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DAY 231, THE 212TH EDITION: A WEEKLY REVIEW, 9 TO 16 OCTOBER. THE DEADLIEST WEEK OF THE SAUDI-HOUTHI CONFLICT: SAUDI AUTHORITIES REPORT 12 KILLED AND 309 INJURED AT RIYADH AIRPORT ON 10 OCTOBER, AND THE AIRPORT IS CLOSED TO 17 OCTOBER. THE HIGHEST RATE OF SHIP ATTACKS OF THE WAR: TWO SHIPS SUNK NEAR THE STRAIT, WITH IRAN CLAIMING MINES AND CENTCOM REJECTING THE CLAIM (AT SEA, NOT STRIKES ON UAE TERRITORY). IRAN CALLS THE US RESPONSE "INSUFFICIENT"; THE US PREPARES OPTIONS BUT STATES NO ATTACK BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER. UAE CARRIERS SUSPEND SAUDI ROUTES. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

16 October 2026 (0900 GMT). Weekly review: 9 October (0900 GMT) to 16 October (0900 GMT)

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

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠️ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** OVER THE WEEK THE WAR INTENSIFIED ON THE SAUDI FRONT AND AT SEA, WHILE THE US-IRAN TRACK STAYED ON ITS STATED TIMELINE. THE ALERT REMAINS AT MAXIMUM. Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority reports 12 people killed and 309 injured in an attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on 10 October; the coalition says the airport has been attacked 20 times since 1 October, with 17 killed and 333 injured between 7 and 11 October. The airport is closed until 2100 GMT on 17 October, and Etihad, Emirates and flydubai have cancelled Riyadh services. At sea, UKMTO warnings show 12 commercial ships attacked between 5 and 11 October, including six on 11 October, and at least ten since 11 October; the container ship GFS Pride and the bulk carrier Cape Dao sank near the Strait. Iran says GFS Pride hit a mine; Singapore says a projectile struck it, and CENTCOM rejects the mine claim. These were vessels at sea, causes disputed or unconfirmed, and not strikes on UAE territory. 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:** A STATED US TIMELINE AND OPEN CHANNELS AGAINST THE MOST INTENSE WEEK AT SEA AND IN SAUDI ARABIA. On the easing side, President Trump has stated that the US will not attack Iran before 3 November, that he would not use nuclear weapons and that he does not see US ground troops in Iran; Prime Minister Netanyahu said he opposes a pre-emptive strike on Iran before Israel's 27 October election; Iran's foreign ministry says it will reply to the US once its review is complete; President Putin offered Russian help to end the war when he met President Pezeshkian on 9 October; and CENTCOM reports more than 40 commercial ships transiting the Strait in 24 hours. On the harder side: Iran's security council secretary called the US response "insufficient"; CNN and ABC report that options prepared for the President include the GBU-43/B bomb; President Trump said the US may join strikes on the Houthis; Iran's army chief says the Strait stays closed until Iran's demands are met; ship attacks reached their highest weekly level and

two ships sank; and the Saudi airport attacks caused the heaviest casualties in the kingdom in more than a decade. The stated timeline holds the main front for now; the other fronts have escalated.

⚠️ **ASSESSMENT:** A WEEK OF ESCALATION ON THE SECONDARY FRONTS, WITH THE MAIN FRONT ON HOLD UNTIL AT LEAST 3 NOVEMBER. THE ALERT STAYS AT MAXIMUM. Three developments define the week. First, the Saudi-Houthi conflict has become a sustained campaign against Saudi civil aviation, with mass casualties at Riyadh airport, its closure, and the suspension of Gulf carriers' Saudi services; the Houthis declined a Saudi request to meet in Muscat. Second, attacks on shipping in and around the Strait reached their highest level of the war, with two sinkings, a drone strike at Sohar anchorage off Oman with two crew missing, and a disputed Iranian claim of mine use. Third, the US-Iran track is on a stated timeline: no US attack before 3 November, Iran's reply pending, and military options reported to be ready for a decision after that date. For the UAE, the direct effects this week were on aviation and shipping: carriers' Saudi routes suspended, European carriers' Abu Dhabi suspensions extended, and attacks on shipping in the waters the UAE uses. The UAE has expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory. The posture remains MAXIMUM with high readiness, and the period after 3 November should be treated as one of heightened risk.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 231, THE WEEK IN REVIEW, 9 TO 16 OCTOBER

