



March 16, 2026

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Oil Exceeds \$100 Per Barrel as Israel Claims 'Thousands of Targets' Remain in Iran Conflict

Waves of Israeli and U.S. strikes continued across Iran over the weekend, targeting military infrastructure and energy facilities in Hamadan, Isfahan, Tehran, and elsewhere. Oil infrastructure was hit repeatedly, contributing to sharp increases in global oil prices and fears of major supply disruptions. Israel is expanding the scope of its campaign, claiming that “**thousands of targets**” remain. The United States is also **sending** an amphibious assault vessel and 2,500 Marines to the region, a potential indicator of impending large-scale ground operations. While the U.S. has refrained from targeting Iranian energy infrastructure to-date, President Trump **threatened** on March 14 to strike energy facilities at the country's Kharg Island oil export hub if ships crossing the Strait of Hormuz are attacked, shortly after striking military targets on the island.

Strikes and clashes also continued in **Lebanon**, where fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has worsened the humanitarian situation and **displaced hundreds of thousands**. Iran **continues to retaliate** against sites across Israel and Gulf states with missile and drone attacks, though regional air defenses continue to intercept many projectiles. An oil trading hub in the United Arab Emirates' **Fujairah**, the country's lone export route that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz, has been struck twice since March 14, forcing a halt to oil loading operations. Separately, a drone incident caused a fire, triggering the temporary suspension of airport operations in **Dubai** and highlighting the sustained security threat in business hubs like the UAE.

Global economic impacts deepened as oil prices **exceeded \$100 per barrel** again on March 15, leading governments to begin **releasing strategic oil reserves** in an effort to stabilize markets. The Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed, with the United States calling on allies to deploy naval forces to support shipping and force the reopening of the critical oil trade route. Trump **warned** earlier today of a “bad future” for NATO should allies fail to help **police the strait**.

Trump Announces ‘Americas Counter Cartel Coalition’ At Shield of the Americas Summit

A new U.S.-led effort to confront cartels across the Western Hemisphere using military force was **announced** on March 7 during the inaugural Shield of the Americas Summit in Miami. The alliance will see 17 countries collaborate with the U.S. in an effort to eradicate the cartels, a key focal point for the Trump administration. Many criminal organizations across Latin America have proven to be formidable adversaries, boasting **cutting-edge weaponry** and substantial numbers.

As part of the new initiative, the U.S. has supported a major **Ecuadorian security operation** that began on Sunday, March 15 with the deployment of some 35,000 security personnel across the country, although it is unclear if U.S. troops will take part in operations directly on Ecuadorian soil. The operation follows earlier **joint strikes** against drug traffickers in the country. Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa is an ally of President Trump, potentially signaling that similar operations could be forthcoming in countries where the leadership is similarly aligned with the U.S.

Level 4 of 5 Severe Thunderstorm Risk Across the Eastern U.S. on Monday

The Eastern United States will experience its first taste of the 2026 severe weather season on Monday as a powerful storm stretching from New York through Florida swings into the region. This same system was responsible for well over **450 damaging wind reports** on Sunday and will pose an even greater threat as it tracks eastward today. The **Storm Prediction Center** has placed over 12.5 million people from central Maryland through northern South Carolina under a **Level 4 of 5 risk for severe weather**, marking the first Level 4 of 5 threat for the region this year. Damaging winds as high as 75 mph are expected, and strong tornadoes will be possible both ahead of and along the line of thunderstorms.

While storms will be moving off the Southeast U.S. coast by the mid-afternoon, storm coverage and intensity is expected to peak during the evening hours as thunderstorms reach central North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, including Washington D.C. Scattered power outages are likely, as well as flight delays and cancellations. Driving conditions during the evening commute will be difficult as the line moves through, especially for the I-95 corridor. The National Weather Service will likely issue numerous severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings between 4 and 10 pm.

