Iran war caused largest oil and gas disruption on record; Ansarallah strikes Riyadh’s tallest building; ICJ rules Myanmar committed genocide against Rohingya

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Iran

- **IEA: Iran war causes largest-ever disruption to global oil and gas trade:** The U.S.-Israeli war with Iran caused the largest disruption to the global oil and gas trade on record, resulting in cumulative losses of 2.8 billion barrels of oil and 60 billion cubic meters of gas supplies from the Gulf, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Thursday. The conflict severely restricted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries about 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies.
    - “The energy world will never be the same again as it was before the Iran war,” IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said. The agency said that the disruption could accelerate a global shift away from fossil fuels, potentially reducing oil demand by 4.4 million barrels per day by 2035 compared with its current-policy projections.
    - Crude shipments through Hormuz fell to approximately 8.5 million barrels per day in November, half their prewar levels, according to data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler, which cautioned that the figure could rise in coming days. Total Middle Eastern oil exports across all routes, including pipelines bypassing the strait, fell to 64% of prewar levels, down from 97% in October.
- **Iran says five oil tankers struck naval mines and caught fire in Hormuz:** Five oil tankers struck naval mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday and Thursday after entering “prohibited” shipping routes, according to Iranian authorities. Iran’s regular Navy said three tankers caught fire Wednesday in the eastern part of the strait after ignoring warnings and switching off their navigation systems. On Thursday, the Islamic

Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy said two additional supertankers struck mines, caught fire and exploded near the strait's southern coast.

· **USS George Washington aircraft carrier leaves Gulf after three months:** The USS George Washington aircraft carrier reportedly left the Gulf region after a three-month deployment, USNI News reported, citing a U.S. Navy official. Bloomberg reported that the carrier is likely returning to its base in Japan. Its departure follows the arrival of the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Middle East, where it joined the USS George H.W. Bush. The U.S. military has not officially confirmed the George Washington's departure.

· **Trump threatens to "wipe out" Iran over potential dirty bomb attack; U.S. homeland security chief denies threat:** President Donald Trump claimed Iran was exploring the development of chemical and biological weapons, saying Tehran was "looking at gases, looking at bio," without providing evidence. Asked about the possibility of an Iranian attack on Washington, Trump told Fox News he did not believe one was likely but warned, "If it does happen, we wipe them out," adding, "I give you my word." Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said during a congressional hearing Wednesday that Iran does not pose an imminent threat of a radioactive "dirty bomb" plot.

· **Iran, China, and Russia demand end to military threats before full resumption of IAEA inspections:** An end to military attacks and threats, along with credible guarantees against further strikes, is necessary before the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) can fully resume inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran, China, and Russia said Wednesday. In a joint statement delivered at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, the three countries said U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities had made normal verification activities practically impossible.

  · Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Reza Najafi, warned that Tehran would assess future inspection requests individually based on security considerations and would not grant unrestricted access while military threats persist. "We will not accept being bombed on the one hand while being asked ... to provide detailed information about our materials and sites and grant unrestricted access to them," Najafi said.

  · He also warned that Iran could suspend its safeguards obligations if circumstances required, while maintaining that Tehran had not yet done so. The three countries said Iran had authorized all planned IAEA inspections at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in 2026.

· **Iranian FM spokesperson refuses NYT interview over report linking dams to military infrastructure:** Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said he rejected an interview request from The New York Times over its reporting on Iranian dams and their

alleged links to military infrastructure, accusing the newspaper of promoting narratives that could help justify U.S. and Israeli attacks.

- The Times defended its reporting, saying it had accurately cited research and analysis by seven international experts and warning that portraying independent journalism as a pretext for violence was dangerous.
- However, two experts cited in the article publicly challenged the newspaper's framing. Nima Shokri, an expert on water security at the Hamburg University of Technology, said the proximity of dams to military targets neither establishes why they were built nor justifies attacks on them. Kaveh Madani, the former deputy head of Iran's department of environment, published an article in Forbes refuting the Times' conclusions and said in a post: "My comments had nothing to do with dams or missiles!"

Palestine

- **Israeli forces kill two Palestinians in Gaza, wound woman:** At least one Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli forces on Thursday on Salah al-Din Street in southeastern Gaza City, according to Al Jazeera. A Palestinian man also died Thursday from wounds sustained in an earlier Israeli strike on the Bureij refugee camp, while a woman was shot and wounded in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, WAFA reported.

- Israeli forces also carried out demolitions overnight in central Gaza, following Wednesday's launch of a new ground operation targeting three areas west of the "yellow line."

