



Krones – Weekly MENA Incident Report – March 19, 2026

Dear all,

Below, please find the most recent incidents pertaining to your areas of interest in the MENA region.

Itinerary Locations

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh

- On March 16, Iranian state-affiliated media reported that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a warning to US-affiliated industries in the region, advising immediate evacuation. The statement further cautioned that individuals in proximity to “industrial plants in which Americans hold shares” should vacate the area, noting that these facilities would be targeted “in the coming hours.”
- Following this, Iran’s official Arabic Telegram channel, licensed by the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry, shared maps identifying US-linked companies in several Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia. In Riyadh, it referenced compounds linked to the American firm Lockheed Martin, located in the **Business Gate**.
- In the aftermath of a March 18 Israeli strike against Iran’s South Pars Gas Complex, Iran’s official Arabic Telegram channel issued evacuation orders for Saudi Aramco’s Mobil Refinery Company (SAMREF) in Yanbu Industrial City and al-Jubail Petrochemical Company (Kemya).
- During the late evening hours of March 18 and into early morning hours on March 19, Iran launched several waves of aerial attacks targeting multiple regions across Saudi Arabia, including the Eastern Province, Riyadh, and al-Kharj. In Riyadh, Aerial defense systems intercepted at least eight ballistic missiles launched toward Riyadh city, with shrapnel falling across various areas of the capital as a result of the interceptions. Four individuals were wounded due to falling debris. One missile fragment landed near the South Riyadh refinery. In addition, an unspecified number of UAVs were launched toward the capital.
- Between March 13-19, Saudi forces intercepted at least **18 UAVs** targeting the **Riyadh** region, including the **Diplomatic Quarter** area in the capital.
- **We advise avoiding all travel to the vicinity of strategic energy infrastructures in Saudi Arabia given the high likelihood of Iranian strikes against such assets. Take precautions to enhance security at manufacturing sites linked to US firms, including limiting the number of personnel on-site and safeguarding critical assets through relocation, concealment, or other protective measures.**
- On March 18, Cathay Pacific announced that all flight operations between Hong Kong and Riyadh



will be temporarily suspended until April 30. **We advise reconfirming itineraries with your flight operators regarding the flight schedule, given the ongoing disruptions to air traffic due to the current conflict.**

- On March 17, Saudi Arabia's state news agency stated that the National Center for Meteorology (NCM) forecasted heavy rainfall, flash floods, hail, and sandstorms across the Riyadh region from March 18 until March 23.
- **We advise allotting for traffic disruptions due to the anticipated rainfall and consequent risk of flash floods. Remain cognizant of local authorities' updates. Do not walk or drive through flood waters. In case of flood warnings, immediately evacuate to higher ground. Once higher ground has been reached, do not attempt to evacuate the wider region alone and seek professional assistance with evacuations.**

al-Kharj

- Between March 13-18, Saudi forces intercepted at least **22 UAVs** and **nine ballistic missiles** targeting the **al-Kharj Province**, where the **Prince Sultan Air Base** is located.
- On March 14, an Iranian missile attack reportedly damaged five US Air Force refueling planes at the Prince Sultan Air Base. Additionally, on March 18, debris from an intercepted missile fell near the base, with no reported damage or casualties.

Dammam

- Between March 13-19, Saudi forces intercepted approximately 165 UAVs targeting the country's **Eastern Region**, which includes Dammam.

Jeddah

- On March 17, Saudi Arabia's state news agency stated that the NCM has forecasted light to moderate rainfall in Jeddah until March 23.

Medina

- On March 17, the NCM forecasted moderate to heavy rainfall, associated flash floods, hail' and dust storms across the province until March 23.

Qassim

- On March 17, the NCM forecasted moderate to heavy rainfall, associated flash floods, hail, and dust storms across the province until March 23.

We advise allotting for disruptions to traffic in these regions due to the anticipated dust storms and rainfall, as well as the consequent risk of flash floods. Remain cognizant of local authorities' updates.

