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Iran launches fresh attacks after sixth day of US strikes

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Summary

Iran says it attacked US facilities in Bahrain, Kuwait, Syria

US says its strikes hit dozens of Iranian military targets near Bandar Abbas and on Qeshm Island

Qatar's interior ministry says shrapnel injured a child in Doha

DUBAI, July 17 (Reuters) - Iran said it launched fresh strikes on U.S. facilities in the Middle East on Friday, including the first direct attack in Syria, after a sixth straight night of U.S. strikes on Iranian military facilities.

A truce reached last month has descended into daily attacks and counterattacks, largely halted shipping traffic in the vital Strait of Hormuz and sparked fresh investor concerns about the repercussions for the global economy of [the war](#) the U.S. and Israel launched in February.

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The U.S. military said it completed another night of strikes on Iran "to further degrade Iranian military capabilities", including on Qeshm Island and near Bandar Abbas, home to Iran's largest port, as well as key naval and Revolutionary Guards facilities.

"U.S. forces, including fighter jets, aerial drones, and warships, launched precision munitions that hit dozens of Iranian military targets such as coastal surveillance and air defense sites, military logistics infrastructure, and maritime capabilities," the U.S. Central Command said in a statement.

IRAN CLAIMS FIRST ATTACK ON SYRIA

A civilian was killed in a U.S. strike on the Pasabandar area near the southeastern port city of Chabahar, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said. Iran has fired missiles and drones at U.S. military bases in neighbouring states, including an air base in Jordan.

Early on Friday, Iran's military said it had attacked U.S. facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait.

Several explosion-like sounds were heard in the Qatari capital Doha, according to a witness, and the Ministry of the Interior said a child was injured by shrapnel.

Iranian media reported that five bridges were hit in the latest round of U.S. strikes, as well as the train station in coastal Bandar Khamir and Iranshahr Airport in southeastern Iran.

Seven people were killed in U.S. attacks on bridges in Bandar Khamir, a port city in southern Iran, state news agency IRNA reported.

Iran's state media said the Revolutionary Guards had attacked a U.S. special operations command centre in [al-Tanf, Syria](#) in retaliation for the killing of Iranian soldiers in Iranshahr.

Reuters could not immediately verify the reports.

This marks the first direct attack by Iran on Syria, which has sought to avoid being drawn into a conflict that has engulfed neighbouring countries.

In Lebanon, Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters have fought Israeli forces, and in Iraq, Iran-backed armed groups have launched drone and rocket attacks.



[1/3] Smoke rises following a strike at an unknown location during what the U.S. military says is its latest wave of strikes on Iran, hitting "Iranian military targets such as coastal surveillance and... [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)  [Read more](#)



Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had targeted and destroyed a naval radar system on the Salameh Rocks and a U.S. air control radar in Oman's Ghannem area, Iranian state media reported.

SHIPPING HALTED AGAIN IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The [escalation](#) in attacks has once again largely halted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important shipping route for oil and gas, pushing up oil prices and raising fresh concerns about the knock-on effect on inflation.

Tehran resumed its blockade of the strait, and Washington has again blockaded Iranian ports since Wednesday.

Iran has signalled it could prod its Houthi allies in Yemen to [close another key strait](#): the Bab al-Mandeb at the mouth of the Red Sea, sources told Reuters, if Washington attacks Iran's infrastructure.

Iran last week hit ships moving through a corridor in the strait. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told a briefing on Thursday that President [Donald Trump](#) would not "sit by and allow these active acts of terrorism to take place in the strait without ensuring Iran pays consequences for that".

But she added the president was "always open to diplomacy at the very same time".

Iranian sources said Iran's aim was to establish its authority over the strait, although Tehran was not keen on an escalation that would torpedo June's [memorandum of understanding](#), which it still regards as giving it most of what it sought.

'YOU CANNOT LIVE LIKE THIS'

Within Iran, the renewed bombing has unnerved residents.

"Living with this fear that war could start again is very exhausting. You cannot live like this ... Personally, I want diplomacy to prevail," Mahlegheh, 46, a government employee told Reuters from Tehran, asking that her family name be used due to security concerns.

Iran wants all ships using the Strait of Hormuz to travel through a channel close to its shores and intends to charge passage fees at the end of a 60-day negotiation period set in last month's memorandum.

Washington had encouraged ships to use an alternative route to the south, along the Omani coast.

U.S. forces said their airstrikes have hit military targets along the coast to cripple Iran's ability to control the strait. Iranian Army spokesperson Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia said on Thursday this would not work because Iran could strike the strait from anywhere on its territory.

Trump has not ruled out the possibility of using ground forces, including to seize Kharg Island, the site of Iran's main oil export terminal. He has repeatedly threatened to hit Iranian power plants and bridges next week unless Tehran resumes negotiations.

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