

# SITREP — Iran Strait of Hormuz Crisis

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Day 26 of the war was defined by Iran's formal rejection of the US 15-point peace plan — and the consequences that followed. Pakistan confirmed it had delivered the proposal to Tehran; within hours, Iranian state television announced the plan was “maximalist” and “excessive,” with a senior official declaring: “The end of the war will occur when Iran decides it should end, not when Trump envisions its conclusion.” Iran countered with five conditions of its own: a complete ceasefire across all fronts, guarantees the war will not resume, war reparations, an end to all hostilities including proxy conflicts, and international recognition of Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz ([elDiario.es](#), [Press TV via Middle East Eye](#)).

The White House responded with both a carrot and a fist. Press Secretary Leavitt warned that if Iran refuses to accept it has been “militarily defeated,” Trump will ensure it faces “a strike the likes of which it has never seen before” ([BFM TV](#)). Simultaneously, she insisted talks remain “continuing and productive” — while Iran's FM Araghchi stated explicitly that “exchanging messages through intermediaries does not constitute negotiations” ([Euronews Russian](#)). Iran also told intermediaries it does not trust envoys Witkoff and Kushner and does not want them involved in future talks, preferring VP Vance as interlocutor instead ([Middle East Monitor](#)).

On the military front, the Pentagon confirmed deployment of approximately 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division, with CNN reporting Iran has been laying traps and moving air defences to Kharg Island in anticipation of a US seizure operation. Israel expanded its Lebanon buffer zone toward the Litani River, while Hezbollah's Naim Qassem declared negotiating “under fire” would amount to “capitulation” ([Franceinfo](#)). The US military claimed to have destroyed more than two-thirds of Iran's missile and drone production facilities and 92% of Iran's naval fleet since February 28.

The war's global economic ripple effects continued to widen. The Philippines declared a one-year state of national energy emergency, rolling out emergency fuel subsidies ([CNN](#)). Spain's PM Sánchez told parliament the war was an “absolute disaster” that has cost Spanish companies 100 billion euros, driven the Ibox 35 down 9%, and raised diesel and gas prices 35-95% ([Heraldo de Aragón](#)). A Deutsche Bank report warned the conflict could catalyse a shift from the petrodollar to a “petroyuan,” as Iran requires yuan payments for Hormuz transit ([TASS/Deutsche Bank](#)). And UN Secretary-General

Guterres issued his sharpest intervention yet, declaring “enough is enough — stop now” and appointing Jean Arnault as a personal envoy for the conflict ([India TV](#)).

## 10 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

### 1. Iran Formally Rejects US 15-Point Peace Plan

Pakistan confirmed it delivered the US plan to Tehran. The proposal demanded: dismantlement of Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow nuclear facilities; permanent ban on uranium enrichment; transfer of enriched stockpiles to the IAEA; abandonment of regional proxy networks; capping the ballistic missile program; and keeping Hormuz open. In exchange: all nuclear sanctions lifted and US assistance with civilian nuclear power. Iran’s response through Press TV was categorical: the conditions are “excessive” and the plan was “not positive” ([RT](#), [Vedomosti](#)).

Iran’s FM Araghchi stated: “Nobody can trust American diplomacy” — citing that nuclear negotiations were actively underway when Trump launched the February 28 attack. Israeli Economy Minister Barkat acknowledged the plan was “beautiful on paper” but Iran was “probably” unlikely to accept it. Iranian military spokesman Zolfaghari delivered the hardest rejection: “Someone like us will never come to terms with someone like you — not now, not ever” ([The Independent](#)).

### 2. Iran Announces Five Counter-Conditions

Iran’s state media published five conditions for ending the war: (1) complete ceasefire and end to killings across all fronts; (2) concrete guarantees the war will not resume; (3) guaranteed war reparations; (4) end to hostilities on all fronts including all proxy conflicts in Lebanon and Iraq; (5) international recognition of Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran’s FM separately demanded recognition of Hormuz sovereignty as Iran’s “natural, legal right” — going further than previous statements ([Navbharat Times](#), [CNN](#)).

The gap between the two positions is fundamental. The US demands Iran’s complete nuclear disarmament; Iran demands the US close all Gulf bases and pay reparations. Neither set of demands is negotiable for the other side in its current formulation.

