

Abdul El-Sayed leads anti-war sweep in Michigan; Israel raids Qalandia refugee camp; Russian strikes kill 17 in Kyiv

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Iran

- **Tehran's Hormuz talks with Oman in final stages, have "nothing to do" with U.S.:**

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Wednesday that Iran and Oman have agreed on the geographic parameters of a shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz and are in the final stage of preparing a joint announcement, provided "certain third parties" do not interfere.

- An agreement on shipping arrangements between Iran and Oman through the Strait of Hormuz would not immediately reopen the waterway, a government source [told](#) Iranian state broadcaster IRIB, saying that the ongoing talks have "nothing to do" with the U.S. The source told the broadcaster that the waterway would remain closed as long as "U.S. violations" continue.

- Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remained severely restricted on Tuesday, with just eight vessels transiting the waterway for a second consecutive day, according to shipping data firm Kpler. Prior to the war, roughly 130–140 ships typically passed through each day.

- **Qatar FM: Multinational effort underway to reach diplomatic resolution to Iran War:**

Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al-Ansari [said](#) on Tuesday Doha is coordinating with Oman, Pakistan, and GCC states to broker a U.S.-Iran diplomatic resolution and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

- He called mediation efforts "ongoing" and said a draft of a possible agreement was being circulated among the relevant parties, adding that the talks have reached "very progressive stages."

- **Report: Iran demands say over inbound and outbound Hormuz traffic:** Iran is demanding control over ships [entering](#) the Strait of Hormuz and oversight of outbound traffic, with the power to intervene if necessary, under a temporary reopening plan being discussed with Oman, a senior Iranian source told Reuters on Tuesday.

- Outbound vessels would travel between Iran and Oman, with Oman granting exit clearance after notifying Tehran, Reuters reports.
- The source told the outlet that Iran has already compromised from its initial demand for full control in both directions and is unlikely to shift further.
- **Iraq in Hormuz talks with Iran, Iraqi official says:** Iraqi Oil Minister Bassem Mohammed Khudair [said](#) on Tuesday that the country is in talks with Iran over the “smooth flow of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz,” expressing hope for a breakthrough in the coming days, according to a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency.
 - Iraq exports roughly 95% of its crude through the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, leaving the major OPEC producer heavily exposed to the disruption caused by the waterway’s effective closure.
 - The talks come days after Iraq signed a separate agreement with Turkey to maintain northern crude exports to the Mediterranean through the Ceyhan pipeline, bypassing the Gulf.
- **At least 56 executed in Iran since March, UN human rights chief says:** Iran has executed at least 56 people on national security-related charges since March 19, including 27 in cases linked to mass anti-government protests in January, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, with over 100 others at risk of execution on similar charges. “I am alarmed by the rise in executions and death sentences issued in Iran since March, and that capital punishment continues to be used to instill fear among the population and suppress dissent,” Turk said in a [statement](#). He added that executions for drug-related offenses are also continuing “at an alarming rate.”

Yemen

- **Ansarallah claims attack on Saudi tanker:** Yemen’s Ansarallah movement announced on Tuesday that it had struck the Saudi oil tanker Wafa with ballistic missiles in the northern Red Sea, off Yanbu, claiming a direct hit as part of enforcing its maritime blockade on Saudi Arabia, though neither the Saudis nor major maritime tracking firms confirmed the incident.
 - Ansarallah said its forces have now targeted eight Saudi oil tankers since the blockade began on July 22, adding that 29 Saudi tankers have been prevented from continuing their voyages and forced to turn back in the Red and Arabian Seas.

Palestine

- **Killed and wounded in Gaza:** Over the past 24 hours, two Palestinians were killed after succumbing to wounds sustained in earlier attacks, and one was injured in Israeli attacks across Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Two bodies were also recovered from beneath the rubble.

- The total recorded death toll since October 7, 2023 has risen to 73,381 killed, with 174,231 injured. Since October 11, the first full day of the so-called ceasefire, Israel has killed at least 1,254 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded 4,121, while 804 bodies have been recovered from under the rubble.

- **Israel's assault on Gaza:**

- Israel struck and **wounded** a Palestinian child on Wednesday morning, west of Khan Younis, according to Shehab News.

- Israeli artillery **shelled** an area northeast of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza on Wednesday, WAFA reported, and also fired on the northern areas of Al-Bureij refugee camp.

- In the southern Gaza Strip, Israel shelled areas southwest of Khan Younis.

