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Iran vows 'not a single drop' of oil will leave Gulf if region complies with US plan

Tehran has warned neighboring states it will close the Strait of Hormuz if they take part in Washington's economic pressure campaign

Published 23 Aug, 2026 09:21

Iran has said that not *"a single drop of oil"* will leave the Persian Gulf and threatened to attack alternative export routes if neighboring states take part in the US economic pressure campaign against Tehran.

The warning comes after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday called on Washington's allies and other countries to choose sides and stop doing business with Iran, as the US prepares what he touted as *"the greatest coordinated economic isolation in the history of the world."*



An oil tanker anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran, August 10, 2026. © Ali Saeedi/Getty Images

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In an interview with state broadcaster IRIB which aired on Saturday, Mohsen Rezaei, the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, urged other countries not to participate *"in the economic war with America,"* saying that otherwise Tehran would treat them as enemies.

"If the countries surrounding Iran join the Americans in the economic war, not a single drop of oil will leave the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and we will also target other routes through which oil is exported from the Persian Gulf," he said.



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If US President Donald Trump *"wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner,"* Rezaei added.

On Thursday, Trump announced what he called the *"most crushing economic operation against Iran,"* describing it as an *"Economic D-Day"* and calling on US allies *"to stand with the United States of America to isolate and defeat the Iran threat."*

The announcement came after a 60-day window for negotiating a peace agreement with Tehran expired on Monday without a breakthrough, prompting Trump to declare that the talks had ended.

Earlier on Wednesday, the UAE suspended economic ties with Iran after two ballistic missiles were fired at its territory. Tehran denied responsibility, describing the incident as an Israeli *"false-flag operation."*

Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, which handles around a quarter of global seaborne oil and LNG trade, shortly after the US and Israel launched their joint bombing campaign against



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the Islamic Republic on February 28. The US with 'economic D-Day' Navy imposed its own blockade on Iranian ports in April and has since been guiding ships along routes that Tehran considers illegal.

Nearly 200 ships navigated the strait last week, up from 150 the previous week and just 40 two weeks earlier, bringing traffic to around 20% of pre-war levels, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations Center.

Kpler data showed that more than 80% of liquid cargo vessels crossing the strait over the past two weeks either used a US-backed route through Omani waters that Iran considers illegal or switched off their tracking systems, likely to use the same corridor. Five vessels were struck by Iranian projectiles during the past week, resulting in two reported casualties. All five ships were reportedly damaged but not lost.

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The only difference between the past 40 odd years of regional compliance with US sanctions and now is that Iran can legitimately do something about it now, having being illegitimately attacked and simply defending itself by all means necessary. Time for the Gulfies to experience some poverty and sell their thoroughbred race horses in the UK France and the US lol!

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As Picard says: make it so!

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Y\$Essssssssssss!

No Oil for the West -time to simplify their life, parasites.

Saadi

"Let us be content with dry bread and a patched cloak; better to bear our own hardship than live under obligation to others." Golestan

Rumi

"The vessel of greedv eves never fills: the shell gained its pearl only through contentment."

The roset of greedy eyes never rise, the shell gained its pearl only through tormentment.

Masnavi

Hafez

"I honour the one who, beneath the blue sky, remains free from everything coloured by attachment." Ghazal 37

Omar Khayyam

"Whoever has half a loaf, a place to rest, and is neither servant nor master—tell them to live joyfully: theirs is a fortunate world." Rubai 77

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Denmark to further tighten rules affecting Ukrainian refugees

Some municipalities in the country are under “severe pressure” due to a large number of asylum seekers, the immigration minister has said

Published 23 Aug, 2026 07:31

Denmark plans to stop issuing temporary residence permits to Ukrainian refugees from regions least affected by the conflict with Russia, the EU nation's immigration minister, Morten Bodskov, has said. The announcement follows a wider trend among European nations to cut benefits to those fleeing the conflict with Russia and strip



protections for military-aged males from Ukraine.

FILE PHOTO: Ukraine refugees taking part in a rally in one of the European cities. © Getty Images / Nano Calvo

In June, the government in Copenhagen presented a bill aimed at preventing military-aged men from Ukraine, who do not have an official exemption from service, from receiving asylum.

In a statement on Saturday, Bodskov said that Denmark wants to further tighten the rules for those who escaped the fighting, despite prolonging the Ukraine Special Act that allows them to stay in the country until March 2028.

Denmark has accepted 47,600 displaced Ukrainians since the escalation between Moscow and Kiev in February 2022, according to the minister's data.



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The *"large number"* of refugees puts some Danish cities and towns under *"severe pressure"* as they struggle to find housing for them and integrate them into the society, he explained.

In order to relieve the municipalities, *"the government will now adjust the rules so that only the Ukrainians who need protection the most can be granted a residence permit under the relaxed rules,"* Bodskov said.

This means that people from 14 *"less war-torn"* regions in western and central Ukraine, including Lviv, Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankovsk, Zhytomir and others, will not be able to apply for a residence permit, he added.

Norway and Switzerland previously introduced similar restrictions, which led to a drop in the number of applications, the minister stressed.

In early August, the EU announced that it is ending its temporary protections for military-

aged Ukrainian men. Starting from this week, the bloc obliges all refugees from the country to provide proof that they aren't dodging the draft.

More than 4.35 million refugees from Ukraine are currently registered across the EU, according to Eurostat data. Many countries such as Poland, Germany and Hungary have been cutting back benefits for them in recent months amid increasing pressure on their welfare systems and public frustration over the rising cost of accepting migrants.



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Ukrainian officials have repeatedly called for military-age men to return from abroad due to severe troop shortages and continued setbacks on the front line with Russia. Vladimir Zelensky said in April that it would be *"a matter of justice."*

In order to replenish the ranks of its armed forces, Kiev has resorted to so-called *"basification,"* in which draft officers ambush men on the streets, often using force against those who resist.

Moscow has accused Kiev's Western backers of being willing to wage a proxy war against Russia *"to the last Ukrainian."*

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