US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Competing Hormuz proposals: Qatar's seven-day plan deemed unsatisfactory by Tehran

- Qatar brought a proposal to Tehran a week ago for a seven-day plan under which the United States and Iran would take daily steps to build trust ahead of broader peace talks, and a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Friday, October 31, 2026 that Tehran did not deem the proposal satisfactory. — Reuters
- Iran has been proposing its own seven-day plan since September, so far rejected by President Trump, calling for Washington to lift a blockade of Iranian ports, unfreeze assets and approve an Iranian-backed route through the Strait of Hormuz, after which the contested strait would be reopened, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said in remarks reported by Al Jazeera on Saturday that Iran was studying a letter from Vice President Vance and that the Iranian plan was the only proposal on the table to reopen the strait, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told Al Jazeera on Saturday, October 31, 2026 that talks with Qatari mediators had produced a proposal reducing the implementation period of Iran's plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to two days, after Qatar first proposed five days, conditional on the United States lifting sanctions imposed after the Islamabad memorandum, reducing U.S. forces in the region, restoring oil waivers, releasing all frozen Iranian funds including those held in Qatar, and recognising the shipping routes Iran discussed with Oman with other routes closed; he said reopening on those terms would pave the way for renewed negotiations with Washington. — Al Jazeera

Khamenei's readiness order in detail: commanders report high readiness from the Gulf coast to the borders

- Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei issued a statement on Saturday, October 31, 2026 ordering the armed forces to be prepared to respond to any attacks, saying any level or type of threat must be met with an immediate, impactful, and geographically unrestricted response, and the Iranian military later announced it was taking steps to improve its readiness, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Khamenei said senior commanders had reported high readiness along the Gulf coast, in and around the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, and on Iran's northwestern and southeastern borders, Reuters reported. — Reuters

What was the Vance letter for? The accounts in Washington differ

- Vice President JD Vance, who led the U.S. delegation at previous rounds of talks with Iran, wrote a letter this week to a hardline senior Iranian security official, which the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal described as an initiative to see if it was possible to restart talks, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- President Trump played the letter down, saying he approved it only to discuss the possibility of letting more medical supplies into Iran, Reuters reported. — Reuters

- Araqchi called the letter from Vice President Vance a positive step, said Iran had studied it in high-level meetings, and said an Iranian delegation and one of his aides were in Qatar continuing consultations with Qatari and Pakistani mediators, but that Iran saw no need to meet U.S. officials at this stage and called reports of such a meeting media speculation, Al Jazeera reported. — Al Jazeera