- **Israeli attacks in the occupied West Bank:**

- **East Jerusalem:** A large force of Israeli soldiers **raided** Qalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, on Wednesday morning, conducting searches and raids, and detaining several Palestinians. Israeli soldiers distributed leaflets stating that “a large-scale operation” in the camp was underway, according to Quds News Network. The Palestinian Red Crescent said its crews in the camp have so far treated eight people who were assaulted. The army operation comes one week after Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz issued instructions to occupy another Palestinian refugee camp under the model of the army invasions of the Jenin, Tulkarem, and Nur Shams camps in early 2025 that Human Rights Watch said amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In a separate attack in the town of Al-Ram, Israeli soldiers **shot** a young Palestinian man in the foot, according to the Red Crescent.

- **Bethlehem:** Israeli forces **raided** the town of Beit Fajjar on Tuesday evening, firing tear gas and sound bombs. In Nahalin, west of Bethlehem, Israeli settlers **began** demolitions on three Palestinian homes.

- **Jenin:** Israeli forces [detained](#) four Palestinians in several raids on the Jenin governorate on Wednesday, seizing one home in the area and converting it into a military barracks. Settlers [bulldozed](#) Palestinian land and uprooted olive trees in nearby Ajja, receiving support from the Israeli military, according to WAFA.
- **Tubas:** Israeli settlers [attacked](#) a water pipeline in Yerza, East of Tubas, on Wednesday, according to WAFA, the eighth attack on this pipeline since the beginning of July.
- **Galilee:** Israeli forces [demolished](#) a Palestinian home in Al-Ba'na in Galilee on Wednesday, forcing evacuations from the area, and detaining the home's owner and his brother when they attempted to resist the operation.
- **Israeli military probe says soldier may have killed settler in Tal attack:** An Israeli military investigation published Wednesday [found](#) that friendly fire may have killed Israeli settler Benayahu Mellet during a deadly settler attack in the occupied West Bank village of Tal last month, The Times of Israel reported. Four Palestinians and two Israelis were killed during the attack after around 20 settlers, some of them armed, stormed the village. The incident sparked a large-scale Israeli military operation across the occupied West Bank. According to the probe, Mellet died shortly after a Palestinian wrestled a rifle from another Israeli, though the military said it could not determine whether he was killed by Palestinian fire or by Israeli troops because his body was buried without an autopsy.
- **Netanyahu says he has “disagreements” with Trump over the Gaza plan:** After meeting with “Board of Peace” representative Nickolay Mladenov on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [told](#) Israeli media that he had “disagreements with President Trump” concerning “the recent agreement with Hamas.”
 - Netanyahu maintained, contrary to the roadmap published by the board, that Hamas “must be disarmed and the Gaza Strip [be] demilitarized before moving to the reconstruction phase.”
 - During the meeting, Mladenov reportedly urged Netanyahu to halt Israeli attacks on Gaza, two sources told the AP.
 - Following the meeting, Hamas [called for](#) clarifications from the board, the AFP reported, voicing “unease” over Mladenov’s statement after he met with Netanyahu. The statement, a Hamas official said, “focused solely on the issue of weapons and failed to address the occupation’s obligations,” which include an end to all Israeli attacks on Gaza.

- **Israeli abuse of Palestinian “doctor of the poor”:** Israeli prison guards have [beaten](#) a 71-year-old Palestinian doctor, tear-gassed his overcrowded cell, and denied him vital medication, according to testimony published by Haaretz on Tuesday.

- Dr. Mazen Al-Rantisi, nicknamed the “doctor of the poor” because of the free and low-charge medical care he provides Ramallah-area residents, was imprisoned by Israeli forces during a raid on June 21, and was indicted for chairing a health nonprofit previously outlawed by Israel.

- Al-Rantisi told a lawyer from the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel this week that guards force blindfolded prisoners to walk bent over, beat him and other detainees during repeated raids, and fired tear gas into their cells. Younger prisoners surround him during the beatings in an effort to shield him.

- Israel withheld all of his regular prescriptions for his first 10 days at Ofer Prison and continues to deny him one medication. His requests to see a doctor have been ignored, and his lawyer said he has lost significant weight.

- **Drop Site video dispatch from mass funeral in Gaza:** 44 children and 37 women were among 112 members of the Al-Hasayna and Abu Sharia families laid to rest at a mass funeral in northern Gaza after Civil Defense crews recently recovered their bodies from beneath the rubble. Drop Site contributor Abdel Qader Sabbah shared footage from the funeral and spoke with attendees.

