

Information Cut-Off: 1400h (BST), 27 July 2026

Executive Summary

Iran and the US have not clashed since Friday (24 July), with US officials saying the pause is to facilitate diplomacy. Omani representatives are currently in Tehran discussing a possible resolution to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Saudi Arabia and the Houthis have clashed in recent days. On Friday, Saudi airstrikes hit Yemen's Hodeidah; in retaliation, the Houthis conducted strikes on oil infrastructure at ports in Saudi Arabia's Jizan and Yanbu on Saturday (25 July).

Conflict

The US has not attacked Iran since Friday (24 July), with the US ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz briefing the media yesterday (26 July) that the White House has paused strikes to facilitate diplomacy. Iranian representatives told international media yesterday that they will halt attacks provided the US does the same. The Jordanian military shot down two drones this morning (27 July), but their origin is unclear, and no injuries or damage have been reported.

Anonymous regional officials briefing international media have said the pause shows a commitment by both sides to de-escalate and to return to diplomacy. The US maritime blockade on Iran continues, however: on Saturday (25 July) the US boarded a Comoros-flagged vessel in the Arabian Sea, but it was later released.

Saudi Arabia conducted airstrikes in Hodeidah on Friday, the area is controlled by the Iran-aligned Houthi rebel group. In retaliation, the Houthis fired missiles at two oil installations at ports in Jizan and Yanbu, Saudi Arabia. Authorities have not clarified the impact, but smoke was seen rising from Jizan.

Ukraine attacked sanctioned vessels in the Caspian Sea alleged to have transported military equipment between Russia and Iran on Saturday. Iran said that one of its vessels was hit and that one person was killed. The Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi warned yesterday that the attack "cannot go unanswered".

Diplomacy

Omani officials held talks with Iranian representatives on Friday (24 July) and Saturday (25 July) to discuss a potential agreement to manage the Strait of Hormuz. The free movement of maritime traffic has been a primary grievance between Iran and the US in recent weeks.

Iran said this morning (27 July) that it retains control over the Strait of Hormuz and that it is not seeking to resume peace talks with the US.

Regional Information

Kuwait

The Iraq-Kuwait border reopened yesterday (26 July), after it was closed on Thursday (23 July) after an Iranian drone attack.

Lebanon

Israeli artillery/airstrikes were reported in Nabatieh on Saturday (25 July) and yesterday (26 July), which were concentrated in Kfar Tebnit. A large explosion was also reported in Tyre, specifically in Masha'a al-Mansouri.

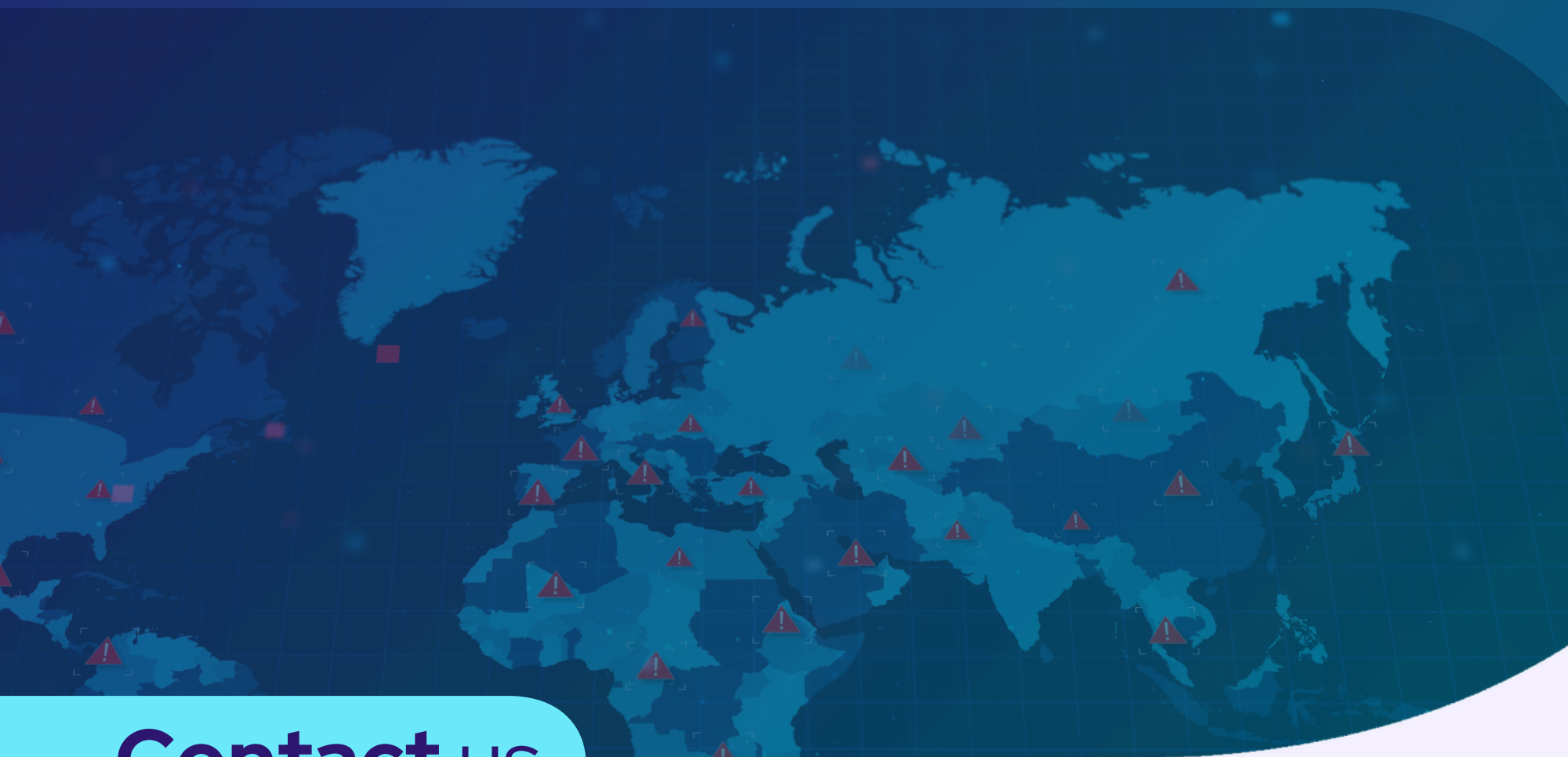
Strait of Hormuz / Bab al-Mandeb

Iran has said this morning (27 July) that it controls maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and that ships must pass along its coastline in coordination with Iranian authorities.

An oil tanker exploded yesterday (26 July) after hitting a mine in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian media; Iran said that the vessel had left the Iranian-agreed route. The incident cannot be independently verified. On Saturday (25 July), the UKMTO reported a splash from an unconfirmed source near a vessel in the Gulf of Oman.

Advice

- Reconsider all travel to Israel, Iran and Lebanon (especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley).
- Be aware that US facilities throughout the Gulf are potential targets for Iranian attacks, and avoid all such sites whenever possible.
- Monitor international media and relevant embassy/diplomatic advisories to remain aware of any fresh developments and to ensure receipt of all attack warnings, and follow all guidelines.
- Ensure awareness of the nearest shelter in the event of air sirens.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region that appears to be linked to the US/Israel – Iran conflict.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- Aviation travellers should anticipate schedule changes and limited seat availability, should allow additional connection time and should confirm flight status directly with the operating airline before travelling to the airport.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.



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