

# Middle East Situation

**Information Cut-Off:** 1300h (BST), 05 May 2026

## Executive Summary

Missile and drone attacks were launched yesterday (04 May) against targets in the United Arab Emirates, including a petroleum site in Fujairah and an ADNOC oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz: most attacks were intercepted.

Yesterday, the US launched "Project Freedom", a US Navy operation to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz for vessels from neutral countries. There appear to have been some successes so far, but attacks against Iranian and US ships have been reported.

Washington and Tehran continue to issue proposals and counter-proposals that would lead to an end to the conflict, but there is currently no timeline for a full peace agreement.

## Diplomacy

Iran has submitted a 14-point proposal to Washington that calls for an end to the war within 30 days rather than an extension of the ceasefire. It also calls for the US to lift sanctions, to end its naval blockade and to withdraw its forces from the region.

On Friday (01 May), President Trump expressed his disapproval of the proposal, given its refusal to concede on the nuclear issue.

On Sunday (03 May), President Trump declared that Washington was having "very positive discussions" with Tehran.

On Monday, the Iranian foreign ministry said it was reviewing a US counter-proposal.

## United States

On Saturday (02 May) evening, President Trump told reporters that there is a “possibility” that US strikes against Iran could resume if it “does something bad”.

Washington is reportedly planning to build an international naval coalition called the Maritime Freedom Construct (MFC) to restore freedom of navigation to the Strait of Hormuz. It is unclear which governments have been invited to join.

According to State Department statements, USD8.6bn in arms sales have been approved for Israel, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

## Iran

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Friday (01 May) that it expects the US and Israel to resume conflict with Iran, and warned that Iranian forces are fully prepared to respond.

## Strait of Hormuz

On Sunday (03 May) afternoon, President Trump said that the US will work to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz for ships from neutral countries, a process he described as “Project Freedom”, due to begin on Monday (04 May) morning. Project Freedom will reportedly involve 15,000 troops and more than 100 aircraft. The Iranian military warned the US that they would be attacked if they attempted to enter the strait, as it is viewed as a violation of the ceasefire. The head of the Iranian parliament’s national security commission, Ebrahim Azizi, warned that US interference in the Strait of Hormuz would be considered a “violation of the ceasefire”.

Two US-flagged merchant vessels successfully travelled through the Strait of Hormuz on Monday morning as part of Project Freedom. The IRGC has denied this.

The US military said that it sank six IRGC boats that tried to interfere with commercial shipping as part of Project Freedom: Tehran has said that these were not IRGC vessels, but civilian vessels, and that five people were killed in the attack.

On Monday morning, two missiles reportedly hit a US Navy vessel in the Strait of Hormuz after it ignored warnings to halt. US Central Command has denied this.

A South Korean-flagged vessel reported that it had come under attack in the Strait of Hormuz. President Trump called upon South Korea to join the operation in Hormuz.

Two massive Iranian tankers have reportedly been able to evade the US Navy blockade in the last three days.

## **United Arab Emirates**

On Monday afternoon and Monday evening (04 May), missile alert warnings were heard for the first time since the imposition of the ceasefire. A strike on a petroleum site in Fujairah caused a major fire and injuries to three workers. The UAE also said that Iran had launched two drones at an ADNOC oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday morning.

In total, three Iranian missiles were intercepted by Emirati air defence yesterday, while one fell into the sea. The Emirati defence ministry implied that there were more attacks ongoing, and in the evening it confirmed that it had intercepted 15 missiles and four drones launched from Iran. Tehran has not directly confirmed that the strikes came from Iran.

## **Lebanon**

Evacuation warnings have been issued by the Israeli military at least three times since Friday (01 May).

Hezbollah has conducted a high number of attacks against Israeli military units in southern Lebanon since Friday.

On Saturday, the Israeli military reportedly attacked a Catholic church in southern Lebanon.

On Sunday, Tyre district was shelled by Israeli artillery, while the Nabatieh district was hit with Israeli air strikes. Other parts of southern Lebanon have been hit by air strikes on Sunday and Monday.

An Israeli newspaper reported on Sunday that Israeli soldiers are looting on a wide scale in southern Lebanon, and that the military is struggling to control the problem.

## **Syria**

Syria has become an alternative export route for Iraqi crude oil being moved overland to Baniyas: 70 tanker trucks crossed in Syria on Sunday via the Al-Yarubiyah border crossing.

## Travel

### Aviation

US budget airline Spirit has collapsed due to high fuel costs after the government failed to bail it out. 17,000 workers are thought to have lost their jobs, while passengers are reportedly stranded.

On Monday (04 May), Emirates Airlines said that it had restored 96 percent of its global operations.

Flights for Dubai and Sharjah were suspended yesterday after reports of Iranian drone and missile attacks against the UAE.

## 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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