

# China Defies US Blockade as Tanker Passes Through Strait of Hormuz

A Chinese tanker sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday in open defiance of a sweeping U.S. naval blockade, escalating tensions in one of the world's most critical oil chokepoints.

The vessel, Rich Starry, which is under U.S. sanctions, had initially turned back late Monday before completing its passage a day later. The tanker is owned by Shanghai Xuanrun Shipping Co. Ltd. and is carrying roughly 250,000 barrels of methanol after loading cargo in Hamriyah in the United Arab Emirates, according to shipping data cited by the Daily Mail.

The move comes just days after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a sweeping military action targeting Iranian shipping routes.

Trump said Sunday the U.S. Navy would block "any and all ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz."

He doubled down Monday, declaring the U.S. would blockade vessels "entering or exiting Iranian ports," according to the Daily Mail report.



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China quickly condemned the move, warning it could destabilize an already fragile situation in the region.

"The US increased military operations and took a targeted blockade action, which will only exacerbate tensions and undermine the already fragile ceasefire agreement and further

jeopardize [the] safety of passage through the Strait," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a news conference. He added the blockade was "dangerous and irresponsible behavior."

The confrontation is raising alarm across the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is pressing Washington to abandon the blockade and return to negotiations, fearing the move could provoke Iran into retaliating against other vital shipping lanes.

The passage of the sanctioned tanker marks a direct challenge to U.S. enforcement in the region and signals a potential flashpoint as global powers clash over control of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery for the world's energy supply.

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