
Casualties

Emergency IMO meeting called as Iran war threatens ships and crew

Strait of Hormuz looks set to remain closed, and vessels are increasingly becoming targets



Arsenio Dominguez has condemned the attacks on shipping.

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The International Maritime Organization has called an emergency council meeting as threats to vessels in the Strait of Hormuz escalate.

The meeting at IMO headquarters in London from 18 to 20 March will focus on the impact on shipping and seafarers in the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and Middle East Gulf region.

The IMO said the extraordinary session, to be chaired by Victor Jimenez of Spain, was called in response to requests from several members of the council, which comprises 40 member states.



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Sea mines 'likely' being planted in Strait of Hormuz by Iran, says UK minister

Secretary general Arsenio Dominguez held briefings with industry organisations on Wednesday and met member states on Thursday to discuss developments, the organisation said.

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[Iran's new supreme leader](#), Mojtaba Khamenei, said on Thursday that Hormuz should "remain closed" to vessel traffic.

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UK defence secretary John Healey has said [Iranian forces are believed to be placing sea mines in the strait.](#)

The Norwegian Maritime Authority banned Norway-flagged vessels on Thursday from entering Hormuz until further notice.

[Dominguez last week condemned attacks](#) on vessels in the Gulf, which killed at least four seafarers and seriously injured three others.

“This is unacceptable and unsustainable,” he said.



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“All parties and stakeholders have an obligation to take necessary measures to ensure the protection of seafarers, including their rights and well-being, and the freedom of navigation in accordance with international law.”

[Another seafarer was killed this week](#) following an Iranian drone attack on vessels in Iraqi waters,

The Indian seafarer died after abandoning the 73,900-dwt product carrier Safesea Vishnu (built 2007), which had caught fire. The rest of the crew were saved.

Other vessels have been attacked and seriously damaged.