



## Daily



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## MAX - MENA Region Daily Summary - March 24, 2025

*The following report reviews current events in the MENA region and their possible effect on business continuity and security.*

### Highlights of the Day

- **Israel:** Terrorist kills one in multi-pronged attack at northern Israel's Tishbi Junction on March 24; remain vigilant given terrorist threat
- **Israel:** Cabinet votes to approve no-confidence in Attorney General on March 23; likely to catalyze anti-government protests
- **Turkey:** Authorities announce election to replace Imamoglu as Istanbul Mayor on March 23; will intensify anti-government sentiment
- **Yemen:** US strikes in Sanaa's Maeen result in civilian casualties on March 23; tensions to persist despite additional US deployment

### Actionable Items

## **Israel: Terrorist kills one in multi-pronged attack at northern Israel's Tishbi Junction on March 24; remain vigilant given terrorist threat**

**Current Situation** - Israel Police confirmed that a militant was neutralized by officers on Route 66 near northern Israel's Tishbi Junction, located in Yokneam. Israel's Magen David Adom (MDA) announced that one of the wounded individuals succumbed to his wounds. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) stated that one soldier was severely wounded. The assailant, an Arab Israeli resident of Ma'ale Iron, rammed and stabbed a soldier who was at a bus stop, stole his weapon, and opened fire toward vehicles on the road.

**Assessments & Forecast** - This marks the seventh terrorist attack within Israel's Green Line since the beginning of 2025, highlighting the elevated risk of militancy in the country. The assailant's identity underscores the persistent risk emanating from radicalized Arab Israelis who can move freely within Israel. The modus operandi of the attack is somewhat notable, highlighting a tactic of identifying and attacking IDF soldiers in uniform with readily available means such as knives or cars, before stealing their weapons to conduct more lethal attacks with military-grade firearms. The perceived success of the attack, alongside elevated Israeli-Palestinian tensions surrounding the conflict in [Gaza](#) and [Ramadan](#), will increase the risk of a copycat dynamic in the near-term.

**Recommendations** - Those operating or residing in Israel are advised to maintain extra vigilance due to the elevated threat of terrorist attacks at the current juncture. Remain vigilant in crowded commercial areas or near public transport facilities as these locations have been targeted by militants in the past.

**Source:** [Israel Police](#)

## **Israel: Anti-government protests slated to take place in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv on March 24-27; maintain heightened vigilance**

**Current Situation** - Anti-government activists and protest groups have called for protests across the country, including in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem over March 24-27. In **Jerusalem**, protests by various groups are scheduled to take place near Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence on Azza Street throughout the day on March 24. Activists from the "Shift 101" group will also conduct a protest at Azza Street from 15:00 until 18:00 on the same day, to protest the dismissal of the Shin Bet chief. Additionally, another protest is slated from 17:00 to 20:00 near the Knesset on March 25. In **Tel Aviv**, a demonstration is slated to take place at Habima Square on March 27 at 19:30.

**Recommendations** - Those operating or residing in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on March 24-27 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance and allot for disruptions in the aforementioned areas due to the slated demonstrations and associated risk of unrest.

**Source:** [Hafganot](#)

**Israel: HFC adjusts defense policy, eases restrictions in areas of Gaza envelope until 20:00 on March 27; remain cognizant of updates**

**Current Situation-** Israel's Home Front Command (HFC) has issued an update to the defense policy for the Gaza envelope area, which will remain in effect until 20:00 local time on March 27. Following a comprehensive situation assessment, the HFC has determined that certain areas will transition from a partial activity level to a full operational status. However, restrictions on gatherings exceeding 2,000 individuals will remain in place, while educational institutions and workplaces will continue to operate without limitations. Meanwhile, the Western Negev and Western Lachish regions are permitted to function without any restrictions. The adjusted policy can be found [here](#).

**Recommendations** - Those operating or residing in Israel on March 24 and over the coming days are advised to remain cognizant of updates by the HFC regarding its guidelines and recommendations. It is recommended to continue to adhere to all HFC guidelines.