### 3. 82nd Airborne Deploying — Iran Fortifies Kharg Island

The Pentagon confirmed approximately 1,000 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division are preparing to deploy to the Middle East in coming days. White House Press Secretary Leavitt declined to promise Trump would seek congressional authorization before deploying troops inside Iran, saying it is “at this moment, unnecessary.” CNN cited US intelligence reporting that Iran has been laying traps and moving military personnel and air defences to Kharg Island in recent weeks in preparation for a possible US seizure operation. A Trump adviser described the strategy to Axios: “Trump has a hand open for a deal and the other is a fist, waiting to punch you in the f\*\*\*ing face” ([The Independent](#), [CNN](#)).

### 4. Russia Evacuates Workers from Bushehr Nuclear Plant Under Fire

Russia evacuated 163 workers from the Bushehr nuclear power plant to the Iranian-Armenian border after a projectile struck the plant’s grounds — the second such attack in a week. Rosatom chief Alexei Likhachev confirmed about 300 personnel remain. Russia expressed “deep indignation” and warned of “irreversible humanitarian and

ecological consequences” if Reactor Unit 1 is directly hit. Likhachev stated: “We cannot just stick our shovels in the ground and leave” — indicating ongoing construction obligations ([T-Online](#), [elDiario.es](#)).

## **5. Spain’s Sánchez Condemns War as “Absolute Disaster” — Strongest Western Leader Statement**

Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez told parliament the Iran war is “much worse” than the 2003 Iraq War, describing it as an “unheard of catastrophe.” He enumerated specific damage: Ibx 35 down 9%, diesel and gas up 35-95%, 100 billion euros in losses for Spanish companies. He accused Trump of launching the war despite having a better nuclear deal available than the 2015 JCPOA, and stated: “Spain will not be complicit in illegal aggression or in lies disguised as freedom. Not this time, not while I am Prime Minister.” He also claimed the war has given Putin approximately €8.8 billion in additional energy revenue windfall ([Euronews Russian](#), [Heraldo de Aragón](#)).

## **6. UN Secretary-General Issues Sharpest Intervention: “Enough Is Enough”**

Guterres called on the US and Israel to end the war and on Iran to stop attacking its neighbours, declaring the situation “has gone out of control.” He warned that the approaching global planting season combined with the Hormuz fertiliser blockade could trigger famine. He appointed Jean Arnault as personal envoy — signalling the UN is moving from observer to active mediator in a conflict where Security Council action is blocked by US/UK vetoes. The UN Human Rights Council held an Urgent Debate requested by Gulf states — an unusual move, as Gulf states rarely use HRC mechanisms ([India TV](#), [Masrawy](#)).

## **7. Philippines Declares One-Year Energy Emergency; Global Economic Pain Deepens**

The Philippines became the first country to declare a formal state of energy emergency due to the war, rolling out fuel subsidies, anti-hoarding enforcement, and welfare programs for transport workers. The US Senate voted 47-53 to reject a war powers resolution — the third such failed vote — with Senator Rand Paul joining Democrats while Senator Fetterman sided with Republicans. US import prices rose 1.3% month-over-month in February, the largest increase since March 2022 ([CNN](#)).

European energy stocks rallied: Repsol +23% since the war began, with Morgan Stanley upgrading the European energy sector from neutral to attractive and specifically upgrading both Repsol and BP to overweight ([Cinco Días](#)). Meanwhile, Spain’s Euribor surged toward 3% — threatening higher mortgage costs for 3 million Spanish variable-rate mortgage holders.

## **8. The War That Could Have Been a Revolution — Expert Analysis**

A deeply reported Times of Israel analysis revealed that two months before the war, Iran’s Islamic Republic was at its most vulnerable since 1979 — facing sanctions, economic collapse, and nationwide protests that the regime suppressed by killing up to 30,000 protesters in January 2026. Jack Goldstone (George Mason University) argued the war has actually backfired on regime-change goals: “The war has created a situation in which the leaders of the government and military are more closely united than at any time in the last dozen years.” The three preconditions for revolution — elite fracture, security force defection, and a viable opposition — are all weakened by external bombardment. BBC interviews with Iranians inside the country revealed a fractured society: a grandmother hoping for regime collapse, a student warning that loyalists would launch suicide attacks even if the government fell, and a young man refusing conscription ([Times of Israel](#), [BBC](#)).