- **Israel ends central Gaza ground operation, reopens Salah al-Din Road:** Israeli forces ended their ground offensive in central Gaza and reopened Salah al-Din Road, Gaza's main north-south artery, to traffic on Thursday, according to COGAT, the Israeli military body overseeing civilian affairs in occupied Palestinian territory. The operation, launched Wednesday near the "yellow line" northeast of Nuseirat refugee camp, forced hundreds of Palestinian families to flee. COGAT said Israeli forces had targeted "terrorist infrastructure" and warned Palestinians against crossing the yellow line or approaching Israeli troops.

- Hamas condemned the operation and forced evacuations as "a dangerous development and a flagrant violation of the ceasefire agreement," charging Israel of systematically confining Palestinians to an increasingly narrow area of Gaza and urging mediators to intervene immediately.

· **Israeli forces demolish agricultural structures and uproot olive trees in the occupied West Bank:**

  · **Bethlehem:** Israeli forces arrested five Palestinians in Beit Fajjar on Thursday, pursued olive pickers in Wadi Saif, and detained workers inside a stone factory, according to WAFA.

  · **Ramallah and Al-Bireh:** Forces demolished agricultural structures and uprooted olive trees in Deir Ibzi. Late Wednesday, soldiers shot and wounded a 42-year-old Palestinian man in the foot during a raid on central Al-Bireh.

  · **Nablus:** Israeli settlers attacked a house under construction in Qabalan, smashing its windows.

· **Eight injured, mosque torched as anti-Palestinian violence escalates inside Israel:** Eight Palestinians were injured in Kafr Qasim, a Palestinian city inside Israel, on Wednesday when an Israeli driver struck pedestrians at three locations, leaving two seriously wounded and three moderately injured. The town's popular committee described the incident as a deliberate attack fueled by anti-Palestinian incitement, while Israeli police said the driver was under the influence of drugs.

  · Early Thursday, Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque in the village of Al-Dahi, near Nazareth, and spray-painted racist slogans on its walls.

  · Separately, Israeli authorities forced a Palestinian resident of Ar'ara to demolish his unfinished home.

· **Save the Children: Palestinian victims account for nearly one third of violations against children worldwide:** More than 30% of the total violations against children globally in 2025 were committed against children in the occupied Palestinian territories, according to Save the Children's annual global report.

  · Incidents of the denial of humanitarian access to Palestinian children represent more than 70% of the total incidents worldwide, while the killing and maiming of children in the Palestinian territories amounted to almost 40% of the global total. "The scale of harm to children in the occupied Palestinian territory is devastating," the report said.

  · The report also found that Africa is home to the highest number of children living in conflict zones, accounting for about 260 million, or 44% of the global total, with an unprecedented two in five African children impacted.

Yemen

· **Ansarallah missile attack damages Saudi investment fund headquarters:** A tower housing the headquarters of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund in Riyadh sustained damage following a reported Ansarallah missile attack on the capital, AFP reported Thursday. Witnesses said the 80-story tower, the tallest building in Riyadh's financial district, suffered damage to its glass facade and offices across several floors. The damage was reported hours after the Saudi-led coalition announced it had responded to an Ansarallah missile targeting Riyadh and that debris had fallen.

  · Separately, the coalition said its air defenses intercepted and destroyed four Ansarallah ballistic missiles launched toward southern Saudi Arabia.

· **Sixty-four children killed, 64 injured in Yemen as fighting displaces 330,000 people, UNICEF says:** At least 64 children have been killed and another 64 injured in Yemen since fighting escalated on September 3, UNICEF said Wednesday. More than 330,000 people, including 174,000 children, have been displaced, while at least seven schools and 28 health facilities have been damaged. UNICEF also reported that approximately one in three children screened by its mobile health teams were acutely malnourished.

  · In Taiz City, more than 800,000 people have reportedly been cut off from humanitarian assistance, with water production down nearly 50% and food and fuel prices more than doubling.

Lebanon

· **Israeli airstrikes and artillery shelling continue to hit southern Lebanon despite ceasefire:**

  · **Nabatieh:** Israeli warplanes struck the Ain Al-Samahiyah area between Zawtar Al-Sharqiyah and Mifdoun on Thursday, according to Lebanon's National News Agency. Israeli drones also exploded in the Hay Al-Dayaa neighborhood of Nabatieh Al-Fawqa and at a house in Choukine.

  · **Marjeyoun:** Israeli warplanes launched two airstrikes on Qantara, while Israeli forces fired eight grenades toward Khiam.

· **U.S. sanctions Lebanese charity, businessmen, and gold firms over alleged Hezbollah financing:** The U.S. Treasury Department imposed new sanctions Wednesday on the Lebanese Wa Ta'awanu Association, three individuals, and two gold companies over alleged

financial ties to Hezbollah. The Treasury described the association as a Hezbollah-affiliated charity that uses humanitarian services to conceal the group's activities. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the sanctions were part of efforts to cut off Hezbollah's financial networks and counter Iranian influence in Lebanon.

