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DAY 223, THE 210TH EDITION. AXIOS REPORTS THAT THE PENTAGON HAS TOLD CENTCOM TO FINISH PREPARING FOR A POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF MAJOR COMBAT AGAINST IRAN; NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. A TANKER IS HIT BY MULTIPLE PROJECTILES 51 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF QATAR, WITH CASUALTIES (AT SEA, CAUSE UNCONFIRMED, NOT A STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY). SAUDI ARABIA REPORTS THREE KILLED AND 36 INJURED IN ATTACKS ON ABHA AND RIYADH AIRPORTS; THE UAE CONDEMNS THE ATTACKS. CENTCOM AND THE IRGC ISSUE OPPOSING CLAIMS ON CONTROL OF THE STRAIT. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

8 October 2026 (0900 GMT)

Subject: The Security Situation in Dubai, the UAE, and the Wider Middle East

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠️ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** MILITARY PREPARATIONS ARE REPORTED TO BE ADVANCING, THE TANKER ATTACKS HAVE REACHED THE CENTRAL GULF, AND THE SAUDI AIRPORT ATTACKS HAVE CAUSED DEATHS. THE ALERT REMAINS AT MAXIMUM. Axios reports that the Pentagon told US Central Command several days ago to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat operations against Iran; there is no launch date and the President has not made a decision. UKMTO reported on Wednesday evening that a tanker was hit by multiple projectiles 51 nautical miles north of Madinat ash Shamal, Qatar, with casualties; maritime security sources name it as the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged Acers. This was a vessel at sea in the central Gulf, beyond UAE territorial waters, with the cause unconfirmed, and not a strike on UAE territory. Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority reports three people killed and 36 injured in attacks on Abha and King Khalid International airports on 6 and 7 October. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT, keeps both phases suspended, holds readiness at a high level, and advises clients to complete departures, protect energy and water resilience, and suspend all Strait transits.

⚖️ **MIXED SIGNALS:** DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS CONTINUE ALONGSIDE MILITARY PREPARATIONS. On the easing side, Qatari mediators are awaiting Iran's response to the US counterproposal; a senior Iranian official told Reuters that enrichment details "can be discussed later"; President Putin and President Pezeshkian are due to meet in Turkmenistan, and Iranian state media report that Russia has offered to help mediate; an Iraqi Airways flight landed in Tehran on Thursday morning, the first foreign airline to do so since the war began; and Brent eased to about $99. On the harder side: the reported Pentagon preparation order; an IRGC adviser's statement that Iran will soon close what it calls "illegal routes" through the Strait, and CENTCOM's response that the claim of closure is "FALSE"; an Iranian army statement that pre-emptive strikes on US positions are possible; tanker attacks at their highest weekly level of the war; and deaths at two Saudi airports. The preparation signals currently outweigh the diplomatic ones.

⚠️ **ASSESSMENT:** THE RISK OF A RESUMPTION OF MAJOR COMBAT HAS RISEN. THE ALERT STAYS AT MAXIMUM. The Axios report is the most significant development in this period. It does not mean a decision has been taken, and US officials describe the order as preparing options for the President. Taken with the Camp David meeting of 2 October and the arrival of additional US forces in the coming weeks, it indicates that the military option is being made ready. For the UAE, a resumption would bring the scenario Iran has warned of: retaliation against US forces and, conditionally, against Gulf airports. The tanker attack north of Qatar, in the central Gulf rather than the Strait, shows the attacks on shipping spreading across the Gulf. The Saudi airport deaths show that the Red Sea front is now causing civilian casualties at major airports. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory. The posture remains MAXIMUM with high readiness, and clients should treat the coming weeks as a period of elevated risk.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 223, MILITARY PREPARATIONS REPORTED, A TANKER HIT IN THE CENTRAL GULF, AND DEATHS AT SAUDI AIRPORTS

