Golan 10 December

Unconfirmed accounts reported an Israeli air strike against “a radar site belonging to the Syrian military” in southern Syria.

Tehran/Hormuz/Riyadh/Bahrain 10 December

Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian affirmed that “the three islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf are inseparable parts of Iranian soil and eternally belong to this motherland. We have no qualms about the necessity of other parties respecting Iran’s territorial integrity”. His remarks came in response to a joint GCC-China statement that had expressed “support for all peaceful efforts, including the initiative and endeavours of the United Arab Emirates to reach a peaceful solution to the [sovereignty] issue of the three islands”.

Riyadh/Bahrain 9 December

The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council asserted that “negotiations on Iran’s nuclear file and any future negotiations with Iran should include addressing its destabilising behaviour in the region, its sponsorship of terrorism and sectarian militias, its missile programs [and] the safety of international navigation and oil facilities”, emphasising “the need for GCC states’ participation in those negotiations and all relevant regional and international discussions and meetings”. The Council also raised “concern over Iran’s escalatory steps to tamper with regional security and stability, reaffirming its rejection of continuous Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of the GCC states and the region, fueling sectarian conflicts and supporting, financing and arming militias, organisations and groups that fuel such conflicts, including providing them with ballistic missiles and drones”. Iran’s diplomatic spokesperson condemned the accusations as “baseless”.

Yemen 9 December

The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council deplored what it called “Iran’s continued interference in the internal affairs of Yemen [and] the smuggling of military experts and weapons to the Huthi militia in clear contravention of Security Council resolutions”, while highlighting “the importance of preventing arms smuggling to the Huthi militia that threatens maritime freedom and global trade in the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea”.