

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1200h (BST), 06 May 2026

Executive Summary

The US paused its naval escort operation in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday (05 May), citing progress in talks with Iran. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that offensive US operations on Iran are complete and that the US has achieved its objectives.

Unconfirmed media reports suggest that the US and Iran are the closest they have been to signing a truce to end the conflict. Under current terms, an end to the conflict would be declared, while a 30-day negotiation period would commence to discuss reopening the strait, Iranian enrichment and sanctions relief on Iran.

Before the US halted its naval escort operations, the UAE intercepted drones and missiles fired from Iran yesterday afternoon, for the second consecutive day.

Diplomacy

Unconfirmed media reports suggest that the US and Iran are close to signing a one-page "memorandum" to end the war. The deal would declare an end to the war and commence a 30-day negotiation period during which details over sanctions relief, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and nuclear enrichment would be discussed. Under current terms, the US would retain the right to resume its blockade or military action if talks collapsed.

The US paused Project Freedom (a naval escort operation in the Strait of Hormuz) yesterday (05 May), citing substantial progress in negotiation talks with Iran. President Trump added that the naval blockade on Iran will continue, however, until a truce is finalised.

US Secretary of State Rubio announced yesterday that Operation Epic Fury (the op name for US military operations in Iran) was over and that the US had achieved its objectives.

Media reports citing US officials claim that President Trump considered attacking Iran on Friday (01 May) but did not proceed, due to new Iranian peace proposals. These were subsequently rejected by President Trump, however.

The Iranian and Chinese foreign ministers met in Beijing this morning (06 May), after Secretary of State Rubio called on China to convince Iran to reopen the strait.

Strait of Hormuz

President Trump announced yesterday (05 May) that the US was pausing its escort of civilian vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. Secretary of State Rubio had several hours previously said that over 23,000 sailors were stranded in the Persian / Arabian Gulf.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps instructed vessels yesterday that they must transit the Strait of Hormuz under Iranian guidance and approval. It warned that any diversions will “result in a firm response”.

French shipping company CMA CGM confirmed this morning (06 May) that one of its vessels, the San Antonio, was struck by a suspected cruise missile while transiting the strait near Dubai yesterday, injuring an unspecified number of crew and damaging the vessel.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) centre classified threats in the strait as “critical” yesterday, warning of navigation interference, blockade information mine reports and residual kinetic risks.

Iran

Iranian state media reported this morning (06 May) that air defence systems engaged reconnaissance drones over Qeshm Island.

Local authorities have warned residents of Bandar Khamir that controlled explosions of unexploded ordnance will occur in the environs of the city from today.

United States

Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine said yesterday that Iran’s attacks were below the threshold of triggering resumed US combat operations. At the same press briefing, Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said that attacks on American or civilian vessels would prompt “overwhelming and devastating American firepower”.

Israel

Sirens were triggered in Shtula near the Lebanese border this morning (06 May), no damage or injuries have been reported. Yesterday (05 May), drones heading towards Israel were intercepted over Lebanon.

Israeli Chief of Staff Lt General Eyal Zamir warned yesterday that the military is “prepared to respond with force” if Israel is attacked by Iran.

Regional

United Arab Emirates

Iranian drones and missiles were intercepted yesterday afternoon (05 May), for the second consecutive day. No injuries or damage were reported.

Lebanon

The Israeli military issued evacuation warnings for 12 villages in southern Lebanon this morning (06 May), including Kaouthariyet al-Saiyad, Ghassaniyeh, Mazraat al-Daoudiyeh, Bedias, Rihan, Zellaya, Bazouriye, Harouf, Habboush, Ansariyeh, Qalaouiyeh and Deir ez-Zahrani. The Israeli military announced shortly afterwards that it was conducting aerial bombardments on unspecified Hezbollah positions.

Local media accused Israel of firing white phosphorus artillery munitions in Kounine and Beit Yahoun yesterday (05 May). Artillery fire also targeted Braasheet and Kounin in Bint Jbeil, as well as Qaaqayet al-Jisr in Nabatieh. An Israeli drone strike last night injured three paramedics in Deir Kifa.

Hezbollah claimed attacks on Israeli forces in Wadi al-Jamal, Rashaf, and al-Balat yesterday.

