

WIRE World Instability

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Friday, 23 October 2026 | Vol. 2026-296 | As of 230600 EDT OCT 26

Baseline work today: the Korean Peninsula (IP-T2) Statement of Normalcy is written and the topic is scored for the first time, at ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS. The South China Sea (IP-T3) and Africa remain NOT YET SCORED.

BLUF. The Middle East stays at **PROBABLE CRISIS (↑)** as the Saudi front widens: Reuters and AFP report that Aramco ordered its **Dhahran headquarters evacuated**, a Houthi strike on Dammam's airport killed two, and the coalition shot down a ballistic missile aimed at **Riyadh** early Friday. Coalition and official tallies put October's toll in the kingdom at **24 dead**. Brent jumped **4% to \$113.17**, its highest close since 4 May. Kpler's Hormuz clearance average slipped to **76%** of the pre-war baseline. **Europe/Russia** holds at **POTENTIAL CRISIS (=)**: Russia hit Ukraine's grid for a **tenth day** (176 drones; more than 500,000 customers cut off), so **RUS-10 resolves a hit**, and Putin publicly confirmed talks around 10 November. The **Americas** hold at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)**: a California federal court enjoined DHS election-related field operations in nine states, and early votes passed **20.6M (MID-07 hit)**. **Global roll-up: PROBABLE CRISIS (↑)**.

0. WIRE World Instability Dashboard

REGION / TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
Global roll-up (GL-T1)	PROBABLE CRISIS	EXTREME	Highest regional level (Middle East); Saudi front widening, Brent at a five-month high; Russia's energy campaign at 10 days; new Korean baseline	↑
Middle East: widespread war (ME-T1)	PROBABLE CRISIS	EXTREME	Aramco HQ evacuation; Dammam airport deaths; missile at Riyadh intercepted; Brent \$113.17; Kpler Hormuz average 76% of baseline	↑
Europe/Russia: Russian aggression (EU-T1)	POTENTIAL CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	10th energy-strike day (176 drones, 500k+ off power, DTEK plant halted); Putin confirms ~10 Nov talks	= (was ↑)
Americas: US election integrity (AM-T1)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	N.D. Cal. injunction on DHS election field operations in 9 states (stayed to 5 pm 23 Oct); 20.62M early votes	=
Indo-Pacific: Korean Peninsula (IP-T2)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	First scored line: 16 DPRK ballistic launch events in 2026; IRBM and 12 Oct salvo; repeated MDL crossings	↑ (new)
Indo-Pacific: Taiwan Strait (IP-T1)	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Zero PLA aircraft 22–23 Oct; 3 PLAN and 7 official ships	=
Indo-Pacific: South China Sea (IP-T3)	NOT YET SCORED	—	Statement of Normalcy in the rotation	—
Africa (AF-T1, AF-T2)	NOT YET SCORED	—	Statements of Normalcy in the rotation	—

Indicator: **ROUTINE** **ABNORMAL** **SIGNIFICANT** **EXTREME** Crisis level: **NO CRISIS** **ENV. FOR CRISIS** **POTENTIAL**
PROBABLE **IMMINENT**

Level change since 22 Oct: none on scored topics; IP-T2 newly scored at ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS, which lifts the Indo-Pacific region row from NO CRISIS. Trend change: Europe/Russia ↑ → =. Trend key: ↑ toward crisis, ↓ away, = no net change.

Moved indicators (vs 22 Oct). No scored indicator changed band. Within-band moves: **W-2 EXTREME** ↑ (Aramco HQ evacuation; Dammam airport deaths; missile at Riyadh); **W-7 SIGNIFICANT** ↑ (Brent +\$4.35 to \$113.17, the largest one-day dollar gain since 10 Sep); **W-1 EXTREME** ↓ in flow terms (Kpler 7-day clearance 76% of baseline, from 82%) but no new UKMTO-confirmed hit since 21 Oct; **W-5 SIGNIFICANT** ↑ (reports of joint US–Israeli post-midterm strike planning; US non-essential staff ordered out of Saudi Arabia); **R-3 SIGNIFICANT** = (lighter salvo, wider outages); **R-10 ABNORMAL** ↓ (Putin confirms talks on state TV); **M-1 SIGNIFICANT** = (court restraint on one DHS program; posture otherwise unchanged).

