

# Daily Peace and Crisis Report —

## Monday 20 Apr 2026

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### Summary

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- The US–Iran war (Day 51) remains the dominant global crisis, with the Strait of Hormuz closed by Iran and a fragile two-week ceasefire set to expire on Wednesday; US negotiators are heading to Pakistan for a second round of talks.
- Gaza's cumulative death toll has reached 72,551 with 172,274 wounded; 18,000 patients await medical evacuation and UNICEF has condemned the killing of two water-truck contractors by Israeli forces.
- Russia launched over 230 drones against Ukraine in a single overnight attack; Zelensky condemned the US extension of a Russian oil sanctions waiver, warning it provides billions for Moscow's war machine.
- Sudan enters its fourth year of civil war as the UN describes it as an "abandoned crisis" with at least 59,000 killed and 9 million internally displaced.
- South Sudan is at a "dangerous crossroads" with the UN warning of imminent famine affecting 7.56 million people and renewed large-scale violence.

- A UN UNIFIL peacekeeper (French soldier) was killed in southern Lebanon despite a 10-day Israel–Hezbollah ceasefire; UN Secretary-General Guterres condemned the attack as a possible war crime.
- The DRC and M23 rebels reached significant progress in Switzerland talks, agreeing to exchange 477 prisoners and establish a ceasefire verification mechanism.
- Myanmar's military junta continues airstrikes on civilian areas; resistance forces report ongoing advances in Karen and Kachin states.

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## 1. US–Iran War and Strait of Hormuz Crisis

The conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran — now in its 51st day — continues to dominate global headlines. Iran has closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 20% of global oil trade passes, and has declared it will remain shut until Washington lifts its naval blockade of Iranian ports. The US military has forced 23 ships to turn around near the strait since imposing the blockade. [AI Jazeera](#); [AP](#)

The two-week ceasefire, announced on April 7, is set to expire on Wednesday, 22 April. President Trump announced that US negotiators would travel to Pakistan on Monday for a second round of talks with Iran, following the first round in Islamabad last weekend. However, Iran's state media denied any confirmed date had been set, with Tehran's parliamentary speaker stating that "we are still far from the final discussion." [AI Jazeera](#); [NPR](#)

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei declared Iran's navy "ready to inflict new bitter defeats on its enemies," while Iranian President Pezeshkian stated the US had "no justification to deprive Iran of its nuclear rights." The Iranian Ministry of Science reported that 180

members of the academic community have been killed in the war, including 18 female students. [Al Jazeera](#)

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan expressed optimism that the ceasefire would be extended, while Egyptian and Pakistani foreign ministers are pressing for a final agreement "in the coming days." [CNN](#)

In Israel, the military reported another soldier killed in combat in southern Lebanon — the second death in under 12 hours — as Israeli forces established a "yellow line" in southern Lebanon. More than 1,000 homes in Tel Aviv have been rendered uninhabitable by the war with Iran. [Al Jazeera](#)

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## 2. Gaza and the West Bank

Gaza's cumulative death toll from the Israeli military campaign has risen to **72,551 killed and 172,274 wounded**, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry via the Qatar News Agency. Since the ceasefire agreement was signed on 10 October 2025, an additional 775 people have been killed and 2,171 wounded. Recovery of bodies from rubble continues, with 760 bodies retrieved since the ceasefire began. [Qatar News Agency](#)

UNICEF expressed outrage after two civilian contractors delivering clean water to families in northern Gaza were shot dead by Israeli troops. Two others were wounded in the incident at the Mansura water-filling point. UNICEF immediately suspended operations at the site. [UN News](#); [ABS-CBN/AFP](#)

More than 18,000 patients remain on waiting lists for medical evacuation from Gaza, despite ceasefire commitments to facilitate medical transfers. Only approximately 700 patients have been allowed to leave since the Rafah crossing reopened. The last MSF health facility in northern Gaza was forced to temporarily close after Israeli forces issued an evacuation order. [The New Arab](#)

Satellite imagery published by Al Jazeera reveals Israel is expanding permanent military bases inside Gaza, even as US-backed reconstruction plans remain stalled. Israeli ministers also celebrated the re-establishment of the Sa-Nur settlement in the West Bank — UNRWA reports that March was one of the deadliest months of settler violence on record, with 34 new settlements established last month. Masked settlers set a home and car ablaze in the West Bank on Sunday. [Al Jazeera](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [Jerusalem Post](#)

