

Gulf states confront Iran at UN over escalating attacks

Bahrain and UAE warn of threats to global trade and security after missile and drone strikes

● Threat to global trade routes

● Violation of international law

● Call for global united response

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Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates strongly condemned Iran at the United Nations, accusing it of escalating attacks that threaten regional and global security, including strikes on civilian infrastructure and shipping routes.

Speaking at a UN Security Council media stakeout, Jamal Fares Alrowaiei, Bahrain's permanent representative, described the incidents as part of a "deliberate and escalating pattern of destabilising conduct" targeting the Gulf region.

He said attacks on the UAE



Jamal Fares Alrowaiei, Bahrain's permanent representative to the UN



Mohamed Abushahab, UAE's permanent representative to the UN

represent "an immediate and serious collective concern" for Bahrain and the wider region, warning that continued strikes on civilian infrastructure and commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz pose a direct threat to international peace.

Alrowaiei added that the actions violate UN Security Council Resolution 2817 and demonstrate Iran's continued non-compliance. He cited recent drone and missile attacks in Fujairah that caused civilian injuries and damaged critical energy facilities.

"The security of the region is indivisible," he said, reaffirming Bahrain's full solidarity with the

UAE and calling for a "credible, united and decisive" response from the international community.

Addressing the same briefing, Mohamed Abushahab, the UAE's permanent representative to the UN, said Iran had launched a large-scale attack on May 4 involving ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

According to Abushahab, UAE air defences intercepted most of the projectiles, but three civilians were injured and a fire broke out in the Fujairah oil industry zone.

"Targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure is not only unacceptable — it is unlawful,"

he said.

The UAE envoy added that since February 28, the country has intercepted more than 500 ballistic missiles, nearly 30 cruise missiles and over 2,000 drones launched from Iran.

He also warned that attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's most critical energy corridors — risk disrupting global markets.

"What happens in the Strait of Hormuz does not stay there," Abushahab said, noting potential impacts on energy supplies, food prices and global economic stability.

He stressed that the issue extends beyond the region, calling it "a test of whether the international system can protect the basic conditions on which the global economy depends."

The UAE condemned the attacks "in the strongest possible terms" and urged the Security Council to take decisive action, while affirming its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

China, Oman discuss Middle East stability



China's ambassador to Oman Lyu Jian held discussions with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, during which they exchanged views on regional developments and cooperation between the two countries.

Lyu outlined a four-point proposal by Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at advancing peace and stability in the Middle East, highlighting Beijing's commitment to diplomatic solutions.

He also praised Oman's "continued and sincere efforts" to promote peace through dialogue, adding that China would work with "like-minded

countries" to support stability in the region.

Albusaidi welcomed the initiative, expressing appreciation for what he described as a "constructive vision" that emphasises dialogue, mutual respect, sovereignty and collective security.

Oman also commended China's "balanced approach" in regional affairs and reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at de-escalation and long-term peace, the statement said.

Both sides said they looked forward to strengthening cooperation and maintaining close exchanges on regional issues.

Visa exemption deal



Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said that Türkiye and Saudi Arabia held high-level talks in Ankara on Wednesday, reviewing cooperation across key sectors and discussing regional developments, including the situation in Gaza.

Fidan co-chaired the third meeting of the Turkish-Saudi Coordination Council with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, bringing together officials from various ministries and institutions.

The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in strategic areas such as trade, en-

ergy, defence, education, culture, tourism and transportation, within an institutional framework aimed at deepening bilateral ties.

The two sides also addressed regional issues, with particular emphasis on Gaza, though no further details were immediately disclosed.

During the meeting, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to exempt holders of diplomatic and special passports from visa requirements.

Fidan said he hoped the agreement would benefit both countries and thanked his Saudi counterpart and his delegation for their visit.

Cyprus boosts Middle East ties



The Republic of Cyprus is stepping up coordination and diplomatic engagement with Middle Eastern and Gulf states at a critical moment for regional security and stability, reaffirming its commitment to open communication channels and close cooperation with key regional partners.

As part of these efforts, Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides visited the United Arab Emirates to show solidarity following what Cyprus de-

scribed as "unjustified attacks" against the Gulf nation.

During his visit to Abu Dhabi, Christodoulides held talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, underscoring Nicosia's support for the UAE and its commitment to de-escalation and regional stability.

The visit highlights Cyprus' broader diplomatic push to strengthen ties with strategic partners in the region while promoting dialogue amid heightened tensions.

Kuwait, Turkey Review Strategic Defence Partnership

Kuwait's Defence Minister held talks with senior Turkish officials during an official visit to Ankara, focusing on strengthening military and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah met Turkish National Defence Minister Yaşar Güler. They reviewed longstanding ties between Kuwait and Turkey and discussed ways to expand collaboration, particularly in defence and military sectors.

The discussions highlighted the depth of bilateral relations and explored opportunities to further develop joint initiatives aligned



with shared strategic interests.

During the visit, Sheikh Abdullah also met Haluk Görgün, head of Turkey's Defence Industries Authority, to examine prospects for industrial partnerships and the exchange of technical expertise. Talks also covered enhancing cooperation in defence technologies to support capability development on both sides.

The Kuwaiti minister was accompanied by Ambassador Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Adwani and Assistant Chief of Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Jordan FM holds talks with South Korea



Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aymen Safadi, held phone talks on Wednesday with South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, discussing bilateral relations and regional developments.

The two ministers reaffirmed the strength of ties between Jordan and South Korea and their shared commitment to expanding cooperation across sectors of mutual interest, in a way that serves both countries.

They also reviewed the lat-

est regional developments, stressing the need to end ongoing escalation and support diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring calm.

Safadi and Cho highlighted the importance of reaching an agreement between the United States and Iran that would deliver a comprehensive solution ensuring regional security and stability.

Both sides agreed to maintain coordination and consultations to advance bilateral cooperation and address regional and international issues of common concern.

GCC Unity and Development

Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi



on Wednesday at Seif Palace. They discussed efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and integration among member states.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed several issues related to joint Gulf action, focusing on advancing the GCC's collective initiatives and enhancing coordi-

nation across the bloc. The discussions also highlighted ongoing efforts aimed at promoting development and prosperity for the peoples of GCC countries, in line with the directives of Gulf leaders.

Albudaiwi expressed his appreciation to the Kuwaiti leadership for its continued support of the GCC General Secretariat and its initiatives.