



US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

SitRep 1000 1 March

### Key developments

The US and Israel began joint airstrikes on Iran at 19:30 NZT 28 February. Initial indications are of a major, sustained campaign with a wide range of targets across Iran.

President Trump posted an eight-minute video to Truth Social announcing "major combat operations" against Iran and outlining objectives including:

- Eliminating imminent threats from the Iranian regime
- Ensuring Iran's regional proxies can no longer destabilise the region
- Ensuring that Iran cannot obtain a nuclear weapon
- Destroying Iranian missiles and missile industry
- Destroying the Iranian navy, and
- Encouraging Iranians to rise up against Iranian authorities

Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu said the attacks aimed to remove an "existential threat" and "will create the conditions for the brave Iranian people to take their fate into their own hands." s6(a)

s6(a)

The Supreme Leader's compound appears to have been targeted, with indications he may be dead, alongside other senior leaders.

Iran has vowed a "crushing" response and launched ballistic missiles and drones at Israel, and at US military installations in the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait. s9(2)(g)(i) Israel has struck Iranian-backed groups in Iraq and Lebanon.

The UAE has confirmed one person (a Pakistan national) killed in Abu Dhabi by falling debris. Five Syrians have reportedly been killed by debris from missiles intercepted by Israel.

Iran has announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. s9(2)(g)(i)

The US Transportation Department has called on commercial vessels to stay away from the Gulf including the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea.

The Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen have announced an intention to resume missile and drone attacks on shipping routes and on Israel in support of Iran.

RESTRICTED

s6(b)(1)

An emergency session of the UN Security Council is currently being held to address the crisis.

Democratic lawmakers including Kamala Harris are calling for Congress to convene, to enact limits on the President's ability to conduct further strikes.

Informed media reports suggest that, overall, the early pattern of activities suggests a far more coordinated, expansive, and escalatory conflict than the 12-day war last June, with regime decapitation, direct US participation, rapid Iranian retaliation, and immediate regional spillover. s6(a)

**International responses:**

- **Australia:** Prime Minister Albanese, Foreign Minister Wong and Defence Minister Marles released a joint statement which includes the line: "We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security."
- **Canada:** Prime Minister Carney and Foreign Minister Anand released a joint statement calling Iran the "principal source of instability and terror" that "must never be allowed to obtain or develop nuclear weapons". It stated "Canada supports the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon".
- **UK:** Prime Minister Starmer released a statement noting the UK played no role in the strikes on Iran, called the Iranian regime "utterly abhorrent" and stressed that Iran "must never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon". British forces were "active" and "it is vital now that we prevent further escalation and return to a diplomatic process". s9(2)(g)(i)
- **E3:** The leaders of the UK, Germany and France, released a statement that outlined concerns about Iran and condemned its retaliatory attacks in the region. The leaders noted "We did not participate in the strikes, but are in close contact with international partners, including the United States, Israel and partners in the region".
- **EU:** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa have said developments in Iran are "greatly concerning". "We call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint, to protect civilians, and to fully respect international law," the two leaders said in a joint statement.
- **France:** President Macron said France was ready to "deploy necessary resources to protect its closest partners" and called for an urgent United Nations Security Council meeting.
- **Germany:** A government spokesperson has stated that Germany had been informed by Israel in advance of the strikes and that Chancellor Merz "is monitoring developments closely and in close coordination with European partners".
- **Singapore:** Singapore's MFA spokesperson release a statement that Singapore regrets the failure of negotiations that has resulted in strikes by the US and Israel on

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

Iran, and retaliatory strikes by Iran. Separately, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong has told media that the climate of uncertainty created by these "dramatic twists and turns" will dampen the global mood for trade and investment.

