



Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: September 2024

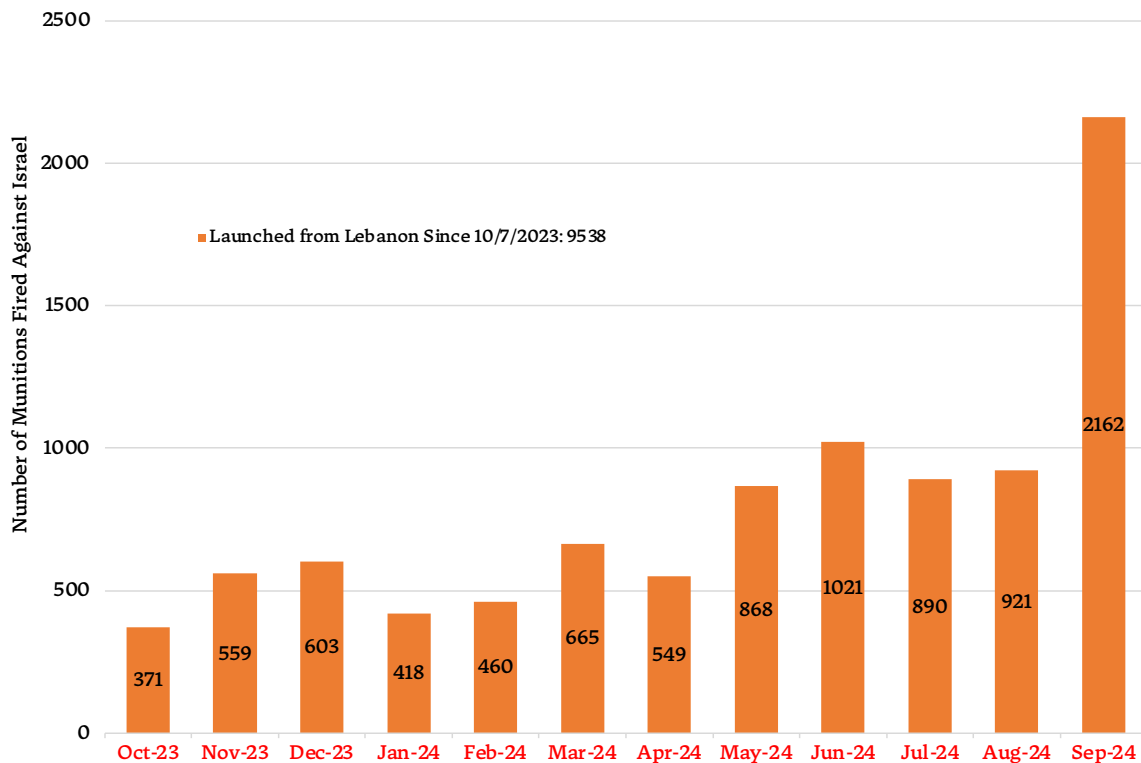
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The Jewish Institute for National Security of America's (JINSA) [Iran Projectile Tracker](#) presents regularly updated charts and graphs on missiles, rockets, drones, and mortars that Iran and its regional proxies have fired at U.S. personnel, partners,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

1. Major Trends

- In the month before Iran's missile attack targeting Israel on October 1, Hezbollah launched over twice as many projectiles against Israel as any other month since the war began.
- Iranian proxies in Iraq launched two attacks against U.S. forces in September, marking 184 Iran-backed attacks targeting American troops since October 2023.
- The Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen conducted six attacks against maritime targets in September, the lowest monthly total since the war began.

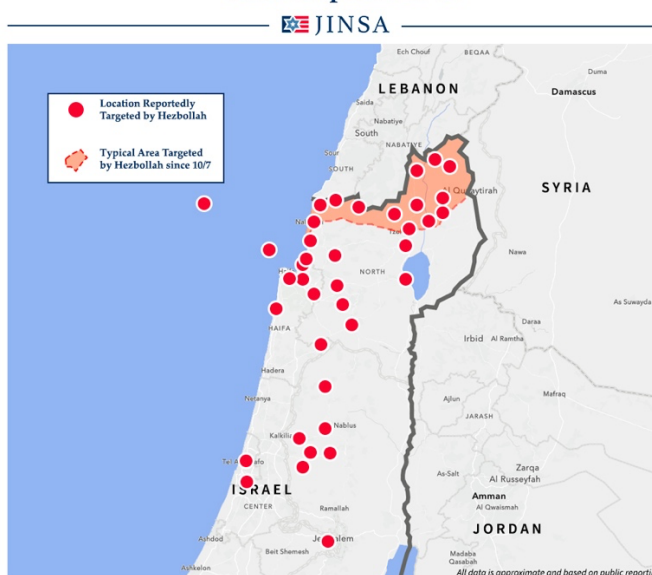
Hezbollah's Escalated Fire During the 2023-24 War



