



# Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: October 2024

Ari Cicurel  
Assistant Director of Foreign Policy

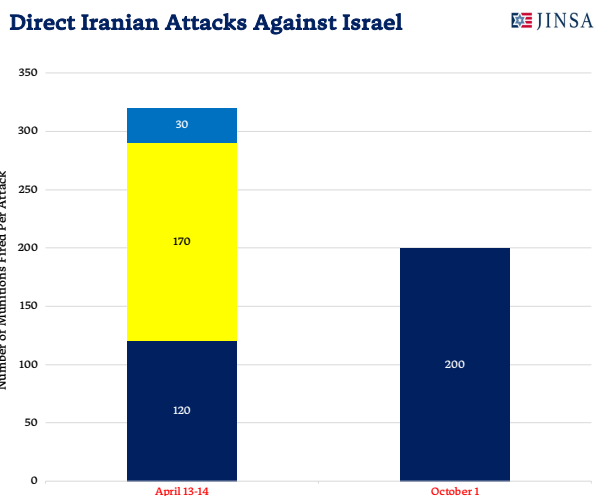
The Jewish Institute for National Security of America's (JINSA) [Iran Projectile Tracker](#) presents regularly updated charts and graphs on missiles, rockets, drones, and mortars that Iran and its regional proxies have fired at U.S. personnel, partners, and interests in the Middle East, as well as data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

## 1. Major Trends

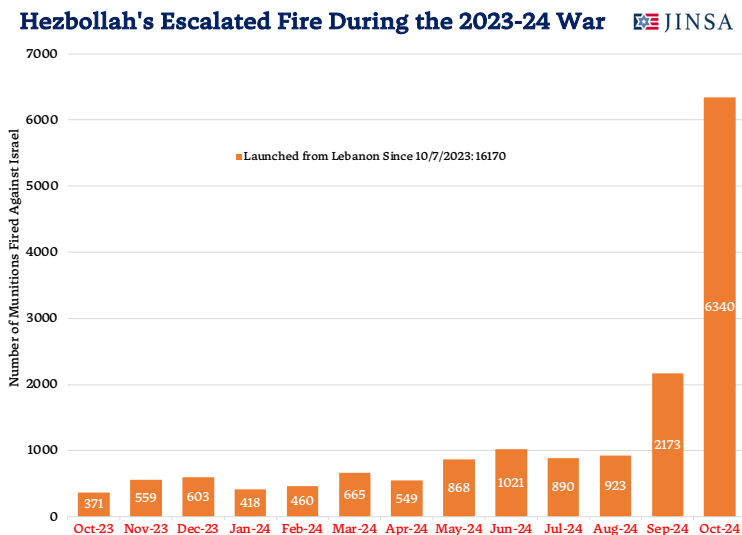
- On October 1, Iran launched its largest ballistic missile attack against Israel—its second ever after a combined missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attack in April—in response to Israeli operations that neutralized Hezbollah leaders, fighters, and capabilities.
  - » Iran's decision to increase the number of ballistic missiles it fired at Israel in October demonstrated that it learned from the earlier attack about the interception challenges that these particular weapons pose and sought to force Israel to expend its limited supply of Arrow air defense interceptors capable of neutralizing these threats.
- Hezbollah fired at least 6,340 rockets, missiles, and UAVs at Israel in October, nearly triple the amount it launched during September, the previous highest monthly total. The projectiles Hezbollah fired in October 2024 were nearly 40 percent of the 16,170 total projectiles that it has launched at Israel since the war began last year.
  - » Hezbollah also expanded its use of deadly tactics that it has honed over the past year.
    - It conducted successful UAV strikes that evaded Israeli air defenses, including attacks against Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu's house](#) and an [Israeli base](#). Launching multiple UAVs made it more difficult to identify and track each individual threat and increased the likelihood that one of the projectiles reached their targets.
    - Recognizing Israeli doctrine not to intercept threats to unpopulated areas, by launching a barrage of rockets at a field and olive grove on October 31, Hezbollah was able to kill the agricultural workers there and inflict one of the [deadliest days](#) in months.
- Iran-backed militias in Iraq launched at least 111 UAVs, missiles, and rockets against Israel, over 2.5 times as many as any previous month. Leveraging its Iraqi proxies to fire at Israel was likely a means for Iran to increase fire against the Jewish state without triggering the retaliation on Iranian territory that its direct attacks have incurred.
- Iran-backed militias also conducted 15 attacks against U.S. troops in Syria in October, more than any month since January, likely indicating a concerted effort by Tehran to exert pressure on Washington so that it restrains further Israeli action against Iran or its proxies.
  - » There have now been 204 Iran-backed attacks targeting U.S. troops in Iraq, Syria, or Jordan since October 2023.
- The 18 attacks that the Houthis in Yemen conducted against maritime targets in October tripled the abnormally low amount the Iran-backed group launched in September, but still was far fewer than the major escalation over the summer that averaged 43 attacks per month.