Eid-related developments:

- Saudi Arabia's state news agency announced a holiday for all private and non-profit sector workers for Eid al-Fitr, starting at the end of the workday on March 18 until March 22. **Remain cognizant of the slated work suspensions at public institutions and banks and potential associated disruptions to business operations.**

Assessments:

- Iranian attacks targeting the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, have persisted. Within the Kingdom, al-Kharj's Prince Sultan Air Base, the Riyadh region, the Shaybah oil field, and other Aramco facilities remain attractive targets for Iran. In the past week, there has also been a notable uptick in Iranian UAV attacks targeting the Eastern Province, with the most notable escalation evidenced on March 16, when Saudi forces announced that they intercepted 61 UAVs launched toward the province in the span of a few hours. This escalation is notable given that the Eastern Province hosts several strategic assets, including major commercial ports, such as King Abdulaziz Port/Dammam Port and Jubail's King Fahd Industrial Port, and key oil export terminals, such as Ras Tanura.
- This escalation follows the March 13 US strikes on Iran's Kharg Island and aligns with Tehran's established doctrine of calibrated reciprocity, with Saudi Arabia's economic and energy hub, the Eastern Province, emerging as a primary target.
- Additionally, on March 15, Iran warned that service and support centers assisting the USS Gerald Ford carrier group currently deployed in the Red Sea would be considered legitimate targets. Within this context, the attacks in eastern Saudi Arabia reflect Iran's assessment that nearby facilities are providing logistical or technological support to the carrier.
- Moreover, the IRGC's threat against US-linked companies and the specific mention of a Lockheed Martin facility in Riyadh mark another layer of escalation vis-a-vis Saudi Arabia. These statements likely constitute part of Iran's psychological warfare efforts aimed at imposing reputational and economic costs on Gulf states. Given the precedent of Iranian attacks on US-linked non-military infrastructure in the region, including following the issuance of warnings, the latest threats can be considered credible.
- Overall, missile and UAV launches targeting Saudi Arabia are expected to persist in the coming days. Key targets for Iran will likely include, but will not be limited to, **energy infrastructure, oil export terminals, US-linked factories and energy facilities**, assets in the **Eastern Province**, the **Prince Sultan Air Base**, and the **Shaybah oil field**. **As mentioned in our previous report, sustained attacks on civilian infrastructure, particularly energy sites, will likely increase Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states' propensity to retaliate.**

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- No notable incidents have been recorded in the past week.



UAE

Abu Dhabi

- On March 14, Iran's state-affiliated media threatened to carry out imminent strikes against ports, docks, and US military bases in the UAE in response to the US's strikes on Abu Musa Island. Iran specifically issued evacuation orders for Abu Dhabi's **Khalifa Port**.
- On March 14, the UAE Attorney-General ordered the arrest of ten individuals for disseminating video clips of missile attacks, alongside allegedly fabricated information and misleading content. On March 15, the UAE's Attorney General ordered the arrest of 25 additional individuals on similar charges.
- These incidents come amid sustained warnings by authorities against the dissemination of clips related to the ongoing conflict. It also aligns with a broader trend amongst the Gulf countries, indicative of heightened sensitivity surrounding informational control amid the ongoing escalation. Collectively, these two instances underscore Abu Dhabi's strict no-tolerance stance aimed at curbing the spread of panic, misinformation, or content that could expose security vulnerabilities or amplify perceptions of domestic instability. Such crimes in the UAE fall under cybercrime laws and warrant at least one year in prison and/or a fine of at least 100,000 AED. **We advise remaining cognizant of local laws and avoiding the circulation of any material related to the ongoing armed conflict.**
- During the morning hours on March 16, the Abu Dhabi Media Office reported that a civilian was killed in the **al-Bahia area** after a projectile fell on his vehicle. Similarly, on March 17, fallen shrapnel from an intercepted ballistic missile killed a Pakistani national in the **Bani Yas area**.
- These incidents underscore the risks of collateral damage to civilians due to the ongoing armed conflict. **It is therefore advised to adhere to the authorities' instructions. In case of incoming missiles or UAVs, shelter-in-place until receiving an "all clear" notification from the Ministry of Interior (MoI).**
- On March 16, an UAV attack caused fire at the **Shah Gas Field**, prompting authorities to suspend operations at the site to conduct a damage assessment.
- On March 17, the US Mission to the UAE revised its shelter-in-place order for US government employees, permitting them limited movement. As such, the US Mission stated that the employees must now temporarily shelter in place when reports of incoming missiles and UAVs are received and remain in shelter until an "all-clear" notification is issued by the MoI. **We advise remaining cognizant of the modifications to the shelter-in-place guidelines and adhering to the authorities' instructions.**
- On March 17, Iran's official Arabic Telegram channel shared maps identifying US-linked companies in several Gulf states, including the UAE, as potential targets. In Abu Dhabi, it referenced compounds linked to Halliburton in **Industrial City - ICAD II**.
- On March 18, Iran also issued an evacuation warning for Abu Dhabi's **al-Hosn/al-Hasan Gas Field**, located on the border with Saudi Arabia.