I. MIDDLE EAST: ME-T1 WIDESPREAD WAR (ISRAEL-ORIGINATED) | **PROBABLE CRISIS**

Houthi–Saudi front. Aramco told staff to evacuate its Dhahran headquarters and work remotely, six people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters on 22 Oct; it is the first such evacuation since the Iran war began, and Aramco did not comment. Reuters reports that a Houthi strike

earlier this month caused extensive damage to the building, which hosts an operations centre for the company's rigs, refineries, terminals and pipelines ([Reuters via Investing.com, 22 Oct](#); [Reuters via Cyprus Mail](#)). AFP, citing three sources, says most staff had already been working remotely since that attack and the new order covers remaining essential staff ([Gulf News/AFP, 22 Oct](#)). Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority said a Houthi attack on **King Fahd International Airport, Dammam**, on the evening of 21 Oct killed two people (a Saudi citizen and an Indian national) and wounded eight; operations resumed on 22 Oct (Reuters, as above). Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed attacks on Aramco in Yanbu and on the defence ministry in Riyadh; Saudi authorities did not confirm them, while the coalition reported drones intercepted over Riyadh and Medina (Reuters). Early on 23 Oct, coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said a ballistic missile fired toward **Riyadh** was destroyed shortly after 0400 local, and two drones aimed at the southern region were downed around 0100 ([Arab News, 23 Oct](#)); a missile toward Najran was intercepted on 22 Oct ([SPA; Anadolu](#)). Arab News, citing coalition figures and official reports carried by SPA, counts at least **14 ballistic missiles and more than 60 armed drones** launched at the kingdom in October, with **24 killed and at least 374 injured**, 18 of the dead at Riyadh's King Khalid airport between 7 and 11 Oct. The UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan and Egypt condemned the Dammam and Shaybah strikes (Arab News). The US State Department has ordered some diplomats and families to leave the kingdom ([Al-Monitor](#)).

Egypt. Egypt's House of Representatives postponed its vote on authorizing President Sisi to give defensive military support to Saudi Arabia until **26 Oct**; approval needs two-thirds of the chamber ([Dawn, 2026](#); [Al Jazeera, 19 Oct](#)). WAR-09 (approval by 31 Oct) stays live.

Hormuz. No new UKMTO-confirmed attack has been logged since warning **179-26** (tanker struck 11 nm west of Bukha, Oman, 0145 UTC 21 Oct; fire extinguished, crew safe) ([UKMTO 179-26](#); [UKMTO recent incidents](#)). The IRGC's seven-tanker claim of 22 Oct remains unconfirmed. A CENTCOM spokesperson, speaking anonymously to Al Jazeera, called the mine claims incorrect, said lanes are cleared and 95% of vessels get through; President Trump called the hits "fake" ([Al Jazeera, 22 Oct](#)). The IRGC said on Sepah News that "the conflict will extend to [US] bases in the region" if escorts continue ([Times of Israel/AFP, 22 Oct](#)). On 23 Oct the IRGC navy commander, Ali Ozmaei, claimed US ships "have moved 600 to 700 kilometers away" from the strait ([Iran International, 23 Oct](#)). UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said "no commercial ships should be attacked" and urged US–Iran diplomacy ([The Ops Con, 23 Oct](#)).

Flows. Kpler's 22 Oct media briefing (flows to 20 Oct) puts the **7-day average Total Hormuz Clearance at 13,047 kbd, about 76% of the 17,147 kbd pre-war baseline**, down from 82% in the 20 Oct briefing; the latest daily readings are preliminary floors that have typically settled 1.5–2 times higher. Tanker crossings averaged 14 a day against 50 pre-war. Fujairah and Oman loadings averaged 4,440 kbd, about 30% above baseline, and the Red Sea 7-day average was 5,295 kbd, about 89% above baseline. Gulf of Oman to North-East Asia freight is about \$22/bbl, up from under \$10 a month earlier ([Kpler media briefing, 22 Oct](#)).