## 2. Iran-linked Attacks Against Israel

- Iran [launched](#) 200 medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBM) during its attack against Israel on October 1. This was roughly 66 percent more ballistic missiles compared to its first-ever direct strike targeting the Jewish state on April 13-14 in which it fired 120 ballistic missiles together with 170 cruise missiles and 30 UAVs.
  - » Iran learned during its first attack that ballistic missiles were more difficult to intercept, enabling it to make the second attack substantially more dangerous by increasing the volume of ballistic missiles it fired, even though the October attack involved a smaller total number of projectiles than the April attack.
  - » The IDF said that it [intercepted](#) “a large number” of missiles, while videos circulated on social media indicating several missiles and missile fragments struck Israeli territory in central and southern Israel, including Tel Aviv.
  - » Two U.S. Navy destroyers in the Mediterranean Sea also [intercepted](#) multiple missiles, and Jordan indicated that its air defenses [responded](#) to several projectiles in its air-space.

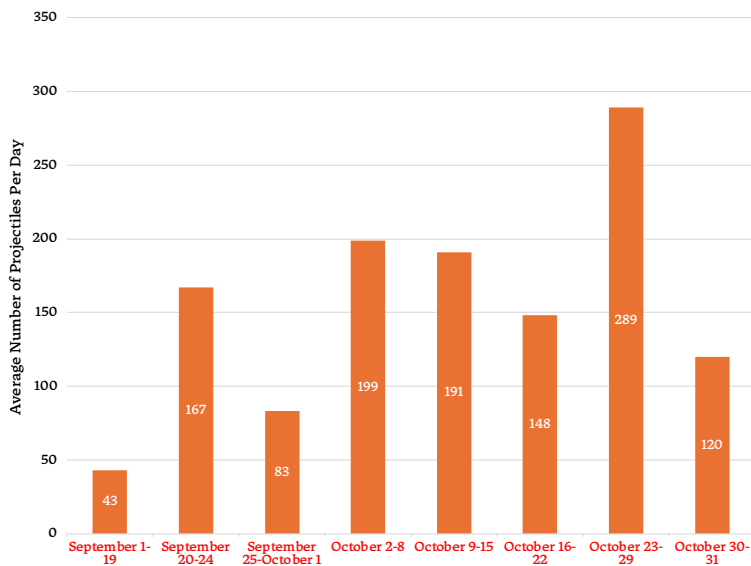


- In October, Hezbollah and other terrorists in Lebanon launched 192 percent more rockets, missiles, and drones at Israel than in September, according to JINSA’s data. The terrorist group fired at least 6,340 projectiles from Lebanon during October, an average of 205 projectiles per day, up from 2,173 total projectiles in September (72 per day average), the month with the previous peak total number of Hezbollah attacks.

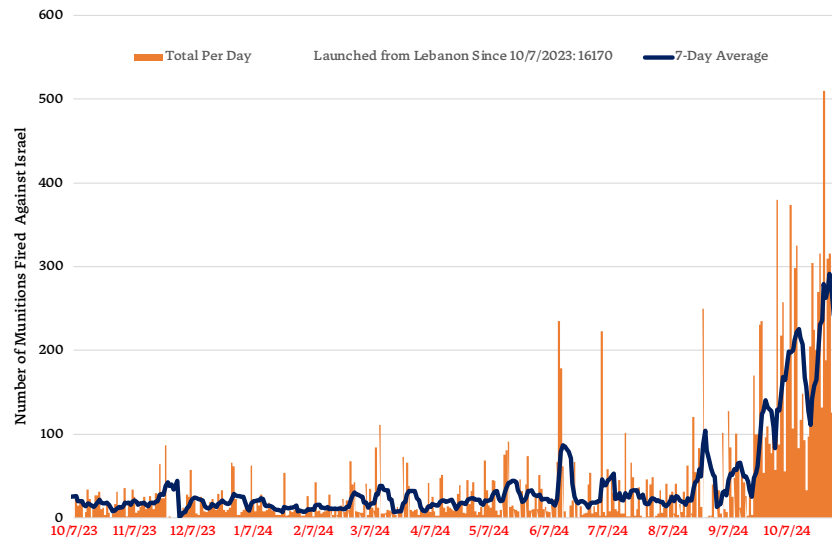


- » From May to October, Hezbollah increased their average daily fire against Israel by 277 percent compared to the first seven months of the war. Since May, Hezbollah has launched over 12,190 projectiles against Israel from Lebanon, compared to 3,625 between October 2023 and April 2024. Hezbollah has launched at least 16,150 projectiles at Israel since the war began in October 2023.
- » Since September 20, Hezbollah has launched an average of 183 projectiles at Israel per day.
  - Following two consecutive weeks in October of firing over 190 rockets and UAVs against Israel, Hezbollah slightly declined its fire by roughly 22 percent to 148 rockets per day from October 16-22, only to escalate the number of projectiles it launched per week by 94 percent to 289 per day from October 23-29. Another decline in rocket fire during the last two days of October occurred amid [reports](#) of a U.S. proposal for a ceasefire.

