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UAE SITREP DOCUMENT

DAY 193 – IRAN ESCALATES ITS MARITIME POSTURE: TEHRAN PLANS A MARITIME "EXCLUSION ZONE" OUTSIDE THE STRAIT WHERE IT WILL STOP VESSELS TRANSITING WITHOUT ITS PERMISSION, AND THREATENS A "MORE INTENSE AND MORE PAINFUL" RETALIATION; OIL NEARS $100. YEMEN'S HOUTHIS LAUNCH A MAJOR ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA (OIL FACILITIES AND AN AIR BASE HIT, 70+ WOUNDED), WIDENING THE WAR. BUT A NEW DIPLOMATIC THREAD EMERGES – QATAR IS WORKING WITH CHINA TO RESUME DIPLOMACY. THE DISPROPORTIONATE STRIKE HAS NOT YET MATERIALISED – NO NEW DAMAGING STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY – MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

8 September 2026 (1100 GMT)

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

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** THE CONFRONTATION CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL, WITH IRAN ESCALATING ITS MARITIME POSTURE – THOUGH ITS THREATENED DISPROPORTIONATE STRIKE HAS NOT YET MATERIALISED, AND A NEW DIPLOMATIC THREAD HAS EMERGED. Iran's Supreme National Security Council head has said Tehran plans to announce a maritime "exclusion zone" outside the Strait of Hormuz, where it intends to stop vessels attempting to transit without its permission – a significant escalation of Iran's interdiction posture – and Iran has threatened a "more intense and more painful" retaliation for the US strikes on its oil tankers. Oil has risen toward $100 a barrel on the escalation and the Strait's effective closure. In a widening of the regional war onto a second energy front, Yemen's Houthis launched a major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday – dozens of ballistic missiles and drones – igniting fires at oil facilities in the kingdom's south and striking an air base, wounding more than 70 people. But Qatar, working with China, is pushing to resume diplomacy: the Qatari prime minister met China's foreign minister in Beijing on Monday, and Qatar says it is working intensively to reopen the Strait and end the conflict. There is NO CONFIRMED NEW DAMAGING STRIKE on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure, and no new attack on the UAE in the latest period – but Iran's exclusion zone and its disproportionate threat directly affect the UAE, and the threat is acute. 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.

⚠ **ASSESSMENT:** THE DANGER REMAINS HIGH, BUT A CHINA-BACKED DIPLOMATIC THREAD IS THE FIRST POSITIVE SIGNAL IN DAYS. The confrontation remains dangerous: Iran is escalating its maritime posture with the planned exclusion zone, threatening to stop all unauthorised vessels, and its threatened "more intense and more painful" retaliation looms, with the risk of a disproportionate strike against Gulf infrastructure or bases, potentially including the UAE, still elevated. But the emergence of a China-backed diplomatic thread is the first genuinely positive signal in days: Qatar's engagement with China – Iran's main oil customer and a party with real leverage over Tehran – brings a more potent mediation combination to bear, and could, if it gains traction, open a

path to de-escalation that the Gulf mediators alone have not. It is, however, only a beginning, and it is running against a still-escalating confrontation; the disproportionate strike has not materialised, but the exclusion zone and the "more painful" retaliation threat keep the danger high. For UAE clients, the posture must remain at its most cautious: MAXIMUM, high readiness, complete departures, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, and vigilance for a disproportionate Iranian strike. There is NO NEW DAMAGING STRIKE on UAE territory.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 193 – IRAN ESCALATES AT SEA, A CHINA-BACKED THREAD EMERGES