## 9. Palantir Reveals AI Is Directing the Iran War – First AI-Driven Conflict

Palantir CTO Shyam Sankar stated at the Hill and Valley Forum in Washington that the Iran war will be remembered as “the first large-scale combat operation directed, enhanced, and made productive by AI.” Palantir’s Maven Smart System – processing massive datasets for rapid targeting decisions – uses Anthropic’s Claude model, but the relationship became strained after the Pentagon classified Anthropic as a supply chain risk for insisting on safeguards against fully autonomous weapons. Palantir is reportedly considering alternative AI providers to replace Claude in Maven ([Akhbarak.net](#)). Separately, NBC News reported Trump receives daily two-minute “highlight reel” video montages of the “biggest and most successful strikes” – raising concerns from some allies that the Commander-in-Chief is operating from a systematically optimistic selection of the war’s events ([Al Jazeera Arabic](#)).

## 10. Deutsche Bank Warns of “Perfect Storm for the Petrodollar”

A Deutsche Bank research institute report warned the Iran conflict could catalyse the rise of a “petroyuan” in global energy trade. Iran is reportedly negotiating with eight countries to allow Hormuz passage in exchange for yuan-denominated payments. Tankers bound for China and India transit freely while US-allied shipping is blocked – directly challenging the premise of US-led maritime security. The 1974 petrodollar framework (Saudi Arabia prices oil in dollars, invests in Treasuries, receives US security) is being undermined: if Gulf states reduce dollar-denominated energy payments, demand for US dollar savings and Treasury bonds would decline significantly ([TASS/Deutsche Bank](#)).

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### PIVOT EVENT TRACKER

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### Pivot 1 – Does China cut a passage deal?

**Timeline:** Apr 2026 **Current assessment:** YES – probability trending UP **Evidence from coverage:** - Iran allowing Chinese and Indian tankers through Hormuz while blocking Western-allied shipping confirms differential access regime is already operating ([TASS/Deutsche Bank](#)) - Iran requiring yuan payments for passage is creating the petroyuan infrastructure in real-time - Deutsche Bank report (Western institution, not Chinese state media) validates the structural shift thesis - Singapore PM called Australian PM to coordinate energy security – ASEAN states seeking Chinese clean energy alternatives ([Zaobao](#))

### Pivot 2A – Saudi back-channel to Iran?

**Timeline:** Jun 2026 **Current assessment:** NO – probability trending DOWN **Evidence:** - Saudi FM called Iranian attacks on energy sites “blatant blackmail” – language of confrontation, not reconciliation - Saudi Arabia continues to authorise US use of King Fahd Air Base - Gulf states pushed for the HRC Urgent Debate against Iran – multilateral institutional pressure incompatible with back-channel reconciliation

### Pivot 2B – Nuclear sprint to 90%?

**Timeline:** May 2026 **Current assessment:** UNCLEAR – probability trending UP **Evidence:** - Iran’s five counter-conditions explicitly refuse to negotiate its nuclear program and promise a “new nuclear policy” - IDF struck Iran’s submarine design facility in Isfahan – indicating nuclear-adjacent military infrastructure is systematically targeted - Iran’s FM justified refusal to negotiate by citing mid-negotiation attack: credibly argues any new IAEA agreement

could be attacked again - Expert assessment: Iran already has 99% of centrifuge work done for 9 weapons' worth of HEU — knowledge cannot be unlearned

### Pivot 3A — Ceasefire deal?

**Timeline:** Sep–Oct 2026 **Current assessment:** UNCLEAR — probability trending DOWN (short-term) **Evidence:** - Iran's formal rejection of the 15-point plan and its five maximalist counter-demands make near-term agreement extremely unlikely - Iran specifically rejected Witkoff/Kushner as envoys — demanding personnel changes before talks can proceed - Israeli Channel 12: Israel fears Trump may declare unilateral ceasefire on March 28 before terms are accepted — creating US-Israel friction - Netanyahu ordered IDF to intensify strikes within 48 hours after concluding the US plan was insufficient — Israel pursuing its own timeline

### Pivot 3B — US recommit militarily?

**Timeline:** Aug 2026 **Current assessment:** YES — probability trending UP **Evidence:** - 82nd Airborne deploying; White House declined to promise congressional authorization for troops in Iran - Iran fortifying Kharg Island indicates both sides expect a ground operation - US military claims 92% of Iran's naval fleet destroyed — but Iran still fires daily at Israel and Gulf states - The war has cost ~\$30 billion in 26 days at ~\$1 billion/day; \$200 billion supplemental request pending

### Pivot 3C — US strike nuclear sites?

**Timeline:** Jul 2026 **Current assessment:** CONFIRMED — already occurring **Evidence:** - IDF struck Iran's only submarine design and development facility in Isfahan - Nuclear scientists continue to be targeted; two killed in recent days - Netanyahu ordered 48-hour intensification after viewing the 15-point plan as insufficient - Bushehr struck twice; Russia evacuating workers

