

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Iran says its seven-day Hormuz reopening plan is still on the table

- Iran's offer to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days is still on the table, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iranian media on Sunday, October 18 in Baghdad, where he was attending the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting; Tehran is reviewing U.S. comments on the proposal, and if Washington accepts Iran's conditions the strait could reopen within six days with talks resuming the following day, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- The proposal was first presented in mid-September after the interim ceasefire collapsed, and its conditions include lifting the U.S. port blockade, lifting U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil exports, and ending hostilities on all regional fronts; Washington insists on addressing the nuclear programme from the outset, with Vice President Vance seeking a meaningful reduction in enrichment, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- Diplomacy between the United States and Iran has not fully halted, with messages continuing to be relayed by regional mediators including Pakistan and Qatar, but no breakthrough in talks is expected any time soon, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)

Egypt's defence council pledges full support for Saudi Arabia ahead of parliament vote

- Egypt's presidency said on Sunday, October 18, after a National Defence Council meeting chaired by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, that Egypt will provide Saudi Arabia with all necessary and possible forms of support to defend its security and stability, protect its resources, territorial integrity and Islamic holy sites, as Houthi attacks intensify; parliament was due to hold its urgent session at 1 p.m. to vote on authorising the military to help defend Saudi Arabia if requested, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- On Saturday, October 17, Sisi said Egypt would take any measures necessary to defend Saudi Arabia if asked, called it inconceivable to allow Saudi security to be harmed, and asked parliament to hold an emergency session; Sisi said Egypt would act in accordance with guidance from King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who visited him on September 15, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- The Egyptian moves follow Houthi attacks on Riyadh's airport and Saudi energy sites after the collapse of the Yemen truce, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Iran appoints aerospace veteran Akhlaqi as defence minister

- Iran's parliament approved aerospace industry veteran Mehrdad Akhlaqi Ketabchi as defence minister on Sunday, October 18, ending months of interim leadership at the ministry and placing a former head of the country's Aerospace Industries Organisation in charge of its defence production and procurement apparatus, Reuters reported citing state media. — [Reuters](#)
- Akhlaqi replaces interim defence minister Majid Ebn al-Reza, who took over after Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh was killed by U.S.-Israeli strikes in February; Akhlaqi is under U.S. and European Union sanctions and pledged to rebuild Iran's military-industrial infrastructure, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Washington and Tehran dispute who controls the Strait of Hormuz

- CENTCOM chief Brad Cooper said in a video message late on Friday, October 16 that 400 ships and 100 million barrels of oil moved through the Strait of Hormuz over the past week and that the strait is controlled by the United States and its regional partners, not Iran; the U.S. military also says its naval blockade has cost Iran 25 billion dollars in oil export income and that it recently seized 350 million dollars in Iranian cryptocurrency financing, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)
- Iran disputes the claim that the United States and its regional partners control the Strait of Hormuz, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)

Tanker incidents off Jubail and the Hormuz mine claim remain unresolved

- UKMTO issued two reports of tanker attacks northeast of Jubail, Saudi Arabia on Friday, October 16: one tanker struck by an unknown projectile 68 nautical miles northeast of Jubail, its crew safe and evacuated, and a second report of a tanker hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired from a small boat 78 nautical miles northeast of Jubail, damaging its aft port quarter; Reuters reported it could not establish whether the two reports referred to the same incident. — [Reuters](#)
- Iran's Revolutionary Guards said two oil tankers struck naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, October 17; Reuters reported there was no independent confirmation of the reports, and the vessels have not been identified. — [Reuters](#)
- CENTCOM says it cleared the Strait of Hormuz of mines and that vessels transiting the strait are being struck by projectiles, disputing the Iranian mine account, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)

Shipping

- UKMTO put total Strait of Hormuz transits over the last seven days at 125 outbound and 129 inbound, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)
- Kpler figures put oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz at 11.6 million barrels per day over the seven days to October 13, about 68 percent of the 17.1 million barrels per day pre-war baseline, Al Jazeera reported. — [Al Jazeera](#)

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