

Middle East Situation

Intelligence Cut-Off: 1030h (BST), 30 March 2026

Executive Summary

US media is reporting that US ground troops have been preparing for ground operations in Iran, after President Trump spoke to the media to say that he wanted to take Iranian oil.

Attacks on chemical facilities have continued across the region, with the Tabriz Petrochemical Company having been targeted in an air strike last night and the Bazan oil refinery this morning. Critical infrastructure in Kuwait was attacked last night, including power and water facilities.

One UN peacekeeper has been killed in an apparent artillery attack on a UN tactical headquarters in southern Lebanon.

Two drones were reportedly launched at Israel last night, having been launched from Yemen: no confirmation has been heard from the Houthi militia.

United States

The US media has reported that the US military has been preparing for ground operations in Iran, potentially involving raids on coastal sites but falling short of a full invasion. Last night, President Trump told the media that he wants to “take the oil” in Iran, and that the US military could seize the Iranian export hub on Kharg Island. He has also reported that negotiations with Iran are still ongoing, although there is no supporting evidence of that.

USS Tripoli, with 3,500 sailors and marines, has now arrived in the region. Other units, including marines and airborne soldiers are still on their way.

Iran

The US International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed last night (based on satellite imagery) that the Khondab heavy water production plant is no longer operational.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has threatened to target American universities across the region, after air strikes recently damaged two Iranian universities.

The Israeli military said last night that it had attacked at least three major facilities in Tehran involved in the development and production of weapons, using more than 120 munitions.

Iranian media reported last night that a site of the Tabriz Petrochemical Company was attacked in an air strike last night in north-western Iran. A fire on the location was quickly contained, and no dangerous leaks have been reported.

Israel announced this morning that it has started attacking state and security infrastructure throughout Tehran. Powerful explosions were heard across Tehran and the suburb of Ray this morning. Power outages were reported in Tehran last night after destruction to the local grid, before being restored this morning. The IRGC made a statement last night that retaliation was under way for attacks on Iranian industrial infrastructure.

Israel

Two drones targeting Eilat were reportedly intercepted from Yemen last night, believed to have been launched by Houthi rebels.

Warnings were released last night about a new wave of missiles launched from Iran towards Israel, understood to have been intercepted by air defence. A fire was reported in the Bazan oil refinery in Haifa after a missile attack this morning.

Rocket attacks have been launched into northern Israel and at Israeli soldiers from Hezbollah last night and this morning.

Regional

Lebanon

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) is continuing its move north towards the Litani river. Six IDF soldiers have been injured in three separate incidents overnight. Five people were killed in an air strike last night on Chaqra, southern Lebanon.

This morning, the IDF issued evacuation warnings on southern suburbs of Beirut, including Haret Hreik, Ghobeiry, Laylaki, Haddad, Borj el-Brajneh, Tawhidat al-Ghadir and Shiyah, before conducting two air strikes on the areas.

The IDF targeted the UN peacekeeping headquarters in Aadshit al-Qusayr in southern Lebanon with an artillery barrage yesterday evening. Several people were wounded and one Indonesian soldier killed. Another paramedic was killed last night in an apparent air strike on an ambulance in Bint Jbeil.

Iraq

The US embassy in Baghdad has warned that Tehran-aligned militias across the region may look at targeting US universities in Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, after the IRGC threat earlier.

The Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, a headquarters for the Iraqi military, was targeted last night with rockets that could not be intercepted. An A32-B Iraqi military transport plane was set on fire, but there have been no reported injuries.

The Mohamad Alaa Air Base, next to Baghdad International Airport, was hit by rockets this morning, destroying one aircraft.

Bahrain

Sirens sounded in Bahrain last night on at least three separate occasions. An attack was conducted on a coastal village near the airport this morning.

Saudi Arabia

Air defence successfully intercepted a cruise missile heading towards Eastern Province last night, according to the Ministry of Defence. Early this morning, five ballistic missiles heading for Eastern Province were detected and intercepted. Five drones were also reportedly shot down this morning.

Kuwait

The government confirmed last night that an Iranian attack on a power and water desalination plant had killed an Indian worker. The attack on critical infrastructure has been widely condemned. Later, five drones were reportedly shot down by the Kuwait National Guard.

Syria

A drone attack targeting several Syrian military bases near the Iraq border was detected this morning; the military reportedly shot down most of the drones.

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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