

U.S. vows to keep pressure on Iran



Children swim as ships are seen anchored in the Strait of Hormuz on Aug. 10 off the coast of Bandar Abbas, Iran. Transit through the strait appeared to grind to a near standstill on Aug. 14 after two more ships were attacked there. ALI SAEEDI/GETTY IMAGES

2 more vessels attacked in the Strait of Hormuz

Jonathan Saul, Phil Stewart and Idrees Ali
REUTERS

LONDON – Transit through the Strait of Hormuz appeared to grind to a near standstill on Aug. 14 after two more ships were attacked there and the United States said it could maintain a naval blockade of Iran indefinitely.

A senior Iranian source said on Aug. 12 that there had been no progress in talks to build on a June agreement to end the war. As a ceasefire renewed then broke down, Iran has resumed attacks on ships it accuses of trying to transit the strait without its permission.

Two vessels from the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company were attacked transiting the strait on the evening of Aug. 13, UAE state news agency WAM reported. The United Arab Emirates government blamed Iran, which made no immediate comment.

Nine vessels passed through the narrow waterway at the entrance to the Persian Gulf on Aug. 13, up from five the previous day but below the average for August of 12, according to ship-tracking company Kpler.

There were no visible crossings by vessels seen early Aug. 14, according to ship-tracking data.

Some ships may pass through undetected with their transponders off, but the figures are nowhere near the more than 130 ships that traversed the Strait of Hormuz daily before the war on Iran launched by the U.S. and Israel in February.

“Alongside the threat to energy infrastructure in the region, Iran’s ability to restrict shipping through the strait is its main source of leverage in negotiations,” said Torbjorn Solvedt, principal Middle East analyst with risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft.



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the United States planned to inflict more financial damage on Iran. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. pledges new measures

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth told reporters the U.S. military has the capability to maintain a naval presence in the region to enforce its retaliatory blockade of Iran, which has inflicted severe economic damage on the country.

“Indefinitely the United States Navy can maintain a blockade like that because we’ll rotate ships in and out, as we have, and we’ll continue to,” Hegseth told reporters during a trip to Panama.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the United States planned to inflict more financial damage on Iran.

“Watch this space for more announcements

See IRAN, Page 8A

Tribes, AZ agree to help people hit by mine closures

Goal is to create jobs, strengthen revenues, improve grid reliability

Arlyssa D. Becenti
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Amid uncertainty surrounding the future of the coal industry, tribal leaders met with Gov. Katie Hobbs on Aug. 11 to sign a memorandum of understanding focused on strengthening economic resilience for tribal communities in the Four Corners region.

The agreement, signed by Navajo President Buu Nygren and Hopi chairman Lamar Keevama, recognizes the need for governments to work together to support Four Corners communities facing significant economic challenges caused by the decline of the coal industry, while promoting more diverse, resilient economies and ensuring local communities maintain control over their economic futures.

Leaders pledged to expand access to modern energy infrastructure and new development opportunities to create jobs, strengthen revenues and improve grid reliability.

The agreement specifically acknowledges the need to respect Tribal sovereignty while strengthening government-to-government relationships through collaboration, shared data and increased access to economic development resources.

“With this agreement, the state will work with Navajo and Hopi government to enhance governmental coordination, distill lessons learned from previous closures — make state resources more accessible,” Hobbs said during the signing.

Power plant closure hit communities hard

The coal industry took a hit with the closure of the Navajo Generating Station and the Kayenta Mine, which employed about 700 workers and generated an estimated \$30 million to \$50 million in annual revenue for the Navajo Nation.

For much of its 40-year operation, the power plant also played a critical role in delivering Colorado River water through the Central Arizona Project to Phoenix and Tucson, supporting the growth of both cities.

The Hopi Tribe once relied on coal royalties for

See DEAL, Page 6A

ACLU drops its suit challenging provision of AZ immigration law

Group maintains that Section 5 of Prop. 314 is unconstitutional

Daniel Gonzalez
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USA TODAY NETWORK

The ACLU voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit challenging a provision of Proposition 314, the voter-approved law that gives local and state authorities expanded powers to arrest, detain and deport immigrants in the country illegally, normally the job of the federal government.

The ACLU and ACLU of Arizona maintain the provision is unconstitutional and will continue to monitor enforcement of Section 5 of Proposition 314, ACLU Legal Director Tara DeGeorge said in a written statement.

“The voluntary dismissal of this case does not change that Section 5 of Proposition 314 is unconstitutional. Immigration enforcement falls under federal authority and is not a state responsibility,” DeGeorge said.

Proposition 314 went into effect July 14. The ACLU

See DISMISSAL, Page 6A

A GUIDE FOR YOUR CANYON VISIT 1C



Grace Lee poses for a photo at Grand Canyon National Park on June 29. DIANNIE CHAVEZ/THE REPUBLIC

Dramatic rescue recalled

Brian Mealer’s van had veered off the road on July 16 and crashed into a power pole in Avondale. A live power line was on the roof when three police officers showed up and pulled Mealer out. The dramatic event was caught on their body cameras. 3A

SRP board vacancy filled

Salt River Project councilmembers picked Thomas Galvin to fill a vacancy left by longtime board member and solar advocate Nick Brown. 7A

