WESTMINSTER SECURITY

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UAE SITREP DOCUMENT

DAY 245, THE 214TH EDITION: THE WEEK TO 30 OCTOBER. THE US TELLS REGIONAL ALLIES TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE RENEWED ACTION AGAINST IRAN AFTER 3 NOVEMBER, AND FOR IRANIAN RETALIATION AGAINST ENERGY AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. A VANCE LETTER AND A QATARI DRAFT REOPEN A CHANNEL; QATARI MEDIATORS RETURN TO TEHRAN. OIL FROM A TANKER STRUCK AT SEA REACHES THE UAE COAST AND CLOSES BEACHES IN THREE EMIRATES. A TANKER IS DISABLED BY EXPLOSIVE DEVICES NORTH-EAST OF KHASAB (AT SEA, OFF OMAN, NOT A STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY). BRENT NEAR $116. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

30 October 2026 (0900 GMT). Weekly edition: 23 October (0900 GMT) to 30 October (0900 GMT)

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

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠️ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** THE DECISION WINDOW OPENS IN FOUR DAYS, AND THE US HAS TOLD ITS PARTNERS TO EXPECT IRANIAN RETALIATION AGAINST ENERGY AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. THE ALERT REMAINS AT MAXIMUM. According to two diplomats cited by AP, US officials have told several Middle East countries to prepare for possible renewed military action against Iran after the 3 November US midterm elections, and to take precautions in case Iran strikes energy facilities and other critical infrastructure; President Trump has not made a final decision. CNN reports that US forces could launch major operations “within 96 hours” of an order. In the UAE, oil from the tanker Gem No 2, struck at sea on 9 October, has reached the coast: Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah have closed their beaches. Late on 29 October UKMTO reported a tanker disabled by explosive devices about 25 nautical miles north-east of Khasab, Oman. Both are vessels at sea, beyond UAE territorial waters, and neither is a strike 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 before 3 November, protect energy, water and communications resilience, and suspend all Strait transits.

⚖️ **MIXED SIGNALS:** A CHANNEL REOPENS WHILE BOTH SIDES PREPARE. On the easing side: Vice President Vance has written to Iran’s national security chief, Mohsen Rezaei, about restarting negotiations, and Qatar delivered the letter on 25 October; Iranian officials describe its tone as “more respectful” than earlier US messages (Al Jazeera); Qatar has presented a draft seven-day framework, and Qatari mediators returned to Tehran on 30 October; Saudi Arabia’s defence minister led a Makkah Pact delegation to Tehran on 26 October; and the UAE has called on all parties to “exercise wisdom and pursue political solutions”. On the harder side: the US briefing to allies, CNN’s report of plans “ready” for after the midterms, Speaker Ghalibaf’s statement that progress depends on Iran’s seven conditions, a senior Iranian official’s description of the Qatari ideas as “unacceptable”, disputed

Iranian claims of four tankers hitting mines, and continued Houthi missile fire at Riyadh. The diplomatic thread is real but unagreed; the military preparations are concrete.

⚠️ **ASSESSMENT:** THE UAE'S EXPOSURE IS NOW EXPLICIT. THE ALERT STAYS AT MAXIMUM. Three points bear on the UAE. First, the US warning to regional partners names the target set that matters most to the UAE: energy facilities and critical infrastructure. Second, the oil spill shows that an attack on a ship at sea can still reach UAE beaches, fisheries and, potentially, coastal water intakes, without any strike on UAE territory. Third, the international business community is already adjusting: ExxonMobil and Chevron have withdrawn their senior executives from ADIPEC in Abu Dhabi (2 to 5 November), citing security concerns. The diplomatic activity of the week is a genuine thread, and a sequenced agreement before 3 November would change the picture. Until one is announced and implemented, we treat the period from 3 November as one of acute risk for the UAE. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory, and the posture remains MAXIMUM with high readiness.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 245, THE WEEK IN REVIEW, 23 TO 30 OCTOBER

Over the seven days to 09:00 GMT on 30 October, the main front moved from planning to preparation, and a diplomatic channel reopened alongside it. CNN, citing two US officials, reports that US forces could launch new and potentially major operations against Iran "within 96 hours" of an order, against a target list that includes energy infrastructure, military sites and nuclear facilities; officials say President Trump has not decided. AP reports that US officials have told regional allies to prepare for renewed action after 3 November and for possible Iranian retaliation. In parallel, Vice President Vance has written to Iran's security chief, Qatar has tabled a draft seven-day framework, and Qatari mediators returned to Tehran on 30 October; Tehran has acknowledged the Vance letter but has not formally replied.