### Hezbollah Attacks Since September



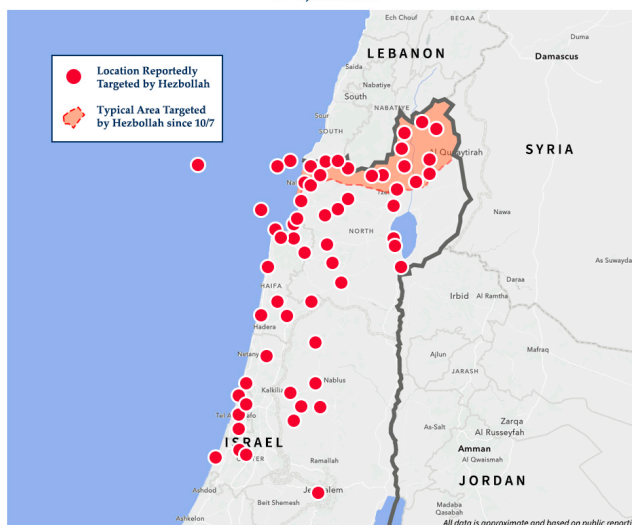
### Hezbollah's Escalation Against Israel During the 2023-24 War



- » Hezbollah attacks in October targeted locations in Israel further south than previously in the current conflict, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Caesarea, the West Bank, and Israel's Karish gas facility in the Mediterranean Sea.
- » Hezbollah's 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.
  - During both an October 19 attack that damaged the window of [Prime Minister Netanyahu's residence](#) in Caesarea and an attack on October 14 that killed four IDF soldiers located in [the dining hall at Israel's Binyamina military base](#), one of three UAVs that Hezbollah launched was able to thwart Israeli air defenses and hit the target.
- » Hezbollah attacks near Haifa and Metula on October 31 that [killed seven people](#) in northern Israel marked one of the deadliest days for Israel in months.

## Attacks Against Israel From Lebanon Since September 20

JINSA



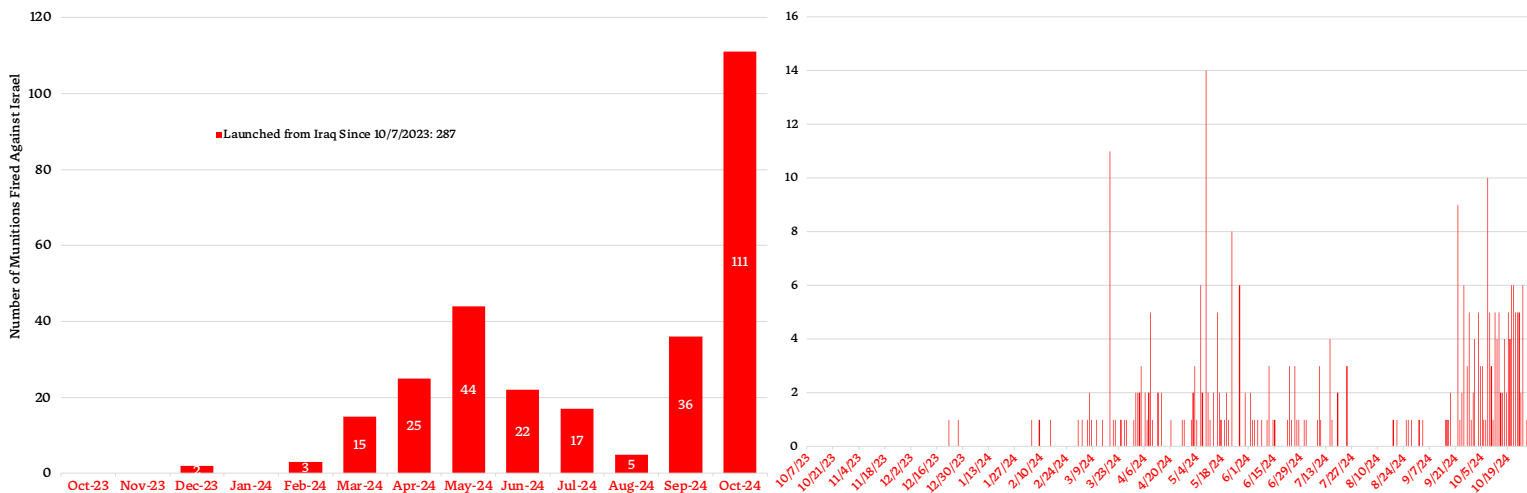
- » While Hezbollah maintains a large arsenal of rockets, missiles, and UAVs, Israeli operations have killed almost all of Hezbollah’s senior leadership, eliminated over 500 of its fighters, destroyed substantial portions of its weapons arsenal, and targeted Iranian efforts to resupply the terrorist group. This weakening of Hezbollah undermines its role as a second-strike deterrent against an Israeli operation to directly target Iran’s nuclear program.
- Iran’s proxies in Iraq also launched more UAVs, missiles, and rockets against Israel than during any other month. The 111 projectiles it fired during October were 208 percent more than the 36 projectiles it launched during September and 152 percent more than the 44 projectiles during May, which had been the month with the highest monthly total.
  - » The increased number of projectiles that Iraqi militia launched against Israel in October continued an escalation that began in May following Israel’s expanded operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon on September 19.
    - Iran’s proxies in Iraq launched an average of 3.6 projectiles at Israel per day at Israel during October, up from an average of 2.5 attacks from September 19-30, and an average of 0.4 attacks from September 1-18.

