WIRE World Instability

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Baseline work today: the Sudan and the Horn (AF-T1) Statement of Normalcy is written and the topic is scored for the first time, at ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS. The Sahel (AF-T2) is next in the rotation; European internal stability (EU-T2, France) stays flagged for early baselining.

BLUF. The Middle East stays at **PROBABLE CRISIS (↑)**: Saudi air defences intercepted Houthi ballistic missiles aimed at **Riyadh** and the south on Sunday, and debris from two missiles intercepted on Saturday fell in **Wadi al-Mughammas in the Makkah region**, which the Gulf Cooperation Council's secretary-general called "a serious escalation." Asked on Saturday whether the US would strike Iran, the President said "maybe tomorrow" and also floated a "big, beautiful agreement"; The Hill reports post-midterm strike options are ready pending authorization, and Iran says it shot down a US drone over Bandar Abbas (unconfirmed). **Europe/Russia** holds at **POTENTIAL CRISIS (=)**: 153 drones overnight, and the Oleshky local ceasefire starts at 0300 Kyiv time on 27 Oct. **RUS-09 resolves a miss.** The **Americas** hold at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)** with 27.0M early votes cast. **Sudan (AF-T1)** enters at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS**. **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); strike-or-deal rhetoric from Washington; Sudan now scored	↑
Middle East: widespread war (ME-T1)	PROBABLE CRISIS	EXTREME	Missiles at Riyadh and the south intercepted; debris in the Makkah region; Riyadh airport reopens under Houthi threat; Iran claims a US drone downed	↑
Europe/Russia: Russian aggression (EU-T1)	POTENTIAL CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	153 drones overnight, hits at 15 locations; outage schedules 25 Oct; Oleshky ceasefire 0300 Kyiv, 27 Oct	=
Americas: US election integrity (AM-T1)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	26.97M early votes; consolidated D.D.C. cases with no TRO/PI motion found; productions due 26 and 28 Oct	=
Indo-Pacific: Korean Peninsula (IP-T2)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	No new launch since 12 Oct	=
Indo-Pacific: South China Sea (IP-T3)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	China Coast Guard says it "monitored" a 21 Oct Second Thomas resupply without incident (Manila has not confirmed)	=
Indo-Pacific: Taiwan Strait (IP-T1)	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Zero PLA aircraft; 5 PLAN and 8 official ships 24–25 Oct	=
Africa: Sudan and the Horn (AF-T1)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	First scored line: at least 306 killed by drones in three weeks (OHCHR); 139 killed in one strike in West Kordofan; IPC famine-risk alert	↑ **(new)**
Africa: Sahel (AF-T2)	NOT YET SCORED	—	Statement of Normalcy next in the rotation	—

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

Level change since 24 Oct: none on scored topics; AF-T1 newly scored at ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS, which gives the Africa region row its first level. Trend change: none on previously scored topics. Trend key: ↑ toward crisis, ↓ away, = no net change.

Moved indicators (vs 24 Oct). No scored indicator changed band. Within-band moves: **W-2** EXTREME ↑ (intercept debris in the Makkah region, Jeddah, Taif and Rabigh; the coalition reports ten ballistic missiles intercepted over the south on Sunday; Houthis declare Riyadh's airport a "military target"); **W-5** SIGNIFICANT ↑ (presidential "maybe tomorrow"; strike options reported ready; Iran claims a US drone shot down); **W-8** SIGNIFICANT = (Iran's envoy in Islamabad offers Hormuz-for-blockade; an IRGC-affiliated outlet rejects any such trade); **W-7** SIGNIFICANT = (no settlement since Friday's $116.72); **R-10** ABNORMAL = (Oleshky timing now agreed by both sides); **SC-1** ABNORMAL ↓ (a resupply reportedly completed without incident); **AF-T1** first scored.

