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UAE SITREP DOCUMENT

DAY 194 – A SHARP TWO-FRONT ESCALATION: THE US DESTROYS FIVE MORE IRANIAN OIL TANKERS (EIGHT IN FOUR DAYS) AFTER IRAN FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILES AT A US WARSHIP, AND IRAN'S "EXCLUSION ZONE" TAKES SHAPE ("FORBIDDEN AND UNSAFE" WATERS); ON THE SECOND FRONT, THE HOUTHIS' CAMPAIGN FOR BAB EL-MANDEB PUTS SAUDI ARABIA UNDER A TWO-STRAIT SQUEEZE (FOUR CITIES HIT, 73 WOUNDED, OIL OPERATIONS SUSPENDED). OIL NEAR $100 – NO NEW DAMAGING STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY – MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

9 September 2026 (1100 GMT)

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

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** THE CONFRONTATION HAS ESCALATED SHARPLY ON BOTH ENERGY FRONTS. In the Gulf, the US destroyed five more Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday – four in the Gulf of Oman and one near Kharg Island – in response to Iran firing ballistic missiles at a US warship, bringing to eight the number of Iranian tankers destroyed or disabled in four days; Iran has begun designating areas of the Strait as "forbidden and unsafe," giving shape to its planned exclusion zone, and has threatened any country participating in Gulf operations with "serious consequences." On the Red Sea front, the Houthis' major attack on Saudi Arabia – four cities hit, 73 wounded, oil operations suspended – is part of a campaign to control the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, putting Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, under blockade pressure on two straits at once. The US imposed new sanctions on Iran's aviation industry, and oil remains near $100. 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 threats 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:** A TWO-STRAIT SQUEEZE – THE WAR'S ENERGY DIMENSION WIDENS SHARPLY. The defining feature of the day is the widening of the war onto a second energy front and the emergence of a two-strait squeeze on the region's oil exports: Iran's contested blockade of Hormuz and the Houthis' campaign for Bab el-Mandeb now threaten both of the chokepoints through which the region's oil reaches world markets. For Saudi Arabia, this is a direct blockade on two fronts; for the UAE and the wider Gulf, it is a sharp tightening of the energy picture, with oil near $100 and the risk premium climbing. In the Gulf, the US "shadow fleet" campaign has widened – eight Iranian tankers destroyed or disabled in four days – directly attacking Iran's oil-export lifeline, while Iran's exclusion zone and its threat to "any country participating in Gulf operations" raise the risk to Gulf states, including the UAE. The threatened disproportionate Iranian strike has not yet materialised, but the escalation on both fronts is intensifying, and the China-backed diplomacy is being overtaken. For UAE clients, the danger is high, and 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 194 – A SHARP TWO-FRONT ESCALATION

The confrontation has escalated sharply on both of the region's energy fronts, producing a two-strait squeeze on Gulf oil exports. In the Gulf, the United States destroyed five more Iranian crude oil tankers on Tuesday – four in the Gulf of Oman and one near Kharg Island – in response to Iran firing ballistic missiles at a US warship, bringing to eight the number of Iranian tankers destroyed or disabled in four days; crews were directed to abandon ship before the vessels were struck. Iran has begun designating areas of the Strait of Hormuz as "forbidden and unsafe," giving shape to the maritime exclusion zone it says it will implement in the coming days, and has warned that any country participating in operations in the Gulf or the Strait will face serious consequences. On the Red Sea front, the Houthis' major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday – which hit four cities, wounded 73 people and forced the temporary suspension of oil operations in the kingdom's south – is part of a broader campaign to control the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, putting Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, under blockade pressure on two straits at once; the Houthis have vowed a "siege-for-siege," and the Yemen fighting has killed more than 500. The US imposed new sanctions on Iran's aviation industry, and oil remains near $100 a barrel. The threatened disproportionate Iranian strike on Gulf infrastructure has not yet materialised, the China-backed diplomatic thread continues in the background but is being overtaken by the escalation, and there is no confirmed new damaging strike on UAE territory or new attack on the UAE in the latest period. 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 1100 GMT Wednesday 9 September)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. A sharp two-front escalation. Complete departures; high readiness; suspend all Strait transits.
Tanker war (Gulf)	**WIDENS – 5 MORE TANKERS.** US destroyed five more Iranian tankers Tuesday (four in the Gulf of Oman, one near Kharg) – eight in four days – after Iran fired missiles at a US warship.
Iran exclusion zone	**TAKES SHAPE.** Iran designates Strait waters "forbidden and unsafe"; warns any country in Gulf operations faces "serious consequences."
Second front (Red Sea)	**BAB EL-MANDEB SQUEEZE.** Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb; Tuesday's attack hit four Saudi cities, 73 wounded, oil operations suspended. "Siege-for-siege."
Two-strait squeeze	Saudi Arabia, the top oil exporter, now under blockade pressure on both Hormuz (Iran) and Bab el-Mandeb (Houthis). Oil near $100.
Diplomacy – Qatar & China	**OVERTAKEN.** The China-backed thread continues but is being overtaken by the escalation on both fronts.
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: The war's energy dimension has widened sharply, with a two-strait squeeze on Gulf oil exports as the US-Iran tanker war intensifies in the Gulf and the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb tightens on the Red Sea. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness, and clients should be at their most cautious – vigilant for a disproportionate Iranian strike, protecting energy resilience, and treating both straits as hostile.

