

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Saudi Arabia strikes Houthi fuel depot as Riyadh comes under renewed fire

- Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, October 13 struck the Houthis' Al-Sabaha Central Station fuel depot in northern Yemen, a facility of about 58,000 tonnes capacity that the Saudi-led coalition says supports strikes on Saudi airports and energy sites. — [CNN](#)
- Hours later, in an apparent Houthi response, the coalition intercepted and destroyed three cruise missiles and two drones targeting the Riyadh region and southern Saudi Arabia, and at least four people were injured by falling debris. — [CNN](#)
- An Aramco administrative building in Dhahran was targeted in the exchange, causing a limited fire and no injuries, according to the Saudi Energy Ministry. — [CNN](#)
- Earlier on Tuesday the coalition also intercepted a ballistic missile fired toward the Eastern Province, another toward Haradh, and three drones north of Riyadh. — [CNN](#)
- Casualties at the fuel depot are contested: the Houthis say two civilians were killed and two injured, while the coalition says it warned civilians to leave the area beforehand. — [CNN](#)
- The U.S. State Department on Tuesday expanded its restrictions, requiring U.S. government personnel to obtain chief-of-mission authorization to use any airport in Saudi Arabia. — [CNN](#)
- Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport remains closed until Saturday, October 17 under the NOTAM issued Monday, with no fresh extension announced on Tuesday. — [Reuters](#)

MI5 chief says Iran is shifting to harder targets in Britain

- MI5 Director General Ken McCallum said in his annual threat update and media Q&A on Tuesday, October 13 that Iran has shifted to targeting harder targets such as military sites in Britain, and that the suspected plot against RAF Fairford was not unique, with other examples in the UK and around the world. — [Reuters](#)
- McCallum said operations connected to Iran had yielded more than 50 arrests in the UK over the last 12 months, that Iran uses criminal proxies to target opponents, Iranian media organisations and Israeli interests, and that many operations were aimed at Jewish communities. — [Reuters](#)
- The Wall Street Journal independently reported McCallum's figure, quoting him that Iran-linked operations over the last 12 months led to more than 50 arrests in the UK. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Tehran denies involvement in the alleged plots and rejects the accusations. — [Reuters](#)

Iran's crude exports held at zero under the U.S. blockade, Vortexa data show

- Vortexa reported on October 13 that Iran's seaborne crude exports fell to zero in the second week of September, from a 14-day average of 230,000 barrels per day at the start of that month, and remained at zero as of October 5 under the U.S. naval blockade. — [Reuters](#)
- Iranian crude held in tankers on the water has fallen to 83 million barrels, with 43 million barrels trapped west of the Strait of Hormuz due to the blockade. — [Reuters](#)

- Iran's liquefied petroleum gas exports fell 48% month-on-month to their lowest since at least January 2023. — [Reuters](#)
- Gulf oil flows excluding Iran surged to over 81% of pre-war levels in September, led by a Saudi recovery, while Russian crude exports rose 6% month-on-month to 3.79 million barrels per day. — [Reuters](#)

Trump dismisses China and Russia help for Iran, a claim U.S. intelligence reporting contests

- President Trump said late on Monday, October 12 that he did not believe China and Russia were helping Iran at all, saying they had too much to lose and any help would be at a very low level and quickly detected by the United States. — [Reuters](#)
- U.S. intelligence assessments in recent months have found that Russia and China are providing direct support to Iran, including satellite imagery for targeting and weapons components, according to people briefed on the assessments — a finding that contests the president's public position. — [Reuters](#)
- Beijing says it abides by international rules and opposes being associated with the conflict. — [Reuters](#)
- Neither Beijing nor Moscow issued a new statement on the question on Tuesday, October 13. — [Reuters](#)

Hormuz talks stalled as Tehran reviews the U.S. response

- Iran's Supreme National Security Council secretary Mohsen Rezaei said on October 11 that the U.S. response to Iran's seven-condition proposal for reopening the Strait of Hormuz was insufficient, that some conditions were accepted and others unclear, and that Tehran was no longer in the process of responding until Washington clarifies them. — [Reuters](#)
- Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on October 12 that Iran is still reviewing the U.S. response and will reply via intermediaries once the review is over, with messages still being exchanged via Qatar and Pakistan. — [Reuters](#)
- The core sequencing dispute is unchanged: Washington wants the nuclear programme addressed from the outset, while Tehran wants talks to start with Hormuz reopening and security. — [Reuters](#)
- Baghaei also reiterated Tehran's offer to help facilitate dialogue between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis. — [Reuters](#)

Markets

- Brent crude traded at \$106.28 a barrel on October 13, easing from Monday's settlement of \$106.65, the highest since September 15, as prospects of increased Russian diesel supply offset Gulf supply risks. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI crude traded at \$94.73 a barrel on October 13, in the same session. — [Reuters](#)
- The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield fell about three basis points to 5.22% on October 13 as markets looked ahead to U.S. inflation data. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

Shipping

- Crude oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz were at least 10.1 million barrels per day in the week to October 6, down 27% from the prior week's wartime high and at 74% of the pre-war level, according to Kpler data reported by Reuters. — [Reuters](#)
- Twenty-one LNG cargoes exited the Strait of Hormuz in September according to Kpler, the highest monthly total since the war began but only about a quarter of pre-war levels; S&P Global counted nineteen cargoes. — [Reuters](#)

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