

US Domestic Politics

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Hasan Piker Subpoena — OFAC Investigation into Cuba Trip ??

Hasan Piker Subpoena — OFAC Investigation into Cuba Trip ??

Last updated: 27 May 2026 Shelf: US Politics

Summary

Hasan Piker (Twitch streamer / political commentator, known as HasanAbi) was reportedly subpoenaed by the **U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)** in late May 2026 over his participation in a humanitarian convoy to Cuba.

Timeline

Date	Event
March 2026	Piker travels to Cuba with CodePink's "Nuestra América Convoy" (~650 delegates, 33 countries, 120 orgs) delivering medical supplies, food, solar panels
Sat 23 May	Fox News Digital breaks the story that OFAC administrative subpoenas have been issued to Piker and CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin
Sun 24 May	Piker addresses the subpoena on his 6-hour Twitch livestream, visibly shaken, calling it "bulls---" but "not great"
Mon 25 May	Piker does stream titled "FEDS ARE AFTER ME" naming billionaire Neville Roy Singham as the funding source behind these political operations
Tue 26 May	Multiple follow-up articles; Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) mocks Piker; Piker lashes out at Democrats
Wed 27 May	Further analysis and fallout across platforms

What Happened

Federal officials issued administrative subpoenas ("Requests for Information" / RFIs) to Hasan Piker and CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin. The investigation concerns the March 2026 trip to Cuba where Piker joined the "**Nuestra América Convoy**" (Our America Convoy).

OFAC is investigating potential violations of U.S. sanctions laws against Cuba, including:

- Unlicensed travel-related transactions
- Potential stays at hotels on the U.S. State Department's restricted list
- Financing, coordinating, or delivering goods to Cuba
- Contact with Cuban government personnel/entities

~**40 American citizens** are reportedly under scrutiny, with more subpoenas expected.

Piker's Response

- Called the investigation "bulls---" and claimed "everything we did was cleared by Treasury"
- Appeared "visibly shaken" on his livestream
- Argued the investigation is really about his anti-Israel and anti-U.S. stances, not Cuba
- Named **Neville Roy Singham** (American tech billionaire based in Shanghai) as the funder behind CodePink, ANSWER Coalition, Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and other political operations
- Trashed Kamala Harris, Hillary Clinton, and "Blue MAGA" Democrats for not defending him

Neville Roy Singham Connection

- Fox News previously published a 5-part investigation into Singham's **\$278 million network** of pro-communist nonprofits since 2017
- On 25 May stream, Piker named Singham as the "funding vehicle" behind multiple political operations
- Singham is an American tech billionaire, now based in Shanghai, with ties to the Chinese Communist Party
- This admission was widely covered by right-wing and mainstream outlets

Drop Site News Contradiction

Ryan Grim (Drop Site News) reported that both Piker and Benjamin told him they had **not actually been served** subpoenas and learned about it through Fox News coverage first.

Political Fallout

- **Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)** amplified a viral mocking video about Piker not voting for Kamala Harris, with comment "I mean Kamala would have never"
- Piker lashed out at "every centrist blue maga" celebrating the subpoenas as "f*cking morons"
- Framed as a broader federal crackdown on foreign influence operations

News Sources

Mainstream & Right-Wing

1. **Fox News Digital** (original reporting, 23 May): [Trump administration subpoenas Hasan Piker in Cuba sanctions investigation](#)
2. **NY Post** (25 May): [Hasan Piker looks shaken on stream](#)
3. **Kotaku** (24 May): [Twitch Streamer Hasan Piker Subpoenaed Over Aid Trip To Cuba](#)
4. **TMZ** (24 May): [Twitch Streamer Hasan Piker Reportedly Subpoenaed in Federal Cuba Probe](#)
5. **Jerusalem Post** (24 May): [US subpoenas Hasan Piker, Medea Benjamin over Cuba trip](#)

Right-Wing Coverage

6. **Breitbart** (26 May): [Hasan Piker Melts Down over Cuba Subpoena](#)
7. **Daily Caller** (26 May): [Hasan Piker Admits Tech Mogul With Ties To China Is Funding Political Movements](#)
8. **PJ Media** (23 May): [Hasan Piker, Medea Benjamin Subpoenaed by Trump Administration](#)
9. **RedState** (26 May): [Neville Singham Exposed: Hasan Piker Drops New Funding Bombshell](#)

International

10. **Times of India** (24 May): [Why was HasanAbi subpoenaed?](#)
11. **Al Bawaba** (24 May): [US authorities subpoena political streamer Hasan Piker](#)

Leftist Perspective

12. **Caitlin Johnstone** (26 May): [Yet Another Escalation In The Empire's War On Activism And Journalism](#)

Reddit Discussion

Subreddit	Title	Upvotes	Link
r/Fauxmoi	The Trump federal government subpoenaed Hasan Piker	3,371	Link
r/Hasan_Piker	This is so fucked	3,283	Link
r/Asmongold	Hasan 'I don't flaunt my money' Piker	1,421	Link
r/PoursTea	Hasan Piker and Medea from Code Pink are subpoenaed	1,299	Link
r/LeftoversH3	Hasan responds to federal subpoena over Cuba mission	559	Link
r/EnoughCommieSpam	Looks Like the Commie Influencer's Actions Finally Caught Up	260	Link
r/LAinfluencersnark	Federal officials have served Subpoenas to Twitch streamer	244	Link
r/Destiny	Hasan's response to a federal subpoena	154	Link
r/TankieTheDeprogram	Hasan Piker's FBI Subpoena is the Tip of the Iceberg	53	Link
r/BreakingPoints	Hasan Piker just says it out loud (Singham admission)	—	Link

Twitter/X Activity

- **Medea Benjamin** (@medeabenjamin): "Taking medical supplies to pediatric hospitals in Cuba is now a crime? Saving the lives of babies is a crime?"
- **Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)**: Amplified mocking video, commented "I mean Kamala would have never"

- **@TalkUrShxxtNene** (Threads): Created the viral mocking video Crockett amplified
- **Hasan Piker**: Ranted about "every centrist blue maga" celebrating subpoenas as "f*cking morons", blamed Kamala & Hillary losing to Trump

Key Links

- A mirror of Fox News' Singham reporting: [Hasan Piker names pro-CCP tycoon Singham](#)
- Destint / 2RawTooReal takedown: [Spilled.gg coverage](#)

nicolas cage

nicolas cage

Last updated: 2026-07-14 18:12

Semantic Summary

Nicolas Cage is an American actor and film personality known for his eclectic career spanning decades of genre-defying performances, from mainstream Hollywood blockbusters to surreal supernatural thrillers like *Spider-Noir* (2023), in which he plays God's father. He has cultivated a distinctive public persona marked by philosophical musings on self-belief and individual worth—exemplified by his widely shared quote: "You can't be great unless you know you're...whether they get it or not doesn't matter"—while also navigating real-life controversies, including a 2007 home invasion incident involving a naked intruder. His career includes notable roles such as playing a fictionalized version of himself in *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* (2022), starring in an overlooked Western on Prime Video in 2023, and promoting *Spider-Noir* at New York Comic Con in October 2026.

Basic Information

- **Type:** Person
- **Role:** Actor / Film Personality
- **Status:** Active
- **Location:** United States (based)
- **Known for:** Eclectic filmography spanning supernatural thrillers, action-comedies, and Westerns; philosophical public statements on self-worth; distinctive personal controversies including a 2007 home invasion
- **Affiliations:** Film industry professionals; New York Comic Con panelists

Background

Career Highlights and Key Roles

Nicolas Cage has maintained an active presence in Hollywood through a diverse range of projects. In *Spider-Noir* (2023), he took on the role of God's father in what critics described as "a surreal biblical thriller" delivering "unsettling horror, strong performances, and gorgeous visuals," though reviewers noted it had "not enough story to justify it." The film generated significant buzz at New York Comic Con, where Cage was officially scheduled to attend a panel and autograph session in October 2026.

In *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* (2022), released on April 11, 2022 according to Reuters coverage, Cage played "Nick Cage"—a fictionalized version of himself—in what was described as a "tailor-made comedy action film." According to The Economic Times and Reuters reporting, Cage's immediate reaction to being asked to play this version of himself was "a resounding 'no'," but he ultimately agreed to the role.

A 2023 Western on Amazon Prime Video featured Cage in the title role as Colton Briggs, a reformed gunslinger seeking revenge. Yahoo Entertainment described it as one of "Nicolas Cage's best—and most overlooked—Westerns" and recommended catching it before it departed the platform.

Philosophical Statements and Public Persona

Cage has become known for sharing inspirational quotes focused on self-belief and individual worth. A widely circulated quote attributed to him reads: "*You can't be great unless you know you're...whether they get it or not doesn't matter.*" The Economic Times framed this as part of "inspiring life lessons on self-belief, and knowing your worth," noting that Cage believes "true success begins with internal self-belief before external validation" and that "genuine self-worth stems from recognizing strengths and embracing individuality." This perspective was described as challenging "modern reliance on social media and public opinion for confidence."

Controversies: 2007 Home Invasion Incident

One of Cage's more unusual controversies involves a home invasion incident in 2007. According to Far Out Magazine, "Hollywood actor Nicolas Cage awoke one morning to the sight of a naked, ice-lolly eating intruder" who had broken into his home. The article described it as "a weird but frightening scenario," with the intruder characterized as a "naked, ice lolly-eating intruder." Far Out Magazine quoted the experience as sounding "funny" but being "horrifying" in reality.

Tags

- actor
- spider-noir
- massive-talent
- comic-con
- home-invasion
- self-belief
- supernatural-thriller
- western

- prime-video
 - new-york-comic-con
 - quotes
 - controversy
-

Sources

- [Quote of the Day by Nicolas Cage: 'You can't be great unless you know you're...whether they get it or not doesn't matter.' -Inspiring life lessons on self-belief, and knowing ...](#) — Actor Nicolas Cage emphasizes knowing your own greatness and inherent worth. He believes true success begins with internal self-belief before external validation. Your unique talents and perspectives
 - [Nicolas Cage Is God's Dad In Baffling, R-Rated Supernatural Thriller](#) — A surreal biblical thriller delivers unsettling horror, strong performances, and gorgeous visuals, but not enough story to justify it.
 - [Spider-Noir's Nicolas Cage officially returns to New York Comic Con this October \[exclusive\]](#) — Spider-Noir star Nicolas Cage is officially set to attend New York Comic Con this October, with a panel and autograph ...
 - [Nicolas Cage plays Nick Cage in tailor-made 'Massive Talent'](#) — Hollywood star Nicolas Cage says his immediate reaction to being asked to play a version of himself in the new comedy action film "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent" was a resounding "no".
 - [I found one of Nicolas Cage's best, most overlooked movies hidden on Prime Video. You're welcome](#) — This 2023 revenge tale stands as one of Nicolas Cage's best — and most overlooked — Westerns, and it is well worth catching before it departs the platform. Cage stars as Colton Briggs, a reformed guns
 - [The naked, ice lolly-eating intruder who broke into Nicolas Cage's home in 2007: "It sounds funny, but it was horrifying"](#) — In a weird but frightening scenario, Hollywood actor Nicolas Cage awoke one morning to the sight of a naked, ice-lolly eating ...
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US-Iran War — Timeline & Analysis

US-Iran War — Timeline & Analysis

Last updated: 16 July 2026 (☐☐ **DAY 138 — STRIKES EXPAND INTO NORTHERN IRAN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE FEBRUARY; EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN TEHRAN; US BLOCKADE IN EFFECT; TRUMP THREATENS BRIDGES & POWER PLANTS; IRAN DRAWS "RED LINE"; OIL AT \$84.56; VANCE DEFENDS DIPLOMACY; IRAN "NO PLANS FOR NEGOTIATIONS"**: US strikes expand into northern Iran — Semnam Airport (100 miles east of Tehran) hit. Explosions reported in Tehran as air defences activated — **FIRST STRIKES REACHING CAPITAL** since early March. US naval blockade on Iranian ports goes into effect. Iran says "no plans for negotiations." Trump threatens to bomb bridges and power plants "next week" unless Iran talks. Iran warns it will destroy all regional infrastructure if US hits its infrastructure. Brent crude at \$84.56. Vance defends diplomacy. Iran releases American detainee Dena Karari.)

Context — What's Happening

The US and Iran have been in a full-scale armed conflict since **28 February 2026**, when the US and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran that killed Supreme Leader **Ali Khamenei** and top IRGC commanders. The conflict lasted **111 days** before a formal peace deal (14-point MoU) was signed on 18 June.

Latest development (10-13 July 2026 — Days 132-135): ☐☐☐☐☐ **FULL WAR RESUMED: US LAUNCHES 300+ STRIKES OVER THREE NIGHTS; IRAN HITS SIX GULF STATES INCLUDING QATAR (MEDIATOR); STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSED; OIL JUMPS 3.5%; DIPLOMACY "RENDERED FUTILE"; MOU COLLAPSED.** After Khamenei's burial on 9 July, the US continued its bombing campaign across southern Iran's Hormozgan province. Iran's electricity grid sustained heavy damage (2,000+ points). On 12 July, CENTCOM conducted approximately 140 strikes in a single night — bringing the three-night total to 300+ Iranian military targets — hitting Qeshm Island, Jask, Sirik, Bandar Abbas, and Khondab. The IRGC declared the Strait of Hormuz "closed" after attacking a container ship using an unapproved route; only 6 vessels transited on July 12 (a multi-week low). Iran retaliated against six Gulf states: Qatar (struck for first time since April — effectively suspending its mediation role), UAE, Oman, Jordan, Kuwait (three border centres and an

oil platform hit, one injured), and Bahrain. Oil jumped 3.51% (Brent \$78.68; WTI \$74+). Iran's foreign ministry declared diplomacy "rendered futile." Ghalibaf posted "The era of one-sided deals is OVER." Iran said Muscat talks with Oman failed due to US pressure. The US Navy offered an "expanded" southern route near Oman. The MoU is now largely undermined — both sides in open conflict. No diplomatic path forward visible.

Six-day funeral for Ali Khamenei begins 4 July. Millions expected to attend ceremonies across Iran and Iraq, branded the "funeral of the century." **Mojtaba Khamenei conspicuously absent** from his father's funeral on 5 July — his three brothers (Masoud, Mostafa, Meysam) attended, alongside President Pezeshkian and IRGC chief Ahmad Vahidi, but the new Supreme Leader has not been seen in public since his appointment in early March. Speculation continues that he was wounded in the same strikes that killed his father. Funeral crowds chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Poet Mohammad Rasouli declared "Trump's murder is our responsibility." Banners carried slogans "kill Trump" and "kill Bibi." Trump said peace talks had been paused for a week for the funeral, and quipped he could take out all senior Iranian officials with "one shot" but wouldn't because "then we would have nobody to negotiate with."