Preparations for a possible resumption of major combat have moved forward while the diplomatic channel waits on Iran's reply. Axios reports that the Pentagon told CENTCOM several days ago to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat operations against Iran; a Pentagon official said "the Department's job is to develop and present military options to the President", and the President has not made a final decision. Diplomatically, Qatari mediators are awaiting Iran's response to the US counterproposal, and a senior Iranian official told Reuters that enrichment is a red line but that details "can be discussed later". At sea, UKMTO reported a tanker hit by multiple projectiles 51 nautical miles north of Madinat ash Shamal, Qatar, with casualties; this was shipping at sea in the central Gulf, beyond UAE territorial waters, cause unconfirmed, and not a strike on UAE territory. CENTCOM and an IRGC adviser have issued opposing claims about control of the Strait. In Saudi Arabia, the civil aviation authority reports three killed and 36 injured in attacks on Abha and Riyadh airports, and the UAE has condemned the attacks. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT with readiness at a high level, keeps both phases suspended, and advises clients to complete departures, protect energy and water resilience, and suspend all Strait transits.

Where Things Stand

Element	Status (as of 0900 GMT Thursday 8 October)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. Military preparations reported; tanker attacks spreading across the Gulf; deaths at Saudi airports. Complete departures; high readiness; suspend all Strait transits.
US decision-making	**PREPARATIONS REPORTED.** Axios: Pentagon told CENTCOM to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat; no launch date; no final decision. White House: the President has all options available.
US force posture	**BUILD-UP CONTINUING.** Roosevelt strike group and Makin Island amphibious group en route. USS Abraham Lincoln returning home after a 321-day deployment. US embassy in Saudi Arabia restricts staff travel within 20 miles of the Yemeni border.
Diplomacy	**AWAITING IRAN'S REPLY.** Qatari mediators await Iran's response to the US counterproposal. Senior Iranian official: enrichment a red line, details "can be discussed later"; blockade to be lifted first. Putin-Pezeshkian meeting due in Turkmenistan.
Iran's posture	**DETERRENCE MESSAGING.** IRGC adviser Naqdi: Iran will soon close "illegal routes" through the Strait. Army spokesman: pre-emptive strikes on US positions possible "if necessary". Conditional threats against Gulf airports and US ships stand.
Strait and Gulf incidents	**TANKER HIT OFF QATAR.** UKMTO: tanker hit by multiple projectiles

	51 nm north of Madinat ash Shamal, casualties (named as Acers). Nine attacks in the Strait this month (UKMTO via CBS). At sea, cause unconfirmed, not a strike on UAE territory.
UAE	**CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON SAUDI ARABIA.** UAE foreign ministry: continued targeting is “a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”. flydubai has asked to resume Israel flights (Israeli media). No new Iranian statement on the UAE found.
Saudi and Yemen front	**DEATHS AT AIRPORTS.** GACA: 3 killed, 36 injured at Abha and Riyadh airports (6-7 Oct). Coalition intercepted a missile north of Riyadh. New Houthi claim on Riyadh airport on 8 Oct and “final warning” to airlines. Truce not agreed.
UAE territory	**NO CONFIRMED STRIKE.** No confirmed strike on UAE soil, ports or infrastructure. DXB, DWC and AUH operating with regional disruption; UAE-Israel flights suspended; Iranian airlines suspended.

WS Assessment: The reported preparation order raises the probability of renewed major combat in the coming weeks, although no decision has been announced. The attacks on shipping have spread into the central Gulf, and the Red Sea front is now causing deaths at Saudi airports. Nothing has touched UAE territory. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness.