### Iran-backed Iraqi Militia Escalating Fire During the 2023-24 War

JINSA

### Iran-backed Iraqi Militia Escalation During the 2023-24 War

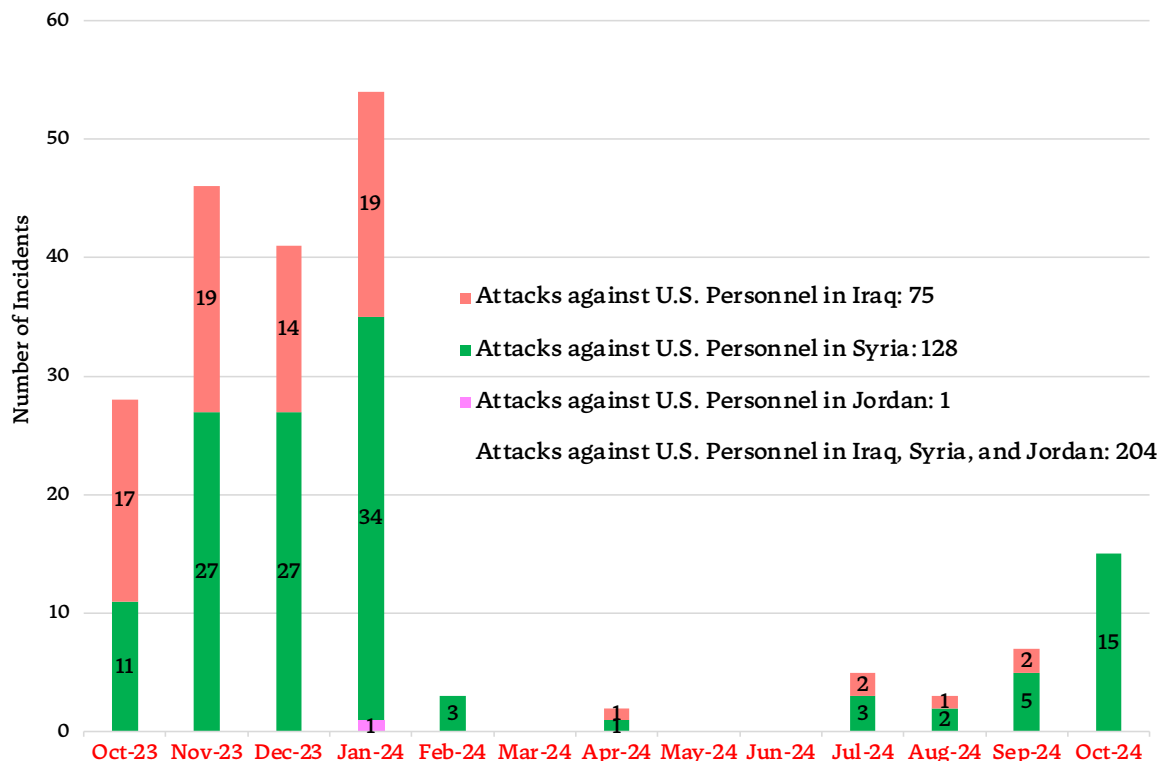
JINSA



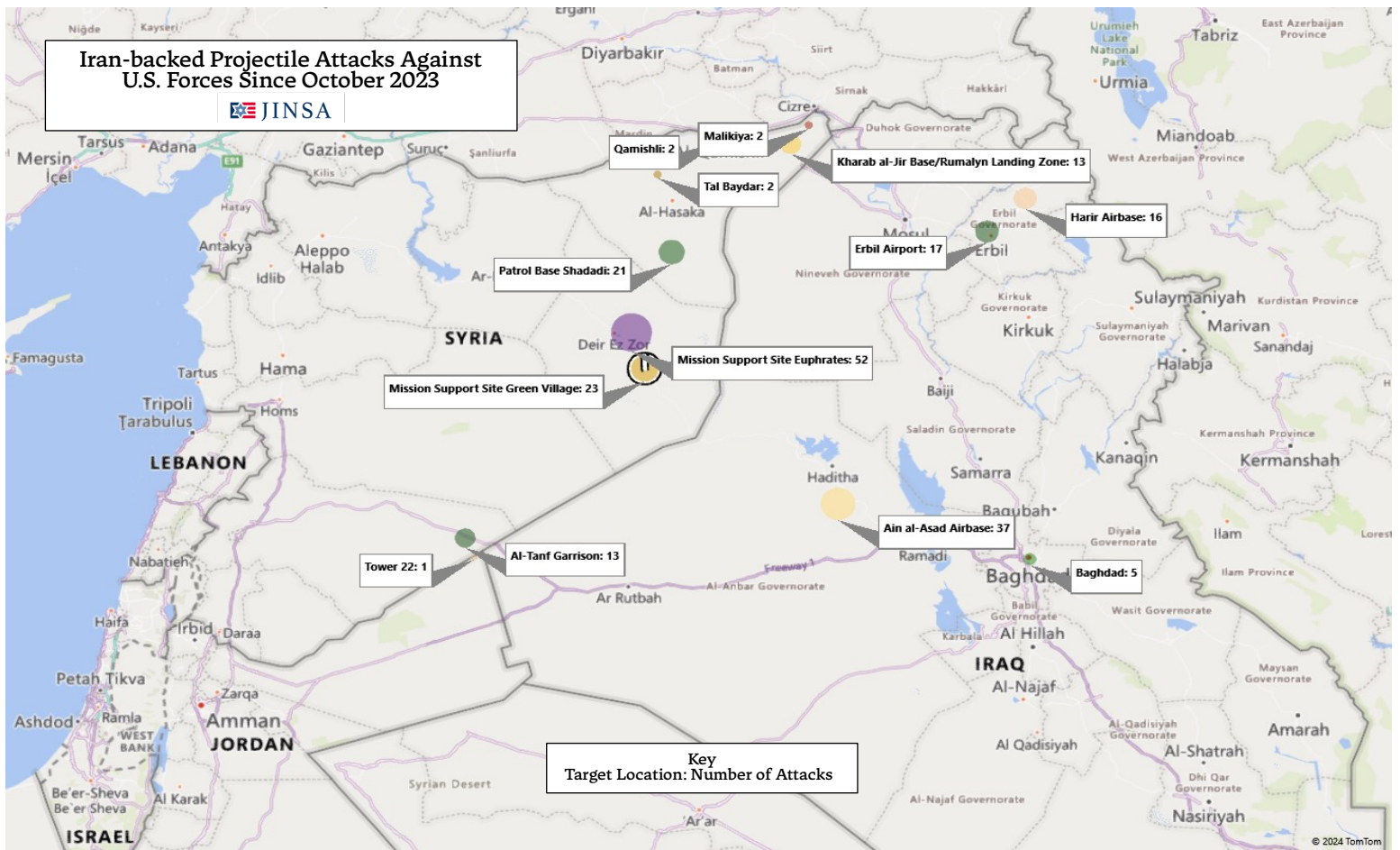
### 3. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Targets

- In October, Iranian proxies escalated their attacks against U.S. personnel by 650 percent compared to September, which was likely in retaliation for Israel’s increased operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon.
