

# Middle East Situation

**Information Cut-Off:** 0930h (GMT), 27 March 2026

## Executive Summary

Trump has delayed attacks on Iranian energy infrastructure by 10 days. Iranian officials continue to say that they are not looking for a ceasefire. Thousands of US soldiers are approaching the region.

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) has increased its incursion north into Lebanon, as strikes on southern Lebanon continue.

Two Kuwaiti ports have been targeted by Iranian drone strikes this morning.

## United States

President Trump has said he will extend the deadline for attacking Iranian energy infrastructure by 10 days until 06 April, claiming that Tehran requested this. He stated that negotiations with the Iranian government were “going very well”. The announcement led to a drop in the price of oil.

Despite this, thousands of US soldiers and marines continue to make their way towards the Middle East. The US media has reported overnight that the Pentagon is considering the deployment of up to 10,000 additional soldiers to the region.

President Trump has called for treason charges against media companies for reporting “fake news” on the conflict. His communications chief has told broadcasters to align themselves with US government announcements, or risk losing their license.

## Iran

In response to President Trump's statements about negotiations, Iranian leaders have continued to say that negotiations have not happened, and that they are not looking for a ceasefire. Most news agencies in Iran state that there has been no Iranian response to the US 15-point ceasefire proposal.

Explosions were heard least night in Shiraz, southern Iran. An air strike hit Urmia (West Azerbaijan province) overnight. Last night, an attack on south-west Tehran killed one person, according to local media. Six people were killed in an air strike on the city of Qom. The Israeli military claimed to have conducted air strikes on an Iranian factory for missiles and sea mines in Yazd.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency has warned that strikes in the region of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant could result in a "major radiological accident affecting a large area".

## Israel

Missiles from Lebanon were reported targeting areas across northern Israel, with approximately 100 rockets launched at Israel overnight.

The government also reported that a fresh wave of Iranian missiles was launched at Israel overnight. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed last night to have successfully targeted Israeli vessels in the Mediterranean, and to have hit fuel tanks for fighter jets in Haifa.

IDF headquarters has said that it needs more soldiers to maintain its operations (in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon), and that the military "will collapse" without quick support, hinting at new conscription / national service requirements.

## Regional

### Iraq

The Tehran-aligned militia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) has been attacked by an air strike on one of their bases in Al-Qaim, Anbar province.

US air strikes on the Habbaniyah military base, likely intended to target PMF militants, have reportedly killed at least five Iraqi soldiers.

Gulf states have urged Baghdad to do more to curb strikes by militant groups operating in Iraq.

## **Lebanon**

The IDF issued an evacuation alert for all Lebanese residents south of the Zahrani river. Israeli air strikes were then subsequently launched across towns and villages in the south. Hezbollah reportedly launched rocket and missile attacks on IDF soldiers overnight in areas of southern Lebanon.

The Israeli government has stated that the IDF has increased troop numbers in southern Lebanon, expanding its ground operations. The Lebanese government has warned the United Nations of the risk of annexation by Israel of areas south of the River Litani.

The Saudi government has urged Saudi citizens to leave Lebanon immediately.

## **Saudi Arabia**

More drones were launched at Eastern Province last night, all intercepted. Six missiles were launched at Riyadh: two were intercepted and four fell safely.

## **United Arab Emirates**

Air defences reportedly responded to a missile threat in Sharjah overnight.

## **Kuwait**

Shuwaikh Port was attacked by drones this morning, according to the Kuwait Port Authority, causing some damage. Later, an Iranian attack targeted the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port on Bubiyan Island. No injuries were reported in either attack.

The Kuwaiti National Guard has reportedly shot down drones overnight.

# **Travel**

## **Maritime**

Houthi representatives have told Lloyd's List that there is no reason for concerns over the security of oil tankers travelling in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait after worries were voiced yesterday about potential Houthi involvement.

A Thai-flagged vessel that came under attack in the Strait of Hormuz two weeks ago and was abandoned by its crew has since run aground, according to Iranian media.

Iran is now charging some commercial vessels up to USD2m per voyage to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, according to Gulf states.