At sea, Iran claims that four tankers struck mines; CENTCOM calls the claims false and says the primary transit routes are clear. UKMTO reports a tanker disabled by explosive devices attached by a small boat north-east of Khasab, a vessel struck by a projectile, and a dhow that caught fire and sank. In the UAE, oil from the tanker Gem No 2, struck at sea off the UAE coast on 9 October, has closed beaches in Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah. The Houthis continue to fire at Saudi cities, and Brent reached about $116 on 30 October. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT with readiness at a high level.

Where Things Stand

Element	Status (as of 0900 GMT Friday 30 October; week from 23 October)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. US allies told to prepare for possible action after 3 November and for Iranian retaliation. Complete departures before 3 November; suspend all Strait transits.
US decision-making	**PLANS READY; NO DECISION (REPORTED).** CNN: operations possible "within 96 hours" of an order; target list includes energy, military and nuclear sites. AP: allies told to prepare. Trump: strikes after the elections, "anything's possible".
US force posture	**BLOCKADE AND ESCORTS.** CENTCOM: more than 50,000 US personnel in the region; 1.5 billion barrels of Gulf crude exported with US assistance since summer. Pentagon cost estimate $47.1bn. Ordered departure from Saudi Arabia stands.
Diplomacy	**A CHANNEL REOPENS, NOTHING AGREED.** Vance letter to Rezaei (nuclear talks required). Qatari seven-day draft; Iranian official calls the ideas "unacceptable". Qatari mediators back in Tehran (30 Oct). Ghalibaf: progress needs Iran's seven conditions.

Iran's posture	**CONDITIONS RESTATED.** Araghchi: Iran "continues to give diplomacy a chance". IRGC: southern route "mined"; claims a US drone captured (CENTCOM: false). Conditional threats against Gulf airports and infrastructure stand.
Strait and Gulf incidents	**DISPUTED MINE CLAIMS; ATTACKS CONTINUE.** IRGC claims 4 tankers hit mines (CENTCOM disputes). UKMTO: tanker disabled by explosive devices 25nm NE of Khasab (29 Oct); dhow sank 9nm N of Khasab. At sea, off Oman, not strikes on UAE territory.
UAE	**NO STRIKE; COASTAL IMPACT.** Gem No 2 spill: beaches closed in Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah. UAE urges "political solutions" (28 Oct). Exxon and Chevron executives withdraw from ADIPEC. Etihad Saudi routes cancelled to 5 Nov; flydubai to 1 Nov.
Saudi and Yemen front	**ATTACKS CONTINUE; A TEHRAN MEETING.** Interceptions near Mecca, Jeddah and Taif (24 to 25 Oct) and over Riyadh (29 Oct, one injured by debris). Houthis claim strikes on refineries (unconfirmed). Saudi defence minister in Tehran (26 Oct). Truce not agreed.
UAE territory	**NO CONFIRMED STRIKE.** No confirmed strike on UAE soil, ports or infrastructure since 17 May. DXB, DWC and AUH operating; Iranian airlines suspended; Emirates and flydubai Tel Aviv services suspended.

WS Assessment: The week did two things at once: it put a channel back in place and it brought the military option closer to execution. The US warning to partners is the most direct statement yet that Gulf infrastructure is part of the risk calculation. Nothing has touched UAE territory. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness.

