

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

2026-09-25 · Morning edition · Issued 07:00 CDT

Allies rally behind Saudi Arabia as Houthi attacks escalate

- Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan agreed to an urgent meeting of their military chiefs of staff under the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement — 'an attack against any one of the parties constitutes an attack against all parties' — after their foreign ministers met on the UNGA sidelines in New York on Thursday. — [Reuters](#)
- Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti called on soldiers to be ready to 'lay down their lives' to fight the Houthis until the group is ousted, in a statement posted on the official Saudi Press Agency late Thursday. — [Reuters](#)
- The Houthis fired dozens of missiles and drones at Saudi targets on Thursday; Saudi Arabia says it intercepted six ballistic missiles, with emergency alerts issued for Mecca, Jeddah, Yanbu, Taif and Tabuk. — [Reuters](#)
- Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed Thursday attacks on a 'sensitive target' in Riyadh and on Aramco facilities in Yanbu, saying they 'achieved their objectives' — Riyadh has confirmed intercepts but no Riyadh strike, so the capital claim stays unconfirmed. — [Reuters](#)

U.S. intel: Chinese groups are sharpening Iran's targeting

- U.S. intelligence assessments say Chinese groups' satellite imagery and geospatial data have sharpened Iran's targeting of American sites — decisive, they say, in the July strike on the U.S. base in Jordan that killed three American service members, and now used to track Hormuz shipping and time drone launches. Sourced to anonymous U.S. officials; independently unverified. — [CNN](#)
- The scope of Beijing's role is unclear — ordered from the top or tacitly allowed — and some U.S. officials believe China would prefer the Hormuz disruptions to stop; Russia is also assisting Iran, the assessments say. — [CNN](#)
- President Trump hosts China's Xi Jinping at the White House Thursday–Friday — state dinner plus Friday meetings — with the trade-war truce extended to January 10 and Iran and Hormuz on the agenda, tying directly to the intelligence story. — [WSJ](#)

Araghchi floats a seven-day phased deal as sanctions squeeze tightens

- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters Thursday that Tehran conveyed a proposal to the U.S. via intermediaries: end hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon, within seven days; the U.S. lifts the port blockade, releases frozen funds and waives oil sanctions; Hormuz reopens 'on the last day'; then nuclear talks begin. — [Reuters](#)
- The UAE's aviation authority suspended all Iranian airline flights until further notice on Thursday, with Oman joining the ban — the first big impact of the U.S. policy shift to sanction third-country companies doing business with Iranian airlines after September 23. — [Reuters](#)
- A senior Iranian official threatened on Wednesday to make airports 'unusable' in any regional country that complies with the U.S. flight ban. — [Reuters](#)

Pezeshkian distances Iran from Houthis as outlets report direct IRGC guidance

- President Pezeshkian told Fox News 'The Houthis are responsible for their own actions,' distancing Iran from the group's offensive — while AP and Reuters report, citing Yemeni government, Iranian and regional sources, that the Houthis' capture of Yemen's Red Sea coast in under 48 hours was carried out with 'direct guidance from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps,' Iran's most direct intervention since 2014. — [Reuters](#)

Markets

- Brent settled at \$106.60/bbl on Sept 24, up 3.4% on the session — its highest close since Sept 15 — on escalation fears after the Houthi attacks and pessimism about a quick New York deal, partly offset by hopes for a phased truce reopening Hormuz. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI settled at \$94.61/bbl on Sept 24, up 2.7% — its first gain after falling 13% over the prior six sessions. — [Reuters](#)

Shipping

- Nine commodity vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz on Sept 24 — eight exited, one entered, AIS-dark vessels excluded — down from 14 the prior day and about half the 10-day average of 18. — [Reuters](#)

Related media



A Patriot interceptor launches — Saudi air defenses intercepted six Houthi ballistic missiles on Thursday, September 24. (File illustration, not last night's interception.) — [view original](#)



Saudi missile defenses engage over Riyadh. Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed Thursday attacks on a Riyadh target — unconfirmed by Saudi authorities. (File illustration.) — [view original](#)

■ [CNN](#): U.S. intelligence says Chinese groups' satellite imagery and geospatial data have sharpened Iran's targeting of American sites and Hormuz shipping.

Sources: [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#) · [CNN](#) · [WSJ](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Reuters](#)

Compiled from X posts and traditional news outlets. Verify before acting on any single report.