2. THE TANKER WAR WIDENS – THE US DESTROYS FIVE MORE IRANIAN TANKERS; THE EXCLUSION ZONE TAKES SHAPE

- **Five more tankers destroyed:** The US military destroyed five Iranian crude oil tankers on Tuesday, responding to the IRGC firing ballistic missiles at an American warship twice over two days; US Central Command said it struck four tankers in the Gulf of Oman – the M/T Kaviz, Charminar, Horizon 1 and Riesco – and one, the M/T Derya, near Iran's Kharg Island, directing the crews to abandon ship before the vessels were struck.
- **Eight in four days:** The strikes bring to eight the number of Iranian tankers destroyed or disabled in four days, following the three struck on Saturday; the US "shadow fleet" campaign – targeting the tankers that carry Iranian crude in defiance of the blockade – has widened sharply, directly attacking Iran's oil-export lifeline.
- **The exclusion zone takes shape:** Iran has begun designating areas of the Strait as "forbidden and unsafe," with the IRGC saying the tankers it targeted had tried to cross this zone; Iran's security chief has said the exclusion zone – running from the US Navy blockade line into the Persian Gulf – will be implemented in the coming days, and that no vessel may pass without Iranian permission.
- **A threat to Gulf participants:** Iran has warned that any military deployment or participation in operations by other countries in the Persian Gulf or the Strait can only be regarded as direct support for the aggressor and will have serious consequences – a threat aimed at the Gulf states, including the UAE, that host US forces or facilitate US operations.
- **New sanctions; hardening rhetoric:** The US imposed new sanctions on Tuesday targeting Iran's aviation industry, including over two dozen airlines and cargo providers; and Iran's parliament speaker has threatened swifter and more forceful responses, reinforcing its declaration that the era of proportionate responses is over.

WS Assessment: The widening of the US tanker campaign and the emergence of Iran's exclusion zone mark a sharp escalation of the Gulf confrontation, with the US directly attacking Iran's oil-export lifeline and Iran moving to interdict all unauthorised shipping. Iran's threat to Gulf participants raises the risk to the UAE, and clients should treat the Gulf as an active, contested strike zone.