2. THE DIPLOMACY: A LETTER, A QATARI DRAFT, AND IRAN'S SEVEN CONDITIONS

- **The Vance letter:** Axios reports that Vice President Vance wrote to Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, stressing that negotiations to head off US strikes "require discussions on the nuclear issue"; the Wall Street Journal first reported the letter. Qatar delivered it on 25 October (Al Jazeera). President Trump said on 28 October that the letter concerned medical supplies for Iran and denied directing Vance to discuss peace talks. Tasnim says Iran has received the letter and has not yet responded; Iranian officials told Al Jazeera on 30 October that its tone is "more respectful" and that they regard it as a framework rather than a peace proposal.
- **The Qatari draft:** An official told Reuters that Qatari mediators presented Iran with a draft agreement on 25 October, built on a seven-day timeline with daily confidence-building steps and several guarantor states. A senior Iranian official told Reuters the ideas were "unacceptable" and "not an offer". Axios reports that Qatar is pressing for a deal before 3 November. Qatari mediators returned to Tehran on 30 October, reportedly in coordination with US officials (Al Jazeera, 08:15 GMT).
- **Iran's position:** Foreign Minister Araghchi says Iran "continues to give diplomacy a chance to succeed" and that it is working with mediators to implement its seven-day plan. Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf said on 29 October that progress can only be achieved once Iran's seven conditions have been agreed, and that a "carrot-and-stick approach" would have no effect. The core gap is unchanged: Iran wants the blockade lifted, frozen funds released and oil sales allowed first; the US wants nuclear negotiations first (Axios).
- **The regional track:** On 26 October Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman led a Makkah Pact delegation to Tehran with Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Turkey's intelligence chief, Ibrahim Kalin, and met President Pezeshkian (Arab News). Iranian state media say the four states agreed to continue talks. The National, citing unnamed sources briefed on the talks, reports that Iran said it lacks the leverage to stop Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and asked its guests to press Washington to accept a two-week regional pause in exchange for a gradual reopening of the Strait; Iran has not confirmed this on the record, and the talks ended without a deal. The UAE foreign ministry on 28 October urged all parties to "exercise wisdom and pursue political solutions".
- **Israel:** Israel's election of 27 October produced no majority: with over 90 per cent counted, Prime Minister Netanyahu's bloc was projected at 53 seats and the opposition at 48 (Gulf News); Netanyahu continues as caretaker. CNN reports that the US asked Israel to defer any new strikes until joint operations are ready.

WS Assessment: The channel is more active than at any point this month, and the Qatari framework gives it a shape. It has not produced an agreed sequence, and the two positions on what comes first have not moved. Hold posture until a sequence is agreed and implemented.

3. THE STRAIT, SHIPPING AND OIL: DISPUTED MINE CLAIMS, A TANKER DISABLED, BRENT NEAR $116

- **The mine claims, disputed:** On 28 October CENTCOM described Iranian reports of ships striking mines as “false” and said all internationally recognised primary transit routes “have been cleared of sea mines by US forces and remain so”. On 29 October the IRGC said three tankers caught fire after hitting mines on what it calls the “unauthorised southern route” near the Omani coast, and Iran’s army reported a fourth tanker damaged east of the Strait. IRGC spokesman Mohebi challenged CENTCOM to prove its mine-clearing claim. Neither account has been independently verified, and both are presented here as disputed.
- **UKMTO reports:** At about 22:12 UTC on 29 October an outbound tanker about 25 nautical miles north-east of Khasab, Oman, was approached by a small boat that attached two explosive devices above the waterline; the blasts caused an engine-room fire, since extinguished, the crew are safe and the vessel is proceeding (UKMTO via ANI). Iran’s army describes a tanker striking a mine in the same area; whether these are the same incident is unconfirmed. Earlier on 29 October a dhow about nine nautical miles north of Khasab caught fire and sank after a “maritime security incident”, with the crew evacuated, and a tanker leaving the Strait was struck by an unknown projectile with no injuries reported. All were at sea, off Oman, with the cause unconfirmed, and none was a strike on UAE territory.
- **Other disputed claims:** The IRGC claims to have captured a US MQM-170 drone near the Strait; CENTCOM spokesman Captain Tim Hawkins called the claim a lie (Fox News). The claim is disputed and unverified.
- **The US position at sea:** CENTCOM’s commander, Admiral Brad Cooper, flew over the Strait on 25 October and says US forces have helped Gulf partners export more than 1.5 billion barrels of crude since the summer. A US official told CNN that the status quo around the Strait is “untenable” in the long term.
- **Oil:** Brent for December delivery rose $1.20 to $116.08 a barrel at 03:23 GMT on 30 October, and WTI to $103.37, after the mine claims and the Khasab attack (Reuters via Al Jazeera). Brent touched about $116.5 on 28 October and is on course for a gain of nearly 11 per cent in October. The December contract expires today, so headline prices will move to the January contract, which traded near $112.