2. THE DIPLOMACY: QATAR AWAITS IRAN'S REPLY, AND RUSSIA OFFERS TO HELP

- **The state of the channel:** Axios reports that Qatari mediators are waiting for Iran's response to a US counterproposal that includes nuclear concessions. Qatar said on 6 October that messages between the parties continue to be exchanged through Doha.
- **The positions:** Vice President Vance told Reuters that Iran must make a "meaningful" reduction in its enrichment capacity, asking "If you don't want a nuclear weapon, then why do you need 60 percent enriched fuel?" Secretary of State Rubio said: "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, simple, period, end of story." A senior Iranian official told Reuters that the US requests are "at odds with Iran's demands", that enrichment is a red line but its details "can be discussed later", and that Iran wants the blockade of its ports lifted first.
- **Russia:** President Putin and President Pezeshkian spoke by phone on Wednesday and are due to meet at a regional forum in Turkmenistan; CBS reports the meeting for Friday. Iranian state media report that President Putin said Russia is ready to help mediate. We have not seen a Russian statement setting out what form that would take.
- **Other contacts:** President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke on Wednesday, their second call in several days (Axios). President Trump said the war will end "very soon". France and Iran have each summoned the other's ambassador over an unrelated dispute.

WS Assessment: The channel remains open and the sides have restated their positions with some precision: the US seeks enrichment cuts, and Iran seeks the blockade lifted first, with enrichment details deferred. A Russian offer to mediate adds a possible track. Hold posture until a sequence is agreed and implemented.

3. MILITARY PREPARATIONS, THE STRAIT, AND A TANKER HIT IN THE CENTRAL GULF

- **The reported preparation order:** Axios reports that the Pentagon told CENTCOM several days ago to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat operations against Iran, with no launch date set. A Pentagon official said: “The Department’s job is to develop and present military options to the President.” A White House official said the President has all options available at any time. US and Israeli sources told Axios that any resumption would likely be a joint US-Israeli effort; an Israeli official said the chances of action before the US midterm elections are “not high but we don’t rule it out”. No decision has been announced.
- **Opposing claims on the Strait:** IRGC adviser Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi said Iran has “full control” of the Strait and will soon close what it calls “illegal routes”. CENTCOM responded that the claim was “FALSE”, that “traffic is flowing through the Strait of Hormuz right now carrying commercial goods and energy supplies” and that “the United States and regional partners clearly control the strait”, citing 20 million barrels of crude moving through it. The two claims are opposed and we present both. Iran’s army spokesman, Brigadier General Mohammad Akrami-Nia, said Iran would carry out “preemptive” strikes on US positions if necessary.
- **A tanker hit north of Qatar:** UKMTO reported on Wednesday evening that a tanker was “hit by multiple projectiles 51nm north of Madinat ash Shamal in Qatar”, with casualties; the extent is not known. Maritime security firm Vanguard Tech names the vessel as the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged Acers (Seatrade Maritime). This was in the central Gulf, inside the Gulf rather than the Strait, and well beyond UAE territorial waters; the cause is unconfirmed, no party has claimed it, and it was not a strike on UAE territory.
- **The tempo at sea:** CBS, citing UKMTO, records nine attacks in the Strait so far this month; Seatrade counts at least 12 tankers attacked since 29 September; and Khaleej Times reports that tanker attacks reached their highest weekly level of the war. The Joint Maritime Information Centre rates the threat “severe” in the Strait and “moderate” in the wider Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

WS Assessment: A tanker hit in the central Gulf, north of Qatar, widens the area in which commercial shipping is at risk. Clients should treat the Strait, its approaches and the central Gulf as high-risk for their vessels and hold readiness.