The confrontation continues at a high level, with Iran escalating its maritime posture, though its threatened disproportionate strike has not yet materialised and a new, China-backed diplomatic thread has emerged. Iran's Supreme National Security Council head has said Tehran plans to announce a maritime exclusion zone outside the Strait of Hormuz, where it intends to stop vessels attempting to transit without Iranian permission – a significant escalation of Iran's interdiction posture that would extend its assertion of control over the waterway – and Iran has threatened a more intense and more painful retaliation for the US strikes that sank three of its oil tankers, adding to its declaration that the era of proportionate responses is over. Oil prices have risen toward $100 a barrel on the escalation and the Strait's effective closure. In a widening of the war onto a second energy front, Yemen's Houthis launched a major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, firing dozens of ballistic missiles and drones that ignited fires at oil facilities in the kingdom's southern region – including Aramco sites at Najran and Abha and the Jazan industrial hub – and struck King Khalid Air Base, wounding more than 70 people; the Houthis called it retaliation for Saudi strikes in Yemen, where a four-year truce has collapsed. Against this, Qatar – working with China – is pushing to resume diplomacy: the Qatari prime minister and foreign minister met China's foreign minister in Beijing on Monday, and Qatar says it is working intensively with international partners, including China, to resume dialogue, reopen the Strait, and end the conflict. The threatened disproportionate Iranian strike has not yet materialised, and there is no confirmed new damaging strike on UAE territory or new attack on the UAE in the latest period, but the threat is acute. 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. This is the one hundred and eightieth edition of the SITREP.

Where Things Stand

Element	Status (as of 1100 GMT Tuesday 8 September)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. The confrontation continues; Iran escalates at sea. Complete departures; high readiness; suspend all Strait transits.
Iran maritime posture	**"EXCLUSION ZONE."** Iran plans a maritime exclusion zone outside the Strait to stop vessels transiting without its permission – a significant escalation of its interdiction posture.
Iran retaliation threat	**"MORE INTENSE AND MORE PAINFUL."** Iran threatens a "more intense and more painful" retaliation for the US tanker strikes; "proportionate responses" over. Disproportionate strike not yet materialised.
Diplomacy – Qatar & China	**A NEW THREAD.** Qatar working with China to resume diplomacy; Qatari PM met China's FM in Beijing Monday. A more potent mediation combination.
Oil	**NEARS $100.** Brent toward $100 a barrel on the escalation and the Strait's effective closure. Risk premium high.
Strait	**PHYSICAL CLOSURE.** Traffic near zero; the exclusion zone would extend Iran's interdiction. An active strike zone.
Houthi front	**MAJOR ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA.** Dozens of ballistic missiles and drones hit Saudi oil facilities (Aramco Najran, Abha; Jazan hub) and an air base; 70+ wounded. A widening second energy front.

UAE territory	**NO NEW STRIKE.** No new damaging strike on UAE soil, ports or infrastructure; no new attack in the latest period. Iran's threats affect the UAE. Airports open.

WS Assessment: Iran is escalating its maritime posture with the planned exclusion zone and continues to threaten a disproportionate response, keeping the danger high; but the emergence of a China-backed diplomatic thread is the first positive signal in days. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness, and clients should remain at their most cautious and vigilant for a disproportionate Iranian strike, while watching whether the Qatar-China diplomacy gains traction.

2. IRAN ESCALATES ITS MARITIME POSTURE – THE "EXCLUSION ZONE" AND THE DISPROPORTIONATE THREAT

- **The planned exclusion zone:** Iran's Supreme National Security Council head has said Tehran plans to announce a maritime exclusion zone outside the Strait of Hormuz, where it intends to stop vessels attempting to transit without Iranian permission – a significant escalation that would extend Iran's assertion of control beyond the Strait itself and formalise its interdiction of unauthorised shipping.
- **An interdiction posture:** The exclusion zone builds on the IRGC navy's warning to all vessels against unauthorised transit, and signals that Iran may move from warning to active interdiction – stopping, and potentially seizing or attacking, vessels it deems to be transiting without its permission, a direct threat to all Gulf shipping including that linked to the UAE.
- **The "more painful" retaliation:** Iran has threatened a more intense and more painful retaliation for the US strikes that sank three of its oil tankers, reinforcing its declaration that the era of proportionate responses is over; the threatened disproportionate retaliation looms, though it has not yet materialised.
- **The risk to Gulf infrastructure:** The risk remains that Iran, its oil-export fleet under direct US attack, retaliates disproportionately against Gulf oil and energy infrastructure or US host states, potentially including the UAE; the exclusion zone and the more-painful-retaliation threat keep this risk elevated.
- **Not yet executed:** The disproportionate strike has not yet been executed, and the exclusion zone has been announced as a plan rather than implemented; but the direction of Iran's signalling is toward further escalation at sea and, potentially, beyond, and clients should treat the risk as high.

