



Northern Escalation Projectile Tracker: 10/22 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 22 at 1:10 p.m. ET.

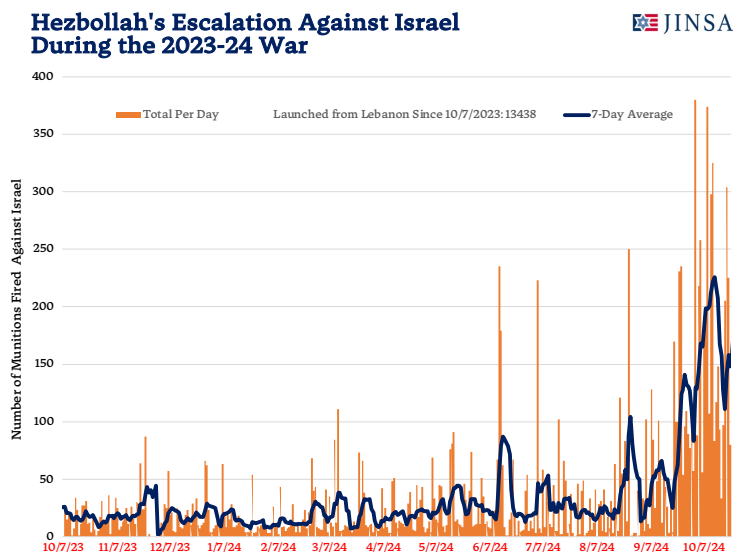
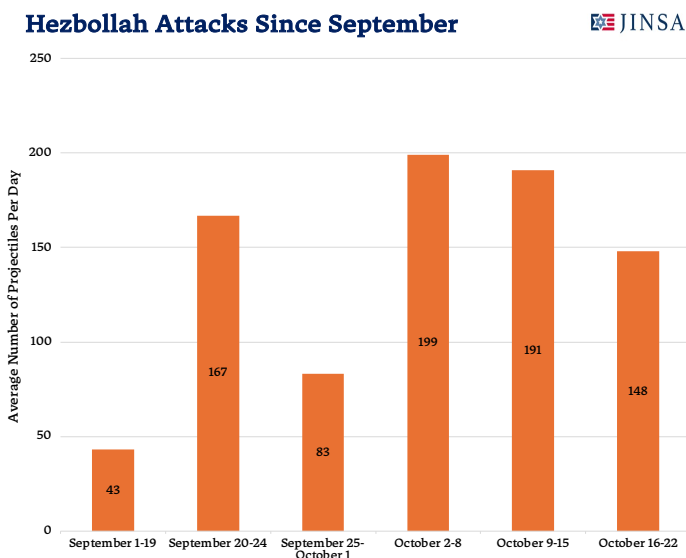
1. Strategic and Operational Insights

- Hezbollah's unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) continue to demonstrate the ability to thwart Israeli air defenses. Beyond the strategic effect that even a single UAV could achieve, this points to potential problems in the event of a larger barrage involving a combination of UAVs, missiles, and rockets.
 - » An October 20 UAV attack that [damaged the bedroom window](#) of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's home in Caesarea provides further evidence of a vulnerability in Israel's ability to detect, identify, track, and defeat aerial threats.
 - Hezbollah launched three UAVs against Netanyahu's residence, with Israeli air defenses neutralizing two of them, but the third reached its target.
 - The use of three UAVs, with one succeeding, resembled the [attack against Bin-yamina military base](#) on October 14 that killed four IDF soldiers indicates.
 - 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.
 - » While Netanyahu and his wife Sara were not at their home at the time of the attack, the attack demonstrated Hezbollah's capability to inflict damage on the Israeli leader's residence that could have been much more disastrous. This threat underscores the necessity of Israeli operations to further degrade the terrorist group's capabilities.
- The combination of Israeli air, ground, and covert operations have severely degraded Hezbollah, its capacity to launch a massive attack against Israel, and its ability to fund its operations. However, it still retains significant firepower.
 - » The IDF [estimates](#) that it has killed roughly 1,200 Hezbollah terrorists since the start of the ground offensive on October 1 and over 2,000 Hezbollah terrorists since the war began. The IDF indicated that its air and ground operations had killed "seven [Hezbollah] brigade commanders, 21 battalion commanders, and 24 company commanders."

