

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Trump halted Netanyahu's planned October strikes on Iran, FT reports

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the Israel Defense Forces to prepare a major strike on Iran in early October, with the multi-day campaign set to begin on October 10, but the operation was called off days before it was set to start after President Donald Trump opposed resuming hostilities ahead of the U.S. midterm elections, the Financial Times reported, according to Haaretz. — [Haaretz](#)
- The planned campaign was aimed at damaging Iran's nuclear program and ballistic-missile capabilities and would have been more extensive than the joint U.S.-Israeli offensive in February, codenamed Operation Roaring Lion, the Financial Times reported, according to Haaretz. — [Haaretz](#)
- On October 8, days before the campaign was set to begin, Trump publicly declared that the United States would not attack Iran before the November 3 midterm elections, writing that Washington was having productive discussions with Iran while insisting Iran will not have a nuclear weapon, Haaretz reported. — [Haaretz](#)
- One source told the Financial Times that further strikes in the coming weeks remained a realistic possibility, saying: 'Either there will be a deal or there will be an attack,' as Washington seeks an agreement covering Iran's nuclear program and control of the Strait of Hormuz, Haaretz reported. — [Haaretz](#)

Supertanker struck a mine south of Hormuz and caught fire, IRGC Navy says

- A supertanker caught fire after striking a sea mine south of the Strait of Hormuz while 'violating' Iranian regulations, Iran's Revolutionary Guards Navy said on Tuesday, according to Iranian media, Reuters reported. No independent authority has yet confirmed the mine strike or the fire. — [Reuters](#)
- There were at least 18 vessel attacks reported over two weeks, ship tracker Kpler said in a note on Monday, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- LSEG analysts said attacks on tankers have expanded beyond the Strait of Hormuz, with Iran targeting vessels as far south as the Gulf of Oman, threatening loadings outside the Arab Gulf and the ship-to-ship transfers that have helped support Middle East loadings, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Pakistan's army chief discusses mediation in Tehran; Iran's peace-broker offer awaits a reply

- Iran's president discussed mediation efforts in a meeting with Pakistan's army chief in Tehran, a meeting Reuters cited in explaining why oil prices had fallen in the previous trading session. — [Reuters](#)
- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a television interview aired on Tuesday that Iran has not received a response from Saudi Arabia or Yemen's Houthis to its offer to help broker peace talks, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Houthi claim Monday attacks on Yanbu, Shaybah and two Saudi airports

- The Houthis on Monday claimed responsibility for attacks on a Saudi Aramco site in Yanbu, the Shaybah oilfield and Saudi Arabia's Riyadh and Abha airports, Reuters reported. The claims are the group's own and have not been independently confirmed in full. — [Reuters](#)

Markets

- Brent crude futures rose 85 cents, or 0.78 percent, to \$109.64 a barrel as of 0022 GMT on Wednesday, October 21, and U.S. West Texas Intermediate rose 76 cents, or 0.78 percent, to \$98.58 a barrel, on Middle East supply concerns, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- On Tuesday, October 20, Brent settled down 76 cents, or 0.69 percent, at \$108.79 a barrel after touching a five-month high of \$111.99, and the December WTI contract settled at \$97.82, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

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