

Information Cut-Off: 1200h (BST), 20 July 2026

Executive Summary

The US has conducted attacks on Iran since Friday (17 July), while Iran has retaliated by targeting US military infrastructure in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain. Iranian attacks have continued into this morning (20 July), especially in Kuwait and Bahrain. Iranian attacks in recent days killed two US military personnel in Jordan on Friday, while another was killed in Iraq on Saturday (18 July).

US attacks have escalated in recent days, including a strike on Darkhovin nuclear power plant. The incident is the first US attack on nuclear energy sites in 2026. Brent Crude prices have risen from USD84 on 0000h on Friday to USD90 this morning (0800h 20 July).

US-Iranian strikes have led to widespread travel delays in the Gulf, but most flights are departing this morning.

Periodic Israeli air strikes have been reported in Lebanon, primarily in southern areas.

Conflict

The US has continued attacks on Iran since Friday (17 July), primarily targeting coastal areas along the Strait of Hormuz. Attacks were reported in Sirik, Bandar Abbas, Bandar-e-Jask, Shadegan and Qeshm Island, locations close to the Strait of Hormuz, targeting military command centres, missile and drone launch sites, and communications networks. Desalination sites and electricity stations in Jask were also damaged.

The US conducted airstrikes on Darkhovin nuclear power plant, Khuzestan province, yesterday (19 July). The site was being constructed, and was not yet operational; no radioactive leaks have been reported. The incident marks the first US strike on a nuclear power plant this year.

Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Saturday (18 July) that the Memorandum of Understanding with the US was suspended.

Iranian officials advised civilians to avoid unnecessary travel on roads in Hormozgan governorate due to the possibility of US attacks.

Iran closed the Marivan and Hawraman border crossings with Iraqi Kurdistan on Saturday, and advised civilians to avoid the area and other border zones with Iraq.

United States

The US State Department warned of the possibility of escalation on Saturday (18 July), and advised US nationals to reconsider travelling in and through the Middle East.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday (19 July) that the US remains open to diplomacy with Iran, despite ongoing kinetic strikes.

Israel

The US embassy in Jerusalem advised US nationals on Saturday (18 July) not to travel to Gaza, northern Israel and the Egyptian border area.

Regional

Kuwait
On Friday (17 July), the Kuwaiti military announced that several soldiers had been injured in Iranian attacks on military infrastructure in the country.

Sirens were triggered by Iranian drone attacks at least four times early Saturday morning (18 July). Yesterday (19 July), authorities said a power generation and water desalination plant had been damaged. Additional Iranian attacks have been reported today (20 July), with no confirmed casualties or damage.

Bahrain
Sirens were triggered at least four times on Saturday with no confirmed damage or injuries; Iranian state media said the strikes targeted US military infrastructure.

This morning, the US Embassy in Manama warned that it had intelligence suggesting Iran may attack central areas of Manama, and advised US nationals to “remain vigilant”. Bahraini authorities have since said they intercepted Iranian attacks.

Lebanon

The US Embassy in Beirut advised US nationals on Saturday not to travel to Lebanon and to reconsider travel to the Middle East.

Isolated Israeli airstrikes have been reported since Friday, including in Kfar Tibn and Haris. Israeli artillery fire was also reported in hamaa, Majdal Zoun and Byout al-Siyad.

Jordan

Iranian drone and missile attacks on Salti Air Base, Azraq, killed at least two US military personnel on Friday, with one other missing. Attacks were reported over the weekend, with at least three missiles intercepted yesterday.

The US embassy said that King Hussein International Airport and the seaport in Aqaba were evacuated yesterday due to “specific and credible threats”. Jordanian authorities said that the locations were operating normally.

Iran claimed to have destroyed US military jets stationed in the country early Saturday. This cannot be independently verified but Jordanian authorities said they had intercepted 10 Iranian missiles that day.

Iraq

US energy firm HKN Energy suspended operations in the Kurdistan region on Saturday, citing increased tensions between Iran and the US. At least eight Iranian-Kurdish rebels had previously been wounded in a drone attack.

A US soldier was killed during a controlled demolition of Iranian unexploded ordinance on Saturday.

Strait of Hormuz

The US military has continued to interdict vessels transiting to and from Iranian ports. On Friday (17 July), US marines boarded a tanker in the Gulf of Oman while air strikes also targeted an Iranian oil tanker docked near Kharg Island.

The IRGC said this morning (20 July) that it had disabled two tankers attempting to transit the strait via an unauthorized route. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Centre reported yesterday (19 July) that a vessel was attacked by an unconfirmed projectile and was ablaze 8nm north-west of Kumzar, Oman.

Travel

Aviation

Iranian attacks have caused widespread delays and cancellations since Saturday (18 July), especially in Kuwait where operations at Kuwait International Airport were suspended on Saturday. Delays are widespread across the Gulf, but airports are operational, including Kuwait International Airport, Bahrain International Airport, Doha Hamad International Airport, Abu Dhabi Zayed International Airport and Dubai International Airport.

Advice

- Reconsider all travel to Israel, Iran and Lebanon (especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley).
- Be aware that US facilities throughout the Gulf are potential targets for Iranian attacks, and avoid all such sites whenever possible.
- Monitor international media and relevant embassy/diplomatic advisories to remain aware of any fresh developments and to ensure receipt of all attack warnings, and follow all guidelines.
- Ensure awareness of the nearest shelter in the event of air sirens.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region that appears to be linked to the US/Israel – Iran conflict.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- Aviation travellers should anticipate schedule changes and limited seat availability, should allow additional connection time and should confirm flight status directly with the operating airline before travelling to the airport.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.

Contact us

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