



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

MENA Executive SITREP

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**MAX
INTELLIGENCE**



Executive Brief: US – Israeli Operations Against Iran and Regional Implications

Explainer: This daily report provides an executive summary of major developments related to the ongoing war in the Middle East. It complements MAX Security's more in-depth Situation Update reports. If you haven't yet received our situation updates and other reporting amid the current escalation, or would like to receive more details, join our [WhatsApp community](#). For operational support, please contact our Protection Division at operations@max-security.com.

Operational Overview

On March 28, Israel announced strikes in Tehran against the Iranian Maritime Industries Organization Headquarters, weapons production and storage sites, and command posts. IDF Spokesman Defrin stated that Israel had increased the damage to Iran's military industries, and that within a few days, Israel would complete its attack on all vital components of the industry, including "most of the military production capabilities. Israel also reportedly struck Tehran's University of Science and Technology.

Meanwhile, US CENTCOM announced that around 3,500 sailors and Marines aboard the USS Tripoli had arrived in its area of responsibility, along with strike fighter aircraft, amphibious assault, and tactical assets. An unconfirmed March 28 report citing unnamed US officials indicated that the Pentagon is preparing for weeks of ground operations in Iran, involving raids by Special Operations forces and infantry.

Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward several Gulf states on March 28-29. Iranian UAVs impacted a radar system at Kuwait International Airport again and caused fires at fuel tanks at the site.

Following its March 27 threat to target six steel factories in the region, Iran attacked major aluminum establishments in the UAE and Bahrain. The Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) announced that its al-Taweelah site sustained significant damage following Iranian missile and UAV attacks against Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD). Several employees were also wounded. An attack also affected Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), resulting in injuries and damage. Furthermore, on March 28, Bahrain's state media reported that Foulath Holding Company, specializing in iron and steel, declared force majeure on unspecified operational processes. These include airspace closures, disruptions of maritime routes, and increased security risks that have disrupted supply chains. It stated that the measure will be in place "until conditions are suitable for resuming operations safely." The firm is the parent company for the Bahrain Steel Company and Solb Company.



During the overnight hours of March 28-29, the IRGC threatened to target Israeli and US-associated universities across the Middle East in response to the Israeli targeting of a university in Tehran. This underscores Iran's efforts to try to project reciprocity in some cases and its broader efforts to adversely impact civilian and economic life in the region, following recent days' threats against steel factories and hotels in the region.

Other notable developments

Persian Gulf: On March 28, Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated that Iran would permit an additional 20 Pakistani-flagged vessels to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

Yemen, Red Sea/Gulf of Aden: The Houthis conducted two additional missile and UAV attacks against Israel since their first attack on March 28. This further indicates that they have decided on a limited entry to the conflict, focusing on Israel at this stage. Nevertheless, their posture will become more volatile the more they believe a US escalation vis-a-vis Iran becomes more plausible, especially amid the continued US military buildup in the region.

Iraq: During the overnight hours of March 28-29, additional militia attacks were recorded at Baghdad International Airport's Victory Base. Baghdad also announced that a UAV crashed inside Basra's Majnoon Oil Field without exploding. A UAV also targeted the residence of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Nechirvan Barzani in Duhok Province on March 28, highlighting how risks extend to northern Iraqi Kurdish officials. This underscores the continued volatility on Iraqi soil.

Jordan: On March 28, the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) announced that, over the previous week, it intercepted 20 of the 22 missiles launched from Iran towards Jordan, with two falling in eastern Jordan. The Public Security Directorate announced that it received 64 reports of fallen shrapnel and debris over the previous week. One member was wounded while responding to an incident.

Travel & Security Aspects

- Regional travel conditions remain highly volatile, with most states in the region exposed to extreme risk due to repeated and unpredictable missile and UAV attacks.
- Inclement weather conditions are also reported across the region, requiring vigilance, extra time for travel, and adherence to authorities' updates.
- Airspace restrictions and sudden closures continue to disrupt travel across the region. Risks to travelers also remain high despite states' inclination to facilitate commercial flight operations.
- Evacuations outside of certain countries and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.**



- **Egypt** and **Turkey broadly** remain outside direct hostilities and are assessed as medium-risk environments compared with other regional states. Turkey is exposed to risks in its southeastern border areas near Iran and around its NATO bases.
- **Oman** remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments.
- **Israel** is mulling alleviating some regulations at Ben Gurion International Airport, from the current one departing flight per hour with a maximum capacity of 50 travelers.
- **Jordan/Israel:** Israeli airliners reported a sudden change in procedures by Jordanian authorities which have led to the indefinite cancellation of some flights from Aqaba and their replacements with flights from Egypt's Taba.

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