2. Iran-linked Attacks Against Israel

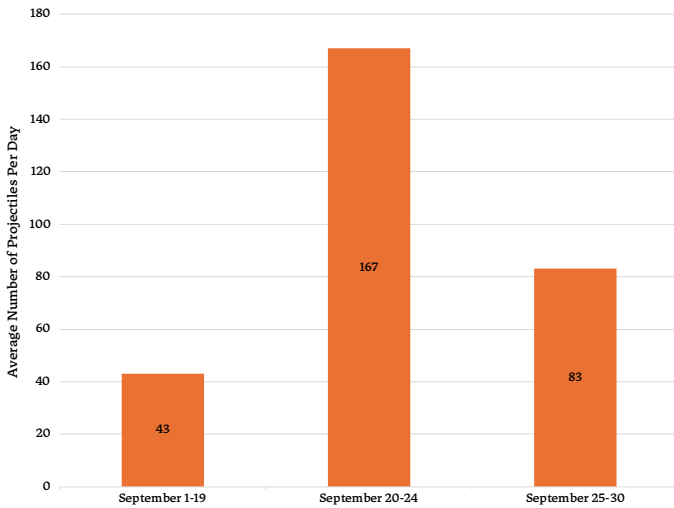
- In September, Hezbollah and other terrorists in Lebanon launched 132 percent more rockets, missiles, and drones at Israel than in August, according to JINSA's data, further escalating the already heightened rate of fire that the Iran-backed group began in mid-May. Israel faced over 2,162 projectiles from Lebanon during September, up from 924 in August, an escalation that preceded Iran's massive attack of 181 ballistic missiles on October 1.
 - » In the last five months, Hezbollah increased their average daily fire against Israel by 283 percent compared to the first seven months of the war. Since May, Hezbollah has launched over 5,848 projectiles at Israel from Lebanon, compared to 3,625 between October 2023 and April 2024. Hezbollah has launched at least 9,538 projectiles at Israel since the war began in October 2023.
 - » Hezbollah conducted two phases of elevated fire against Israel in September.
 - From September 20-24, it mounted a substantial escalation after the September 20 assassination of Ibrahim Aqil, the head of Hezbollah's military operations and the acting commander of its Radwan Force, along with at least [15 other Hezbollah commanders](#).
 - From September 25-30, Hezbollah decreased the number of its attacks by but continued to launch a high number of attacks compared to earlier in September.
 - » Following Hezbollah's escalated attacks and expanded Israeli operations to target Hezbollah's senior leadership and weapons arsenal in September, Iran launched its second ever attack against Israel that involved firing 50 percent more ballistic missiles than its first such attack on April 13-14.
- Although Hezbollah escalated its fire from September 20-24, its attacks were shockingly limited and decreased by 50 percent from September 25-30, indicating the severe breakdown of its military structure or a strategic choice to preserve itself in the face of clear Israeli operational superiority.
 - » Hezbollah attacks since September 20 have targeted locations in Israel further south than it has typically fired against over the past year, including against Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, the West Bank, and Israel's Karish gas facility in the Mediterranean Sea.