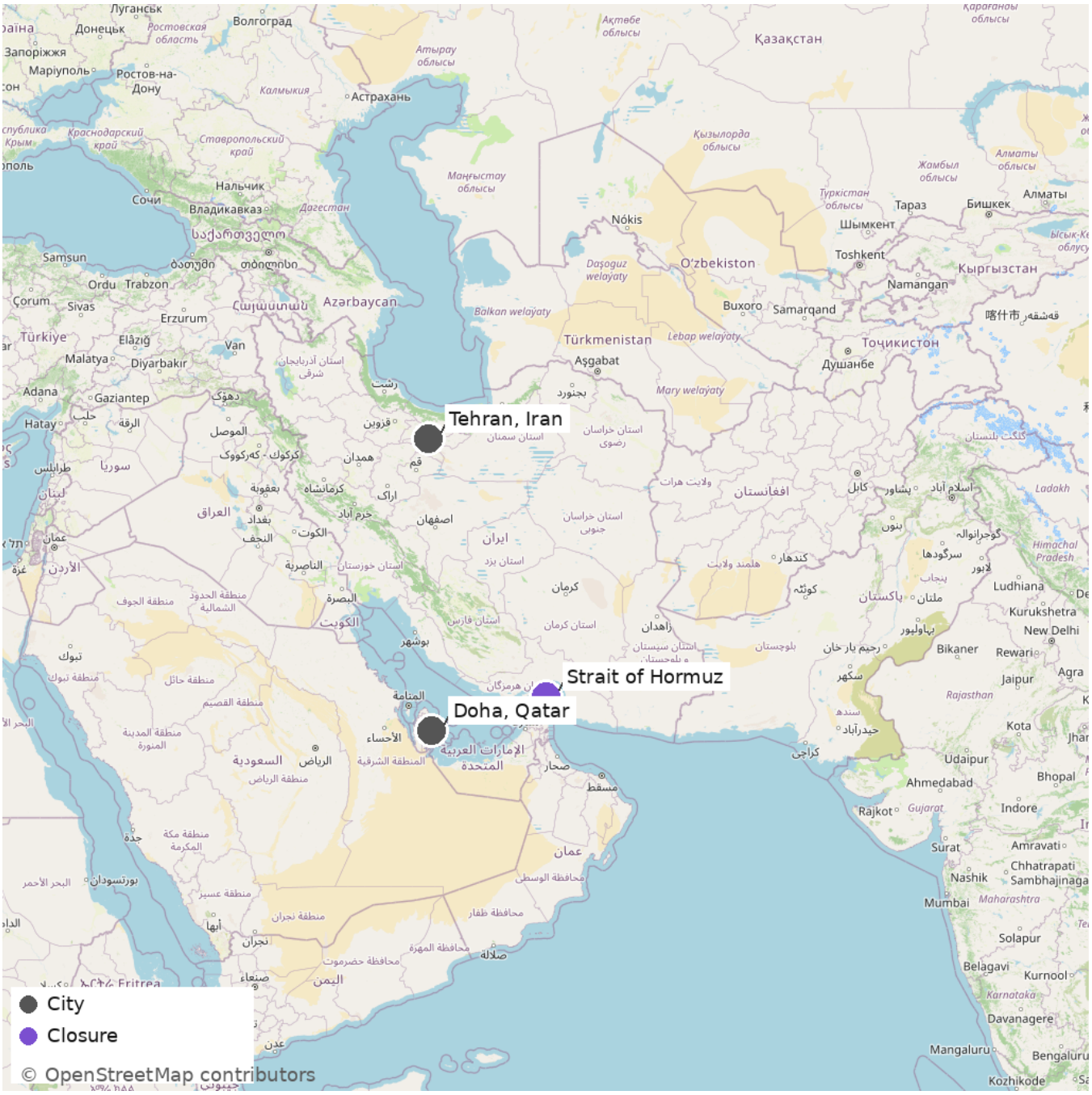
After the midterms: the region braces for a possible restart of U.S. strikes

- Countries in the region have been anticipating that President Trump, who has held off on strikes on Iran during the weeks leading up to Tuesday's midterm elections, could restart attacks once the voting is over, and Iran has repeatedly said it would respond to new attacks by striking at U.S. and Israeli targets in neighbouring countries, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Trump has repeatedly hinted at plans to restart strikes on Iran and last week called on Israelis ahead of their own election to keep his wartime ally Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in power so the two leaders can finish the job, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in Atlanta on Saturday, October 31, 2026 that President Trump has not made a decision on resuming military action against Iran and that there is no timeframe for progress in the talks, CNN reported. — CNN

Qatari LNG carrier Al Mayeda was struck in the Gulf, owner confirms

- Qatar Gas Transport Company, Nakilat, confirmed on Sunday, November 1, 2026 that its liquefied natural gas carrier Al Mayeda was hit by unidentified objects while sailing in Gulf waters on Friday evening, October 30, 2026, Al Jazeera reported. — Al Jazeera
- None of the crew members was injured, no environmental damage was reported, and the vessel is in a safe condition and operational while the impact of the incident is being assessed, Al Jazeera reported. — Al Jazeera

Conflict map



Markers show reported strike sites, bases, and shipping areas. Purple polygons mark approximate or announced closure / exclusion zones.

Sources: Reuters · Al Jazeera · CNN · Al Jazeera

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