WS Assessment: Iran's planned exclusion zone and its more-painful-retaliation threat mark a continued escalation of its maritime posture and keep the risk of a disproportionate strike – potentially against Gulf infrastructure or bases including the UAE – elevated. Clients should hold high readiness, protect energy resilience, and watch closely for the implementation of the exclusion zone or a disproportionate Iranian strike.

3. A NEW DIPLOMATIC THREAD – QATAR WORKS WITH CHINA

- **Qatar engages China:** Qatar's government has said it is working with China to resume diplomacy aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz and ending the conflict; the Qatari prime minister and foreign minister met China's foreign minister in Beijing on Monday, and a Qatari spokesman said Qatar was working intensively with international partners, including China, to resume dialogue.
- **A more potent combination:** The engagement of China is significant: China is Iran's main oil customer and a party with real economic leverage over Tehran, as well as a major power with an interest in reopening the Strait through which much of its own energy supply flows; Qatar working with China brings a more potent mediation combination to bear than the Gulf mediators alone.
- **The first positive signal in days:** The China-backed thread is the first genuinely positive diplomatic signal in days, after the mediators' push for a cessation was overtaken by the escalation; if it gains traction, it could open a path to de-escalation, particularly given China's leverage over Iran and its interest in restoring the flow of oil.
- **But only a beginning:** The thread is, however, only a beginning: it is an effort to resume diplomacy, not a cessation or a deal, and it is running against a still-escalating confrontation, with Iran planning its exclusion zone and threatening a more painful retaliation; the diplomacy has far to travel, and past efforts have repeatedly collapsed.
- **Iran's conditions unchanged:** Iran's underlying conditions – the lifting of the US blockade, sanctions relief, and an end to the war – remain unchanged, and the US targeting of Iran's oil fleet has hardened the confrontation; the China-backed diplomacy will have to bridge these positions to succeed.

WS Assessment: The emergence of a China-backed diplomatic thread is a genuinely positive development and the first in days, and China's leverage over Iran gives it more potential than the Gulf mediators alone; but it is only a beginning, running against a still-escalating confrontation, and clients should watch whether it gains traction without yet reading it as a turn toward de-escalation.

4. THE UAE; THE REGIONAL PICTURE

- **No new attack on the UAE:** There has been no new attack on the UAE in the latest period, beyond the intercepted drone of over a week ago; there is no confirmed new damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure, and no casualties in the UAE – the UAE has not been struck again as the confrontation has escalated at sea.
- **But the threats directly affect the UAE:** Iran's planned exclusion zone would directly affect UAE-linked shipping, its more-painful-retaliation threat raises the risk of a disproportionate strike against Gulf infrastructure or bases including the UAE, and the US targeting of Iran's oil fleet gives Iran incentive to retaliate against Gulf oil infrastructure – all of direct concern to the UAE.
- **The oil-infrastructure risk:** The risk to Gulf oil and energy infrastructure remains of direct concern to the UAE, a major oil exporter; Iran's standing threats to block all Gulf oil exports and to strike Gulf energy infrastructure are given added weight by the escalation and Iran's beyond-proportionate signalling.
- **US security posture:** US security alerts for the region, warning of the potential for unforeseen escalation and urging heightened vigilance amid possible flight cancellations and airspace closures, remain in force; the threat environment across the Gulf is heightened, and clients should hold high readiness and protect energy resilience.
- **The Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia:** In a significant widening of the war, Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthis launched a major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday – dozens of ballistic missiles and drones – igniting fires at oil facilities in the kingdom's south, including Aramco sites at Najran and Abha and the Jazan industrial and logistics hub on the Red Sea coast, and striking King Khalid Air Base at Khamis Mushait, wounding more than 70 people. The Houthis called it retaliation for recent Saudi strikes against them in Yemen, where a four-year truce has collapsed.
- **Part of Iran's energy-pressure strategy:** The attack forms part of Iran's wider strategy of pressuring global energy supply, squeezing Saudi Red Sea oil exports in parallel with the Hormuz blockade; it hits the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb corridor – the route UAE-linked shipping has used as the alternative to the closed Strait – and widens the war onto a second energy front of direct relevance to the region.
- **The other regional fronts:** Israel is bracing for a possible Iranian attack during the Jewish holidays, and the US blockade remains in force; the regional fronts remain active, and a disproportionate Iranian escalation could widen the arena sharply.