- **Japan:** The Foreign Ministry stated in a post on X that "the situation... has a significant impact on Japan, including from the perspective of energy security". Japan is "closely monitoring the developments with great concern" and the government will "take all possible measures to ensure the protection of Japanese nationals".
- **Korea:** A government spokesperson stated that "our government is closely monitoring the current Iran-related situation and urges all parties to make every effort to ease tensions in the region" while ensuring the safety of Korean nationals in Iran.
- **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres:** posted a statement "I condemn today's military escalation in the Middle East. The use of force by the United States & Israel against Iran, and the subsequent retaliation by Iran across the region, undermine international peace & security"
- **Nordic** responses have focused on de-escalation, respect for international law. Norway's foreign minister said that the attacks were contrary to international law (calling out Israel only in his statement). Finland's President Stubb saw the attack as a continuation of last year's 12-day war while noting the US was operating largely outside traditional international law. Sweden's foreign minister also questioned the legality of the action. Denmark's response has been muted, s6(a)

### Consular support

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 23 in Iran, 72 in Israel. UAE: 586
- Call volumes are low, with just a handful of calls and emails from New Zealanders in the wider region confirming they are safe. We expect volumes to increase as airspace and flight disruptions impact travellers.
- Safetravel messages have been sent to those registered in Israel, Iran, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, and Jordan.
- SafeTravel Middle East Security Situation news feature updated.
- Active engagement with Five Nations partners (first coordination call at 0130 this morning)
- s6(b)(i)

### Post operations and staff welfare

- All seconded MFAT personnel in the Gulf region are safe and sheltering in place.
- MFAT staff are currently in Jordan and have been confirmed safe.
- NZDF has confirmed that NZDF personnel in the region are safe and taking appropriate force protection measures (re-confirm).
- s6(d)

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### **Flight operations**

- Airspace over the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, Israel, Syria, Iraq and Jordan are closed.
- The impact on the suspension of airspace and services to and from the Middle East is expected to have an impact on New Zealand citizens both within the Middle East and in transit through the region.
- MFAT's advice for those disrupted will be to contact their airline and insurance providers.

### **NZF deployments in the region**

- s6(a)
- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.

### **NZ Agency Response and Coordination**

- Government agencies are in close touch. DPMC is convening a Watch Group at Tier 2 at 16.00 today.

### **Key Messages**

New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.

Iran has, for decades, defied the will and expectations of the international community.

The legitimacy of a government rests on the support of its people; the Iranian regime has long since lost that support.

In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken overnight by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

We condemn in the strongest terms Iran's indiscriminate retaliatory attacks on Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.

We join the international community in hoping this crisis ends as quickly as possible.

We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the conflict, and to the New Zealand families who are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

New Zealand Embassies in the region are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide support to New Zealanders. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises New Zealanders in the region to shelter in place. We urge all New Zealanders to register on Safetravel.

Q and A are to be forwarded separately.

Response Operations	The ECC will operate on two shifts
Next SitRep Due	1/03 1500

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

SitRep 2 1655 1 March**Key developments**

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. Strikes have occurred across at least nine cities in Iran and against a wide range of military targets across the country.
- President Trump has announced the death of Supreme Leader Khamenei and reiterated his calls for Iranians to rise against authorities. Iran's state media has confirmed the Supreme Leader is dead.
- s6(a)
- President Trump said that bombing will continue throughout the week, or "as long as necessary".
- Iranian retaliation in the form of ballistic missiles and drones continue to target Israel, US military bases in the Middle East, and critical infrastructure including regional airports.
- The UAE says it intercepted most of 346 missiles or drones fired at its territory.
- Dubai International Airport and Abu Dhabi's Zayed International Airport have both been struck with one person killed at Zayed International. A hotel in Dubai has also been hit.
- One person has died and 22 are injured in strikes on Tel Aviv.
- The US says it has sustained no casualties in the wake of US-Israel strikes on Iran. No Navy ship has been hit and US military installations had sustained "minimal damage", which had not impacted operations.
- The death toll at a girls' school in Iran hit by an airstrike has reached 108, according to Iranian Authorities.
- The IRGC has deployed the Basij forces across multiple cities in Iran, including Tehran, to deter and suppress potential unrest.
- Iranian proxies Lebanese Hezbollah and the Houthis have not become involved at this stage, although Hezbollah has released a statement condemning the strikes.
- Major airlines have temporarily halted flights from New Zealand to the Gulf and will regularly review the situation. Airlines have instructed passengers to contact the airline

## RESTRICTED

to re-book the next available flights. EK449 AKL > DXB has turned around and is returning to Auckland.