### Pivot 4A — China fills security vacuum?

**Timeline:** Nov 2026 **Current assessment:** YES — probability trending UP **Evidence:** - Deutsche Bank report validates petroyuan thesis from a major Western financial institution - Yuan-denominated Hormuz passage is creating the infrastructure for a post-petrodollar system in real-time - Chinese clean energy stocks surging as structural beneficiary narrative consolidates - Guterres appointing a personal envoy signals the UN (where China has significant influence) is entering the diplomatic space

## OUTCOME PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

RANK	OUTCOME	TREND	RATIONALE
1	<b>B: Frozen conflict</b>	↑	Iran's rejection + maximalist counter-demands + US troop deployment = no deal possible short-term, but neither side can force capitulation. Partial Hormuz access with continued strikes most likely.
2	<b>G: China wins the peace</b>	↑	Petroyuan thesis validated by Deutsche Bank. Yuan Hormuz

RANK	OUTCOME	TREND	RATIONALE
			payments creating new infrastructure. Clean energy investment surge. China is the structural winner regardless of military outcome.
3	<b>H: Uneasy US restoration</b>	→	82nd Airborne deploying, Kharg seizure planning. But MAGA base draws red line at ground troops and Trump at 36% approval. US may recommit then withdraw rapidly.
4	<b>C: Pyrrhic US war</b>	↑	92% of Iran's navy destroyed yet Iran still fires daily. \$30B spent. 13 US dead. War solidifying regime rather than breaking it. If Kharg operation produces casualties, this outcome accelerates.
5	<b>F: Nuclear Iran fait accompli</b>	↑	Iran's conditions explicitly refuse nuclear negotiations. 440kg HEU stockpile location unknown. Knowledge cannot be destroyed. Post-war Iran likely emerges as threshold nuclear state.
6	<b>A: Early capitulation</b>	↓	Iran's categorical rejection and "we will end the war when we decide" statement make surrender the least likely near-term outcome.
7	<b>D: Gulf collapse</b>	→	Ras Laffan 3-5 year repairs, but Saudi/UAE infrastructure largely defended. Energy emergency declarations spreading to Philippines but not yet systemic collapse.
8	<b>E: Full regional war</b>	→	Israel expanding Lebanon buffer zone, Hezbollah refusing to negotiate, Iraq filing UN complaint after 22 killed. Widening but still controlled.

## BIAS & NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

LOCALE	DOMINANT NARRATIVE	KEY FRAMING
US/CA/UK (English)	Iran rejected peace plan; troop deployment confirmed; Trump's dual carrot/fist strategy	BBC Iraq parallel (2003 "Mission Accomplished" warning); Times of Israel: war may have saved the regime it was meant to destroy

LOCALE	DOMINANT NARRATIVE	KEY FRAMING
Saudi Arabia (Arabic)	Iran's attacks are "blatant blackmail"; Gulf HRC Urgent Debate against Iran	Saudi FM language hardening; aawsat.com amplifying Gulf grievances
Egypt (Arabic)	Guterres intervention; FAO fertiliser crisis; war costing Spanish companies billions	Masrawy/Al-Masry framing through economic and humanitarian consequences
Israel (Hebrew)	Netanyahu: war "at full force"; buffer zone expanding; plan "beautiful on paper" but Iran won't accept	Kikar Hashabbat: Netanyahu reassuring local officials; Times of Israel: regime-change thesis failing
Russia (Russian)	Bushehr evacuation; US plan rejected; petrodollar under threat	TASS amplifying Deutsche Bank petroyuan thesis; Pravda: US deterred by ground war fear
Spain (Spanish)	Sánchez: "absolute disaster" worse than Iraq 2003; Ibex -9%, €100B losses	Strongest European governmental condemnation; El Confidencial: Iran's ethnic diversity doesn't support balkanisation
France (French)	"Unleash hell" threat; Macron 4th Defence Council; fertiliser → food price chain	Le Pen accuses state of profiting from crisis; La Croix: Syria's neutrality under pressure
Germany (German)	Bushehr evacuation; MAGA red line at ground troops; insider trading allegations	T-Online: 6M barrels traded 14 minutes before Trump's announcement; WELT: CPAC as MAGA stress test
India (Hindi)	Guterres "enough is enough"; Modi calls for diplomacy; Colby defence visit	BBC Hindi Iraq War parallel analysis; US Under Secretary of Defence Colby visit to India
Turkey (Turkish)	Pakistan mediation confirmed; Iran rejected plan	Anadolu Agency: transmission channel coverage