WS Assessment: The absence of a new attack on the UAE is a modest relief, but Iran's planned exclusion zone, its more-painful-retaliation threat, and the US attacks on Iran's oil fleet keep the danger to the UAE high. Clients should hold high readiness, protect energy and water resilience, and watch closely for any Iranian escalation against Gulf targets, while noting the China-backed diplomatic thread as a modest positive.

5. SHIPPING, OIL AND THE REGIONAL PICTURE

- **The Strait an active strike zone at closure:** The Strait and Gulf of Oman remain an active strike zone at physical closure, with traffic near zero; Iran's planned exclusion zone would extend its interdiction of shipping, the US is striking Iranian tankers, and the waterway is mined and blockaded – transit is acutely dangerous.
- **Oil nears $100:** Oil prices have risen toward $100 a barrel on the escalation and the Strait's effective closure; the direct attacks on Iran's oil fleet, the exclusion-zone plan, and the risk of a disproportionate Iranian strike keep the risk premium high, and a further escalation would drive prices higher still.
- **The tanker war:** The tanker war continues – the US targeting Iran's shadow oil fleet, Iran attacking tankers and US-linked vessels and threatening all unauthorised shipping; the exchange has dimmed hopes for a near-term de-escalation, though the China-backed diplomacy offers a possible opening.
- **The blockade and regional fronts:** The US naval blockade remains in force, reinforced by the strikes on Iran's tankers; the Houthi campaign against Saudi Arabia has sharply escalated, with Tuesday's major attack on Saudi oil facilities and an air base, and Israel is bracing for an Iranian attack – the regional fronts are widening as the confrontation continues.
- **UAE approaches:** There is no damage to UAE territory or to shipping in UAE waters; vessels remain anchored off the UAE's east coast at Khor Fakkan. UAE-linked operators should treat the Strait and the Gulf of Oman as an active strike zone and suspend all transits.

WS Assessment: The Strait remains an active strike zone at physical closure, with oil nearing $100 and Iran planning to extend its interdiction; the danger to shipping is acute. For UAE-linked operators, all Strait transits should remain suspended pending a durable de-escalation.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **Iran escalates at sea – the danger high, but no new damaging strike on UAE territory.** Iran is escalating its maritime posture with the planned exclusion zone and threatening a more painful retaliation, keeping the danger to the UAE high; but a China-backed diplomatic thread has emerged. There has been no new attack on the UAE in the latest period, and no new damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Iran's threats directly affect the UAE.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW – THE DANGER IS HIGH.** With airports operating, complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights without delay. The confrontation continues and Iran is escalating its posture; completing departures now is a priority, and the window should not be assumed to remain open.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HIGH LEVEL – WATCH FOR A DISPROPORTIONATE IRANIAN RESPONSE.** Essential personnel should maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level; Iran has threatened a more painful, beyond-proportionate response, potentially against Gulf infrastructure or bases including the UAE. Review shelter locations and NCEMA guidance, keep go-bags current, and be prepared to shelter promptly on any alert. The UAE hosts US forces at Al Dhafra.
- **PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.** The US attacks on Iran's oil fleet and Iran's beyond-proportionate threat raise the risk of an Iranian response against Gulf oil and energy infrastructure. Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready; UAE strategic water reserves are reported at roughly two days at current consumption, and protecting energy resilience is a priority.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS – AN ACTIVE STRIKE ZONE, WITH AN EXCLUSION ZONE PLANNED.** Iran plans a maritime exclusion zone to stop unauthorised vessels, the US is striking Iranian tankers, and the Strait is at physical closure. Suspend all transits, hold vessels clear of the Strait, the Gulf of Oman and the Bab al-Mandeb, and treat the area as an active strike zone until a durable de-escalation is confirmed.
- **Review Iran-related sanctions exposure.** Review exposure to Iran-related sanctions risk through exchange houses, trade finance, shipping and re-export, and watch for new designations given the escalation; consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness – Iran Escalating at Sea, a Diplomatic Thread Emerging

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. Iran is escalating its maritime posture with the planned exclusion zone and threatening a more painful retaliation, keeping the danger high; but a China-backed diplomatic thread has emerged. Clients should complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, and watch for a disproportionate Iranian response and for whether the diplomacy gains traction.