US–Iran track. The Atlantic reported on 22 Oct that President Trump is weighing a multi-day offensive against Iran after the 3 Nov midterms (nuclear, missile and drone, and energy targets), with no final decision; Netanyahu had urged action before Israel's vote ([Iran International, 23 Oct](#); [Israel National News](#)). ABC and NPR report US and Israeli planners drawing up options to resume attacks after the elections ([ABC News; NPR, 22 Oct](#)). The US says it is keeping its blockade on Iranian ports while negotiations remain deadlocked ([Times of Israel/AFP](#)). Iran's seven-day proposal to reopen the strait remains conditional on lifting the blockade (AP via [NewsCord summary](#)).

Iran–Israel. No Iranian launch at Israel and no acknowledged US or Israeli strike on Iran were found. Israel votes on **27 Oct**. Israel Hayom's final poll gives Netanyahu's bloc 50 seats; the final Times of Israel poll shows the blocs in a dead heat with neither at 61 ([JFeed/Israel Hayom; Times of Israel](#)). Netanyahu has warned that Iran and its proxies may try to disrupt the vote ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Lebanon. The two days of US-hosted military talks at CENTCOM in Tampa ended without a breakthrough and with no further session scheduled, Lebanese military sources told The New Arab. Beirut wants an independent verification mechanism (possibly France, the US and UNIFIL); Israel wants direct coordination and has refused to widen the single pilot zone (Srafa, Froun, western Zawtar) ([The New Arab, 22 Oct](#)). Israeli strikes, shelling and demolitions continued in the south ([Anadolu, 22 Oct](#)). No strike on Beirut's southern suburbs was found.

Energy. Front-month (December) ICE Brent **settled at \$113.17** on 22 Oct, up \$4.35 or 4.0%, the largest one-day dollar gain since 10 Sep and the highest close since 4 May ([Morningstar/Dow Jones Data Talk](#); [CNBC](#)). WTI settled at \$99.47 ([PFL Petroleum daily](#)). Brent traded near \$113.80 in London on Friday morning ([WSJ market data](#)).

Indicators. W-1 EXTREME (= ; flows down to 76%, no new confirmed hit). W-2 EXTREME (↑ within band). W-3 SIGNIFICANT (=). W-4 ABNORMAL (=). W-5 SIGNIFICANT (↑ within band). W-6 SIGNIFICANT (= ; Egyptian vote 26 Oct). W-7 SIGNIFICANT (↑ within band; \$113.17). W-8 SIGNIFICANT (=). Roll-up: 2 Extreme + 5 Significant = **PROBABLE**. Tripwires (W-5 Extreme, W-6 Extreme, or W-4 and W-3 both Extreme) not met.

Analyst Comment. The center of gravity has shifted from the strait to the Saudi mainland. Hormuz is costly but working: bypass routes run above baseline, and the Iranian claims are not being borne out by UKMTO. The Houthi campaign, by contrast, is producing confirmed deaths, a headquarters evacuation at the world's largest oil company and missiles aimed at the capital, and the oil market priced that, not the tanker claims. The evacuation's stated reason is unclear, and it may be a precaution, but it signals that Saudi decision-makers expect more strikes on Dhahran. We hold the trend at ↑. US or Israeli strikes on Iran before 3 Nov remain **unlikely** (WAR-05 10%, WAR-14 15%); the reporting on post-midterm planning sharpens the 4–30 Nov window instead. New **WAR-17** tests whether a confirmed strike damages an Aramco site.

