

US and Iran agree to resume talks after weekend of strikes

By Milena Wälde
 The U.S. and Iran agreed Sunday evening to halt attacks in the Gulf and restart negotiations over the Strait of Hormuz after a weekend of strikes threatened their less-than-two-week-old ceasefire.

Technical talks on the June 17 memorandum of understanding are expected to resume this week. Citing a U.S. official, Axios reported both sides had agreed to “stand down for now” and allow commercial vessels to move through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has not publicly confirmed the agreement.

The move to resume talks came after four days of renewed hostilities in the region, with Washington and Iran accusing one another of violating the June 17 ceasefire, which called for an

“immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts.”

After an Iranian projectile struck a cargo vessel in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, the U.S. military on Saturday said it had struck Iranian surveillance infrastructure, communications systems, air defense sites, drone storage facilities and minelaying capabilities. Iran responded by launching missiles and drones at U.S. military sites in Bahrain and Kuwait after fresh American strikes in southern Iran.

The exchange of strikes prompted new threats from U.S. President Donald Trump. In a Truth Social post Sunday, Trump warned that if Tehran abandoned the agreement, “the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist” and said the United States was prepared

to “militarily finish the job.” Iran, meanwhile, threatened to suspend negotiations altogether.

Washington has proposed this week’s talks take place in Doha. The discussions could begin as early as Tuesday and are expected to center around the use of the Strait of Hormuz.

The latest round of negotiations is meant to build on the high-level talks held in Switzerland earlier this month. During those discussions, U.S. Vice President JD Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, met with Iranian officials to hammer out the ground rules for future negotiations that are expected to delve into complex issues including Iran’s nuclear regime and U.S. sanctions.

*New Law

(Continued from page 1.)
 Enforcement.

Republican state Sen. Angela Hill, who sponsored the measure, said states have a right and obligation to assist the U.S. government in discouraging illegal immigration, which she said facilitates crimes such as human and drug trafficking.

The new law “seems like commonsense to me,” Hill said. “In order to address the problems caused by illegal immigration, we need to understand the magnitude of the problem. Identifying the number and identity of illegal aliens in Mississippi is a concrete way to better understand the problem.”

Immigration laws are proliferating in states nationwide, states already have enacted more than 100 immigration-related laws this year, according to an Associated Press tally.

In Republican-led states, those measures generally have aligned with Trump’s agenda by requiring local sheriffs to sign cooperative agreements with ICE, reinforcing eligibility restrictions for public benefits and directing election clerks to check voter rolls against the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system in an attempt to flag noncitizens.

Democratic-led states generally have pushed back against Trump with new laws banning cooperative pacts with ICE, forbidding ICE tactics like wearing masks and restricting immigration enforcement actions in schools, hospitals and other sensitive locations without judicial warrants.

The closest thing to Mississippi’s new law appears to be a 2021 executive order

by Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. That measure directed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to “use all lawful investigative means available” to determine the number and identities of all “illegal aliens” who had been transported from the nation’s southwest border to Florida.

The Florida agency did not respond to an AP request for information about the results of the executive order.

Trump’s administration, meanwhile, has stepped up enforcement of a decades-old federal law that requires noncitizens to register with the U.S. government.

Some question how the Mississippi law will work

The Mississippi law envisions more than a one-time count. It prescribes an ongoing effort to keep track of immigrants illegally in the state for the next two years. That could get complicated as people overstay visas, apply for new forms of legal status and move into and out the state.

“You can be undocumented today, and then have status tomorrow, and then lose it again next month, and then regain it three months from now,” said Efrén Olivares, vice president of litigation and legal strategy at the National Immigration Law Center, a nonprofit that advocates for low-income immigrants.

“It’s practically unworkable, but it’s also very worrisome, because it’s eerily reminiscent of other countries that have created lists of certain groups of people,” Olivares said.

State officials will need to come up with “a credible and fairly foolproof way of correctly determining someone’s immigration status,” said Jessica Vaughan,

director of policy studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, a nonprofit think tank that supports restrictions on immigration.