Over the seven days to 09:00 GMT on 16 October the war intensified on the Saudi front and at sea, while the US-Iran track held to a stated timeline. In Saudi Arabia, the civil aviation authority reports 12 killed and 309 injured in an attack on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on 10 October, the deadliest attack on the kingdom in more than a decade; a further attack on 11 October killed one and injured 11. The coalition says the airport has been attacked 20 times since 1 October; it is closed until 2100 GMT on 17 October. An Aramco administrative building in Dhahran caught fire after a strike on 13 October, with no casualties. At sea, ship attacks reached their highest level of the war: UKMTO reported 12 attacks between 5 and 11 October, and at least ten more since 11 October. The container ship GFS Pride and the bulk carrier Cape Dao sank near the Strait; Iran says GFS Pride hit a mine, which Singapore and CENTCOM dispute. The tanker Petro Dolphin was hit by a drone at Sohar anchorage off Oman, with two crew missing. None of these was a strike on UAE territory. Diplomatically, Iran's security council secretary called the US response to Iran's proposal "insufficient"; Iran's foreign ministry says a reply will follow its review. President Trump has stated that the US will not attack Iran before 3 November, while US media report that strike options are prepared. For the UAE, Gulf carriers have suspended Saudi routes, and the UAE has condemned the attacks and expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia. 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 Friday 16 October; week from 9 October)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. Main front on a stated timeline; Saudi front and maritime attacks escalated through the week. Complete departures; high readiness; suspend all Strait transits.
US decision-making	**OPTIONS READY; NO ATTACK BEFORE 3 NOV (STATED).** Trump: no attack before the midterms; no nuclear use; no ground troops foreseen. CNN/ABC: options include the GBU-43/B. White House: "We do not comment on sensitive military plans." Trump says the US may join strikes on the Houthis.
US force posture	**BLOCKADE ENFORCED.** CENTCOM: 135 vessels turned back since mid-July; Ocean Molica disabled (11 Oct); a dhow "conducting surveillance and targeting U.S. Navy ships" destroyed on 6 Oct. Treasury sanctions an Iraqi bank and shadow-banking networks.

Diplomacy	**US RESPONSE CALLED "INSUFFICIENT".** Rezaei (11 Oct): US "accepted some of our conditions, while others remain unclear". Foreign ministry (12 Oct): reply after review. Qatar and Pakistan mediating. Putin met Pezeshkian (9 Oct) and offered help.
Iran's posture	**STRAIT "CLOSED" (STATED).** Army chief Hatami: closed "until the enemy respects the rights of the Iranian people". Navy units deployed east of Hormuz and in the Arabian Sea (13 Oct). Conditional threats against Gulf airports and US ships stand.
Strait and Gulf incidents	**HIGHEST RATE OF THE WAR.** 12 attacks 5-11 Oct (UKMTO); 10+ since 11 Oct. GFS Pride and Cape Dao sunk; Petro Dolphin hit at Sohar, two missing. Mine claim disputed. At sea, not strikes on UAE territory.
UAE	**AVIATION DISRUPTED; SOLIDARITY WITH RIYADH.** UAE condemns the Riyadh attacks; warns against attempts to divide Emiratis and Saudis. Etihad Riyadh flights cancelled to 19 Oct; Emirates and flydubai Saudi cancellations. Some European carriers suspend Abu Dhabi to 24 Oct.
Saudi and Yemen front	**MASS CASUALTIES AT RIYADH.** GACA: 12 killed, 309 injured (10 Oct). Coalition: 20 attacks on Riyadh airport since 1 Oct. Airport closed to 2100 GMT 17 Oct. Houthis declined to meet in Muscat. France deploying assets to Saudi Arabia. Aden palace attacked.
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 week moved the immediate risk away from a US-Iran resumption, now stated to be at least two and a half weeks away, and onto Saudi aviation and Gulf shipping, both of which affect the UAE directly. Nothing has touched UAE territory. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness.