II. EUROPE/RUSSIA: EU-T1 RUSSIAN AGGRESSION | POTENTIAL CRISIS

Strikes (day 10). Ukraine's Air Force said Russia launched **176 strike drones** (92 jet-powered Shaheds, plus Gerbera and Parodiya decoys) from the evening of 22 Oct; 140 were downed or suppressed by 0800, with hits at 19 locations and debris at 13 ([NV, 23 Oct](#); [TSN, 23 Oct](#)). The Energy Ministry said strikes on energy facilities in Zhytomyr, Volyn, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Khmelnytskyi and Rivne oblasts left **more than 500,000** without electricity ([CNBC, 23 Oct](#)). DTEK said one of its thermal power plants was severely damaged and stopped generating; it counts more than 230 attacks on its thermal plants since 2022 ([Hromadske, 23 Oct](#)). Volyn reported about 105,000 customers without power and substations feeding Lutsk damaged; Zhytomyr reported more than 900 settlements disconnected (TSN). In Odesa oblast a DTEK distribution facility was hit; Russia's defence ministry claimed strikes on uncrewed-boat sites at Vylkove and on a cargo ship bound for Odesa, claims not independently verified ([Kyiv Post, 23 Oct](#)). Russia's defence ministry said it downed 443 Ukrainian drones overnight (CNBC). **RUS-10: 10 of 10 days; resolved hit.** RUS-09 (>400 in a night by 25 Oct) not met.

Negotiations. Putin told Russian state television on 22 Oct that Russia is ready to resume trilateral talks with the US and Ukraine, focused on a post-conflict security system rather than a temporary ceasefire, consistent with Kremlin aide Ushakov's account of a start around **10 November** ([TASS](#); [Kremlin, 21 Oct](#); [Reuters via Investing.com](#)). No Kremlin confirmation of an energy-strike halt (RUS-05) was found.

Black Sea and NATO flank (R-4). No new attack on shipping near NATO coasts was confirmed overnight. Romania said it will speed up Black Sea capabilities after the cargo-ship attacks ([Reuters via Internazionale, 22 Oct](#)); NATO is sending additional patrol aircraft ([Al Jazeera, 20 Oct](#)), and MEPs urged the EU to consider a naval operation ([European Parliament](#)). No Article 4 request was found (RUS-04).

Indicators. R-3 SIGNIFICANT (= ; smaller salvo, wider outages, tenth day). R-4 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-5 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-6 ABNORMAL (=). R-8 ABNORMAL (=). R-10 ABNORMAL (↓ within band). R-1 ROUTINE (=). Roll-up: 3 Significant = **POTENTIAL**. Tripwires (R-4 or R-6 Extreme) not met.

Analyst Comment. The energy campaign has now run ten straight days, and RUS-10 closes as a hit. Last night's attack was drones only and smaller than the 22 Oct ballistic salvo, but it cut power more widely in the west (Volyn, Rivne, Khmelnytskyi), which points to a deliberate effort to reach the grid's western nodes before winter. Putin's on-camera confirmation makes the ~10 Nov talks more concrete without changing the pattern of talking while striking. We move the trend to =: no single measure rose, and the talks signal partly offsets the strikes. New **RUS-14** asks whether the daily tempo holds to the end of the month.

III. AMERICAS: AM-T1 US ELECTION INTEGRITY (MIDTERMS) | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Courts. In *California Nurses Association v. Mullin* (N.D. Cal. 4:26-cv-10680-AMO), Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín on 21 Oct **granted a preliminary injunction** barring DHS and those acting with it from conducting elections-related field operations and field interviews involving likely US citizens in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin, and from field operations based wholly on TECS records generated by DHS's voter-eligibility matching policy. The order runs until polls close on 3 Nov, is **stayed until 5:00 pm on 23 Oct**, and required a \$100 bond by 22 Oct ([Order, ECF 87, via Democracy Docket](#)). The order describes an August DHS "Surge Initiative Guidance" directing investigators to prioritize voter-eligibility field investigations in those nine states (Order, p. 2). This case is outside the four tracked D.D.C. polling-place cases and does not concern agents at polling places, so it does not resolve MID-05. In D.D.C., the *NAACP v. DHS* expedited-discovery schedule stands (productions 26 and 28 Oct; joint status report 29 Oct) ([Law&Crime](#)); no consolidation order and no TRO or PI motion were found.

Process. NBC's tracker shows **20,622,633** mail and early in-person votes cast nationally at its 0530 ET 23 Oct update (11.7M mail, 9M in person), with 56.58M mail ballots requested or sent and 11 days remaining ([NBC News](#)). **MID-07 resolves a hit.** Party-registration shares do not show how ballots were cast.

Indicators. M-1 SIGNIFICANT (= ; a court check on one DHS program, federal posture otherwise unchanged). M-2 ABNORMAL (=). M-7 ABNORMAL (=). M-3 to M-9 pending Election Day. Roll-up: 1 Significant + 2 Abnormal = **ENVIRONMENT**.

