

Vessels have been rerouting around Larak Island and into Iran's territorial waters when transiting the Strait of Hormuz

Left: snapshot of pre-war tanker traffic through the strait
Right: Vessels (mostly bulkers) looping around Larak Island and through Iran's territorial waters. All bulkers in the right image — except for the one in purple taking the normal route through SOH — came from Iran



Source: Lloyd's List Intelligence / Seasearcher

Lloyd's List

Day 20 of the Israeli-US war of aggression against Iran (Ticker 4:15 PM)

March 19, 2026 by [Peter F. Mayer / Jochen Mitschka](#) 16.1 minute reading time

It was Israel that attacked Iran's largest gas field, South Pars. This field supplies 75% of Iran's natural gas production and 85% of its electricity. The attack came shortly after the assassination of Ali Larijani, Secretary-General of Iran's National Security Council. Simplicius argues that this has "hit the fan." This means that the next escalation will inevitably trigger an energy crisis, as Iran regularly retaliates in kind.

“This led Iran to immediately escalate attacks on energy targets in Israel and the Gulf, and in particular to attack the Ras Laffan gas hub in Qatar, [considered the largest in the world](#). The attack was successful and is said to have caused massive damage to the facility, which some experts believe is irreparable. (...) The most significant development in this sudden storm of revelations, however, is that the US neither authorized nor participated in these unilateral Israeli attacks, despite initial reports suggesting joint action. Rumors circulated throughout the day until Trump himself finally confirmed it in a social media rant, sharply criticizing Israel for its brazenness while simultaneously threatening Iran with further barbaric destruction.” ([Continue reading](#) in English) So we clearly see who is driving the world to catastrophe, because without

energy not only will there be famines, but a large part of the world will be set back years, if not decades, in its development. But this is not the only escalation by Israel in the last 24 hours.

[And Ras Laffan in Qatar is already burning](#).

7:00 AM

further in the last eight hours [From the perspective of the Global South, the Iran war has escalated](#), primarily perceived as a continuation of illegal aggression by the US and Israel against Iranian sovereignty. For the first time since the start of the war, the Israeli army attacked targets in northern Iran, including, according to Israeli media, Iranian naval vessels in the Caspian Sea; this is [criticized](#) in the Global South as an illicit expansion of the conflict into neutral waters and a violation of international law .

While countries that believe themselves to be strong now openly disregard international law and human rights, weak countries are still trying to uphold them. At the same time, Israel launched a new wave of attacks against military infrastructure across the country, bombing an oil depot in Tehran for the first time last night – a move that, from the perspective of many states in the Global South, deliberately destabilizes the region's energy supply and will primarily affect developing countries through rising [oil prices](#) , as retaliation is inevitable.

Iran responded with a new wave of ballistic [missiles](#) aimed at Israel, triggering sirens in Tel Aviv and damaging three private aircraft. These counterattacks are not seen in the Global South as an escalation, but rather as the legitimate defense of a sovereign state against continued bombing. Countries such as South Africa and other representatives of the Global South have been calling for an immediate [ceasefire](#) and offering mediation since the beginning of the war, viewing the conflict as an " *illegal war of aggression* " by the US and Israel that violates the UN Charter and fuels global instability.

The economic consequences – from disrupted [supply chains](#) and the collapse of medical tourism to higher energy costs – are seen, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as proof that Western interventions disproportionately burden the Global South, while few Western states condemn the escalation. Overall, there is a widespread consensus in the Global South that only an immediate halt to the attacks and genuine negotiations – without dictates from Washington or Tel Aviv – can restore peace; any further escalation will only cause more suffering and economic damage for the peoples of the South.

08:00:

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Iranian army said that a series of **drone attacks had been carried out against Israel's strategic tanker aircraft** stationed at Ben Gurion Airport.



On Wednesday, March 18, a funeral procession was held in Tehran for the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, **Ali Larijani**, the commander of the Basij, Major General Gholam Reza Soleimani, and dozens of members of the navy.

A huge crowd attended the funeral of the martyrs in Tehran. Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was killed along with his son in an Israeli airstrike in Tehran on March 17. Israel bombed an entire residential area near Tehran to kill Larijani at his daughter's home. At least one hundred civilians were killed along with him.

Larijani wrote books on mathematics and Kantian philosophy.

