

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Saudi-led coalition destroys Houthi missile launchers near Saada after the Aden airport strike

- Early on Saturday, October 17, Houthi-affiliated media reported strikes east of Yemen's northwestern city of Saada, and the Saudi-led coalition said it had destroyed two ballistic missile launchers in the area, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- Saudi Civil Defense authorities issued an alert early on Saturday for Abha in southwestern Saudi Arabia near the Yemeni border before sending an all-clear, following earlier alerts in the Jazan region and the southwestern city of Khamis Mushait, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- The launcher strikes followed Friday's attacks, in which the Saudi-led coalition intercepted a ballistic missile headed for Yanbu, the Red Sea oil-export hub that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz, and destroyed two cruise missiles over the Red Sea and three drones in Saudi Arabia's Southern and Riyadh regions, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Houthis claim the Aden airport strike, saying they targeted Badr Camp

- The Houthi-run Saba agency claimed the group was targeting a military headquarters and weapons depots inside Badr Camp, a military site next to Aden International Airport, Al Jazeera reported — a claim of responsibility that followed Friday's reporting that the Houthis had not immediately claimed the airport strike. — [Al Jazeera](#)
- Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group had struck what he called the Saudi military operations headquarters in Aden, and said the Houthi attacks on Aden were part of the group's declared policy of targeting Saudi reinforcements wherever they were located, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)
- Two missiles landed on Aden airport's grounds on Friday as Yemenia Flight 612 to Cairo was preparing for takeoff, landing about 500 metres from the aircraft with no casualties reported; Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani called the strike a direct threat to the lives of passengers and aviation crews, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)
- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei denied on Friday that Iran had played a role in Houthi operations, rejecting a Saudi claim that Iran had encouraged the escalation, and said Iran has always been ready to help end the hostilities and again offered to mediate, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)

Tanker attacks and dark transits: two trade routes under pressure

- There have been 12 reported attacks on vessels in or near the Strait of Hormuz in the past week, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, and earlier this week two cargo ships sank after attacks by unknown projectiles in separate incidents, CNN reported. — [CNN](#)
- The U.S. military has led an operation to ferry oil across the Strait of Hormuz by assisting dark transits — tankers sailing with their transponders turned off and shuttling oil to ships waiting in the Gulf of Oman — while Iran continues to struggle to sail its own tankers through the waterway because of a U.S. naval blockade, CNN reported. — [CNN](#)

- At its peak, around 4.5 million barrels of crude per day were exported from the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu, with the bulk — about 3 million barrels per day — exiting via the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, but those flows collapsed after the Houthi threat started escalating this summer, Energy Aspects co-founder Richard Bronze told CNN. — [CNN](#)

Markets

- Brent crude settled at \$109.86 a barrel on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI crude settled at \$99.02 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 5.10 percent on October 16. — [Reuters](#)

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