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

Houthi–Saudi front. Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said on Sunday that air defences intercepted a Houthi ballistic missile fired toward **Riyadh** and a drone in the Riyadh region, after Saudi Civil Defense early warnings (Asharq Al-Awsat, 25 Oct; SPA). Reuters reports that Civil Defense issued alerts for Riyadh, Abha and Khamis Mushait; the coalition said two drones and a ballistic missile were launched toward Riyadh and a cruise missile toward Khamis Mushait, and later that it intercepted **ten ballistic missiles** fired toward southern Saudi Arabia (Reuters via Investing.com, 25 Oct). Debris from two ballistic missiles intercepted on Saturday fell in **Wadi al-Mughammas in the Makkah region**, with shrapnel in parts of Jeddah, Taif and Rabigh; GCC Secretary-General Jasem Albudaiwi called any threat to Makkah "a serious escalation" (Asharq Al-Awsat, 25 Oct). **King Khalid International Airport** resumed operations at two terminals on Sunday, closed since the 10 Oct attack that killed 13; Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree called it a "military target" and warned airlines and travellers away (Reuters, 25 Oct). The Houthis also attacked government sites in **Aden** on 24 Oct, which Yemen's government confirmed (Indian Express live, 25 Oct). No new death on Saudi soil and no confirmed damage to an Aramco site was found for 24–25 Oct (WAR-16, WAR-17 open); Houthi claims of hits on the airport and oil facilities were not confirmed by Saudi authorities.

US posture. Asked after voting early in Florida on Saturday about a strike on Iran, the President said: "Maybe tomorrow... There's a possibility I will. There's also a possibility we'll have a nice, big, beautiful agreement" (NDTV, 25 Oct; Iran International). The Hill, citing two sources, reports that Central Command has follow-up strike options ready pending White House authorization; a Pentagon official said the department's job is "to develop and present military options" (via Iran International and Indian Express). The New York Times reports two Iranian officials, one an IRGC member, described US diplomats and personnel as "fair game" (via Indian Express). Iran's armed forces chief of staff said US ships would never be allowed in the Gulf "under any circumstances" (CBS News live). Iran's regular military said on Sunday its air defences **shot down a US LUCAS drone over Bandar Abbas** (Iran International, 25 Oct); there is no US confirmation. No US or Israeli strike on Iranian soil was found by press time (WAR-05, WAR-14 open).

Diplomacy. Iran's ambassador in Islamabad said Tehran told Pakistani mediators it would reopen the Strait of Hormuz if the US lifted its blockade of Iranian ports, and that it stays open to talks under the June interim framework (AP, via Iran International). The IRGC-affiliated Tasnim quoted a source rejecting a separate Al Arabiya account as "lies and fantasy" and saying Iran does not accept any Hormuz-for-blockade equation (same source). No US–Iran announcement was found (WAR-01 open).

Hormuz and energy. UKMTO's latest listed warning remains 181-26: a tanker struck by an unknown projectile 7 nm north-east of Limah, Oman, on 22 Oct, which continued its voyage (UKMTO warning 181-26). No new Kpler media briefing has been issued since 23 Oct (74% of baseline; WAR-15, WAR-18 open). Front-month Brent last settled at **$116.72** on Friday (Morningstar/Dow Jones, 23 Oct); markets reopen Sunday evening ET. WAR-08 (>$120) and WAR-11 (<$100) not met.

Iraq. Iraq's prime minister said Iraq "will not participate in any war"; the Islamic Resistance in Iraq called standing with Tehran a "moral duty" without announcing attacks; Iraqi officials (via Asharq Al-Awsat, unnamed) suspect Israel struck two stores of air-defence missiles recently moved to Iraqi factions; an explosive drone struck a Komala party base north-east of Erbil with no casualties (Reuters, via Iran International).

Egypt and Israel. Egypt's House resumes at 11:00 on **26 Oct** for a roll-call vote on authorizing defensive support to Saudi Arabia; 398 votes are needed (Ahram Online). Israel votes on **27 Oct**; final polls show the change bloc at 52–56 and the governing bloc at 50, with Arab parties at 14–16 and Eisenkot's Yashar leading Likud (Ynet). Official results are due by 4 Nov. No Iranian launch at Israel was found (WAR-04 open).

Lebanon. NNA-based reports list Israeli airstrikes and shelling on Khiam, Zawtar al-Sharqiya, Mayfadoun, Majdal Zoun and other southern towns on 24–25 Oct, with drones over Beirut and Tyre (Middle East Eye). No strike on Beirut's southern suburbs was found (WAR-12, due 27 Oct).