U.S. News

· **House Democrats elect caucus leaders:** House Democrats elected California Rep. **Ted Lieu** House Democratic Caucus Chair on Wednesday, making him the highest-ranking Asian American House member ever.

  · Democrats elected Massachusetts Rep. **Katherine Clark** majority leader, making her the first woman to serve as House floor boss when Democrats take control in January. Rep. **Pete Aguilar** of California was elected majority whip, and Rep. **Joe Neguse** of Colorado was elected assistant speaker. All three ran unopposed and won by acclamation.

  · Rep. **Lauren Underwood** beat Rep. **Sara Jacobs** 143-118 to become House Democratic Caucus vice chair in one of the caucus' rare contested votes. Underwood, 40, co-chairs the caucus's policy and communications arm and has held leadership roles with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

· **House Democrats introduce bill to give removal orders an expiration date:** Rep. **Lateefah Simon** of California introduced the "Protect Our Neighbors Act" Thursday, under which final orders of removal would expire after 10 years for people continuously present in the U.S. with no criminal conviction. Currently, these orders have no expiration date. Under the bill, an immigration judge could renew an expired order only if it had "clear and convincing evidence," and only if the renewal serves the public interest. The bill, co-sponsored by California Reps. **John Garamendi**, **Zoe Lofgren,** and **Juan Vargas**, was inspired by **Harjit Kaur**, a 73-year-old Bay Area grandmother who was detained at an ICE check-in in September 2025 and deported to India under a 2005 removal order. It follows Trump telling "60 Minutes" he would "love to do something on immigration" with Democrats, who take control of Congress in January.

· **Maryland Gov. Wes Moore says Democrats should not tie a government funding bill to ending the Iran war:** Governor **Wes Moore**, a potential 2028 Democratic presidential candidate, told Politico that the Trump administration should end the war but that Democrats' effort to add language ending it to a funding bill is misguided. "I don't know why the American people are being asked to choose between ending a completely rudderless war that we're all paying for and saying, 'Can we please keep the federal government open?'" he said

at the National Governors Association's New Governors Leadership Forum in Utah. Democrats in both chambers are pressuring leadership to draw a hard line on Iran war funding in any stopgap bill, which must pass before the Dec. 11 deadline.

· **U.S. security officials tell Congress they see no evidence cyberattacks caused tech outages:** At a House Homeland Security Committee hearing Wednesday, DHS Secretary **Markwayne Mullin**, Director of National Intelligence **Jay Clayton**, and FBI Deputy Director **Christopher Raia** said the outages that hit airlines, banks, Microsoft services, and the NSA's internal network were not linked. Mullin said he was "98% confident" they were not malicious activity by foreign adversaries but admitted he had "absolutely not" seen this many outages in so short a time. Clayton called them "separate service outages associated with maintenance and technical changes," and Raia said there is "no indication whatsoever" of malicious cyber activity.

· **FBI deputy director declines to name a right-wing domestic terrorist group when pressed by House Democrats:** FBI Deputy Director **Christopher Raia** told the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday that "there isn't" a right-wing organization he would name as a domestic terrorism group, after earlier answering "Yes, sir" when ranking member Rep. **Bennie Thompson** asked if any right-wing groups meet that test. A 2024 National Institute of Justice study, which the Justice Department removed from its website last year, found right-wing extremists have killed more Americans in ideologically motivated attacks than far-left or Islamic extremists.

· **California Gov. Newsom unveils plan to regulate AI:** California Governor **Gavin Newsom**, a likely 2028 presidential candidate, released a report, "AI Safety in 2026 and Beyond," on Wednesday in Washington that would let California officials intervene if AI models risk going rogue, embed independent safety monitors in labs, and order immediate shutdowns if developers don't quickly in "emergency situations." It also calls for giving the state the authority to cap companies' use of automation to develop advanced AI, and requires independent auditors to run regular safety tests on the technology.

· **Kirkland & Ellis discloses $11.8 million of free legal work for Trump administration:** The white-shoe law firm Kirkland & Ellis disclosed to Congress that it has performed about 6,491 hours of free work valued at $11.8 million for the Commerce Department, the Pentagon, the Postal Service, the International Development Finance Corporation and an investment entity created under the U.S.-Japan trade deal, the New York Times reported on Thursday.

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

Other International News

· **UN's top court rules Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya:** The International Court of Justice ruled 9-6 on Thursday that Myanmar "has committed genocide against the Rohingya group in northern Rakhine state, in violation of its obligations under the Genocide Convention." ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa said Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, with evidence showing about 10,000 killed. The court also noted that the soldiers carried out widespread sexual violence and extreme violence against children and attacked people while they fled. The "only reasonable inference," the court argued, is that Myanmar intended to destroy a "substantial part" of the group. The court ordered Myanmar to provide reparations and restitution, including facilitating the safe and voluntary return of Rohingya, finding the missing, and protecting the nation's Rohingya population from persecution. A military crackdown on the mostly Muslim minority in the country has forced more than 730,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh. Thursday's ruling is the first time a state has been found responsible for genocide at the ICJ.