- **All returns – SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE; the confrontation continues and Iran is escalating its posture – this is not a setting for returns.
- **Non-essential personnel – COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW:** Use the open airports to finish any deferred departures without delay, on scheduled commercial flights; do not assume the window remains open as the confrontation continues.
- **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 for a disproportionate Iranian response, any attack on the UAE or Gulf oil infrastructure, the implementation of Iran's exclusion zone, and any further widening of the exchange.
- **Business/compliance clients:** Review exposure given the direct sanctions, the standing threat, and the escalation; consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.

- **De-escalation path (MAXIMUM → HIGH):** A confirmed cessation of the strikes, the lifting of the US blockade, a confirmed de-escalation or ceasefire, and a genuine reopening of the Strait with verified safe passage would allow the alert to come down. The China-backed diplomatic thread is a possible start, but nothing is confirmed and the confrontation is still escalating; Westminster Security is ready to lower the alert to HIGH promptly once a durable de-escalation is confirmed.
- **Further escalation – the central risk:** A disproportionate Iranian strike, an Iranian move against Gulf oil infrastructure or exports, the implementation of the exclusion zone with interdiction of shipping, a damaging strike on UAE territory, a US strike on Kharg or Iran's wider fleet, or an Iranian attack on Israel would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.
- **Standing posture:** MAXIMUM, high readiness – Iran escalating at sea, the disproportionate threat looming, a diplomatic thread emerging; protect people first, complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and protect energy and water resilience.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS – Iran escalates at sea.** Iran plans a maritime "exclusion zone" outside the Strait to stop unauthorised vessels, and threatens a "more intense and more painful" retaliation for the US tanker strikes; oil nears $100. But a China-backed diplomatic thread has emerged – Qatar is working with China to resume diplomacy. There is no new damaging strike on UAE territory, but the threat is acute.
- **WATCH FOR A DISPROPORTIONATE IRANIAN RESPONSE – THE UAE A POTENTIAL TARGET.** Iran has threatened a more painful, beyond-proportionate response, potentially against Gulf infrastructure or bases including the UAE. Treat the threat as elevated, hold high readiness, protect energy resilience, and watch closely for any Iranian escalation beyond the maritime domain.
- **NOTE THE CHINA-BACKED DIPLOMATIC THREAD – THE FIRST POSITIVE SIGNAL IN DAYS.** Qatar's engagement with China brings a more potent mediation combination to bear, given China's leverage over Iran. Watch whether it gains traction, but do not yet read it as a turn toward de-escalation; it is only a beginning.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW; SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Complete deferred non-essential departures on scheduled flights without delay, and do not assume the window remains open. The Strait is at physical closure with an exclusion zone planned; suspend all transits until a durable de-escalation is confirmed.
- **PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.** The US attacks on Iran's oil fleet raise the risk of an Iranian response against Gulf oil and energy infrastructure. Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready and protect energy resilience.
- **Monitor for:** (1) a disproportionate Iranian strike; (2) any attack on the UAE or Gulf oil infrastructure; (3) the implementation of Iran's exclusion zone; (4) whether the Qatar-China diplomacy gains traction; (5) an Iranian attack on Israel; (6) further Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea front.
- **Iran escalates at sea, a diplomatic thread emerges – emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any disproportionate Iranian strike, any attack on the UAE or Gulf oil infrastructure, the implementation of the exclusion zone, or any major development, and will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation is confirmed and safe passage verified.
- **This is the one hundred and eightieth edition.** Day 193 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **IRAN ESCALATES ITS MARITIME POSTURE – A PLANNED "EXCLUSION ZONE."** Iran's Supreme National Security Council head says Tehran plans to announce a maritime "exclusion zone" outside the Strait of Hormuz, where it will stop vessels transiting without its permission – a significant escalation of its interdiction posture, directly affecting all Gulf shipping. Iran also threatens a "more intense and more painful" retaliation for the US tanker strikes.
- **THE DISPROPORTIONATE STRIKE LOOMS – NOT YET MATERIALISED.** Iran's threatened beyond-proportionate retaliation looms but has not yet materialised. The risk remains of a disproportionate Iranian strike against Gulf oil and energy infrastructure or US host states, potentially including the UAE, given the US targeting of Iran's oil fleet. Clients should treat the risk as elevated, hold high readiness, and protect energy resilience.
- **A CHINA-BACKED DIPLOMATIC THREAD EMERGES – THE FIRST POSITIVE SIGNAL IN DAYS.** Qatar, working with China, is pushing to resume diplomacy: the Qatari prime minister met China's foreign minister in Beijing on Monday. China's leverage over Iran – its main oil customer – makes this a more potent mediation combination than the Gulf mediators alone, and it is the first genuinely positive signal in days; but it is only a beginning, running against a still-escalating confrontation.
- **NO NEW DAMAGING STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY – BUT THE THREAT ACUTE.** There has been no new attack on the UAE in the latest period, and no new damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. But Iran's planned exclusion zone would affect UAE shipping, its more-painful-retaliation threat raises the risk of a disproportionate strike, and the US attacks on Iran's oil fleet give Iran incentive to retaliate against Gulf oil infrastructure. Hold high readiness and protect energy resilience.
- **THE STRAIT AT PHYSICAL CLOSURE; OIL NEARS $100.** The Strait and Gulf of Oman are an active strike zone at physical closure, with traffic near zero; Iran plans to extend its interdiction with the exclusion zone, and the US is striking Iranian tankers. Oil has risen toward $100 a barrel, and a disproportionate Iranian escalation or a strike on Gulf oil infrastructure would drive prices higher. Suspend all Strait transits until a durable de-escalation is confirmed.
- **THE WAR WIDENS – HOUTHIS LAUNCH A MAJOR ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA.** Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthis launched a major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday – dozens of ballistic missiles and drones – igniting fires at oil facilities (Aramco sites at Najran and Abha, and the Jazan hub) and striking King Khalid Air Base, wounding more than 70 people; they called it retaliation for Saudi strikes in Yemen, where a four-year truce has collapsed. It is part of Iran's strategy of squeezing Saudi Red Sea oil exports in parallel with the Hormuz blockade, widening the war onto a second energy front and hitting the Red Sea corridor UAE-linked shipping uses as the alternative to the Strait.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS – NO NEW DAMAGING STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH EDITION. DAY 193.** Iran is escalating its maritime posture and the disproportionate threat looms, keeping the danger high – but a China-backed diplomatic thread has emerged as the first positive signal in days. Both phases remain suspended; complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, review sanctions exposure, and watch for a disproportionate Iranian response and whether the diplomacy gains traction. Westminster Security will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation is confirmed.