  - » Iran-backed groups in Syria conducted 15 attacks against U.S. personnel compared to the seven attacks Iran’s proxies launched against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria during September.

#### Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Personnel Since the Start of the Israel-Hamas War

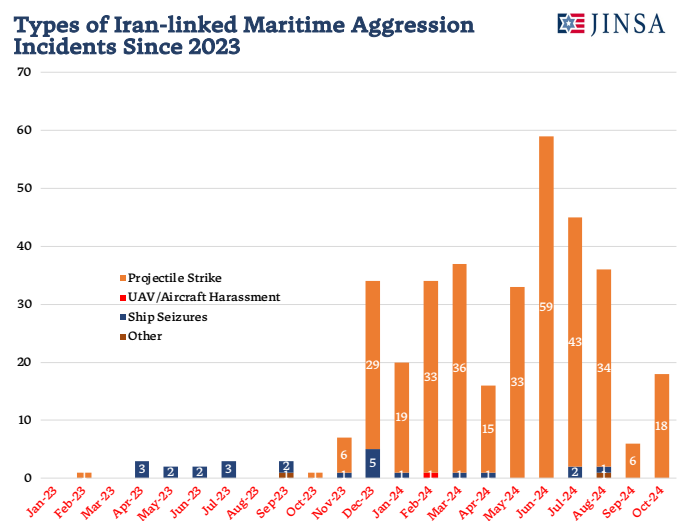
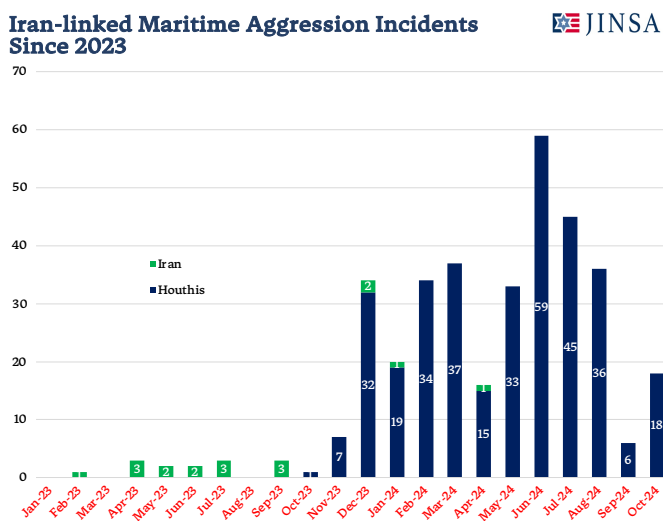


