to locate an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) deserter at a residence in Jerusalem's Ramat Sharett neighborhood, security forces uncovered a cache of military equipment, including 36 grenades, explosive charges, IED-making components, rifles, and ammunition. Authorities arrested the homeowner, the deserter's father, and, on July 5, the primary suspect upon his arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. The father's lawyer reportedly stated the weapons had been taken and retained by his son, an IDF soldier, due to war-related psychological trauma.

Assessments & Forecast - This seizure underscores the persistent circulation of military-grade weapons originating from active war zones and IDF stockpiles into civilian spaces. The lawyer's claim that the cache resulted from trauma, if confirmed, would highlight the broader impact of prolonged combat exposure on some IDF personnel and the associated risk of unauthorized weapons retention. The discovery of explosives inside a residential building further underscores the risks posed by improperly stored military materiel and their potential diversion to criminal and militant actors. Given that the risk of illegal arms originating from Israeli security forces' supplies will persist, similar operations will recur.

Source: [Israel Police](#)

Syria: Armed clashes between Druze fighters, ISF recorded west of as-Suweida city on July 3; highlights fragility of truce

Current Situation - According to a state-run news channel, Internal Security Forces (ISF) clashed with "rebel gangs" targeting ISF positions around Tal Hadid, approximately five km west of as-Suweida city, killing two "rebel" fighters. The Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri-affiliated National Guard claimed that ISF personnel initiated the hostilities on July 2 using drones and machine guns against as-Suweida city.

Assessments & Forecast - This comes amid longstanding tensions and [recurrent clashes](#) between Syrian government forces and Druze militias in as-Suweida, highlighting the fragility of a [July 2025](#) ceasefire. The latest clash is notable given the reported casualty toll, with at least two National Guard fighters killed and over a dozen wounded. Tal Hadid's elevated position overlooking as-Suweida city makes it strategically significant, which likely prompted the National Guard's attempt to seize the ISF's positions to reduce the city's exposure to attacks. The militia's backing of a [June 20](#) protest by displaced Druze individuals and its pledge that residents would begin returning in July suggest an effort to leverage local grievances to legitimize challenges to ISF positions around the city. Further localized hostilities in as-Suweida are therefore likely in the coming days.

Source: [Al-Ikhbaria](#); [National Guard](#)

Turkey: Authorities block LGBTQ+ cruise from docking in Kusadasi, per July 3 reports; reflects risks to LGBTQ+ travelers, businesses

Current Situation - Turkish authorities reportedly cited “moral standards” and “family values” as reasons to bar a cruise carrying LGBTQ+ passengers from docking in Aydin’s Kusadasi. The ship will now travel to Egypt’s Cairo and Greece’s Crete instead of Turkey. Meanwhile, a bar in Istanbul was reportedly raided, allegedly due to a brochure of the cruise promoting an event at the venue.

Assessments & Forecast - While homosexuality is [legal](#) in Turkey, the decision is consistent with the Turkish government’s increasingly hardline stance toward LGBTQ+-related activities in recent years, including repeated [bans on Pride events](#) and actions targeting LGBTQ+-affiliated venues. Preventing the entry of the cruise marks an expansion of these measures, as they extend restrictions beyond Turkish citizens and domestic events to encompass foreign visitors and tourists. The reported raid on an Istanbul bar associated with the cruise operator further underscores the government’s increased scrutiny and broader crackdown on LGBTQ+-related events. Authorities will likely continue targeting events and organizations associated with the LGBTQ+ community, which will increase legal and operational risks for tourism operators and foreign visitors perceived to be connected to the LGBTQ+ community.

Source: [CNN](#)

Other Developments

- **Strait of Hormuz:** The UK and France issued a joint statement on July 3, indicating that Oman agreed to work together with London and Paris to “ensure that its sovereign territorial waters are safe for navigation.”
- **Israel:** On June 3, Israel Police announced that it arrested two individuals accused of assaulting “The Democrats” party activists who were setting up a stand in southern Tel Aviv’s Hatikva Market.
- **Libya:** Firefighters contained a fire at the Internal Security Agency headquarters on Tripoli’s al-Sikkah Road during the early morning hours (local time) on July 3. Authorities reportedly began investigating the cause but did not release details on the extent of the damage.

Notable Dates

12 JUL	Lebanon Travel: 20th Anniversary of second Israel-Lebanon war
14 JUL	Iraq Holiday: Republic Day
15 JUL	Turkey Holiday: Democracy and National Unity Day
22 JUL	Israel Holiday: Tisha B'Av
23 JUL	Egypt Holiday: Revolution Day
25 JUL	Tunisia Holiday: Republic Day