

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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The strikes that didn't happen: Trump called off last-minute Houthi airstrikes

- The New York Times reported that the Trump administration had prepared on Sunday to launch airstrikes against the Houthis after fresh pleas from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — but that Trump called off the strikes at the last minute, even as troops were loading bombs onto aircraft. Reuters could not independently verify the report; Central Command did not respond to an email seeking comment. — [New York Times \(via Reuters\)](#)
- Trump spoke by phone Sunday with Rashad al-Alimi, president of Yemen's Saudi-backed, internationally recognized government, who asked for US military help against the Houthis, four sources told Reuters; two sources said Trump made no direct pledge of support during the call. — [Reuters](#)
- Washington has so far rebuffed repeated Saudi pleas to join the fight in Yemen; the Houthis, who control Yemen's capital since 2014, seized the country's Red Sea coast earlier this month, routing Saudi-backed government forces. — [Reuters](#)

Houthis push into the highlands to cut off the Red Sea coast

- Houthi fighters pushed on Monday to seize strategic heights in Yemen to cut off the Red Sea coast from remaining areas held by Saudi-backed forces, extending the wider Middle East conflict to a new theater. — [Reuters](#)
- Yemen's government said Monday its forces struck Houthi fighters and supply lines in the Bab al-Mandeb area and in Bayda province; a senior commander claimed troops went on the offensive, though Houthi resistance — including from local tribes — remains stiff and the government still holds the critical Taiz–Aden road junction. Heavy fighting also reported in oil-rich Marib. — [CNN](#)
- Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed Monday that Saudi Arabia carried out 157 aircraft and missile strikes across four Yemeni provinces, bringing the total to 917 since the latest escalation began, and vowed a response — claims CNN could not independently verify and Saudi authorities did not immediately address. — [CNN](#)
- According to the United Nations, nearly 700 people have been killed and thousands injured in the flare-up in fighting in Yemen; more than 120,000 Yemenis have fled their homes within Yemen. — [Reuters](#)

Two tankers hit in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday

- Britain's UKMTO maritime security agency said a ship sailing into the Strait of Hormuz was hit with a projectile, causing minor injuries to crew. The agency described the projectile as unknown. — [Reuters](#)
- UKMTO said a second tanker was hit by debris. No attribution was reported for either incident. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Neither incident has been attributed to any group. The two strikes follow earlier tanker attacks in the strait this month, when two supertankers carrying Saudi crude were struck by unknown projectiles. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

Oil holds near \$100 as UN week begins

- Brent crude held near \$100 a barrel through Monday — its lowest since early September — even as two tankers were hit in Hormuz and Yemen fighting escalated, with traders betting on the New York diplomatic window. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- The UNGA high-level debate opens Tuesday in New York; Trump is set to address the Assembly Tuesday and Pezeshkian is expected to speak Wednesday, and Trump didn't rule out meeting with Pezeshkian in New York. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

What to watch next

- Whether the White House confirms or denies the Times account of the called-off Houthi strikes — and whether Trump reverses course.
- Whether the rumored Trump–Pezeshkian meeting at the General Assembly actually happens, and what Pezeshkian says Wednesday.
- The Houthi highlands offensive: whether the push to cut off the Red Sea coast succeeds or stalls against tribal and government resistance.
- Whether the Hormuz tanker attacks continue — and whether any group claims responsibility.
- The US embassy alert wave: whether more missions tighten their security posture. — [CNN](#)

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President Donald Trump (AP photo) — [view original](#)

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