

Executive Summary

A two-week ceasefire has been agreed overnight, and the Iranian government has said that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be guaranteed for two weeks. A two-week period of negotiations will begin in Islamabad on Friday.

In the hours since the agreement, strikes have been reported across the region, including in Lebanon and some Gulf states. Differing interpretations of the situation with Lebanon are already emerging as a key issue for the negotiations.

Diplomacy

Last-minute intensive mediation efforts, led by Pakistan, with support from Egypt and Turkey, last night began to be positively reviewed by the Iranian government. Less than an hour before the deadline he set, President Trump agreed to suspend strikes on Iran for a period of two weeks, contingent on the safe reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's Supreme National Security Council subsequently confirmed the ceasefire deal. The ceasefire has been welcomed internationally.

President Trump has said that the Iranian ten-point proposal is a workable basis for negotiations over the coming two weeks, which will start in Islamabad from Friday. He has made his negotiating position clear by making a social media post this morning to say there will be "no uranium enrichment" by Iran, but also that the US will provide sanctions and tariff relief to Iran.

Although Trump's statement last night did not mention Israel specifically, it was reported that Israel had also agreed to the ceasefire overnight. Nonetheless, it remains unclear the extent to which the conflict in Lebanon is included in the agreement: the latest reports are that the agreement will include Lebanon, but it may be a few days before a ceasefire there is implemented. Prime Minister Netanyahu this morning said that it does not include Lebanon; the Pakistani prime minister has said that it does. This morning, Hezbollah made an official statement to say that it accepts the two-week ceasefire, despite ongoing Israeli attacks, and warned that the ceasefire could collapse if Lebanese security is not properly considered.

United States

President Trump's language on social media was particularly negative yesterday evening, with his use of the phrase "*a whole civilisation will die tonight*" being heavily criticised across the political spectrum, with several international and domestic commentators stating that it amounts to a threat to commit genocide.

Iran

This morning, the Israel Defence Force (IDF) said that it had ceased fire against Iran. This morning, residents of Tehran were reported celebrating on the streets after the agreement of the ceasefire. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has warned this morning that its finger is "on the trigger" in case the US or Israel break their ceasefire obligations.

Yesterday evening, Israel conducted strikes on Mashghara, western Bekaa, and on bridges used by the IRGC.

Last night, the IDF claimed to have carried out a strike on Iran's main production site for sonar and underwater detection systems in Shiraz.

An international nuclear power spokesperson has said that there is a serious risk of radioactive contamination if US and Israeli air strikes continue to target the Bushehr nuclear power plant. The warnings have been seconded by the head of the World Health Organisation.

Israel

Missiles were reportedly launched from Iran towards Israel during the night, after the agreement of the ceasefire.

The IDF reported several separate waves of Iranian missiles yesterday evening, at least one in the south and two in the central area.

Settlements in northern Israel were attacked by Hezbollah with rockets last night.

Bahrain

Yesterday evening, the operators of the Khalifa Bin Salman port agreed to suspend operations early this morning, given the threat of increased strikes.

Last night, sirens were activated across the country. A fire was reported at a plant, reportedly caused by "Iranian aggression". Sirens were heard again this morning.

Iraq

The Tehran-aligned militia Kataib Hezbollah said last night it will free the US journalist Shelly Kittleson, who was kidnapped in Baghdad in late March, as long as she leaves Iraq immediately.

At least three civilians were killed last night in Basrah by a suspected US missile attack.

Three drones were intercepted and two people injured by rockets last night. Two rockets hit Camp Victory in Baghdad International Airport, causing some fires. Two people were injured by falling debris in central Baghdad.

An air strike last night targeted the headquarters of the Tehran-aligned militia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) north of Baghdad.

The Tehran-aligned Islamic Resistance in Iraq has agreed to suspend operations in Iraq for two weeks, in accordance with the ceasefire.

Kuwait

Yesterday afternoon, the Ministry of Defence reported that it had responded to 17 Iranian drone attacks in 24 hours; no damage or injuries were reported. The government called on residents to remain at home between 0001h and 0600h (local time) Wednesday as a precaution.

This morning, 28 Iranian drones targeting oil and power infrastructure were intercepted, despite the ceasefire agreement.

Lebanon

One Israeli soldier was killed and several injured in fighting in southern Lebanon last night.

The IDF issued another evacuation alert for residents of the Shabriha neighbourhood of Tyre. An Israeli air strike subsequently hit an ambulance in Qlaileh, near Tyre.

This morning, the IDF issued evacuation alerts for residents of Haret Hreik, Ghobeiry, Laylaki, Hadath, Burj al-Barajneh, Tawhidat al-Ghadir and Shiyah neighbourhoods in Beirut's southern suburbs.

An Israeli strike on Sidon overnight killed eight people and injured 22. An IDF artillery attack was reported on Baraachit, southern Lebanon, this morning.

Qatar

Qatari authorities sent out an alert last night, and successfully intercepted at least one missile attack over Doha. Four people were injured by falling debris.

Saudi Arabia

For the second time in 24 hours, the King Fahd Causeway between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was closed to traffic yesterday evening, as a precaution. Five missiles were reportedly intercepted successfully by air defence last night.

United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Defence reported engaging with Iranian missiles and drones last night. A fire at the Habshan gas processing facility was reported, with three people injured, and operations there have been suspended this morning.

Travel

Maritime

As part of the ceasefire, both Iran and Oman will be allowed to charge fees to vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

Last night, the IDF issued a warning for all vessels in Lebanese waters between Tyre and Ras Naqoura, a stretch of about 20nm, ordering them to sail north of Tyre.

Aviation

Iraq has reopened its airspace and all Iraqi airports after the ceasefire agreement. All civilian flights are permitted to resume.

Syria has reopened its airspace and resumed full operations at Damascus International Airport.

Advice

- 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

Operational assistance: +44 207 183 8910 / ops@northcottglobalsolutions.com

Bespoke reporting or security-related advice: risk@northcottglobalsolutions.com

24/7 assistance: +44 2071 8389 36 / tracking@northcottglobalsolutions.com