### **Economic impacts**

- Since Iran announced the closure of the Strait, vessel tracking data indicated reduced movements through the Strait, but not a complete shutdown. We would expect little to no warning in the event of disruption or full closure.
- TSY has provided an update to Ministers noting it will take time before the impacts on the NZ economy become clear. The update noted:
  - There could be significant impact through oil price increases, particularly if the Strait of Hormuz is closed for a prolonged period. Oil analysts at Barclays said they expect Brent crude could reach US \$100/b (37% increase).
- TSY will provide a more comprehensive SITREP late Monday, once financial markets in Asia have started to open.
- MFAT's Trade and Economic Group will provide advice to the Minister for Trade and Investment on likely trade/sectoral impacts on Monday/Tuesday, including from potential shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. This will be cc-ed to the Minister of Finance.

### **International responses**

At an emergency meeting on the UN Security Council:

- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that today's strikes by the US and Israel, as well as Iran's retaliation, pose a "grave threat to international peace and security".
- US Ambassador to the UN told the UNSC that the US is taking "lawful actions" in response to threats from Iran.
- The Iranian Ambassador to the UN told the Council that the airstrikes have killed and injured hundreds of Iranian civilians, which he called a war crime and a crime against humanity.

### **Consular support**

- As at 1630, 1260 New Zealanders are registered on SafeTravel in the Middle East region including UAE: 658, Saudi Arabia: 176, Qatar 218, Israel 71, Jordan 29, Bahrain 38, Iran 23.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.
- Call volumes are steady. We have received around 60 calls and 10 emails from New Zealanders in the region concerned by developments or affected by travel disruption. Many callers are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

from the region. We expect volumes to increase as airspace and flight disruptions continue.

- We have made the following updates to regional travel advice, which brings New Zealand into line with partners:
  - **Bahrain** – move to Level 4 (Do not travel) from 2 (exercise increased caution)
  - **Israel** – move to Level 4 from 3 (avoid non-essential travel)
  - **Jordan** – move to Level 3 from 2
  - **Kuwait** – move to level 4 from 2
  - **Qatar** – move to level 4 from 2
  - **UAE** – move to level 4 from 2
- The SafeTravel Middle East Security Situation news feature has been updated.
- We are actively engaging with Five Nations partners.
- s6(b)(i)
  
- s6(b)(i)

### Post operations and staff welfare

- All seconded MFAT personnel in the Gulf region are safe and sheltering in place.
- MFAT staff are currently in Jordan and have been confirmed safe.
- NZDF has confirmed that NZDF personnel in the region are safe and taking appropriate force protection measures (re-confirm).
- s6(d)

### Flight operations

- Airspace over the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, Israel, Syria, Iraq and Jordan are closed.
- The impact on the suspension of airspace and services to and from the Middle East is expected to have an impact on New Zealand citizens both within the Middle East and in transit through the region.
- MFAT's advice for those disrupted will be to contact their airline and insurance providers.

### NZDF deployments in the region

- s6(a)

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.

### **NZ agency response and coordination**

- Government agencies are in close touch. DPMC convened a Watch Group at Tier 2 level at 1600 today.

### **Key Messages**

New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.

Iran has, for decades, defied the will and expectations of the international community.

The legitimacy of a government rests on the support of its people; the Iranian regime has long since lost that support.

In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken overnight by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

We condemn in the strongest terms Iran's indiscriminate retaliatory attacks on Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.

We join the international community in hoping this crisis ends as quickly as possible.

We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the conflict, and to the New Zealand families who are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas.

We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

New Zealand Embassies in the region are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide support to New Zealanders.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises New Zealanders to follow the advice of local authorities, including any shelter in place recommendations.

We urge all New Zealanders to register on SafeTravel.

New Zealanders requiring urgent consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

--

Response Operations	The ECC will operate on two shifts.
Next SitRep Due	2/3 0515

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR).
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

SitRep [3 0515 Monday 2 March](#)

---

**Key messages**

*This section is unclassified.*

New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.

Iran has, for decades, defied the will and expectations of the international community.

The legitimacy of a government rests on the support of its people; the Iranian regime has long since lost that support.

In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken overnight by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

We condemn in the strongest terms Iran's indiscriminate retaliatory attacks across the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.

