

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Two cargo ships sink near Hormuz as attack tempo hits a wartime high

- Reuters reported on October 14, citing maritime security sources, that the Singapore-flagged container ship GFS Pride, a 2,824 TEU vessel, had sunk near the Strait of Hormuz after being hit by a projectile, and that the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged bulk carrier Cape Dao, struck by a projectile on September 23, was reported to be sinking near the strait after an unsuccessful rescue attempt, according to British maritime risk group Vanguard. — [Reuters](#)
- The Wall Street Journal reported on October 14 that both the GFS Pride and the Cape Dao had sunk near the Strait of Hormuz, citing Pakistan's National Hydrographic Office, with maritime security companies confirming both losses as the first such sinkings in months. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Reuters reported on October 14, citing Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority, that the Singapore-registered container vessel GFS Giselle was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz on October 14, sustained hull damage, reached a safe anchorage under its own propulsion, and all 22 crew members were safe with no injuries reported. — [Reuters](#)
- The Wall Street Journal reported on October 14 that vessel attacks around the Strait of Hormuz reached a wartime high last week with 12 attacks on commercial vessels according to Windward AI, and that about two dozen ships have been hit since the beginning of October according to UKMTO and maritime-security firms, more than were struck in all of September. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- The Wall Street Journal reported on October 14, citing commodities-data provider Kpler, that Iranian oil exports had fallen to zero under the U.S. blockade while exports from the rest of the region had recovered to 18.2 million barrels a day before the latest Hormuz attacks. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- The U.S. Navy-led Joint Maritime Information Center rates the threat to merchant shipping in the Strait of Hormuz as severe, its second-highest level, with IRGC attacks, targeted surveillance of merchant shipping and radio hailing persisting, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- The Wall Street Journal reported on October 14 that IRGC Navy commander Ali Azmaei rebutted President Trump's claim that the U.S. Navy had total control of the Strait of Hormuz, challenging the United States to test whether the strait is open or closed and saying Iran would deal with offenders. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

Houthis vow more attacks on Saudi airports and oil sites after Aramco HQ strike

- Reuters reported on October 14 that Yemen's Houthis vowed to press on with attacks on Saudi airports and oil facilities, said they launched ballistic and cruise missiles and drones at Aramco facilities in Dhahran, King Khalid International Airport and an Aramco refinery in Riyadh, and urged shipping companies, civilians and workers to evacuate Saudi airports and oil facilities as legitimate targets. — [Reuters](#)
- Reuters reported on October 14 that the Saudi-led coalition intercepted a Houthi ballistic missile fired toward Riyadh, with booms heard in the capital and an aerial-threat alert issued and then lifted. — [Reuters](#)

- On damage at the Aramco headquarters complex in Dhahran the accounts differ, and the less escalatory version leads: Saudi Arabia's Energy Ministry position remains a limited fire with no injuries, while a company source told Reuters a ballistic missile hit the headquarters complex and damaged the top three floors of an office tower. — [Reuters](#)
- Reuters reported on October 14 that King Khalid International Airport remains closed until October 17. — [Reuters](#)
- Reuters reported on October 13 that President Trump said Yemen's Houthis were "behaving very badly" and he "might" ask Turkish President Erdogan to intervene and support Saudi interests. — [Reuters](#)

Netanyahu rules out a preemptive strike on Iran before Israel's election

- Reuters reported on October 14 that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an Army Radio interview that he was not in favour of a preemptive strike against Iran before Israel's October 27 election, while warning Tehran and its proxies that Israel would respond forcefully if attacked. — [Reuters](#)
- The Times of Israel reported Netanyahu's position that he prefers not to attack Iran before the elections, corroborating the Reuters account of the Army Radio interview. — [Times of Israel](#)
- Haaretz reported Netanyahu's statement against a preemptive strike on Iran before the election in its October 14 live coverage, a second Israeli outlet carrying the same position. — [Haaretz](#)
- Reuters reported on October 14 that Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz, speaking in southern Lebanon, warned Hezbollah against attacking Israel and said Hezbollah would suffer a severe blow if it did. — [Reuters](#)

UN warns Hormuz fertilizer deadlock risks a food crisis within weeks

- Reuters reported on October 14 that UN Under-Secretary-General Jorge Moreira da Silva warned in Bangkok that failure by the United States and Iran to agree within weeks on a UN-backed plan for moving fertilizer through the Strait of Hormuz could cause a food security crisis in parts of Asia and Africa by missing the planting season. — [Reuters](#)
- Reuters reported on October 14 that Moreira da Silva said the UN fertilizer passage mechanism for Hormuz, using a coordination centre in Oman, could be activated within 7-10 days of a US-Iran agreement and that passage of only five vessels per day could keep fertilizer supplies flowing to countries in critical need. — [Reuters](#)
- Iran's supreme leader said in a written statement on October 13 that the war would continue until the United States and Israel were brought to their knees, and that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

U.S. sanctions Yemen network tied to Houthis and Iranian oil

- The Wall Street Journal reported on October 14 that the U.S. Treasury sanctioned a Yemen-based network tied to the Houthis and Iranian oil. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

Markets

- Brent crude was at \$105.63 a barrel on October 14. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI crude was at \$94.81 a barrel on October 14. — [Reuters](#)
- The U.S. average diesel price was \$6.179 a gallon in the EIA weekly figure for the week reported on October 12. — [Reuters](#)

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