2. THE DIPLOMACY: AN “INSUFFICIENT” RESPONSE, A REPLY PENDING, AND A STATED US TIMELINE

- **Iran’s assessment of the US response:** On 11 October Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, told state media that the US reply to Iran’s conditions was “insufficient”, that Washington had “accepted some of our conditions, while others remain unclear”, and that it “needs to clarify the issues that remain unclear to Tehran” (Reuters, via the Jerusalem Post and Times of Israel). He also said Iran was “no longer in the process of responding to the Americans”. On 12 October Iran’s foreign ministry said Iran would reply once its review is complete (Reuters). Qatar and Pakistan continue to mediate. No formal Iranian reply had been reported by the cutoff.
- **The US position:** President Trump stated on 8 October that the US “will not be attacking Iran at any time prior to the Midterm Elections” on 3 November. This week he said he would not use nuclear weapons against Iran and did not foresee US ground troops there (Newsmax interview, reported by Al Jazeera and ABC), and that the war will end “soon as I want it to end” (CNN). CNN and ABC report that options prepared for the President include the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb against energy and nuclear targets if combat resumes; the President described it as “not nuclear at all”. A White House official said: “We do not comment on sensitive military plans that may or may not exist.”
- **Israel:** Prime Minister Netanyahu said he opposes a pre-emptive strike on Iran before Israel’s 27 October election, while warning Iran and its proxies against attacking Israel (Reuters).
- **Russia:** President Putin met President Pezeshkian in Turkmenistan on 9 October and offered Russian help to end the war (Euronews, Al Jazeera). A report that Russia has offered to take Iran’s enriched uranium after any US-Iran deal is to be verified.

WS Assessment: The positions remain apart, and the two Iranian statements of 11 and 12 October point in slightly different directions on whether a reply is coming. The stated US timeline gives the mediation until 3 November. Hold posture until a sequence is agreed and implemented.

3. THE STRAIT AND THE GULF: THE HIGHEST RATE OF ATTACKS OF THE WAR, TWO SINKINGS, AND A DISPUTED MINE CLAIM

- **The tempo:** UKMTO warnings show 12 commercial ships attacked in and around the Strait and the Gulf between 5 and 11 October (Iran International), including six on 11 October, the highest one-day figure of the war (gCaptain, Gulf News). At least ten more ships were reported struck between 11 and 15 October; the Financial Times counts up to 24 this month. The IMO records more than 100 confirmed incidents since the war began, with at least 24 seafarers killed. The Joint Maritime Information Centre rates the Strait threat as severe.
- **Two sinkings:** The Singapore-flagged container ship GFS Pride was struck on 13 October, caught fire and sank; all 21 crew were evacuated. The IRGC says it hit a mine on an "unauthorised" route; Singapore's maritime authority says it was struck by a projectile, maritime security firm Marisks found no independent evidence of a mine, and CENTCOM rejected the mine claim. Its sister ship GFS Giselle was damaged and reached anchorage. The Antigua and Barbuda-flagged bulk carrier Cape Dao, struck on 23 September, sank near the Strait on 14 October (gCaptain, Reuters). Both were at sea; neither was a strike on UAE territory.
- **Other incidents:** On 11 October the tanker Petro Dolphin was hit by a drone at Sohar anchorage off Oman; nine of its 11 Indian crew were rescued and two are missing. The Marshall Islands-flagged Valthera was struck in the Strait the same day, with all crew safe. US forces disabled the Panama-flagged Ocean Molica in the Gulf of Oman after CENTCOM said it tried to breach the blockade. Iran's military reported a tanker fire in the Gulf of Oman on 15 October, cause unclear. These were all at sea, beyond UAE territorial waters, with causes unconfirmed except where stated, and none was a strike on UAE territory.
- **Opposing claims on control:** Iran's army chief, Amir Hatami, says the Strait stays closed "until the enemy respects the rights of the Iranian people", and Iran's navy said on 13 October that it had deployed operational units east of Hormuz, in the Gulf of Oman and in the Arabian Sea. CENTCOM says "American forces and regional partners clearly control the Strait of Hormuz", reports more than 19 million barrels of crude moved through it in a day and more than 40 commercial transits in 24 hours, and says it destroyed an Iranian-affiliated dhow on 6 October that was "conducting surveillance and targeting U.S. Navy ships". Reuters, citing a US official, reports that the IRGC is using unarmed spotters in small boats to identify targets. Both sides' claims are presented as claims.