Analyst Comment. The California order is the first court restraint we have logged on DHS election-related enforcement before 3 Nov. It cuts both ways for warning: it confirms in a court record that a targeted federal field program existed in nine states, including several battlegrounds, and it shows the courts acting quickly to limit it. The live question is whether the government seeks an emergency stay from the Ninth Circuit before the 5 pm stay lapses; an appeal would keep M-1 at Significant, and compliance would argue for ↓ next week. MID-04 (D.D.C. consolidation by 24 Oct) is **unlikely**. This assessment takes no position on any party's prospects.

IV. INDO-PACIFIC

Baseline work: Statement of Normalcy, IP-T2 Korean Peninsula

SUBJECT: Korean Peninsula INDICATOR: K-1 DPRK missile launches (Regional Conflict; PMESII-PT: Military) ROUTINE: 0-1 ballistic launch events a month ABNORMAL: 2-4 launch events a month SIGNIFICANT: an ICBM launch, or an IRBM overflight of Japan EXTREME: a nuclear test Companion indicators: K-2 artillery or border incidents at the MDL (Routine none; Abnormal crossings, warning shots or mine incidents; Significant exchange of fire; Extreme lethal clash); K-3 KCNA/KCTV doctrine statements (Routine rhetoric; Abnormal threats to resume measures; Significant declared change in nuclear-use doctrine) Baseline sources / period reviewed: South Korea JCS via Yonhap, ACLED expert comment (20 Oct), CNA, 1 Jan-23 Oct 2026; thresholds per the family plan **Current reading.** ACLED counts North Korea's 12 Oct salvo as its **16th ballistic missile launch of 2026**, and lists at least five new systems tested since 3 Oct, including a hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile and a submarine-launched cruise missile, its first since January 2024 (ACLED, 20 Oct). South Korea's JCS said the 12 Oct launches came from the Pyongyang area, with at least one missile flying more than 900 km (Yonhap, 12 Oct). On the border, a joint South Korea–UN Command investigation concluded the mines that wounded three South Korean soldiers in the DMZ on 21 Sep were North Korean-made (CNA); ACLED reports North Korean patrols crossed south of the MDL several times in October, most recently on 12 Oct, drawing warning broadcasts and warning shots. On 19 Oct Kim Yo Jong called the border "very unstable" and said Pyongyang is reviewing restarting loudspeaker broadcasts (ACLED).

Indicators. K-1 ABNORMAL (at least two launch events in October, an IRBM test not over Japan). K-2 ABNORMAL (MDL crossings, warning shots, a confirmed mine incident). K-3 ROUTINE-to-ABNORMAL (threat to resume loudspeakers; scored ROUTINE pending KCNA text). Roll-up: 2 Abnormal = **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS** (first scored line).

Taiwan Strait (IP-T1). Taiwan's MND reported **no PLA aircraft** and 3 PLAN and 7 official ships between 0600 on 22 Oct and 0600 on 23 Oct (MND, 23 Oct). The 7-day average falls to about 8.4 sorties a day. IP-T1 stays **NO CRISIS (=)**.

Analyst Comment. Korea is the more active Indo-Pacific front this month, though not a crisis. The pattern is a higher baseline, not a spike: more tests, more border friction, and statements preparing the ground for loudspeaker measures. An ICBM launch or an exchange of fire would move it to POTENTIAL. With the APEC summit in Shenzhen approaching, a demonstrative launch is plausible; new **IPA-01** tests it.

V. AFRICA | NOT YET SCORED

Stand-up sub-WIRE; Statements of Normalcy for Sudan and the Horn (AF-T1) and the Sahel (AF-T2) follow IP-T3 in the rotation. Context only, unscored: Sudan Tribune reports Sudanese government forces stepped up drone and air strikes on RSF positions in Darfur and Kordofan, including El Fasher, on 22 Oct (Sudan Tribune); Amnesty International published new testimony of unlawful killings, detention and torture in El Fasher one year after the RSF captured the city (Amnesty International, Oct 2026). Yemen and the Red Sea front stay scored under the Middle East (W-2).

