

Middle East Update

Information Cut-Off: 1200h (BST), 23 July 2026

Executive Summary

The US has conducted strikes on Iran for the twelfth consecutive night (22–23 July), with the Iranian military having once again responded with attacks on US facilities in Kuwait and Jordan.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attacked a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday evening (22 July).

The Houthi militant group in Yemen yesterday claimed attacks on two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea as part of its blockade of Saudi ports.

Latest Exchanges

Yesterday evening (22 July), the US military began strikes against Iran for the twelfth night in a row, including in Jask, Bushehr, Ahvaz, Sirik, Shalamchah, Ramshir, Mahshahr and Andimeshk. An asphalt factory, power infrastructure, missile storage sites, coastal surveillance and an Iran–Iraq border crossing were all targeted.

In response, the IRGC claimed more attacks on US facilities in Kuwait, including drone, air defence, telecommunications and aircraft facilities at the Ali al-Salem and Al-Adiri bases. Later this morning (23 July), the IRGC claimed attacks on US military capabilities in Jordan, including air defence, telecommunications and helicopter facilities. Both Jordan and Kuwait claimed to have intercepted Iranian missiles and drones overnight. Sirens sounded in Bahrain this morning.

President Trump yesterday reissued his threat to attack civilian bridges and power plants in Iran in response to Iranian attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. In response, the Iranian government stated that it would conduct retaliatory strikes on civilian infrastructure in the Middle East in response to such an attack.

Diplomacy

The US government has said that there have been some engagements between the US and Iranian governments, but there have been no details about what this has involved.

Today (23 July), Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi is due to visit Iran for talks with President Pezeshkian, shortly after having visited Washington.

The Italian government has confirmed that the latest negotiations between Israel and Lebanon will be held in Rome on 04 August.

Travel

Maritime

The US military has disputed Tehran's claim that Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, and has confirmed that, since the start of its naval blockade last week, the US navy has redirected nine commercial vessels from accessing Iranian ports and disabled one. It stated that it has facilitated the passage of more than 900 commercial ships through the strait since early May.

Yesterday evening (22 July), the IRGC navy said it had attacked a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz that was attempting to navigate the southern route along the Omani coast, forcing two other tankers to turn back.

The Houthis in Yemen claimed yesterday evening to have conducted missile and drone strikes on two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea as part of its blockade on Saudi ports. One tanker was confirmed to have been hit 70nm off the west coast of Saudi Arabia, in the Red Sea.

United States

President Trump yesterday (22 July) told the media that the American public supports the US-Iran conflict, without providing information. He said that discontent was focused on the consequences of the war (such as high oil prices) rather than the conflict itself.

Congress is currently debating a bill that will increase integration between the US and Israeli militaries, involving a USD1.15tn military spending package. The Pentagon has reportedly demanded nearly USD 70bn to sustain the war on Iran.

The US State Department this morning (23 July) renewed its security alert to travelling Americans to "exercise increased caution" due to the tensions in the Middle East.

The US Government this morning issued a warning to US organisations of Iranian "cyber activity" targeting US critical infrastructure and internet-connected devices.

Iran

The Iranian military told the media yesterday (22 July) that it has been expanding its arsenal of missiles and drones since the start of the conflict, and that US surveillance and intelligence has been unable to locate production sites.

The UK FCDO yesterday reported that it has withdrawn diplomatic staff from Iran due to the ongoing security concerns, and that the embassy will operate remotely until further notice.

Advice

- Reconsider all travel to Israel, Iran and Lebanon (especially south of the Litani River, Dahiyeh 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.

Contact us

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