Temperatures are expected to plummet as much as 40 degrees behind the cold front. The temperature swing is forecast to be so drastic that a brief period of heavy snow will be possible in West Virginia,

western and central Pennsylvania, and western and central New York this evening into early tonight. Travel conditions tomorrow morning could be hazardous in a few areas due to debris from the storms and from icy spots on roadways.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Blizzard Conditions Across Wisconsin and Michigan:** A **mid-March snowstorm** will continue to impact Wisconsin and Michigan on Monday with strong winds and heavy snow. Over the last 48 hours, the system has already produced **24-30 inches of snow** from southeast Minnesota, through central and northern Wisconsin, and across northern Michigan. Additional snowfall totals on Monday are generally forecast to range between 4-8 inches, though portions of the Upper Peninsula could receive another 12+ inches of snow. Heavy snow combined with wind gusts of 40-50 mph will make travel extremely dangerous across the region and will likely prompt local authorities to advise the public to stay home unless absolutely necessary.
- **Improved Weather in Hawaii Following Extreme Rainfall:** The **National Weather Service** (NWS) canceled the Flood Watch for Hawaii following a week of intense rainfall triggered by a Kona low. The NWS posted five-day rainfall reports for the state early this morning, confirming widespread accumulations of 10-15 inches, with totals as high as 20-30 inches in the mountains. The event prompted localized evacuations and scattered power outages, especially in central and eastern Hawaii. While weather conditions are improving, it will likely take a few days for power to be completely restored and all roads to be cleared. Another round of showers and thunderstorms late Wednesday and Thursday may pose an elevated flood threat due to the highly saturated soils.
- **Monitoring Another Storm in the Middle East:** Scattered heavy rain across western Iran will create an elevated flash flood threat before tapering off through Monday. AlertMedia is tracking a second low-pressure system that may emerge over the eastern Mediterranean Sea and produce additional showers and thunderstorms across Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan by Wednesday. By Thursday and Friday, scattered storms will likely impact most of Iraq and western Iran, with more isolated activity forecast in Saudi Arabia. Given the terrain, flash floods and landslides could become locally dangerous across northern Iraq and western Iran during the period.

Worldwide

- **Uptick in Attacks Targeting U.S. Government Sites at Home, Abroad:** A string of recent attacks, both within the U.S. and abroad, reflect a growing security threat to U.S. interests. March 8 and 10 saw attacks at the U.S. Consulate in **Oslo, Norway** and Embassy in **Toronto, Canada** (respectively), with Norwegian authorities **investigating** the former as a possible “terrorist bombing.” Canadian officials have termed the latter a “national security incident” and are exploring potential links to recent shootings at synagogues in the Toronto area. Other recent incidents underscore the potential threat, including the attempted detonation of an explosive

device outside Gracie Mansion in New York City that the Department of Justice **claims** was perpetrated by two “ISIS supporters,” a shooting at Old Dominion University in Virginia that was allegedly **committed** by a convicted ISIS supporter, and the **ramming** of a synagogue in Michigan that authorities say was a “targeted act of violence against the Jewish community.” While investigators are still determining the motives behind each of these incidents, they **appear to demonstrate** the risk of a growing terror threat, either from lone actors or from **Iranian operatives and assets** operating abroad.

- **U.S. Moves Missiles from South Korea to the Middle East, Raising Concerns Over Deterrence in the Pacific:** The reported **redeployment** of Patriot missiles and THAAD anti-missile system components based in South Korea to support the war effort in Iran is raising concern about **sustaining deterrence** in the Asia-Pacific region. Most immediately, the **redeployment** impacts South Korea’s ability to counter the threat posed by North Korea. Over the weekend, amid joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, Pyongyang **test-fired 10 ballistic missiles**, the latest in a **series of missile launches** that have been reported since reports began circulating around the redeployment of U.S. assets. The move also has many wondering about Washington’s commitment to the wider region, especially as Beijing has continued to take aggressive measures to press its claims on several contested territories in the South China Sea.
- **Transnational Crime Expands in Brazil Amid Local Gang Consolidation:** A recent **report on Operation Dark Trader**, a law enforcement initiative in São Paulo and Santa Catarina, revealed a sophisticated Chinese money-laundering network allegedly using Brazil’s Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) to move nearly \$200 million through front companies in just seven months. The operation highlights growing collaboration between Chinese criminal organizations and the PCC, with both groups leveraging each other’s networks. At the same time, Comando Vermelho has **consolidated** control over the city of Fortaleza, creating a de facto criminal monopoly and expanding extortion efforts. Washington is **pressing** Brasília to designate both PCC and Comando Vermelho as terrorist organizations, but Brazil has resisted. Brasília has warned that labeling domestic criminal groups as terrorists could create legal and political justifications for extraterritorial U.S. actions.
- **Rare Violent Protests Break Out in Cuba as Economic Situation Worsens:** A **protest** in the Cuban city of Morón turned violent on Saturday, March 14 after residents rallied against worsening power outages, food shortages, and economic hardship. The rally began peacefully but escalated overnight as some protesters attacked and vandalized a local Communist Party office. The unrest reflects growing public frustration over prolonged blackouts linked to fuel shortages amid an oil blockade. Such open dissent is rare in Cuba and highlights rising social tensions as the country faces a deepening energy and economic crisis. As the situation on the island has grown more dire, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel **acknowledged** that his government has been holding talks with the U.S., and the country’s deputy prime minister has said that Havana will **begin allowing** Cuban nationals living abroad to invest in the country and own private businesses.