VI. INDICATORS TO WATCH | EWC / EWP ASSESSMENT

SCORE	TYPE	INDICATOR	WHY IT MATTERS	NEXT TRIGGER
EXTREME	EWP	W-2 Houthi-Saudi / Bab el-Mandeb	Aramco HQ evacuation; Dammam airport deaths; missile at Riyadh; 24 dead in October	Damage at an Aramco site (WAR-17); more deaths (WAR-16); US decision (WAR-06)
EXTREME	EWC	W-1 Hormuz attacks / flows	Kpler average 76% of baseline; IRGC threat to US bases; no new confirmed hit since 21 Oct	Confirmed sinking (WAR-07); baseline recovery (WAR-15)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-7 Energy price shock	Brent +4% to \$113.17, five-month high	Settle >\$120 (WAR-08) or <\$100 (WAR-11)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-5 US forces	Reported post-midterm strike planning; staff ordered out of Saudi Arabia; carrier build-up	US vote 3 Nov; WAR-05 / WAR-14
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-6 Gulf-state belligerency	Egyptian vote set for 26 Oct; Arab states condemn strikes	Vote (WAR-09); deployment (WAR-10)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	R-3 Strikes on Ukraine	Day 10; 500k+ off power; DTEK plant offline	15 days by 31 Oct (RUS-14); >400 in a night (RUS-09)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	R-4 NATO / partner spillover	Romania fast-tracks Black Sea capabilities; NATO patrols added	Casualty in NATO waters = tripwire; Article 4 (RUS-04)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	M-1 Federal posture on elections	N.D. Cal. injunction on DHS field operations; D.D.C. productions 26/28 Oct	Ninth Circuit stay request; TRO/PI motion in D.D.C. (MID-06, MID-08)

SCORE	TYPE	INDICATOR	WHY IT MATTERS	NEXT TRIGGER
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-8 Diplomacy / ceasefire	Talks deadlocked; blockade continues	Any US–Iran announcement (WAR-01)
ABNORMAL	EWP	K-1 DPRK launches	16 launch events in 2026; IRBM and SLCM tests in October	Launch before 15 Nov (IPA-01); ICBM = Significant
ABNORMAL	EWP	R-10 Negotiation track	Putin confirms ~10 Nov talks on TV	Trilateral held (RUS-13); Trump–Putin (RUS-12)
ABNORMAL	EWC	W-4 Iran-Israel exchange	Israel votes 27 Oct; warnings of interference	Any launch (WAR-04); Israeli strike (WAR-14)

VII. PREDICTION LEDGER CHECK (WI prefixes)

Resolved today: - **RUS-10** (Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure on 10+ distinct days, 14–31 Oct, 70%): **HIT**. The tenth day was 23 Oct (Energy Ministry via CNBC; TSN). Brier 0.09. - **MID-07** (NBC tracker at least 20M by 26 Oct, 60%): **HIT**. 20,622,633 at 0530 ET 23 Oct (NBC News). Brier 0.16.

Open WI calls due within 7 days (by 30 Oct): - **MID-04** (consolidation by 24 Oct, 55%): no order found. **Unlikely**; resolves tomorrow. - **RUS-09** (>400 drones and missiles in one night by 25 Oct, 55%): 176 drones overnight. Not met. - **MID-06** (TRO/PI motion in the four D.D.C. cases by 27 Oct, 50%): none found. **Unlikely**. - **WAR-12** (Israeli strike on Dahiyeh by 27 Oct, 20%): none found.

Other open WI calls: **WAR-09** Egyptian vote set for 26 Oct (likely). **RUS-02** very unlikely (talks named for ~10 Nov). **RUS-05** no Kremlin confirmation; trending miss. **RUS-06** not met. **WAR-07** no confirmed sinking. **WAR-08 / WAR-11** \$113.17; neither hit. **WAR-13** no UK intercept reported. **WAR-15** latest Kpler reading 13,047 kbd (76%). **WAR-16** no death on Saudi soil reported since 23 Oct began (the Dammam and Shaybah deaths were on 21 Oct, before the window). **MID-05** the N.D. Cal. injunction does not qualify (wrong court and not polling places). **WAR-01 / 02 / 04 / 05 / 06 / 10 / 14, RUS-01 / 04 / 12 / 13, MID-01 / 02 / 03 / 08** no qualifying event.

