

## Advisory – Middle East (2 March 2026)

### Overview

A major military conflict has erupted between Iran and a US-Israel coalition, drastically escalating violence across the Middle East. On 28 February, the US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran. Operation Epic Fury targeted military sites and leadership, including the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior Iranian commanders. Iran has since retaliated with widespread missile and drone attacks against Israel, US bases in Gulf states, and infrastructure in neighbouring countries. The conflict has rapidly spread, drawing in Hezbollah in Lebanon and seeing explosions and strikes reported across several Gulf states, including the United Arab Emirates, as well as Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea. Civilian casualties and infrastructure damage have occurred on all sides. Global oil shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has effectively halted, driving energy price spikes and economic anxiety worldwide. Efforts for de-escalation and diplomatic pressure continue, however the war remains active and volatile.

### Review of Recent Developments

- **28 February 2026** – Major Joint Strike Begins – The US and Israel launched a coordinated military offensive against Iran, striking key military, leadership and strategic sites across the country. Explosions were reported across Tehran and other cities.
- **28 February 2026** – Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reported killed in strikes. His death was confirmed by Iranian state media on 1 March.
- **1 March 2026** – Iran declared 40 days of national mourning and formed an interim leadership council. It also launched ballistic missiles and other retaliatory attacks targeting Israel and US military bases around the Middle East.
- **1 – 2 March 2026** – The conflict expands beyond Iran and Israel, with missile drone attacks, airstrikes, and explosions reported in Gulf states and neighbouring regions, affecting civilian infrastructure, financial markets, and prompting heightened security measures internationally.

### Current Situation

- Current Situation as of 2 March 2026
  - The conflict, now several days old, shows continuous air and missile strikes, widespread retaliation, and involvement of various regional actors. Casualties include military personnel and civilians on multiple sides and global economic impacts, including disruptions to shipping, are mounting.
  - Diplomatic efforts have largely collapsed or paused as military operations dominate, and governments worldwide are responding with heightened alerts.

### Threat Environment

Following the outbreak of direct hostilities between Iran and the US-Israel coalition, the region is experiencing:

- Ongoing missile and drone strikes
- Airspace restrictions and sudden closures
- Cyberattacks targeting infrastructure and foreign companies
- Maritime disruptions in and around the Strait of Hormuz
- Elevated risk of civil unrest and retaliatory violence

- **The threat level remains high and fluid, with potential for further rapid escalation.**

## Immediate Operational Guidance

**Exercise extreme caution** if operating in:

- Tehran, Tel Aviv, border regions of Iraq and Syria, southern Lebanon, and US and coalition military host nation areas in Gulf states

Those currently operating in the region are advised to:

- Limit non-essential movements
- Avoid military sites, government facilities, energy infrastructure, ports, and airports
- Identify and rehearse shelter-in-place procedures
- Maintain 72-hour emergency supplies (water, food, medicine, batteries); ensure that communication devices are charged
- Keep travel documents accessible at all times
- Expect intermittent internet and cellular outages and use secure communications platforms
- Monitor official embassy and consular advisories
- Expect sudden airspace closures or rerouting; a limited number of flights have been able to leave UAE, however flights across the Middle East remain disrupted
- Remain flexible to shifting events
- Companies operating regionally:
  - Review evacuation triggers and decision thresholds
  - Conduct daily threat intelligence reviews
  - Identify alternate land exit routes in those areas where air evacuation is not feasible
  - Reassess insurance coverage (war risk, political violence)
  - Consider temporary suspension of non-essential regional operations

## Outlook

The conflict remains active with potential for:

- Broader regional actor involvement
- Disruption of global energy markets
- Expanded cyber and asymmetric attacks outside the immediate theatre

**All operators should assume continued instability in the near term and plan accordingly.**