4. THE UAE: A CONDEMNATION OF THE SAUDI AIRPORT ATTACKS, AVIATION, AND NO STRIKE

- **No confirmed strike on UAE territory:** There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure, and none since the Barakah strike of 17 May 2026. We found no NCEMA alert in the period. The tanker incident of Wednesday evening was 51 nautical miles north of Qatar, in the central Gulf, and not in UAE waters.
- **The UAE condemns the attacks on Saudi Arabia:** The UAE foreign ministry strongly condemned the continued targeting of Saudi civilian facilities and vessels, saying it "constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a threat to its security and stability" (Arab News, WAM). We found no Houthi or Iranian response directed at the UAE by the cutoff.
- **Iranian messaging:** We found no new Iranian statement directed specifically at the UAE in the period. Iran's conditional threat against Gulf airports, if Gulf states cooperate in action against Iran, remains in place, and the reported US preparations make that threat more relevant to UAE planning.
- **Aviation:** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating. Israeli media report that flydubai has asked to resume its Israel flights and that Israel's transport minister has so far declined; flydubai's Israel suspension remains in place. The Houthis have issued a "final warning" to airlines over Saudi airspace, and the US embassy in Saudi Arabia has issued a security alert on threats to airports and airspace. Routings between the UAE and Europe or Africa over Saudi Arabia may be affected; confirm with carriers.
- **Iraqi Airways in Tehran:** An Iraqi Airways flight from Najaf landed in Tehran on Thursday morning under a US sanctions waiver, the first foreign airline to land in Iran since the war began (CBS). The UAE's suspension of Iranian airlines remains in place.

WS Assessment: The UAE has not been struck. Its public position in this period has been one of support for Saudi Arabia's sovereignty. The main UAE-relevant change is the reported US military preparation, which bears directly on Iran's conditional threat to Gulf airports. Hold high readiness.

5. OIL, YEMEN AND THE WIDER REGION

- **Oil:** Brent traded at about $99 on Wednesday, below $100, with WTI below $90 (CBS). The IEA says member states are ready to release more oil if needed, prioritising diesel; about 325 million of the 400 million barrels pledged in March have been released, and members hold about 1.1 billion barrels of emergency stocks. France will release 10 million barrels of diesel over three months. Kpler says regional exports exceeded pre-war levels last week.
- **Deaths at Saudi airports:** Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation says attacks on Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on 6 and 7 October killed three people and injured 36. At Abha, two women residents were killed and 28 people injured; at Riyadh, one man was killed and eight injured (Gulf News). GACA says both attacks caused material damage and that it is assessing it. The Houthis claimed the attacks.
- **Further attacks and interceptions:** The coalition said it shot down a Houthi ballistic missile north of Riyadh on Wednesday morning and intercepted another aimed at Khamis Mushait; two Houthi missiles targeted Aden airport, with no casualties reported. Early on Thursday the Houthis claimed another ballistic missile attack on King Khalid International Airport, with explosions heard in Riyadh, and issued a "final warning" to airlines over Saudi airspace (CBS). Saudi confirmation of the Thursday attack is awaited. The US embassy in Saudi Arabia has restricted US government staff from travel within 20 miles of the Yemeni border.
- **The ground war:** Fighting continues around Bab el-Mandeb and Taiz, with control of several areas contested. The IOM says more than 200,000 people in Yemen have been displaced since September. Türkiye has sent technical and defensive support to Saudi Arabia under the Mecca pact, and reports say Syria is considering military assistance. The proposed Saudi-Houthi truce has not been agreed.
- **The wider region:** Iran says 111 chemical facilities have been damaged in US strikes (an Iranian claim, not independently verified). Iraqi crude may begin moving to Syria by truck from mid-October, according to Syria's state oil company.

