

Container ship sinks in Strait of Hormuz after hitting mine in unauthorized route

International Desk

Iran said a container ship that intended to pass through an unauthorized route in the Strait of Hormuz sank on Wednesday after striking a naval mine.

According to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said in a statement that the violating container ship exploded after striking a naval mine and catching fire.

"The vessel, which was carrying more than 2,500 containers, sank on Wednesday morning in the southern waters of the strait because of the intensity of the fire," the IRGC Navy's said.

The IRGC Navy also cautioned local vessels navigating the area, saying: "Local vessels and fishermen must exercise the utmost safety when navigating this route so they do not collide with containers floating on the water."

The incident comes amid a series of maritime developments reported by the IRGC Navy in recent days involving commercial vessels attempting to use routes that

Tehran considers unauthorized.

On Monday, the IRGC reported that an oil tanker had struck a naval mine in the Strait of Hormuz after disregarding warnings and attempting to navigate an unauthorized route. The incident followed two similar cases involving oil tankers over the preceding days.

The IRGC Navy also announced on October 9 that its forces had struck a liquefied petroleum gas carrier attempting to pass through an unauthorized route south of the strait.

Warning to violating vessels

In its recent statements, the IRGC has warned vessels against ignoring its navigation restrictions, saying ships switching off their navigation and identification systems would be treated as hostile.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's hydrocarbons usually transit, has become the main theatre of conflict in the war between Iran and the US.

Iran closed the strait in response to the

latest round of US-Israeli aggression, preventing US and allied ships from navigating the strategic waterway.

The move resulted in a significant increase in oil and energy prices across the globe, especially in the US, forcing Washington and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to release their strategic resources several times.

Following the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Tehran opened the Strait of Hormuz, but after the US violated the MoU by blockading Iranian ports, Iran's Armed Forces closed the maritime corridor once again.

Fishermen injured in drone incident

In another incident in the Strait of Hormuz, three Iranian fishermen were injured after a fishing boat was struck in an incident involving an unidentified drone near Sirik in southern Iran's Hormozgan Province, the provincial governor's office said.

The vessel was struck while sailing about 18 nautical miles from Bondaran village in



The photo shows a container ship sinking in the Strait of Hormuz after hitting a sea mine on October 14, 2026.
● defapress.ir

Sirik county.
The United States regularly conducts drone surveillance over the Persian Gulf and has

in recent months struck targets in southern Iran that it claimed were used to disrupt navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Settlement of navigation in Hormuz hinges on progress in US-Iran talks: *Oman*

International Desk

Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi said on Wednesday that discussions with Iran on temporary navigation arrangements in Strait of Hormuz have been almost concluded but a permanent settlement remained linked to progress in broader US-Iran negotiations. The Omani foreign minister made the remarks in a joint press conference with his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar in Islamabad after they discussed security and freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab Al-Mandab, two strategic waterways whose disruption has raised concerns about global energy and food security. Iran's restrictions on shipping through Hormuz, which handled roughly a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas trade before the conflict, have disrupted energy supplies and driven up costs for import-dependent economies, including Pakistan. Oman, which shares the strait with Iran, has been engaged in discussions with Tehran over navigation arrangements while supporting broader diplomatic efforts to resolve the US-Iran conflict.

"We are committed as far as the



Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi (L) shakes hands with his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar upon his arrival in Islamabad, Pakistan, on October 14, 2026.
● PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

Sultanate of Oman is concerned to free navigation, unhindered navigation, and the return of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz because of its vitality to the global economy and to the region," Albusaidi said. He said Oman would support efforts toward that objective, adding that discussions with Iran on temporary navigation arrangements were almost concluded, while a permanent settlement remained linked to progress in broader US-Iran negotiations. Both ministers emphasized diplomacy as the preferred means of addressing regional disputes and preventing further escalation. "Both Oman and Pakistan attach great importance to dialogue and diplomacy as essential means of addressing regional challenges, easing tensions, and promoting peace and stability," Albusaidi said. "Oman truly appreciates Pakistan's

constructive role in facilitating dialogue and supporting diplomatic efforts in the region, including its role in the negotiations between Iran and the United States."

Iran has maintained heightened restrictions on navigation in the Strait of Hormuz since the start of the US-Israeli military aggression against the country on Feb. 28, citing security concerns and the need to safeguard its sovereignty.