Attacks Against Israel from Lebanon Since September 20

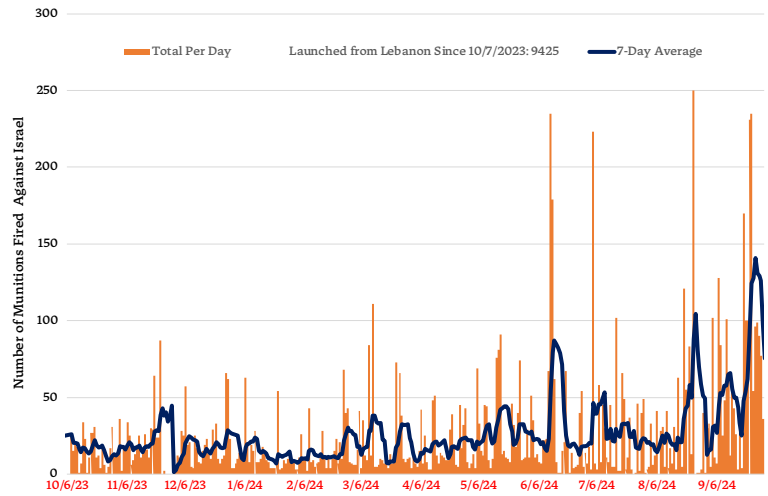


- » While Hezbollah maintains a large arsenal of rockets, missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Israeli operations have killed almost all of Hezbollah's senior leadership, eliminated over 500 of its fighters, destroyed substantial portions of its weapons arsenal, and targeted Iranian efforts to resupply the terrorist group. This weakening of Hezbollah undermines its role as a second-strike deterrent against an Israeli operation to directly target Iran's nuclear program.

Phases of Hezbollah Attacks in September



Hezbollah's Escalation Against Israel During the 2023-24 War



- » However, Hezbollah's projectile fire against Israel from September 20-30 remained 181 percent higher than it was earlier in September and 139 percent higher than the previous ten months.
- » The terrorist group launched an average of 83 rockets and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) per day from September 25-30, down from an average of 167 per day from September 20-24.

Large Hezbollah Attacks and Retaliations After Israeli Assassinations Since 10/7

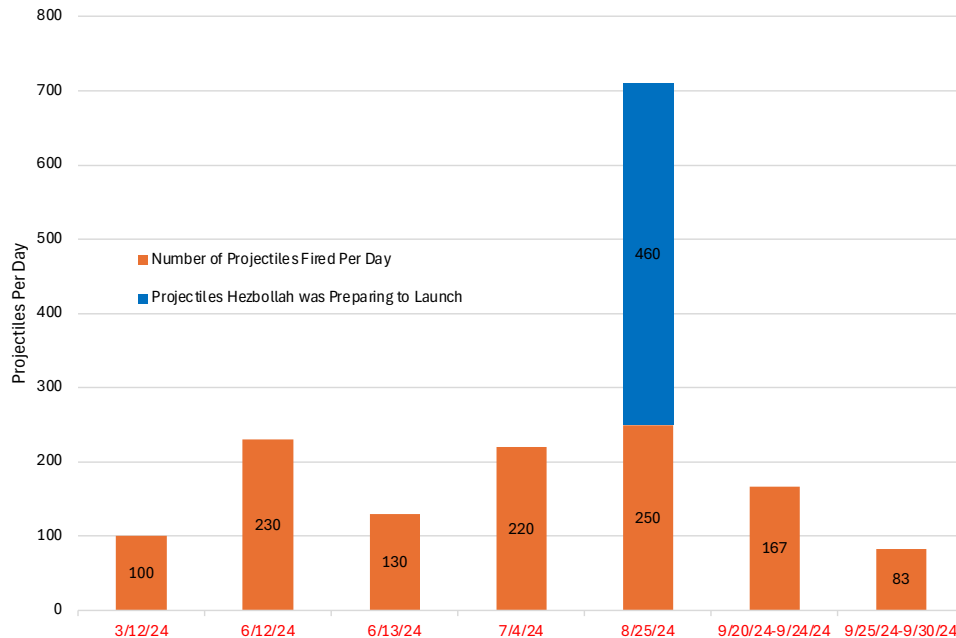
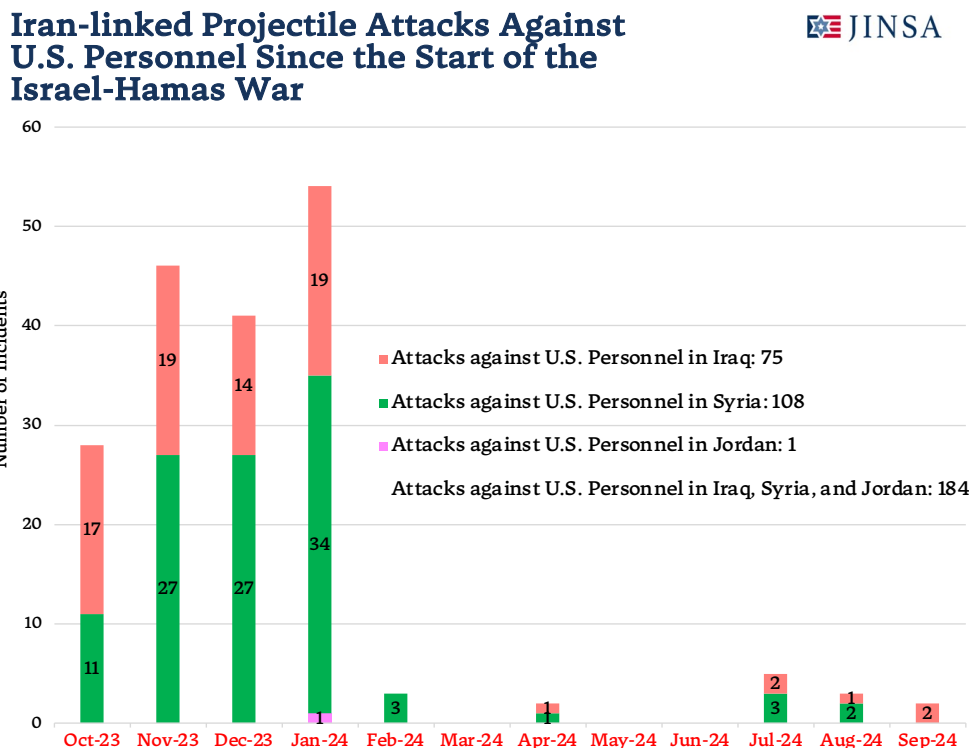