WS Assessment: Oil supply is holding up, and emergency stocks provide a buffer, but the Saudi airport deaths and the warning to airlines show the Red Sea front affecting civil aviation across the peninsula. UAE-linked operators should continue to suspend all Strait transits and review Red Sea, central Gulf and Saudi airspace exposure.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **Military preparations reported, attacks spreading, and no confirmed strike on UAE territory.** Axios reports a Pentagon order to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat against Iran, a tanker was hit in the central Gulf north of Qatar, and attacks on Saudi airports have caused deaths. There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. The airports threat and the possibility of renewed major combat keep the danger elevated.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW: THE WINDOW MAY BE NARROWING.** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating, with disruption on regional routes and several foreign carriers suspended to late October or longer. Complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights without delay, confirm bookings directly with the carrier, and check routings in light of the warning to airlines over Saudi airspace.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HIGH LEVEL: THE AIRPORTS THREAT.** Essential personnel should maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level. A resumption of major combat would bring Iran's warned retaliation against US forces and, conditionally, Gulf airports into play. Review shelter locations and NCEMA guidance, keep go-bags current, plan for disruption at UAE airports, and be prepared to shelter promptly on any alert. The UAE hosts US forces at Al Dhafra.
- **PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.** Brent is around $99 and emergency stocks are being released, but a resumption of major combat would put supply at renewed risk. Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready; the Fujairah route continues to provide a degree of insulation.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Tanker attacks are at their highest weekly level of the war and have reached the central Gulf. UAE-linked tankers remain on Iran's non-compliance list. Suspend all transits through the Strait, hold vessels clear of the Strait, the Musandam approaches, the central Gulf and the waters off Oman and the UAE, review Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb routing, and treat UAE-linked tonnage as at elevated risk until a confirmed reopening with verified safe passage is in place.
- **Compliance and aviation security.** Continue to screen counterparties against the 1 October Treasury designations, which include three UAE-based entities, and consult qualified counsel; this is not legal advice. Note the US embassy security alert in Saudi Arabia, and review travel arrangements for staff transiting Saudi airports or airspace.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness, Military Preparations Reported

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. Axios reports that US forces have been told to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat against Iran, a tanker has been hit in the central Gulf, and attacks on Saudi airports have caused deaths. Clients should complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, note the airports threat, and plan for protracted disruption.

- **All returns, SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE until a durable, verified de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place; the risk of renewed major combat has risen.
- **Non-essential personnel, COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW:** Use the open airports to finish any deferred departures without delay, on scheduled commercial flights, allowing for carrier suspensions and disruption over Saudi airspace; do not wait for a US decision.
- **Essential personnel, high readiness:** Maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level, review shelter locations, keep documentation and go-bags current, and monitor any US decision on renewed major combat, Iran's warned retaliation, Iranian action against

UAE-linked shipping, the Saudi-Houthi conflict and its effect on regional airports, and any strike toward UAE territory or airports.

