

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Riyadh on air-raid alert — first for the capital since the July escalation

- Saudi Civil Defence pushed mobile alerts just before 3 AM local Saturday for Riyadh and nearby Al-Kharj warning of a 'hostile aerial threat'; AFP and Reuters journalists in the capital reported hearing two explosions. The alert was lifted ~30 minutes later with no official explanation of the trigger and no reported casualties. — [AFP/Reuters \(via aggregator\)](#)
- Hours before the alerts, a Houthi military spokesman said the group had foiled unspecified 'criminal attempts' in Sanaa, blamed Saudi Arabia, and threatened a response; Riyadh had not responded at report time. — [Reuters \(via aggregator\)](#)
- The UN Security Council issued a statement Friday condemning 'in the strongest terms' continued Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, including attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure, and Houthi military escalation in Yemen. — [UN Security Council \(via regional outlet\)](#)

Washington won't ride to Riyadh's rescue: CNN reports the US is staying out

- US officials told CNN the United States has no plans for a counteroffensive against the Houthis despite their Bab el-Mandeb push; Washington's strategy is to rely on Saudi Arabia, but there are real doubts inside the US government that the Saudis can stop the Houthis alone. — [CNN](#)
- CBS News reported, citing two sources familiar with the matter, that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman personally asked President Trump to take military action against the Houthis — not confirmed by a vetted outlet. — [CBS News \(via Geneva Times, unconfirmed\)](#)

Red Sea: EU raises the Aspides alert as Italy keeps pushing ahead

- EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Friday the Aspides mission raised the alert level of its vessels in the Red Sea and will reinforce coordination with the Saudi-led multinational maritime coalition — reported via Reuters per aggregators, still not matched to a direct vetted-outlet page. — [Reported \(unconfirmed\)](#)
- In a Friday interview, defence minister Guido Crosetto said 'the only nations really supporting' the security effort are Italy and Greece; Italy's shipowners association says ~40% of Italy's trade with the rest of the world passes through the Suez route. Kpler data: petroleum volumes transiting Bab el-Mandeb were ~7% of global oil output in June. Rome has not detailed what naval assets it would send. — [Reuters](#)

Hormuz toll: 80 verified attacks; Saudi crude finds a way through

- The International Maritime Organization has verified 80 attacks on merchant vessels in and around the Strait of Hormuz since February 28; ICS Secretary-General Thomas Kazakos briefed the UN Security Council on September 18. — [Splash247 \(trade press\)](#)

- Three separate Hormuz tanker incidents since September 16 (two tankers struck by unidentified projectiles plus the IRGC's claimed Trend strike); Aramco sold ~60M barrels of Ras Tanura crude for Sep/Oct loadings (~1-1.5 mbpd), some via ship-to-ship transfers near Sohar; VLCC rates hit \$870,947/day. — [DeepDraft \(trade publication\)](#)
- Front-month ICE Brent settled at \$103.87 Friday — a third straight down session and the lowest settlement since September 9 — as softer-than-feared pipeline-closure impact outweighed escalation fears. — [Dow Jones \(via Morningstar\)](#)

Seoul draws the line: no combat role in the Gulf

- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday: 'There will be no deployment of troops or military assets that involves us in or draws us into wars' — Cheonghae's protective role continues but combat participation is off the table; Seoul sent an assessment team to the UAE as Washington presses allies to contribute to Hormuz security. — [Korea JoongAng Daily \(quoting Yonhap\)](#)

Yemen's ground war grinds on

- The Houthis claim Saudi Arabia launched 26 strikes on Houthi-held areas in the past 24 hours — about 300 over the past week — though those counts are Houthi claims only, with no Saudi confirmation. — [AFP \(via aggregator\)](#)
- Yemen's Saudi-backed government says its forces killed 30 Houthi fighters and wounded 60+ in clashes in Taiz's al-Wazi'iyah district; Saudi authorities reported one person killed in Taif after a Houthi drone was intercepted — the first reported Saudi fatality from an intercepted drone in the revived campaign. — [AFP \(via aggregator\)](#)

What to watch next

- Whether Riyadh names a cause for the two Saturday-morning explosions — a Houthi drone, an interception, or something else. — Briefing
- UN week starts Monday: possible Trump meeting with Gulf leaders Tuesday, Iran's president addressing the General Assembly Wednesday, Netanyahu expected Thursday. — Briefing
- The sanctions panel mandate expires September 26 — one week away. — Briefing
- Whether Iran's claimed detention of the tanker Trend is ever confirmed by anyone other than Tehran. — Briefing

Related media

■ [WION live: 'Saudi Arabia-Yemen War LIVE: Explosions Rock Riyadh After Saudi Arabia Issues Air Raid Alert'](#)

■ [Asia One News: 'EU Condemns Houthi Attacks as Red Sea Mission Alert Rises'](#)

Sources: [AFP/Reuters \(via aggregator\)](#) · [Reuters \(via aggregator\)](#) · [UN Security Council \(via regional outlet\)](#) · [CNN](#) · [CBS News \(via Geneva Times, unconfirmed\)](#) · [Reported \(unconfirmed\)](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Splash247 \(trade press\)](#) · [DeepDraft \(trade publication\)](#) · [Dow Jones \(via Morningstar\)](#) · [Korea JoongAng Daily \(quoting Yonhap\)](#) · [AFP \(via aggregator\)](#)

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