- **We advise avoiding all travel to the vicinity of strategic energy infrastructures in the UAE given the high likelihood of Iranian strikes against such assets. Take precautions to enhance security at manufacturing sites linked to US firms, including limiting the number of personnel on-site and safeguarding critical assets through relocation, concealment, or other protective measures.**
- During the early morning hours of March 17, the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) temporarily closed the country's airspace as a precautionary measure following a security assessment. It reopened later on March 17. **We advise reconfirming flight itineraries given the elevated likelihood of flight cancellations or airspace closures. These may be announced on short notice.**
- On March 18, the UAE's Ministry of Defense (MoD) stated that since the launch of Iran's retaliation of February 28, Emirati forces have intercepted **327 ballistic missiles, 15 cruise missiles and 1699 UAVs** nationwide. As of March 17, the attacks killed eight residents and wounded 157 more.

Dubai

- On March 12, following Iranian threats against US- and Israel-linked financial institutions and banks, several such institutions evacuated their staff from their offices in Dubai.
 - **Citibank** closed most of its UAE Branches. The Mall of Emirates branch remains open in a limited format.
 - **PwC** evacuated its Dubai offices, including the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC).
 - **Deloitte** also evacuated its offices in DIFC.
- On March 14, Iran's state-affiliated media threatened imminent strikes against ports, docks, and US military bases in the UAE in response to the US's strikes on Abu Musa Island. Iran specifically issued evacuation orders for Dubai's **Jebel Ali Port**.
- During the late-night hours of March 15, a state-affiliated Iranian news agency published evacuation warnings for certain areas in and around Dubai, urging residents in the areas to leave as soon as possible due to imminent Iranian strikes against US military officials and personnel operating in the area. The evacuation orders were issued for the **Dubai Marina and Arabian Ranches areas**.
- **We advise avoiding all travel to the vicinity of strategic energy infrastructures in the UAE given the high likelihood of Iranian strikes against such assets. Take precautions to enhance security at manufacturing sites linked to US firms, including limiting the number of personnel on-site and safeguarding critical assets through relocation, concealment, or other protective measures.**
- During the morning hours on March 16, a fire broke out near **Dubai International Airport (DXB)** after a UAV struck a fuel tanker in the vicinity of the airport. Following the incident, air traffic at DXB was temporarily suspended.
- On March 17, Iran's official Arabic Telegram channel shared maps identifying US-linked companies in several Gulf states, including the UAE, as potential targets. In Dubai, it referenced



compounds linked to Oracle Systems limited, located in **Internet City** and Baker Hughes located in **Jabal Ali Industrial Third**.

- On March 18, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated that an impact from an Iranian projectile caused minor damage to an accommodation block and a medical facility near the **al-Minhad Air Base**, located approximately 24 km south of Dubai. The base hosts Australian defense personnel. No casualties were recorded.

Eid-related developments:

- Dubai's Human Resource Department announced a public holiday for all government sector entities, institutions, and departments for Eid al-Fitr from March 19-22. Official work will resume on March 23, except for employees working on a shift basis.
- **Be cognizant of the slated work suspensions at public institutions and banks and potential associated disruptions to business operations.**

Assessments:

- Iranian attacks targeting the UAE have persisted, albeit at a reduced tempo compared to the previous reporting period. The UAE announced that, between March 13-17, it intercepted approximately 36 ballistic missiles and 132 UAVs, marking a notable drop compared to the over 72 ballistic missiles and 442 UAVs intercepted the previous week.
- Despite the apparent decline in the number of attacks, Iran has been able to inflict damage to strategic sites in the UAE. These include DXB, where a strike led to a fire and the temporary suspension of flight operations, as well as a petroleum facility in Fujairah and the Fujairah Port. These incidents highlight that Tehran still retains the ability to launch effective strikes and the intent to disrupt critical transport and energy nodes in Gulf states.
- Moreover, Iran's issuance of evacuation warnings and public identification of assets linked to US-affiliated companies and infrastructure in the UAE reflect Tehran's shift away from barrage-style attacks at the outset of the conflict toward targeted, intelligence-driven attacks.
- These warnings also seek to amplify psychological pressure and uncertainty among UAE residents, foreign companies operating in the country, and the government. The expanded bank of targets, encompassing financial districts, ports, energy facilities, and US-linked businesses, further points to Tehran's increasing focus on economic warfare.
- The sustained targeting of the DIFC, coupled with threats against commercial ports and industrial zones, underscores Iran's intent to impose increasing economic and reputational costs on the UAE, likely attempting to challenge its model of stability and its positioning as a global business haven. The effectiveness of this strategy was evidenced by reports indicating that several US-linked financial institutions and firms evacuated their offices and directed staff to work from home following Tehran's threats.
- In this context, Iranian attacks against the UAE will persist in the coming weeks, albeit potentially at a lower rate. Tehran will continue to target the **UAE's economic and energy infrastructure**



and **US-linked companies**, further heightening risks to businesses in the country.