Chart shows attacks from Lebanon involving >100 projectiles and recent retaliations after Israeli assassinations.

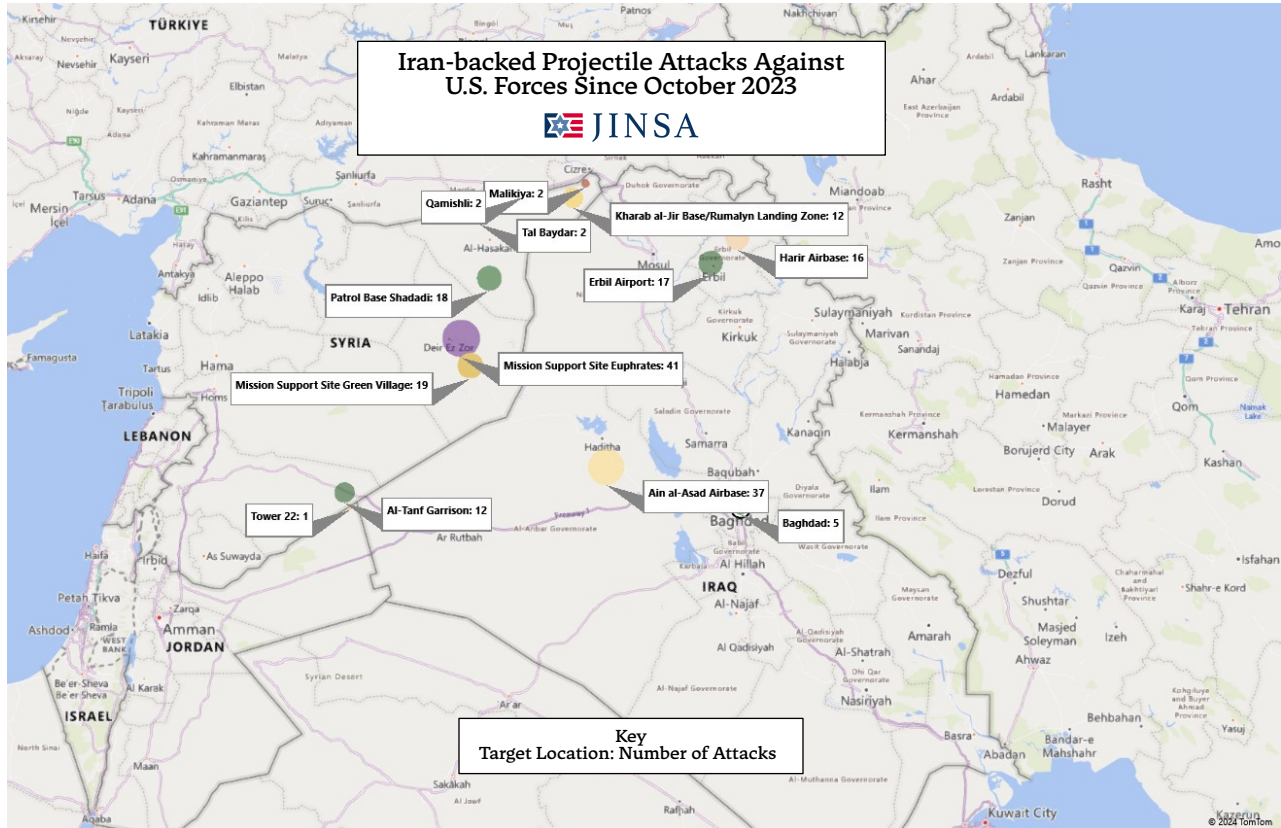
- » The average number of projectiles that Hezbollah launched per day during both the phase from September 20-24 and September 25-30 was smaller than its previous retaliations.
 - After an Israeli [airstrike](#) in Beirut, Lebanon on September 20 killed Ibrahim Aqil and other senior Hezbollah commanders, the terrorist group escalated its fire by launching 836 rockets but over the course of 5 days for only an average of 167 rockets per day.
 - Hezbollah launched a barrage of roughly 250 rockets and UAVs on August 25 in response to the killing of Fuad Shukr, who was Hezbollah’s most senior military commander. Israel preemptively [destroyed](#) two-thirds of 700 projectiles that Hezbollah planned to launch.
- » By comparison, during the first 19 days of September Hezbollah launched only 43 projectiles on average per day.
- Iran’s other proxies also joined Hezbollah’s escalation. Iran-backed militias in Iraq launched 10 of the 12 projectiles it fired at Israel during September after the escalation began on September 20. The Houthis in Yemen similarly launched two of the three projectiles they fired at Israel after the escalation began.

3. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Targets

- In September, Iran-backed groups in Iraq launched two attacks against U.S. personnel at the [Baghdad International Airport](#), continuing the resumption of such attacks following almost five months of complete calm.
 - » The [second attack](#) occurred on [September 30](#), indicating that it may have been a response to Israel’s escalated strikes in Lebanon assassination of senior Hezbollah leaders, and the beginning of its limited ground operation in southern Lebanon.



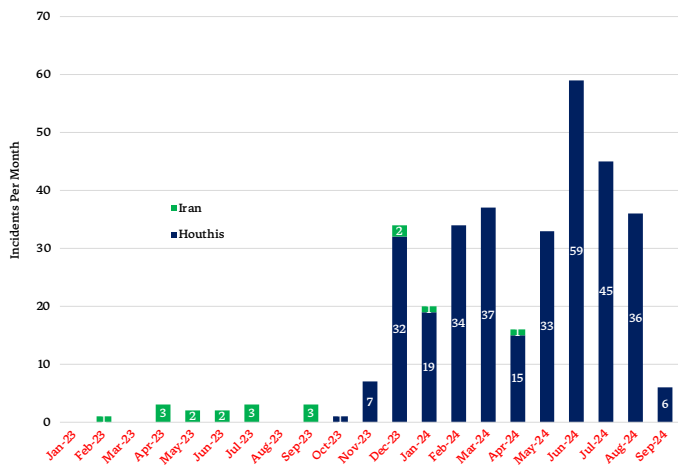
- Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria have launched at least 184 attacks involving over 330 rockets, missiles, and drones against U.S. personnel since October 17, 2023.



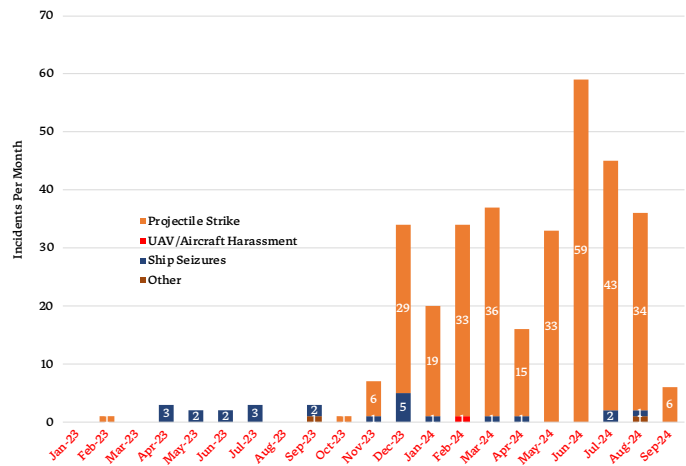
4. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against Maritime Targets

- The Houthis' maritime aggression decreased by 83 percent during September to 6 cases, down from 36 incidents in August, marking the largest drop off and the lowest level of Houthi attacks since the war began.
 - » The decline in Houthi attacks may be due to Iran and Hezbollah—who have [assisted with Houthi operations](#)—focusing their attention during September on Israel's escalated operations in Lebanon. The Houthis may also face a shortage of weapons that are capable of hitting ships because of its high number of attacks over the past year and limited U.S. strikes to destroy its weapons stockpiles.

