

Learn more about [LSEG](#)



My News

Iran war mediators focus on reopening Strait of Hormuz

By Elwely Elwelly and Eman Abouhassira

August 28, 2026 4:34 AM GMT+3 · Updated 2 hours ago



[1/2] Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz are visible near the beach of Bandar Abbas, Iran, August 27, 2026. Majid Asgaripour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERS [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)



Summary

- Qatari visit to Tehran put emphasis on freedom of navigation
- Iran says it is preparing a list of conditions to allow traffic to flow
- Americans not talking to Iran, leaning on economic sanctions
- U.S. military says it has removed Iranian mines from the strait

DUBAI, Aug 28 (Reuters) - Mediators in the [Iran war](#) are stepping up efforts to get the Strait of Hormuz reopened, with Tehran agreeing to draw up a list of conditions to restore normal traffic after a Qatari emissary pressed the Iranians to respect freedom of navigation.

With the U.S. having disengaged from talks in favour of an economic pressure campaign, the prime minister of Qatar, a U.S. ally, met senior Iranian leaders in Tehran on Thursday, stressing the importance of returning to the pre-war status of open shipping through an international waterway.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up [here](#).

Qatar and Pakistan helped broker a memorandum of understanding in June that led to a ceasefire but that quickly unravelled due to disagreements between Iran and the U.S. over the strait, which handled 20% of pre-war global oil supplies.

In his mission to Tehran on Thursday, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said on X that he underscored to senior Iranian officials "the importance of respecting freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz in accordance with international law".

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Friday described the talks with Al Thani as "creative", and he renewed his appeal to the U.S. to stop putting military and economic pressure on his country and to resume negotiations.

"Putting diplomacy back on track isn't impossible. It hinges on U.S. understanding of one simple fact: pressure doesn't work," Araqchi said on X.

Iran's foreign ministry later issued a statement condemning the United States' [new economic sanctions](#) on the country, announced on Monday, as "state terrorism". It also urged other countries not to join the sanctions, saying this would amount to "complicity in imposing one state's unlawful will" on others.

IRAN PREPARES LIST OF CONDITIONS FOR REOPENING THE STRAIT

After the U.S. and Israel launched the war six months ago, Iran threatened to strike any vessel transiting the strait without its authorisation, driving down traffic and sending up the price of oil, providing Tehran with leverage in the bargain.

The U.S. wants the strait to remain an open international waterway.

Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Thursday Iran was preparing a list of conditions for reopening the strait.

Speaking through an interpreter in an Al Manar TV interview, Rezaei said Iran had agreed with Oman on a shipping corridor through the strait, with parts of the route in Omani waters and parts in Iranian waters. Ships would use a designated central channel if the U.S. met Iran's conditions, he said.

In the past Iran's conditions have included an end to the U.S. blockade on Iranian ports, compensation and removal of sanctions. It remained unclear whether Iran intended to amend those demands in a way that might be acceptable to Washington.

Tehran and Washington have exchanged little more than bellicose statements in recent weeks, leaving the diplomacy to third parties. Trump declared the June MOU "over" on July 8 and has cranked up efforts to wreck Iran's economy.

CLEARING SEA MINES

U.S. military commanders say American forces have cleared sea mines from the strait that had been laid months ago by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"Bottom line: today, international shipping lanes are open and momentum is building," Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of the U.S. military's Central Command, said in a video message posted on social media.

U.S. forces have in recent months helped 1,500 commercial vessels carrying nearly 750 million barrels of crude oil to transit the strait, Cooper said.

Trump has repeatedly said the strait was open, but many vessels have opted against sailing through it because of Iranian threats, and ship tracking services have estimated activity at roughly 5% to 15% of normal volumes.

Preliminary shipping data released on Friday showed that only seven commodity vessels had [transited the Strait of Hormuz](#) on Thursday, down from 17 a day earlier and below the 10-day average of 15.

However, Gulf energy exporters have also been seeking to reduce their overreliance on the strait by [investing billions](#) of dollars in new infrastructure, from energy pipelines to ports.

Trade is being redirected to Saudi ports on the Red Sea and the United Arab Emirates' eastern coast ports, though capacity is smaller.

[Oil prices held steady](#) on Friday but were on track for a weekly drop, amid what analysts said were signs that more oil was flowing through the strait despite the diplomatic stalemate and that producers were increasingly adapting to the new realities in the Gulf region.

Additional reporting by Ahmed Tolba and Enas Elashray in Cairo; Writing by Daniel Trotta and Gareth Jones; Editing by Kim Coghill and Sharon Singleton

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#). [↗](#)