US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Katz Warns Iran Is Developing Chemical Weapons; Tehran Calls the Claim Fraudulent

- Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Tuesday, November 24, 2026 that Iran is currently developing chemical weapons to restore deterrence after wartime damage, and pledged that Israel will not allow Iran to attain a chemical weapon; he would not say how far along the alleged programme had progressed or where it was taking place, and no evidence was published. — Times of Israel
- Katz said the Israel Defense Forces and U.S. Central Command are preparing to attack together, that the plans are ready, and that President Donald Trump will decide; he also said Iran has not reactivated its nuclear programme since the June 2025 Israeli-U.S. strikes, although there are signs it is trying to. — Times of Israel
- Iran denied that it is developing chemical weapons, with its Foreign Ministry spokesman calling such reports fraudulent and accusing the United States of building a specious case for an extended war. — Times of Israel

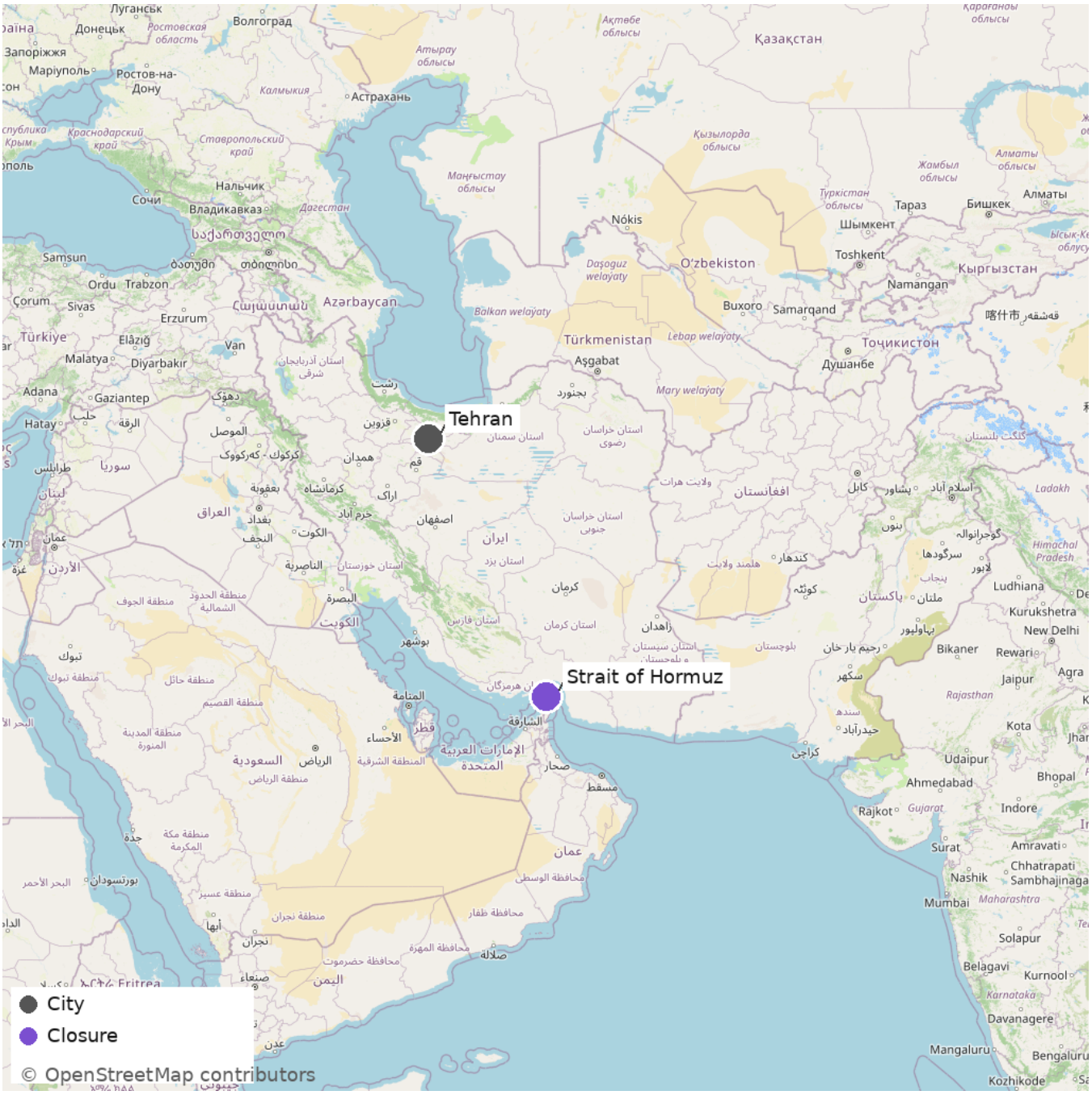
Tehran Says It Can Withstand the U.S. Blockade as Inflation Bites

- Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said on Wednesday, November 25, 2026 that Tehran is not concerned about the U.S. naval blockade, pointing to a significant increase in cargo unloading and clearance through non-southern borders, and said strategic goods reserves were strong and supplies plentiful. — Reuters
- Aref said the government was seeking to prevent increases in basic goods prices for at least three months; consumer prices in Iran in October 2026 were 88.7% higher than a year earlier and food and beverage prices rose 112.6% year-on-year, according to the Statistical Centre of Iran. — Reuters
- The United States reimposed its naval blockade on Iranian ports in July 2026 and earlier in November announced Task Force Iron Gate to restrict the movement of weapons and sanctioned materials across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea. — Reuters

Markets

- Brent crude rose 3.5% to settle at $94.61 a barrel on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, recovering from early losses as continuing Middle East tensions countered expectations of a coming global supply surplus. — Wall Street Journal
- WTI crude rose 2% to settle at $83.68 a barrel on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, a second straight higher settlement. — Wall Street Journal

Conflict map



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

Sources: Times of Israel · Reuters · Wall Street Journal

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