

Middle East Situation

Intelligence Cut-Off: 0900h, 17 March 2026

Executive Summary

Iran fired several drone and missile attacks at Gulf countries overnight. Falling debris killed one person in Abu Dhabi this morning, in addition to direct strikes on the UAE's Fujairah Oil Industry Zone and Shah gas field.

A Hezbollah terrorist cell was dismantled by security services in Kuwait overnight, with 16 people arrested and drones and weapons seized.

Authorities in the UAE restricted airspace overnight, causing diversions and cancellations. Flights have resumed this morning.

Iran

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned American industries in the region and industrial factories in which US nationals are shareholders to evacuate "so they are not harmed".

Air attacks were reported overnight in northern Tehran, specifically near the Saadabad Palace complex. Attacks also occurred in Shiraz and Tabriz overnight. The Israeli military announced this morning that the head of Iran's Basij militia (a state-aligned group responsible for public order) was killed overnight.

The Iranian President claimed yesterday evening that Iran "will not surrender to bullies". He suggested that ending the conflict requires guarantees that the US and Israel will not conduct attacks in the future.

The IRGC has said it will retaliate if its fuel facilities on Kharg Island are attacked. It appeared to threaten Gulf countries, warning they would "turn all the oil and gas facilities of the country of origin of the aggression into ashes". It has repeatedly justified attacks on Gulf countries by accusing them of being staging grounds for American attacks on Iran.

Israel

A rocket struck a building in Nahariya yesterday evening and caused a fire, injuring at least six people. The Health Ministry said this morning that 70 people have been hospitalised in the last 24 hours from injuries sustained in the ongoing conflict.

Sirens were triggered early this morning in northern and central areas (including Tel Aviv), causing no confirmed injuries or damage.

Regional

United Arab Emirates

Falling shrapnel from an interception has killed one person in the Bani Yas area of Abu Dhabi this morning.

A drone strike caused a fire at the Shah gas field (Abu Dhabi emirate) yesterday evening, prompting authorities to suspend operations. Another drone attack targeted the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone (FOIZ) early this morning, causing a fire. Oil loading was halted yesterday morning after a similar drone attack on the Fujairah facility.

Saudi Arabia

Iran has fired several attack waves overnight, with over 30 drones intercepted in the Eastern Province this morning. Several drones were intercepted in the Al-Kharj Governorate. The reported impact is little, with no confirmed injuries or damage.

Qatar

Falling debris from an interception has caused a fire this morning in an unspecified industrial area of the country.

Kuwait

The Interior Ministry announced overnight that it had arrested 16 people with ties to Hezbollah for planning a "sabotage plot" in Kuwait. Camera drones, bladed weapons and small arms were seized.

Missiles and drones were intercepted yesterday evening, with no confirmed injuries or damage.

Two medics have been injured by falling shrapnel on a medical centre in the country. They are in a stable condition.

Lebanon

Airstrikes have been reported this morning in Dahiyeh and Aaramoun, in the southern suburbs of Beirut. The strike on Aaramoun reportedly destroyed one floor of an apartment building. Strikes were also reported in southern areas of the country toward the Israeli border; residents in Arab al-Jal received an evacuation order by the Israeli military, warning that attacks were imminent.

Tehran-aligned militant group Hezbollah said yesterday evening they had targeted Israeli infantry forces in southern Lebanon with small arms fire. Israel had in recent days announced localised ground offensives to secure southern Lebanon and prevent Hezbollah attacks on Israel.

At least one person was killed and 16 others injured in an Israeli air attack on an apartment building near Tyre yesterday evening. Several hours previously, an Israeli drone strike killed a paramedic in Yater.

The Israeli military has ordered civilians to head north of the Zahrani River, citing ongoing and planned military operations in the area.

The Lebanese army has said that Israeli airstrikes have injured five soldiers this morning near Kfar Sir village, southern Lebanon.

Iraq

The US Embassy in Baghdad came under missile and drone attack overnight. Exact injuries and damages are unconfirmed, but one drone reportedly crashed into the compound.

A missile attack then killed four people in Jadriya district, Baghdad. Movement restrictions have been imposed in the area; unconfirmed reports suggest the victims were members of pro-Iranian militia groups.

Yesterday evening, a drone impacted the Royal Tulip Al-Rasheed Hotel, in Baghdad's Green Zone, causing superficial damage and no injuries. Several hours previously, a drone attack impacted the Majnoon oilfield in Basra; the facility had already halted operations after a similar strike four days ago.

Travel

Aviation

The UAE temporarily closed its airspace overnight following Iranian missile and drone attacks. It has since reopened and carriers have resumed operations.

Wizz Air has extended its flight cancellations to Israel until 29 March.

British Airways has cancelled all flights to and from Amman, Bahrain and Dubai until 01 June.

Maritime

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported this morning that a projectile struck a tanker 23nm east of Fujairah, in the Gulf of Oman. It caused minor structural damage, but no injuries have been reported.

Advice

- Do not travel to the Middle East.
- Avoid all travel within the region unless safe travel can be guaranteed.
- Shelter in place in a secure location.
- Follow instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- Monitor official updates and ensure phones are set up to receive alerts.
- 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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