## **Aviation**

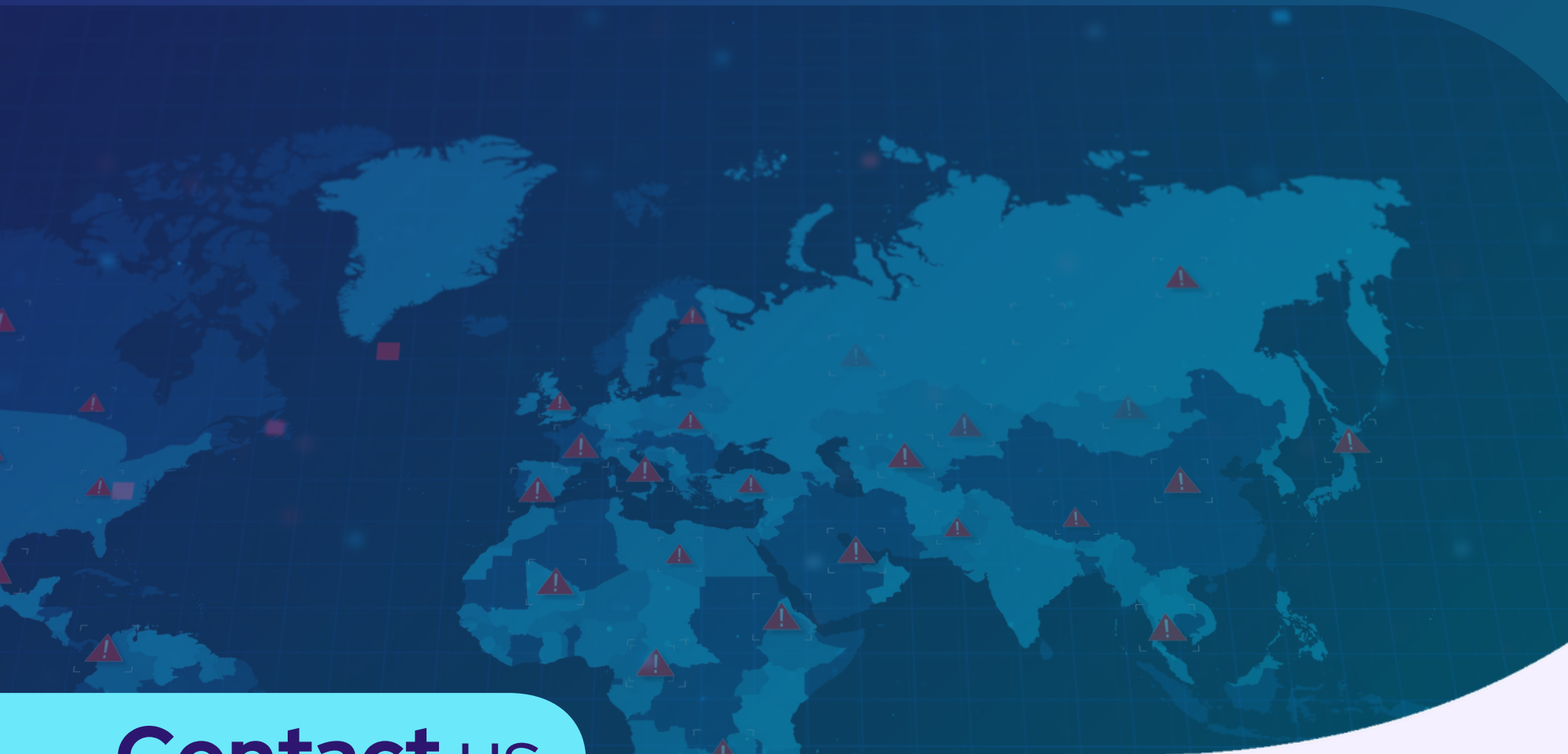
Vietnam Airlines is suspending seven domestic routes from 01 April due to the cost of fuel, and is drafting plans for further cuts to flights.

Pacific Airlines will cut capacity by up to 30 percent from 01 April by cutting off-peak flights.

VietJet Airlines will cut flight capacity by 18 percent from 01 April.

## 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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