- » After Hezbollah killed 12 Druze children and teenagers in the Golan Heights city of Majdal Shams, an Iraqi militia official told the *BBC*’s [Nafiseh Kohnavard](#) that Iran had given its “full blessing” to Iraqi proxies to continue their “full scale” attacks on U.S. forces if Israel conducted a massive retaliatory assault in Lebanon against Hezbollah.
- » In 2021, Iran’s Syrian partners did not want attacks against Israel launched from their territory, fearing an Israeli retaliation. Instead, members of Iran’s elite Quds Force, Lebanese Hezbollah, and Iran’s other proxies in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen agreed to retaliate to Israeli strikes by attacking U.S. forces in Syria, according to [The New York Times](#). The Iranian-linked groups determined that the U.S. responses would be less forceful than Israel’s.
- Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria have launched at least 204 attacks involving over 330 rockets, missiles, and drones against U.S. personnel since October 17, 2023.

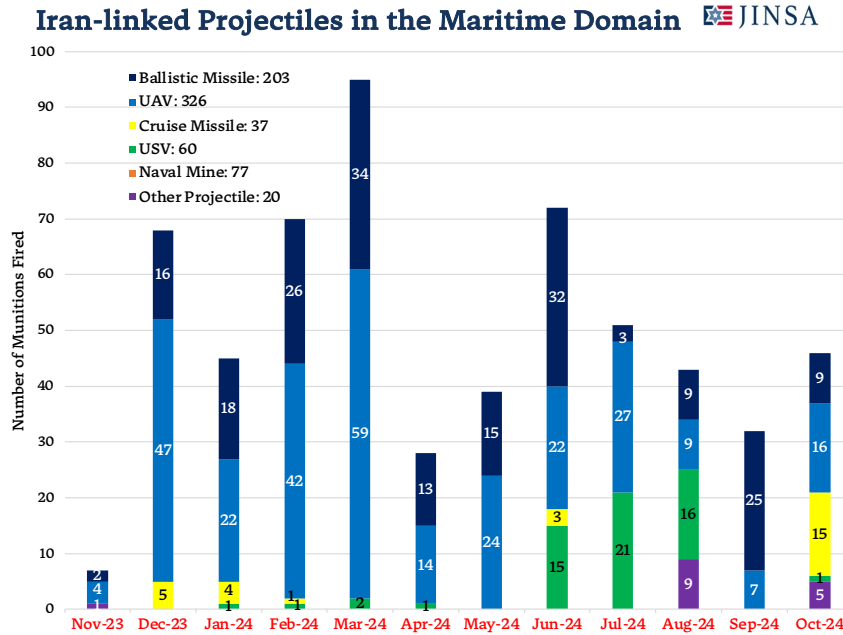


#### 4. Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against Maritime Targets

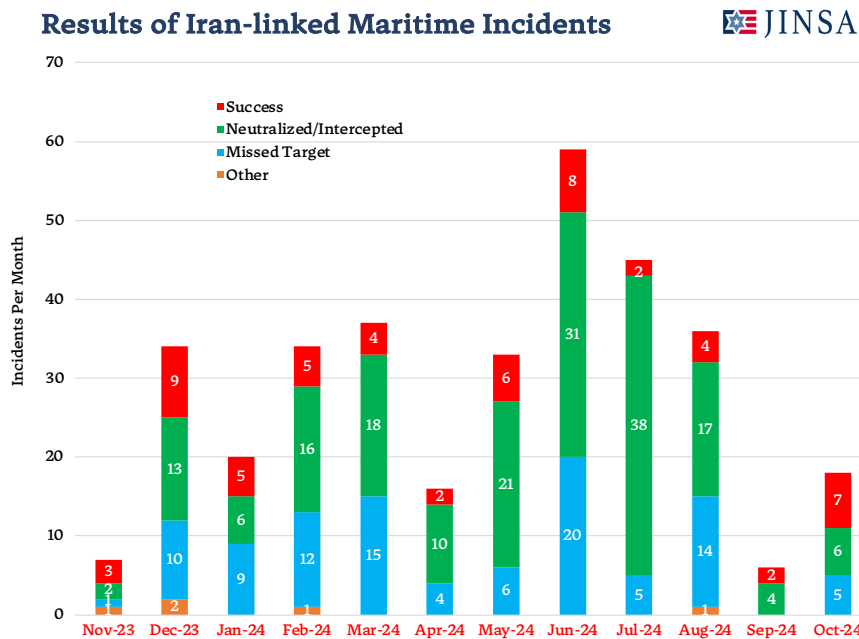
- The Houthis' maritime aggression increased by 200 percent during October to at least 18 cases, up from 6 incidents in September. Despite the increased activity, Houthi aggression continued to remain 58 percent lower during October than the peak activity from May to August of an average of 43 incidents per month.