- “The first house was bombed, so they fled to a second house, then to a third, searching for somewhere safe to hide,” family elder Nahed Al-Hasayna told Drop Site. “These were all children and women, peaceful and innocent. For what crime were they killed?”

- Fares Affana, director of ambulance and emergency services for Civil Defense in northern Gaza, told Drop Site that Israeli attacks had systematically destroyed Gaza’s rescue capacity, leaving crews unable to reach people trapped beneath collapsed buildings. “We could hear the cries and screams of the wounded from beneath the rubble....But because we lacked equipment, we could not reach them,” he said, adding that many remained trapped for days until they died.

- **Watch Sabbah’s full report [here](#).**

- **Israeli Knesset committee approves around 110 million dollars for settlement expansion:** The Israeli Knesset Finance Committee [held](#) a special session Tuesday during the election recess to approve 335 million shekels (~\$110 million) for settlement expansion,

which would raise the Israeli Settlement Ministry's budget for the year to a record 821 million shekels (not including the 944 million shekels it has committed for future settlements).

Lebanon

- **Israel orders evacuation, launches strikes after explosion kills soldiers in south**

Lebanon: Israel launched a wave of attacks across southern Lebanon on Wednesday after two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed and others wounded after an explosive device detonated inside a building in Majdal Zoun, a village in southern Lebanon that is partially occupied by the Israeli military, according to Israeli media.

- Following the explosion, the Israeli military claimed Hezbollah had violated the ceasefire and ordered residents of Al-Mansouri to evacuate north before [carrying out](#) two airstrikes on the Mashaa al-Mansouri area south of Tyre (Sour). Israeli artillery also shelled the outskirts of Majdal Zoun, according to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA).
- An Israeli airstrike [struck](#) the rooftop of a prayer room at the Tebnine cemetery, killing one person and wounding 11 others, according to NNA.
- Israeli forces also [dropped](#) illumination flares over the heights of Kfar Reman, which NNA said were intended to ignite fires, while troops [set fire](#) to forested areas and fruit orchards in Houla, with the flames spreading to homes in the town's western neighborhoods.
- Israel has continued carrying out near-daily attacks in Lebanon despite the U.S.-brokered ceasefire. On Tuesday night, Israeli forces carried out another large-scale demolition in Hadatha in Bint Jbeil district and a drone struck the same location twice in the Roueiss neighborhood of Nabatieh Al-Fawqa, according to NNA.

U.S. News

- **Primary results:**

- **Abdul El-Sayed** beat Rep. **Haley Stevens** in Tuesday's Michigan Democratic Senate primary, overcoming over \$60 million in outside funding, mostly from pro-Israel groups, and late endorsements of Stevens from current Gov. **Gretchen Whitmer** and prominent national Democrats like Rep. **James Clyburn**. El-Sayed will face Republican **Mike Rogers** in the November general election. If elected, he will be the first Muslim-American to serve in the U.S. Senate.

- State Rep. **Donavan McKinney** prevailed over incumbent Democratic Rep. **Shri Thanedar** in their Detroit-area primary contest, despite Thanedar's backing from AIPAC and cryptocurrency interests. McKinney, a 34-year-old endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America, is now the heavy favorite to represent the safely Democratic district.
- Progressive **William Lawrence** **defeated** two moderate candidates in his Democratic primary in the Lansing Area. Lawrence, a climate organizer endorsed by Sen. **Bernie Sanders** and **Rashida Tlaib**, will face incumbent Republican Rep. **Tom Barrett**, rated one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents in this cycle, in the general election to represent Michigan's 7th district in the House.
- Rep. **Wesley Bell** defeated former Rep. **Cori Bush** in Missouri's 1st Congressional District Democratic primary, repeating his 2024 win over Bush, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. AIPAC spent about \$3 million on Bell's behalf, less than the \$8 million he received in 2024, when he was one of the largest beneficiaries of AIPAC spending nationwide.
- Missouri voters **rejected** a Republican-backed measure that would have required a majority in each of the state's eight congressional districts, rather than a simple statewide majority, to pass citizen-sponsored constitutional amendments, preserving a tool voters have used to pass measures including Medicaid expansion, marijuana legalization, and an abortion rights guarantee. Opponents, including a state real estate association and abortion rights groups, noted the measure would have set the highest such threshold among the 18 states allowing citizen-led constitutional amendments and that none of the four amendments Missouri voters passed since 2020 won in all eight districts.
- Rev. **Adam Hamilton**, pastor of the largest United Methodist congregation in the country, won Tuesday's Democratic Senate primary in Kansas, according to The Associated Press, setting up a challenge against Republican Sen. **Roger Marshall** in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat to the Senate in nearly 100 years. Though Kansas has not factored into Democrats' plans to retake the Senate, Hamilton is viewed by some as a talented fundraiser and has some political tailwinds, including the recent re-election of a Democratic governor and an electoral victory for abortion rights in 2022.
- Kansas voters **rejected** a Republican-backed ballot measure that would have required state Supreme Court justices to be popularly elected rather than appointed by the governor, dealing another setback to lawmakers seeking to overturn a 2019 court ruling that established a constitutional right to abortion in the state. Kansas Republicans