Indicators. W-1 EXTREME (=). W-2 EXTREME (↑ within band; debris in the Makkah region, Riyadh airport threatened). W-3 SIGNIFICANT (=). W-4 ABNORMAL (=). W-5 SIGNIFICANT (↑ within band). W-6 SIGNIFICANT (= ; vote 26 Oct). W-7 SIGNIFICANT (= ; no new settlement). 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 Houthi campaign has moved from Saudi infrastructure to the edge of the holy cities. Debris near Makkah is a political escalation even with no casualties, and the GCC language reflects that. The airport reopening under an explicit Houthi threat sets up a clean test of whether that threat is enforced (new **WAR-19**). On the US side, the President's "maybe tomorrow" contradicts the White House's stated no-strike-before-3-Nov line, but it was paired with a deal offer. We read it as coercive signalling, not a decision. We hold a US strike on Iranian soil before 3 Nov at **unlikely** (WAR-05 logged 10%; current judgment about 10–15%). Iran's drone claim is unconfirmed; if the US confirms a loss over Iranian territory, W-5 moves toward Extreme.

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

Strikes. Ukraine's Air Force said Russia launched **153 strike drones** (92 Shahed-type, 64 of them jet-powered), plus S-8000 Banderol missiles and decoys, from 1800 on 24 Oct; 119 were downed or suppressed by 0800 and hits were recorded at 15 locations (Ukrinform, 25 Oct; RBC-Ukraine). A drone hit a five-storey apartment block in **Vinnytsia** (six injured); local authorities report eight killed and 51 injured nationwide over the past day (Kyiv Independent, 25 Oct). The Vinnytsia regional head said energy infrastructure was targeted on the evening of 24 Oct, triggering an emergency outage in one district (News.az live, 25 Oct). Ukrenergo applied industrial limits and hourly outages on **25 Oct**, citing the consequences of massive attacks on energy infrastructure (UA.NEWS).

RUS-09 resolves a miss. No single overnight attack above 400 drones and missiles was reported between 18 and 25 Oct; the largest was about 290 combined (18–19 Oct). **RUS-14 tally: 11 days (14–24 Oct), with 24 Oct counted provisionally** on the Vinnytsia regional statement; it needs four of the remaining seven days.

Negotiations. Both sides have now set the **Oleshky** local ceasefire for **0300 Kyiv time (0400 Moscow) on 27 Oct**, for mine clearance, food and medical deliveries and voluntary evacuation through a corridor; Ukraine's ombudsman discussed the mission's details with his Russian counterpart (Kyiv Post; Ukrinform). No Kremlin-confirmed energy-strike moratorium (RUS-05) and no Article 4 request (RUS-04) was found.

Europe, unscored context (EU-T2). France's interior ministry counted about **410,000** marchers on 24 Oct (unions: 800,000); nearly **1,000 people were arrested**, and clashes followed largely peaceful marches, with less looting than the week before (BBC; AP; franceinfo). EU-T2 is still not scored.

Indicators. R-3 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-4 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-5 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-6 ABNORMAL (=). R-8 ABNORMAL (=). R-10 ABNORMAL (=). R-1 ROUTINE (=). Roll-up: 3 Significant = **POTENTIAL**. Tripwires (R-4 or R-6 Extreme) not met.

Analyst Comment. Salvo sizes have stayed between 126 and 210 drones for a week, well below the mid-October peak, which is why RUS-09 missed. The pattern is now steady pressure on the grid, not record raids. The Oleshky ceasefire gets its first test in 48 hours; a clean start would be the first positive signal in R-10, but it would not by itself move the topic level.

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

Process. NBC's tracker shows **26,974,129** mail and early in-person votes cast (14.3M mail, 12.6M in person), with 57.76M mail ballots requested or sent (NBC News). That is up about 3.3M from Saturday's reading.

Courts. No TRO or PI motion has been reported in the consolidated D.D.C. polling-place cases (LULAC, NAACP v. DHS, DSCC) or in *NAACP v. Blanche*. A litigation tracker lists only the complaint, discovery filings and the 23 Oct consolidation for 1:26-cv-03263 (Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse). NAACP document productions are due **26 and 28 Oct**. MID-06 (motion by 27 Oct) is trending toward a miss.

Indicators. M-1 SIGNIFICANT (=). M-2 ABNORMAL (=). M-7 ABNORMAL (=). M-3 to M-9 pending Election Day. Roll-up: 1 Significant + 2 Abnormal = **ENVIRONMENT**.

Analyst Comment. Nine days out, the record shows high turnout and litigation that is moving in an orderly way. No emergency motion has been filed. This assessment takes no position on any party's prospects.