3. THE SECOND ENERGY FRONT – THE HOUTHI CAMPAIGN FOR BAB EL-MANDEB AND THE TWO-STRAIT SQUEEZE

- **The Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia:** The Houthis' major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday hit civilian and economic facilities in the cities of Abha, Jazan, Najran and Khamis Mushait, wounding 73 people including women and children, and ignited fires at oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom's southern region, forcing operations to be temporarily suspended; King Khalid Air Base was also struck. The attack came hours after the Houthis blamed Saudi Arabia for an air strike on a Yemeni prison.
- **A campaign for Bab el-Mandeb:** The attack is part of a broader Houthi campaign to control the Bab el-Mandeb Strait – the chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden – with the group seeking to gain territory closer to the strait and vowing a "siege-for-siege" until, it says, the Saudi aggression stops and the siege is lifted; the Houthi campaign has become a second front in the wider war.
- **A two-strait squeeze on Saudi oil:** The Houthi campaign puts Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, under blockade pressure on two straits at once: Bab el-Mandeb, an increasingly important route for Saudi oil after Iran blockaded Hormuz, and the Red Sea coast, where Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure and tankers are piling on pressure; the kingdom's exports are now squeezed on both routes.
- **The wider energy picture:** The two-strait squeeze – Iran's contested blockade of Hormuz and the Houthis' campaign for Bab el-Mandeb – threatens both of the chokepoints through which much of the region's oil reaches world markets, sharply tightening the energy picture; oil rose after Tuesday's assault on fears for Saudi Red Sea exports, and remains near $100 a barrel.
- **The Yemen war's toll:** The fighting between the Houthis and Saudi-backed forces, which followed the collapse of a years-long truce, has left more than 500 people dead, mostly combatants; the Houthis, an Iranian-backed party to the wider war, have said their response is much broader than reported, raising the risk of a further escalation on the Red Sea front.

WS Assessment: The Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb has opened a second energy front and created a two-strait squeeze on Gulf oil exports, a significant widening of the war's energy dimension of direct relevance to the region. For the UAE and the wider Gulf, it tightens the energy picture and raises the oil-price and shipping risk; clients should treat both the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb as hostile, and protect energy resilience.

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 on both energy fronts.
- **But the threats directly affect the UAE:** Iran's planned exclusion zone would directly affect UAE-linked shipping, its threat to any country participating in Gulf operations implicates the UAE as a host of US forces, its more-forceful-retaliation threat raises the risk of a disproportionate strike against Gulf infrastructure or bases, and the two-strait squeeze tightens the energy picture for the UAE, a major oil exporter.
- **The oil-infrastructure risk:** The risk to Gulf oil and energy infrastructure remains of direct concern to the UAE; the US targeting of Iran's oil fleet gives Iran incentive to retaliate against Gulf oil infrastructure, and the Houthi attacks on Saudi oil facilities demonstrate the vulnerability of Gulf energy assets to the widening war.
- **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 regional fronts:** Israel is bracing for a possible Iranian attack during the Jewish holidays, and the US blockade remains in force; with the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb now a second energy front, the regional arena has widened, and a disproportionate Iranian escalation could widen it further.

WS Assessment: The absence of a new attack on the UAE is a modest relief, but the escalation on both energy fronts – Iran's exclusion zone and threats in the Gulf, the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb – keeps the danger to the UAE high and tightens its energy picture. Clients should hold high readiness, protect energy and water resilience, and watch closely for any Iranian escalation against Gulf targets.

5. SHIPPING, OIL AND THE REGIONAL PICTURE

- **Two straits under threat:** Both of the region's key oil chokepoints are now under threat: the Strait of Hormuz, contested and blockaded with the US striking Iranian tankers and Iran moving to interdict all unauthorised shipping, and the Bab el-Mandeb, targeted by the Houthi campaign; the two-strait squeeze has sharply tightened the maritime and energy picture.
- **Oil near $100:** Oil prices remain near $100 a barrel, having risen further on Tuesday's Houthi assault on Saudi Arabia and the widening tanker war; the two-strait squeeze, the direct attacks on Iran's oil fleet, and the risk of a disproportionate Iranian strike keep the risk premium high, and a further escalation would drive prices higher still.
- **The Gulf a strike zone:** The Strait and Gulf of Oman remain an active strike zone, with the US destroying Iranian tankers and Iran designating "forbidden and unsafe" waters; traffic is near zero, and transit is acutely dangerous, now compounded by Iran's planned exclusion zone.
- **The blockade and regional fronts:** The US naval blockade remains in force, reinforced by the strikes on Iran's tankers; the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb has become a second energy front, and Israel is bracing for an Iranian attack – the regional fronts are widening as the confrontation escalates.
- **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 both the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb as active, hostile strike zones and suspend all transits.