Iran and Oman have been engaged in negotiations for months over arrangements for safe navigation through the strategic waterway. On August 25, the two countries announced discussions on a phased framework that would initially establish a temporary joint maritime corridor, alongside a joint mine-clearance project.

The framework is aimed at restoring safe navigation while preserving the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal states.

Economic resilience requires ...

Direct financial assistance and coupon-based support could help protect vulnerable households, he said. Such measures would direct public resources toward households most in need while helping maintain access to essential goods during periods of external pressure.

Katani acknowledged that sustaining domestic production under these conditions would be difficult. When businesses face higher costs, uncertainty and obstacles to obtaining inputs, the government has limited room to resolve every problem quickly. Production could recover more effectively if the political outlook improved and macroeconomic stability strengthened.

Expanding regional trade

Katani said Iran could make greater use of its extensive land borders to maintain access to goods and recover part of the trade capacity disrupted through maritime routes. Neighboring countries could provide additional channels for

commerce, helping diversify routes used to bring in essential supplies.

"Iran can use the extensive capacity of its land borders and recover part of the maritime trade it has lost," he said. Informal trade could also play a significant role in supplying goods needed in the country, particularly when formal channels face obstacles.

Practical steps could make cross-border commerce more efficient. Faster customs clearance and agreements with neighboring states to facilitate the movement of people and goods would help reduce delays and ease trade. Greater use of regional routes could also spread risks across different channels rather than leaving businesses dependent on a narrow set of options.

Role of diplomacy

Despite the value of domestic measures and regional cooperation, Katani argued that the main difficulties facing Iran's economy in recent years have been political. Substantial economic improvement

would be difficult without a meaningful change in the political outlook, he said.

"The problem with Iran's economy in recent years has, first and foremost, been political," he said. "If there is no significant diplomatic breakthrough, economic conditions will not see a substantial improvement either."

Katani said the immediate objective should be to limit the impact of external constraints while keeping essential economic activity running. Facilitating trade with neighboring countries, managing energy consumption and prioritizing imports could all contribute to greater stability. These steps, however, should be seen as ways to manage difficult conditions, nor substitutes for progress in foreign policy.

Katani said Iran's ability to withstand external economic pressure would depend partly on how effectively the government used its available resources and trade links. But without progress in foreign policy, the scope for a sustained economic recovery would remain limited.

Ansarullah say targeted Saudi oil giant Aramco, airport, refinery

International Desk

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement said on Wednesday its forces targeted facilities belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco as well as Riyadh airport, as they vowed to conduct more attacks.

"The Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a high-quality military operation targeting Aramco in Dhahran, in the Eastern Province, King Khalid International Airport, and the Aramco refinery in Riyadh. This was carried out using a large number of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones," military spokesperson Yahya Saree said, adding "operations toward Saudi depths will continue in the coming days, targeting Saudi enemy airports and oil facilities". Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude oil exporter, has in recent days come under sustained attack in a dramatic escalation in the war with Yemen's resistance movement.

It has hit back with strikes against the group's stronghold in the Yemeni capital Sana'a, which for years has been under their grip.

Earlier, a Saudi energy ministry official said a building belonging to Aramco in Dhahran was struck, resulting in a "limited fire" but "no casualties or fatalities".

Dhahran is home to Aramco's headquarters, a vast complex comprising numerous buildings and residential compounds. Most strikes on Saudi Arabia have targeted infrastructure on the outskirts of the capital, but the barrages appear to be getting



● AFP

closer to the city center.

The Saudi-led coalition meanwhile struck oil sites across western Yemen, with spokesman Turki Al-Malki saying the attacks targeted facilities used to supply Ansarullah's effort to "threaten the kingdom, Yemen, the southern Red Sea and waterways".

Saudi Arabia has supported Yemen's government in south militarily against Ansarullah since 2015 in a long-running civil war that has created a humanitarian crisis.

The latest escalation follows a strike on Riyadh's international airport on Saturday that left 13 people dead in the worst attack on the kingdom since 2015.

The Saudi cabinet vowed in a meeting led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that it "will not allow its security or freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait to be threatened".

Many countries have issued travel warnings to their citizens in Saudi Arabia, with France telling its nationals on Tuesday to avoid Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam airports.