- IDF Commander of Northern Command Ori Gordin [noted](#) on October 21 that “most of the [Hezbollah] brigade commanders have already been eliminated for the third time, and Hezbollah’s command structure has been severely damaged.”
- » Due to the combination of Hezbollah fire and IDF operations, the IDF estimates that Hezbollah only has roughly 30% of its pre-war arsenal. However, Israeli strikes have primarily destroyed Hezbollah’s imprecise short- and medium-range rockets, and the terrorist group still maintains a large arsenal of more destructive and precise missiles.
- » Israel has also expanded its operations to [targeting the financial networks](#) throughout Lebanon that Hezbollah uses to fund its terrorist activities. This included multiple strikes on October 20 against multiple facilities operated by the Al-Qard Al-Hasan (AQAH) bank and IDF Spokesperson Daniel Hagari revealing that the terrorist organization is hiding \$500 million in gold and cash in a bunker under Beirut’s Al-Sahel Hospital.
 - The U.S. Treasury Department [sanctioned AQAH](#) in 2007 for its role “as a cover to manage [Hezbollah’s] financial activities” to “gain access to the international financial system.”
- » 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.
- » However, 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.
- » Israel reportedly sent a [ceasefire proposal](#) to U.S. officials that included allowing the IDF to pursue “active enforcement” to make sure that Hezbollah does not rearm itself or return fighters to the border area, which would prevent a deal from reversing the important gains that Israel has made. The proposal also recognizes the failures of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to enforce [UN Security Council Resolution 1701](#) to ensure Hezbollah disarms.
- U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin indicated on October 21 that the [Terminal High Altitude Area Defense](#) (THAAD) air defense battery that the United States deployed to Israel was now “in place.” 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 of its 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.

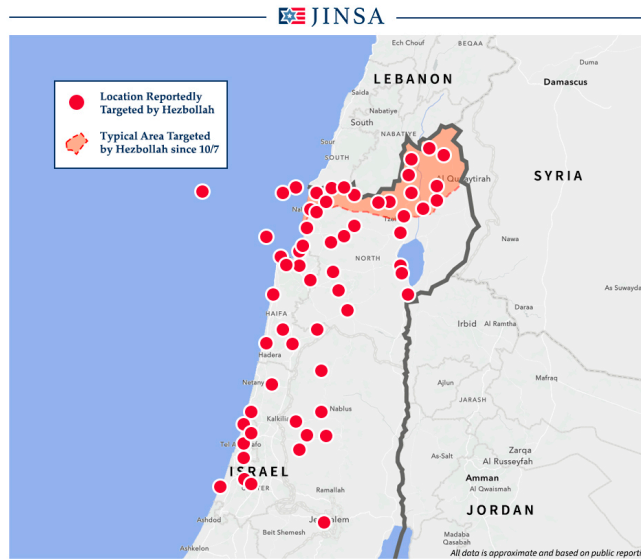
2. Charts and Trends

- 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 16-22 to trends both before and after the current escalation began.
- After Hamas leader [Yahya Sinwar's death](#) on October 17, Hezbollah [announced](#) that it would “transition to a new and escalating phase in the confrontation with Israel.” While there is no indication yet of an increase in total Hezbollah projectile launches, the attack targeting Netanyahu may have been a calculated strategic response to Sinwar’s death and the Israeli strike that [killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah](#) on September 27.
- From October 16-22, Hezbollah decreased its fire against Israel by roughly 28 percent compared to earlier in October.



- » Hezbollah had launched an average of 148 projectiles per day from October 16-22 at the time of publication compared to an average of 207 projectiles from October 9-15 and 199 projectiles per day from October 2-8.
 - This decrease was likely because Hezbollah only launched roughly 33 projectiles on October 17, which was likely a temporary decline after the announcement of Sinwar’s death.
- » 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 123 percent since October 2.
- » Hezbollah’s projectile fire against Israel since September 20 remains 704 percent higher than the previous 10 months.
 - From October 16-22, Hezbollah attacks targeted much further than it has typically throughout the war, including sites in Caesarea, the Jordan Valley, and Haifa, 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 fifth week.