Egypt

Tanta

- On March 14, the Ministry of Interior stated that two individuals were arrested within the jurisdiction of Tanta Police Station for a fight that involved the use of bladed weapons. The armed confrontation erupted due to a dispute between the two individuals over the right-of-way on a public road. Authorities seized two bladed weapons and the detainees' vehicles, both of which lacked license plates. No casualties were recorded.
- Violence as a result of personal disputes does not present a systematic risk to uninvolved bystanders. That said, the use of bladed weapons underscores the risk of collateral damage, which may occur if bystanders get involved in such situations. Overall, such incidents do not pose a notable threat to foreign nationals or business travelers.

Eid-related developments:

- Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly announced an official paid holiday for public sector employees amid Eid al-Fitr from March 19-23. The Central Bank of Egypt announced that all banks operating in the country will be closed from March 19-23.
- **Be cognizant of the slated work suspensions at public institutions and banks and potential associated disruptions to business operations.**

Giza, El Sadat City

No notable incidents have been recorded this past week in these locations.

Impact of current hostilities on Egypt:

- As noted in our previous report, Egypt remains largely outside the scope of the current hostilities. Nonetheless, a residual risk persists from projectiles or UAVs transiting the Red Sea en route to Israel, which could result in debris or malfunctioning munitions falling within Egypt. As such, despite the lack of such incidents since the eruption of the regional conflict, the risk of spillover persists.

Iraq

al-Muthanna Governorate

- On March 15, the al-Muthanna Governorate suspended official working hours due to expected heavy rainfall, excluding essential services such as water, sanitation, civil defense, and electricity. **This development shows that inclement weather is liable to prompt disruptions to travel and operations in al-Muthanna due to poor drainage systems and road quality.**



- On March 16, the al-Muthanna Provincial Council reportedly voted to suspend First Deputy Governor Muayyad al-Yasiri, appointing an official to temporarily assume the position pending the formal approval of Ahmed Manfi, the recently elected governor.
- This reflects ongoing contestation over provincial authority, which may contribute to delays in administrative tasks and bureaucratic processes necessitating governor approvals.
- The Iraqi Cabinet approved the suspension of official working hours nationwide from March 18-23 for Eid al-Fitr. **Remain cognizant of the slated work suspensions at public institutions and banks and potential associated disruptions to business operations.**
- On March 18, Iraq's Ministry of Electricity announced that Iranian gas supplies to Iraq had completely stopped, resulting in a loss of 3,100 megawatts of electricity.
- **Iranian gas supplies are unlikely to resume in the coming days. Therefore, there is a high risk of power cuts across Iraq, including in al-Muthanna Governorate.**
- **We advise allotting for disruptions to business continuity due to likely power cuts. Measures should include confirming that facilities have working generators, sufficient access to fuel for longer periods, and access to flashlights.**

Assessments:

- Spillover hostilities from the ongoing regional conflict have continued to significantly affect Iraq, driven primarily by hostilities between the US and Iran-backed Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).
- PMF militias have continued to launch rocket and UAV attacks towards sites linked to US presence, such as **Victory Base** (located in the vicinity of **Baghdad International Airport**), **Harir Base** at **Erbil International Airport**, and the **US Embassy in Baghdad**. Attacks have additionally expanded to targeted civilian infrastructure in Baghdad, such as the **al-Rasheed** hotel, on March 16. Ongoing hostilities have impacted Iraqi oil infrastructure, with attacks targeting Erbil's Lanaz Refinery on May 14 and Basra's Majnoon oil field on March 16.
- Reported US strikes targeting PMF militias in Baghdad during the overnight hours of March 13-14 underscore US resolve to degrade such groups' capabilities and deter further attacks.
- However, during the overnight hours of March 16-17, UAV strikes against the US Embassy in Baghdad reportedly intensified, following March 16 reports that the US airstrikes had killed Kataib Hezbollah's (KH) security chief. This suggests that US airstrikes against high-level militia leaders will likely drive retaliatory escalation, reinforcing a cyclical dynamic of hostilities.
- While Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani on March 17 directed security forces to launch an investigation and detain those responsible for attacks, the recurrence of such incidents underscores the government's inability to rein in Iran-backed PMF militias.
- On March 18, KH's Secretary-General announced a five-day suspension of attacks on the US Embassy in Baghdad, contingent upon several conditions. These include a halt to Israeli operations in Beirut's Dahiyeh, a commitment to refrain from shelling residential areas in Baghdad and other provinces, and the withdrawal of US personnel from their current positions while remaining confined to the embassy compound.