WS Assessment: The Strait remains contested, and the two sides now dispute even the basic fact of whether it is mined. For operators, that dispute is itself the risk. Keep all vessels clear of the Strait, the Musandam approaches and the Gulf of Oman, including the Fujairah and Khor Fakkan approaches.

4. THE UAE: A SPILL ON THE COAST, AN ENERGY CONFERENCE AFFECTED, 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 public alert in the period.
- **The oil spill:** The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment confirmed on 23 October a tanker oil spill affecting the coast of Umm Al Quwain; it has not named the vessel. International maritime reporting and Reuters, citing satellite imagery, link the slick to the Panama-flagged crude tanker Gem No 2, struck by an unknown projectile on 9 October (UKMTO); the risk firm Vanguard placed the strike about 13 nautical miles west of Al Jazeera, Ras Al Khaimah, and India's shipping minister described a drone attack. Its 22 Indian crew were reported safe. The strike was on a vessel at sea, beyond UAE territorial waters, cause unconfirmed, and not a strike on UAE territory; its effects have now reached UAE shores. Oil has reached about 30km of coastline from Umm Al Quwain to Al Marjan Island, with possible traces up to 75km into northern Ras Al Khaimah (The National).
- **Closures and advice:** Umm Al Quwain has closed its beaches and coastal areas, Ras Al Khaimah closed all beaches on 24 October "until further notice", and Sharjah closed all its beaches on 28 October as a precaution. The ministry says the fuel smell reported in several emirates is caused by the spill and poses no health risk, and residents and fishermen are asked to avoid affected areas. Reuters-verified footage shows the slick about 2km from the Naqa'a desalination plant, whose seawater intake Windward says was threatened; Reuters reports that no plant shutdowns have been announced, and the authorities have not commented on water supply. Desalinated water supplies more than 80 per cent of the UAE's drinking water.
- **The UAE's position:** On 28 October the UAE foreign ministry described regional circumstances as "delicate" and urged all parties to "exercise wisdom and pursue political solutions" and to intensify diplomatic efforts (The National).
- **ADIPEC:** ADIPEC runs at ADNEC in Abu Dhabi from 2 to 5 November, a period that spans 3 November. ExxonMobil and Chevron have cancelled plans to send senior executives, citing security concerns (Bloomberg, Reuters). The organiser says US participation remains strong, with more than 120 American exhibitors.
- **Aviation:** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating. Etihad has cancelled Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam services to 5 November; Emirates' Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam services are cancelled with no end date given, while Dubai to Medina operates; flydubai has extended its Riyadh, Dammam and Abha suspension to 1 November (Gulf Today); Air Arabia's Saudi services are cancelled (Gulf News, 27 October). Iranian airline flights to the UAE and Emirates and flydubai Tel Aviv services remain suspended. Canada advised its citizens on 29 October to avoid Riyadh and Dammam airports and named the UAE among alternative routings.

WS Assessment: The UAE has not been struck. But the spill shows how attacks at sea reach the UAE without crossing the territorial threshold, and the US warning to partners names the infrastructure the UAE depends on. Hold high readiness, and treat coastal and water resilience as part of the risk picture.

5. SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN AND THE WIDER REGION

- **Attacks on Saudi Arabia:** From the evening of 24 October the Saudi-led coalition intercepted missiles over several cities; debris fell in Jeddah, Taif, Rabigh and Wadi Al-Mughammas in Mecca province, with no casualties reported, and the GCC Secretary-General condemned the strikes near the holy sites; the Houthis deny targeting them (Al Jazeera). On 29 October the coalition intercepted a ballistic missile aimed at the Eastern Province, and that evening destroyed two ballistic missiles fired at Riyadh; Saudi Civil Defense says falling debris wounded one Saudi citizen and damaged a home and a vehicle. Alerts were issued for Riyadh, Al-Kharj and Najran.
- **Houthi claims, unconfirmed:** Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree claims strikes on the Ras Tanura and Rabigh refineries, an Aramco facility at Buqayq, the East-West pipeline, and Riyadh and Dammam airports (29 to 30 October). Saudi Arabia has not confirmed any of them. Separately, a fire was reported near the Ras Tanura complex on 27 October after a Houthi missile claim; a source told Argus it was contained, and the cause is unconfirmed. Saree has also declared Riyadh airport a military target and warned airlines and travellers to stay away.
- **Saudi airports:** Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport resumed international flights from Terminal 2 on 25 October. The US Embassy urges Americans to take "extreme caution" at Saudi airports, and US government staff need Chief of Mission approval to use any airport in the country. The ordered departure of non-emergency US staff from Saudi Arabia stands.
- **Yemen:** A Houthi-run health ministry official says Saudi-led airstrikes on a market in al-Hazm, al-Jawf, killed 14 people on 28 October; the coalition has not commented (AP). Yemen's government says Houthi missiles struck Aden airport twice the same day, cratering the runway. Al-Masirah reports airstrikes on Mayun (Perim) island in the Bab el-Mandeb. Government officials report a tightening Houthi siege of Taiz. Yemen's armed forces claim heavy Houthi losses in recent strikes; these figures are not independently verified. The Saudi-Houthi truce has not been agreed.
- **Wider region:** India's foreign ministry says 22 Indian nationals have died in the conflict, including 14 seafarers. An Israeli soldier has been charged with passing military information to Iranian agents (Fox News). In Lebanon, Israeli strikes continue in the south.

WS Assessment: The Saudi front continues at a high tempo, now reaching the Mecca region, and the Makkah Pact meeting in Tehran has not slowed it. Saudi aviation and energy sites remain under sustained threat. UAE-linked operators should continue to avoid routings through Saudi airports.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **US allies told to prepare; a spill on the coast; no confirmed strike on UAE territory.** The US has told partners to prepare for possible renewed action after 3 November and for Iranian retaliation against energy and critical infrastructure. Oil from a tanker struck at sea has closed beaches in three emirates. There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER.** Four days remain before the reported decision window. DXB, DWC and AUH are operating. Complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights now, avoiding Saudi routings, and confirm bookings directly with the carrier.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HIGH LEVEL.** Essential personnel should hold shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level, review shelter locations and NCEMA guidance, keep go-bags and documents current, and be ready to shelter promptly on any alert. The UAE hosts US forces at Al Dhafra.
- **PROTECT ENERGY, WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS RESILIENCE.** The US warning names energy and critical infrastructure, and the slick has come close to a coastal desalination plant. Keep stored drinking water, fuel and generator contingencies ready, and review backup communications for critical operations.
- **COASTAL SITES.** Respect beach closures in Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah, suspend water activities and fishing in affected areas, and check with facilities management for any client property on the affected coast.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Attacks off Khasab continue and the mine picture is disputed. Hold vessels clear of the Strait, the Musandam approaches, the central Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, including the Fujairah and Khor Fakkan approaches, and report any incident or suspected mine to UKMTO.
- **Events and travel security.** ADIPEC (2 to 5 November) spans 3 November. Clients attending should review attendance, travel and contingency arrangements accordingly. Screen counterparties against current US designations and consult qualified counsel; this is not legal advice.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness, Acute Risk Window from 3 November

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. This week the US told regional partners to prepare for possible renewed action against Iran after 3 November and for retaliation against energy and critical infrastructure, while a diplomatic channel reopened through Qatar. Clients should complete departures before 3 November, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and protect energy, water and communications resilience.

