

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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CNN deep-dive: the Minab school strike — outdated intel, stalled Pentagon probe

- At least 156 people, including 120 children and 26 teachers, were killed when the Shajareh Tayyiba school in Minab was struck on February 28, per Iranian officials — one of the worst civilian-casualty incidents in recent US military history. — [CNN](#)
- CENTCOM built the target coordinates using outdated Defense Intelligence Agency information: 2013 imagery showed the school and the IRGC naval base as one compound, but a 2016 fence and separate entrance were missed; December 2025 imagery showed children playing in the courtyard. Two sources briefed on the Pentagon probe's preliminary findings told CNN the error contributed to the strike. — [CNN](#)
- The UN mission examined a second February 28 strike on a sports center and residential area in Lamerd, which killed 22 civilians, reaching the same war-crimes finding. On Minab: 'No information indicates that the school was used for military purposes at the time' and the US failed its obligation to do everything feasible to verify it was a military objective. CNN previously reported US commanders bypassed warnings that target intel was severely out of date. — [CNN](#)
- The Pentagon's internal investigation has stalled for months: the first two stages (confirming the hit and US responsibility) were done within a week, but the third-stage DIA review 'has not yet been ordered.' A separate CENTCOM investigation interviewing service members has been 'locked down' with access restricted to a handful of officers. — [CNN](#)
- A State Department official told CNN the administration 'did not find the report credible,' citing Trump's February 2025 withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council; the Pentagon declined to comment beyond noting its investigation is ongoing. The mission presents its findings to the 47-member Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday. — [CNN](#)

Oil slides a third day as Saudi workarounds bite

- Brent fell 2.6% to ~\$102.14 and WTI slipped below \$100 (\$99.53) in early European trading Friday — a third straight daily decline, on track for a weekly loss of nearly 2% — as expectations of restored Saudi flows eased immediate supply fears. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Saudi Arabia aims to restore about half of the damaged East-West pipeline's capacity within days, with full return targeted in about six weeks; the Saudi energy ministry confirmed technical teams are assessing the pipeline. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- The UAE's Adnoc is running ship-to-ship shuttle convoys through the Strait of Hormuz under US military protection, transferring crude to tankers waiting in the Gulf of Oman — keeping exports moving despite constrained strait traffic. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Saudi Arabia diverted volumes back to its Ras Tanura terminal on the Gulf coast and is loading tankers willing to brave Hormuz. Caution: MUFG's Soojin Kim said 'continued threats to both Hormuz and Red Sea routes should keep Brent above pre-war levels and volatility elevated.' — [Reuters](#)
- Context: off Oman's Sohar port, Saudi ship-to-ship transfer volumes in the Gulf of Oman run at 2.7 million barrels a day versus 1.5 million in August. — [Reuters](#)

UNGA week stakes: Trump faces a skeptical audience

- Trump faces a deeply skeptical UNGA audience: most European and Asian allies have spurned his demands for assistance in the Iran war effort. — [Reuters](#)
- Trump has rebuffed Saudi pleas for direct American military intervention against the Houthis — a notable turn given the tight Washington-Riyadh alignment on that front. — [Reuters](#)
- High US gasoline prices and low approval ratings make the war a midterm-elections liability for the president. — [Reuters](#)
- UNGA High-Level Week opens Tuesday: possible Trump-GCC leaders meeting Tuesday, Pezeshkian addresses the General Assembly Wednesday, Netanyahu expected Thursday — whether any of it becomes a negotiating track. — [Agile Factor](#)

What to watch next

- Nuclear reconstitution: September 17 satellite-imagery updates from analytic shops (ISIS/ISW) claim Iran is rapidly rebuilding the Taleghani 2 facility at Parchin and hardening Natanz and the 'Pickaxe Mountain' site. No vetted outlet has confirmed — watch for confirmation and any US/Israeli response signaling. — [Agile Factor](#)
- The Saudi pipeline clock: does half of East-West capacity really come back 'within days'? Any new attack on energy infrastructure flips the market. — [Agile Factor](#)
- Geneva on Monday: the war-crimes report lands at the Human Rights Council — engagement, dismissal, or the long-delayed Pentagon probe seeing daylight? And the UN sanctions panel's mandate expires September 26 with no replacement monitor after the Russian-Chinese veto. — [Agile Factor](#)

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Cargo ships anchored in the Strait of Hormuz near Bandar Abbas (WSJ file image, not today's shipping) — Brent fell a third day as Saudi and Emirati workarounds eased supply fears — [view original](#)

■ US Central Command (X, Sept 16): an MH-60 Sea Hawk lifts off from USS Rafael Peralta enforcing the US blockade in the Arabian Sea — 103 commercial vessels redirected as of Sept 15

■ Dawn News English (YouTube, Sept 17): Russia and China veto renewal of the UN's independent Iran sanctions monitoring panel — mandate expires September 26 with no replacement in sight

Sources: [CNN](#) · [Wall Street Journal](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Agile Factor](#) · [Agile Factor](#)

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