New predictions (dated 2026-10-23): - **WAR-17**: Saudi authorities, Aramco or the coalition (or Reuters/AP/AFP citing them) confirm that a Houthi drone or missile, or interception debris, damaged an Aramco facility between 23 Oct and 3 Nov. **50%, roughly even**. Resolve by 2026-11-03. - **RUS-14**: Ukraine's Energy Ministry, Ukrenergo or ISW report Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure on 15 or more distinct calendar days between 14 and 31 Oct. **75%, likely**. Resolve by 2026-10-31. - **IPA-01**: South Korea's JCS (or Japan's MOD) reports a North Korean ballistic missile launch between 23 Oct and 15 Nov. **45%, roughly even**. Resolve by 2026-11-15.

VIII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Aramco evacuation** rests on anonymous sources (six to Reuters, three to AFP); Aramco did not comment, and the reason is unclear. The earlier strike on the headquarters is also sourced to people with direct knowledge.
- **October Saudi toll** (14 missiles, 60+ drones, 24 dead, 374 injured) is Arab News's compilation of coalition and SPA figures; we did not total the SPA releases ourselves.
- **Houthi claims** on Yanbu and the Riyadh defence ministry were not confirmed by Saudi authorities. A Houthi claim that Saudi forces attacked a yacht with Indian nationals in the Red Sea was seen in a single outlet and is not reported here as fact.
- **Kpler** daily readings for 19–20 Oct are preliminary floors; the 76% figure is likely to revise upward.
- **IRGC claims** (seven tankers; US ships 600–700 km away) are unverified.
- **The Atlantic, ABC and NPR** reports on post-midterm strike planning were read via summaries and secondary outlets, not the originals in full.
- **Energy Ministry statement** for 23 Oct was read via CNBC, not the ministry's channel; the Russian MoD claim of 443 Ukrainian drones downed is unverified.
- **N.D. Cal. injunction**: whether the bond was posted, whether the stay lapsed at 5 pm 23 Oct, and whether the government sought a Ninth Circuit stay were not verified. D.D.C. dockets were not re-read on CourtListener today.
- **Egyptian vote date** (26 Oct) comes from Dawn and secondary reports; Ahram's page timed out.
- **DPRK launch count** (16th of the year) and the five-system list are ACLED's; the JCS releases for each event were not re-read. K-3 is scored without reading KCNA text.
- **Taiwan MND 23 Oct** figures come from the MND page summary in search results.
- **Sudan** items are context only and unscored.

Sources

Reuters via Investing.com, Cyprus Mail and Internazionale (22 Oct); Gulf News/AFP (22 Oct); Al-Monitor (22 Oct); Arab News (23 Oct); Saudi Press Agency (22 Oct); Anadolu (22 Oct); Dawn; Al Jazeera (19–22 Oct); UKMTO warning 179-26 and incident log; Times of Israel/AFP (22 Oct); Iran International (23 Oct); The Ops Con (23 Oct); Kpler media briefing (22 Oct); Israel National News; ABC News; NPR (22 Oct); NewsCord (22 Oct); JFeed/Israel Hayom; Times of Israel; Jerusalem Post; The New Arab (22 Oct); Morningstar/Dow Jones (22 Oct); CNBC (22–23 Oct); PFL Petroleum (22 Oct); WSJ market data (23 Oct); NV (23 Oct); TSN (23 Oct); Hromadske (23 Oct); Kyiv Post (23 Oct); TASS; Kremlin.ru (21 Oct); European Parliament; N.D. Cal. order, ECF 87, *California Nurses Association v. Mullin* (21 Oct); Law&Crime; NBC News early-vote tracker (23 Oct); ACLED (20 Oct); Yonhap (12 Oct); CNA; Taiwan MND (23 Oct); Sudan Tribune; Amnesty International.

WIRE World Instability | WIRE Desk | Open-source analysis. Not investment, legal or voting advice. UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE.