

MIDDLE EAST

US, IRAN APPEAR NO CLOSER TO ENDING WAR



REUTERS

Vessels are seen Friday in the Strait of Hormuz off Musandam, Oman.

Israel kills 7, wounds 15 others in Lebanon despite ceasefire

IDREES ALI, ERIN BANCO AND HATEM MAHER
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A state of relative calm prevailed around the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, after days of sporadic flare-ups, as the United States waited for Iran's response to its latest proposals to end more than two months of fighting and begin peace talks.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday that Washington expected a response within hours. A day later, there was no sign of movement from Tehran on the proposal, which would formally end the war before talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

Rubio met with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani in Miami on Saturday and discussed the need to continue working together "to deter threats and promote stability and security across the Middle East," U.S. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said in a statement. The statement did not specifically mention Iran.

With U.S. President Donald Trump due

to begin a long-awaited visit to China this week, there was mounting pressure to draw a line under the conflict, which threw energy markets into turmoil and posed a growing threat to the world economy.

A Qatari tanker carrying liquid natural gas sailed toward the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday en route to Pakistan, according to LSEG shipping data. If it successfully transits the strait, it would be the first Qatari LNG vessel to do so since the conflict started.

Qatar will sell the LNG to Pakistan, a mediator in the war, according to two people familiar with the matter.

They said Iran approved the shipment to help build confidence with Qatar and Pakistan.

Tehran has largely blocked non-Iranian shipping through the strait since the war began Feb. 28 with U.S.-Israeli airstrikes across Iran. Before the war, one-fifth of the world's oil supply passed through the narrow waterway.

Speaking in Stockholm, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said European

countries shared the U.S.-Israeli aim of stopping Iran from getting nuclear weapons and said they were working to bridge differences with Washington.

Britain said Saturday it deployed a warship to the Middle East in preparation for a potential multinational effort to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz once conditions allow.

The relocation of the HMS Dragon, an air defense destroyer, follows France's move to deploy its carrier strike group to the southern Red Sea, as the two countries work together on a defensive plan aimed at restoring confidence in the trade route.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on the southern Lebanese town of Saksakiyeh killed at least seven people, including a child, and wounded 15 Saturday, Lebanon's health ministry said.

The Israeli military said it struck Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in the town, accusing them of planning attacks against Israeli soldiers.

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Immigration street sweeps led to 'collateral' arrests

Data also shows lower shares of arrests for serious crimes

TIM HENDERSON
Stateline.org

A quarter of immigration arrests since August were labeled by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as "collateral," a type of arrest and detention that's been challenged in court as an end run around civil rights.

Public outrage and lawsuits over the arrests may be tamping down the large-scale sweeps that fostered them, but tens of thousands were arrested this way between August and early March.

Immigration arrests are usually based on warrants obtained ahead of time,

showing either a removal order from an immigration court or evidence of a crime or charge that makes the person subject to deportation.

But collateral arrests can result from street sweeps and raids in which a person is singled out for questioning based on appearance or proximity to someone wanted on a warrant. That person could be taken into custody if agents think they may be subject to deportation and likely to flee if released.

Labeled for the first time ever, the collateral arrests are reported from August to early March in ICE arrest data obtained by the Deportation Data Project and analyzed by Stateline.

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STEPHEN MATUREN, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A teenage girl is arrested after colliding with a Border Patrol vehicle on Jan. 21 in Minneapolis. A teenage boy and girl, and multiple observers, were arrested by Border Patrol after the incident.