Prepared 8th September 2026 – Information current as of 11:00 GMT

THE CONFRONTATION CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL, WITH IRAN ESCALATING ITS MARITIME POSTURE – TEHRAN PLANS A MARITIME "EXCLUSION ZONE" OUTSIDE THE STRAIT WHERE IT WILL STOP VESSELS TRANSITING WITHOUT ITS PERMISSION, AND THREATENS A "MORE INTENSE AND MORE PAINFUL" RETALIATION FOR THE US TANKER STRIKES; OIL NEARS $100. YEMEN'S HOUTHIS HAVE LAUNCHED A MAJOR ATTACK ON

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BUT A NEW, CHINA-BACKED DIPLOMATIC THREAD HAS EMERGED – THE FIRST POSITIVE SIGNAL IN DAYS: QATAR IS WORKING WITH CHINA (ITS PM MET CHINA'S FM IN BEIJING MONDAY) TO RESUME DIPLOMACY AND REOPEN THE STRAIT. THERE IS NO CONFIRMED NEW DAMAGING STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY, AND NO NEW ATTACK IN THE LATEST PERIOD, BUT THE THREAT IS ACUTE. MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS – COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW, HOLD HIGH READINESS, SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS, PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.

WATCH FOR A DISPROPORTIONATE IRANIAN RESPONSE (POTENTIALLY AGAINST GULF OIL INFRASTRUCTURE OR BASES INCLUDING THE UAE) AND FOR WHETHER THE QATAR-CHINA DIPLOMACY GAINS TRACTION. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH EDITION. DAY 193.