

US-Iran Conflict Briefing — Morning Edition, September 17

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UN mission: reasonable grounds US strikes in Iran were war crimes

- The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran said it had reasonable grounds to believe the US was behind two February strikes — a primary school in Minab and a sports centre in Lamerd — and that both constituted war crimes under international law. The report goes to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. — [Reuters](#)
- The mission says more than 150 people were killed in the Shajareh Tayyebbeh Primary School strike in Minab, including around 120 schoolchildren, per Iranian officials. The US acted on unverified intelligence about a senior Iranian commander and struck while aware of a substantial risk of hitting a civilian object. — [Reuters](#)
- In Lamerd, the sports-centre strike damaged nearby homes and a school and killed and injured 22 civilians. US Central Command said in March that US forces launched no strikes on Lamerd that day — putting CENTCOM directly at odds with the UN mission. — [Reuters](#)
- The same report found Iranian authorities committed crimes against humanity in the December-to-January protest crackdown — unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances — with a death toll likely far higher than the official figure of 3,038. — [Reuters](#)
- Neither the US nor Iranian missions in Geneva commented. US officials say operations follow the law of armed conflict; Iran rejects systematic abuse allegations. The Pentagon elevated its Minab probe but has published no preliminary findings. — [Reuters](#)

Trump says Iran 'wants to make a deal' ahead of expected Gulf-leaders meeting

- Trump told reporters Wednesday evening: 'Well, hopefully we are towards the end of the war.' On Iran: 'They want to make a deal. We'll see how that works out.' He added he had heard from Iran 'directly,' without elaborating. — [Reuters](#)
- Axios reported late Wednesday that Trump is expected to meet leaders or foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman — on the UN General Assembly sidelines on Tuesday, September 22. The State Department and White House did not confirm. — [Axios via Reuters](#)
- Reuters notes Trump has offered shifting goals and timelines for the war, now in its seventh month after the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. — [Reuters](#)

Saudi-Houthi fighting escalates as energy markets whipsaw

- Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed fresh drone and missile strikes on the Red Sea oil port of Yanbu and the southern Saudi airbase at Khamis Mushait, without saying when; Riyadh has confirmed neither side's claims. Treat these as claims, not facts. — [Reuters](#)
- Saree said Saudi forces carried out as many as 450 airstrikes on Yemen this week; officials in the Saudi-backed government acknowledged airstrikes on Houthi positions. The Houthis released battlefield video of fighters seizing armoured vehicles from Saudi-backed forces. — [Reuters](#)

- Damage to Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline threatens a prolonged outage that traders say could cut up to 4% of global oil supply; Riyadh has not said when operations resume. — [Reuters](#)
- Brent hovered near \$108 Wednesday, then fell to \$104.59 in early Thursday trade on reports of Saudi Arabia offering extra crude cargoes through Oman. US diesel hit an all-time high above \$6.30 a gallon. — [Reuters](#)

What to watch next

- Geneva: the UN report lands at the Human Rights Council — whether Washington engages, dismisses, or finally publishes the Pentagon's Minab probe. — [Agile Factor](#)
- UNGA sidelines, Tuesday Sept 22: whether the reported Trump-GCC meeting is confirmed and becomes a real negotiating track — and whether Trump's 'Iran wants a deal' claim gets tested. — [Agile Factor](#)
- Verification: do independent sources confirm the Houthi claims on Yanbu and Khamis Mushait — and do the Saudi cargoes through Oman keep Brent from retesting \$110? — [Agile Factor](#)

Conflict map



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

Related media

- [Al Jazeera Inside Story: 'Will Houthi gains give Iran leverage in its war with the US?'](#)
- [CENTCOM posts video rejecting the IRGC's El Gaia mine claim; says Iran hit the tanker with a missile and a drone](#)

Sources: [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Axios via Reuters](#) · [Agile Factor](#)

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