

Tankers

Trump orders tariffs against countries that do business with Iran

Social media announcement comes a day before reported meeting with aides



President Donald Trump attends a roundtable with energy officials and oil executives in the East Room of the White House last Friday.

Photo: Molly Riley/White House

Eric Priante Martin

TradeWinds US bureau chief

US President Donald Trump has ordered tariffs against countries that do business with Iran.

Washington, emboldened by its toppling of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, continues to pile on pressure on the government in Tehran over its response to protests across Iran.

The post came a day before Trump was reportedly scheduled to meet advisers, who were to brief him on options for Iran.



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He did not wait that long, turning to one of his favourite foreign policy tools.

“Effective immediately, any Country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25% on all business being done with the United States of America,” he said on the social media platform that he owns.

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“This order is final and conclusive. Thank you for your attention to this matter!”

The US already has punishing, extra-territorial sanctions on Iran.

The White House has yet to publish details on the tariff order.

The duties would probably hit China the hardest, as it is Iran's top trading partner and the third-largest for the US.

Trump has been weighing his options on Iran as the government in Tehran cracks down on protesters.

The Wall Street Journal reported that he was scheduled to meet top aides on Tuesday, when the options under discussion included deploying cyber weapons and military strikes.

He told reporters that Iran was "starting to" cross America's red lines.

"We're looking at some very strong options," he said on Sunday.



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Trump said that Tehran has reached out to negotiate, but he expressed a reticence to wait for any talks.

"A meeting is being set up," he said on Air Force One, the presidential jet.

"We may have to act because of what's happening before the meeting."

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