US and Israeli airstrikes have hit the **port of Bandar Anzali**, located on the **Caspian Sea coast** in northern Iran's Gilan province. The port is part of the north-south corridor connecting Russia and Iran, and the Arctic and the Indian Ocean. This confirms that disrupting this corridor is a key US/Israeli objective.



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We're only three weeks into this war of choice, imposed on both Iranians and Americans.

This \$200b is the tip of the iceberg. Ordinary Americans can thank Benjamin Netanyahu and his lackeys in Congress for the trillion-dollar "Israel First tax" that's about to hit U.S. economy.

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EXCLUSIVE

Pentagon seeks more than \$200 billion in budget request for Iran war

Some White House officials do not think the Defense Department's request has a realistic shot of being approved in Congress, one senior administration official said.

March 18, 2026 at 7:04 p.m. EDT

We have only been in this election war, imposed on both Iranians and Americans, for three weeks. This \$200 billion is just the tip of the iceberg. Ordinary Americans can thank Benjamin Netanyahu and his cronies in Congress for the trillion-dollar tax that will soon hit the US economy.



Military [Watch Magazine reports](#) on the emergency landing of one of the most secret US spy planes in Greece:

The US long-range, high-altitude unmanned reconnaissance, surveillance, and surveillance aircraft (HALE), unofficially known as the RQ-180, reportedly made an emergency landing at Larissa National Airport in Greece during a mission against Iran.

It remains unclear whether the **RQ-180** was damaged in Iranian airspace or whether a technical malfunction was the cause. The US has **lost several aircraft in Iranian airspace** , including **at least 12 MQ-9 Reaper drones** used for reconnaissance and attack missions.

In the early hours of the war, there were also several unconfirmed reports that a **B-2 bomber had been shot down during a depth attack** .

The US and Israel generally refrained from using more advanced aircraft for deep-penetration attacks on Iran; instead, most aircraft launched cruise missiles and ballistic missiles from greater distances. This reflects the **difficulties the US and its strategic partners faced in neutralizing Iran's multi-layered air defense network** .

Here are some of the latest important developments in the Iran conflict:

- A joint US and Israeli attack in a residential area in the Dorud district of western Iran killed 12 people and injured 116 others, according to the Tasnim news agency.
- Trump said Israel carried out the attack on Iran's South Pars gas field, and that the US and Qatar were not involved.
- At least two fighters were killed and several others injured in attacks on Iraq's paramilitary Popular Mobilization Forces, which include several pro-Iranian groups.
- Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia intercepted more drones, while missiles hit two ships off the coast of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.
- Saudi Arabia stated that the kingdom reserved the right to take military action against Iran if necessary, and accused Tehran of putting pressure on its neighbors instead of engaging in dialogue.

8:30 a.m.

Mysterious drones in the sky above the military base where Rubio and Hegseth live

US military officials are hastily tightening security after dozens of unidentified drones were recently spotted over Fort Lesley McNair, the military base in Washington where Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth currently reside, the Washington Post reports. Fort McNair, home to the National Defense University, is not normally a place where politicians live. But since Trump-era officials like Kristi L. Noem, former Secretary of Homeland Security, moved in for “security reasons,” the rules appear to have changed.

Trump sends the FBI to bring down Joe Kent – reports

Joe Kent, former head of the National Counterterrorism Center, is now being investigated by the FBI for alleged information leaks – just days after he resigned in protest against the US war against Iran, The Hill reported.

“So the Trump administration will put Joe Kent in jail before anyone from the Epstein list or anyone from Obama’s Russiagate or anyone from the Covid tyranny,” said former Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, sharply criticizing Trump.

Kent had argued that there was no immediate threat from Iran and warned that the war was being driven by Israel.

9:00 AM:



last night **The IRGC reported that Iranian air defenses intercepted and destroyed an Orbiter drone over Tehran and a state-of-the-art Heron drone over Karaj . It added that its forces also a cruise missile over Qazvin . shot down**

China describes the assassination of Iranian Larijani and other leaders as "unacceptable ".



French journalist Marine Vlahovic was found dead in her apartment in Marseille while working on a documentary about Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip .

10:00 AM:

Throughout the night and into the early morning, Zionist **fighter jets circled Beirut in search of prey**. What was their target? **Women, children, the elderly, families whom the Zionists had already ethnically cleansed and who were sleeping in tents in the cold on the beach south of the Corniche in Beirut** . It was yet another **massacre of the innocent and the most vulnerable** . This is an attempted **genocide against an entire region**, supported by the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, and others.