IV. INDO-PACIFIC

Taiwan Strait (IP-T1). Taiwan's MND reported **no PLA aircraft**, 5 PLAN ships and 8 official ships between 0600 on 24 Oct and 0600 on 25 Oct (MND; CNA). The ship count is up from 1 and 5, but it is within the routine band. **NO CRISIS (=).**

Korean Peninsula (IP-T2). No DPRK ballistic launch since 12 Oct was found (Yonhap, 12 Oct). **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=).** IPA-01 open.

South China Sea (IP-T3). The China Coast Guard said it "monitored the entire process" of a Philippine delivery to BRP Sierra Madre on 21 Oct and called it approved under the "provisional arrangement"; Manila has not confirmed the mission and does not accept any approval requirement (The Diplomat, 22 Oct). No new water-cannon use was found (IPA-02 open). **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)**, with SC-1 easing within the Abnormal band.

V. AFRICA

Baseline work: Statement of Normalcy, AF-T1 Sudan and the Horn

SUBJECT: Sudan and the Horn / Red Sea coast INDICATOR: AF-1 Conflict lethality (Internal stability / Regional conflict; PMESII-PT: Military, Social) Normal for this theatre is an active civil war (SAF and allies vs RSF) since April 2023; thresholds are set against that war's own baseline, not against peacetime. ROUTINE: fighting on established fronts; no single event with 25+ killed in the month ABNORMAL: one event with 25-49 killed, or UN-reported civilian deaths rising month on month SIGNIFICANT: one or more events with 50+ killed, or a state capital or major garrison changes hands EXTREME: a city of 500,000+ falls or is stormed (El Obeid-scale), or mass atrocities on the El Fasher (Oct 2025) scale Companion indicators: AF-2 Food security (IPC): Routine Phase 3 areas; Abnormal famine-risk alert or famine-threshold malnutrition in camps; Significant Phase 5 Famine classified in any area; Extreme Famine in several states with confirmed excess mortality AF-3 Displacement (UNHCR): Routine steady arrivals; Abnormal flash updates on a new influx; Significant 20,000+ new arrivals in a month to one neighbour; Extreme 50,000+ AF-4 Foreign-state involvement on the Red Sea littoral: Routine diplomacy; Abnormal reported arms flows; Significant a foreign deployment or base on Sudan's or Eritrea's coast; Extreme a foreign state in direct combat in Sudan Baseline sources / period reviewed: ACLED (El Fasher and Kordofan, Oct 2025); OHCHR and UN News; IPC alerts and analyses (May and Oct 2026); UNHCR Chad data portal; CIR Sudan Witness; Apr 2023 - Oct 2026; thresholds per the family plan (S = Phase 5 in any area)
Current reading. OHCHR says drone strikes by both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF killed **at least 306 people** in the first three weeks of October. They include **139 killed** in a "double tap" strike on a truck at Dibab, West Kordofan, on 18 Oct; at least 31 killed at a mining site near Abu Shendi, Blue Nile, on 9 Oct; and at least 25 killed at displacement shelters in Ghubeish and El Nuhud on 6–10 Oct. A 19 Oct drone attack on Amiet market in **Abyei** killed more than 80, and the Security Council condemned it (UN News, 23 Oct; OHCHR). In North Kordofan, the Sudanese military and allied Joint Forces took Sawdiri (25 Sep) and Al-Mazroub (2 Oct). RSF drones keep hitting **El Obeid**, a city of 500,000+ where a displacement camp grew by at least 1,200 tents in two months (CIR Sudan Witness, 15 Oct). An IPC alert of 12 Oct warns of a growing risk of Famine across Greater Darfur and Kordofan. It reports acute malnutrition above Famine thresholds in two IDP camps in Eastern Jebel Marra (38% and 30.8% GAM) and 8.58M internally displaced (IPC Alert, 12 Oct). Thirty donors, including the US and the EU, warned on 23 Oct of famine risk, with 19.5M people in high acute food insecurity (ECHO joint statement). UNHCR counts **976,512** refugees from Sudan in Chad as of 18 Oct and has issued flash updates on a new influx (UNHCR Chad; Flash Update #58). The UN rights chief cites a "continued influx of arms" fuelling the war (UN News).