## Notable narrative divergences:

- **The Iraq 2003 parallel is being drawn by BBC, Spanish, and Indian media** — all warning that initial military success does not equal strategic victory. American media has been slower to make this comparison explicitly.
- **The petrodollar/petroyuan thesis is being amplified by Russian state media** but originates from a Deutsche Bank report — giving Russian messaging an unusual Western institutional foundation.
- **Israeli media is strikingly self-critical:** the Times of Israel published a detailed analysis arguing the war may have saved the regime from internal revolution, directly contradicting Netanyahu's stated objectives.
- **Trump's daily "highlight reel" briefings** are being covered as a systemic information problem by Al Jazeera, NBC, and NBC-derived international coverage — but not by Fox News or conservative US outlets.

## 1. Are talks “productive” or nonexistent?

- **White House** (Leavitt, via [Sky News Arabia](#)): Talks are “continuing and productive”
- **Iran FM Araghchi** ([Euronews Russian](#)): “Exchanging messages through intermediaries does not constitute negotiations”; “No negotiations have taken place”
- **Assessment:** Both statements can be technically true. The US is receiving responses through Pakistan/Turkey/Egypt and calls this “productive.” Iran distinguishes between receiving messages and engaging in negotiations. The semantic gap is the diplomatic space where both sides operate.

## 2. Has Iran been “militarily defeated”?

- **White House** (Leavitt, via [BFM TV](#)): Iran must accept it has been “militarily defeated”
- **Franceinfo** ([franceinfo.fr](#)): US claims 92% of Iran’s navy destroyed, 2/3 of missile production
- **Iran** (Zolfaghari, via [The Independent](#)): “Someone like us will never come to terms with someone like you — not now, not ever”
- **Assessment:** Iran’s conventional military capacity is severely degraded. But Iran continues firing 10+ missiles daily at Israel, controlling Hormuz, and striking Gulf states. “Military defeat” in the conventional sense coexists with Iranian asymmetric capability that the US has not neutralized.

## 3. Did the war help or hinder regime change?

- **Netanyahu** (via [Times of Israel](#)): War creating conditions for popular uprising
- **Jack Goldstone** (George Mason, via [Times of Israel](#)): War has “solidified” regime unity “more closely than at any time in the last dozen years”
- **Assessment:** Goldstone’s argument is structurally compelling: external bombardment suppresses internal fractures. The January 2026 protest wave — 30,000 killed — represented a genuine near-revolution that the war has now interrupted. The regime may have been saved by its enemy.

## 4. Israel’s war aims vs. Trump’s war aims

- **Netanyahu** ([Kikar Hashabbat](#)): War “at full strength”; ordered 48-hour strike intensification after seeing US plan
- **Trump** (via multiple): Seeking deal, five-day pause, “productive talks”
- **Assessment:** Israel is racing to maximise military destruction before any ceasefire Trump might impose. The US plan doesn’t adequately address Iran’s nuclear program from Israel’s perspective. The US-Israel divergence is no longer subtle — it is a structural disagreement about whether to negotiate or escalate.

## 5. Who struck Bushehr?

- **Russia** ([T-Online](#)): “Deep indignation” at projectile striking plant grounds; evacuating workers
- **Assessment:** Attribution is ambiguous — the article does not confirm whether this was a US/Israeli strike on the plant or an Iranian projectile landing nearby. Russia’s evacuation suggests it considers further strikes likely regardless of origin.

## 1. Iran Preparing to Expand Strike Range to Bab el-Mandeb Strait – HIGH

- **Claim:** Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency cited military sources saying Iran could expand its strike range to include the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (connecting the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden) if its territory is attacked ([Yonhap Infomax](#))
- **Credibility:** MODERATE – Tasnim is semi-official but Iran has demonstrated long-range capability
- **Significance:** Expanding to Bab el-Mandeb would effectively blockade two of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints simultaneously, escalating the global energy crisis dramatically.

## 2. Israel Fears Trump May Declare Unilateral Ceasefire March 28 – HIGH

- **Claim:** Israeli Channel 12 reported the Israeli government fears Trump may unilaterally declare a ceasefire as early as Saturday, March 28, before US terms are fully accepted ([Yonhap Infomax](#))
- **Credibility:** HIGH – Channel 12 is well-sourced in Israeli government; consistent with Netanyahu's 48-hour strike intensification order
- **Significance:** A unilateral US ceasefire would leave Israel fighting alone. The 5-day pause expires March 28 and the Marine assault force arrives the same day – the date is a convergence point for multiple pressure vectors.