- **Researchers Accuse Social Media of Spreading White Supremacist Content in Southeast Asia:** Nihilistic violent extremists (NVE) have **conducted attacks** in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in recent years, apparently inspired by white supremacists such as the Christchurch Mosque attacker **Brenton Tarrant**. Authorities say the individuals were radicalized through social media posts and online communities, contributing to the adoption of neo-Nazi ideologies. A 2024 study conducted by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) found that social media is **facilitating access** to white supremacist content on digital platforms, including Telegram and TikTok. Two young people in Singapore were detained in **February** and **April** 2025 under suspicion of planning attacks, including on local mosques. In Indonesia, authorities are continuing to investigate a student suspect following a November **attack** in Jakarta that left dozens injured, and Indonesian police are monitoring nearly 100 youths reportedly influenced by white supremacist and violent content.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **AI-Generated Citations Discovered in Springer Nature Article:** A hospital librarian identified numerous **nonexistent references** in a paper published in a Springer Nature journal, highlighting concerns about AI-generated citation errors and weaknesses in academic review processes. The discovery underscores concerns that inaccurate references can undermine research reliability and complicate evidence-based medical practice. Jessica Waite discovered that 12 to 14 citations in a Digestive Diseases and Sciences article could not be found in the journals where they were listed. The author of the article said the errors resulted from an earlier draft containing AI-generated “hallucinated” references that was accidentally submitted. Springer Nature said it is investigating the paper and developing tools to detect fabricated citations. A separate **case** found that 20 of 61 references in a demographic study on Hong Kong were fabricated, with the nonexistent citations passing peer review before being identified by a social media user.
- **Russian Hackers Target Encrypted Messaging Apps:** Russian state-backed hackers are **conducting** a global cyber-espionage campaign targeting users of encrypted messaging apps like Signal and WhatsApp. The operation is focusing on high-profile individuals, including government officials, military personnel, and journalists, whose communications may contain sensitive information. Rather than breaking the apps’ encryption, attackers rely on phishing and social engineering, posing as Signal support staff or known and trusted contacts to trick victims into sharing SMS verification codes or account PINs. They also exploit the apps’ “linked devices” feature by sending malicious QR codes or links that secretly connect the hacker’s device to the victim’s account. These types of attacks are increasing even as Russia attempts to **ban** the use of WhatsApp within the country, citing violations of a law involving the data storage of Russian users’ accounts.
- **Cybercriminals Target HR with Fake Job Applications:** Cybercriminals are increasingly **targeting** human resources (HR) departments by sending fake job applications that secretly

contain malware designed as legitimate resumes. Cyber researchers report that attackers exploit the hiring process because recruiters often open attachments from unknown applicants, making them an easy target for social engineering. In recent campaigns, malicious files, often **delivered** through links or ISO attachments hosted on cloud services, install malware once opened, allowing attackers to disable security tools like antivirus software and endpoint detection and response (EDR) systems. After bypassing defenses, the malware can steal sensitive data or install additional malware programs. These campaigns highlight how routine workplace tasks—such as reviewing resumes—can carry significant cybersecurity risks if employees are not properly trained to detect phishing attempts.