Indicators. AF-1 SIGNIFICANT (two events with 80+ killed in October). AF-2 ABNORMAL (famine-risk alert and famine-threshold malnutrition in two camps; no Phase 5 area classification found in current analysis). AF-3 ABNORMAL (new-influx flash updates; the monthly arrival count was not read). AF-4 ABNORMAL (arms flows cited by the UN; no foreign deployment on the coast found). Roll-up: 1 Significant + 3 Abnormal = **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS** (first scored line). No override, though AF-2 is one IPC classification away from Significant.

Sahel (AF-T2). Not yet scored; Statement of Normalcy next.

Analyst Comment. Sudan scores only ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS because the yardstick is the war's own baseline. In absolute terms it remains among the world's worst humanitarian emergencies. Two things would move it to POTENTIAL: a formal IPC Famine classification (AF-2 Significant), or a second mass-casualty month (AF-1 holding Significant, with displacement surging). Drones are now the main killer, and both sides use them. New **AFR-01** tests whether 50+ fatality events recur.

VI. INDICATORS TO WATCH | EWC / EWP ASSESSMENT

SCORE	TYPE	INDICATOR	WHY IT MATTERS	NEXT TRIGGER
EXTREME	EWP	W-2 Houthi-Saudi / Bab el-Mandeb	Ten ballistic missiles intercepted over the south; debris in the Makkah region; Riyadh airport declared a target	Airport halt (WAR-19); death on Saudi soil (WAR-16); Aramco damage (WAR-17)
EXTREME	EWC	W-1 Hormuz attacks / flows	Kpler 74% (23 Oct); UKMTO 181-26 latest	Kpler ≤70% (WAR-18); confirmed sinking (WAR-07)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-5 US forces	"Maybe tomorrow"; options ready; Iranian drone-shootdown claim	Any strike (WAR-05, WAR-14); US vote 3 Nov
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-6 Gulf-state belligerency	Egyptian roll call 26 Oct, 11:00	Vote (WAR-09); deployment (WAR-10)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-7 Energy price shock	Brent $116.72 (Fri)	Settle >$120 (WAR-08)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-8 Diplomacy	Envoy offers Hormuz-for-blockade; Tasnim rejects	Any US–Iran announcement (WAR-01)

SCORE	TYPE	INDICATOR	WHY IT MATTERS	NEXT TRIGGER
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	R-3 Strikes on Ukraine	153 drones; outage schedules	15 energy-strike days by 31 Oct (RUS-14); >800 in a night (RUS-06)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	AF-1 Sudan lethality	306 killed by drones in three weeks; 139 in one strike	50+ in one event (AFR-01)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	M-1 Federal posture on elections	No TRO/PI motion; productions 26/28 Oct	MID-06 (27 Oct), MID-08
ABNORMAL	EWC	AF-2 Sudan food security	IPC famine-risk alert; famine-threshold GAM in two camps	IPC Famine classification = Significant
ABNORMAL	EWP	R-10 Negotiation track	Oleshky ceasefire 0300 Kyiv, 27 Oct	Aid delivered (RUS-15); trilateral (RUS-13)
ABNORMAL	EWC	W-4 Iran-Israel exchange	Israel votes 27 Oct	Any launch (WAR-04); Israeli strike (WAR-14)
ABNORMAL	EWP	SC-1 South China Sea incidents	Resupply reportedly completed 21 Oct	Water cannon (IPA-02)
ABNORMAL	EWP	K-1 DPRK launches	None since 12 Oct	Launch by 15 Nov (IPA-01)

VII. PREDICTION LEDGER CHECK (WI prefixes)

Resolved today: - **RUS-09** (>400 drones and missiles in one overnight attack, 18–25 Oct, 55%): **MISS.** The largest night was about 290 combined (18–19 Oct); the final night was 153 drones plus Banderol missiles (Ukrinform, 25 Oct). Brier 0.3025. - Housekeeping: MID-04's status label was normalized to "resolved-hit" (outcome unchanged).