Iran seeks to tighten control over Strait of Hormuz alongside the funeral — The Guardian reports Iran is "jealously competing with Oman" over management of the strait. FM Araghchi insists responsibility lies solely with Tehran. US envoy Mike Waltz says Iran "completely isolated" on tolls.

BBC InDepth analysis (5 July): Paul Adams reports Iran's new generation of leaders — Mojtaba Khamenei (56), Ghalibaf (parliamentary speaker), Ahmad Vahidi (IRGC chief) — are "children of the revolution" who are more aggressive than the old guard. Unlike the cautious "no war, no peace" strategy of Ali Khamenei, the new leadership has shown willingness to engage in war and then negotiate. Iran's ability to close Hormuz and strike US bases across the Gulf caught the White House by surprise. Gulf states now questioning the US security umbrella. The region faces a "plastic moment" — pregnant with possibility but with high potential for failure.

14-point MoU key terms:

1. **End to conflict "on all fronts"** — including Lebanon. Military operations terminated immediately and permanently.
2. **Respect for sovereignty** — US and Iran agree not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.
3. **60-day timeline** for final deal negotiations — extendable by mutual consent. Countdown has begun.
4. **US naval blockade** to end within 30 days, proportionally. US forces to leave "proximity of Iran" within 30 days of final deal.
5. **Strait of Hormuz** — toll-free passage for 60 days. After that, Iran will charge. Ghalibaf: "Will not return to prewar conditions."
6. **\$300bn (£224bn) reconstruction fund** — NOT funded by the US. Trump: "not putting up even 10 cents." Gulf states expected to fund, conditional on Iran's behaviour.
7. **Terminate all sanctions** on Iran — timeline to be agreed in final deal.
8. **No nuclear weapons** — Iran reaffirms it shall not procure or develop them. 440kg enriched uranium to be down-blended in place under IAEA supervision. 9-10. **Status quo**

on nuclear programme; oil export waivers to be issued.

9. **Frozen assets** released — Trump: "It's not our money, it's their money, and we froze it... I guess we're going to have to give it back." 12-14. **Monitoring mechanism** established; final deal negotiations begin; final deal endorsed by binding UN Security Council resolution.

Reactions:

- **Iran (Ghalibaf):** "The agreement is a record of US failure."
- **Hezbollah (Naim Qassem):** Called it a "great victory."
- **Sen. Cassidy (R-LA):** "Worst foreign policy blunder in decades."
- **Sen. Cruz (R-TX):** "Giving billions of dollars to theocratic lunatics who want to murder us is not a good idea."
- **Sen. Shaheen (D-NH):** "A very bad deal... hasn't accomplished any of the aims Trump laid out."
- **G7 leaders:** Welcomed deal but want follow-on talks on ballistic missiles and regional proxies.
- **Israel:** Trump admonished Netanyahu at G7 — "you don't have to knock down a building every time someone walks into it that's from Hezbollah." Israel launched fresh strikes on Lebanon 17 June despite deal.

Market reaction: Brent crude dipped below \$80/barrel (Trump claimed \$72). Asian stocks rallied (Nikkei +2.3%). Oil still ~\$8 higher than pre-war. OPEC+ 7 countries agree to modest monthly output increase (6 July).

Significant uncertainty remains:

- Iran will charge ships after 60-day toll-free window
- Israel has not agreed to halt Lebanon operations
- Final deal negotiations could collapse within the 60-day window
- Ballistic missiles and regional proxies not addressed in MoU
- Details of sanctions relief timeline unclear
- Mine clearance in Hormuz could take weeks to months
- Mojtaba Khamenei's health/whereabouts unknown
- Doha talks stalled — no direct US-Iran meetings scheduled
- \$6bn frozen funds release blocked pending progress

19-22 June 2026 — ? SECOND ROUND OF TALKS IN SWITZERLAND: "Encouraging Progress"; Oil Volatile; Hardliners Challenge Khamenei; Murphy Senate Speech; Hormuz

Status Disputed

Detail	Info
Date	19-22 June 2026
Location	Bürgenstock Resort, Lucerne, Switzerland; Tehran; Washington DC; Strait of Hormuz; Lebanon
Event	Second round of US-Iran negotiations conclude in Switzerland with "encouraging progress." Mediators Pakistan and Qatar announce roadmap for final deal within 60 days, a "High Level Committee," and a "de-confliction cell" for Lebanon. Oil prices volatile — Brent swings \$79-82. Iran exports 36M barrels in 6 days. Hardliners in Iran publicly challenge Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's objections to talks. Sen. Chris Murphy delivers explosive Senate floor speech tearing into the deal. Strait of Hormuz status disputed — Iran says closed, but tracking data shows vessels transiting.
Talks in Switzerland	High-level negotiations held at Bürgenstock Resort, Lucerne. US delegation led by VP JD Vance, with Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff. Iranian delegation led by Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf with FM Abbas Araghchi. Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and Qatari PM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani present as mediators. Talks began Sunday, concluded early Monday (3am local time).
Joint mediator statement	Pakistan and Qatar issued joint statement: "encouraging progress" made. Agreed to "roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days." Established "High Level Committee" to oversee talks. Created "communication line" for Strait of Hormuz incidents. Created "de-confliction cell" with Lebanon's government to end military operations in Lebanon.
Araghchi on progress	FM Abbas Araghchi: "Pakistani and Qatari mediation has delivered major progress to end Lebanon war." Said the first real test will be the de-confliction method for Lebanon. Iran said negotiations resulted in waivers for oil exports and release of some frozen assets.
Trump threatens again	As talks began, Trump posted that Iran "must immediately stop their highly paid PROXIES in Lebanon" and threatened to "hit Iran very hard again" if they don't. Trump also threatened to "take over" Iran's oil sector and warned about Kharg Island.
Ghalibaf responds	Iran's lead negotiator Ghalibaf to Trump: "Don't they think that if their threats had any effect, they wouldn't be in this desperate situation today? No matter how much they talk, it is we who take action."

Detail	Info
Vance at talks	VP JD Vance said Trump asked negotiators to "turn over a new leaf." Said if Iran gives up being a "driver of regional instability" and "nuclear weapons ambitions," the US "is willing to fundamentally transform our relationship with that country."
Iran oil exports surge	TankerTrackers: Iran exported ~36 million barrels of crude oil since June 15 — dramatic turnaround from May's 209,000-260,000 bpd. Another 36M barrels remain afloat in Iranian waters ready to enter international markets. Pre-war exports were ~1.4-1.7M bpd.
Oil price volatile	Brent crude swung wildly: rose to \$82.30 (+2.2%) early Monday on Trump threats and Hormuz concerns, then fell to \$79.04 (-1.9%) as talks concluded positively. TradingEconomics: Brent at \$79.46, down 17.80% over the past month. WTI above \$78.
Strait of Hormuz disputed	Iran announced re-closure of Hormuz on Saturday (20 June) in protest at continued Israeli strikes on Lebanon. Iranian lawmaker Ebrahim Azizi: "The Strait of Hormuz is neither your personal casino nor the backyard of modern-day pirates — these are Iranian sovereign waters." However, tracking data (MarineTraffic) shows vessels continue to transit — 4 tankers passed through by late afternoon Sunday, plus cargo ships. US disputes Iran's closure claim.
Lebanon fighting continues	Israeli air strikes killed at least 67 people in Lebanon since MOU was signed. Hezbollah attacks killed 5 Israeli soldiers. Israel insists conflict with Hezbollah is separate from Iran war. Netanyahu: Israeli military will remain in southern Lebanon "for as long as is necessary." Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem rejects any Israeli military presence. Since 2 March: 4,057 killed in Lebanon (health ministry), 34 Israeli soldiers and 4 civilians killed.
Iran hardliners challenge Khamenei	Hardliners in Iran publicly accused the negotiating team of ignoring Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's objections to talks. A hardliner revealed "top-secret" Khamenei objections on state TV. Reformist politician Esmail Gerami Moghaddam backed the negotiating team but acknowledged "Americans cannot be trusted."
Chris Murphy Senate speech	Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) delivered explosive speech on Senate floor tearing into the Trump-Iran deal, reading portions of the agreement. Murphy: "This agreement exposes what a colossal mistake this war was." Said the deal amounts to "humiliation and surrender." Murphy had previously said "we are paying Iran billions to reopen the Strait."
Senate war powers	Senate rejected war powers resolution (53-47) on Tuesday 5 days ago. 4 GOP senators crossed party lines. Resolution would have directed Trump to halt military hostilities against Iran.

Detail	Info
Bipartisan backlash	Sen. Cassidy (R-LA): "Worst foreign policy blunder in decades." Sen. Cruz (R-TX): "Giving billions to theocratic lunatics." Sen. Shaheen (D-NH): "A very bad deal." Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Roger Wicker said the MoU is "completely out of step."
Mojtaba Khamenei endorses talks	Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei (who succeeded his father Ali Khamenei after the Feb 28 assassination) endorsed direct negotiations with the US in a statement read by state media — a significant development given hardliner opposition.
US lifts naval blockade	As part of the agreement, the US Navy lifted its blockade on Iranian ports. Vance confirmed the lifting. Gradual easing expected.
Markets	Asian stocks rallied on deal progress. Nikkei +2.3%, Kospi +3.1%. US stock futures positive. Oil volatile but trending down from war highs.
Key unresolved issues	Nuclear programme details (440kg enriched uranium down-blending timeline), ballistic missiles, regional proxies, Israel-Lebanon conflict, Hormuz tolls after 60 days, sanctions relief timeline, mine clearance in Hormuz.

23-25 June 2026 — ? SENATE PASSES WAR POWERS RESOLUTION (50-48); US ISSUES 60-DAY IRAN OIL SANCTIONS WAIVER; IRGC REJECTS NEW HORMUZ ROUTES; OIL FALLS TO PRE-WAR LEVELS

Detail	Info
Date	23-25 June 2026 (Day 115-117)
Location	Washington DC; Tehran; Strait of Hormuz; Bahrain; Lebanon; Global markets

Detail	Info
Event	US Senate passes War Powers Resolution (50-48) — first time BOTH chambers of Congress have approved a concurrent resolution instructing a president to end a military action since the 1973 War Powers Resolution was enacted. US Treasury issues 60-day oil sanctions waiver on Iran (until August 21) allowing unlimited crude/petrochemical sales. IRGC rejects new Hormuz shipping routes , warns any vessel using them will be in danger. Oil prices fall to pre-war levels — around 20M barrels have exited Hormuz in 24 hours. Rubio heads to Bahrain for GCC meeting. Israel-Lebanon talks begin in DC . Trump says "no further Naval Blockade" but "all ships remaining in place."
Senate War Powers Resolution	Senate votes 50-48 on Tuesday (23 June) to pass resolution directing Trump to end military action against Iran. 4 Republicans join all Democrats. House passed identical measure earlier this month (215-208). Trump calls it "poorly timed and meaningless" on Truth Social: "So, I have Iran on the 'ropes,' ready to go down for the fall... and the U.S. Senate decides to have a poorly timed and meaningless War Powers Act Vote." Concurrent resolution — not legally binding, not signed by president. But politically significant: first time both chambers have rebuked a president's war powers since 1973.
Trump on Hormuz	Trump posts on Truth Social: Strait of Hormuz "open, with no further Naval Blockade." Adds: "However, all ships are remaining in place should it be necessary."
IRGC rejects new routes	Iran's Revolutionary Guard rejects a new shipping lane through the Strait of Hormuz, warning any vessel using it will be in danger. IRGC Navy: ships must coordinate on Channel 16 or face action. Declares any route announced without Tehran's coordination "unacceptable and dangerous."
US oil sanctions waiver	US Treasury Department issues 60-day waiver (until August 21) authorizing production, sale, and delivery of Iranian crude oil, petrochemicals, and petroleum products. Trump says Iran "will agree" to weapons inspections and that released funds will buy US produce. Iran's Central Bank Governor Hemmati denies obligation to buy US farm products — says first \$6bn is for "basic goods and medicine."
\$12bn frozen funds released	Iran's top negotiator Ghalibaf confirms release of two tranches of \$6bn in frozen Iranian funds. Iranian President Pezeshkian calls for "full commitment to agreed obligations."
Oil prices crash to pre-war levels	Oil falls to lowest level since before the war started. ~20 million barrels have exited the Strait of Hormuz in the last 24 hours (US Energy Secretary Chris Wright). Reuters: "Oil markets start to signal near-term oversupply as tankers exit Strait of Hormuz."

Detail	Info
Rubio in Bahrain	Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives in Bahrain promising Gulf allies Washington will protect their interests. Ahead of GCC meeting. Says "we want diplomacy to succeed. But if Iran tries to test us, we will obliterate them" (Lindsey Graham).
Iran diplomacy	FM Araghchi in Islamabad with President Pezeshkian for official visit. Technical talks concluded; next phase under "High Level Committee" including Ghalibaf, Araghchi, and VP Vance. Oman FM Badr Albusaidi reaffirms "toll-free passage" in Hormuz after talks with Iranian diplomats.
Lebanon	Israel kills 2 in southern Lebanon (Nabatieh al-Fawqa) on Tuesday 23 June. Hezbollah calls it a "blatant violation" of ceasefire. Israel and Lebanon begin new round of direct talks in Washington DC. Israeli soldier killed in refueling truck accident. Netanyahu says troops will continue to occupy southern Lebanon.
Democrats accuse Trump of premature relief	House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats: "Trump officials repeatedly said sanctions relief would be tied to Iran addressing its nuclear program and terrorist proxies. Neither has been addressed, but the regime has been gifted sweeping sanctions relief."
Iran Ghalibaf: deal = "US declaration of defeat"	Iranian parliamentary speaker Ghalibaf says the deal between Iran and US is "America's declaration of defeat."
Pentagon budget request	Trump asks Congress for \$87.6bn supplemental budget — includes \$67.1bn for Pentagon to cover Iran war costs.
IMO evacuation plan	International Maritime Organization announces evacuation plan for ~11,000 seafarers stranded in the Strait of Hormuz region.
Markets	Oil at pre-war levels. Stock markets stable. Uncertainty over whether Senate resolution will affect Trump's behavior.
Key unresolved	Final deal negotiations within 60-day window; nuclear inspections; Hormuz tolls after 60 days; Israel-Lebanon conflict; ballistic missiles; IRGC threats to ships using unauthorized routes.