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

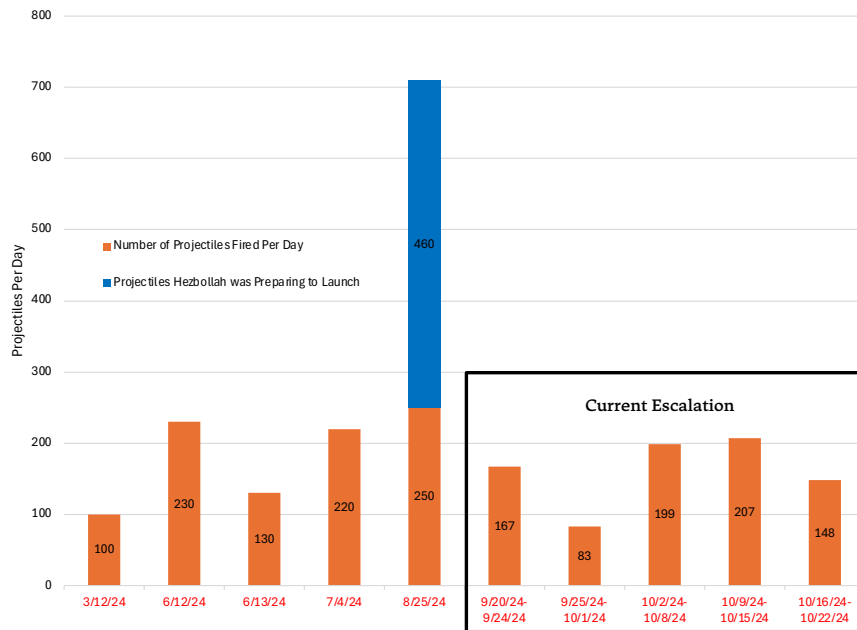
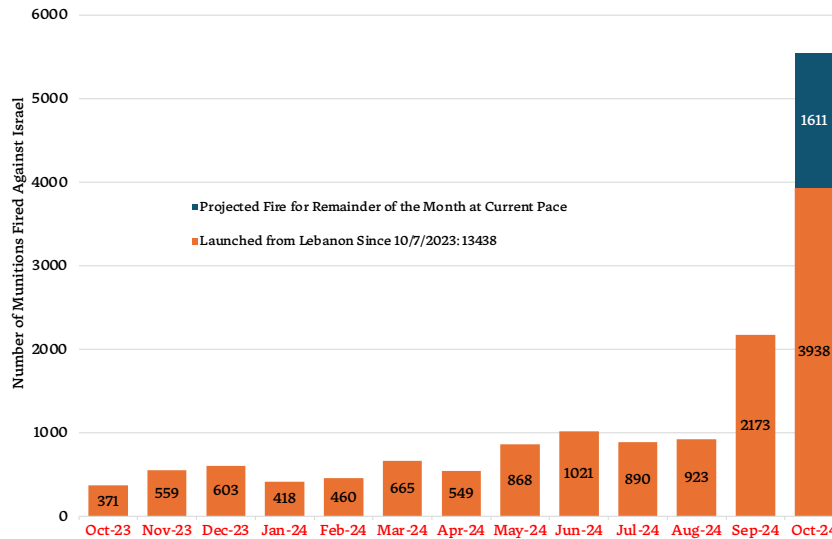


Chart shows attacks from Lebanon involving >100 projectiles and recent retaliations after Israeli assassinations.

- » By October 22, Hezbollah has already launched 81 percent more rockets, missiles, and UAVs than it fired throughout the entirety of September.
 - In just the first three weeks of October, Hezbollah has already launched nearly 30 percent of all of the projectiles that it has launched since the war began.
 - If the current pace of Hezbollah launching an average of 179 projectiles per day continues for the rest of the month, Hezbollah will exceed September's highest monthly total by roughly 3,376 projectiles.

Hezbollah's Escalated Fire During the 2023-24 War



- Israel has increased its strikes to degrade Hezbollah’s capabilities and infrastructure in Lebanon since September 19 by more than 2,430 percent compared to earlier in September.
 - » From September 19-October 22, Israel conducted an average of 210 strikes per day, an increase from eight per day earlier in September. Israel has conducted at least 7,155 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 62 percent compared to the initial escalation on September 19-26.
 - From September 27-October 22, Israel conducted an average of 151 strikes per day targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon, which followed an average of 403 strikes per day from September 19-26. Israel has launched 3,937 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