WS Assessment: The waters around the Strait, including the Gulf of Oman and Omani anchorages, are now the most dangerous for commercial shipping in the war, and the mine question is unresolved. Clients should keep all vessels clear of the Strait, its approaches, the central Gulf and the Gulf of Oman anchorages, and hold readiness.

4. THE UAE: AVIATION DISRUPTION, SOLIDARITY WITH SAUDI ARABIA, 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 maritime incidents of the week were in the Strait, the Gulf of Oman and off Oman, not in UAE territorial waters.
- **The UAE's position:** The UAE foreign ministry condemned the Riyadh airport attack of 10 October, sent condolences and reaffirmed solidarity with Saudi Arabia; UAE leaders condemned the airport attacks again on 15 October. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed, chairman of the UAE National Media Authority, said the victims were "our own people, and their suffering is our suffering". The UAE also warned against attempts to divide Emiratis and Saudis (Gulf News). The UAE announced no new restrictions on daily life.
- **Aviation:** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating, with delays reported. Etihad has cancelled Abu Dhabi to Riyadh flights until 19 October and Emirates and flydubai have cancelled Riyadh and other Saudi services on several dates; Riyadh airport is closed until 2100 GMT on 17 October. SWISS, Austrian, Edelweiss and Eurowings have suspended Abu Dhabi services to 24 October, and IndiGo has cancelled several Saudi routes to 24 October. The UAE's suspension of Iranian airlines and flydubai's Tel Aviv suspension remain in place. Confirm schedules directly with carriers.
- **Iranian messaging:** We found no new Iranian statement directed specifically at the UAE this week. On 8 October Reuters reported that Iran had warned regional countries that attempts to open new oil export routes bypassing the Strait would be considered hostile; this bears on the UAE's Fujairah route and was not captured in our earlier editions. Iran's conditional threat against Gulf airports remains in place.
- **Economy:** The IMF says Gulf economies will not return to their pre-war trajectory in the medium term, and the EU-GCC summit planned for 24 October in Riyadh has been postponed (Gulf News). Brent closed at $104.72 on 10 October and traded near $105.50 in Asia on 16 October.

WS Assessment: The UAE has not been struck. Its exposure this week came through aviation, as Saudi airspace and airports were disrupted, and through shipping in the waters it uses. Iran's warning on alternative export routes is relevant to Fujairah. Hold high readiness.

5. SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN AND THE WIDER REGION

- **Riyadh airport:** Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation says the attack on King Khalid International Airport on 10 October killed 12 people, four Saudis and eight foreign nationals including a US citizen, and injured 309. Officials described it as the deadliest attack on the kingdom in more than a decade (Al Jazeera, Gulf News). A further attack on 11 October struck Passenger Terminal 4, killing one and injuring 11. The coalition says the airport has been attacked 20 times since 1 October, with 17 killed and 333 injured between 7 and 11 October. The airport is closed until 2100 GMT on 17 October; Riyadh schools moved to remote learning for a week.
- **Other strikes in the kingdom:** A Saudi energy ministry official confirmed a strike on an Aramco administrative building in Dhahran on 13 October, causing a "limited fire" and no casualties; debris from intercepted missiles damaged 15 homes in Riyadh and injured four. Saudi Arabia says it intercepted a cruise missile over the Medina region, which the Houthis deny targeting, and a drone over Khamis Mushait. The Houthis had told staff at Saudi oil facilities to leave sites they described as targets.
- **Positions and responses:** The coalition described the 10 October attack as a "full-fledged war crime" and said it would respond decisively; Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of encouraging and arming the Houthis. Saudi deputy minister Dr Rayed Krimly said: "we asked them to meet in Muscat, Oman, and they refused." The UN Secretary-General condemned the attack. President Trump said "What happened in Saudi Arabia's not acceptable" and that the US may join strikes on the Houthis; he has not announced a decision. France has begun deploying military assets in Saudi Arabia. The Houthis have not explicitly claimed the 10 October attack but have threatened further attacks on Saudi airports, except those serving Mecca and Medina.
- **Yemen:** A Houthi attack on the presidential palace in Aden on 15 October killed five people and injured 16, according to Yemen's health minister. Government forces continue the offensive launched on 3 and 4 October, including around Mocha and Bab el-Mandeb; territorial claims remain contested, and fighting has spread to Marib and al-Jawf. The IOM reports more than 200,000 people displaced. The Saudi-Houthi truce has not been agreed.
- **The UK and Iran:** The UK has linked Iran to the suspected plot against RAF Fairford; Iran rejects the claim and summoned the British ambassador (Gulf News). The UK investigation continues.