26-29 June 2026 — ? RENEWED STRIKES OVER HORMUZ: US Hits Iran; Iran Attacks Bahrain & Kuwait; Both Sides Agree to Stand Down; Doha Talks Set for Tuesday

Detail	Info
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Date	26-29 June 2026 (Day 118-121)
Location	Strait of Hormuz; Iran; Bahrain; Kuwait; Washington DC; Doha (Qatar)
Event	Tit-for-tat strikes resume over Strait of Hormuz. US strikes Iranian military targets June 26-27 in response to drone attack on Panama-flagged tanker MT Kiku. US Central Command says fighter jets struck 10 Iranian military targets including missile/drone storage facilities, communication systems, air defense sites. Iran retaliates with drone and missile attacks on US bases in Bahrain (Fifth Naval Fleet, Port Salman) and Kuwait (Ali Al Salem Air Base) on June 28 — IRGC claims "8 key pieces of infrastructure destroyed." US says no casualties/damage at its facilities. By June 29, both sides agree to "stand down" — US official confirms vessels can transit Hormuz "freely." Talks set for Doha on Tuesday (June 30) to resolve Hormuz dispute. Iran insists on sole control of Hormuz — FM Araghchi: "responsibility lies solely with Tehran." US envoy Waltz: Iran "completely isolated" on tolls — UAE/Saudi building pipelines, China opposed, Oman rejected. Iran skipped technical talks Sunday. Oil volatile — climbed on strikes, fell on ceasefire. Trump threatens annihilation: "If that happens, the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist!" 48 vessels passed through between June 26-28 (Al Jazeera analysis).

30 June - 1 July 2026 — ? DOHA TALKS: US ENVOYS MEET MEDIATORS, NOT IRANIANS; NO DIRECT TALKS SCHEDULED; \$6BN FROZEN FUNDS STALLED

Detail	Info
Date	30 June - 1 July 2026 (Day 122-123)
Location	Doha, Qatar; Tehran; Washington DC

Detail	Info
Event	US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff arrive in Doha for talks with mediators — but NOT with Iranian officials. Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari confirms no high-level direct talks scheduled in coming days. Iran separately holds talks with mediators on Wednesday (1 July) to discuss MoU implementation, including release of frozen assets. \$6bn of \$12bn frozen funds held in Qatar depends on progress that hasn't happened yet , Qatar says. Iran's deputy FM Gharibabadi denies plans for technical talks that week. Iranian FM spokesman Baqai: "No meeting at any level with the American side has been scheduled for the coming days." A senior Trump administration official tells CBS "very positive conversations" held between Witkoff, Kushner and regional leaders. Technical talks between lower-ranking officials continue and could later be elevated. Ansari confirms tracks on nuclear, economic/state performance, and security.
US envoys in Doha	Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Doha after Trump announced Iran had requested a meeting in Qatar. Qatar clarified they were there for talks with mediators only.
Iran meets mediators separately	Iranian officials held talks with Qatari mediators on Wednesday to discuss MoU implementation provisions, including release of frozen assets.
\$6bn frozen funds blocked	Qatar's Ansari: release of \$6bn depends on progress in US-Iran talks that hadn't happened yet.
Technical talks continue	Lower-level technical talks between officials continuing, could be elevated to senior level. Multiple tracks: nuclear, economic, security.
Iran reaffirms Hormuz position	Iran FM spokesman Baqai: Iran will "do whatever is necessary to safeguard its interests" over the Strait of Hormuz and implement related MoU provisions.
US-Iran talks over \$6bn to restart	Guardian (1 July): US-Iran talks over \$6bn Iranian assets in Qatar to restart, dependent on progress.

2-3 July 2026 — Khamenei's Six-Day Funeral Begins; Crowds Gather in Tehran

Detail	Info
Date	2-3 July 2026 (Day 124-125)
Location	Tehran, Iran; Qom; Mashhad; Najaf (Iraq)

Detail	Info
Event	Six-day funeral for slain Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei begins. Body lies in state at Tehran's Grand Mosalla religious complex. Funeral led by prominent Shia cleric Jafar Sobhani (97). 12-20 million expected to attend across Iran and Iraq over the week. Authorities call it the "funeral of the century." Processions planned: Tehran (Monday 6 July), Qom (Tuesday), Najaf/Iraq (Wednesday), burial in Mashhad (Thursday). Strict security measures imposed. Bodies of four relatives killed in Feb 28 strikes also displayed, including Khamenei's one-year-old granddaughter.
Molana Sobhani leads service	97-year-old cleric Jafar Sobhani, who teaches at Qom seminaries, leads funeral prayers.
Expected attendance	12-20 million people expected across all events. Tehran alone expected to attract more than 10 million.
Route	Tehran (lying in state + procession Mon 6 July) → Qom (Tue) → Najaf, Iraq (Wed) → Mashhad burial (Thu).
Security	Official media warned of crowd crush risk. 4,000+ visited medical centres near Grand Mosalla on 5 July alone.

4-6 July 2026 — ? MILLIONS JOIN KHAMENEI FUNERAL; MOJTABA ABSENT; CALLS FOR TRUMP'S DEATH; IRAN SEEKS TIGHTER HORMUZ CONTROL

Detail	Info
Date	4-6 July 2026 (Day 126-128)
Location	Tehran, Iran; Washington DC; Strait of Hormuz

Detail	Info
Event	Massive funeral procession for Ali Khamenei draws millions in Tehran. Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei conspicuously absent — his three brothers (Masoud, Mostafa, Meysam) attend alongside President Pezeshkian and IRGC chief Ahmad Vahidi. Speculation continues Mojtaba was wounded in Feb 28 strikes. Crowds chant "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Poet Mohammad Rasouli declares "Trump's murder is our responsibility." Banners display "kill Trump" and "kill Bibi." Trump says peace talks paused for a week due to funeral; says US could take out all senior Iranian officials "with one shot" but "we won't because then we'd have nobody to negotiate with"; mocks mourners — "Maybe it's fake tears." Iran seeks to tighten control over Strait of Hormuz alongside funeral — Guardian reports Iran "jealously competing with Oman" over strait management. BBC InDepth analysis: Iran's new generation of leaders more aggressive than old guard. OPEC+ 7 countries agree to modest monthly oil production increase as prices slide. Sunday (5 July) declared public holiday across Iran.
Mojtaba absent	New Supreme Leader not seen in public since early March. His brothers attended. Fears Israel may try to assassinate him too.
Death to America chants	Poet Mohammad Rasouli: "Trump's murder is our responsibility." Chants of "death to America" and "death to Israel at the service.
Trump on funeral	Told Axios peace talks paused for week. Said he could take out all officials "with one shot." Mocked mourners — "Maybe it's fake tears." Mourner Zahra Safaei responds: "We did not make a revolution 47 years ago to shed fake tears."
Iran seeks tighter Hormuz control	Guardian exclusive (5 July): Iran is using the funeral to assert its position on the Strait of Hormuz. Iran "jealously competing with Oman" over who decides strait management. Iran insists on sole control.
BBC InDepth analysis	Paul Adams: Iran's new generation (Mojtaba, 56; Ghalibaf; Vahidi) are "children of the revolution" — more aggressive than old guard. Iran's willingness to close Hormuz and strike US Gulf allies caught White House by surprise. Gulf states questioning US security umbrella. "Plastic moment" pregnant with possibility but high potential for failure.
OPEC+ output increase	7 OPEC+ countries agree to expand monthly oil production modestly as prices slide (AP, 6 July).
China emerges as winner	Guardian report (30 June): China a clear winner from Trump's Iran war — its stockpiles and renewables industry allowed it to withstand energy shock.

Key Developments

28 May 2026 — ? US-Iran Exchange Strikes; IRGC Targets Kuwait Airbase; Trump Threatens Oman

Detail	Info
Date	28 May 2026
Location	Strait of Hormuz; Bandar Abbas, Iran; Kuwait; Oman; Southern Lebanon
Event	US forces downed 4 Iranian attack drones near Strait of Hormuz and struck an IRGC ground control station in Bandar Abbas. IRGC retaliated by targeting a US airbase in Kuwait. Trump threatened to "blow up" Oman. Israel intensified Lebanon strikes (550 targets since Monday).
US action	CENTCOM shot down 4 Iranian one-way attack drones threatening maritime traffic around Strait of Hormuz. Struck a ground control station in Iran's Bandar Abbas that was about to launch a fifth drone. US official: "These actions were measured, purely defensive, and intended to maintain the ceasefire."
IRGC retaliation	2 hours later, IRGC targeted an American base in Kuwait "that served as the source of the attack". Kuwait's army confirmed air defences were intercepting "hostile" missiles and drones just before 6am Kuwait City time.
Iran also fired on ships	IRIB reported Iranian forces fired at 4 ships attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz at ~12:35am local time without providing details on the vessels.
Trump on Oman	At White House cabinet meeting, asked about possible short-term arrangement allowing Iran+Oman to control Hormuz, Trump said: "Nobody is going to control it. It's international waters, and Oman will behave just like everybody else, or we will have to blow them up." State Dept later shared the transcript referring to Oman. White House did not clarify if Trump misspoke.
Trump on Iran deal	Trump: "[Iran] want very much to make a deal. So far they haven't gotten there. We're not satisfied with it, but we will be. Either that or we'll have to just finish the job." He claimed Iran was "negotiating on fumes" and that November's midterms won't make him rush into a deal.
MoU claim denied	Iranian state TV claimed to have obtained an unofficial draft MoU giving Iran+Oman joint control of Hormuz. White House called it "a complete fabrication".

Detail	Info
Israel-Lebanon	Israel struck 550 targets since Monday; declared a huge swathe of southern Lebanon a new combat zone; issued further evacuation warnings for Tyre; clashed with Hezbollah at "point-blank range" along a strategic river. Hezbollah said would fight until war ends in Lebanon.
Casualties (Lebanon)	3,200+ killed since March; 608 killed since 16 April ceasefire; 1.2m displaced. 10 Israeli soldiers killed since ceasefire, 6 by Hezbollah drones.
Oil price	\$107-120/barrel (Brent surged on strikes)
Strait of Hormuz	Remains choked off. No commercial ships passing. Trump says strait will be "open to everybody".
Kuwait involvement	Kuwait's military confirmed it was actively defending against IRGC missiles and drones targeting a US base on its soil

30 May 2026 — ? Trump Reviews Deal in Situation Room; Hegseth Warns US Can Resume War; Iran Says No Deal Yet

Detail	Info
Date	30 May 2026
Location	Washington DC; Singapore (Shangri-La Dialogue); Tehran; Lebanon
Event	Trump spent 2+ hours in Situation Room reviewing the 60-day MoU but did not announce a decision. Hegseth at Shangri-La warned US "more than capable" of resuming war. Iran says no final deal reached. US seizes \$1bn in Iranian crypto assets. Israel deepens Lebanon invasion. Oil holds below \$100.
Trump in Situation Room	Trump emerged from White House Situation Room after spending more than 2 hours with senior aides reviewing the 60-day ceasefire MoU, but did not immediately announce his decision. White House said a decision is "imminent" but no timeline given.
Hegseth at Shangri-La	US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue defence summit in Singapore: "Our ability to recommence if necessary is (that) we are more than capable, our stockpiles are more than suited for that, both there and around the globe because of how we balance exquisite and more plentiful munitions."
CENTCOM posture	CENTCOM posted on X that US forces "remain present and vigilant across the region"

Detail	Info
Iran denies final deal	Iran said a ceasefire agreement has yet to be finalised following the announcement of Washington's demands. Tehran says the text is still not confirmed.
UKMTO blockade notice	UK Maritime Trade Operations advised ship masters that the US military blockade on Iranian ports continues to restrict all inbound and outbound maritime traffic.
Bessent seizes \$1bn crypto	US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the US had seized \$1bn in Iranian cryptocurrency assets as part of the economic campaign. Bessent said any easing of the blockade on Iran will take place gradually.
IAEA on uranium storage	The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency stated that Kazakhstan could hold Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium if a deal is reached between the US and Iran.
Pakistan mediator in DC	Pakistan's FM Ishaq Dar reportedly in Washington meeting with Marco Rubio. Pakistan hoping mediation will "yield positive results"
Israel deepens Lebanon invasion	Israeli troops pushed deeper into a southern Lebanese village. Military delegations from Israel and Lebanon met at the Pentagon in Washington for talks.
Oil price	Below \$100/barrel — held below the \$100 mark on deal optimism despite uncertainty over Trump's final decision
Netanyahu rejects ceasefire	In a video statement, Netanyahu said: "We are ready to resume the fighting at any moment." WSJ reported Israel unhappy it wasn't formally part of US negotiations with Iran.
Strait of Hormuz	Remains effectively closed to commercial shipping. UKMTO advisory confirms blockade continues. Bessent says easing will be gradual.

31 May 2026 — ? Trump Sends Deal Back for Tougher Terms; US Disables Ship; Iran Downs Drone; US Soldiers Hurt in Kuwait

Detail	Info
Date	31 May 2026
Location	Washington DC; Gulf of Oman; Kuwait; Tehran; Lebanon

Detail	Info
Event	Trump sends 60-day MoU back to Iran demanding tougher terms on uranium and Hormuz. US disables another commercial ship trying to breach blockade. IRGC claims to have shot down a US MQ-1 drone. Several US soldiers confirmed injured in Kuwait airbase strike. Hegseth says "Hormuz will be open without Iranian tolls." Iran warns military vessels interfering in Hormuz will be targeted. Lebanon slams Israel's "scorched earth policy."
Trump sends back for revision	Trump sent the 60-day ceasefire MoU back to Iran, demanding tougher terms on enriched uranium stockpile management and Strait of Hormuz control clauses. Trump: "The deal as written is not acceptable. They need to give more on the strait and the nuclear issue."
Trump: "Close" to deal but military option remains	Trump told reporters the US is close to an Iran deal but warned the military option remains on the table if talks fail.
Hegseth: "Hormuz will be open without Iranian tolls"	US War Secretary Pete Hegseth declared that the Strait of Hormuz will be reopened without the imposition of Iranian tolls, directly rebutting Iran's position that it would manage strait passage and charge fees.
IRGC downs US MQ-1 drone	Iran claimed to have shot down a US MQ-1 drone in Iranian waters using its domestically-produced air defence systems.
US disables another ship breaching blockade	The US military disabled another commercial ship attempting to defy the naval blockade and reach Iran.
Several US soldiers injured in Kuwait strike	Reports emerged that several American soldiers were injured in the Iranian ballistic missile strike on a Kuwaiti air base on 28 May.
Iran warns: military vessels in Hormuz will be targeted	The IRGC warned that any military vessels interfering in the Strait of Hormuz will be targeted.
Lebanon slams Israel's "scorched earth policy"	Lebanese PM described Israel's attacks as collective punishment and a "scorched earth policy."
Trump says ceasefire on "massive life support"	Trump told Fox News the ceasefire is on "massive life support" after Iran's "dismal response" to his latest offer.
Oil tumbling on ceasefire extension hopes	Oil prices fell on reports of potential US-Iran ceasefire deal extension.
Navy mine sighted in Strait of Hormuz	A floating object suspected to be a naval mine was sighted west of the Inshore Traffic Zone in the Strait of Hormuz.
Gas prices hit \$4.56/gal nationally	US national average gas prices hit \$4.56/gallon and climbing due to the Iran war and Strait of Hormuz closure.
China factory activity flat	China's official factory activity was flat in May 2026, raising questions about the economy's ability to shield itself from Iran war fallout.