- **All returns, SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE until a durable, verified de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.
- **Non-essential personnel, COMPLETE DEPARTURES BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER:** Use the open airports to finish deferred departures now, on scheduled commercial flights, avoiding Saudi routings.
- **Essential personnel, high readiness:** Maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness, keep documentation and go-bags current, prepare for communications and utility disruption, and monitor the US decision, the Qatari track, attacks near the UAE and any strike toward UAE territory.
- **Business and compliance clients:** Review continuity plans for loss of power, water or communications, review exposure to US sanctions and to Iran's restrictions on shipping, and consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.

- **De-escalation path (MAXIMUM to HIGH):** An agreed and implemented 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. 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, Iranian retaliation against Gulf energy sites, ports, airports or communications, further attacks off the UAE's coasts, confirmed mining, or a strike on UAE territory would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS.** US partners have been told to prepare for possible action after 3 November and for Iranian retaliation against infrastructure. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory.
- **ACT BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER.** Complete departures, contingency reviews and stock checks this weekend. Plan on capabilities and verified facts rather than stated dates.
- **WATCH THE QATARI TRACK, BUT DO NOT PLAN ON IT.** A sequenced agreement announced and implemented before 3 November would change the picture. Signals and letters do not.
- **PROTECT WATER AND COASTAL OPERATIONS.** The spill shows that incidents at sea can affect UAE beaches and water intakes. Keep stored water and review coastal site plans.
- **REVIEW EVENT ATTENDANCE.** ADIPEC runs from 2 to 5 November, across 3 November. Review attendance and other large-gathering commitments in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- **AVOID SAUDI AIRPORTS AND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Houthi fire at Saudi cities continues, and attacks off Khasab continue.
- **Monitor for:** (1) any US order to resume combat, before or after 3 November; (2) Iran's reply to the Vance letter and the Qatari draft; (3) Iranian action against Gulf energy sites, ports, airports or US bases; (4) further incidents off the UAE's coasts and any spread of the spill; (5) confirmed mining; (6) attacks on Saudi airports and energy sites; (7) any strike on UAE territory.
- **Emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any US decision to resume combat, any agreement or collapse of the talks, any incident off the UAE's coasts, or any threat to or strike on UAE territory, airports or UAE-linked shipping.
- **This is the two hundred and fourteenth edition, a weekly edition.** Day 245 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **ALLIES TOLD TO PREPARE.** AP: US officials told regional partners to prepare for possible renewed action against Iran after 3 November and for retaliation against energy and critical infrastructure. CNN: operations possible within 96 hours of an order. No final decision.
- **A CHANNEL REOPENS.** Vance letter to Rezaei; Qatari seven-day draft; Qatari mediators back in Tehran on 30 October. Ghalibaf: progress needs Iran's seven conditions. Nothing agreed.
- **OIL ON THE UAE COAST.** Spill linked to the tanker Gem No 2, struck at sea on 9 October; beaches closed in Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah. A vessel at sea, beyond territorial waters, not a strike on UAE territory.
- **DISPUTED MINES, CONTINUING ATTACKS.** IRGC claims four tankers hit mines; CENTCOM says the main routes are clear. UKMTO: a tanker disabled by explosive devices north-east of Khasab, off Oman.
- **SAUDI FRONT AND OIL.** Interceptions near Mecca and over Riyadh; unconfirmed Houthi claims against refineries. Brent near $116 on 30 October.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH EDITION. DAY 245.** Both phases remain suspended. Complete departures before 3 November, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and protect energy, water and communications resilience. The alert comes down to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.

Prepared 30th October 2026. Information current as of 09:00 GMT. Period covered: 09:00 GMT 23 October to 09:00 GMT 30 October 2026.

THE WEEK TO 30 OCTOBER BROUGHT THE MILITARY OPTION CLOSER TO EXECUTION AND A DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL BACK INTO PLAY. THE US HAS TOLD REGIONAL PARTNERS TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER 3 NOVEMBER AND FOR IRANIAN RETALIATION AGAINST ENERGY AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

OIL FROM A TANKER STRUCK AT SEA HAS CLOSED BEACHES IN THREE EMIRATES: A VESSEL BEYOND TERRITORIAL WATERS, NOT A STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. THERE IS NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS.

COMPLETE DEPARTURES BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER, SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS, AND PROTECT ENERGY, WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS RESILIENCE. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH EDITION. DAY 245.