Open WI calls due within 7 days (by 1 Nov): - **MID-06** (TRO/PI motion in the D.D.C. cases by 27 Oct, 50%): none found. **Unlikely.** - **WAR-12** (Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs by 27 Oct, 20%): none found; strikes stay in the south. **Very unlikely.** - **WAR-09** (Egyptian approval by 31 Oct, 70%): roll call 26 Oct. **Likely.** - **RUS-14** (15 energy-strike days by 31 Oct, 75%): 11 days through 24 Oct (24 Oct provisional); needs 4 of 7. **Likely.** - **RUS-02** (trilateral in-person meeting by 31 Oct, 35%): technical talks set for the first half of November. **Very unlikely.** - **RUS-05** (Kremlin-confirmed energy-strike moratorium by 31 Oct, 20%): none. **Very unlikely.** - **RUS-06** (>800 in one night by 31 Oct, 30%): not met; recent nights 126–210. **Unlikely.**

Other open WI calls: **WAR-05 / WAR-14** no strike on Iranian soil. **WAR-08** $116.72, not met. **WAR-11** not met. **WAR-16 / WAR-17** no qualifying death or damage. **WAR-15 / WAR-18** no new Kpler briefing. **WAR-07** no confirmed sinking. **WAR-13** no UK intercept reported. **MID-05 / MID-08** no TRO or PI. **IPA-01** no launch. **IPA-02** no water cannon. **RUS-15** ceasefire not yet started. **WAR-01 / 02 / 04 / 06 / 10, RUS-01 / 04 / 12 / 13, MID-01 / 02 / 03** no qualifying event.

New predictions (dated 2026-10-25): - **WAR-19:** Saudi GACA, Riyadh Airports Company or SPA (or Reuters/AP/AFP citing them) report that King Khalid International Airport suspended or halted operations again because of a Houthi attack, intercept debris or attack threat, between 26 Oct and 15 Nov. **30%, unlikely.** Resolve by 2026-11-15. - **AFR-01:** OHCHR, UN News, OCHA, UNISFA or the Security Council (or Reuters/AP/AFP citing UN or Sudanese health authorities) report a single strike or attack in Sudan or Abyei killing at least 50 people, occurring 26 Oct to 30 Nov. **55%, roughly even.** Resolve by 2026-11-30.

VIII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **US drone shootdown:** Iran's claim that it downed a US LUCAS drone over Bandar Abbas has no US confirmation.
- **Saudi interceptions** and the "ten ballistic missiles" figure are coalition statements. Houthi claims of hits on Riyadh's airport and oil facilities on 24 Oct are not confirmed by Saudi authorities. The Reuters item was read via search excerpt; a direct fetch timed out.
- **NYT report** of Iranian officials calling US personnel "fair game" and **The Hill** report on strike options were read through secondary relays.
- **Suspected Israeli strikes on Iraqi faction stores** rest on unnamed Iraqi sources (Asharq Al-Awsat); Israel has not commented.
- **RUS-14:** 24 Oct is counted on a regional official's statement relayed by News.az; no Energy Ministry facility list for 24–25 Oct was found.
- **D.D.C. dockets:** CourtListener blocked our fetch today; the MID-06 reading relies on the Clearinghouse summary and the absence of any reported motion.
- **Second Thomas Shoal:** the 21 Oct resupply is a Chinese Coast Guard claim; Manila had not confirmed it.
- **Sudan:** ACLED fatality series against the 8-week mean was not available to us; AF-1 uses OHCHR-verified events. The current IPC classification table was not read line by line; El Fasher's 2025 Famine classification is not assumed to persist. UNHCR monthly

arrivals to Chad were not read.

- **France:** arrest totals were expected to rise after consolidation.

Sources

Asharq Al-Awsat (25 Oct); SPA; Reuters via Investing.com (25 Oct); Indian Express live (25 Oct); NDTV (25 Oct); Iran International (25 Oct); CBS News live; UKMTO warning 181-26; Morningstar/Dow Jones Data Talk (23 Oct); Ahram Online; Ynet; Middle East Eye; Ukrinform (25 Oct); RBC-Ukraine (25 Oct); Kyiv Independent (25 Oct); News.az (25 Oct); UA.NEWS; Kyiv Post; BBC; AP; franceinfo; NBC News early-vote tracker (25 Oct); Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse; Taiwan MND (25 Oct); CNA (25 Oct); Yonhap (12 Oct); The Diplomat (22 Oct); UN News (23 Oct); OHCHR (23 Oct); CIR Sudan Witness (15 Oct); IPC Alert (12 Oct); ECHO joint ministerial statement (23 Oct); UNHCR Chad (18 Oct) and Flash Update #58.

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