Detail	Info
Strait of Hormuz	Remains closed to commercial shipping. Hegseth insists it will reopen without Iranian tolls. Iran warns military vessels will be targeted.

1 June 2026 — ? FRESH STRIKES: US Bombs Iranian Radar & Drone Sites on Qeshm & Goruk; Iran Attacks Kuwait Base Again; Iran Also Strikes UAE Airbase; BBC Verify Reveals 20 US Sites Damaged

Detail	Info
Date	1 June 2026
Location	Qeshm Island & Goruk, Iran; Kuwait; UAE; Washington DC; London; Paris; Beirut
Event	US bombs Iranian radar and drone control sites on Qeshm Island and near Goruk in response to Iran shooting down a US MQ-1 drone. Iran retaliates, striking US base in Kuwait for second time in a week, and a UAE airbase for the second time. BBC Verify reveals Iran has damaged 20 US military sites across 8 countries since start of war. Trump seeking third round of edits to ceasefire deal. Iran's President Pezeshkian offers resignation citing total IRGC takeover. Trump posts "sit back and relax, it will all work out well" on Truth Social. ~5 US personnel confirmed injured in Kuwait strike. One MQ-9 Reaper destroyed, one seriously damaged. Iran releases propaganda video showing missile with bruised Trump sticker. US has quietly coordinated safe passage of ~70 commercial ships through Hormuz. Oil gains ~2% (Brent \$93.02, WTI \$89.61) on ceasefire uncertainty; stocks hit record highs on AI rally. France requests UN Security Council meeting over Israel's Lebanon invasion. Israel captures Beaufort Castle in deepest Lebanon incursion in 26 years. Iran's Khamenei reportedly in seclusion. Trump claims Hezbollah-Israel "stop all shooting" deal. IRGC threatens "new fronts" + warns red lines in Lebanon = war.
CENTCOM strikes on Qeshm and Goruk	US Central Command said it carried out strikes on Iranian radar and drone control sites around the city of Goruk and on Qeshm Island.
Trump posts "sit back and relax"	Trump posted on Truth Social: "Sit back and relax, it will all work out well" — his first public comment since the fresh strikes.

Detail	Info
~5 US personnel injured in Kuwait strike	Fortune reported ~5 Americans (contractors + active duty) were injured by intercepted missile debris at a Kuwaiti air base.
Iran propaganda video	IRGC released propaganda video showing a missile with a bruised and battered sticker of Trump's face.
IRGC retaliation	Iran retaliated by striking the US base in Kuwait from which the attack was launched, claiming the target was destroyed.
Iran strikes UAE airbase for the second time	Reports indicate Iran struck a UAE airbase for the second time, threatening the Strait of Hormuz further.
BBC Verify: 20 US military sites damaged	BBC Verify published a major investigation using satellite imagery: Iran has damaged 20 US military sites across 8 countries. Among the hardware damaged: three THAAD anti-ballistic missile batteries (\$1bn each) and an E-3 Sentry plane (\$700m).
Trump seeking third round of edits to deal	President Trump has requested that edits be made to the US-Iran deal — the third round of edits. Changes relate to Strait of Hormuz and removal of highly enriched uranium.
Iran's President Pezeshkian offers resignation	Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian offered his resignation, citing total takeover by IRGC commanders.
US quietly coordinated safe passage of ~70 ships through Hormuz	The US military has quietly coordinated the safe passage of about 70 commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz over the past three weeks.
Oil prices gain on ceasefire uncertainty	Oil prices gained as ceasefire uncertainty persisted. US futures at all-time highs.
France requests UN Security Council meeting	France requested a UN Security Council meeting over Israel's invasion of Lebanon.
Israel seizes Beaufort Castle	Israel seized Beaufort Castle in Lebanon, its deepest incursion in 26 years.
Brookings: Hormuz closure will bite by mid-July	Brookings analysis finds the Strait of Hormuz closure costs will hit within 1-2 months: by mid-July temporary price buffers exhausted; oil could reach \$150/barrel.
Ossoff: "Worst foreign policy blunder since Iraq"	Senator Ossoff (D-GA) criticized the Iran war as "the worst foreign policy blunder since Iraq" — a war "built on lies."
Trump claims Hezbollah-Israel "stop all shooting" deal	Trump posted that Hezbollah and Israel agreed to stop fighting.
Iran warns ceasefire applies on all fronts	FM Araghchi: "The ceasefire between Iran and the US is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon."
Tasnim: Iran suspended mediator texts with US	Iran's semi-official Tasnim agency reported Iran suspended text exchanges through a mediator with US due to continuing Israeli hostilities.

Detail	Info
IRGC threatens "new fronts"	IRGC threatened to open new fronts and keep Hormuz closed unless Israeli military action halts.
Ben-Gvir urges defiance of Trump	Israeli National Security Minister Ben-Gvir said it's "time to say no to Trump" and continue striking Hezbollah.
Schumer presses for end to war	Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer criticised Trump's handling, arguing prolonging war puts US troops at risk.
Omar calls for end to US military aid to Israel	Rep Ilhan Omar accused Israel of committing atrocities with impunity.
Rubio to testify before Congress	Secretary of State Marco Rubio set to face back-to-back hearings on Capitol Hill.
Pentagon bars journalists from press office	US Defense Department barred journalists from its press office.

2-3 June 2026 — ? FRESH STRIKES CONTINUE: US Bombs Qeshm Island Ground Control Station; Iran Hits Kuwait Airport with Drones; US Disables Oil Tanker with Hellfire; Rubio Testifies on Hill

Detail	Info
Location	Qeshm Island, Iran; Kuwait International Airport; Bahrain; Gulf of Oman; Washington DC; Southern Lebanon
Event	US launches "self-defence" strikes on Qeshm Island targeting Iranian military ground control station. Iran retaliates: 2 ballistic missiles at Kuwait, 3 at Bahrain. Iranian drones hit Kuwait International Airport — significant building damage, injuries, air traffic suspended. US disables oil tanker approaching Iran — Hellfire missile into engine room. Partial Hezbollah-Israel truce "appears to hold". Rubio testifies before Congress — says Iran ready to discuss nuclear file. US sanctions Nobitex (Iran's largest crypto exchange). Oil slides on peace deal hopes.
US strikes Qeshm Island	Centcom launched "self-defence" strikes on Qeshm Island, targeting an Iranian military ground control station.
Iran retaliates: Kuwait & Bahrain targeted	Iran fired 2 ballistic missiles at Kuwait and 3 at Bahrain. Iranian drones hit Kuwait International Airport — significant building damage, injuries reported.

Detail	Info
US disables oil tanker with Hellfire	Centcom struck and disabled the unladen Botswana-flagged M/T Lexie sailing towards Iran. New blockade stats: 6 vessels disabled, 122 redirected since blockade began.
IRGC warns Hormuz disruption will carry "heavy price"	IRGC said "disrupting the security of the Strait of Hormuz will carry a heavy price for the aggressive US military."
Partial Hezbollah-Israel truce "appears to hold"	BBC reports Israel strikes southern Lebanon but a "partial truce with Hezbollah appears to hold."
Rubio testifies before Congress	Marco Rubio testified before Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Key points: said Iran is ready to discuss nuclear file; Khamenei "appears more active"; opening of Strait of Hormuz is the first condition. Notable exchange: Rubio declared "The war is over" during exchange with Sen. Cory Booker.
US sanctions Nobitex	Trump administration placed sanctions on Iran's largest digital asset exchange, Nobitex, and three others.
Oil slides on peace deal hopes	Oil prices slid on hopes of US-Iran peace deal, offsetting risk premium from fresh strikes. Brent ~\$97/bbl.

4 June 2026 — ? US House Votes 215-208 to Halt Iran War; Oman Resists US Pressure Over Hormuz; Oil Falls on Deal Report; Iran Oil Exports Crash 90%

Detail	Info
Date	4 June 2026
Location	Washington DC; Muscat, Oman; London; Tehran; Straits of Hormuz
Event	House passes War Powers Resolution 215-208 in bipartisan rebuke of Trump (4 Republicans join all Democrats). Oman resists US pressure to break ties with Iran over Hormuz. Oil prices fall on Axios report of 60-day ceasefire extension deal reached — Brent drops to \$93.36. Iran oil exports crash 90%+ — just 2.01m barrels in May vs 29.7m in April (UANI). FT: US oil stocks lowest since 2004. UK services PMI dips below 50 — first contraction since 2025.
House vote — War Powers Resolution	US House passed measure directing removal of US Armed Forces from hostilities against Iran not authorized by Congress. 215-208 vote: 4 Republicans joined all Democrats.

Detail	Info
Oman resists US pressure	Guardian exclusive: Oman resisting US demands to break ties with Iran over Hormuz.
Oil prices fall on deal report	Axios reported US and Iran reached agreement for 60-day ceasefire extension and nuclear talks. Brent crude dropped to \$93.36.
Iran oil exports crash 90%+	UANI data: Iran exported just 2.01 million barrels of oil in May 2026 compared to 29.7 million in April.
UK services PMI dips below 50	S&P Global UK Services PMI fell below 50 for first time since 2025 — contraction in services activity attributed to Iran war.
Rubio: "The war is over"	During Senate testimony, Rubio told Sen. Cory Booker "the war is over" — arguing the conflict has shifted to ceasefire phase.

5-8 June 2026 — Ceasefire Erodes; Iran-Israel Exchange Strikes; Partial Hezbollah Truce Frays

Detail	Info
Date	5-8 June 2026
Location	Tehran; Jerusalem; Southern Lebanon; Washington DC; Gulf
Event	The fragile April ceasefire continues to erode. Iran and Israel exchange intermittent strikes. Partial Hezbollah-Israel truce fraying. Trump continues to demand tougher terms. Oil prices volatile — Brent around \$93-97/bbl. US gas prices at \$4.56/gal nationally. Brookings warns oil could hit \$150/bbl by mid-July. UK energy price cap rise of 13% confirmed for July. No formal diplomatic breakthrough.

9 June 2026 — ? US Helicopter Downed Near Strait of Hormuz; Trump Blames Iran

Detail	Info
Date	9 June 2026
Location	Strait of Hormuz; Gulf

Detail	Info
Event	A US Apache helicopter is shot down near the Strait of Hormuz. Two crew members survive and are rescued by a US sea drone. Trump accuses Iran of shooting down the aircraft. He says the US "must, of necessity" respond. IRGC says US strikes later damage a telecommunications tower and two water tanks in Jask, Sirik, and Qeshm Island. US House Speaker Mike Johnson says he was in the room with Trump when the President decided US attacks on Iran should resume. (BBC, 9-10 June)

10 June 2026 — ? US Launches New Strikes on Iran; Iran Retaliates Against US Bases

Detail	Info
Date	10 June 2026
Location	Southern Iran; Bahrain; Kuwait; Jordan; Washington DC
Event	US launches "self-defence" strikes on Iranian military, surveillance and radar sites across southern Iran in response to the downing of the Apache helicopter. CENTCOM says strikes target "military surveillance capabilities, communication systems, and air defence sites." Iran retaliates immediately — IRGC strikes US military bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan with ballistic missiles and drones. Second consecutive day of direct US-Iran exchanges. Trump: "We hit them hard yesterday and we're going to hit them hard again today." Hegseth: bombs "dropping on key facilities" in Iran. UN chief Guterres says ceasefire is now "more like a lesser-fire." (BBC, AP, Al Jazeera)

11 June 2026 — ? MAJOR ESCALATION: US Fires 49 Tomahawk Missiles Into Iran; Iran Closes Strait of Hormuz Completely

|| Detail | Info | ||-----|-----|-----| || **Date** | 11 June 2026 (Day 104) | || **Location** | Tehran (40 miles from capital); Bandar Abbas; Minab; Sirik; Kish & Qeshm Island; Karaj; Kuwait; Bahrain; Jordan; Washington DC | || **Event** | **EXTREME ESCALATION — The heaviest strikes in weeks.** Trump tells Fox News the US fired **49 Tomahawk cruise missiles** at targets inside Iran, some as close as **40 miles (64km) from Tehran**. US fighter jets also target radar and air defence systems near the Gulf. | || **CENTCOM statement** | US Central Command says strikes — now in their second consecutive day — are "self-defense" targeting "military surveillance capabilities, communication systems, and air defence sites across Iran" in response to Tehran's "unwarranted and continued

aggression." | || **Iranian media reports** | Explosions reported across multiple areas along Iran's southern coastline: Bandar Abbas, Minab, Sirik, Kish Island, Qeshm Island, and Karaj (near Tehran). (Al Jazeera) | || **Iran closes Strait of Hormuz** | **Iran's top military command announces the COMPLETE CLOSURE of the Strait of Hormuz** to all vessels. Officials warn all vessels to stay away — any ships attempting to pass could come under attack. CENTCOM disputes this, saying "commercial ships are continuing to transit." Oil prices rise sharply on the announcement. | || **IRGC retaliatory strikes** | IRGC says it carried out counterattacks on **18 US military targets** at airbases in Kuwait and Bahrain, plus the US Navy's Fifth Fleet HQ in Bahrain. Iran fires **12 ballistic missiles at al-Azraq airbase in Jordan** for a second night running. | || **Kuwait airspace closed** | Kuwait's civil aviation authority **closes the country's airspace** as a precaution. Kuwait Airways announces a shutdown of **all flights**. | || **US warns Jordan** | US State Department urges all people in Jordan to "seek overhead cover and shelter in place immediately" — warning missiles, drones or rockets entering Jordanian airspace. | || **Trump claims Iran contacted him** | Trump tells Fox News that senior Iranian officials have contacted him to ask Washington to halt the attacks — a claim **Iranian officials reject**. | || **Hegseth: bombing to "expand the diplomatic field"** | Speaking outside CENTCOM HQ in Tampa, Hegseth says the strikes are an effort to "expand the diplomatic field" — using bombs to force Iran back to the negotiating table. | || **Water infrastructure hit** | US strikes damage two concrete water storage reservoirs in Sirik county, Hormozgan province. Iran says water restored within 12 hours. | || **3 Indian seafarers killed** | India's Shipping Minister confirms all three missing Indian seafarers killed in a US attack on a tanker in the Gulf. | || **Retired General compares to Vietnam** | Retired US General Mark Kimmitt tells Al Jazeera the strategy "bring them back to the negotiating table" through heavy bombardment is reminiscent of Vietnam War. | || **UN: ceasefire now "lesser-fire"** | UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres: "The Middle East is being pulled deeper into crisis. The ceasefire is more like a lesser-fire." | || **Brent crude** | ~\$94.08/barrel, up ~1% on day from Strait of Hormuz closure. | || **Iran's position** | President Pezeshkian: Iran "will stand firm against any pressure or threat." Foreign ministry accuses US of "damaging the diplomatic process through the contradictory messages it sends." |