WS Assessment: The maritime and energy picture has tightened sharply, with a two-strait squeeze on Gulf oil exports and oil near $100; the danger to shipping on both straits is acute. For UAE-linked operators, all transits across both the Strait and the Bab el-Mandeb should remain suspended pending a durable de-escalation.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **A two-front escalation – the danger high, but no new damaging strike on UAE territory.** The war has escalated sharply on both energy fronts, producing a two-strait squeeze and keeping the danger to the UAE high; but 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 exclusion zone, its threats to Gulf participants, and the tightening energy picture 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 is escalating on both fronts and Iran has threatened Gulf participants; 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 forceful, beyond-proportionate response and warned Gulf participants of serious consequences. 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 two-strait squeeze, the US attacks on Iran's oil fleet, and the Houthi attacks on Saudi oil facilities raise the risk of a disruption to, or 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 TRANSITS – BOTH STRAITS ARE ACTIVE STRIKE ZONES.** The Strait of Hormuz is contested and blockaded with an exclusion zone planned, and the Bab el-Mandeb is targeted by the Houthi campaign. Suspend all transits, hold vessels clear of both straits and the Gulf of Oman, and treat both as active strike zones until a durable de-escalation is confirmed.
- **Review Iran-related sanctions exposure.** With new US sanctions imposed on Iran's aviation industry, review exposure to Iran-related sanctions risk through exchange houses, trade finance, shipping and re-export, and watch for new designations; consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness – a Two-Front Escalation, a Two-Strait Squeeze

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. The war has escalated sharply on both energy fronts, producing a two-strait squeeze on Gulf oil exports; the China-backed diplomacy is being overtaken. Clients should complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all transits across both straits, protect energy and water resilience, and watch for a disproportionate Iranian response.

- **All returns – SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE; the war is escalating on both energy fronts and Iran has threatened Gulf participants – 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 escalates.
- **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 the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb.