- The group further warned that failure to meet these conditions would prompt a direct and targeted response, with an escalation of attacks following the five-day period.
- The US and Israel will not fulfill KH's conditions. The group is highly likely to use this to justify a resumption of attacks on US assets, including the US Embassy in Baghdad, in the coming days.
- This will sustain the likelihood of retaliatory US and Israeli strikes to degrade militia capabilities, deter further attacks, and protect military and strategic assets. **Locations associated with PMF infrastructure, including in al-Muthanna Governorate, will remain exposed to potential targeting in the near term.**

Lebanon

Hadath

- The IDF targeted a Hezbollah headquarters and operative in **Beirut** on March 13. Between March 13-16, the IDF reissued daily evacuation notices, calling on civilians to leave **Beirut's southern neighborhoods**, including **Hadath**.
- On March 14, Lebanon's state news agency reported Israeli airstrikes in Beirut's southern **Dahiyeh** and the **Haret Hreik** neighborhood, located adjacent to Hadath.
- The news agency also reported Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs during the overnight hours of March 15-16. Meanwhile, the IDF confirmed having conducted airstrikes in the capital on March 15-16, including against a headquarters belonging to Hezbollah's Radwan force.
- On March 17, the Ministry of Health reported that an Israeli strike on southern Beirut's Airport Road had killed one individual and wounded nine.
- The IDF on March 17 announced that it had conducted airstrikes against Hezbollah command and headquarters in **Beirut** in recent days, including a Hezbollah logistics center in the city struck in the previous 24 hours.
- On March 18, the IDF announced it had struck a building affiliated with Hezbollah's al-Qard al-Hassan organization in Beirut. It also announced the elimination of the commander of the Imam Hussein Division in Beirut on March 17, one week after the elimination of his predecessor.
- The IDF conducted strikes in southern Beirut's **Haret Hreik** and **Ghobeiry** neighborhoods on March 18.
- Following an evacuation order on March 18, an Israeli airstrike targeted a building in **central Beirut's Bachoura** neighborhood, collapsing the compound.
- According to Hezbollah's al-Manar TV channel, two additional airstrikes on March 18 targeted Beirut's adjacent **Zuqaq al-Blat** and **Basta** neighborhoods. Mohammed Shari, the political programming director of al-Manar's TV channel, was killed. At least ten people were killed in the strikes.
- The Lebanese Presidency ordered the suspension of official working hours on the first and second days of Eid al-Fitr, expected to be observed in Lebanon from March 20. Official working hours will additionally be suspended on March 25 for the observance of the Feast of the

Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. **Remain cognizant of the slated work suspensions at public institutions and banks and potential associated disruptions to business operations.**

Zahle

- On March 18, the Zahle municipality released statistics for displaced citizens relocated to Zahle, stating that 1,869 displaced families, including 5,760 individuals in total, were seeking shelter in the city.
- Zahle's role as a host location for displaced civilians indicates that its security environment has been less impacted by the ongoing Israel-Hezbollah hostilities than evacuated locales such as southern Lebanon and southern Beirut. That said, as shown by a March 5 Israeli airstrike that targeted a vehicle on the Zahle-Karak Highway, **there remains an underlying risk of IDF strikes in the Zahle region.**
- In addition, **the influx of individuals into the city and associated resource allocations may contribute to limited disruptions to business and travel within Zahle.**

Choueifat

- No notable incidents were recorded in the last week.