12-13 June 2026 — Diplomacy Intensifies; Trump Threatens Kharg Island; Iran Signals Willingness

|| Detail | Info | ||-----|-----|-----| || **Date** | 12-13 June 2026 (Day 105-106) | || **Location** | Washington DC; Islamabad; Doha; Tehran; Switzerland (G7) | || **Event** | After the massive 49 Tomahawk escalation, diplomatic channels go into overdrive. Trump says he wants to take Kharg Island (handling 90% of Iran's crude oil exports). Pakistan intensifies mediation. Iranian FM Araghchi says terms of nuclear program to be finalized in 60 days after initial signing. US official says emerging agreement would begin process of destroying/removing Tehran's highly enriched uranium — though Iran disputes this. Trump heads to G7 summit in France. | || **Trump threatens Kharg Island** | Trump announces desire to take Kharg Island — which handles 90% of Iran's crude oil exports. Rattles global oil markets. | || **Iran's nuclear position** | FM Araghchi says terms for dealing with Iran's nuclear program would be finalized in 60 days after initial signing, with possible

extension. Iran insists it would hold onto its enriched uranium stockpile. | || **US official** | A senior US official (anonymous) says the emerging agreement would "begin process of destroying or removing Tehran's highly enriched uranium." Iran disputes this. | || **Pakistan mediation** | PM Shehbaz Sharif intensifies shuttle diplomacy between Washington and Tehran. | || **G7 backdrop** | Trump attends G7 summit in France with Iran deal as key agenda item. |

14-15 June 2026 — ??? HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH: US-IRAN PEACE DEAL ANNOUNCED; STRAIT OF HORMUZ TO REOPEN FRIDAY

|| Detail | Info | ||-----|-----|-----| || **Date** | 14-15 June 2026 (Day 107-108) | || **Location** | Islamabad; Washington DC; Tehran; Switzerland; Global markets | || **Event** | **LANDMARK PEACE DEAL ANNOUNCED — The nearly 4-month war ends.** Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif announces on X: "Following intensive talks, we are pleased to announce that the Peace Deal between the United States of America and Islamic Republic of Iran has been REACHED." Trump confirms on Truth Social. Official signing ceremony set for **Friday 19 June 2026 in Switzerland**. Strait of Hormuz to reopen. US naval blockade lifted. Iran confirms MOU — all military operations cease immediately and permanently. Markets rally globally. | || **Sharif announcement** | Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif on X: "Following intensive talks, we are pleased to announce that the Peace Deal between the United States of America and Islamic Republic of Iran has been REACHED... The official signing ceremony will be on Friday, 19 June in Switzerland." (CNBC) | || **Trump confirmation** | Trump on Truth Social: "The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete." Also posted: "Let the oil flow!" Announced "toll free opening of the Strait of Hormuz" and "immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade." Said Strait would open on Friday. (CNBC, BBC) | || **Iran confirmation** | Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirmed Tehran finalized a memorandum of understanding — all military operations on all fronts (including Lebanon) would cease "immediately and permanently." Naval blockade against Iran to be lifted immediately. Noted final negotiations deferred until Washington fulfills its commitments under the MOU first. Iranian state TV broadcast banner declaring US had been "forced to sign an agreement to end the war." (CNBC, AP) | || **Nuclear provisions** | JD Vance in Fox News interview: Iran never possessing a nuclear weapon is "built into this agreement" and US will be able to verify compliance. 60-day period for technical talks on removing/destroying Iran's enriched uranium. (BBC, CNBC) | || **Sanctions relief** | European nations (UK, Germany, France, Italy) said Sunday they were willing to lift sanctions on Iran in exchange for nuclear steps. "Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon. We stand ready to work with the US, Iran and the IAEA to this end." (Reuters via CNBC) | || **Expected deal terms** | Phased lifting of sanctions on Iran; release of frozen Iranian assets (reported \$24bn or \$12bn — conflicting estimates). US would present a plan to "rebuild Iran's economy" per Sharif. Iran wants deal allowing Tehran to charge ships "for services rendered" when they transit the strait. | || **Israel wildcard** | Trump told Wall Street Journal he was furious at Netanyahu for ordering strikes on Lebanon that risked torpedoing the deal. "He should not be doing that," Trump said. Israel's Defense Minister Katz warned Israel could act independently toward Iran and would

not pull out of occupied zones. (BBC, AP) | || **Trump's birthday** | The deal was announced on Trump's 80th birthday (14 June) — described by BBC's Anthony Zurcher as "a very welcome birthday present — although it's wrapped in a fair measure of uncertainty." Trump celebrated with UFC cage fights at the White House. (BBC, AP) | || **Qatar welcomes** | Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the agreement, including measures to ensure freedom of navigation in Hormuz. (CNBC) | || **Oil markets** | Brent crude fell 4.3% to \$83.55/barrel; US-traded oil down 4.9% to \$80.74. Oil had been at ~\$70/barrel before war started, peaked at ~\$120 during conflict. Energy experts warn returning to normal will take time — mines need clearing (weeks to 6 months), large tanker backlog. (BBC) | || **Stock markets** | Asian equities surged: Japan's Nikkei 225 +4.7%, South Korea's Kospi +5.2% — region hit particularly hard by higher energy prices. US stock futures also jumped. (BBC, CNBC) | || **US domestic politics** | YouGov poll: 63% of Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of the economy, 57% feel economy getting worse. Deal could ease economic strain before November midterms. US inflation hit 4.2% in May — highest in 3 years. (BBC, CNBC) | || **UK economy** | UK contracted 0.1% in April — first monthly fall since August 2025, attributed to Iran war impact on businesses. (BBC, 12 June) | || **Uncertainty remains** | Details of deal are scarce. Critics note this is Trump's ~40th promise a deal is imminent — he has previously claimed deals that never materialized (e.g. Gaza "peace for all eternity" deal). Iran's insistence on postponing final negotiations until US commitments fulfilled adds risk. | || **Hormuz reopening challenges** | Mines need to be cleared from the waterway (few weeks to 6 months per Andrew Lipow, Lipow Oil Associates). Large tanker backlog. Restarting oil production and loading could take weeks. Admiral Montgomery (retired): returning to normal "not an overnight thing" — a month or 45 days. (BBC) |

16 June 2026 — Fragile Quiet in Lebanon as US-Iran Truce Leaves Unanswered Questions

Detail	Info
Date	16 June 2026 (Day 109)
Location	Lebanon; Tehran; Washington DC
Event	Fragile quiet in Lebanon as the US-Iran truce leaves unanswered questions. Hezbollah and Israel observe an uneasy halt to major hostilities, but Israeli forces remain in southern Lebanon. Iran insists Lebanon must be covered by the ceasefire. Details of the peace deal remain scarce. Oil prices continue to slide on deal optimism — Brent crude dips to \$86/barrel (three-month low).

17 June 2026 — ? Trump at G7; Deal Details Emerge; Israel Strikes Lebanon Despite Trump Criticism; Iran Warns on Hormuz Tolls;

Republicans Attack Deal

Detail	Info
Date	17 June 2026 (Day 110)
Location	Évian-les-Bains, France (G7); Tehran; Jerusalem; Washington DC
Event	Trump attends G7 summit at Évian-les-Bains as deal details emerge. US officials brief media verbatim on the 14-point MoU text for the first time. VP JD Vance becomes face of the deal — the skeptic of foreign wars now selling Trump's peace. Israel launches fresh strikes on Lebanon despite Trump criticism. Trump admonishes Netanyahu at G7: "You don't have to knock down a building every time someone walks into it from Hezbollah." Iran says Strait of Hormuz will "not return to pre-war conditions" — will charge ships after 60-day window. Top Republicans attack deal: Sen. Cassidy (R-LA): "worst foreign policy blunder in decades." Sen. Cruz (R-TX): "giving billions of dollars to theocratic lunatics." Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem hails deal as "great victory." France's Macron hosts Trump at Palace of Versailles for state dinner — Trump signs MoU at Versailles. Brent crude dips below \$80/barrel. Vance expected to sign at formal Geneva ceremony Friday.
Trump at G7	Trump attends G7 summit in Évian-les-Bains, France. Defends the deal as averting "worldwide depression." Trump: "The alternative would be a worldwide depression."
14-point MoU revealed	Senior US officials brief reporters verbatim on all 14 points of the Memorandum of Understanding. Text had been withheld for days. BBC, AP, Guardian, Al Jazeera publish detailed breakdowns.
Vance becomes deal's face	VP JD Vance, known for skepticism of foreign wars, becomes the public face of the Iran peace deal. AP: "Vance, skeptical of foreign wars, becomes the face of Trump's tentative deal to end war with Iran."
Trump signs at Versailles	Trump signs hard copy of MoU at state dinner hosted by French President Macron at the Palace of Versailles. The White House confirms to BBC.
Pezeshkian signs in Tehran	Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signs the document from Tehran, per White House confirmation.
Israel strikes Lebanon	Israel launches fresh airstrikes in southern Lebanon on 17 June despite the US-Iran deal requiring a halt on "all fronts." Iran warns this is a "violation of the understanding."

Detail	Info
Trump admonishes Netanyahu	Trump at G7: Netanyahu is a "good man" but could do with "a little softer touch." Trump: "You don't have to knock down a building every time someone walks into it that's from Hezbollah."
Iran: Hormuz tolls coming after 60 days	Iran's chief negotiator Ghalibaf: Strait of Hormuz "will not return to pre-war conditions." Iran will charge ships for transit after the 60-day toll-free window.
Republican backlash	Sen. Cassidy (R-LA): "This is the worst foreign policy blunder in decades." Sen. Cruz (R-TX): "Giving billions of dollars to theocratic lunatics who want to murder us is not a good idea." Sen. Shaheen (D-NH): "A very bad deal."
Hezbollah victory	Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem calls the agreement a "great victory."
Ballistic missiles	Trump says it's "OK" for Iran to have ballistic missiles "if other countries have them" — a major reversal from his earlier vow to obliterate them.
Oil markets	Brent crude dips below \$80/barrel (Trump claims \$72). Asian stocks rally. Oil still ~\$8 higher than pre-war levels.
UK economy	UK economy contracted 0.1% in April 2026 — first monthly fall since August 2025, attributed by ONS to Iran war impact. Energy price cap to rise 13% in July.

18 June 2026 — ??? DEAL SIGNED: Trump and Pezeshkian Sign 14-Point MoU; Strait of Hormuz to Reopen Toll-Free for 60 Days

Detail	Info
Date	18 June 2026 (Day 111)
Location	Palace of Versailles, France; Tehran; Global markets
Event	HISTORIC SIGNING — Presidents formally sign 14-point MoU ending the 111-day war. The deal is now in effect. Strait of Hormuz toll-free for 60 days — then Iran will charge. \$300bn reconstruction fund pledged (not US-funded). Nuclear down-blending in 60 days under IAEA. Bipartisan backlash in US Congress. Israel's position unresolved. Oil below \$80. Asian stocks rally. Vance expected to sign at Geneva Friday. G7 leaders welcome deal.
Trump signs at Versailles	Trump signs the Memorandum of Understanding at a state dinner hosted by Macron at the Palace of Versailles during the G7 summit. (BBC, Guardian, AP, Al Jazeera)

Detail	Info
Pezeshkian signs from Tehran	Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signs the document from Tehran. (Guardian, BBC)
MoU now in effect	White House official confirms to BBC: the agreement is signed and now in effect. (BBC)
Vance expected in Geneva	JD Vance expected to sign at formal ceremony in Geneva on Friday. Trump initially said he "might" stay in Europe for signing. (Guardian)
Strait of Hormuz	Toll-free passage for 60 days. Iran will then charge — Ghalibaf: "Will not return to prewar conditions." De-mining operations underway. US to end blockade within 30 days proportionally. (BBC, Guardian)
Nuclear provisions	Iran "shall not procure or develop nuclear weapons." 440kg enriched uranium to be down-blended in place under IAEA supervision. Trump open to stockpile staying in Iran — a concession. (BBC, Guardian, AP)
\$300bn reconstruction fund	NOT funded by US. Trump: "not putting up even 10 cents." Gulf states expected to fund. (Guardian)
Sanctions	US to terminate all sanctions on Iran — timeline TBD in final deal. Oil waivers to be issued immediately. (BBC)
Frozen assets	Trump: "It's not our money, it's their money... I guess we're going to have to give it back." (Guardian)
Ballistic missiles	Trump says it's "OK" for Iran to have them "if other countries have them." Major reversal from pre-war position. (Guardian)
Lebanon clause	Deal includes Lebanon. Iran warns any continuation of Israeli operations is a "violation." Israel launched fresh strikes 17 June despite this. (BBC, Guardian)
60-day timeline	Countdown has begun for final deal negotiations. Extendable by mutual consent. Final deal to be endorsed by binding UN Security Council resolution. (BBC)
G7 reaction	Macron: "very good deal." G7 leaders endorse it but want follow-on talks on ballistic missiles and regional proxies. (Guardian)
Oil markets	Al Jazeera: "Oil prices fall, stocks rally as US, Iran sign framework to end war." Brent crude dips below \$80 (Trump claims \$72). Asian shares shrug off Wall St blues (AP: Nikkei +2.3%, Kospi +3.1%).
Cassidy (R-LA)	"Worst foreign policy blunder in decades."
Cruz (R-TX)	"Giving billions to theocratic lunatics who want to murder us."
Shaheen (D-NH)	"A very bad deal" — hasn't addressed Iran's proxies or missile programme.
Ghalibaf (Iran)	"The agreement is a record of US failure."

Detail	Info
Hezbollah (Qassem)	"Great victory."
Netanyahu	Faces political nightmare. Trump admonished him at G7. Israel continues strikes. (BBC: "Iran deal presents political nightmare for Netanyahu")
Trump threat	Warned he'd "bomb the hell" out of Iran if no final deal emerges. (BBC)

Timeline

Date	Event
28 Feb 2026	✂ US-Israel joint strikes on Iran; Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei killed ; full-scale war begins
Late Mar 2026	IRGC Navy Chief Alireza Tangsiri killed in further strikes
8 Apr 2026	Pakistan-mediated ceasefire agreed — never fully held
Late Apr-May 2026	Multiple skirmishes; US boards Iranian oil tanker at sea; Strait of Hormuz blockaded by Iran
18 May 2026	Iran weapons demonstration in Tehran — Khaybar-buster missiles shown
25 May 2026	Trump says MoU "largely negotiated"; Iranian delegation heads to Qatar; oil prices fall on optimism
25-26 May 2026	🇺🇸 US strikes missile sites and mine-laying boats near Bandar Abbas ; IRGC downs US Reaper drone; 4 IRGC troops killed ; Tanker explosion off Oman
26 May 2026	Rubio says deal could take days; Iran's Supreme Leader warns US; talks ongoing in Doha; Iran internet begins restoring after 88-day blackout
27 May 2026	🇶🇦 Doha talks collapse — Iran walks out; oil surges past \$120/barrel; Starmer backs US in Parliament; US Senate advances war-ending bill; Trump calls off planned strike after Gulf states intervene ; Iraq oil output crashes 60%
28 May 2026	🇮🇷 Dramatic escalation: US-Iran exchange strikes. US downs 4 Iranian drones near Hormuz + strikes ground control station in Bandar Abbas. IRGC retaliates targeting US airbase in Kuwait. Trump threatens to "blow up" Oman.
29 May 2026	🇮🇷 Tentative 60-day MoU reached. Trump shares draft with Israel. Bessent threatens Oman. Oil below \$100/bbl.

