



# Northern Escalation Projectile Tracker: 10/15 Update

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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. In light of Israel's Operation Northern Arrows to increase its attacks neutralizing Hezbollah leaders, fighters, and capabilities and Hezbollah's escalation against Israel, JINSA is releasing a weekly update with the latest information as of October 15 at 1:10 p.m. ET.

## 1. Strategic and Operational Insights

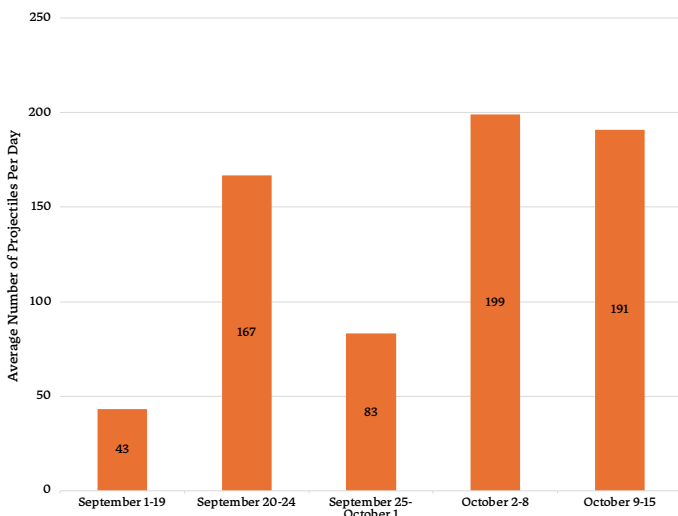
- Hezbollah's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attack against Israel's Binyamina military base that killed four IDF soldiers suggests a potential vulnerability in Israel's ability to detect, identify, track, and defeat aerial threats. This could cause substantial problems in the event of a larger barrage involving a combination of UAVs, missiles, and rockets.
  - » The terrorist group [launched three UAVs](#), with Iron Dome shooting down one and the Israeli Navy neutralizing another. Israeli jets and helicopters fired at the remaining UAV twice and the IDF also used electronic warfare capabilities against it, so when the UAV dropped off radar, the IDF assumed that it had been destroyed. While the UAV briefly appeared back on radar before striking the base, the IDF's systems did not identify it as a threat this time, so it did not trigger alarms or another attempt to intercept it.
  - » Israel faced a similar problem when it failed to detect a [Houthi UAV](#) in July that flew from Yemen over Sudan, southern Egypt, and then struck Tel Aviv from the Mediterranean Sea.
- As Israel prepares to respond to Iran's ballistic missile attack on October 1 and in anticipation of a possible Iranian counterattack, the U.S. deployment to Israel of a [Terminal High Altitude Area Defense](#) (THAAD) air defense battery—the most advanced U.S. ballistic missile air defense platform—bolsters its air defenses and signals U.S. support for defending Israel.
  - » The deployment adds another battery capable of firing interceptors and also surges interceptors to Israel amid a [reported air defense interceptor shortage](#) due to the heavy fire targeting Israel over the past year.
- The combination of Israeli air, ground, and covert operations have severely degraded Hezbollah and its ability to launch a massive attack against Israel. However, it still retains significant firepower.
  - » Although Hezbollah has maintained its high level of fire in recent days, averaging roughly 200 projectiles per day, the Iran-backed terrorist group would likely struggle to launch the 6,000 projectiles per day that Israel had feared it would face in a major conflict because of its diminished arsenal, capability to launch projectiles, leadership disorder, and communications breakdowns.

- Yet, the current escalation favors Israel, with Hezbollah attacks combined with Israeli strikes rapidly depleting the terrorist group’s arsenal and, therefore, its ability to serve as a second-strike deterrent against Israeli action targeting Iran.
- Hezbollah is currently trying to regroup, and it is not clear whether its decision not to increase its fire further shows a lack of capability or a desire to preserve some capabilities.
- While Israel has continued its heightened strikes against Hezbollah targets, it has eased its targeting of Beirut in response to a [request from the United States](#). While U.S. officials have signaled support for some limited Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, restraining Israeli action could enable the terrorist group to reconstitute its leadership, fighters, and capabilities at a moment when it is in disarray.
  - » Israel has not been targeting Hezbollah at its maximum capacity, likely due to a shortage of munitions after heavy fire over the past year and [delays](#), as well as [threats of delays](#), for arms transfers from the United States. Instead of promoting de-escalation, restraining Israeli operations and delaying arms transfers elongates the war by forcing Israel to degrade Hezbollah over a lengthier timeframe.