We join the international community in hoping this crisis ends as quickly as possible.

We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the conflict, and to the New Zealand families who are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas.

We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

New Zealand Embassies in the region are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide support to New Zealanders.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises New Zealanders to follow the advice of local authorities, including any shelter in place recommendations.

We urge all New Zealanders to register on SafeTravel.

New Zealanders requiring urgent consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

**RESTRICTED**

**Key developments**

*Restricted content begins here.*

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. Strikes have occurred across at least nine cities in Iran and against a wide range of military targets across the country. Media reports suggest at least 200 people have been killed in Iran, including Supreme Leader Khamenei, the Chief of Army, the Defence Minister, and several senior IRGC and security officials. State media also confirmed former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was killed.
- s6(a)
- President Trump said that bombing will continue throughout the week, or "as long as necessary".
- Just before 0400 NZT today US CENTCOM announced three US service members were killed in action and five seriously wounded as part of *Operation Epic Fury* – the first confirmed US casualties in this conflict. No further details are available at the time of writing.
- Iranian retaliation in the form of ballistic missiles and drones continues to target Israel, US military bases in the Middle East (in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan) and critical infrastructure. Iran's National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani stated Iran was not seeking to attack its neighbours but to target bases in their countries which are "American territory." However its strikes s9(2)(g)(i) have included hotels, shopping malls, apartment blocks and civilian airports and ports, the latter in Oman, which acted as a mediator between the US and Iran in the lead up to this conflict.
- Casualties have increased overnight as Iran's retaliatory attacks continue: at least nine were killed and 28 injured in a missile strike on a building where people were sheltering in the Israeli town of Beit Shemesh. Separately, three people were killed and 58 injured in the UAE; and one person was killed and 32 injured in Kuwait.
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- Airspace is closed in the UAE, Qatar, Israel, Iran, Iraq, and Bahrain. Dubai International Airport is shut and thousands of travellers have been stranded. Major airlines have temporarily halted flights from New Zealand to the Gulf. MFAT's advice for those disrupted is to contact their airline and insurance providers.
- The IRGC has deployed the Basij forces across multiple cities in Iran, including Tehran, to deter and suppress potential unrest.
- Iranian proxies Lebanese Hezbollah and the Houthis have not become involved at this stage.

***Economic impacts***

**RESTRICTED**

## RESTRICTED

- Since Iran announced the closure of the Strait, vessel tracking data indicated reduced movements through the area, but not a complete shutdown. **Several ship owners including major shipping line Hapag-Lloyd have suspended transits through the Strait.** We would expect little to no warning in the event of full closure.
- TSY has provided an update to Ministers noting it will take time before the impacts on the NZ economy become clear. The update noted:
  - There could be significant impact through oil price increases, particularly if the Strait of Hormuz is closed for a prolonged period. Oil analysts at Barclays said they expect Brent crude could reach US \$100/b (37% increase).
- TSY will provide a more comprehensive SITREP late **today**.
- MFAT's Trade and Economic Group will provide advice to the Minister for Trade and Investment on likely trade/sectoral impacts **this week**, including from potential shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. This will be cc-ed to the Minister of Finance.

### International responses

- **Singapore has made only brief official comments on the conflict, focusing on the need for de-escalation in line with international law. Authorities are increasing security surveillance at air, sea, and land border checkpoints around Singapore due to heightened concerns about potential terrorism threats.**
- **In further statements overnight, Japan has stressed the need to ensure the safety of its citizens in the region, the importance of US-led dialogue to ensure Iran does not develop nuclear weapons, and resolution through dialogue and diplomacy. It has not yet offered a position on the military strikes themselves.**
- **India, which has a significant number of nationals living in the Gulf, has urged all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians; calling for all sides to pursue dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate tensions.**
- **Egypt issued a statement of deep concern over the region's "dangerous military escalation", avoiding direct reference to either the US or Israel. It urged maximum restraint and a return to diplomacy and dialogue, but condemned Iran's strikes on Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan as a "grave threat" to Arab security and regional stability.**
- **Russia has called an emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Executive Board on Monday 2 March Vienna time (overnight Monday-Tuesday New Zealand time). There may be an opportunity for New Zealand to make a statement.** <sup>s6(b)(ii)</sup>
- **At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Saturday 28 February New York time both the US and Iran asserted the right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter as the legal basis for their actions. The Secretary General, China,**

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

Russia, and Pakistan were the only parties other than Iran to expressly condemn the strikes.