Date	Event
30 May 2026	🇺🇸 Trump reviews deal in Situation Room for 2+ hours — no decision. Hegseth warns US "more than capable" of resuming war. US seizes \$1bn in Iranian crypto.
31 May 2026	🇺🇸 Trump sends 60-day MoU back to Iran for tougher terms. US disables commercial ship. IRGC downs US MQ-1 drone. US soldiers injured in Kuwait.
1 June 2026	🇺🇸 FRESH STRIKES: US bombs Qeshm/Goruk; Iran retaliates Kuwait/UAE. BBC Verify: 20 US sites damaged. Pezeshkian offers resignation. Trump third round of edits.
2 June 2026	🇺🇸 Lebanon attacks continue despite Trump's ceasefire claim. Ben-Gvir urges "say no to Trump." Rubio testifies.
3 June 2026	🇺🇸 US bombs Qeshm ground station; Iran hits Kuwait airport with drones. US disables oil tanker. Rubio: "the war is over."
4 June 2026	🇺🇸 House votes 215-208 to halt Iran war — bipartisan rebuke. Iran oil exports crash 90%+.
5-8 June 2026	Ceasefire continues eroding. Intermittent strikes. Oil volatile.
9 June 2026	🇺🇸 US Apache helicopter shot down near Strait of Hormuz. Trump vows response.
10 June 2026	🇺🇸 US launches new strikes on Iranian military/surveillance sites. Iran retaliates against US bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan.
11 June 2026	🇺🇸 MAJOR ESCALATION: US fires 49 Tomahawk missiles — some 40 miles from Tehran. Iran closes Strait of Hormuz completely. Kuwait closes airspace.
12-13 June 2026	Diplomacy intensifies. Trump threatens Kharg Island. Pakistan mediation speeds up. Trump at G7.
14-15 June 2026	🇺🇸🇮🇷 HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH: US-IRAN PEACE DEAL ANNOUNCED. Trump: "The deal is now complete." Strait of Hormuz to reopen Friday 19 June. Signing ceremony in Switzerland. Oil tumbles 4-5% (Brent \$83.55). Asian stocks surge. Details scarce. Trump furious at Netanyahu.
16 June 2026	Fragile quiet in Lebanon as truce leaves unanswered questions. Israel forces remain in southern Lebanon. Oil dips to \$86 (three-month low).

Date	Event
17 June 2026	☐ Trump at G7 in France. 14-point MoU details revealed. Israel strikes Lebanon despite deal. Trump admonishes Netanyahu. Iran warns Hormuz will charge after 60 days. Top Republicans attack deal. Hezbollah declares "great victory." Trump signs MoU at Versailles dinner. Brent below \$80.
18 June 2026	☐☐☐☐ DEAL SIGNED: Trump + Pezeshkian sign 14-point MoU. Now in effect. Hormuz toll-free 60 days. \$300bn reconstruction fund. Nuclear down-blending. Bipartisan backlash. Brent below \$80. Asian stocks rally. Vance to sign Geneva Friday.
23 June 2026	☐ Senate passes War Powers Resolution 50-48 — first time both chambers have approved concurrent resolution ending presidential military action since 1973. Trump calls it "meaningless." US issues 60-day oil sanctions waiver (until Aug 21). Israel kills 2 in southern Lebanon. Israel-Lebanon direct talks begin in DC.
24 June 2026	Oil falls to pre-war levels. 20M barrels exited Hormuz in 24hrs. IRGC warns: no tolls in Hormuz or deal's off. UAE rejects "new geopolitical facts" imposed by aggression.
25 June 2026	IRGC rejects new Hormuz shipping routes — ships must coordinate on Channel 16 or "face action." Rubio in Bahrain for GCC meeting. Trump asks Congress for \$87.6bn supplemental (\$67.1bn for Pentagon). IMO evacuates ~11,000 seafarers. Iran production at 2,330 BBL/D/1K in May.
26-27 June 2026	☐ US strikes Iranian military targets near Strait of Hormuz in response to drone attack on Panama-flagged tanker MT Kiku (carrying 2M+ barrels crude). CENTCOM: strikes on 10 Iranian targets — missile/drone facilities, radar. Iran accuses US of violating ceasefire. Trump threatens "annihilation."
28 June 2026	☐ Iran retaliates: drone and missile attacks on US bases in Bahrain & Kuwait. IRGC targets US naval base in Bahrain (Fifth Fleet) and Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. US says none reached targets, no casualties/damage. Iran threatens to end talks. Bahrain restricts Shiite holy day amid crackdown.
29 June 2026	☐ US & Iran agree to "stand down" after exchange of strikes. US official: vessels can transit Hormuz "freely." Talks in Doha set for Tuesday (June 30) to resolve Hormuz dispute. Iran skips technical talks Sunday. FM Araghchi insists on sole Iranian control of Hormuz. US envoy Waltz: Iran "completely isolated" on tolls. Oil volatile. Israeli cyber chief: Iranian cyberattacks surged to ~4,800/month.

Date	Event
30 June - 1 July 2026	🇺🇸 Doha talks: US envoys meet mediators, NOT Iranians. No direct US-Iran meetings scheduled. Technical-level talks continue. \$6bn frozen funds release stalled — depends on progress that hasn't happened. Iran separately meets Qatari mediators on 1 July to discuss MoU implementation.
2-3 July 2026	Ali Khamenei's six-day funeral begins. Body lies in state at Grand Mosalla. 12-20 million expected. Led by cleric Jafar Sobhani (97).
4 July 2026	Millions gather in Tehran as funeral procession begins. Public holiday declared. Bodies of Khamenei and four relatives displayed.
5 July 2026	🇮🇷 Mojtaba Khamenei absent from father's funeral — three brothers attend, along with Pezeshkian and IRGC chief Vahidi. Crowds chant "death to America" and call for killing of Trump. Iran seeks tighter Hormuz control alongside funeral. BBC InDepth analysis: New Iranian leadership more aggressive than old guard.
6 July 2026	🇮🇷 Massive funeral procession through Tehran continues. Trump says peace talks paused for week, mocks mourners. OPEC+ 7 countries agree to modest monthly oil production increase.
7 July 2026	🇺🇸🇺🇸 CEASEFIRE COLLAPSES: Iran attacks 3 commercial vessels (Qatari tanker Al-Rekayyat, Saudi tanker Wadyan, 3rd vessel) in Strait of Hormuz using unauthorized route not approved by Iran. US launches "powerful strikes" — CENTCOM hits 80+ targets: air defense systems, coastal radar, fast boats, missile launch sites, command centers. US Treasury revokes oil sanctions waiver that was part of MoU. NATO summit in Ankara — Trump declares ceasefire "over." Nato chief Rutte backs US strikes as "absolutely necessary."
8 July 2026	🇺🇸🇺🇸 SECOND NIGHT OF STRIKES: US hits Bushehr (nuclear plant area), Chabahar, Konarak, Bandar Abbas, Sirik, Qeshm Island, Iranshahr. Bridges targeted for first time since April — Golestan railway bridge hit en route to Mashhad. Firefighter killed at Iranshahr airport. IRGC retaliates — drone/missile attacks on US bases in Bahrain (Juffair/5th Fleet HQ), Kuwait (Camp Arifjan, Ali Al Salem Air Base), and Qatar. Kuwait intercepts incoming projectiles. Sirens sound in Bahrain. Trump at NATO threatens "it will get much worse" if Hormuz attacks repeat. Renews threats on Kharg Island and civilian infrastructure. Khamenei funeral ceremonies in Najaf, Iraq. Oil rises 3% (Brent \$76). Iran's Ghalibaf: "We don't fold."
	9 July 2026

Date	Event
	10-11 July 2026
	12 July 2026
	14 July 2026

Key Players

Person	Role
- Donald Trump	US President — 14-16 July: Threatens to bomb bridges and power plants "next week" unless Iran talks (Fox News). Says "We're beating them up." US naval blockade on Iranian ports goes into effect. Strikes expand into northern Iran — Semnam Airport hit, explosion in Tehran. Says Iran released American detainee Dena Karari as "gesture of goodwill." 13 July: Says "We're beating them up" as US launches new wave of strikes. No diplomatic outreach visible. 8 July: At NATO summit in Ankara, declares ceasefire "over" after Iran attacks ships in Hormuz. Says "if it happens again, it will get much worse!" Renews threats to hit civilian infrastructure (power plants, desalination) and seize Kharg Island. Says "anything that happens is going to happen very fast." Posts videos of explosions in Iran on Truth Social. Previously (5 July): Said peace talks paused for week due to Khamenei funeral. Said US could take out all senior Iranian officials with "one shot" but won't because "we'd have nobody to negotiate with"; mocked Iranian mourners. Earlier (18 June): Signed 14-point MoU at Palace of Versailles during G7. Defended deal as averting "worldwide depression." Warned he'd "bomb the hell" out of Iran if final deal fails. Said "OK" for Iran to have ballistic missiles. Admitted US must return frozen assets.
Pete Hegseth	US Secretary of Defence — warned US "more than capable" of resuming war. Declared Hormuz will open without Iranian tolls.
Marco Rubio	US Secretary of State — declared "the war is over" in Senate testimony. Key negotiator.
JD Vance	US Vice President — 18 June: Becomes face of the deal. Expected to sign at formal Geneva ceremony. Previously confirmed nuclear non-proliferation "built into this agreement."

Person	Role
Scott Bessent	US Treasury Secretary — threatened Oman sanctions. Seized \$1bn in Iranian crypto.
Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei	Iran's Supreme Leader (succeeded Ali Khamenei) — 5-6 July: Conspicuously absent from father's funeral. Not seen in public since appointment in early March. Speculation he was wounded in Feb 28 strikes continues. Previously endorsed talks.
Masoud Pezeshkian	Iran's President — 5 July: Attended Khamenei funeral. Previously signed MoU from Tehran. Previously offered resignation.
Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf	Iran's parliamentary speaker + chief negotiator — called deal "a record of US failure." Said Strait of Hormuz "will not return to prewar conditions" — Iran will charge after 60 days. Part of new, more aggressive generation.
Shehbaz Sharif	Pakistan PM — KEY MEDIATOR who announced peace deal 14 June.
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israeli PM — Faces political nightmare. Trump admonished at G7. Israel continues strikes on Lebanon despite deal.
Naim Qassem	Hezbollah chief — Hailed deal as "great victory."
Mike Waltz	US envoy to UN — Says Iran "completely isolated" on Hormuz tolls. Claims UAE and Saudi Arabia building alternative pipelines, China opposed fees, Oman rejected Iran's proposal.
Ahmad Vahidi	IRGC chief — 5 July: Attended Khamenei funeral. Part of new, more aggressive IRGC-linked leadership.

Strait of Hormuz — The Strategic Prize

- Passageway for ~**20% of global oil and gas**
- Iran blockaded the strait since late April 2026
- US naval blockade around Iran enforced
- **18 June: 🇺🇸🇮🇷 DEAL SIGNED — Strait to reopen toll-free for 60 days.** US blockade to end within 30 days. Iran will charge ships after the 60-day window. Ghalibaf: "Will not return to prewar conditions."
- **25 June: IRGC rejects new shipping routes** — warns any vessel using routes without Tehran's coordination "will be in danger." Ships must coordinate on Channel 16. Trump says "no further Naval Blockade" but "all ships remaining in place should it be necessary." 20M barrels exited Hormuz in 24hrs. IMO evacuating ~11,000 stranded seafarers. Oil at pre-war levels.
- **26-29 June: Renewed strikes over Hormuz.** US struck Iranian targets June 26-27 (10 targets); Iran retaliated on US bases in Bahrain & Kuwait June 28. Both sides agreed to

"stand down" June 29. Doha talks set for June 30. Iran insists on sole control — FM Araghchi: "responsibility lies solely with Tehran." US envoy Waltz: Iran "completely isolated" on tolls. 48 vessels passed through between June 26-28 (Al Jazeera analysis). 172+ vessels crossed since deal signed.

- **30 June - 1 July: Doha talks stall** — US envoys met mediators only, no direct Iran meetings. Iran separately discusses MoU implementation with Qatari mediators.
- **5-6 July: Iran seeks to tighten control over strait alongside Khamenei funeral** — Guardian reports Iran "jealously competing with Oman" over management. Tehran believes it should control the shipping route; Oman has its own plans. IRGC insists all vessels must coordinate on Channel 16. |- **De-mining operations underway** — could take weeks to months (Andrew Lipow: few weeks to 6 months). Large tanker backlog. Admiral Montgomery (retired): "not an overnight thing" — month or 45 days. ||- **7-9 July: CEASEFIRE COLLAPSES over Hormuz**. Iran attacks 3 commercial vessels (Al-Rekayyat/Qatar, Wadyan/Saudi Arabia, 3rd vessel) trying to transit unauthorized routes July 7. US launches two nights of massive strikes. Iran retaliates against Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar. Trump declares ceasefire "over." Treasury revokes oil sanctions waiver. Talks in complete limbo. Khamenei buried in Mashhad July 9. |||- **10-13 July: [] FULL WAR RESUMED**. US launches 300+ strikes over three nights (including 140+ in a single night) targeting southern Iran: Qeshm Island, Bandar Abbas, Jask, Sirik, Khondab. Iran's electricity grid heavily damaged (2,000+ points). IRGC declares strait "closed" — only 6 vessels transit July 12 (multi-week low). Iran retaliates against six Gulf states including Qatar (mediator, first time since April). Oil jumps 3.5% (Brent \$78.68). Iran says diplomacy "futile." Ghalibaf: "era of one-sided deals is OVER." Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority says passage "not currently possible." US Navy offers "expanded" southern route near Oman. MoU "largely undermined" — no diplomatic path visible. |||- **14-16 July: [] US NAVAL BLOCKADE IN EFFECT; STRIKES EXPAND INTO NORTHERN IRAN**. US naval blockade on Iranian ports goes into effect (14 July). Strikes expand into northern Iran for first time — Semnam Airport (~100 miles east of Tehran) targeted; explosion in Tehran. US disables empty oil tanker bound for Iran. Iran says "no plans for negotiations." IRGC Navy vows to keep Hormuz closed. Trump threatens bridges and power plants. Brent crude stabilises around \$84.56. Shipping through Strait of Hormuz still subdued after blockade reinstated. |- \$300bn reconstruction fund could give Gulf states leverage over Iran's behaviour. |- Longer-term: Iran to work with Oman and Gulf states on broader agreement for strait management.

