

## Lockdown in Strait of Hormuz

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The UK is sending an additional Royal Navy ships to assist in the escorting and security of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz as Iran continues to seize oil and gas ships. However this has been seen as an act of aggression by Iran resulting in stand off in the narrow shipping channel.

Tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping channel for oil and gas, have “risen to a critical level”, says the UK foreign secretary.

Tensions have been slowly rising in the region after Iran’s seizure of several UK and US oil and LNG vessels. But following UK naval security deployments, Iran has began to block the shipping lanes that pass through the area.

The Iranian defence minister said that the seizure of any vessels has been wholly legal and only done so due to concerns of their proximity to Iranian waters.

It is unclear how long this standoff will continue, in the mean time however there is a serious restriction on the amount of ships leaving the region causing concerns for supply of oil and LNG.