· **Russian strikes kill at least five across Ukraine:** Russian airstrikes on Wednesday killed at least four people and wounded 13 others in Odesa, and a separate Russian drone strike in Zaporizhzhia region killed a woman in Kushuhum. Following the Zaporizhzhia strike, local authorities ordered 184 people, including 85 children, evacuated from the nearby village of Balabyne. The strikes came a day after a Ukrainian attack on Russia's Kerch Bridge killed two people and collapsed part of the structure. On Wednesday, Ukraine also hit the Ilsky and Afipsky refineries in Russia's Krasnodar region.

· **Iraqi court sentences six French nationals to life in prison for joining ISIL:** The Karkh Criminal Court in Baghdad sentenced six French citizens to life on Wednesday for belonging to ISIL (ISIS), with French embassy representatives attending, the Iraqi News Agency reported. Sixteen French nationals have been convicted so far by the court in a trial that began in September, and all but one received life sentences, with the other sentenced to 15 years last month. Iraq received more than 5,700 ISIL detainees from over 60 countries in February after the U.S. moved them from Syria.

· **Somalia expels UAE ambassador:** Somalia ordered the ambassador from the United Arab Emirates to leave the country within 72 hours on Thursday, Reuters reported. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud accused the UAE on Tuesday of giving economic and political support to some regional Somali governments opposing the federal government. In January, Somalia said it was terminating all its agreements with the UAE. The UAE trained hundreds of Somali troops from 2014 to 2018 and, according to senior Somali sources, still covers salaries and logistics for about 3,400 Somali military police and special forces in and around

the capital, and it has committed hundreds of millions of dollars to ports and military infrastructure along the country's coast.

· **Ethiopia and Eritrea move troops to border region in anticipation of war:** The Ethiopian and Eritrean armies have massed forces along their shared border, ACLED, the International Crisis Group, and people tied to militias in Tigray told Reuters. The buildup follows fighting that began in September between Ethiopia's federal government and Tigrayan rebels, with Ethiopia saying Eritrean forces crossed into Tigray in early October to back the rebels, which Eritrea denies.

· **IAEA chief says North Korea has expanded its Yongbyon uranium enrichment facility:** IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told the agency's board of governors Wednesday that a further extension to the original Yongbyon enrichment facility has been under construction since mid-September and was "externally complete by late October," calling the ongoing expansion "extremely worrying." Pyongyang has not allowed IAEA inspectors into the country for years, so the agency monitors through satellite imagery and open-source information. North Korea calls Yongbyon "the heart" of its nuclear program, and Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said last week that nuclear weapons are "the strongest guarantee" of its sovereignty while rejecting a G7 demand for complete disarmament.

· **U.S. and Venezuela sign deal to restore military ties, Hegseth says in Caracas:** U.S. War Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Wednesday during a visit with Venezuela's interim leaders that the two countries signed an agreement to reestablish military ties, ranging from joint training to intelligence sharing. He offered few specifics beyond "training together, partnering together, sharing intelligence, more defense equipment and capabilities together." During his remarks, he described the country as a "compliant security partner." Acting President Delcy Rodríguez, whose court-allowed term expired in July but who continues as head of state, said she hopes cooperation reaches "its highest possible level" to address common threats.

· **Reuters: Trump official suggested Guyana consider ceding territory to Venezuela:** The State Department's policy planning chief told Guyanese Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud in a September Washington meeting that he could help broker territorial talks with Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez, and floated the idea of Venezuela taking partial control of the Essequibo, which makes up the western two-thirds of Guyana. Guyanese officials were stunned by the remarks by Jeremy Lewin, who left the department in October, and quickly sought clarification, and State Department officials assured them U.S. policy on the border had not changed. Lewin told Reuters he held only "preliminary" and "confidential" talks at the White House's direction after Rodríguez wrote Trump in May seeking U.S. mediation.

Venezuela has claimed the oil-, gold- and bauxite-rich region for over 180 years, while the U.S. and nearly every other country recognize it as belonging to Guyana.

· **Trump, Xi, and Putin hold first-ever trilateral summit in Shenzhen:** U.S. President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping met for less than 90 minutes Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, the first time the U.S., Russian, and Chinese leaders sat together without other counterparts. Their joint statement, published by Chinese media, hinted that the U.S. might begin lifting some energy sanctions on Russia imposed after its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, but it did not address Ukraine or Taiwan. The statement also noted agreement among the three that immunity for state officials is "of fundamental importance," that the International Criminal Court must not abuse its authority, and that they should pursue UN reform and increased refined petroleum production.