Syria

The Syrian Interior Ministry said yesterday that it had dismantled a Hezbollah-linked cell planning to assassinate government officials. Arrests occurred in Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Tartus and Latakia. Hezbollah denied the accusations.

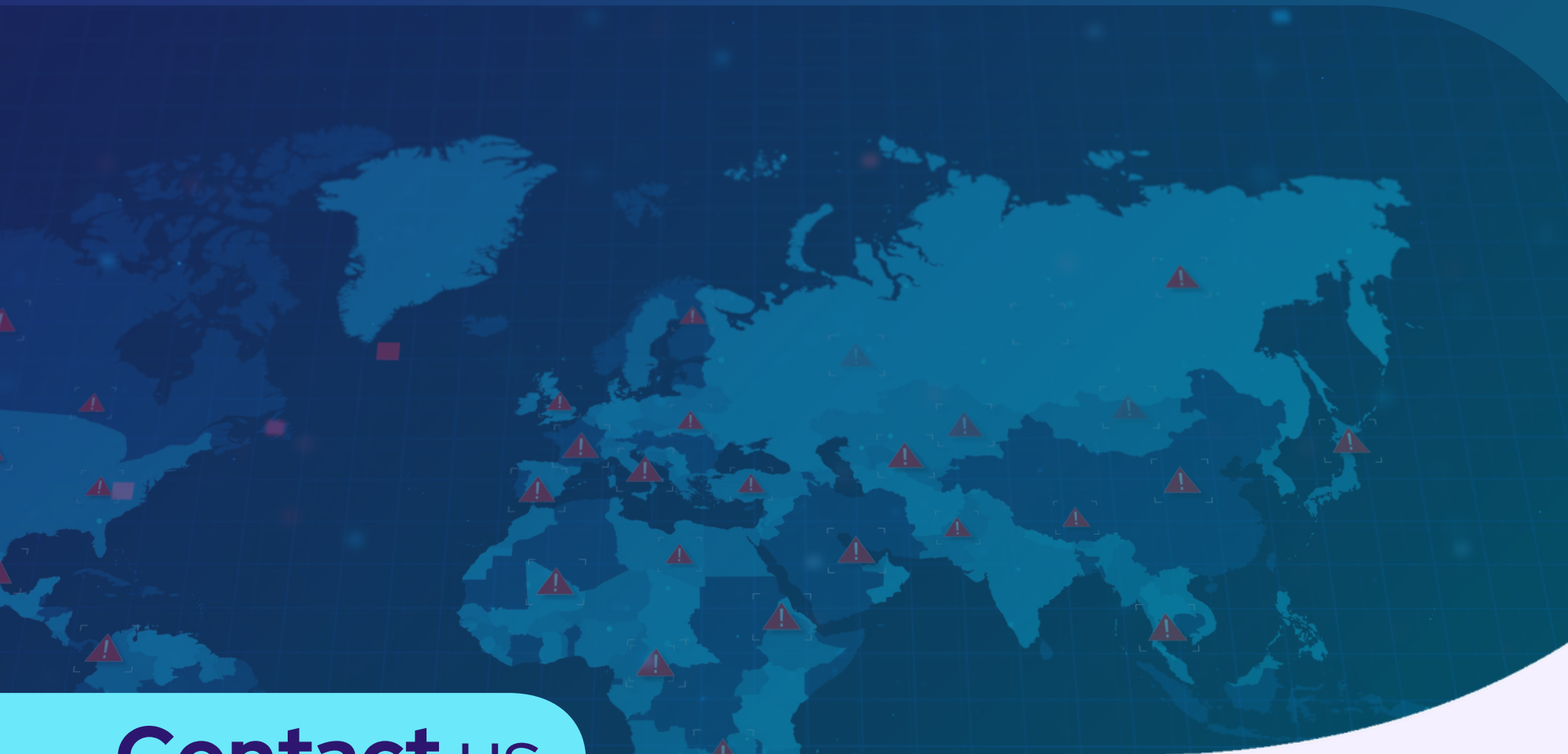
Travel

Aviation

Yesterday (05 May), EgyptAir announced the suspension of all its flights from Cairo International Airport to Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, effective immediately and until further notice.

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.



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