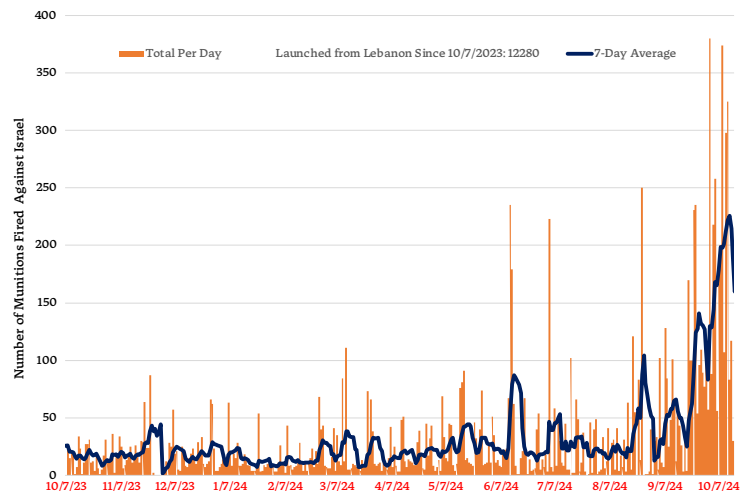
## 2. Charts and Trends

- Since September 20, Israel and Hezbollah have escalated their fire against one another. The following bullets compare the level of fire for the period of October 9-15 to trends both before and after the current escalation began.
- From October 9-15, Hezbollah maintained similar levels of elevated fire against Israel compared to October 2-8.
  - » Hezbollah had launched an average of 191 projectiles per day from October 9-15 at the time of publication compared to an average of 199 projectiles per day from October 2-8.
  - » After a brief decrease in attacks from September 25 until Iran’s ballistic missile attack on October 1, Hezbollah has increased the number of rockets, missiles, and drones it launched at Israel by 135 percent since October 2.
  - » Hezbollah’s projectile fire against Israel since September 20 remains 591 percent higher than the previous 10 months.

**Hezbollah Attacks Since September** 

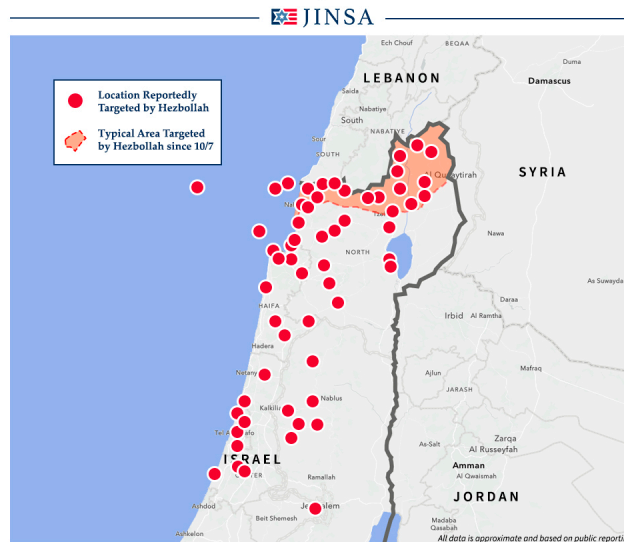


**Hezbollah's Escalation Against Israel During the 2023-24 War** 



- From October 9-15, Hezbollah attacks targeted much further than it has typically throughout the war, including sites in Haifa, Binyamina, Herzliya, among numerous other locations.

### Attacks Against Israel From Lebanon Since September 20



- » The average number of projectiles that Hezbollah has launched per day since September 20 has been smaller than its previous escalations. However, whereas previous escalations were single-day events, the current one is now in its fourth week.