But Vaughan said the law “makes a lot of sense,” adding that it “raises the likelihood that someone’s illegal presence is going to come to the attention of federal authorities.”

Advocates say the law could break trust with police

Mississippi has one of the country’s smallest percentages of immigrants illegally residing in the state — fewer than 28,000 people, amounting to less than 1% of its population — according to a report by the American Immigration Council, which used 2023 Census Bureau data.

The new law “is very concerning for a bunch of different reasons,” including the potential to redirect law enforcement resources away from protecting the public to investigating people from foreign countries who may be contributing to the economy, said Victoria Francis, deputy director of state and local initiatives for the American Immigration Council, a nonprofit that advocates on behalf of immigrants.

“A mandate like this invites profiling and turning entire communities into targets,” Francis said.

The law could undermine trust between police and residents, said Lydia Grizzell, policy and advocacy manager for the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi.

“That increases the likelihood of individuals not reaching out to law enforcement when it’s needed — and that is opposite of the mission,” she said.

Ole Miss announces Honor Rolls

The University of Mississippi announced students named to the Spring 2026 Honor Roll lists, including Chancellor's Honor Roll.

Lillian Lewis, of Goodman, MS, in the B.S. in Public Health program, was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00.

John Riley, of Lexington, MS, in the B.B.A. in General Business program, was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00.

Cayton Edwards, of Lexington, MS, in the B.S.C.S. in Computer Science program, was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for stu-

dents who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00.

The University of Mississippi announced students named to the Spring 2026 Honor Roll lists, including Dean's Honor Roll.

Anna Simmons, of Cruger, MS, in the B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences program, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

Bren Alexander, of Lexington, MS, in the B.A. in Allied Health Studies program, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

Katherine Riley, of Lexington, MS, in the B.A. in Allied Health Studies program, was named to the

Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

Caitlin Cole, of Goodman, MS, in the B.A. in Psychology program, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

Marque Langston, of Lexington, MS, in the B.S.L.S. in Law Studies program, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

Ricky Fletcher, of Durant, MS, in the B.M.D.S. in Multi-Disciplinary Studies program, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

PUBLIC NOTICE

“TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE TAXPAYERS OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:

“You are hereby notified that the real and personal property assessment rolls of the above named County for the year 2026, starting July 7th, 2026 and ending July 17th, 2026 have been equalized according to law, and that said rolls are ready for inspection and examination, and that any objections to said rolls, or any assessment therein contained, shall be made in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of said County on or before the 17th day of August, 2026, at her office at 22323 Depot Street, Highway 12, Lexington of said County, and that all assessments to which no objection is then and there made will be finally approved by said Board of Supervisors, and that all assessments to which objection is made, and which may be corrected and properly determined by this Board, will be made final by this Board of Supervisors, and that said rolls and the assessments contained therein will be approved by this Board of Supervisors; and that,

- “1. This Board will be in session for the purpose of hearing objections to the said assessments which may be filed at 22323 Depot Street, Highway 12, in the City of Lexington, said County and State, on the 17th day of August, 2026, and,
- “2. This Board of Supervisors will remain in session from day to day until all objections, lawfully filed, shall have been disposed of and all proper corrections made in the said rolls.

“Witness the signature and seal of the said Board of Supervisors this the 2nd day of July, 2026, and

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HOLMES COUNTY

**By /s/ LeRoy Johnson
 President**

**By /s/ Charlie Luckett
 Chancery Clerk**

Ordered and Adjudged this 2nd day of July, 2026.

/s/ LeRoy Johnson

NOTE: Said rolls are available for inspection in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room. Assistance in examining the rolls is available from personnel of the County Appraisal Office, 22323 Depot Street, Highway 12, Lexington. Questions regarding assessments may also be made by telephone to said Office, 662.834.3737; if no answer, call the Assessor’s Office, 662.834.2865. Blank forms for use in filing objections may be obtained from the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.