

UAE says Iran attacked ADNOC vessel in Hormuz strait

AFP | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates yesterday blamed Iran for attacking a vessel belonging to state-owned oil giant ADNOC in the Hormuz strait, the latest incident in the waterway at the centre of the US-Iran conflict.

Tehran has imposed an effective blockade of the strait, a vital shipping route for global energy supplies, carrying out strikes on commercial ships since the war began in February.

The Islamic republic has said it wants to charge users for passage, which Washington fiercely opposes.

The UAE's foreign ministry condemned what it called a "hostile Iranian attack that targeted a vessel affiliated with ADNOC",



Vessels are seen in the Strait of Hormuz

the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

It added that "targeting commercial shipping and using the

most powerful arm of Tehran's military.

ADNOC had earlier "confirmed that one of its vessels was attacked while transiting the Strait of Hormuz on the evening of Friday, August 14", according to the official WAM news agency, but reported no injuries.

In its statement, ADNOC stressed the importance of protecting seafarers and safeguarding freedom of navigation and maritime security.

After the attack, UAE presidential adviser Anwar Gargash said the Gulf state would defend its "rights to freedom of navigation" in the Strait of Hormuz.

"The repeated targeting of ADNOC tankers will not deter the UAE from pursuing a balanced and prudent policy based on the three pillars of deterrence, di-

plomacy, and adherence to international law," he wrote in a post on X.

"We will exert every effort to strengthen a unified Gulf posi-

tion, as it is a fundamental pillar for protecting the security of the region and the interests of its member states in this ongoing crisis."

Oil slicks appear in Iranian waters amid Gulf tanker attacks



TDI | Agencies

the coast of Oman, beyond the Strait of Hormuz.

Two oil slicks have been detected in Iranian waters, according to satellite imagery and video footage, raising fresh concerns over the environmental impact of escalating attacks involving Iran, the United States and commercial vessels in the Gulf.

The region is already facing a serious pollution threat off

The tanker Caroline Bezege, which ran aground in a protected marine area, has been leaking Russian crude oil into the surrounding waters.

The resulting oil slick has spread across a vast area, with some estimates putting its size at around 2,000 square kilometres.

Trump says will 'soon' declare Hormuz strait US territory

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump said he would "finish defeating" Iran and "soon" declare the Strait of Hormuz part of US territory.

Trump has repeatedly said that the key energy water-

way, which Tehran effectively closed at the start of the Middle East war, is under US control.

"After we finish defeating Iran, which is being very badly defeated - pretty soon I'll be declaring the Hormuz Strait a territory of the United States,"

he said with a chuckle during a political rally at a police academy in New York state.

"It's true," he added.

An unnamed White House official later clarified that Trump was joking, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Min-

ister Kazem Gharibabadi fired back yesterday in a post on X, stressing that the "Strait of Hormuz has been Iranian, is Iranian, and will remain Iranian."

"This strait will only be closed and opened under Iran's command," he added.

Lebanon reports 11 dead in strikes that Israel says targeted Hezbollah



A man searches for survivors amidst the rubble following the aftermath of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a house

AFP | Beirut

Lebanon said Israeli strikes on the south killed 11 people including three children yesterday, the deadliest raids since deals in June eased hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

Israel's military said the strikes in the early morning were in retaliation for an attack by the Iran-backed militant group on its troops in south Lebanon.

They came as Israel and Lebanon were set to hold an eighth round of US-sponsored direct negotiations early next month in Rome.

The sides agreed a framework deal at talks in Washington in June, but Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said yesterday's "violations are a clear message on the negotiations process and American efforts aiming to implement this agreement".

Hezbollah said the Israeli

attacks "will be met with an appropriate response", urging Lebanese authorities to abandon "the humiliating path of direct negotiations".

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) said that Israel "escalated its attacks on the south" early yesterday, reporting an airstrike on a home in the village of Ansar and a "series of airstrikes targeting the Ali al-Taher ridge", a strategic hill overlooking the Nabatieh area.

It later reported another strike on the southern town of Deir Zahrani.

Lebanon's health ministry said seven people were killed "including three children and two women," in Ansar, where Aoun said "an entire family" had been killed.

The ministry said four other people were killed and 17 others wounded including a child and 11 women in Deir Zahrani, raising an earlier toll of two dead.

Indonesia quake kills 47 as rescuers search rubble

Authorities lift tsunami warning but urge caution as aftershocks continue

- Dozens of buildings damaged on Flores
- About 2,000 people evacuate homes
- Landslides disrupt rescue operations

AFP | Maumere

Rescuers combed through debris for survivors on yesterday after a powerful earthquake struck off Indonesia's eastern Flores island, killing at least 47 people, according to disaster officials.

The national disaster management agency (BNPB) raised the death toll from 40 late yesterday, and rescue official Fathur Rahman said 50 people were injured in the 7.7-magnitude quake.

Suharyanto, who leads the BNPB, said earlier that people were trapped in several buildings.

"These will be the initial targets of the disaster response teams," said Suharyanto, who like many Indonesians uses one name.

Nearly 160 houses, dozens of educational and health facilities and other public buildings were damaged when the earthquake struck the popular tourist island in Indonesia's east, the BNPB reported.

The International Federation



Rescuers working amid the rubble of a damaged building after an earthquake in Maumere

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Residents reported the sea retreating near Nagekeo before the tsunami warning was lifted, prompting people to flee toward higher ground

of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said preparations were

underway to bring aid to some 2,000 people in temporary shelters.

The government sent 50,000 aid packages weighing a total of 275 tonnes to the area, and European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen offered help from the bloc's Copernicus Earth observation satellites.

"Europe stands ready to deploy Copernicus, our eyes in the sky, to support search and rescue efforts. Indonesia, we stand with you," she wrote on X.

'Like we were on a trampoline'

"I have never felt an earthquake this big," Yulian Juita

Ekalia, who lives in Ruteng city more than 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of the epicentre, said by telephone hours after the tremor.

"It felt like we were on a trampoline; it was really scary," said the 37-year-old university lecturer, who was jolted awake at around 5:30 am (2130 GMT on Friday).

"As I rushed to get outside, everything in the house fell down: the television, my son's trophies, the dish racks, suitcases on top of the wardrobes. When I got outside, my son and neighbours were already there, screaming in fear."