

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1200h (BST), 22 April 2026

Executive Summary

President Trump has extended the ceasefire until Tehran submits a proposal with conditions for ending the war, and until negotiations conclude. However, Trump said the US naval blockade on Iran will remain. It remains unclear whether a second round of negotiations will be held.

In the Strait of Hormuz, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has fired upon and impounded at least two vessels.

Violence in the region has continued, with Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon killing and wounding civilians and destroying homes.

Diplomatic

Overnight, President Trump said that he would extend the ceasefire until talks mediated by Pakistan have concluded and “until such time as their [the Iranian] leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal”. He has ordered the US Navy to continue its blockade on Iranian ports.

Tehran acknowledged the extension this morning (22 April), but responded by saying it will not negotiate under the imposed terms, and has insisted that for entering any further talks, the US blockade on Iranian ports must be lifted.

President Trump has also emphasised the readiness of the US military to resume operations. US Central Command has said that its forces in the area are rearming. The Iranian military has also emphasised its strength, and has said it will immediately strike “pre-designated targets” in the event of the US launching a new attack. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned this morning that it is ready to “confront” any new “aggression”.

Pakistani officials reportedly worked extensively yesterday evening (21 April) to persuade Iranian and US negotiators to resume talks today, but neither sets of envoys were prepared to travel before the other group confirmed attendance. Iranian state media reported last night that Tehran had rejected attending the talks.

Iran has condemned the US military attack on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Sea of Oman on Sunday (19 April). In an open letter to the UN Security Council, Tehran expressed its desire to seek international condemnation for an “act of piracy”.

President Trump has reportedly extended his waiver of the Jones Act shipping requirement (which mandates that oil supplies moving between US ports be carried on US-flagged vessels), which will likely help to calm fuel price rises.

Another round of direct talks between Israel and Lebanon is scheduled to take place in Washington today.

United States

A Washington-based US media platform has reported that the US military has used almost half of its Patriot air defence interceptor missiles, more than half of its THAAD interceptors, and more than 45% of its Precision Strike Missiles during the conflict with Iran.

Iran

A senior official in the Iranian civil defence authority has reportedly been executed after being found guilty of charges of espionage on behalf of Mossad.

Regional

Strait of Hormuz

US Central Command claimed yesterday (21 April) that it had forced 28 vessels to “turn around or return to port” after trying to enter or exit Iranian ports.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported an incident on a container ship 15nm north-east of Oman this morning (22 April), reportedly involving an IRGC ship firing upon the vessel. Iranian media subsequently reported that the IRGC was enforcing maritime law on a vessel that had “refused warnings”.

This morning, the IRGC reportedly seized two vessels and transferred them to IRGC coastal bases.

Iraq

Drone strikes, attributed to Tehran, have been reported across the Kurdistan region, with three Kurdistan Freedom Party fighters reportedly injured in Khabat.

The US is reportedly suspending US dollar shipments to Iraq and freezing military cooperation programmes in an attempt to pressure Baghdad to dismantle the Tehran-backed militias that operate in Iraq.

Lebanon

Yesterday (21 April), the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) reported that Hezbollah had launched rockets at IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon, and that the soldiers had responded. Hezbollah said its attacks were in retaliation for Israeli violations of the 10-day ceasefire.

Last night, Israeli forces wounded six people and demolished homes in Khiam, southern Lebanon, in violation of the ceasefire.

Early this morning (22 April), the IDF reportedly demolished homes in Al-Bayyadah.

This morning, an Israel drone attack targeting the outskirts of Jabbour in western Bekaa reportedly killed one person and injured two, according to Lebanese media.

Yemen

The leader of the Houthis stated yesterday that fighting was likely to continue in the region, regardless of any US-Iranian ceasefire.

Advice

- Do not travel to Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, Dahiyeh in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley.
- Reconsider travel to the Middle East, especially Israel, Iran and Iraq, but also the wider Gulf region.
- Remain aware of ongoing tensions, given the possibility of a sudden resumption in fighting.
- Monitor instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- 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.

Contact us

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