WS Assessment: The Saudi front produced the week's heaviest casualties and the closure of the kingdom's main airport. The risk now extends to Saudi energy sites and to Gulf aviation as a whole. 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

- **A stated US timeline, an escalating Saudi front, record attacks at sea, and no confirmed strike on UAE territory.** The US says it will not attack Iran before 3 November, Iran calls the US response insufficient, the Riyadh airport attack of 10 October killed 12, and two ships have sunk near the Strait. There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. The airports threat and the maritime risk keep the danger elevated.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW: THE WINDOW MAY BE NARROWING.** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating, with delays, while UAE carriers' Saudi services and some European carriers' Abu Dhabi services are suspended. Complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights before 3 November, and confirm bookings and routings directly with the carrier.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HIGH LEVEL: THE AIRPORTS THREAT.** Essential personnel should maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level. The attacks on Riyadh airport show what a sustained campaign against a Gulf airport looks like, and Iran's conditional threat to UAE airports remains. 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 about $105, Saudi energy sites have been struck, and Iran has warned against alternative export routes. Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready; the Fujairah route continues to provide insulation but should not be assumed immune.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Attacks reached their highest rate of the war this week, two ships sank, and a tanker was hit at anchor off Sohar. Suspend all transits through the Strait, hold vessels clear of the Strait, the Musandam approaches, the central Gulf, the Gulf of Oman anchorages and the waters off Oman and the UAE, report any suspected mine sightings to UKMTO, and treat UAE-linked tonnage as at elevated risk until a confirmed reopening with verified safe passage is in place.
- **Compliance and aviation security.** Screen counterparties against the October Treasury designations, including the latest vessel and banking designations, note the FinCEN alert on charities, and consult qualified counsel; this is not legal advice. Follow US, Canadian, German and Indian advisories for Saudi Arabia, and avoid non-essential travel through Saudi airports.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness, Escalation on the Saudi and Maritime Fronts

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. Over the week the Saudi-Houthi conflict produced mass casualties at Riyadh airport, attacks on shipping reached their highest rate of the war, and the US-Iran track stayed on a stated timeline to 3 November. 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; none of the week's developments meets that test.
- **Non-essential personnel, COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW:** Use the open airports to finish any deferred departures without delay and before 3 November, on scheduled commercial flights, avoiding routings through Saudi airports.
- **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 Iran's reply, any change to the stated US timeline, attacks on shipping near the UAE, the

Saudi-Houthi conflict and any US strikes in Yemen, and any strike toward UAE territory or airports.