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### 3. Lebanon — Ceasefire and UNIFIL Attack

A 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect on 16 April following US mediation. However, the ceasefire is already under severe strain. A French soldier serving with the UN peacekeeping mission (UNIFIL) was killed on 18 April when a patrol came under small-arms fire from non-state actors in the village of Ghanduriyah, southern Lebanon. Three other peacekeepers were seriously wounded. UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the attack as "presumed" to have been carried out by Hezbollah, calling it the third incident in recent weeks to result in peacekeeper deaths. [UN News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)

Hezbollah's leader Naim Kasseem dismissed a US State Department paper on the ceasefire terms as "an insult to our country," saying Lebanon's government had not approved the statement. A displaced Lebanese woman returned to her village in southern Lebanon to find her home completely destroyed. [Al Jazeera](#)

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### 4. Ukraine–Russia War

Russia launched a massive overnight drone attack on Ukraine, firing more than 236 drones against Ukrainian cities. Ukrainian air defences

intercepted or neutralised 203 of them, but 18 sites were struck. A 16-year-old boy was killed and four people wounded in an attack on the northern city of Chernihiv. [The Moscow Times/AFP](#)

Ukrainian President Zelensky condemned the US extension of a waiver allowing Russia to sell seaborne oil, warning that over 110 tankers carrying 12 million tonnes of Russian crude — worth approximately \$10 billion — could now be sold without consequences. "Every dollar paid for Russian oil is money for the war," Zelensky said. The US Treasury extended the waiver on 17 April to soften energy price surges driven by the Middle East war, despite Treasury Secretary Bessent having said two days earlier that it would not be renewed. [The Moscow Times/AFP](#)

Ukraine's long-range strike campaign continues to exploit gaps in Russian air defences. The Ukrainian General Staff reported strikes on the Novokuibyshevsk and Syrzan oil refineries in Samara Oblast, an oil terminal in Leningrad Oblast, and the Tikhoretsk oil pumping station in Krasnodar Krai. Ukrainian forces also struck military and energy targets in occupied Crimea, including two Ropucha-class landing ships and fuel storage facilities near Sevastopol. [Institute for the Study of War \(ISW\)](#)

Russian milbloggers criticised Russian air defence failures, with one purported note from an air defence servicemember stating that Ukrainian forces were able to strike because Russia lacked sufficient surface-to-air missiles. A fourth round of US-brokered trilateral peace talks that was due this month has been postponed. Prediction markets place the probability of a Russia–Ukraine ceasefire by 30 April at near zero. [ISW](#)

Pope Leo XIV expressed solidarity with Ukraine amid escalating attacks on civilians, in a social media post on 19 April. [Yahoo News/AFP](#)

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## 5. Sudan — Fourth Year of War

Sudan has entered its fourth year of civil war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with the United Nations describing it as an "abandoned crisis." At least **59,000 people have been killed**, according to ACLED, though aid groups warn

the true toll is significantly higher. Approximately 9 million people remain internally displaced and 4.5 million have fled to neighbouring countries.

[AP](#)

Nearly 700 civilians have been killed in drone strikes in Sudan since the beginning of 2026 alone, the UN has reported. Over 19 million people face acute hunger according to the World Food Program, and more than 4,300 children have been killed or maimed in the war, per UNICEF. Only 63% of Sudan's health facilities are fully or partially functioning, with 217 verified attacks on health facilities since the war began. [AP](#)

The Sudan Women Advisory Group raised alarm over escalating hostilities in Blue Nile State, calling for urgent international action. A US Treasury announcement of new sanctions against five individuals connected to the conflict was made on Friday. [ReliefWeb](#)

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## 6. South Sudan — Dangerous Crossroads

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher addressed the UN Security Council on Friday, warning that South Sudan stands at a "dangerous crossroads." Renewed fighting has forced more than 410,000 people to flee, including 110,000 to neighbouring Ethiopia. Hostilities have escalated across Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity states, with airstrikes and armed clashes reported in the past week. [DONARE/UN OCHA](#)

Over half of South Sudan's population — approximately 7.56 million people — will face crisis-level hunger or worse from April to July 2026. More than 2.1 million children under five are experiencing acute malnutrition. A cholera outbreak has resulted in more than 102,000 reported cases and 1,662 deaths. Fletcher warned that his next Security Council briefing on South Sudan may have to address famine. The UN's \$1.46 billion Humanitarian Plan is only 22% funded. [DONARE/UN OCHA](#)