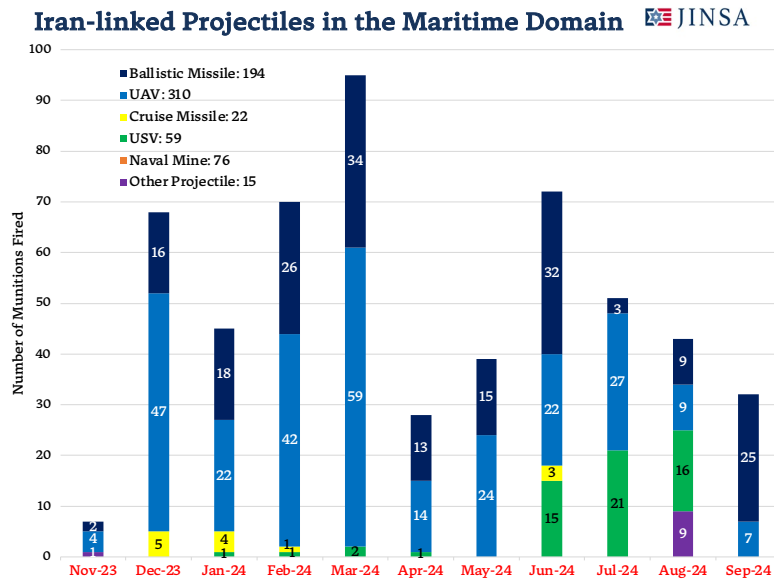
Iran-linked Maritime Aggression Incidents Since 2023



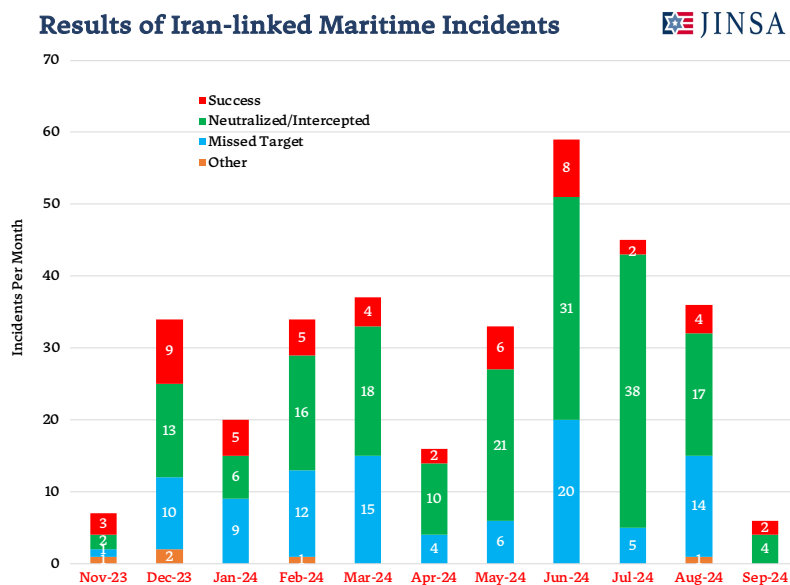
Types of Iran-linked Maritime Aggression Incidents Since 2023



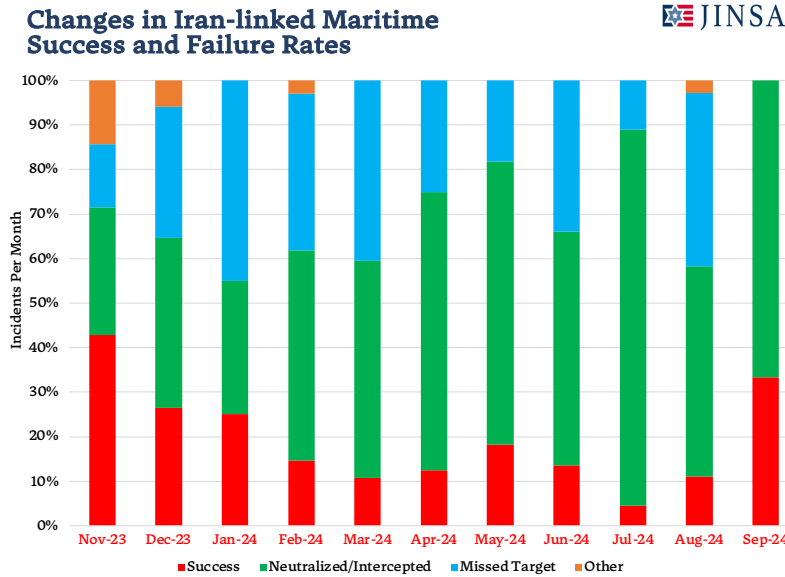
- » Reporting in September indicated that Iran [brokered talks](#) for Russia to potentially transfer anti-ship missiles to the group further hints that the Houthis may face a weapons shortage. The Houthis launched a record 59 attacks against maritime targets in June, but its attacks have been on a downward trend since.
- » The number of projectiles that the Houthis launched during September also dropped 25 percent, although the Houthis launched 320 percent more projectiles per attack, which was largely due to the group conducting its largest attack against U.S. ships.
 - The Houthis launched 32 projectiles in September compared to 43 in August.
 - The Houthis claimed that the group fired 23 ballistic missiles and three UAVs against three U.S. ships in the Red Sea on September 27.



