

# Bahrain Joins Global Maritime Meeting

More than 40 countries discussed joint efforts to protect global shipping routes

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**H**is Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor, Commander of the Royal Guard, and Secretary General of the Supreme Defence Council, participated in a virtual meeting of defence ministers focused on the multinational military mission in the Strait of Hormuz.

The meeting was jointly organised by the United Kingdom and France, with participation from representatives of more than 40 countries.

Discussions focused on the latest regional security developments and ways to strengthen international cooperation to ensure freedom of maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Officials also reviewed mechanisms for coordination and joint cooperation among countries participating in the multinational maritime mission.

The meeting highlighted the importance of enhancing the security of commercial and civilian



vessels, protecting maritime navigation routes, and supporting marine mine-clearing operations to maintain the safety of interna-

tional trade movement. The discussions further called for broader international cooperation and increased participation

in joint maritime security operations to improve the effectiveness of efforts aimed at protecting vital global shipping routes.

## National Coordination



**C**ommander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received Finance and National Economy Minister, Sheikh Salmaan bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, on Wednesday in Manama. During the meeting both sides reviewed a range of issues related to cooperation and joint coordination between them.

# Don't Cross the Buoys

Authorities warn of hazardous marine survey zones and offshore operations

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

**A**uthorities issued a public safety warning regarding orange buoys that mark restricted marine zones linked to ongoing survey work and offshore industrial operations, urging sailors, fishermen and recreational sea users to keep their distance.

The alert, issued under the Ministry of Interior's Al Aman Program, comes amid continued marine activity connected to a large-scale 3D seabed survey being carried out in cooperation with Bapco Energies.

Officials said the brightly coloured markers visible across parts of Bahrain's waters are not decorative or navigational aids, but warning indicators surrounding active operational zones that may pose serious risks.

Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar, speaking as part of the awareness campaign, said sea users must clearly recognize and



strictly avoid the markers.

"Every sailor, whether amateur, professional or anyone heading out to sea must recognize, beware of, and pay attention to the orange markers commonly called 'buoys' in Bahrain," he said.

He added that the guidance from authorities is simple and non-negotiable: "You must stay away from these markers."

According to officials, the marine survey project will continue across different locations in

Bahrain's territorial waters until 2027, with operational zones shifting as work progresses.

Authorities warned that entering or approaching these areas during swimming, diving, fishing or boating activities could result in serious safety risks.

The advisory specifically prohibits activities near the marked zones, including swimming, diving, stopping vessels, jet skiing, fishing, or deploying nets and traps.



Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar

"Don't swim near them, don't dive around them, don't linger near them, don't cast your fishing line, don't drop fish traps near them, and don't set nets," the awareness message stated.

Officials stressed that the restricted areas should be treated as active danger zones due to ongoing technical operations at sea. "It's a danger zone — dangerous for you," the campaign warned.

# Gulf Nations Reject Iran

Joint Letter Sent to United Nations

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Claims Baseless

**T**he Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan jointly condemned and rejected recent Iranian statements regarding new "management" or "legal rules" for the Strait of Hormuz.

In a separate communication to the United Nations, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan rejected what they described as false Iranian allegations contained in a letter sent by Iran's permanent representative to the UN on April 30, 2026.



In an urgent joint letter addressed to António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Fu Cong, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations and President of the UN Security Council for May, the countries expressed strong opposition to an Iranian official's remarks concerning regional states and the strategic waterway.

## 'Threat to Regional Stability'

The countries warned that such rhetoric threatens regional and international security and undermines principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference in internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of disputes under the United Nations Charter.

The joint statement reaffirmed that the Strait of Hormuz is a vital international waterway for global navigation, trade and energy supplies. It stressed that no single country has the right to impose unilateral control or legal frameworks that could affect freedom of navigation, lawful passage or the safety of commercial vessels and sailors.

The joint response dismissed Iranian claims alleging "aggression" by several Gulf countries against Iran, describing the accusations as baseless and lacking any legal or factual foundation.

## Attacks Launched From Iraqi Territory

In another identical letter sent to the United Nations, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan expressed deep concern over repeated unlawful attacks launched from Iraqi territory by armed militias and groups loyal to Iran.

The letter referred to a statement issued by the Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council on April 25, 2026, condemning the attacks and warning that continued assaults originating from Iraq violate international law and principles of good neighbourliness.

It also highlighted diplomatic efforts through meetings held under the umbrella of the Arab League, where affected countries urged the Iraqi government to take necessary security measures and pursue armed groups responsible for the attacks.

# Women Artists Showcase Works



The Governor of the Capital Governorate, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, toured the "Wasl 2" art exhibition organised by the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, viewing a diverse collection of artworks that highlight Bahraini women's creativity and artistic expression.