



# DAILY SUMMARY

# The Iran–U.S. Trigger List

## Riyadh/Yemen – 15 April

The Saudi-led coalition [reported](#) downing “four bomb-laden UAVs and five ballistic missiles” launched by the Huthis towards Jizan; debris “caused a restricted fire that was contained without any losses to civilian life” at Jizan University. A military Huthi spokesperson [claimed](#) that they had successfully targeted an Aramco facility and military sites.

## Tehran – 15 April

President Rouhani [asserted](#) that “after the full implementation of the commitments by the U.S., we will return to our [JCPOA] commitments after the verification [of U.S. actions], which will not take long”. He further insisted that “concerns about Iran’s 60 per cent enrichment... paving the way for the production of bombs is completely wrong”, adding: “We can enrich 90 per cent today, but we stand by our word and we are not looking for an atomic bomb”. Relatedly, a senior Iranian diplomat [underscored](#) that Iran’s objective at the Vienna talks was “not negotiations for negotiation’s sake... if the talks take up the expected constructive path, they will naturally continue”.

## Tehran – 15 April

A military advisor to Iran’s Supreme Leader [affirmed](#) that “Iran’s missile power is a red line and cannot be negotiated”, while noting: “Increasing the range of Iranian missiles is related to threats, and we increase the range of our missiles according to the types of threats we face”.

## Washington/Afghanistan – 15 April

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken [met](#) Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul and “affirm[ed] the U.S.’s continued commitment to Afghanistan”, while emphasising that “the U.S. stands with Afghanistan and its people in support of a peaceful and prosperous future”. The two also conferred on “counter-terrorism cooperation and... shared commitment to ensure al-Qaeda never regains a foothold in Afghanistan”.

## Riyadh/Bahrain – 14 April

The GCC’s Secretary General [wrote](#) to P5+1 foreign ministers to affirm that JCPOA negotiations in Vienna “should not be limited to the Iranian nuclear program, but rather should include Iran’s destabilising behavior [and] ballistic missiles”.

## Washington – 14 April

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken [asserted](#) that “we take very seriously [Iran’s] provocative [announcement](#) of an intent to begin enriching uranium at 60 per cent”. “The step”, he added, “calls into question Iran’s seriousness with regard to the nuclear talks, just as it underscores the imperative of returning to mutual compliance with the JCPOA... [which] remains the best way to limit Iran’s nuclear program in a lasting way, to verifiably ensure that Iran cannot produce fissile material for a nuclear weapon on short notice”. “We’re committed to pursuing that process, but the real question is whether Iran is”, Blinken posited.

## Washington/Afghanistan – 14 April

President Biden [announced](#) that “the U.S. will begin our final [withdrawal](#)” from Afghanistan on 1 May, and that “U.S. troops, as well as forces deployed by our [NATO allies](#) and operational partners, will be out of Afghanistan” by 11 September. Underscoring that “we will not conduct a hasty rush to the exit”, Biden warned the Taliban “that if they attack us as we draw down, we will defend ourselves and our partners with all the tools at our disposal”. He went on to assert that “we’ll not take our eye off the terrorist threat. We’ll reorganise our counterterrorism capabilities and the substantial assets in the region to prevent reemergence... of the threat to our homeland from over the horizon. We’ll hold the Taliban accountable for its commitment not to allow any terrorists to threaten the U.S. or its allies from Afghan soil”. The same day, President Biden [spoke](#) with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to emphasise that “the U.S. will continue to support the Afghan people, including through continued development, humanitarian and security assistance”. According to a U.S. readout, both leaders reiterated “their shared conviction that every effort should be made to achieve a political settlement”.

## Updated -> Iraq/Washington – 14 April

Media [reports](#) citing Kurdish officials reported that “a rocket landed near a U.S. base at Erbil airport”. The Kurdistan Regional Government subsequently issued a statement indicating that the “Erbil International Airport attack was conducted by a drone [and] targeted the military section of the airport where U.S.-led coalition are stationed. No casualties... but damage caused to one warehouse”. [NEW] The State Department’s spokesperson [said](#) he was “outraged by reports of attacks in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The Iraqi people have suffered for far too long from this kind of violence and violation of their sovereignty”.