

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1230h (BST), 24 April 2026

Executive Summary

Israel and Lebanon agreed to extend their ceasefire for three weeks yesterday (23 April). The Israeli military and Hezbollah have since accused one another of breaching the truce, with several conflict incidents reported in southern Lebanon and northern Israeli border areas.

President Trump authorised the US Navy to fire on any vessels laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday. The third US aircraft carrier arrived in the region yesterday amid an ongoing US military buildup. Oil prices have since risen above USD 100 for the first time in two weeks.

Kuwait eased aviation restrictions yesterday, and domestic airlines are scheduled to resume services from Sunday (26 April).

Diplomacy

The Israeli defence minister said yesterday (23 April) that Israel is prepared to resume attacks on Iran but that it was awaiting approval by the US; he warned that Israel would bomb Iran “to the stone age”. Oil prices have since increased to over USD106, the first time it has exceeded USD100 in two weeks. The International Energy Agency also warned that liquified natural gas supplies will likely remain tight until 2027 due to material damage sustained in the conflict.

The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon has been extended by three weeks. The Israeli ambassador to the US said yesterday evening that Israel and Lebanon “have never been next to each other more than today”.

President Trump ruled out using nuclear weapons in Iran yesterday, stating the weapons “should never be allowed to be used by anybody”. He added that he would not rush negotiations with Iran.

Iran

Air defence systems were triggered over Tehran yesterday (23 April), but it is unclear whether they were misfires or training. State media claim they were firing at hostile targets, but there are no reports of Israeli or US operations.

Iranian officials, including the president and the speaker of parliament, published press releases yesterday that reject US accusations of political divisions in the country. President Trump had hours earlier alleged that Iran was struggling to decide on a leadership structure.

United States

The USS George H.W. Bush arrived in the Middle East region yesterday evening (23 April), the third aircraft carrier present in the region.

Speaking to reporters, President Trump said yesterday that Americans should expect elevated fuel prices “for a little while”. This came after he failed to outline a clear roadmap for the ongoing conflict with Iran during talks with the press.

Israel

Hezbollah fired rockets towards Shluhot this morning (24 April); no injuries or damage were reported.

Regional

Strait of Hormuz

President Trump yesterday authorised the US military to destroy any boats laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

Lebanon

An Indonesian soldier affiliated with the UN’s peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has died today (24 April) from injuries sustained last month.

At least two Israeli airstrikes hit southern Lebanon yesterday evening (23 April), hours after President Trump announced that the Israel-Lebanon cease-fire had been extended. Impacted locations include Toulina and Khirbet Selm. Before the ceasefire was announced, two-armed gunmen were killed in Aainata, and Israeli airstrikes killed three people in Shoukin.

Hezbollah claimed yesterday that it had targeted Israeli ground forces in Taybeh, southern Lebanon.

Before the ceasefire, the Israeli military reissued movement advisories in southern Lebanon near the Israeli border, which is considered by Israel as an active security zone. Lebanese civilians were also advised that approaching the Litani River, Wadi al-Salhani, and al-Saluqi is prohibited.

Kuwait

Drones fired from Iraq have impacted two border posts this morning (24 April), causing no confirmed injuries but some unspecified damage.

A US-Kuwaiti journalist was acquitted of all charges yesterday (23 April), after being detained since 03 March. The individual was initially accused of spreading false information, harming national security and misusing a mobile phone.

Travel

Maritime

President Trump said yesterday (23 April) that the US Navy was demining the Strait of Hormuz.

An oil tanker associated with Iran was interdicted and seized by the US Navy in the Indian Ocean yesterday.

The Pentagon spokesman accused the international media of misrepresenting classified information by reporting that it may take six months to clear the Strait of Hormuz of mines: he added that the timeframe was just one assessment.

Aviation

Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways will resume operations in Kuwait from Sunday (26 April). This came after authorities resumed operations at Kuwait International Airport yesterday (23 April).

Iranian state media have said that flights from Tehran to Muscat and Istanbul will resume on Sunday.

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