### Consular support

- As at 0130 2 March the number of New Zealanders registered on SafeTravel has grown to 1,763. Registrants in the UAE have jumped by 53% to 1,008. Others include: Qatar 249, Saudi Arabia 202, Israel 70, Jordan 29, Bahrain 44, Iran 26.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.
- Call volumes remain steady. Some callers and emails are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights from the region. Volumes – and demands – are expected to increase the longer airspace remains closed and flight disruptions continue.
- On 1 March we made the following updates to regional travel advice, which brings New Zealand into line with partners:
  - **Bahrain** – move to Level 4 (Do not travel) from 2 (exercise increased caution)
  - **Israel** – move to Level 4 from 3 (avoid non-essential travel)
  - **Jordan** – move to Level 3 from 2
  - **Kuwait** – move to level 4 from 2
  - **Qatar** – move to level 4 from 2
  - **UAE** – move to level 4 from 2
- The SafeTravel Middle East Security Situation news feature has been updated.
- The following information has been pushed out to New Zealanders in the region in the last 24 hours:
  - Registered New Zealanders in Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and the UAE have been sent updates and advice on the situation in their location.
  - Advisory updates (above) have been made to the SafeTravel website, alongside new information being added to a feature item on SafeTravel's homepage that provides an overview of the Middle East security situation.
  - Key messages from these updates have been shared on MFAT's social media and pushed out by New Zealand embassies to their networks in the Middle East.
- The following updates are planned for the next 24 hours:
  - Updating registered New Zealanders on the status of airspace and key airport operations in the region.
  - Preparing video messages to be shared on Embassy social media accounts, beginning with New Zealand's Ambassador in the UAE.
  - Further situational updates for those in Oman and Jordan.
- Daily coordination meetings are taking place with Five Nations partners. The most recent meeting (earlier this morning) confirmed:

RESTRICTED

**RESTRICTED**

○ s6(b)(i)

● s6(b)(i)

**Post operations and staff welfare**

- All seconded MFAT personnel in the Gulf region are safe and sheltering in place.
- MFAT staff are currently in Jordan and have been confirmed safe.
- NZDF has confirmed that NZDF personnel in the region are safe and taking appropriate force protection measures (~~re-confirm~~).

s6(d)

**NZDF deployments in the region**

- s6(a)
- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.

**NZ agency response and coordination**

- Government agencies are in close touch. DPMC convened a Watch Group at Tier 2 level at 1600 **yesterday**.

Response  
Operations

The ECC will operate on two shifts.

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

Next Due	SitRep	2/3 1300
----------	--------	----------

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**RESTRICTED**

US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

SitRep 4 1330 Monday 2 March

---

**Key messages**

*This section is unclassified.*

New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.

Iran has, for decades, defied the will and expectations of the international community.

The legitimacy of a government rests on the support of its people; the Iranian regime has long since lost that support.

In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken overnight by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

We condemn in the strongest terms Iran's indiscriminate retaliatory attacks across the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.

We join the international community in hoping this crisis ends as quickly as possible.

We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the conflict, and to the New Zealand families who are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas.

We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

New Zealand Embassies in the region are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide support to New Zealanders.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises New Zealanders to follow the advice of local authorities, including any shelter in place recommendations.

We urge all New Zealanders to register on SafeTravel.

New Zealanders requiring urgent consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

**RESTRICTED**

s9(2)(g)(i), s6(a)

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**RESTRICTED**

## RESTRICTED

### **Key developments**

*Restricted content begins here.*

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. Iranian continues to strike Israel, US bases in the region, and critical economic infrastructure in Gulf countries.
- President Trump said that the bombing will last for "four weeks or less". s6(a)
- A small number of US service people have been killed.
- s6(a)

- Iran has confirmed that command and control has been decentralised, with Foreign Minister stating "military units are now, in fact, independent and somewhat isolated, and they are acting based on general instructions given to them in advance."
- Airspace is closed in the UAE, Qatar, Israel, Iran, Iraq, and Bahrain. Dubai International Airport remains shut. 5,500 flights have been cancelled.
- Globally, approximately 19,000 flights have been disrupted. Airlines that normally transit Middle East airspace to connect Europe and Asia face significantly longer routes and higher fuel costs, compounded by Russian and Ukrainian airspace limits.
- A new Reuters/Ipsos poll, conducted February 28-March 1 found that 42% of Americans disapprove of US military strikes against Iran, while 27% approve.