- » Of the 6 maritime attacks, 66 percent (4 incidents) were entirely intercepted by U.S. or partner forces or neutralized by the crew onboard the commercial vessel. The Houthis conducted two successful attacks on September 2 that struck the Panama flagged/owned, Greek operated MV *Blue Lagoon I* and the Saudi flagged, owned, and operated MV *Amjad*, with two ballistic missiles and a one-way attack uncrewed aerial system.

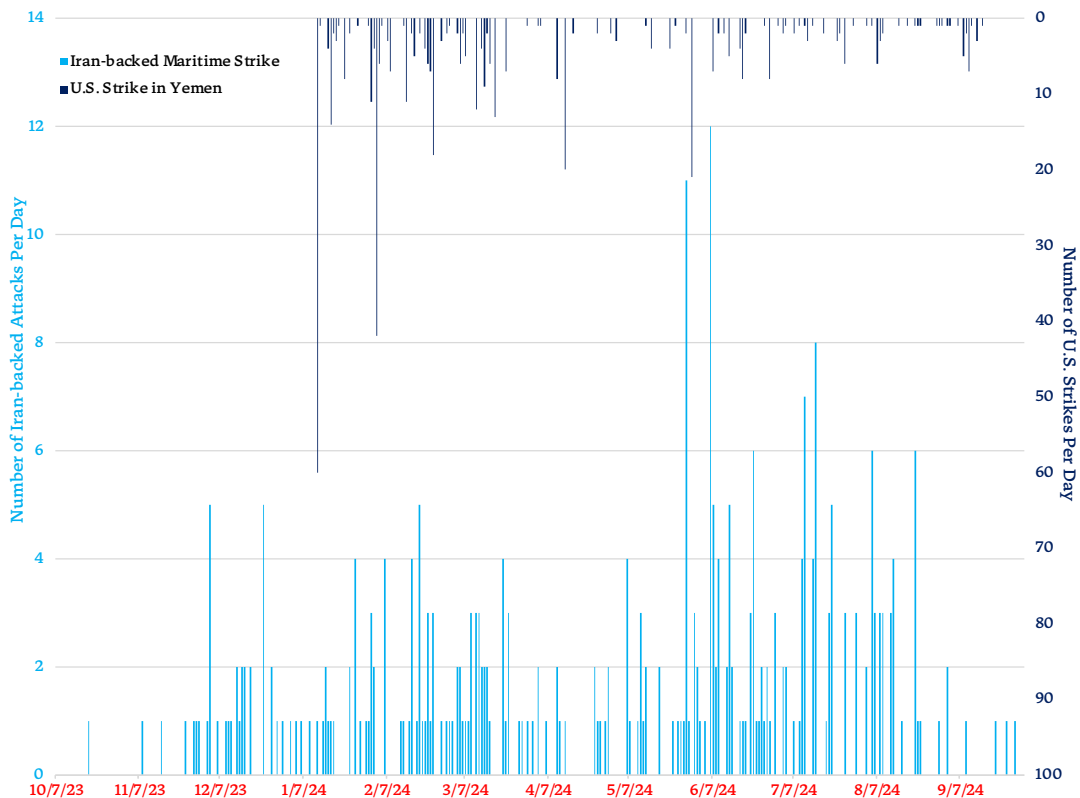


- » In September, the Houthis had the highest rate of successful attacks since the escalation began in November, which was due to the group only launching four more attacks throughout the month after it conducted two successful attacks on September 2.