Assessments:

- Over the previous week, hostilities between Israel and Lebanon have continued to expand, with the IDF announcing "focused ground operations" against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon on March 16. These operations, coupled with the IDF's deployment of four divisions to its Northern Command over the recent days, reflect Israel's intent to sustain and expand military operations, capitalizing on Hezbollah's entry into the war to advance several long-standing strategic security objectives on its northern front. This will likely include consolidating IDF control over areas of southern Lebanon to push the frontline northward and establish an expanded security zone.
- The ground operation will likely be accompanied by IDF airstrike operations against Hezbollah infrastructure throughout Lebanon, likely to center around southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley, and Beirut. As such, **Hadath** will continue to experience a severe security environment in the coming weeks, with heightened risks to civilians and infrastructure.
- Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem, in a March 17 speech, remarked that the "battlefield" would determine the armed conflict's outcome. He also rejected surrendering, indicating the group's determination to continue military operations and launch rockets against Israel.
- This was underscored by Hezbollah's launch of a rocket and UAV barrage towards northern Israel during the overnight hours of March 17-18. Moreover, during the night hours of March 18, long-range rockets fired from Lebanon triggered Color Red sirens in central Israel, as well as in southern Israel's Gaza envelope. This highlights the group's desire to escalate hostilities against Israel.
- Israeli airstrikes will intensify in the period around such Hezbollah launches. This is because the

IDF aims to eliminate exposed launchers prior to the barrage and conduct retaliatory strikes on Hezbollah positions following attempted or successful launches.

- Israel's rejection of prior negotiation frameworks while under active Hezbollah fire will likely limit the advancement of a French-proposed ceasefire negotiation framework, which French President Emmanuel Macron proposed on March 14. International pressure and calls for de-escalation are unlikely to deter an expanded Israeli operation in southern Lebanon. Therefore, Lebanon's security environment will remain volatile in the coming days and weeks.

Jordan

Amman

- On March 18, Jordan's Public Security Directorate (PSD) stated that three Anti-Narcotics Department security personnel were shot and killed by an individual suspected of drug-related criminal activity during an arrest operation in eastern Amman. Security forces detained the suspect and seized three firearms and drugs found in his possession.
- Criminally motivated instances of gun violence are rarely reported in Amman. The latest incident shows that there is an underlying risk of localized criminal violence in the capital. This risk may be elevated in the vicinity of ongoing security operations, even though such raids rarely result in armed confrontations. Regardless, **there is no elevated threat of such incidents affecting expats and foreign business travelers in Amman.**
- On March 15, the US Embassy in Amman issued a security alert suspending all routine consular services.
- Jordanian Prime Minister Jafar Hassan announced that official working hours will be suspended from March 20-23 on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. This will include the Greater Amman Municipality. **Remain cognizant of the slated work suspensions at public institutions and banks and potential associated disruptions to business operations.**

Assessments:

- No UAV or missile attacks have impacted Amman amid the ongoing regional conflict. However, air raid sirens are periodically activated across the Kingdom, including in Amman. The country faces a high risk of exposure to debris or shrapnel from intercepted missiles or UAVs impacting Jordanian territory. This is shown by the PSD's announcement that it had responded to 356 reports of fallen debris nationwide from February 28 to March 16. This highlights the persistent risk created by missiles and UAVs transiting over or near Jordanian territory. The country is vulnerable to such spillovers due to its geographic proximity to Israel and the broader area of hostilities. This exposes Jordan to **a persistent risk created by missiles and UAVs transiting over or near Jordanian territory.**
- Jordan additionally remains vulnerable to direct targeting, including projectile launches against the presence of US assets in the country, such as the **Muwaffaq Salti Air Base.**



- Jordan will also likely continue to be targeted by cyberattacks. On March 14, Jordan's state news agency media cited a report indicating that Jordan had been targeted by the third-highest number of cyberattacks within the current conflict out of countries in the region. While no disruptions to critical services have been recorded as a result of cyber-attacks, they will continue to pose a threat.

Country Summaries

Oman

The security environment in Oman remains extreme, although the rate of Iranian fire toward the country appeared to have reduced compared to previous weeks. The airspace is open, and both the country's airports and ports remain operational. However, the death of two foreign nationals on March 13 due to debris from a UAV interception over the al-Awahi Industrial Zone highlights the ongoing and significant risks present in the country. These threats will persist over the coming weeks, given the escalatory trajectory of the US/Israel-Iran war. This is particularly the case following the Israeli strikes on Iran's South Pars Gas Field and Iranian retaliation in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Tehran's response could also extend to energy infrastructure in Oman, sustaining volatility in the country.

