**Washington/Israel 16 August**

The U.S., Egypt and Qatar described Gaza ceasefire talks as “serious and constructive”, adding: “Senior officials from our governments will reconvene in Cairo before the end of next week with the aim to conclude the deal under the terms put forward today… The path is now set for that outcome, saving lives, bringing relief to the people of Gaza and de-escalating regional tensions”. With respect to possible Iranian retaliation against Israel over the killing of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, a U.S. official warned Iran “not to move down that road, because the consequences could be quite cataclysmic, particularly for Iran… It would be ironic if Iran was [to] do something to basically detail what we think is the best opportunity at a very comprehensive ceasefire and hostage release deal”.

**Israel 15 August**

Israel sanctioned eighteen vessels for what the defence ministry described as “transporting oil belonging to the designated terrorist organisation [IRGC] Qods Force, the sale proceeds of which serve as a key element in financing and strengthening the terrorist organisations, among them also Hizbollah and Hamas”.

**Tehran/Golan/Israel 15 August**

The IRGC reported the death of a colonel in Syria from injuries sustained “in early August during an aggressor coalition airstrike”.

**Washington 15 August**

Discussing Iran’s potential retaliation for the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, a White House official stated that “we have been messaging Iran through our counterparts and people that have direct diplomatic relations with Iran. And of course, we have our own ways of doing that, through other vehicles… Our messages have been consistent: We don’t want to see an escalation here, and we would like to prevent the outcome of them attacking [Israel]”. “We know that Iran has made some preparations”, he added. “We believe that, should they choose to attack, that they could do it with little or no notice and that it could come soon… [We are] working so hard on the military front to make sure we’re ready for it and that Israel is ready for it”.
**Washington/Lebanon/Yemen 15 August**

The U.S. designated “several companies, individuals and vessels for their involvement in the shipment of Iranian commodities, including oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), to Yemen and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on behalf of the network of Iran-based, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF)-backed Houthi financial official Sa‘id al-Jamal”. The U.S. also sanctioned a Hong Kong-based entity “for its role in shipping Iranian LPG worth tens of millions of dollars for Lebanese Hizbollah”, and listed “as blocked property four vessels the company owns and manages”.

**Washington/Yemen 15 August**

CENTCOM reported that it had “destroyed one Iranian-backed Houthi ground control station in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen”.