- » However, the number of projectiles that the Houthis launched during October increased by 43 percent.
  - The Houthis launched 46 projectiles in October compared to 36 in September.

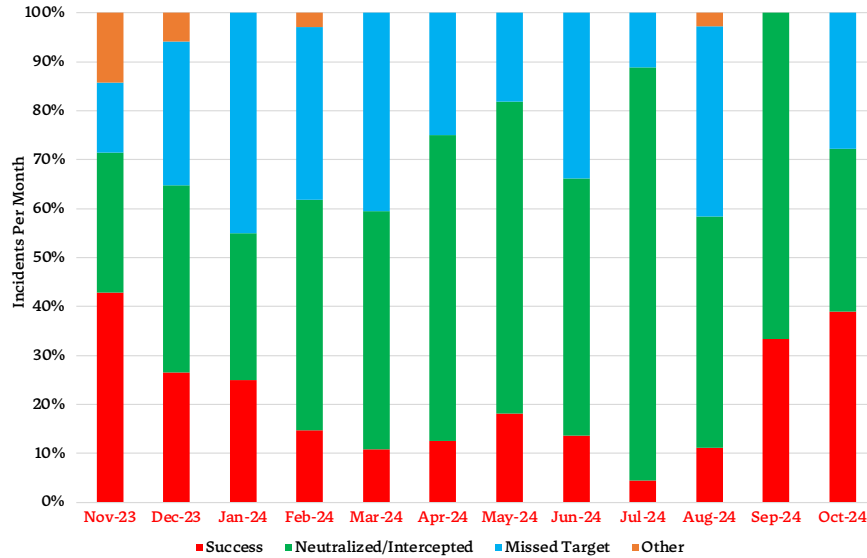


- » Of the 18 maritime attacks, 33 percent (6 incidents) were entirely intercepted by U.S. or partner forces, 39 percent (7 incidents) were successful, and 28 percent (5 incidents) missed their targets.



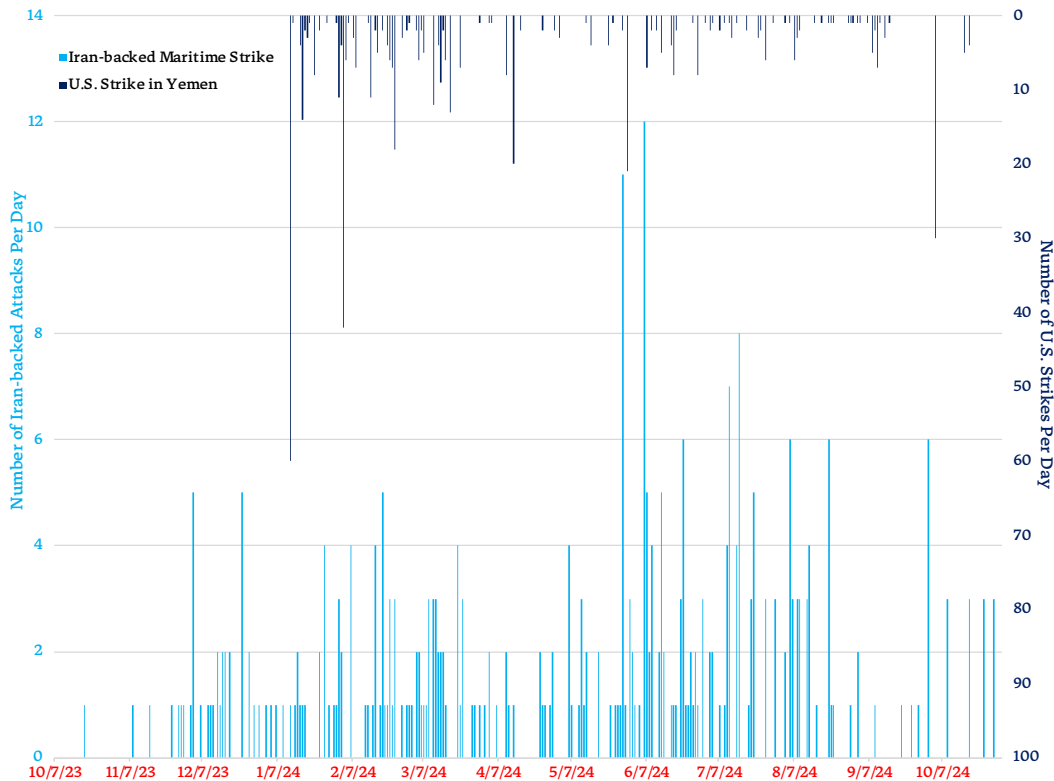
- » In October, the Houthis had the highest rate of successful attacks since the escalation began in November, which was likely due to it launching multiple projectiles in successive waves at ships.