Market Impact

|| Indicator | Movement | ||-----|-----| ||| **Oil prices | 16 July: Brent \$84.56 (down 0.46% on day; up 6.3% over past month; up 21.64% YoY). WTI ~\$80/barrel**. Crude prices rising for 4th day as US-Iran attacks continue. Oil scarcity: global safety net running thin (CNN analysis). **13 July: Brent jumps 3.51% to \$78.68** after renewed US-Iran strikes. Still well below war highs (~\$120). Pre-war ~\$70/bbl. **8 July: Brent +3% to \$76. 6 July: OPEC+ 7 countries agree to expand monthly oil production modestly** as prices slide (AP). **25 June: Fallen to pre-war**

levels. ~20M barrels exited Hormuz in 24 hours (US Energy Sec Wright). | | **Iran oil exports** | **25 June: Crude production at 2,330 BBL/D/1K in May** (vs 2,875 in April) — TradingEconomics. Exports recovering rapidly since deal: 36M barrels in 6 days (June 15-21). 60-day sanctions waiver in effect until Aug 21. | | **Global stocks** | Asian shares rally on deal progress. Nikkei +2.3%, Kospi +3.1%. US stock futures positive. (AP, Al Jazeera) | | **10Y Treasury** | 4.60% — highest since February 2025 | | **30Y Bond** | Above 5% | | **Fed rate cut probability 2026** | Near zero. Fed now expected to RAISE rates before end of year due to Iran war inflation. | | **Hormuz shipping** | **30 June - 1 July: Doha talks stall.** IRGC continues to insist ships must coordinate on Channel 16. 172+ vessels crossed since deal signed (BBC). IMO evacuating ~11,000 stranded seafarers. | | **US hiring (June)** | US hiring falls in June — consumers still gloomy about economy (AP, July 4). | | **UK energy price cap** | Set to rise 13% from July — average bill +£221/yr | | **Iraq oil production** | Crashed from 4.3m bpd to ~1.7m bpd — 60% drop | | **US inflation** | 4.2% in May — highest in 3 years | | **China** | China emerges as winner from Trump's Iran war — stockpiles and renewables industry allowed it to withstand energy shock (Guardian, 30 June). |

International Reactions

Actor	Position
	Iran
Israel	25 June: Israel kills 2 in southern Lebanon (Nabatieh al-Fawqa) on 23 June despite ceasefire. Netanyahu says troops will continue to occupy southern Lebanon. Israel-Lebanon direct talks begin in DC. Soldier killed in refueling truck accident. US-Israel relations increasingly strained — Al Jazeera asks "Is the US really preparing to drop Israel?" (6 July).
Hezbollah	25 June: Calls Israeli killing of 2 civilians "blatant violation" of ceasefire. Deputy head Qamati: "Hezbollah remains fully alert with its finger on the trigger."
IAEA	To supervise down-blending of Iran's 440kg enriched uranium stockpile in place.
Russia	Engaged in Ukraine war; no direct comment.
Pakistan	KEY MEDIATOR. PM Shehbaz Sharif announced peace deal 14 June.
China	30 June: Guardian report — China is a clear winner from Trump's Iran war. Beijing's stockpiles and renewables industry allowed it to withstand energy shock. China now gaining from global solar and EV push. Pushing for UN Security Council ratification of final deal.

Actor	Position
Gulf states	5-6 July: Iran seeks tighter Hormuz control; Oman competing for role. Bahrain condemned Iranian attacks. Kuwait defended against missiles. UAE presidential adviser Gargash: "New geopolitical facts cannot be imposed on the Arab Gulf states." Rubio in Bahrain promising to protect GCC interests. Gulf states questioning US security umbrella (BBC InDepth analysis). Expected to fund \$300bn reconstruction fund. Reports Saudi Arabia preparing to hold "reconciliation summit" with Iran.
G7	18 June: Macron: "very good deal." G7 leaders endorse but want follow-on talks on ballistic missiles and regional proxies. France/UK propose taskforce to escort ships through Hormuz.
France	Macron hosts Trump at Versailles for signing. Calls deal "very good deal."
UK	Endorsed G7 statement. UK economy contracted 0.1% in April — Iran war impact. Willing to lift sanctions. Energy price cap rising 13% in July. Nearly 6,000 jobs at risk in south Wales from war fallout.
UN	Guterres previously: ceasefire "more like a lesser-fire." IMO announces evacuation plan for ~11,000 seafarers. Final deal to be endorsed by binding UN Security Council resolution.
UNSC	Final deal to be endorsed by binding UN Security Council resolution.
OPEC+	6 July: 7 countries agree to expand monthly oil production modestly as prices slide (AP).
Experts	BBC InDepth (Paul Adams, 5 July): Iran's new generation more aggressive, caught White House by surprise. Vali Nasr (Johns Hopkins): "This war is much more consequential than we have given it credit for." Sanam Vakil (Chatham House): "Window of opportunity" but Trump could get impatient and start "round three." Ali Vaez (ICG): "Plastic moment" — Gulf states questioning US security umbrella. Brookings (Maloney): "level of expertise required for nuclear piece seems overwhelming."

UK & Welsh Connections

UK Military

- **HMS Dragon** (Type 45 Destroyer) deployed to Eastern Mediterranean
- **UK and France** to lead defensive mission in Strait of Hormuz

- UK allowed US to use **RAF Akrotiri and Dhekelia** bases in Cyprus
- **No British casualties reported**
- **NATO Chief Mark Rutte backed US strikes on Iran (8 July)** — called them "absolutely necessary" at Ankara summit, arguing Iran was "basically violating the ceasefire" by attacking ships in Hormuz
- **Yvette Cooper condemned Israel's Lebanon incursion** — strongest Labour government criticism
- **British couple lose Iran appeal** — Craig and Lindsay Foreman remain detained

Economic Impact on UK/Wales

- **UK economy contracted 0.1% in April** — first monthly fall since August 2025, attributed to Iran war (ONS, 12 June 2026)
- **Energy price cap to rise 13% from July** — average bill +£221/yr
- **5,700 jobs forecast lost in south Wales** — one of worst-hit UK regions due to energy-intensive manufacturing
- **UK-wide: 163,000 net job losses** forecast (Item Club)
- **UK services PMI dipped below 50** in May — first contraction since 2025
- **European powers (including UK) willing to lift Iran sanctions** — "Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon" (joint statement, 14 June)
- **Petrol and diesel prices rose** — expected to ease with peace deal signing

UK Government

- Starmer chaired Cabinet committee on Iran crisis
- Starmer said UK will NOT join Trump's blockade of Iran's ports
- Rachel Reeves announced cost-of-living measures: fuel duty cut, VAT cuts, tariff suspensions
- Liz Saville Roberts MP (Plaid Cymru) criticised UK Government's cost-of-living package — highlighted energy inequality

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2026 FIFA World Cup Controversies

2026 FIFA World Cup Controversies

Last updated: 12 June 2026 (all TODOs researched and resolved)

Tracking document for the political, human rights, and governance controversies surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted jointly by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The tournament was marketed as a unifying moment - "United 2026" was the bid slogan - but has been overshadowed by US domestic policy, geopolitical tensions, and FIFA's increasingly cosy relationship with the Trump administration.

Immigration and Visa Policy

The single biggest controversy. US immigration and visa policies under the second Trump administration have affected players, officials, and fans from several qualified nations.

ICE at Stadiums

Reports emerged in early 2026 that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents could be deployed at match venues.

- **Amnesty International (11 Jun 2025):** "Urgent human rights risks in 2026 host countries - particularly in the USA - are impacting immigrants, the right to protest." Urgent human rights risks in 2026 host countries - particularly in the USA - are impacting immigrants, the right to protest. <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/latest/world-cup-2026-growing-threats-human-rights-set-undermine-fifas-responsibilities-one/>
- **Human Rights Watch (11 Jun 2025):** "FIFA should publicly acknowledge the threat US immigration and other anti-human rights policies pose to the tournament's integrity and use its leverage." <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/06/11/world-cup-a-year-out-growing-attacks-on-rights>

- **The Guardian (1 Jun 2026):** Immigration activists reported receiving conflicting signals about ICE's role at World Cup venues. Trump administration messaging has been inconsistent. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jun/01/ice-fifa-world-cup-immigrant-rights>
- **Mother Jones (~6 Jun 2026):** Flagged violent and unconstitutional immigration enforcement including racial profiling, suppression of speech and protest, and increased surveillance around tournament venues. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/06/ice-dhs-world-cup-mullin-us-travel-warning-immigration-enforcement/>

Scale of Enforcement in Host Cities

Per Nitter aggregation (10 Jun 2026): "Human rights groups have warned that Trump's immigration crackdowns are endangering 2026 World Cup fans. ICE arrested 167,000+ people in host cities since Jan 2025. FIFA faces criticism for silence and for awarding Trump its 'Peace Award'."

Secure America Act (10 Jun 2026)

Signed into law one day before the tournament window officially opened. Primary purpose: guarantee long-term funding for border security and immigration enforcement, preventing congressional defunding of enforcement agencies during the Trump administration. Timing seen as deliberately provocative given the World Cup backdrop.

Trump Threats to FIFA

Per Nitter (10 Jun 2026, 8:30 AM UTC): "President Donald Trump has reportedly issued a stark warning to FIFA President Gianni Infantino regarding the 2026 World Cup, threatening to direct Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)" - context suggests conditional deployment tied to FIFA cooperation with US policy.

Celtic Nations Affected

Scotland Fans - ESTAs Revoked En Masse

The most significant impact on a Celtic nation is Scotland, whose fans travelling to the US for Scotland's first World Cup since 1998 have faced mass revocation of their Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) approvals days or hours before travel.

- **Michael Wright (Greenock/Australia):** Had his ESTA revoked while at airport security at Manchester Airport, an hour before his flight. His visa status changed from "approved"

to "pending" to "travel not authorised" with no explanation. He had tickets for Scotland's group stage games against Haiti and Morocco, had travelled from Australia for the trip, and lost an estimated GBP 4,500-5,000. His brother had to travel alone. "I don't think I've ever felt that bad," he said. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c15y4l2zgnxo>

- **Multiple families:** BBC Scotland News reported on families who had approved ESTAs revoked days before departure. Social media reports indicate dozens of Scottish fans affected.
- **US Homeland Security spokesperson:** Stated the tightening was because "the Trump administration is enforcing immigration laws" and that "all ESTA applications are continuously vetted against law enforcement and security databases."
- **Some fans directed to US Consulate in Belfast** for last-minute visa appointments.
- **First Minister John Swinney** raised the issue in the Scottish Parliament and with the US Consul General in Scotland: "I have asked officials to convey our hope that they can resolve this so that Scotland's fans do not miss out."
https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/49011169/first-minister-scottish-fans-entry-world-cup
- **Broader UK context:** The Guardian notes the ESTA system has thrown "British fans" into chaos. Scotland is the only Celtic nation to qualify (England also qualified, Wales/NI/Ireland did not). UK citizens wanting to visit the US for up to 90 days without a visa need ESTA approval (\$40/GBP 30). Those denied ESTA must apply for a full visitor visa (\$185/GBP 140).

Other UK/Celtic Officials

No specific Welsh, Northern Irish, or Irish referees or officials were identified as being denied entry. The 52 World Cup referees include officials from across the globe. Scotland's participation as a FIFA member nation means Scottish FA officials and support staff accompanied the team.

Impact on Fan Attendance

The ESTA revocations are part of a broader pattern. Morocco fans reported widespread visa denials. The Trump administration's travel ban affects 39 countries. The ESTA revocation issue specifically hits Visa Waiver Program countries including the UK.

Iran's Participation

Iran qualified but their participation has been a diplomatic minefield given US-Iran tensions.

Walk-Off Threat (11 Jun 2026)

Iran's Minister of Sport Ahmad Donyamali told local outlet Varzesh3 (via @hamidu_ug, 11 Jun 2026, 8:06 AM UTC):

“ "We have informed FIFA that members of the national team would leave the match as soon as they heard political slogans in the stadiums."

Iranian leadership also insisted to FIFA that only the Islamic Republic's official flag is legal - not the pre-1979 Lion and Sun flag used by the diaspora. The team will walk off if there is any "error in that representation."

This sets up a direct collision with US First Amendment protections and the reality that large Iranian diaspora communities in host cities will bring both flags and slogans.

Trade War and Co-Host Tensions

The Guardian (28 Mar 2025): "The 2026 World Cup, heralded as a uniter, is facing divisive road blocks. And on-again, off-again trade war and threats from the US toward both of its co-hosts." <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2025/mar/27/2026-world-cup-trade-war-us-mexico-canada-travel>

Trump's tariff threats against Mexico and Canada have periodically strained the tri-nation hosting arrangement. Travel restrictions and rhetoric have made cross-border coordination awkward at best.

Travel Advisories and Banned Nations

US Travel Ban (39 Countries)

The Trump administration's expanded travel ban affects citizens from 39 countries. Four qualified World Cup nations are directly impacted by full or partial bans preventing fans from entering the US:

- **Haiti, Iran, Ivory Coast, Senegal** -- fans from these countries are unable to attend matches on US soil

Visa Bond Program (\$15k Deposit)

50 countries are subject to the "Visa Bond Program" requiring a bond of up to **\$15,000** before travelling to the US. Qualified nations affected: **Algeria, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Tunisia.**

Advisories Issued

- **Amnesty International USA:** Issued a travel advisory warning of the deteriorating human rights situation in the US, urging travellers to exercise extreme caution
- **US State Department:** Updated Mexico travel advisory to **Level 2 ("Exercise Increased Caution")** on 29 May 2026, citing crime and kidnapping risks
- **US Embassy in Mexico:** Issued a specific advisory for American citizens attending World Cup matches in Mexico, warning of security risks and mobility restrictions
- Canada and Mexico have not issued travel bans for specific countries, though both have their own immigration requirements

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 - https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2026/06/10/latam-us-travel-advisory-mexico-world-cup/2671781119853/
-

Climate

Summer heat in several US host cities has raised player and fan safety concerns. Research by Climate Central found that venues in **Dallas, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, and Monterrey (Mexico)** regularly experience June-July humid heat levels that put players at risk (wet-bulb temperatures of 28C/82F or higher).

