

# Middle East Situation

**Information Cut-Off:** 1200h (BST), 15 April 2026

## Executive Summary

The naval blockade of Iran is reaching the conclusion of its second day, having started at 1500h (BST) Monday. Several Iranian vessels have reportedly been successfully deterred, although there are reports of at least one Iranian tanker having crossed the Strait of Hormuz.

The ceasefire between Iran and its opponents has continued to hold. Discussions are ongoing to resume negotiations, as the date for the end of the ceasefire approaches, with no apparent extension being considered. However, conflict in southern Lebanon and northern Israel has continued, with Israeli air strikes across southern Lebanon and Israeli ground troops reportedly on the verge of taking the town of Bint Jbeil.

## Diplomacy

An invitation for a second meeting has been extended to both sides, to be facilitated in Islamabad by the Pakistani government, which has urged restraint to all sides. Further dialogue could take place as soon as tomorrow (16 April). The possibility of Istanbul as an alternative venue has been proposed. Discussions over the Strait of Hormuz and uranium enrichment will dominate negotiations. Vice President Vance has expressed optimism about the possibility of a breakthrough, despite the ongoing tensions with Tehran and the mistrust between both parties.

Talks began yesterday morning (14 April, EST) between the Israeli and Lebanese governments in Washington DC. The main points of discussion included the disarmament of Hezbollah and the securing of a ceasefire, whereas the Israeli government has stated that it is focused only on the former. The talks (the first round of which finished yesterday afternoon) have already been condemned by Hezbollah. They were, however, described as “constructive” by the Lebanese ambassador to the US, and as “historic” by Secretary of State Rubio. Both sides appear to have agreed to hold follow-up talks.

President Trump has not suggested any extension to the ceasefire with Iran, which is due to run until 22 April.

## Israel

Yesterday (14 April) afternoon, Hezbollah reported a series of rocket attacks against Israeli military positions and northern towns, including Kiryat Shmona and Misgav Am. It claimed to have launched a rocket at an Israeli fighter jet over the western Bekaa Valley yesterday. Yesterday evening, Hezbollah reported that it had conducted rocket attacks on Israeli forces (soldiers, vehicles and infrastructure) near the border, at Karmiel, Qouzah and by Khiam.

After weeks of criticism of the Netanyahu government's attacks on Lebanon, the Italian administration has decided to suspend the automatic renewal of a 2006 defence agreement, which was scheduled to be renewed this year.

Violence was reported yesterday across the West Bank, including in Hebron, Nablus and Jericho, primarily consisting of settler attacks against Palestinians.

Last night, Hezbollah reported that it had launched a drone attack on Israeli military sites in the occupied Golan Heights – this remains unverified.

Hezbollah launched 20 rockets at northern Israel this morning (15 April), some of which were intercepted and others fell harmlessly.

## Iran

Two IEDs were reportedly detonated in central Tehran last night (14 April), injuring three and causing minor local damage. Further details have not been forthcoming.

## Regional

The US has been conducting its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Overnight (14-15 April), a US destroyer reportedly interdicted two oil tankers attempting to leave Iran, and ordered them to turn around. US Central Command said overnight that the blockade is being enforced impartially against vessels of all nations using Iranian ports. This morning (15 April), Iranian state media claimed that an Iranian supertanker was able to cross the Strait of Hormuz to the Imam Khomeini port despite the blockade.

At least three tankers reportedly entered the Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz yesterday (14 April), according to shipping data. One was a Panama-flagged vessel heading to the UAE, following a route authorised by the IRGC. The other two had been sanctioned by the US, as they were not heading to Iranian ports.

The Iranian interior minister said yesterday that Iran will not be impacted by the blockade because it has over 5,000 miles of land and sea borders, which will neutralise the threat.

## Lebanon

11 Israeli soldiers were injured on Monday night in a Hezbollah drone attack, according to Lebanese media reports yesterday afternoon (14 April). Hezbollah subsequently claimed to have launched a drone attack at Israeli soldiers in Shlomi.

Yesterday evening, the Israeli Air Force conducted strikes on several areas of south Lebanon, including border regions, coastal districts, and close to Tyre city. An Israeli strike on the al-Shati refugee camp last night killed four civilians. Israeli ground operations overnight have focused on taking the strategic town of Bint Jbeil, which has involved Israeli infantry and armoured units: the IDF reportedly expects to have full control of the town within a couple of days. Villages in southern Lebanon have been demolished with armoured bulldozers.

This morning (15 April), the Israeli Air Force hit Saadiyat and al-Jiya in Mount Lebanon (south of Beirut) and Nabatieh al-Fawqa in southern Lebanon, and then issued evacuation alerts for residents south of the Zahrani river, in expectation of further strikes.

## Advice

- Do not travel to Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley.
- Reconsider travel to the Middle East, especially Israel, Iran and Iraq, but also the wider Gulf region.
- Remain aware of ongoing tensions, given the possibility of a sudden resumption in fighting.
- Monitor instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- 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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