- **Business and compliance clients:** Review exposure given the widened US sanctions, including the three UAE-based designations, and the US restrictions on Iranian airlines, and consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.
- **De-escalation path (MAXIMUM to HIGH):** An agreed sequence, the lifting of the US blockade, the Strait reopened with verified safe passage, a confirmed ceasefire, and a durable de-escalation across all fronts would allow the alert to come down. None of these is in place; Westminster Security is ready to lower the alert to HIGH promptly once they are.
- **Further escalation, the central risk:** A resumption of major US or US-Israeli combat operations against Iran, Iran's warned retaliation against US forces and Gulf airports, Iranian action against UAE-linked vessels, further attacks on shipping in the central Gulf, a wider campaign against Gulf airports or energy sites, a formal end to the mediation, or a strike on UAE territory or airports would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.
- **Standing posture:** MAXIMUM, high readiness. Military preparations reported, the mediation awaiting Iran's reply, attacks on shipping spreading across the Gulf, and deaths at Saudi airports. Protect people first, complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, and note the airports threat.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS. Military preparations reported.** Axios reports that the Pentagon has told CENTCOM to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat against Iran; no decision has been taken. A tanker was hit 51 nautical miles north of Qatar on 7 October (at sea, cause unconfirmed). There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory.
- **TREAT THE COMING WEEKS AS A PERIOD OF ELEVATED RISK.** The reported preparation order, the build-up of US forces and the stalled mediation together raise the likelihood of renewed major combat. Review contingency plans now rather than on a warning.
- **WATCH THE DECISION AND IRAN'S REPLY.** A US decision on resuming combat, or a formal Iranian reply to the counterproposal, would be the decisive indicators. Statements from either side are signals until acted upon.
- **PLAN FOR REGIONAL AIRSPACE DISRUPTION.** Attacks on Saudi airports have caused deaths, and airlines have been warned off Saudi airspace. Review routings and build slack into travel plans.
- **KEEP UAE-LINKED VESSELS OUT OF THE STRAIT AND THE CENTRAL GULF.** Attacks have spread to the central Gulf north of Qatar. Keep UAE-linked vessels clear and review routing through the Gulf of Oman.
- **Monitor for:** (1) any announced US decision on resuming major combat against Iran; (2) Iran's formal reply to the US counterproposal, and any Russian mediation role; (3) Iran's warned retaliation against US forces and Gulf airports; (4) Iranian action against UAE-linked shipping or further attacks in the central Gulf; (5) further attacks on Saudi and regional airports and energy sites; (6) any change in Iranian messaging toward the UAE; (7) any strike on UAE territory.
- **Military preparations reported. Emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any US decision to resume major combat, any agreement or collapse of the talks, any reopening of the Strait, any threat to or strike on UAE territory, airports or UAE-linked shipping, any confirmed strike on Gulf energy infrastructure or airports, or any major development, and will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.
- **This is the two hundred and tenth edition.** Day 223 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **MILITARY PREPARATIONS REPORTED.** Axios: the Pentagon told CENTCOM several days ago to finish preparing for a possible resumption of major combat against Iran; no launch date and no final decision. Pentagon: “The Department’s job is to develop and present military options to the President.”
- **THE CHANNEL WAITS ON IRAN.** Qatari mediators await Iran’s reply to the US counterproposal. US: “meaningful” enrichment cuts. Iran: enrichment a red line, details later, blockade lifted first. Putin and Pezeshkian to meet in Turkmenistan; Russia offers to help mediate.
- **A TANKER HIT NORTH OF QATAR.** UKMTO: tanker hit by multiple projectiles 51 nm north of Madinat ash Shamal, with casualties (named as Acers). At sea in the central Gulf, cause unconfirmed, not a strike on UAE territory. CENTCOM and the IRGC issue opposing claims on control of the Strait.
- **DEATHS AT SAUDI AIRPORTS.** GACA: three killed, 36 injured at Abha and Riyadh airports on 6-7 October. A new Houthi claim on Riyadh airport on 8 October and a “final warning” to airlines. The UAE condemns the attacks on Saudi Arabia.
- **OIL BELOW $100.** Brent about $99. The IEA stands ready to release more stocks, prioritising diesel; Kpler says regional exports are above pre-war levels.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. TWO HUNDRED AND TENTH EDITION. DAY 223.** Military preparations reported, the mediation awaiting Iran’s reply, attacks on shipping spreading across the Gulf, and deaths at Saudi airports; no UAE territory has been struck. Both phases remain suspended; complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, note the airports threat, and plan for protracted disruption. Westminster Security will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.

Prepared 8th October 2026. Information current as of 09:00 GMT.

AXIOS REPORTS THAT US FORCES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO FINISH PREPARING FOR A POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF MAJOR COMBAT AGAINST IRAN; NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. QATARI MEDIATORS AWAIT IRAN’S REPLY TO THE US COUNTERPROPOSAL, AND RUSSIA HAS OFFERED TO HELP MEDIATE.

A TANKER WAS HIT BY MULTIPLE PROJECTILES 51 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF QATAR ON 7 OCTOBER, WITH CASUALTIES: A VESSEL AT SEA, CAUSE UNCONFIRMED, NOT A STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. ATTACKS ON SAUDI AIRPORTS HAVE KILLED THREE PEOPLE. THERE IS NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS. COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW, HOLD HIGH READINESS, SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS, PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.

TREAT THE COMING WEEKS AS A PERIOD OF ELEVATED RISK; WATCH THE DECISION AND IRAN’S REPLY; PLAN FOR REGIONAL AIRSPACE DISRUPTION; AND KEEP UAE-LINKED VESSELS OUT OF THE STRAIT AND THE CENTRAL GULF. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. TWO HUNDRED AND TENTH EDITION. DAY 223.