- **Electronic Warfare Near Iran Causes Widespread GPS Disruptions:** GPS interference near Iran is **disrupting** digital services such as delivery and mapping apps, demonstrating how modern digital warfare can impact civilian technology. Electronic warfare tactics, including methods like GPS jamming and GPS spoofing, are interfering with satellite navigation signals used by smartphones, vehicles, and logistical platforms. Jamming overwhelms weaker signals sent by satellites, while spoofing broadcasts fake signals that trick devices into calculating incorrect locations. The disruptions are also impacting aviation, shipping, and infrastructure systems that rely on GPS for positioning and timing. After initial joint U.S./Israel strikes on Iran on February 28, more than 1,100 nearby ships **experienced** GPS and Automatic Identification System (AIS) interference within a 24-hour window.
- **Foreign Content Farms Spreading AI-Created Political Deepfakes:** AI-driven misinformation and cyberattacks are increasing, with foreign actors using AI to create political deepfakes, raising concerns about election integrity and network security. While AI lowers barriers and speeds attacks, core defenses and detection practices remain the most effective protection. A BBC investigation found Vietnam-based Facebook “**content farms**” using AI to spread fake stories and images of U.K. politicians, some attracting thousands of followers before Meta removed the pages. Officials warn that AI tools now make creating convincing deepfakes easier ahead of upcoming Welsh and Scottish elections. Separately, the FBI **said** AI is speeding up cyberattacks, but that basic defenses like patching vulnerabilities and multi-factor authentication remain effective. Future impacts may depend on how quickly platforms remove misinformation and whether detection tools keep pace with AI-generated content.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Disruptions to Chinese Exports Expected to Last Months Beyond End of Iran Conflict as Middle East Traders Look to Red Sea Option:** The growing importance of the Middle East as a transshipment hub for Chinese e-commerce exports to Europe and elsewhere has led to the **accumulation of Chinese goods** in the region, while container ships also remain unable to call at many Gulf ports. Airspace closures, attacks on critical infrastructure, and other knock-on impacts of the conflict are creating additional pressure on Chinese logistics firms already struggling with volatile fuel prices. Many of these firms had only recently re-routed their supply

chains in the region to avoid the continued threat posed by Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea. Outside of Chinese shipping firms, others are also exploring the Red Sea as a possible solution to the disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi Aramco is seeking to **reroute oil shipments** to the port of Yanbu despite the latent threat posed by the Houthis; however, it remains unclear whether it can handle the volume of oil that may be transported across the Arabian Peninsula.

- **Fallout of Iran Conflict Impacting Manufacture of Critical Petrochemical Byproducts:** Everything from the crop planting cycle to high-tech manufacturing faces disruptions from the growing global impact of the Iran conflict. While most concerns initially revolved around the fossil fuel supply and the impact of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz on global energy markets, other important chemicals are produced by Gulf states as well. These include both byproducts of the oil and natural gas industries, such as **ammonia**, a critical input for most nitrogen fertilizers, and **helium**, which has various biological and industrial applications, including the manufacture of microprocessors for use in cutting-edge technology. Chemical industry experts warn that if the conflict lasts for longer than two weeks, it will become increasingly difficult to restart these supply chains, which could produce disruptions that persist for months.
- **Trump Administration Launches New Trade Investigations; Tariff Refund System In Place Soon:** As the Trump administration is working to establish a more legally durable tariff regime, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials **told the U.S. Court of International Trade** that they hope to have a system to disburse tariff refunds to importers within 45 days. CBP official Brandon Lord told the court that the mechanism, which will be used to refund approximately \$166 billion “with interest” that officials have collected in tariffs, will “require minimal submission from importers.” The information was released ahead of a meeting between federal officials and Judge Richard Eaton, who is seeking clarification on how the government intends to follow through on his order to refund those payments. At the same time, the U.S. is launching **trade investigations** into purported excess industrial capacity and labor abuses in 16 key trading partners, as part of a broader effort to rebuild the expansive network of tariffs **voided by the Supreme Court**. The move could lead to even higher tariffs being levied against targeted countries.
- **Mixed Signals on EU Trade Deal Amid Tariff Confusion, Fresh Threats:** Amid the U.S. trade confusion, some European officials are **demanding further clarity** on the tariff situation before approving a hard-fought trade deal, despite **expectations** that negotiators from both sides will come to terms at their upcoming Tuesday, March 17, meeting. If the EU’s relevant constituent bodies agree to move forward with a deal, it could have the European Parliament’s approval by March 26. The approval process had been frozen since February over U.S. President Donald Trump’s institution of a **blanket 10% tariff** on all imports after the Supreme Court invalidated many of the U.S.’ previous levies. Some observers have raised concerns that the Trump administration’s unpredictable path on trade could lead the U.S. to breach the agreement, prompting European officials to warn that they plan to respond **“firmly and proportionately”** to any violation.

