

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Iran ships LPG and jet fuel despite the U.S. blockade, Reuters reports

- Reuters reported on October 16 that analysis by United Against Nuclear Iran shows at least eight gas tankers carrying Iranian liquefied petroleum gas, totaling an estimated 4.1 million barrels, have left the Gulf of Oman since mid-July despite the U.S. naval blockade. — [Reuters](#)
- Some of the LPG cargoes were transferred ship-to-ship near the Omani towns of Shinas and Sohar onto Asia-bound tankers, Reuters reported, citing UANI analyst Claire Jungman. — [Reuters](#)
- Reuters reported that satellite imagery and analysis by maritime intelligence group SynMax show the tanker NG Sang loaded about 35,000 tonnes, roughly 300,000 barrels, of Iranian jet fuel at Bandar Abbas on August 7 and reached Myanmar on September 9, where port records list the consignee as Myanmar's military regime. — [Reuters](#)
- Reuters reported that Iran's crude oil exports remain largely blocked, while liquefied petroleum gas and aviation fuel are moving through the gaps, and analysts cited by Reuters say President Trump's real constraint is China's continued buying of Iranian oil. — [Reuters](#)

Aden palace toll disputed as Yemen's Health Ministry raises it to 38 dead

- Yemen's Health Ministry raised the death toll from the Houthi missile strike on the Aden presidential palace to 38 dead and 110 injured, Reuters reported on October 16, up from the ministry's earlier figure of five killed and 16 injured and Yemeni officials' initial report of two guards killed. — [Reuters](#)
- Prime Minister Shaya al-Zindani said the presidential palace itself was the target of the strike, Reuters reported, while the Houthis said they targeted an alleged Saudi military operations center inside the compound. — [Reuters](#)

Philippines to send workers to staff Saudi military bases, the Wall Street Journal reports

- The Wall Street Journal reported that the Philippines has agreed to send thousands of Filipino workers to staff support roles at Saudi military bases, freeing Saudi personnel for other duties; President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. approved the arrangement after a request from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and a first tranche of about 150 workers is expected in the coming weeks. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Senator Imee Marcos, the president's sister, told the Journal that when she asked how he would feel if Filipino contract workers were killed in an Iranian attack, the president said they would be there voluntarily. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

Riyadh deepens defense coordination with Washington; France quietly sent missiles to Yanbu, The Times reports

- Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman spoke by phone on October 15 with U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, reviewing bilateral relations and defense coordination, regional developments, and efforts toward regional security and stability, Al Jazeera reported, citing the Saudi Press Agency. — [Al Jazeera](#)

- The Times reported that France secretly sent 14 Aster air-defense missiles to Yanbu on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast after Houthi attacks; the French armed forces ministry said it does not comment on operational deployments, and the report has not been independently confirmed. — [The Times](#)

Vance floated easing Saudi enrichment limits as senators push back on the nuclear deal

- The New York Times reported on October 15 that Vice President JD Vance had told Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman the administration would consider suspending limits on Saudi uranium enrichment and reprocessing in a civil nuclear deal, and that officials have floated a broader partnership including additional U.S. weapons sales. — [New York Times](#)
- The Times reported that U.S. officials have presented a planned OpenAI and DataVolt artificial-intelligence data-center campus in Saudi Arabia, potentially worth 20 billion dollars, as a pillar of the partnership, while Senators Elizabeth Warren and Tim Kaine warned in an October 9 letter that any nuclear agreement must address proliferation risks. — [New York Times](#)

Markets

- Brent crude was at \$105.80 a barrel on October 16, edging down amid Middle East supply risks. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI crude was at \$95.72 a barrel on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- The U.S. average diesel price was \$6.179 a gallon in the EIA weekly figure for the week reported on October 12. — [Reuters](#)
- The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield was at 5.09 percent on October 15, with the Wall Street Journal reporting it fell to 5.086 percent that day. — [Wall Street Journal](#)

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