### **Domestic security**

- Police are putting in place safety and security measures for the Iranian, Israeli and US diplomatic presence. This includes:
  - Increased high visibility police patrols in the vicinity of diplomatic premises and official residences.
  - Designated police liaison with diplomatic missions to ensure responsiveness to any incidents and good communication channels regarding any threats or risks.

### **Economic impacts**

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- Three ships have been attacked near the Strait of Hormuz. 150 ships are anchored outside the Strait. Major international shipping companies are pausing transit through the Strait.
- TSY has provided an update to Ministers noting it will take time before the impacts on the NZ economy become clear. The update noted:
  - There could be significant impact through oil price increases, particularly if the Strait of Hormuz is closed for a prolonged period. Oil analysts at Barclays said they expect Brent crude could reach US \$100/b (37% increase).
  - Disruption to air travel to and from the Middle East will likely flow through to tourism flows and airfreight if it persists.

The price of oil has increased by 13% in early trading as of 13:00 2 March NZT.

- MBIE has undertaken some initial engagement with fuel importers and advises that domestic stocks are healthy, scheduled deliveries are on track and we should not expect fuel shortages in the short to medium term. MBIE advises it is too early to say with any certainty if the current conflict is likely or not to increase the price New Zealand motorists pay at the pump.
- Should the situation escalate, the International Energy Agency (IEA) may intervene through collective actions like coordinating release of strategic oil reserves by their member states.
- TSY will provide a more comprehensive SITREP late today.
- MFAT's Trade and Economic Group will provide advice to the Minister for Trade and Investment on likely trade/sectoral impacts this week, including from potential shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. This will be cc-ed to the Minister of Finance.

### Primary Sector Trade

- Primary sector exports to the Gulf region total 2,402 million. MPI is identifying primary sector consignments that are in-transit to, or recently arrived at, a destination port in the region.
- MPI has also commenced engagement with primary sectors to request information of consignments in-transit, decisions taken regarding the final destination and any MPI assistance required from exporters to divert to an alternative market;

### **International responses**

- **France/Germany/UK:** E3 leaders released a statement today warning that they are "appalled by the indiscriminate and disproportionate missile attacks launched by Iran against countries in the region. Leaders warned "we will take steps to defend our interests and those of our allies in the region, potentially through enabling necessary and proportionate defensive action to destroy Iran's capability to fire missiles and drones at their source."

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- **France** has deployed an aircraft carrier to the Middle East region. Earlier a French base in the UAE was hit in a drone attack targeting the port of Abu Dhabi.
- **The EU** has announced two French ships will reinforce its Red Sea naval mission, bringing the total ships taking part in the mission to five.
- **UK** Prime Minister Keir Starmer says he has accepted a request from the US to use his country's military bases for defensive strikes against Iran.
- **GCC Foreign Ministers** said the security of member states is indivisible and that any attack on one state constitutes a direct attack on all. They warned all necessary measures will be taken to protect their stability, security, territory, citizens and residents, including the option to respond to aggression