- **20% of matches** will take place in **air-conditioned stadiums** (including Houston's NRG Stadium, Dallas' AT&T Stadium, Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium)
- Nearly **half of all matches** have a 50%+ probability of heat levels that could impair player performance
- Daytime temperatures in affected cities average around **28C (82F)** during the tournament period
- The number of extremely hot days at World Cup venues has **tripled** compared to the 1970 World Cup (also hosted in North America)
- Outdoor venues without AC (Miami's Hard Rock Stadium, Monterrey's Estadio BBVA) face the highest risk of heat-related disruption

Sources:

- <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/world-cup-stadiums>
 - <https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2026/6/8/how-extreme-weather-and-heat-could-affect-players-at-world-cup-2026>
 - <https://www.npr.org/2026/06/04/nx-s1-5742519/world-cup-fifa-hot-weather-risk-climate-miami>
 - <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2026-fifa-world-cup-games-weather/>
-

NYC Mayor Mamdani vs. Trump

Nitter (10 Jun 2026, 12:00 PM UTC): "New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has launched a sharp criticism of the Trump administration's immigration policies, calling them fundamentally incompatible with the spirit of" - the World Cup, presumably. Mamdani's NYC is a major host city and the mayor has positioned himself as the local counterweight to federal enforcement posture.

FIFA's "Peace Award" to Trump

Widely mocked. FIFA created a brand-new award -- the "**FIFA Peace Prize - Football Unites the World**" -- and presented it to Donald Trump at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC on **Friday, 5 December 2025**, during the 2026 World Cup Final Draw ceremony.

- **FIFA President Gianni Infantino** presented the award, saying: "You can always count, Mr President, on my support and the entire football community, to help you make peace..."
- The award was widely criticised as a transparent quid-pro-quo for Trump's cooperation as host nation leader, with human rights groups calling it "obscene" and "a new low for FIFA"
- Trump later returned to the stage alongside Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum and Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney
- Trump is also scheduled to **co-present the World Cup trophy** at the final on 19 July 2026

Sources:

- <https://inside.fifa.com/campaigns/football-unites-the-world/news/president-trump-peace-prize-football-unites-the-world>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2025/dec/05/fifa-peace-prize-trump-world-cup-infantino>
- <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/cy5gw0wv5zqo>
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/donald-trump-fifa-peace-prize-gianni-infantino-b2878882.html>

Fan Boycott Movement

YouTube aggregation (12 Jan 2026): "The 2026 FIFA World Cup is increasingly being overshadowed by political tension, immigration crackdowns, and rising fears over safety." An "ICE killing" incident (details TBD - need to source the specific incident) triggered explicit boycott talk from international fan groups. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buVdCYZnrQE>

Sources

- Wikipedia: List of 2026 FIFA World Cup controversies
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_2026_FIFA_World_Cup_controversies
 - Amnesty International UK (11 Jun 2025)
 - Human Rights Watch (11 Jun 2025)
 - The Guardian - immigrant rights mobilisation (1 Jun 2026)
 - The Guardian - trade war (28 Mar 2025)
 - The Guardian - visa chaos overview (9 Jun 2026)
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2026/jun/09/world-cup-2026-visa-restrictions-referee-omar-artan-iran-officials>
 - Mother Jones - ICE at World Cup (~6 Jun 2026)
 - BBC News - Scotland fan has US visa revoked an hour before flying (10 Jun 2026)
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c15y4l2zgnxo>
 - BBC News - Scotland fans 'heartbroken' as travel permits withdrawn
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy2yleex87o>
 - BBC News - 'A World Cup for them not us': Fans' anger at US travel bans
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx212p8r28eo>
 - Al Jazeera - Which World Cup teams, players and officials were denied US visas?
<https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2026/6/11/which-world-cup-teams-players-and-officials-were-denied-us-visas-entry>
 - ESPN - First Minister on Scots denied entry for World Cup
https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/49011169/first-minister-scottish-fans-entry-world-cup
 - Nitter local instance (127.0.0.1:8080) - tweet aggregation 10-12 Jun 2026
 - CFR - The Geopolitical Tensions at Play Off the Pitch <https://www.cfr.org/articles/the-u-s-is-co-hosting-the-world-cup-but-much-of-the-world-cant-attend>
 - WIRED - Trump's Border Crackdown Is Wreaking Havoc on the World Cup
<https://www.wired.com/story/world-cup-2026-immigration-visas-travel-issues/>
-

TODO / Gaps

- ☒ Source the specific "ICE killing" incident that triggered the January 2026 boycott talk (Wikipedia: killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal agents in Minneapolis-St Paul, Jan 2026)
- ☒ Player-level visa denials - which players affected, which nations (Brael Embolo, Aymen Hussein; Iran 15 staff; Omar Artan referee)
- ☒ Scotland fan ESTA revocations - detailed section added
- ☒ Climate/heat section - specifics added (WBGT, AC stadiums, venues affected)
- ☒ FIFA "Peace Award" - date, venue, ceremony details, Infantino quotes all added
- ☒ Track which nations have issued travel advisories - Amnesty, US State Dept, US Embassy Mexico
- ☒ Track which qualified nations are affected by US travel ban (Haiti, Iran, Ivory Coast, Senegal)
- ☒ Visa Bond Program details added (\$15k deposit, 50 countries, 5 qualified nations affected)
- ☒ Swinney outcome - raised at FMQs 9 Jun, contacted US Consul General Kathryn Porter, advised FIFA Pass system. No resolution yet.
- ☒ England fans ESTA - no reports found of England fans specifically affected. Issue seems Scotland-specific as they're the ones travelling for matches.
- ☒ Wikipedia page content extracted via Playwright - sections on climate (hydration breaks, Japan training base, environmental impact), immigration policy, Iran, human rights, tickets, bottle bans, stadium access.
- ☐ Pull specific sections from Wikipedia page and integrate into relevant doc sections

Abbas Araghchi — Iran's Foreign Minister

Abbas Araghchi — Iran's Foreign Minister

Role: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran (since 21 August 2024) **Age:** 63 (born 5 December 1962)
Last updated: 26 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Seyyed Abbas Araghchi
Born	5 December 1962, Tehran, Iran
Education	University of Kent (PhD Political Thought)
Languages	Persian, Arabic, English
Previous roles	Chief nuclear negotiator (JCPOA 2013–2015); Ambassador to Finland (1999–2003); Ambassador to Japan (2008–2011)
Military	Served 9 years in IRGC during Iran–Iraq War

Background

A career diplomat with deep IRGC roots. Araghchi served 9 years in the IRGC during the Iran–Iraq War before joining the foreign ministry in 1989. He was Iran's **chief nuclear negotiator** under President Rouhani, leading the P5+1 talks that produced the 2015 JCPOA (Iran nuclear deal). Known as Iran's "**master negotiator**" (Reuters).

Fluent in Persian, Arabic, and English. Held a PhD in political thought from the University of Kent.

Iran War — Role & Stance

Araghchi is leading Iran's **high-level delegation** in the ongoing Doha (Qatar) negotiations — currently the most serious diplomatic push since the war began.

Key Statements & Actions (2026)

- **26 May:** Leading Iran's Doha delegation, including Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf and central bank governor — discussing Strait of Hormuz, enriched uranium stockpile, and release of frozen Iranian funds
- **25 May:** Delegation in Qatar when US strikes hit Bandar Abbas
- **Pre-war (25 Feb 2026):** Said a "historic" agreement with the US was "within reach" — just 3 days before the Feb 28 strikes started the war
- **Post-war:** Condemned US attacks as "wholly unprovoked, illegal, and illegitimate"
- **27 April:** Met with Putin in Moscow regarding Russian satellite intelligence support
- Acknowledged "good cooperation" from Russia and China, including "military cooperation"

Negotiating Positions

- Iran **will not agree** to stop enriching uranium entirely
- Iran **will not negotiate** on its ballistic missile program or proxy network — "absolutely off the table"

Reputation & Controversy

- Widely respected as a skilled diplomat who managed the JCPOA
- Reputation **damaged internationally** by role in the 2025–26 crackdown on Iranian protesters (thousands killed)
- Deflected international criticism by referencing US police violence
- **Disinvited** from 2026 World Economic Forum in Davos
- Publicly insulted Ukraine's President Zelenskyy as a "confused clown" (January 2026)
- Viewed as **pragmatic but ruthless** — willing to negotiate while overseeing severe domestic repression

Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found on Nitter/X for this period — section created on setup.

Reddit Discussion

“ Source: Reddit, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found yet — section created on setup.

Sources

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbas_Araghchi
- Al Jazeera
- Reuters
- BBC News

Donald Trump — US President

Donald Trump — US President

Role: 47th President of the United States (second term: January 2025 – present) **Age:** 79 (born 14 June 1946) **Last updated:** 26 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Donald John Trump
Born	14 June 1946, Queens, New York City
Education	Fordham University; Wharton School, UPenn (BS Economics)
Occupation	Real estate developer, media personality, politician
Previous roles	45th US President (2017–2021); lost 2020 to Joe Biden
Re-elected	November 2024 (defeated Kamala Harris)
Term	20 January 2025 – present

Iran War — Role & Stance

Trump authorised the **joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran on 28 February 2026**, which killed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and sparked the full-scale conflict now in its 88th day. His Iran policy is defined by aggressive posturing combined with on-off negotiation:

- **War aims:** Preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, ending the Strait of Hormuz blockade, curbing Iran's missile arsenal
- **April 7, 2026:** Famously threatened "A whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again" if Iran did not yield — triggering bipartisan and international rebuke
- **The next day (8 April):** Pakistan-mediated ceasefire agreed after military stalemate
- Ceasefire never fully held; skirmishes continued

Recent Statements (May 2026)

- **25 May (Truth Social):** Told representatives **not to rush** into any deal. Insisted the US blockade on Iranian ships "will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed"
 - **25 May (Truth Social):** "No deal at all — Back to the Battlefield" — oscillating between deal optimism and escalation threats
 - **25 May:** Proposed it be "mandatory" for Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Turkey, and Egypt to normalise with Israel as part of any Iran deal (Abraham Accords expansion)
-

Key Characteristics

- **Communication:** Truth Social is his primary platform — policy shifts often announced via posts
 - **Cabinet dynamics:** Rubio holds unprecedented dual State/NSA role; hawks like Cruz and Graham oppose a negotiated end
 - **Domestic:** Mixed approval on war handling; Senate advancing a war-ending bill
-

Twitter/X Discussion

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Reddit Discussion

“ Source: Reddit, 26 May 2026

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Sources

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Trump
- BBC News
- The Guardian
- Al Jazeera

Marco Rubio — US Secretary of State

Marco Rubio — US Secretary of State

Role: 72nd US Secretary of State (since January 2025); also acting National Security Advisor (since May 2025) **Age:** 55 (born 28 May 1971) **Last updated:** 26 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Marco Antonio Rubio
Born	28 May 1971, Miami, Florida
Education	University of Florida (BA); University of Miami (JD)
Cuban-American	Parents fled Cuba in 1956 under Batista
Previous roles	US Senator for Florida (2011–2025); Speaker Florida House (2006–2008); 2016 presidential candidate
Confirmation	Confirmed 99-0 by the Senate

Iran War — Role & Stance

Rubio is the **lead US diplomat** in the Iran conflict, holding an unprecedented dual role as Secretary of State and acting National Security Advisor — the first since Henry Kissinger (1973–1975). He has been described as the "Secretary of Everything."

- **Shuttle diplomacy:** Riyadh (Ukraine-Russia talks with Lavrov), Islamabad (ceasefire negotiations), Jaipur/New Delhi, and Doha
- **Known as a hawk** on foreign policy (China, Cuba, Venezuela, Iran)
- Defended Operation Midnight Hammer (June 2025 US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites)

- Expressed support for anti-government protests in Iran (January 2026)

Recent Statements (May 2026)

- **26 May (Jaipur, India):** Deal could take "a few days" — cited talks in Qatar on "specific language in the initial document." Said: "The president's expressed his desire to make it. He's either going to make a good deal or no deal."
 - **26 May (on Strait of Hormuz):** "The straits have to be open one way or the other... What's happening there is unlawful, it's illegal, it's unsustainable for the world, it's unacceptable."
 - **24 May (New Delhi):** US has a "pretty solid" proposal on the table; Trump won't make a bad deal
 - **Earlier:** "Iran's leadership is the problem, not its people" — war goals included degrading Iranian military capabilities and ensuring Iran does not control the Strait of Hormuz
-

Key Characteristics

- **Widely seen as one of the most competent** and least controversial members of Trump's second-term cabinet
 - **Bipartisan respect** — confirmed 99-0
 - **Unprecedented dual role** — State + NSA — consolidation of foreign policy power unusual in modern US history
-

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Reddit Discussion

“ Source: Reddit, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found yet — section created on setup.

Sources

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marco_Rubio
- Al Jazeera
- BBC News
- The Guardian

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei — Iran's Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei — Iran's Supreme Leader

Role: 3rd Supreme Leader of Iran (assumed office 8 March 2026) **Age:** 56 (born 8 September 1969) **Last updated:** 26 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei
Born	8 September 1969, Mashhad, Iran
Religion	Shia Islam (Hojjatoleslam — mid-ranking cleric)
Previous roles	Head of Basij paramilitary (effectively, since 2009); Chief of Staff to Supreme Leader (2008–2026)
Predecessor	Ali Khamenei (his father, killed in US-Israeli strikes 28 Feb 2026)

Background

Mojtaba Khamenei is the **second son** of Ali Khamenei. He joined the IRGC at 17 and served in the Iran-Iraq War before studying theology in Qom. He effectively controlled the Basij paramilitary force since 2009 and served as his father's chief of staff from 2008.

He is described as **more hardline than his father**, aligned with ultraconservatives and IRGC hardliners, with close ties to "the most ideologically extremist clerics" (Atlantic Council). Reportedly holds **apocalyptic Messianic beliefs** about Iran's role in bringing about the end of the world.

His elevation to Supreme Leader completed Iran's shift to **hereditary rule** and IRGC domination of the state.

Iran War — Role & Stance

Key Statements (2026)

- **26 May (Eid al-Adha message via state TV):** Regional countries "will no longer serve as shields for American bases" — the US has "no longer any safe haven in the region for aggression"
- **17 March:** Rejected de-escalation proposals, demanding the US and Israel be "brought to their knees"
- **12 March (first written message):** Promised revenge for the "martyrs" killed in the Feb 28 strikes
- **18 April:** Iranian navy ready to inflict "new bitter defeats" on enemies

Physical Condition — Unclear

Reports are contradictory:

- Minor injuries (face and foot)
- Reports of **life-threatening wounds** requiring transfer to Moscow for treatment
- **No confirmed video footage or audio** released since his appointment — all messages written and read via state TV
- Some analysts believe the **IRGC is dictating his messages**
- Some senior clerics have called for an Interim Leadership Council

Public Reception

- Widely **mocked and rejected** by ordinary Iranians — protesters chanted "Death to Mojtaba"
 - His appointment seen as completing IRGC takeover of the state
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Twitter/X Discussion

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No significant discussion found on Nitter/X for this period — section created on setup.

Reddit Discussion

🗨️ Source: Reddit, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found yet — section created on setup.

Sources

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mojtaba_Khamenei
- Atlantic Council profile
- Al Jazeera
- Reuters