Syria

Syria continues to be indirectly affected by the regional hostilities, with instances of shrapnel falling being recorded periodically. Similar incidents will recur in line with the ongoing US/Israeli campaign in Iran and retaliatory attacks by Tehran, which may pass through Syrian airspace. While Aleppo International Airport (ALP) is open, Damascus International Airport (DAM) remains closed. Meanwhile, public offices will remain closed until March 23 due to Eid al-Fitr, Nowruz, and Mother's Day.

Yemen

Yemen continues to be one of the least affected countries amid the regional escalation. The Houthis have refrained from joining the war on Iran's behalf and from launching attacks against Israel, US assets, Gulf states, or in the maritime arena. That said, the Yemen-based movement is still liable to do so, particularly given the trajectory of the US-Israeli campaign. The most likely targets for the Houthis would be Saudi Arabia or the UAE, which it has already attacked during active phases of the Yemeni civil war in previous years, as well as Israel and commercial vessels in the Red Sea and surrounding waters, as was observed throughout the Israel-Hamas war between 2023 and 2025. Should the Houthis engage in attacks on any of the aforementioned targets, Israel, the US, and/or Gulf countries will carry out retaliatory strikes on Houthi-controlled territory, which will deteriorate the security environment.

Kuwait

The security environment in Kuwait remains extreme, as Iran continues to launch attacks against the country. Over the past week, these have targeted the Kuwait International Airport, resulting in damage to the radar system, and the Ali al-Salem Base, which hosts Italian and US forces. The airspace and Kuwait International Airport (KWI) remain closed, although the Shuwaikh, Doha, and Shuaiba ports are operational. Travel disruptions are likely to persist over the next week amid the anticipated continuation of attacks. Iran could also extend its retaliatory attacks, following Israel's strike on the South Pars Gas Field, to hydrocarbon sites in Kuwait.

Two notable incidents also underscore the threat posed by Iran-linked actors on the ground in Kuwait. On March 16 and 18, the Ministry of Interior announced that security forces had dismantled two Hezbollah-linked cells that sought to "undermine national security" and target critical infrastructure. An unspecified number of weapons, drones, ammunition, and encrypted communication devices were seized. While these developments highlight authorities' heightened threat perception, they are also indicative of the underlying and destabilizing risk posed by Iran-backed non-state actors amid the ongoing war.

Bahrain

The security environment in Bahrain remains extreme, as it continues to absorb Iranian attacks. As of March 17, the Bahrain Defense Forces (BDF) stated it had intercepted 129 missiles and 233 UAVs targeting the country. Bahrain International Airport (BAH) remains closed except for those who received prior approval. Similar to incidents recorded in the previous week, the Bahrain News Agency reported on March 15 that five individuals were arrested for allegedly gathering and transmitting "accurate and sensitive" information to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), underscoring Manama's heightened threat perception toward Iran-linked actors in the country. Similar incidents are likely to be recorded as Bahrain continues to face Iranian attacks over the coming week amid the continuation of the US-Israeli campaign. These could expand in scope in line with Iran's escalatory retaliation toward energy infrastructure in Qatar and Saudi Arabia following the Israeli strike on the South Pars Gas Field on March 18.

Qatar

Iran has expanded its attacks against Qatar following a March 18 escalation in which Israel targeted Iran's South Pars Gas complex. Iran subsequently called for the evacuation of Qatar's refinery in the Ras Laffan Industrial City and the Mesaieed petrochemical complex. In subsequent hours, Iran launched two missile attacks against the Ras Laffan complex, inflicting significant damage to the facility, and further impacting Qatar's LNG sector and exports, which have already been suspended. In response, Qatar expelled Iran's diplomatic mission from Doha, reflecting a deterioration in bilateral relations and tensions. The attack and the damage reflected Iran's continued ability to execute substantial precision strikes, underscoring its willingness to continue exerting pressure on Gulf states while posing a lethal threat. In reference to the incident, US President Donald Trump threatened Iran with severe

consequences if it attacked Qatar's vital infrastructures again. Nevertheless, as of the time of writing, Iran continues to threaten to launch further attacks in the region in response to Israel's actions. This highlights the continued volatility, and the extensive challenges facing Doha, which will persist over the coming week as the prospects for a regional off-ramp remain low.