### Consular support

- As at 1030 2 March, the number of New Zealanders registered on SafeTravel has grown to 1750. Registrants in the UAE have increased to 1090. Others include: Qatar 262, Saudi Arabia 227, Israel 71, Jordan 30, Bahrain 44, Iran 26.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.
- Call volumes **have reduced, but we continue to receive a steady stream of emails.** Some callers and emails are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights from the region. Volumes – and demands – **are likely to** increase the longer airspace remains closed and flight disruptions continue.
- **On 2 March** the following updates to regional travel advice, which brings New Zealand into line with partners:
  - **Oman** – move to Level 3 (avoid non-essential travel) from 2 (exercise increased caution)
  - **Saudi Arabia** – move to Level 3 (avoid non-essential travel) from 2 (exercise increased caution)
- The following information has been pushed out to New Zealanders in the region in the last 12 hours:
  - Registered New Zealanders in Oman and Saudi Arabia have been sent updates and advice on the situation in their location.
  - Advisory updates (above) have been made to the SafeTravel website. Further updates will be made to a feature item on SafeTravel's homepage that provides an overview of the Middle East security situation.
- The following updates are planned for the next 24 hours:
  - Updating registered New Zealanders on the status of airspace and key airport operations in the region.
  - Preparing video messages to be shared on Embassy social media accounts, beginning with New Zealand's Ambassador in the UAE.
  - Using Stuff's live travel advice blog to amplify messaging to travellers.

### Post operations and staff welfare

RESTRICTED

**RESTRICTED**

- All seconded MFAT personnel in the Gulf region are safe and sheltering in place.
- MFAT staff are currently in Jordan and have been confirmed safe.
- s6(d)

**NZDF deployments in the region**

- s6(a)
- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.
- **The Multi-National Force and Observers (Egypt) and UN Truce Supervision Organisation (Lebanon/Syria/Israel) missions remain operational with all other deployed missions in the region suspended due to current hostilities.**

**NZ agency response and coordination**

- Government agencies are in close touch. DPMC convened a Watch Group at Tier 2 level at 1600 **yesterday**.

Note: This is incorrect. The correct information is the movements for all other deployed missions were suspended.

Response Operations	The ECC will operate on two shifts.
Next SitRep Due	<b>3/3 0900</b>

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

**RESTRICTED**

## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

SitRep [5 0800 Tuesday 3 March](#)

---

### **Key developments**

*Restricted content begins here.*

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. US forces claim to have achieved air superiority over Iran. The Iranian Red Crescent says 555 people have been killed in Iran.
- Iran continues to strike Israel, US bases in the region, and critical economic infrastructure in Gulf countries. New Iranian strikes have been reported on a UK military base in Cyprus; a gas terminal in UAE, a state oil refinery in Saudi Arabia; and at a major gas plant in Qatar. Qatar says it shot down two Iranian aircraft.
- Three US fighter planes were downed in what the US has described as a "friendly fire incident" in Kuwait, with no fatalities. Four US servicepeople were killed in a separate incident.
- President Trump said that the strikes will "continue until all US objectives are met", and said the operation would last potentially four or five weeks. He is not ruling out deploying ground troops. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- Iran's Foreign Minister has advised Iran could elect a new supreme leader within 1-2 days. A transitional council has been established in the interim to lead the country. Reports highlight Hassan Khomeini, grandson of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a contender.
- Hezbollah has joined the conflict, conducting missile strikes on Israel. Israel's retaliatory strikes on Hezbollah locations in Beirut and southern Lebanon have killed at least 31 people and injured at least 150.
- Airspace is closed in Qatar, Israel, Iran, Iraq, and Bahrain.
- Emirates and low-cost carrier flydubai said they would restart some flights out of Dubai International Airport (DXB) and Dubai World Central Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) on Monday 2 March. Etihad resumed some evacuation flights from Abu Dhabi, with further planned on Tuesday 3 March. Once flights fully resume into UAE and Qatar, it is expected to take at least 12-24 hours to clear the backlog. Emirates is currently supporting stranded passengers, including with accommodation, likely for a limited time.
- There are currently no impacts on New Zealand terminal operations in Auckland or Christchurch airport who are working with airline partners impacted by airspace closures to re-book flights and manage disruption.

## RESTRICTED

- Passengers are unlikely to have insurance cover for this type of disruption (war is usually not covered by insurance policies), meaning there is a likelihood that stranded foreign nationals in New Zealand will start having welfare needs the longer the conflict continues.

### **Domestic security**

- Police continue to support US, Israel, Iran and UAE Diplomatic Missions. Police are also conducting community reassurance work throughout the day.