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

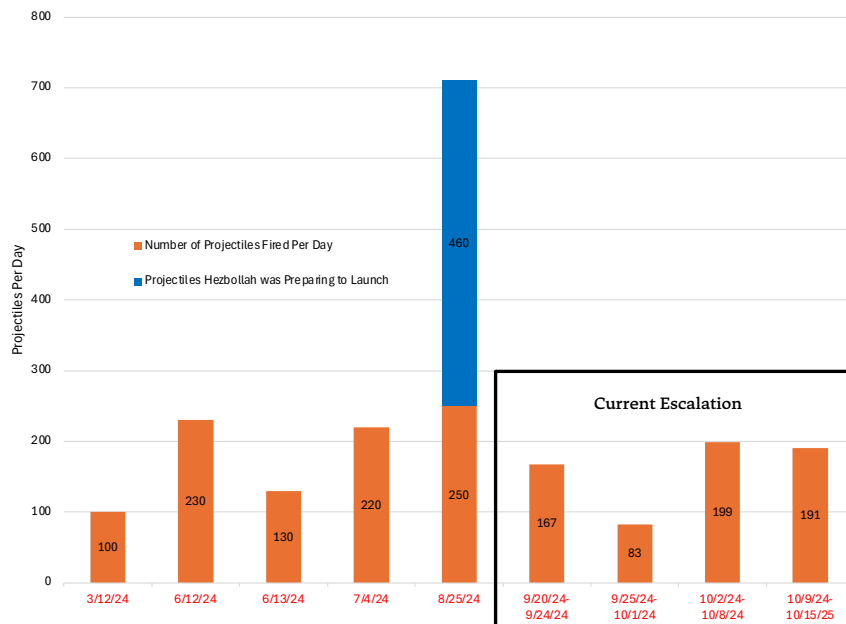
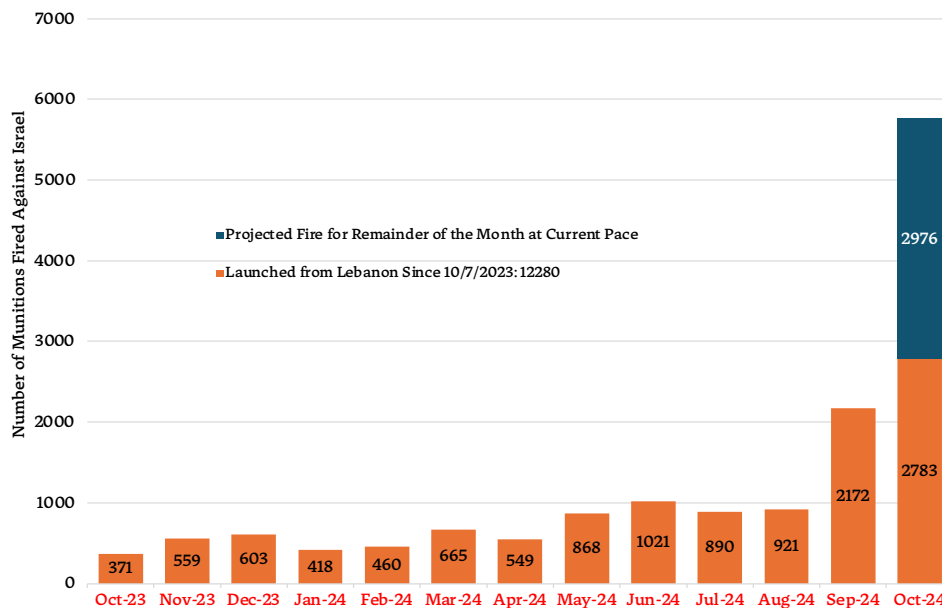


Chart shows attacks from Lebanon involving >100 projectiles and recent retaliations after Israeli assassinations.

- After an Israeli [airstrike](#) in Beirut, Lebanon on September 20 killed 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](#), Hezbollah escalated its fire by launching 836 rockets but over the course of five 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 the 700 projectiles that Hezbollah planned to launch.
- » By mid-October, Hezbollah has already launched 28 percent more rockets, missiles, and UAVs than it fired throughout the entirety of September.
- If the current pace of Hezbollah launching an average of 186 projectiles per day continues for the rest of the month, Hezbollah will exceed September's highest monthly total by roughly 3,587 projectiles.

### Hezbollah's Escalated Fire During the 2023-24 War



- However, the current rate of fire may not continue because Israel has increased its strikes to degrade Hezbollah's capabilities and infrastructure in Lebanon since September 19 by more than 2,695 percent compared to earlier in September.
  - » From September 19-October 15, Israel conducted an average of 268 strikes per day, an increase from eight per day earlier in September. Israel has conducted at least 5,743 strikes in Lebanon since September 19, including against Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut and the Bekaa Valley, compared to 149 strikes that it conducted earlier in the month.
  - » Since conducting the strike that killed Nasrallah on September 27, Israel has decreased its strikes against Hezbollah by 71 percent compared to the initial escalation on September 19-26.
    - From September 27-October 15, Israel conducted an average of 132 strikes per day targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon, which followed an average of 403 strikes per day from September 19-26. Israel has launched 2,525 strikes since September 27 after it conducted 3,218 strikes from September 19-26, including 1,600 strikes on September 23.

### Phases of Israeli Strikes In Lebanon Since September