Israel

Israel continued to intensify its military campaign with the US against Tehran, targeting Iran's South Pars Gas complex for the first time on March 18. Israel further escalated and, for the first time, struck the Iranian Navy in the Caspian Sea, while continuing attacks on regime-linked targets. This included high-profile assassinations of National Security Council Secretary and Iran's perceived "de facto" leader Ali Larijani, the Iranian Intelligence Minister, and the Basij Commander. Iran continued to launch ballistic missiles toward Israel, particularly those with cluster munitions that spread multiple bomblets and are difficult to intercept. Several impacts were recorded throughout Israel, especially in the central Gush Dan metropolitan area, and these attacks continue to cause casualties. Hezbollah also attempted to launch significant barrages of rockets toward Israel on March 17. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) were able to engage in preventative action and thwart the vast majority of these efforts. This resulted in Hezbollah only launching around 40 rockets in that barrage, mainly toward northern Israel. Nevertheless, Hezbollah demonstrated its ability to continue launching aerial attacks, including long-range munitions, some of which reached as far as northern Gaza and the Gaza Envelope area. Home Front Command (HFC) regulations in Israel continue to be restrictive.

Our latest Situation Update on the US-Iran tensions can be found [here](#).

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Recommendations:

MENA:

1. Avoid all travel to **Iran, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Gulf states** in light of the current escalation between the US and Israel and Iran, and the high likelihood for impact on regional states.
2. Implement a shelter in place procedure in these countries and adhere to authorities' instructions, which may come on extremely short notice.
3. Update and implement business contingency plans (BCPs) and security protocols across the MENA region to ensure business continuity in the escalation scenario. Conduct arena-specific risk assessments.
4. Avoid all travel to military installations in the region, especially those hosting US personnel.



5. Avoid maritime travel through the Arabian/Persian Gulf and the Red Sea (and Gulf of Aden) given the risk of attacks on vessels in these waterways.
6. Avoid disseminating picture material and footage of interceptions, falling debris, and military assets on social media, as the circulation of such info is often illegal in Gulf states and may lead to prosecution.
7. **MAX Security has strong on-the-ground capabilities across several arenas in MENA, including secure transportation, the provision of safe havens, and contingency consultation and planning. Contact us at operations@max-security.com or +44 20-3540-0434.**

In country mitigation and response:

Accommodation:

1. Do not stay higher than the sixth floor.
2. Identify the protected areas in hotels/accommodation such as shelters. If these do not exist, identify basements and interior stairwells.
3. Verify emergency procedures with hotels.
4. Opt for hotels away from strategic targets.

Movement and Exposure Management:

1. In the event of an escalation, minimize nonessential movement, continuously monitor official alert systems, and schedule check-ins with management and security teams.
2. Do not advertise the location or situation of your employees on social media.

Missile Response:

1. Move away from windows, exterior walls, balconies.
2. Shelter in place until the official all clear is issued.

Iran:

1. Avoid all travel to Iran at the current juncture.
2. Those operating or residing in Iran are advised to shelter in place and avoid the vicinity of government, law enforcement, and military installations.
3. Avoid all travel to hotspots of protest activity due to the elevated risk of violence and arbitrary arrests, and refrain from discussing protest activity in conversations and on social media. Maintain a low profile and avoid any public support for the protesters, including on social media, due to the heightened risk of arbitrary arrest and detention by Iranian authorities.
4. Allot for continued and extensive disruptions to business continuity, including internet and telecommunications shutdowns.



Israel:

1. Avoid all travel to Israel at this time.
2. In the country, adhere to all security precautions regarding armed conflict, militancy, and civil unrest.
3. Continue monitoring regional developments and promptly adhere to all Home Front Command (HFC) notifications. Ensure that the HFC or other “Color Red” alert applications, such as “Tzofar”, “Tzeva Adom”, or “Cumta-Red Alerts”, are downloaded to receive timely alerts.
4. Refresh and retain business contingency plans (BCPs) and security protocols, and ensure shelters’ preparedness for extended periods to increase resilience in an escalation scenario.

During Color Red sirens:

1. Prefer reaching a shelter if possible. In “Mamads” (residential secure spaces), ensure that the room’s steel door and outer steel window are both locked to maintain safety.
2. Remain in the shelter following the sounding of Color Red sirens until a follow-up “all-clear” notification from the HFC due to the risk of falling shrapnel and fragments.
3. Approach the safe area calmly and remain cognizant of the fact that many injuries occur when people are running to the shelter panicked.
4. If such a designated Mamad does not exist:
 - a. Go to a room with as few external walls, windows, and openings as possible, sit on the floor below the window line, and near an internal wall.
 - b. In an open area, lay down on the ground and cover your head with your hands.
5. When driving, safely pull over and check your surroundings before vacating your vehicle and following the above instructions.

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