- In September, the United States and its partners continued a trend since July of launching fewer than 30 airstrikes against Houthi targets in Yemen. The 22 U.S.-led airstrikes in September was 78 fewer than the average of 100 per month that the United States had launched from January-March and 15 fewer than the average of 37 per month from April-June.

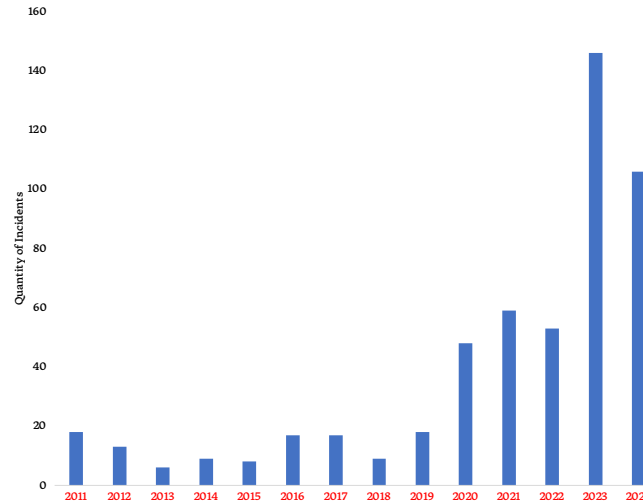
Iran-linked Projectile Attacks in the Maritime Domain and U.S. Strikes in Yemen Since the Start of the Israel-Hamas War



5. Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States

- In 2024, Iran and its proxies have already conducted nearly 72 percent as many incidents of malign activity targeting the United States or U.S. personnel (106) as in the entirety of 2023 (146), most of which has consisted of projectile strikes by Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria and Houthi strikes endangering U.S. naval vessels in Middle Eastern waters.

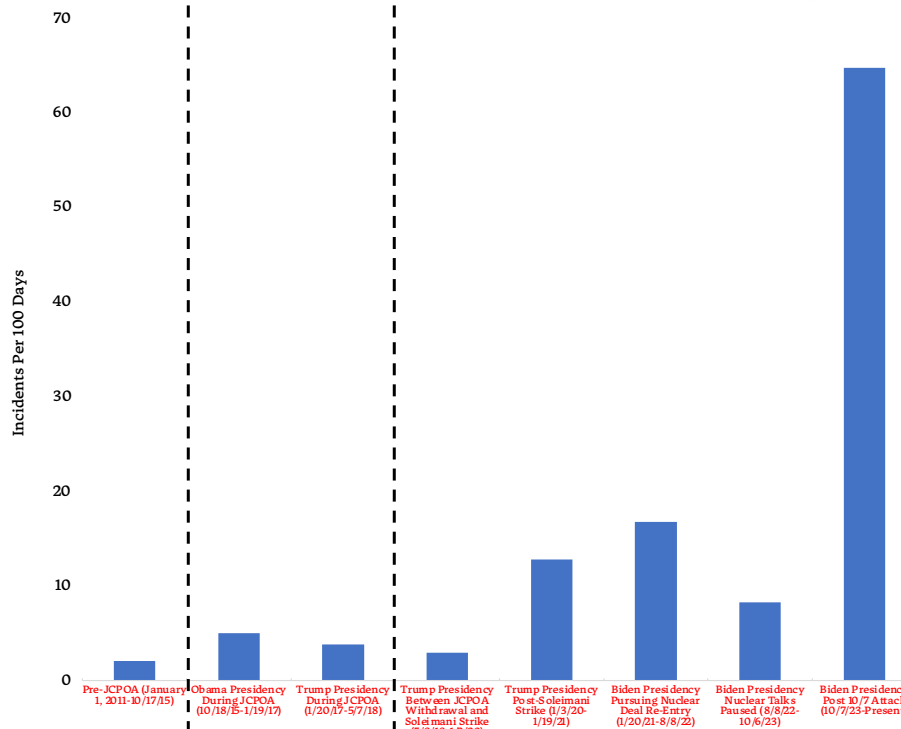
Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States JINSA
Per Year



Malign activity includes incidents of projectile strikes, maritime aggression, major cyber intrusions and hacking, kidnappings/wrongful detentions, and terrorist attacks.

- » The number of Iran-linked malign activities against the United States during the Biden administration is unprecedented, and the rate of such activities has skyrocketed by roughly 680 percent since Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States JINSA



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