- **Business and compliance clients:** Review exposure given the widened US sanctions, including the October vessel and banking 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 after 3 November or sooner, confirmed mining of the Strait, further sinkings or attacks near UAE waters, US strikes in Yemen, a wider campaign against Gulf airports or energy sites, action against the UAE's alternative export routes, 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. A stated US timeline to 3 November and an Iranian reply pending, against mass casualties at Riyadh airport, record attacks on shipping and two sinkings. 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. Escalation on the secondary fronts.** Riyadh airport attack of 10 October: 12 killed, 309 injured. Two ships sunk near the Strait this week; mine claim disputed. The US states no attack on Iran before 3 November. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory.
- **PLAN AROUND 3 NOVEMBER.** The stated US timeline and reports of prepared strike options make the period after 3 November one of heightened risk. Complete departures and contingency reviews before then; continue to plan on verified facts rather than stated dates.
- **AVOID SAUDI AIRPORTS FOR NOW.** Riyadh airport is closed to 17 October and has been attacked 20 times this month. Route travel away from Saudi hubs and follow embassy advisories.
- **KEEP VESSELS OUT OF THE STRAIT, THE GULF OF OMAN ANCHORAGES AND THE CENTRAL GULF.** Two sinkings, a drone strike at Sohar anchorage and an unresolved mine claim. Keep UAE-linked vessels clear and report suspected mines or hailings to UKMTO.
- **WATCH THE FUJAIRAH ROUTE.** Iran has warned that alternative export routes will be considered hostile. Fujairah remains the UAE's insulation from the Strait; monitor for any threat to it.
- **Monitor for:** (1) Iran's reply to the US and any agreed sequence; (2) any change to the stated US timeline, or a US decision on strikes in Yemen; (3) confirmation or denial of mines in the Strait; (4) further sinkings or attacks near UAE waters or anchorages; (5) further attacks on Saudi airports and energy sites, and the reopening of Riyadh airport; (6) any Iranian action toward the UAE's export routes; (7) any strike on UAE territory.
- **A week of escalation. Emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any change to the US timeline, any agreement or collapse of the talks, confirmed mining of the Strait, any threat to or strike on UAE territory, airports, export routes 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 twelfth edition, a weekly review.** Day 231 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **MASS CASUALTIES AT RIYADH AIRPORT.** GACA: 12 killed, 309 injured on 10 October; one killed, 11 injured on 11 October. Coalition: 20 attacks on the airport since 1 October. Airport closed to 2100 GMT on 17 October. The Houthis declined a Saudi request to meet in Muscat.
- **RECORD ATTACKS AT SEA; TWO SINKINGS.** 12 ships attacked 5-11 October, at least ten more since. GFS Pride and Cape Dao sank; Petro Dolphin hit at Sohar anchorage, two missing. Iran claims mines; Singapore and CENTCOM dispute it. At sea, not strikes on UAE territory.
- **DIPLOMACY ON HOLD.** Iran calls the US response “insufficient”; its foreign ministry says a reply will follow review. The US states no attack before 3 November; options reported prepared. Putin offers help; Netanyahu opposes a pre-emptive strike before Israel’s election.
- **THE UAE: AVIATION HIT, SOLIDARITY WITH RIYADH.** UAE carriers cancel Saudi routes; some European carriers suspend Abu Dhabi to 24 October. The UAE condemns the Riyadh attacks and stands with Saudi Arabia. Iran warns against alternative export routes.
- **OIL AND ECONOMY.** Brent $104.72 at the 10 October close and about $105.50 on 16 October. The IMF says Gulf economies will not regain their pre-war path in the medium term; the EU-GCC summit is postponed.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. TWO HUNDRED AND TWELFTH EDITION. DAY 231.** A stated US timeline to 3 November, against mass casualties in Saudi Arabia and record attacks on shipping; 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 16th October 2026. Information current as of 09:00 GMT. Period covered: 09:00 GMT 9 October to 09:00 GMT 16 October 2026.

THE WEEK TO 16 OCTOBER WAS THE MOST INTENSE OF THIS PHASE ON THE SAUDI FRONT AND AT SEA. AN ATTACK ON RIYADH AIRPORT KILLED 12 AND INJURED 309, AND THE AIRPORT IS CLOSED. ATTACKS ON SHIPPING REACHED THEIR HIGHEST RATE OF THE WAR, AND TWO SHIPS SANK NEAR THE STRAIT.

THE US HAS STATED IT WILL NOT ATTACK IRAN BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER, AND IRAN HAS CALLED THE US RESPONSE INSUFFICIENT. THE WEEK’S MARITIME INCIDENTS WERE VESSELS AT SEA, NOT STRIKES ON UAE TERRITORY. 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.

PLAN AROUND 3 NOVEMBER; AVOID SAUDI AIRPORTS FOR NOW; KEEP VESSELS OUT OF THE STRAIT, THE GULF OF OMAN ANCHORAGES AND THE CENTRAL GULF; AND WATCH THE FUJAIRAH ROUTE. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. TWO HUNDRED AND TWELFTH EDITION. DAY 231.