- **India Moves to Ease Restrictions on Chinese Investment in Bid for Greater Share of Value Chain:** The Indian government's moves to **ease restrictions** on Chinese investment in certain sectors of the economy could attract an influx of funding to strategic sectors such as electronics and renewable energy. Observers expect the change to encourage investors to move their input manufacturing into India, a critical step toward remedying a nearly \$100 billion Indian trade deficit with China, stemming in part from the import of components for the assembly of finished goods. However, any economic benefit and development that results from these investments is likely to benefit Chinese companies and their employees, potentially at the **expense** of local communities or **India's drive** to reach \$2 trillion in export value annually by 2030.

Health

- **War in Middle East Snags Key Pharma Supply Chains:** The conflict in the Middle East is **disrupting** key air cargo routes used by pharmaceutical companies, raising concerns about shortages of critical medicines, including cancer treatments. Major Gulf air hubs such as Dubai and Doha—normally central transit points for global drug shipments—have faced flight cancellations and airspace restrictions due to the conflict. As a result, drugmakers are rerouting shipments through longer or less efficient routes, increasing transport times and costs. This poses particular risks for temperature-sensitive medicines that require strict cold-chain logistics. Industry executives warn that prolonged disruption could delay deliveries and potentially threaten the supply of vital medicines to some regions if alternative logistics solutions cannot fully compensate.
- **Iran-Linked Hacker Group Claims Responsibility for Cyberattack on Medtech Company:** A pro-Iranian hacktivist group called Handala **claimed** responsibility for a destructive cyberattack against U.S. medical technology company Stryker. According to statements posted by the group, the attack used wiper malware to erase data from more than 200,000 systems, servers, and mobile devices via **Microsoft Intune's** unified, web-based administrative console. The hackers also claimed to have stolen about 50 terabytes of data from the company's network. Security experts **warn** that further cyberattacks are likely as the conflict in the Middle East continues.
- **NYC Detects First Case of Deadlier, More Transmissible Mpox Strain:** New York City health officials **confirmed** the city's first case of a more severe mpox strain, known as clade I. The infection is linked to travel, and authorities say there is currently no evidence of local transmission. Clade I can cause more severe illness and has a higher fatality risk than the clade II strain responsible for the 2022 global outbreak. Mpox spreads through close or intimate contact, including skin-to-skin contact. Symptoms often include a painful rash, fever, chills, and other flu-like effects. Health officials are urging at-risk groups and travelers to affected regions to receive the two-dose JYNNEOS vaccine to reduce infection risk and symptom severity.

- **Meningitis Outbreak in Canterbury, England Kills Two:** An outbreak of invasive meningitis linked to the University of Kent in Canterbury has **resulted** in two deaths, including one confirmed student aged between 18 and 21. Eleven additional people from the Canterbury area, many believed to be students, are hospitalized and seriously ill. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is contacting more than 30,000 students, staff, and families and providing precautionary antibiotics to those in close contact with confirmed cases. Investigators believe the outbreak may be connected to a social event in Canterbury. Health officials warn that meningitis symptoms—such as fever, vomiting, severe headache, and rash—can resemble common illnesses, urging vigilance and immediate medical care for suspected cases.
- **Africa CDC Raises Concerns Over U.S. Health Funding Agreements:** The head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has **raised concerns** about new U.S. health funding agreements with African countries, particularly provisions requiring the sharing of health data and pathogen samples. Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said there are “huge concerns” about how sensitive data and biological information would be handled. Some countries have resisted the terms; Zimbabwe withdrew from negotiations over a proposed \$367 million deal, while Zambia pushed back on certain provisions. Critics argue the agreements require countries to share pathogen data without guaranteeing access to resulting vaccines or treatments. The deals are part of a broader shift in U.S. global health funding toward bilateral agreements under an “America First” strategy.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Disruptions to Schools, Traffic Expected in Mexico During National Teacher’s Strike:** Mexico’s National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) is calling on teachers to gather in Mexico City on Wednesday morning for a march from the Ángel of Independence to the Zócalo. The march will kick off a **72-hour national strike** over the 2007 ISSSTE Law and salaries, among other issues. Widespread school closures are expected, particularly in Mexico City and the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas, and Michoacán, where strong participation is anticipated. A previous national strike by the CNTE in **May 2025** saw over 19,000 schools suspend classes. Demonstration activity is also expected outside of Mexico City, with teachers and others opposed to the ISSSTE **reportedly** planning intermittent road blockades and “tollbooth takeovers” in Tijuana beginning Wednesday.
- **Transport Workers’ Strikes in Mexico, Peru, Philippines:** In addition to the teachers’ strike noted above, transportation workers in Mexico are organizing a **national strike** for this Friday, March 20, in coordination with agricultural workers. Mexico's National Transport Association (ANTAC) and the agricultural groups MAC and FNRCM intend to **strike and hold demonstrations** on highways and in public squares across the country. In the Philippines, meanwhile, Jeepney