**Source:** [Home Front Command](#)

**Jordan: Four individuals arrested for impersonating authorities, robbing expatriates in Amman, per March 23 statement; maintain vigilance**

**Current Situation** - According to a March 23 report by state news media, authorities arrested four individuals in Irbid following reports of the group for impersonating security personnel and robbing expatriates in Amman. The suspects allegedly entered a residence in the city center, threatened the occupants, and stole approximately 4,000 Jordanian dinars (about 5,600 USD). A fifth individual remains at large. Authorities have advised expatriates to verify the credentials of any individuals claiming to be officials before engaging with them and to request proper identification. They have also urged the public to contact 911 if confronted with similar incidents.

**Assessments & Forecast** - The impersonation of security officials for financial gain remains a persistent issue across the region, largely driven by various socioeconomic factors, including financial hardships affecting certain segments of the population. This latest incident highlights the heightened vulnerability of expatriates, particularly those unfamiliar with local customs and legal procedures, who are often targeted by such schemes. The incident highlights the challenges to authorities in maintaining public trust in law enforcement and simultaneously preventing criminal elements from exploiting security vulnerabilities. Although Jordanian authorities acted swiftly, the risk of similar crimes remains, as perpetrators may continue to target foreign nationals perceived as vulnerable.

**Recommendations** - Those operating or residing in Jordan are advised to maintain general vigilance against individuals who may attempt to impersonate security personnel to commit crimes and solicit money. Verify the credentials of any official and contact the emergency number, 911, if suspicious behavior is observed.

Source: [Jordan News Agency](#)

### **Turkey: Authorities announce road closures in Istanbul effective until March 26; allot for disruptions**

**Current Situation** – The Istanbul Governorship has announced the closure of several roads and alternative routes, effective until March 26. These restrictions have been implemented as part of precautionary measures in light of the ongoing anti-government protests, aligning with the extension of the current ban on demonstrations, gatherings, and press statements in the city. The following roads will be affected by the closures: Fevzi Pasa Street, Macar Kardesler, July 15 Martyrs Street, Sehzadebasi Street, Vezneciler Street, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Pasa Street, Ataturk Street, Kennedy Street, Resadiye Street, Ragip Gumuspala Street, Galata Bridge, and Ataturk Bridge. The following streets will be available as alternatives: 10th Year Street, Namik Kemal Street, parts of Sahil Kennedy Street, and the E-5 D100 Highway.

**Recommendations** – Those operating or residing in Istanbul over the coming days until March 26 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance and allot for disruptions given the ongoing road closures. Allot extra time for travel and seek alternate routes to minimize delays.

Source: [AA](#)

## **Notable Events**

### **Algeria: ANP kills two foreign terrorists in In Guezzam, per March 22 statement; reiterates risk of militancy near Algerian border**

**Current Situation** – The Ministry of National Defense (MDN) stated that the People's National Army (ANP) eliminated two terrorists that illegally crossed into Algerian territory on March 21. The ANP subsequently seized one rifle, ammunition, a satellite phone, and a vehicle. In Guezzam is located on Algeria's southern border with Niger.

**Assessments & Forecast** – ANP operations in In Guezzam are not unprecedented, highlighting the entrenchment of terrorist elements in the province, who likely take advantage of the vast uninhabited desert territory. For instance, on February 19, the MDN announced that during counter-militancy operations in In Guezzam, the ANP seized two Kalashnikov-type rifles and ammunition. However, this latest development is notable due to the indication that the terrorists were foreign and illegally crossed into Algeria. Additionally, the ANP's decision to kill the militants rather than arrest them indicates that they were likely perceived as posing an imminent risk to the forces. This points toward the persistent risk along Algeria's southern borders given the known activity of militant and armed smugglers in the area. Overall, further counter-militancy efforts by Algerian

authorities are likely to persist over the coming weeks and months, including in In Guezzam.

Source: [MDN](#)

### **Israel: Cabinet votes to approve no-confidence in Attorney General on March 23; likely to catalyze anti-government protests**

**Current Situation** - The Israeli Cabinet reportedly voted unanimously and approved a no-confidence motion against the Attorney General (AG), Gali Baharav-Miara. Justice Minister, Yariv Levin, reportedly stated that the latest move was a result of the “substantive, and prolonged differences of opinion between her [AG] and the government that prevented effective cooperation.” Baharav-Miara responded through a letter, asserting that the decision was part of the government’s broader move to weaken the judiciary and attain unlimited power.