had campaigned for the measure by arguing that the state Supreme Court had failed to represent the “will” of the state’s voters, but told anti-abortion groups that the referendum was aimed at challenging the state’s abortion laws.

- **Abbas Alawieh** won his Democratic primary to represent the Dearborn area in the state Senate. Before his work on behalf of the “Uncommitted” movement, which attempted to hold the Democratic Party accountable for its failures on Gaza. Alawieh previously served as a congressional aide to Reps. **Andy Levin**, **Rashida Tlaib**, and **Cori Bush**. If elected, he will be the first Arab-American to serve in Michigan’s state Senate.
- **ICE arrests hit record 51,000 in July:** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement **arrested** 51,000 people in July, the largest single-month total in Department of Homeland Security history, according to sources familiar with the data cited by ABC News.
 - ICE has particularly ramped up its campaign at American airports, with 30 people detained at airports in July, according to the data.
- **Trump administration refunds \$100 billion in “liberation day” tariffs:** The Trump administration has **paid out** about \$100 billion, or 60% of the \$165 billion collected, in refunds of “liberation day” tariffs since the Supreme Court struck down the emergency powers used to impose them earlier this year, according to a report U.S. customs officials gave judges at the U.S. Court of International Trade on Tuesday.
 - Customs and Border Protection said in a Tuesday court filing that more than \$128 billion has been “accepted for processing,” indicating that more refunds are imminent.
 - Representative **Greg Casar** (D-Texas) noted that the refunds go almost exclusively to companies, and are not seen by consumers. “Every single cent of these refunds should go back to American consumers,” he said on X.
- **Appeals court rules E.P.A. cannot block \$20 billion in climate grants:** A divided 10-judge panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit **upheld** an injunction Tuesday barring the Environmental Protection Agency from terminating \$20 billion in climate grants under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, ruling that recipients should have access to the funds while their case proceeds. If the E.P.A. does not appeal to the Supreme Court within seven days, the ruling will effectively reinstate the Biden-era program, which E.P.A. Administrator **Lee Zeldin** sought to kill, using as his pretext unsubstantiated allegations of waste and fraud against eight climate groups.

- **Rep. Chuck Edwards drops re-election bid after Ethics Committee recommends censure for sexual harassment:** Rep. **Chuck Edwards**, a North Carolina Republican, [withdrew](#) from his re-election campaign early Wednesday after the House Ethics Committee recommended censure after finding he sexually harassed two female staffers and created a hostile work environment.

- The House is expected to vote on censuring Edwards after the August recess. Edwards said in a post on X that he would complete his current term.

- **Democrat Julian Beaudion withdraws from South Dakota Senate race:** **Julian Beaudion**, the Democratic nominee for South Dakota's Senate seat, [withdrew](#) from the race Tuesday after months of vowing to stay in, clearing the way for a one-on-one contest between independent **Brian Bengs** and Republican incumbent **Mike Rounds**, The Washington Post reported.

- South Dakota becomes the third state where Democrats have opted not to field a Senate candidate, following Nebraska and Idaho, a strategy that gained traction after independent **Dan Osborn** came within seven percentage points of winning Nebraska's 2024 race.

- Beaudion said he would not endorse either Bengs or Rounds and accused Bengs, without naming him, of "intimidating threats to drop out of this race."

- **AP: Trump administration has detained more than 50 relatives of active-duty troops in immigration crackdown:** More than 50 parents and spouses of active-duty U.S. service members have been [detained](#) under President Donald Trump's second-term immigration crackdown, with at least six deported, according to an Associated Press investigation published on Wednesday.

- The detentions, which experts say reverse decades of bipartisan practice protecting military families and even Trump's own first-term policy, have disrupted deployments and left troops without childcare, including Army Sgt. **Hedar Leonel Turcios Juarez**, whose wife was detained outside a Walmart, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. **Wendy Gbeve**, whose father was deported to Mexico despite a pending legal status application.