drivers with the PISTON group intend to stage a **nationwide transport strike** on Thursday, March 19 over rising fuel prices. Separately, in Peru, an indefinite strike by **heavy cargo transporters** began last Thursday, causing work stoppages but falling short of the typical road blockades, likely due to concerns about rising fuel prices.

- **London Underground Drivers to Strike Next Week:** Londoners can expect disruptions to the London Underground, commonly known as the Tube, beginning next Tuesday, March 24, due to a **series of strikes** over workers' schedule changes. The Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union is calling on workers to strike for 24 hours next Tuesday and Thursday, with four more 24-hour strikes planned in late April and May. The RMT union, which represents approximately 1,800 Tube drivers, **reports** that most drivers are opposed to a four-day compressed schedule, with members citing concerns about "shift lengths, unacceptable working time arrangements, transfer and allocation processes, and the potential impact on fatigue and safety." While Transport for London **notes** that the strike will impact all Tube lines, it expects the overall impact to be less disruptive than RMT's weeklong strike in September 2025.
- **Demonstrations Planned Across Europe on UN's Day Against Racism:** Large crowds and localized traffic disruptions can be expected in major cities across Europe on Saturday, March 21 to mark the **United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. Thousands of people **rallied** in Amsterdam last year, with a similar turnout expected at Dam Square this year. France, which just saw **tens of thousands of people** take to the streets on Saturday against racism and fascism, will see a similar wave of mobilizations this weekend. The Justice pour Nahel movement is organizing a march in Nanterre, near Paris, that is likely to be well-attended. The march comes amid renewed calls for police accountability after a court ruled that the officer who **shot and killed** Nahel Merzouk, a French teenager of Algerian and Moroccan descent, in 2023 will only be charged with manslaughter, not murder.
- **Heightened Demonstration Activity Related to Conflict in the Middle East:** Demonstration activity related to the conflict in the Middle East is expected to continue as the war between the U.S., Israel, and Iran enters its third week. The Stop the War Coalition, which **organized** a large march through central London earlier this month, is calling for a National Day of Action against the bombing of Iran this Saturday, with demonstrations already planned in major cities like Bristol, Cardiff, London, and Manchester. Similar mobilizations have taken place in **Spain**, and a large march against the war is being planned in Madrid for this Saturday evening. Many of the demonstrations opposing attacks on Iran overlap with calls for solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon. Pro-Palestinian activism is likely to surge at the end of March in conjunction with **Palestinian Land Day** on March 30. Many demonstrations have seen opposing groups gather in the same areas, with one side condemning U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran and the other commending military intervention. While most gatherings remain peaceful, confrontations between members of opposing groups are possible.

Weekly Intelligence Briefing

March 16, 2026



Upcoming Events

- February 17 – March 19: Ramadan (Global) Dates approximate and vary by location
- February 18 – April 2: Lent (Global)
- March 13: Quds Day (Global)
- March 15: General Election (Vietnam)
- March 19: Eid al-Fitr (Global) Date approximate and vary by location
- March 20: Nowruz (Global)
- March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Global)
- March 22: Presidential Election (Republic of the Congo)
- March 26: Ram Navami (India)
- March 26-29: World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference (Yaoundé, Cameroon)
- March 30: Land Day (Israel, West Bank, and Gaza)
- March 31: Hanuman Jayanti (India)
- March 31: International Transgender Day of Visibility (Global)
- April 1-9: Passover (Global)
- April 5: Easter (Global)
- April 10: Presidential Election (Djibouti)
- April 12: Presidential Election (Benin)
- April 12: Parliamentary Election (Hungary)
- April 12: General Election (Peru)