

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Shabwa camp death toll rises to 73 killed, 14 missing

- 73 people were killed, 14 remained missing and more than 200 were injured in the Houthi attack on Monday, October 19, 2026 on a government security forces training camp in Yemen's Shabwa province, Reuters reported on October 20, 2026, raising the toll from the earlier reported 58 killed. — [Reuters](#)
- The Associated Press reported that Houthi missiles hit a gathering of trainees at a military camp in Ataq, the capital of Shabwa province, that the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack, and that the Saudi-led coalition condemned it. — [AP](#)

Saudi air defences intercept Houthi ballistic missile over Riyadh

- The Saudi-led coalition said on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 that Saudi air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia toward Riyadh, Reuters reported, citing Saudi state media. — [Reuters](#)
- Al Jazeera reported the interception came near the dawn prayer on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 and that the Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted and destroyed the ballistic missile launched by the Houthis toward Riyadh. — [Al Jazeera](#)
- The interception was at least the second Houthi ballistic missile launched toward Riyadh in two days, after a missile was also intercepted near the capital on Monday, October 19, 2026, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

UK sends RAF Typhoons to fly defensive missions over Saudi Arabia

- Britain's Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 that Royal Air Force Typhoon fighter jets will fly defensive counter-air missions to protect Saudi cities and critical infrastructure from Houthi missile and drone attacks, operating only in a defensive role and not conducting offensive strikes inside Yemen, CNN reported. — [CNN](#)
- Defence Secretary Wes Streeting said RAF Typhoons will fly defensive air missions to help protect Saudi airspace from drones and missiles, The Guardian reported. — [The Guardian](#)
- The Times reported that RAF jets are being sent to protect Saudi Arabia's skies from Houthi rebels. — [The Times](#)

Talks remain stalled as U.S. envoys press the Israel track

- Reuters reported on October 20, 2026 that Iran is deliberately prolonging talks with the United States in a stalling tactic aimed at weakening President Trump ahead of the U.S. midterm elections, with three senior Iranian officials and an insider saying Tehran does not intend to reach an agreement in the coming weeks. — [Reuters](#)

- U.S. Vice President JD Vance was due to visit Israel on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 alongside envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel still needed U.S. support to ensure Iran does not rebuild its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Markets

- Brent crude futures settled at \$109.46 a barrel on October 20, down \$1.08 or 0.98%, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude settled at \$98.38 a barrel on October 20, down 0.76%, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Conflict map



Markers show reported strike sites, bases, and shipping areas. Purple polygons mark approximate or announced closure / exclusion zones.

Sources: [Reuters](#) · [AP](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Al Jazeera](#) · [CNN](#) · [The Guardian](#) · [The Times](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#)

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