- DHS said in a statement that "military service alone does not automatically grant lawful immigration status," even as Army and National Guard recruiters continue advertising immigration benefits like "military parole-in-place" to potential enlistees.

 Have a tip on Capitol Hill? Email DC Correspondent Julian Andreone at Julian@dropsitenews.com

Other International News

- **Russian barrage on Kyiv kills at least 17:** Russia [struck](#) Kyiv and surrounding areas with 24 ballistic missiles, four cruise missiles, and 115 drones early Wednesday, killing at least 17 people, according to Al Jazeera, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying the strikes hit warehouses, a brewery, and construction supply sites.

- Zelenskyy said Ukraine's supply of air defense missiles is three times lower than in 2025 and that missile interceptors "could have saved the lives of those killed today." Reuters [reported](#) that U.S. officials are discussing options to replenish Ukraine's depleted Patriot stockpiles, including allowing domestic component manufacturing.

- Separately, Ukraine struck a Wildberries warehouse in Russia's Tula region and an oil refinery in Bashkortostan on Wednesday.

- **Sheikh Hasina says she plans to return to Bangladesh despite death sentence:** Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 78, [said](#) in a video address on Wednesday that she plans to return to Bangladesh in December after two years in exile in India, despite a death sentence handed down against her.

- Hasina, who was ousted following a violent crackdown on protests in 2024, made the announcement alongside her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and other leaders from her Awami League Party.

- She said the exact date of her return would be announced "when time comes."

- **U.S. revokes visa of Brazilian ambassador:** The United States [revoked](#) the visa of Brazilian Ambassador to Washington Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti. The move comes after Brasília stalled the approval of the incoming U.S. envoy and refused visas for two U.S. State Department officials over concerns of political meddling. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva defended the move by openly accusing the American diplomats of seeking to interfere in the October vote and cast doubt on the integrity of the country's electoral system. State Department officials indicated the ambassador's credentials could be reinstated once Brazil accepts Washington's choice for the post.

- **Brazil downgrades diplomatic ties with Argentina after Milei's latest insults of Lula:** Brazil will [handle](#) relations with Argentina at the chargé d'affaires level after Argentine President Javier Milei again insulted Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, calling him an "ex-convict," a "thief," and "corrupt" in recent interview on Argentine television, a Brazilian government source told Reuters on Tuesday.

- Brazil's ambassador to Argentina, Julio Bitelli, who had already been recalled last month after Milei criticized Lula while campaigning alongside opposition candidate Flavio Bolsonaro, will not return to Buenos Aires.
- Milei and Lula have not held an official bilateral meeting since Milei took office in December 2023.
- **Mass jail break, armed clashes kill three in cities west of Tripoli:** Detainees [staged](#) a mass escape from a jail in Surman, near Tripoli, on Tuesday as armed clashes between rival groups erupted in the nearby cities of Zawiya and Surman, killing three civilians and injuring several others, Reuters reported.
 - The origin and cause of the clashes remained unclear. Zawiya, located 40 kilometers west of Tripoli, is home to Libya's largest functioning oil refinery, which urged workers to avoid the areas of fighting.
 - Surman's Mayor Mohamed Abu Snina described the humanitarian situation as "very bad" but said relative calm had returned to the city after a neutral force was deployed to the area.
- **Malaysia says it won't repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar if their lives are at risk:** Malaysia will not [proceed](#) with repatriating 5,000 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar if their lives are found to be at risk, government spokesman Fahmi Fadzil said Wednesday.
 - Fahmi said Myanmar's junta government is ready to receive the refugees but that Malaysia's foreign and home ministries are still reviewing the plan before proceeding.
 - Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's government sought the handover after unrest between the Rohingya refugees and Malaysians, in response to which Rohingya schools were shut down, and some refugees were evicted from homes in Penang or briefly detained after gathering outside the UNHCR building in the country's capital.
- **Ceuta seeks transfer of 1,100 unaccompanied minor migrants to mainland Spain:** Local leaders in Spain's Ceuta are [seeking](#) the transfer of roughly 1,100 unaccompanied minors to mainland Spain after 72,000 migrants arrived in the enclave in one week, Reuters reported on Tuesday.
 - While most migrants have since returned to Morocco, the minors cannot be summarily deported and remain in makeshift accommodations in the city.
 - Ceuta government head Juan Jesus Vivas called the situation "absolutely unsustainable."

- The Spanish government gave the enclave 25 million euros to support the unaccompanied minors, though Spain's far-right has agitated against the move, saying "not one euro" of Spanish money should go to the minors.