- **Business/compliance clients:** Review exposure given the new aviation 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 two-front escalation has set this back sharply, and the China-backed diplomacy is being overtaken; 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, the implementation of the exclusion zone with interdiction of shipping, a damaging strike on UAE territory, a further escalation of the Houthi campaign, or an Iranian attack on Israel would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.
- **Standing posture:** MAXIMUM, high readiness – a two-front escalation and a two-strait squeeze, the disproportionate threat looming; protect people first, complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all transits across both straits, and protect energy and water resilience.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS – a sharp two-front escalation.** The US destroyed five more Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday (eight in four days), and Iran's exclusion zone is taking shape ("forbidden and unsafe" waters); on the second front, the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb has put Saudi Arabia under a two-strait squeeze (four cities hit, 73 wounded, oil operations suspended). Oil is near $100. 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 forceful response and warned any country participating in Gulf operations of serious consequences. Treat the threat as elevated, hold high readiness, protect energy resilience, and watch closely for any Iranian escalation.
- **PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE – THE TWO-STRAIT SQUEEZE.** With both Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb under threat and Gulf oil infrastructure targeted, protect energy resilience. Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW; SUSPEND ALL TRANSITS ACROSS BOTH STRAITS.** Complete deferred non-essential departures on scheduled flights without delay, and do not assume the window remains open. Both the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb are active strike zones; suspend all transits until a durable de-escalation is confirmed.
- **THE CHINA-BACKED DIPLOMACY IS BEING OVERTAKEN – WATCH WHETHER IT SURVIVES.** Qatar's engagement with China continues but is being overtaken by the escalation on both fronts. Watch whether it can regain traction; it remains the main de-escalation hope, but the trajectory is toward wider conflict.
- **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) the Houthi campaign for Bab el-Mandeb and any further attacks on Saudi Arabia; (5) an Iranian attack on Israel; (6) whether the Qatar-China diplomacy survives.
- **A two-front escalation – emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any disproportionate Iranian strike, any attack on the UAE or Gulf oil infrastructure, any major escalation on either front, 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 eighty-first edition.** Day 194 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **THE TANKER WAR WIDENS – THE US DESTROYS FIVE MORE IRANIAN TANKERS.** The US destroyed five more Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday – four in the Gulf of Oman (the Kaviz, Charminar, Horizon 1, Riesco) and one near Kharg Island (the Derya) – after Iran fired ballistic missiles at a US warship, bringing to eight the number destroyed or disabled in four days. Iran has begun designating Strait waters "forbidden and unsafe," giving shape to its exclusion zone, and threatens any country in Gulf operations with "serious consequences."
- **A SECOND ENERGY FRONT – THE HOUTHI CAMPAIGN FOR BAB EL-MANDEB.** The Houthis' major attack on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday – four cities hit, 73 wounded, oil operations suspended, King Khalid Air Base struck – is part of a campaign to control the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. It puts Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, under a two-strait squeeze: Iran's blockade of Hormuz and the Houthis' campaign for Bab el-Mandeb now threaten both of the chokepoints through which the region's oil reaches world markets.
- **A TWO-STRAIT SQUEEZE – THE ENERGY PICTURE TIGHTENS.** The two-strait squeeze has sharply tightened the region's energy picture, with oil near $100 a barrel and the risk premium climbing. For the UAE and the wider Gulf, both key oil chokepoints are now under threat, and Gulf oil infrastructure has been shown vulnerable by the Houthi attacks on Saudi facilities. Protect energy resilience and treat both straits as hostile.
- **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 exclusion zone would affect UAE shipping, its threat to Gulf participants implicates the UAE, the disproportionate-strike risk looms, and the two-strait squeeze tightens the UAE's energy picture. Hold high readiness and protect energy resilience.
- **THE DIPLOMACY OVERTAKEN – THE DISPROPORTIONATE STRIKE NOT YET MATERIALISED.** The China-backed diplomatic thread continues but is being overtaken by the escalation on both fronts. Iran's threatened disproportionate strike on Gulf infrastructure has not yet materialised – its retaliation has so far been ballistic missiles at US warships – but the risk remains elevated, and the trajectory is toward wider conflict. Watch whether the diplomacy survives.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS – NO NEW DAMAGING STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST EDITION. DAY 194.** A sharp two-front escalation and a two-strait squeeze have widened the war's energy dimension and kept the danger high – but no UAE territory has been struck. Both phases remain suspended; complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all transits across both straits, protect energy and water resilience, review sanctions exposure, and watch for a disproportionate Iranian response. Westminster Security will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation is confirmed.

Prepared 9th September 2026 – Information current as of 11:00 GMT

THE CONFRONTATION HAS ESCALATED SHARPLY ON BOTH ENERGY FRONTS. IN THE GULF, THE US DESTROYED FIVE MORE IRANIAN OIL TANKERS ON TUESDAY (EIGHT IN FOUR DAYS) AFTER IRAN FIRED BALLISTIC MISSILES AT A US WARSHIP, AND IRAN'S "EXCLUSION ZONE" IS TAKING SHAPE ("FORBIDDEN AND UNSAFE" WATERS), WITH A THREAT TO ANY COUNTRY PARTICIPATING IN GULF OPERATIONS.

ON THE SECOND FRONT, THE HOUTHIS' CAMPAIGN FOR BAB EL-MANDEB HAS PUT SAUDI ARABIA UNDER A TWO-STRAIT SQUEEZE (TUESDAY'S ATTACK HIT FOUR CITIES, WOUNDED 73, AND SUSPENDED OIL OPERATIONS) – IRAN'S BLOCKADE OF HORMUZ AND THE HOUTHIS' CAMPAIGN FOR BAB EL-MANDEB NOW THREATEN BOTH OF THE REGION'S OIL CHOKEPOINTS. OIL IS NEAR $100. 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 TRANSITS ACROSS BOTH STRAITS, PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.

WATCH FOR A DISPROPORTIONATE IRANIAN RESPONSE (POTENTIALLY AGAINST GULF OIL INFRASTRUCTURE OR BASES INCLUDING THE UAE), THE HOUTHI CAMPAIGN FOR BAB EL-MANDEB, AND WHETHER THE QATAR-CHINA DIPLOMACY SURVIVES. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST EDITION. DAY 194.