

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Intelligence chief warns Iran's lethal plotting against U.S. personnel has reached advanced stages

- Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton warned in a memo dated October 23, 2026 to Secretary of State Marco Rubio that Iran has substantially increased efforts to target U.S. personnel and that Iranian lethal plotting against U.S. citizens has reached advanced stages in the Middle East and certain other countries. — [Reuters](#)
- CNN independently reported the October 23 memo, quoting it as saying Iran has substantially increased efforts to target U.S. personnel and that the plotting had reached advanced stages in the Middle East and certain other countries, and reporting that a U.S. official linked staffing decisions at U.S. missions to threats from the Houthis and Iranian terror plots. — [CNN](#)

State Department refreshes travel advisories for more than a dozen Middle East countries

- On Saturday, October 24, 2026, the U.S. State Department updated travel advisories for more than a dozen countries across the Gulf and Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Israel, citing an increased threat from Iran-aligned Houthis. — [Reuters](#)

Pezeshkian blames Washington for interim-deal failure but urges a new attempt

- Iranian President Massoud Pezeshkian, in remarks broadcast on state TV on Saturday, October 24, 2026, blamed the United States for the failure of an interim deal with Iran, but said there should be a new attempt at concluding it, saying: 'We were having negotiations, the cowards (Americans) messed everything up... I still think we should go and conclude it,' Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

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