## Changes in Iran-linked Maritime Success and Failure Rates



- In October, the United States increased the number of airstrikes it conducted against Houthi targets in Yemen by 77 percent. Launching 39 airstrikes in October, the United States conducted more than 30 strikes in a month for the first time since June.
  - » U.S. military efforts against the Houthis in October included conducting one of its largest operations against the Houthis by destroying [15 targets containing offensive Houthi capabilities](#) on October 4 and the first use of [stealth B-2 bombers](#) to strike five Houthi storage facilities deep underground in Yemen on October 16.

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

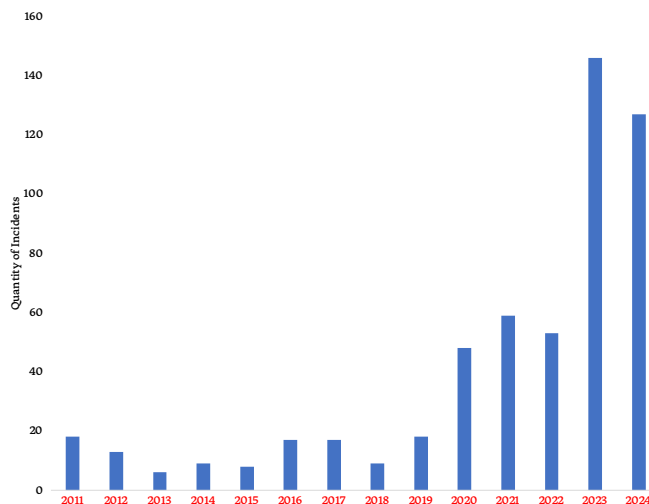




## 5. Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States

- In 2024, Iran and its proxies have already conducted nearly 87 percent as many incidents of malign activity targeting the United States or U.S. personnel (127) 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.

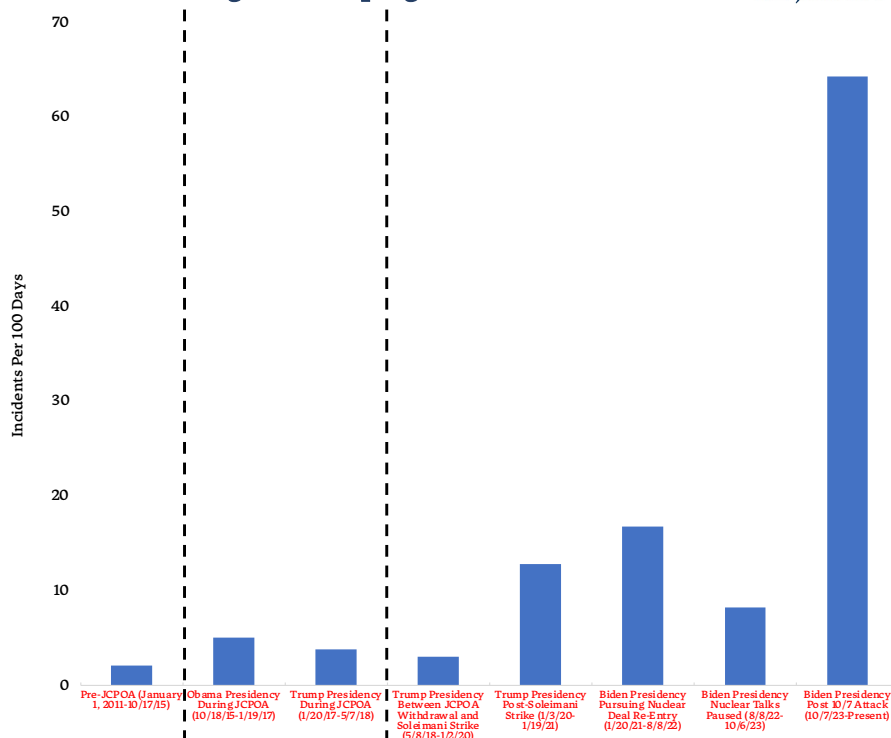
Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States  JINSA  
Per Year



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 has been unprecedented, and the rate of such activities has skyrocketed by roughly 630 percent since Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Iran-linked Malign Activity Against the United States  JINSA



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