**Assessments & Forecast** - The latest move is reportedly unprecedented in Israel, rendering it notable. The AG oversees the judicial process against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s corruption case. In this context, the latest developments are likely to be perceived as politically motivated attempts to obstruct Netanyahu’s trial and undermine the judicial process overall. However, the process to remove the AG is likely to take several weeks and face challenges. Specifically, the case will need to be heard by a special statutory committee which cannot meet until vacant positions within it are filled. Nonetheless, the latest decision is likely to intensify anti-government sentiments among the general public, alongside the government’s dismissal of the [Shin Bet Chief](#), leading to [continued protests](#).

Source: [Times of Israel](#)

### **Turkey: Authorities announce election to replace Imamoglu as Istanbul Mayor on March 23; will intensify anti-government sentiment**

**Current Situation** - The Ministry of Interior (MOI) announced the formal suspension of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, along with the mayors of Istanbul’s Beylikduzu and Sisli districts. A trustee was appointed in Sisli. The Istanbul Governorship stated that council meetings will be held on March 26 to elect deputy mayors in Istanbul and the Beylikduzu district. The suspensions sparked large-scale protests nationwide, with unrest reported in Istanbul and Ankara. Nine journalists were also reportedly detained on March 23.

**Assessments & Forecast** - Imamoglu’s [March 19](#) arrest has catalyzed widespread anti-government protests despite [ongoing bans](#) in place on demonstration activity in Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir. The MOI’s decision to hold council elections in Istanbul and Beylikduzu, rather than appoint trustees, likely aims to project democratic engagement to ease tensions. However, the Republican People’s Party (CHP) claim that over 14 million

individuals voted for Imamoglu in the party's primary election on March 23, underscores the widespread support for Imamoglu both within the party and among the public. Therefore, heightened tensions will persist, rendering further protests and associated unrest likely in Turkey in the immediate-term.

**Source:** [Ministry of Interior](#)

### **Yemen: US strikes in Sanaa's Maeen result in civilian casualties on March 23; tensions to persist despite additional US deployment**

**Current Situation** - Houthi-affiliated media reported that US strikes in Hodeidah, Marib, Sadaa and Sanaa's Maeen resulted in one fatality and fifteen injuries, including three minors. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports claim that the US Navy is deploying the USS Carl Vinson-led Carrier Strike Group to reinforce the USS Harry S. Truman-led Carrier Strike Group currently stationed in the Red Sea.

**Assessments & Forecast** - These developments follow the Houthis claiming multiple rocket attacks on Ben Gurion Airport in the past few days and come amid an ongoing US aerial campaign against the group. In this context, the latest escalation aligns with President Donald Trump's administration's stated goal of employing "[overwhelming, lethal force](#)" against the Houthis to reportedly secure maritime trade in the Red Sea, where 75 percent of US-flagged shipping has been rerouted around Africa's southern coast instead of transiting the Suez Canal. Despite the additional US deployment, the Houthis are likely to persist with projectile attacks on ships transiting through the Red Sea as well as Israel, which will likely trigger further US strikes in the coming days and weeks.

**Source:** [al-Masirah](#)

## **Other Developments**

- **Israel & Palestinian Territories:** On March 23, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) arrested 20 militant suspects across the West Bank and thwarted a weapons smuggling attempt in al-Ras as part of the operation.
- **Jordan & Syria:** The Jordan Armed Forces stated that they arrested two individuals suspected of attempting to infiltrate into Jordan from Syrian territory in the Northern Military Zone on March 22.
- **Libya:** On March 22, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) affirmed their concern over the "wave of arbitrary arrest and detentions" across the country by law enforcement and security actors.
- **Turkey & Iraq:** Turkish authorities reportedly arrested members of a criminal gang on March 22, who were associated with an incident involving individuals open firing at the Iraqi consulate in Istanbul.

# Notable Dates

14 DEC	Israel Holiday: Hanukkah
16 DEC	Bahrain Holiday: National Day
17 DEC	Tunisia Holiday: Revolution and Youth Day
18 DEC	Qatar Holiday: National Day
21 DEC	Morocco Travel: 2025 African Cup of Nations
24 DEC	Libya Holiday: Independence Day