Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: February 2024

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America’s (JINSA) Iran Projectile Tracker presents regularly updated charts and graphs on missiles, rockets, drones, and mortars that Iran and its regional proxies have fired at U.S. personnel, partners, and interests in the Middle East. JINSA regularly updates the data for JINSA’s Iran Projectile Tracker and other Iran-linked malign activity. Below is an update reflecting the major trends from the last month.

1. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against Maritime Targets
   - The Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen increased their attacks against ships in nearby waters during February, despite increased strikes by the United States and its partners.
     » In February, the Houthis launched 33 projectile attacks against ships, the largest number to date, as well as one incident of a Houthi vessel harassing a commercial ship.
     » There were 34 Houthi maritime attacks in December 2023, but this includes at least five ships seizures or attempted seizures and 29 projectile strikes—fewer than the number launched in February.
     - In the course of those 33 projectile attacks in February, the Houthis launched 70 drones and missiles, more than in any other month since the escalation began.
     - The United States and its partners launched 91 strikes against the Houthis during the month, a slight decrease from the 97 they launched in January.
   - The Houthis’ escalation suggests that Tehran may not want the Houthis to decrease their attacks against ships in the Red Sea so that it can continue exerting pressure on the
international community. Alternatively, it may indicate the Houthis are operating more independently than Iran’s other proxies.

### Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against Maritime Targets and U.S. Strikes Since the Start of the Israel-Hamas War

2. **Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Targets**
   - Iran-backed groups have significantly decreased their attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria since U.S. strikes on February 2.
   - On February 2, the United States launched more than 125 precision munitions, striking more than 85 targets at four facilities in Syria and three in Iraq after an Iran-backed attack on January 28 killed three U.S. service members at the Tower 22 outpost in Jordan.
   - Following those U.S. strikes, Iran-backed groups conducted three attacks targeting U.S. personnel, but have not targeted U.S. forces since February 4, marking the longest pause in strikes against U.S. personnel since Iran-backed groups began their escalation on October 17, 2023.

   » Reports have indicated that Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps–Quds Force (IRGC-QF) Commander Esmail Qaani met with Tehran’s proxies to convince them to lie low following the deadly January 28 Iran-backed strike on U.S. troops in Jordan.
3. Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States

- So far in 2024, Iran and its proxies have already conducted more than half as many incidents of malign activity targeting the United States or U.S. personnel (79) as in the entirety of 2023 (150).

  » The Iranian regime and its proxies routinely conduct malign activity that JINSA tracks, specifically projectile strikes, maritime aggression consisting of attacks and seizures of ships, major cyber intrusions and hacking, kidnappings and wrongful detentions of foreign nationals, terrorist attacks, and weapons tests, production, reveals.

  » While Iran-linked malign activity against the United States has been unprecedentedly high throughout the Biden administration, the rate of Iran-linked malign activity has skyrocketed by approximately 1,600% since the October 7, 2023 attack.
4. Iran-linked Attacks Against Israel

- At the end of February, Hezbollah and Hamas’s branch in Lebanon escalated their attacks against northern Israel, likely as an attempt to pressure Israel into making concessions amid ongoing negotiations to reach a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas.

  » From February 26-28, Hezbollah and Hamas in Lebanon launched an average of 47 projectiles per day, compared to only 5 per day throughout the rest of February.