### **Economic impacts**

- Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has dropped by about 70%. Maersk, as the world's second largest shipping company has suspended all transits through Strait of Hormuz. Following earlier strikes on three vessels, another oil tanker has been attacked in the Gulf of Oman on 2 March, killing one person, while projectiles hit a US-flagged oil tanker in a Bahrain port.
- Suspended sailings and vessel reroute are affecting transit times, fuel usage, operational costs, and likely freight costs.
- Brent crude has risen by 10% to more than US\$82 a barrel. Natural gas prices rose by nearly 50% on Monday after a major Qatari LNG supplier said it would halt production. TSY's rule of thumb is that an oil price rise of US\$10/b is likely to increase NZ petrol prices by about 10 cents per litre.
- Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Federation of NZ Inc advised on 2 March that shippers are prioritising critical cargo, pre-approving contingency routes, and communicating realistic delivery expectations with customers. Maintaining supply chain resilience and continuity is a key focus, alongside proactive communication to manage expectations and mitigate disruption.
- Contingency measures for air freight are being implemented, but time-sensitive exports such as horticulture, seafood, and high-value perishables may experience delays.

### **International responses**

- **China** has condemned US attacks on Iran and the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader. Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the US and Israel to immediately cease military operations and said China supports Iran in defending its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity, and national dignity".
- **NATO** Secretary General Mark Rutte has said US and Israeli action was "really important" in taking out Iran's nuclear capacity, but said NATO forces would not be involved in Iran operations.
- Australia has ruled out participating in the strikes with Penny Wong saying "Australia is not central to the issues in the Middle East. We didn't participate in these strikes and we wouldn't anticipate participating in the future".
- **Russia** President Putin said Russia is willing to use "all available means to stabilise the situation in the region".

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- **EU** Commissioners said that the EU would step up support for citizens' evacuations, reinforce monitoring of transport disruption, convene an energy taskforce with Member States, and monitor potential internal security risks and migration flows.
- **Greece** is sending two frigates and four fighter jets to defend Cyprus.
- **Germany**: Chancellor Merz condemned the Iranian regime for its past behaviour and its current retaliatory strikes throughout the region, while avoiding explicit criticism or endorsement of Israeli and US military action. Merz stated the US and Israel's military strikes "are intended to end the destructive game of a weakened regime" and that assessing them under international law or "lecturing partners" was not appropriate at this point.
- **UK** PM Starmer said his government "does not believe in regime change from the skies". President Trump said PM Starmer "took far too long" to accept the US' request to use UK military bases for defensive strikes against Iran.
- **GCC Foreign Ministers** said the security of member states is indivisible and that any attack on one state constitutes a direct attack on all in accordance with the GCC Charter. They warned all necessary measures will be taken to protect their stability, security, territory, citizens and residents, including the option to respond to aggression.

### Consular support

- As at **2200 Monday 2 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to 2,124. Registrants in the UAE have increased to 1264. Others have remained the same, including: Qatar 291, Saudi Arabia 252, Israel 71, Jordan 30, Bahrain 44, Iran 26.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.
- Call volumes have reduced, but we continue to receive a steady stream of emails. Some callers and emails are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights from the region. Volumes – and demands – are likely to increase the longer airspace remains closed and flight disruptions continue.
- The following information has also been pushed out to New Zealanders in the region:
  - Registered New Zealanders received information on the status of airspace and key airport operations in the region.
  - A short update on the situation and links to advice was published on the Ministry's Facebook, LinkedIn, and X channels.
  - Video messages have been shared on Embassy social media accounts, beginning with New Zealand's Ambassador in the UAE.
- The following updates are planned for the next 24 hours:
  - An update, as required, of the feature item on SafeTravel's homepage that provides an overview of the Middle East security situation.

RESTRICTED

**RESTRICTED**

- A further short update on the situation and links to advice on the Ministry's Facebook, LinkedIn, and X channels.
- Using Stuff's live travel advice blog to amplify messaging to travellers.

**Post operations and staff welfare**

- All seconded MFAT personnel in the Gulf region are safe and sheltering in place.
- s6(d)

**NZDF deployments in the region**

- s6(a)
- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.

**NZ agency response and coordination**

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

Response Operations	The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.  <b>Key contacts:</b>  Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a> Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a> Consular: <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>
Next Due	SitRep 3/3 1300

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**RESTRICTED**