

MIDDLE EAST

IRAN EXPANDS ATTACKS ON GULF STATES



REUTERS

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, as seen from Musandam, Oman.

Tehran targets US facilities, says Strait of Hormuz closed

STEVE HOLLAND, PARISA HAFEZI,
PHIL STEWART AND YOMNA EHAB
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Iranian forces exchanged heavy missile and drone assaults Sunday, with Tehran targeting U.S. facilities in states across the Gulf and saying it had again closed the vital Strait of Hormuz.

The renewed violence casts further doubt on the future of an interim U.S. - Iranian agreement signed last month that aimed to reopen the strait and end the war after a further 60 days of negotiations.

The strikes were the latest in a cycle of attacks and counterattacks as Iran seeks to assert control over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. However, the barrage marked an escalation in pace and range.

Iran’s strikes extended to Qatar, a mediator in ceasefire talks that had not come under attack since April. The United Arab Emirates, which had not been targeted since early May, said its air defenses had engaged missiles and drones from Iran.

The U.S. military began launching more strikes against Iran at 5 p.m. ET on Sunday, Central Command said in a statement on social media, “to continue degrading their ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the Strait of Hormuz.”

U.S. Central Command spokesperson Tim Hawkins told CNN that U.S. aircraft shot down an Iranian cruise missile and a one-way attack drone.

In a brief phone interview with Reuters on Sunday afternoon, U.S. President Donald Trump referred to the weekend’s strikes on Iran. “We’re beating them up,” he said.

Iranian media said Sunday there were missile attacks and explosions around the port cities of Sirik and Bandar Abbas, home to military facilities on the strait, and nearby Qeshm Island.

In a statement, Iran’s foreign ministry condemned “aggressive” U.S. attacks against Iran over the weekend. The ministry also said talks between Iran and Oman on Saturday in Muscat — focused on arrangements for managing the strait and transit routes — were unable to reach a result because of “overt and covert” U.S. pressure on Oman.

In the past week, Trump has said he considers the ceasefire over, while leaving the door open to more talks.

Iran’s top negotiator, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, posted Sunday on social media: “The era of one-sided deals is OVER. We told you: keep your word or pay the price. Reality is knocking.”

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MAJID ASGARIPOUR, WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY

A banner with a picture of the late Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, hangs next to the dome of a mosque Sunday in Tehran, Iran.



VALENTYN OGIRENKO, REUTERS

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks to the media after a meeting Friday with Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Lindsey Graham, key GOP US senator, dies at age 71

Trump remembers vocal critic turned loyal ally as ‘unique in every way’

AKANKSHA KHUSHI, THOMAS DERPINGHAUS
AND TIM REID
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican who went from a vocal critic of Donald Trump to one of his most loyal allies after Trump became president, has died, his office announced on Sunday. He was 71.

The South Carolina lawmaker died after a “brief and sudden illness,” his office posted on X. U.S. media said emergency personnel responded to a call for cardiac arrest Saturday

night at his Capitol Hill home in Washington.

The DC medical examiner preliminarily ruled the cause of death as aortic dissection due to arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, Graham’s office said Sunday afternoon. That’s when the inner lining of the body’s main artery tears and blood leaks out, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The contest to succeed Graham will not impact the broader fight for control of the Senate in November between Republicans and Democrats, as South Carolina is a reliably Republican state.

However, his death robs Trump of a dependable Senate vote as the president seeks to push his agenda in the closely divided Senate.

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