



The Iran-U.S. Trigger List

Afghanistan – 16 April

Foreign Minister Javad Zarif [opined](#) that “the commitment of the U.S. to finally [withdraw](#) from Afghanistan is a positive move. The Taliban should not use this opportunity to increase their violence”. He further maintained: “It is important for all Afghans to agree on what they want and then work on the details on how to create it. Regional countries should help Afghanistan create that picture, a democratic government, balanced ethnic representation and a strong economy”.

Israel – 16 April

Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi [affirmed](#) that “we will do whatever it takes to prevent the extremist and antisemitic regime [in Tehran] from acquiring nuclear weapons”. “Iran is striving to acquire nuclear weapons and continues to develop long-range missiles. Those would pose a significant threat to Israel and its neighbours”, Ashkenazi added. “Israel is determined to defend itself against any attempt to harm its sovereignty and its citizens”.

Tehran – 16 April

Iran [announced](#) that it had started producing 60 per cent enriched uranium at the Natanz Enrichment Facility, in parallel to continued enrichment at 20 per cent. A senior Iranian official [asserted](#) that “Iranian [nuclear] progress will not be stopped through the assassination of nuclear scientists and damaging nuclear facilities”.

Washington/Iraq – 16 April

The U.S., along with France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, [denounced](#) “in the strongest terms the 14 April [attacks](#) in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region”. “We are united in our view that attacks on U.S. and Coalition personnel and facilities will not be tolerated and reiterate our steadfast commitment to the fight against ISIS”, the five countries noted.

Washington/Lebanon – 16 April

A senior U.S. diplomat met with senior Lebanese officials and [reaffirmed](#) “America’s continued support for the Lebanese people”, while urging “all parties to demonstrate flexibility and form a government that is willing and capable of implementing overdue economic and governance reforms”. He also expressed U.S. “readiness to facilitate negotiations between Lebanon and Israel on the countries’ maritime boundaries”.

Updated -> Riyadh/Yemen/Washington – 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. The U.S. State Department [denounced](#) “the Huthi complex attacks... which threatened civilian infrastructure”, while asserting that “the Huthis’ actions are prolonging the suffering of the Yemeni people and jeopardising... [diplomatic] efforts at a moment when there is a commitment from the international community to end the conflict now”. The U.S. further urged “all parties to agree to a comprehensive, nationwide ceasefire and to engage in negotiations towards an inclusive political agreement under UN auspices”.

Updated -> 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”. An Iranian diplomatic spokesperson [responded](#): “These [GCC] irresponsible remarks are made in continuation of their anti-Iran remarks which are not meant to make a request for participation but seek to destroy the trend of technical talks in Vienna”.