



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

MENA Executive SITREP

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**MAX
INTELLIGENCE**



Executive Brief: US – Israeli Operations Against Iran and Regional Implications

Explainer: This daily report provides an executive summary of major developments related to the ongoing war in the Middle East. It complements MAX Security's more in-depth Situation Update reports. If you haven't yet received our situation updates and other reporting amid the current escalation, or would like to receive more details, join our [WhatsApp community](#). For operational support, please contact our Protection Division at operations@max-security.com.

Operational Overview

US and Israeli military operations are still suspended as of April 9.

On April 9, US President Donald Trump stated on his Truth Social platform that all US ships, aircraft, military personnel, additional ammunition weaponry, and "anything else that is appropriate and necessary for the lethal destruction of Iran" will remain in place, in and around Iran, until a "real agreement" is reached. If Iran fails to comply, which President Trump perceives as "highly unlikely," the US will "start shooting, bigger and better and stronger than ever seen before." He also stated that any "country supplying Military Weapons to Iran" would be immediately subject to a 50 percent tariff on all goods sold to the US. He added that "there will be no exclusions or exemptions."

The White House indicated that Iranian public messaging and the media have caused confusion regarding Iran's ten-point basis for a ceasefire. Several US officials indicated that Iran's first draft was not accepted, following which Iran submitted a more workable scheme, which is the current basis for negotiations.

In a press conference held on April 8, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth stated that the "regime was out of options and out of time, so they cut a deal. They know this agreement means that they will never ever possess nuclear weapons. Under the term, **any nuclear materials they should not have shall be removed...The President has been clear from the beginning, there will be no Iranian nuclear weapon, period, full stop.**"

In the same press conference, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine stated that the US military welcomes the ongoing ceasefire and hopes that "Iran chooses lasting peace." He added that the ceasefire is a "brief pause" and the joint force remains "ready if ordered or called upon to resume combat operations with the same speed and precision" as already demonstrated in the recent campaign.

In a briefing, White House Spokesperson Karoline Leavitt stated that Vice President JD Vance and envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner will lead the slated negotiation round in Islamabad with Iran. **She further stated that President Trump's red line regarding nuclear enrichment within Iran has not**

changed.

In an interview on April 8, Vice President Vance stated that the US is coming to the table with significant leverage. He encouraged Tehran to come to the table seriously and indicated that if “they [Iran] break their end of the bargain, then they are going to see some serious consequences.” Vance further stated that **President Trump said that he “does not want Iran to have the capacity to build a nuclear weapon, and we want Iran to give up the nuclear fuel. Those are going to be our demands during the negotiation.”**

Vance also stated that “the Iranians thought that the ceasefire included Lebanon, and it just did not. We never made that promise. We never indicated that was going to be the case.” **He added that if Iran wants to let the negotiations fall apart...over Lebanon, that is ultimately their choice.**” Vance also claimed that Israel has offered to restrain itself in its strikes against Hezbollah as long as negotiations between the US and Iran are taking place.

Iranian actions

No Iranian attacks were recorded on April 8-9, following those launched during the early stages of April 8. Several states in the region, including Israel, have opened their airspaces and eased Home Front Command (HFC) restrictive measures.

During the evening hours of April 8, Iranian FM Araghchi shared the Pakistani social media post regarding the ceasefire, with an underline on a reference to a ceasefire in Lebanon. Araghchi stated that “the Iran-US ceasefire terms are clear and explicit: the US must choose - ceasefire or continued war via Israel. It cannot have both. The world sees the massacres in Lebanon. The ball is in the US court, and the world is watching whether it will act on its commitments.”

During the evening hours of April 8, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf released a statement alleging three ceasefire violations by the US: Non-compliance on the first clause of the ten-point ceasefire framework regarding the ceasefire in Lebanon; The alleged entry of a drone into Iran’s airspace; and denial of Iran’s right to enrichment, which he alleged was included in the sixth clause of the framework. Ghalibaf stated that in such a situation, a bilateral ceasefire or negotiations are “unreasonable.”

As of the time of writing, Iranian negotiators are still slated to participate in mediation talks in Islamabad on April 10.

Overall, the abovementioned developments are an indication that Washington retains its red lines associated with Iran’s nuclear enrichment, which will be a source of contention in the negotiations. The reports also indicate significant discrepancies regarding what Iran’s ten-point document actually entails, which may be another source of friction during talks. Other risk vectors for the ceasefire’s viability are



the actual status of free passage in the Strait of Hormuz, which Washington will likely monitor closely, and Iran's desire to include Hezbollah and Lebanon in the conditions for the 14-day truce. As of the time of writing, Israel's continued operation in Lebanon has not derailed Iran's slated participation in the talks, nor prompted renewed waves of attacks against Israel or other states in the region. Nevertheless, it highlights a degree of volatility in the current framework.

Other notable developments

Israel-Lebanon: Israeli officials stated that the operation against Hezbollah is not affected by the ceasefire with Iran. On April 8, Israel launched one of the most extensive airstrike campaigns against Hezbollah, targeting 100 Hezbollah infrastructures, including in residential areas in Beirut that are outside of the Dahiyeh suburb, causing significant casualties. The IDF confirmed it has assassinated the secretary and bodyguard of Hezbollah's Chief Naim Qassem. In addition, the IDF's evacuation order for southern Lebanon remains intact, and IDF ground forces continue their operations as part of the group campaign in the country. As of April 9, Hezbollah continued to launch rockets against Israeli border communities.

Travel & Security Aspects

- **Israel's** Home Front Command (HFC) eased movement restrictions across most of the country, barring some restrictions mostly in northern Israel.
- **Israel** is resuming routine activities at the Ben Gurion International Airport, as well as the Herzliya Airport, as of April 9. It is slated to resume operations at the southern Ramon International Airport on April 12. It stated that situational assessments will be held towards the end of the weekend regarding the reopening of Haifa Airport.
- **Iraq's** airspace remains open as of April 9.
- **Bahrain and Syria** have also reopened their airspaces. Syria indicated that operations at the Damascus International Airport have resumed.

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