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## 7. Democratic Republic of Congo — Peace Progress

Significant diplomatic progress was made in Switzerland this week, with the DRC government and the AFC/M23 rebel group signing a memorandum of understanding in Montreux following five days of negotiations (13–18 April). The two parties agreed to exchange 477 prisoners within ten days, establish a ceasefire verification mechanism, and guarantee humanitarian access to civilian populations. The talks took place under the Doha Framework for a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in November 2025. [teleSUR/EFE](#)

The UN Peacekeeping Mission (MONUSCO) praised the progress but called on parties to "maintain the current momentum" and translate advances into concrete results on the ground. The mission demanded full freedom of movement for its blue helmets and the safe use of airspace in conflict zones. The east of the DRC has been experiencing conflict since 1998. [teleSUR/EFE](#)

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## 8. Myanmar — Ongoing Civil War

Myanmar's military junta carried out simultaneous airstrikes on Ponnagyun and Mrauk-U townships on 19 April, according to local media. Since early 2026, junta airstrikes have shifted to formation attacks involving four or more aircraft. Resistance forces report ongoing advances: Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) forces seized a People's Militia base in Palaw, with approximately 10 junta troops reportedly killed. In Hpakant, KIA forces reportedly ambushed a militia reinforcement column with landmines, causing approximately 40 casualties. [DMG News](#); [Burma Coup Resistance Notes](#)

From February 2021 to March 2026, the military junta has committed at least 265 incidents of massacre against civilians, according to human rights monitors. The CRPH (Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw) announced it would push for global support at the IPU Summit

in Istanbul. Over 150,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh in a new wave of displacement driven by the ongoing civil war. [The Financial Express](#)

## 9. International Cooperation and Diplomacy

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva delivered a sharp rebuke of global powers at a summit in Barcelona on 18 April, accusing the five permanent UN Security Council members of being a "club of lords of war" and calling for Security Council reform. [Business Insider SA](#)

Ukraine requested Türkiye to host a summit between President Zelensky and President Putin, according to Qatar News Agency. Syria's Central Bank and the World Bank agreed on technical assistance to strengthen reserves management. [Qatar News Agency](#)

Pope Leo XIV is visiting Angola and Algeria, preaching peace in Africa while pushing back on claims of a feud with President Trump over the Middle East war. The Pope expressed solidarity with Ukraine in a separate social media statement. [CBS News](#)

UNESCO granted "enhanced protection" to cultural heritage sites in the Middle East amid ongoing conflict. [UN News](#)

## 10. Key Statistics Table

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Source	Killed	Wounded
	Total casualties since start of	<a href="#">Qatar News Agency /</a>	72,551	172,274

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Source	Killed	Wounded
Gaza (since Oct 2023)	Israeli military campaign	Gaza Health Ministry		
Gaza (since ceasefire, Oct 10 2025)	Casualties since ceasefire agreement was signed	Qatar News Agency / Gaza Health Ministry	775	2,171
US–Iran War (since Feb 28)	Reported casualties (civilians, academic community); war in Day 51	Al Jazeera	180+ (academics alone)	—
Sudan Civil War (since Apr 2023)	Total killed (ACLED); 700 killed in drone strikes in 2026 alone	AP / ACLED	59,000+	—
Lebanon (UNIFIL)	UN peacekeeper killed in southern Lebanon despite ceasefire; 3rd peacekeeper death in recent weeks	UN News / UNIFIL	1	3

Conflict / Crisis	Key Statistic	Source	Killed	Wounded
Ukraine (past week)	Russian attack drones, guided aerial bombs, and missiles launched in past week per Zelensky	<a href="#">The Moscow Times / AFP</a>	1 (Chernihiv, 16yo)	4

**About this report:** The Daily Peace and Crisis Report is compiled by the **Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)** to provide Australians with a concise, source-transparent overview of global conflicts, humanitarian crises, and peace efforts.

*Source transparency note: Sources tagged with country codes (e.g., Rus, Ukr, Chin, Iran) indicate state-affiliated or nationally-oriented outlets. This tagging is provided to assist readers in contextualising information, not to discredit sources. All sides of conflicts are reported where possible.*

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