## 3. Iran Laying Traps at Kharg Island – HIGH

- **Claim:** US intelligence reporting cited by CNN indicates Iran has been laying traps and moving military personnel and air defences to Kharg Island in anticipation of a seizure operation ([CNN](#))
- **Credibility:** HIGH – CNN citing US intelligence; consistent with 82nd Airborne deployment
- **Significance:** If Iran has fortified Kharg, a US seizure operation would produce combat casualties – the political threshold that MAGA's own red line identifies as unacceptable.

## 4. Insider Trading Around Trump's Announcements – HIGH

- **Claim:** 6 million barrels of oil traded in a 2-minute window, 14 minutes before Trump posted his ceasefire pause announcement; oil fell 14% minutes later ([T-Online](#), [FT via TASS](#))
- **Credibility:** HIGH – Financial Times documented; Bloomberg corroborated; \$580M in trades
- **Significance:** If confirmed, this would be one of the largest insider trading scandals in US history. Someone with advance knowledge of presidential announcements is profiting from them.

## 5. Iran-Backed Martyrdom Operations in Europe Emerging – MODERATE

- **Claim:** A French expert analysis warns Iran has not yet deployed its "most devastating asymmetric weapon" – suicide attacks – and identifies a new group (Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiya) claiming responsibility for attacks in Europe since early March ([Le Monde/expert analysis](#))
- **Credibility:** MODERATE – expert assessment, not intelligence reporting; the new group's operational capability is unconfirmed
- **Significance:** If Iran activates martyrdom networks in Europe, it would transform the conflict from a regional war into a global terrorism campaign.

## INFORMATION GAPS

### March 28 convergence

: The 5-day pause expiry, Marine assault force arrival, and potential unilateral ceasefire all converge on March 28 — but no reporting clarifies which of these scenarios the US is actually planning for

### Iran's nuclear stockpile location

: Russia, multiple analysts, and Iran's own conditions all suggest the HEU is not at known facilities — its actual location is unknown

### Mojtaba Khamenei's health and decision-making

: Still no video appearance; only voice messages; CIA/Mossad monitoring but “no sign he has been actively managing the war”

### Iraq's UN complaint

: Baghdad threatened to bring the case of 22 Iraqi deaths in 24 hours to the Security Council — the implications for US basing rights in Iraq are unreported

### Iran's mine deployment status

: Still contested between “has not mined” (Russian analyst) and “has planted mines” (US officials)

### The actual death toll in Iran

: 25+ days of internet blackout; official figures frozen since March 8; independent minimum of 1,455 civilians widely considered a severe undercount

### Syrian neutrality sustainability

: Damascus refused US request to send forces to Lebanon — but Syria's airspace is controlled by four external powers, making its neutrality formally declared but physically unenforceable

## APPENDIX: SOURCE STATISTICS

LOCALE	ARTICLES	TOP DOMAINS
ar-SA	44	aawsat.com, skynewsarabia.com, arabic.cnn.com
de-DE	43	t-online.de, welt.de, bfmtv.com
en-CA	39	bbc.com, globalnews.ca, finance.yahoo.com
fr-FR	38	bfmtv.com, franceinfo.fr, la-croix.com

LOCALE	ARTICLES	TOP DOMAINS
es-ES	31	eldiario.es, elmundo.es, cincodias.elpais.com
en-UK	31	middleeasteye.net, independent.co.uk, bbc.com
hi-IN	29	navbharattimes.indiatimes.com, indiatv.in, bbc.com
tr-TR	27	aa.com.tr, trthaber.com, haberturk.com
en-PK	27	cnn.com, gulfnews.com, tribune.com.pk
en-RU	26	tass.com, rt.com
ru-RU	25	vedomosti.ru, euronews.com, pravda.ru
en-GB	23	theguardian.com, bbc.com, independent.co.uk
ar-EG	21	masrawy.com, youm7.com, akhbarak.net
he-IL	16	timesofisrael.com, maariv.co.il, kikar.co.il
en-US	12	usatoday.com, npr.org, salon.com
ja-JP	11	diamond.jp, asagei.com, news.yahoo.co.jp
en-IL	11	timesofisrael.com
en-IN	8	hindustantimes.com
ko-KR	7	joongang.co.kr, einfomax.co.kr
en-TR	2	aa.com.tr
en-KR	1	einfomax.co.kr
en-IR	1	presstv.ir

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