

Timeline of events in 1973–74

Date	Event
6 October	Egypt and Syria launched an offensive against Israel.
12 October	US President Nixon received two letters: one from the Israeli Prime Minister, warning that Israel's survival was at stake, and another from Aramco (a group of American companies that owned oil in Saudi Arabia), warning that support for Israel would threaten America's oil deals in the Middle East.
14 October	A delayed American plane landed to deliver supplies to Israel in broad daylight. Arab nations assumed that this was a deliberate show of support for Israel.
17 October	Arab nations (e.g. Saudi Arabia) agreed to reduce oil production and create lists of 'friendly' and 'unfriendly' countries. 'Unfriendly' countries that supported Israel would lose oil supplies.
19 October	President Nixon proposed \$2.2 billion of aid for Israel.
20 October	Arab nations declared a full oil embargo against the USA.
26 October	A ceasefire was agreed between Israel and Egypt, and negotiations began.
October 1973–March 1974	The oil embargo continued, leading to oil shortages in industrial countries like the United States. Oil was rationed, leading to long queues at gas stations.
December 1973	OPEC seized control of setting oil prices. By December, the price of oil had quadrupled compared to before the embargo.
18 March 1974	The oil embargo was ended after progress in peace negotiations between the Arab states and Israel, with the help of the United States.