



Iran Summary

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Executive Summary: Israel and Hezbollah [accepted](#) the terms of a U.S./France-brokered ceasefire agreement that requires Hezbollah and Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon over a 60-day period, with the Lebanese Armed Forces implementing a security buffer in this territory. Rabbi Zvi Kogan, a Chabad emissary in the UAE, was kidnapped and [murdered](#) in a suspected Iranian plot. Russia continues to grow closer to the Iran-backed Houthis, U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking [warned](#), as reports [surfaced](#) that a Houthi-linked company was trafficking Yemeni men to Russia for forced conscription in Russia's war against Ukraine. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) [said](#) that Iran plans to install more uranium-enriching centrifuges and to begin to enrich uranium with thousands of recently installed advanced centrifuges at its two main nuclear facilities. The IAEA [adopted](#) a censure resolution that creates a clear path to "snap back" U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on Iran's illegal nuclear weapons program before they expire next year. Three U.S. agencies [warned](#) of potential Iranian interference ahead of the U.S. presidential election in early November, and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) [charged](#) an Afghan national in connection to an Iranian plot to assassinate now-President-elect Donald Trump.

Israel's Northern Front:

- In November, Iran-backed Iraqi militias [fired](#) 100 projectiles at Israel.
- Overnight on November 30, Israel [intercepted](#) an Iranian flight over Syria that was suspected of carrying arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon, forcing it to turn around. The interception came as Israel is trying to prevent weapons shipments to the Iran-backed terror group during the recently established ceasefire.
- On November 26, Israel and Hezbollah [accepted](#) the terms of a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States and France. The ceasefire took effect at 4:00 am local time on November 27.
 - » The deal [calls](#) for an initial 60-day halt in fighting and requires Hezbollah to withdraw its armed presence north of the Litani River. It also requires Israeli armed forces to withdraw from Lebanon during this period. The Lebanese Armed Forces will deploy to this area to enforce security in the buffer zone.
 - » President Joe Biden [said](#), "This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities. What is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations will not be allowed — will — I emphasize — will not be allowed to threaten the security of Israel again."
 - » Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#), "We will enforce the agreement and respond forcefully to any violation. Together, we will continue until victory. In full coordination with the United States, we retain complete military freedom of action. Should Hezbollah violate the agreement or attempt to rearm, we will strike decisively."

- » French President Emmanuel Macron [said](#) the agreement was “the culmination of efforts undertaken for many months with the Israeli and Lebanese authorities, in close collaboration with the United States.”
- Prior to the ceasefire agreement, Hezbollah fired more than 2,095 projectiles at Israel in November, based on JINSA’s [Iran Projectile Tracker](#).

Attacks on U.S. Troops and Personnel in the Region:

- On November 29, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) used an A-10 fighter aircraft to [target](#) individuals that were preparing a rocket rail that posed a threat to U.S. and coalition forces at Mission Support Site Euphrates.
- On November 11 and 12, Iran-backed militias in Syria launched three attacks against U.S. and coalition forces; two attacks against [Mission Support Site Euphrates](#) and a rocket attack against [Patrol Base Shaddadi](#), respectively. In response, CENTCOM [targeted](#) at least nine Iran-linked militia targets, including the militias’ weapons storage and logistic headquarters.

Nuclear:

- On November 29, the head of France’s foreign intelligence service, Nicolas Lerner, [said](#) the risk of Iranian nuclear proliferation is “one of the threats, if not to say the most critical threat, in the coming months.”
- On November 29, the IAEA said Iran planned to [install](#) more uranium-enriching centrifuges and [begin](#) enriching uranium with thousands of advanced centrifuges recently installed at its two main nuclear facilities at Fordow and Natanz.
- On November 21, the IAEA [adopted](#) a censure resolution that creates a clear path to “snap back” U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on Iran’s illegal nuclear weapons program before they expire next year.
 - » To learn more, [click here](#) to read JINSA’s “Iran Nuclear Tracker: November Update,” by Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin.
- On November 15, *Axios* [reported](#) that Israel’s October 26 strike inside Iran destroyed an active nuclear weapons research facility in Parchin, Iran. The site was previously reported to have been inactive.
- On November 15, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi [visited](#) the Natanz and Fordow nuclear sites in Iran.
 - » Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Grossi that Iran is “willing to negotiate based on our national interest and inalienable rights, but not ready to negotiate under pressure and intimidation.”

The Iran-Backed Houthis and Maritime Aggression:

- On November 18, a Turkish-owned, Panama-flagged bulk carrier traveling through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden was [targeted](#) in a suspected Houthi attack. No damage or injuries were reported, although the ship’s captain said, “a missile splashed in close proximity to the vessel.”
 - » The Turkish foreign ministry [condemned](#) the attack.

- On November 17, the Houthis [claimed](#) to have launched several drones at Israel. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said they were unaware of any drones launched from Yemen that had reached Israel.
- On November 16, the Houthis' military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, [said](#) the group had attacked Israel's port city of Eilat with a number of drones.
- On November 11, the Houthis [launched](#) drones and missiles at two U.S. Navy destroyers as they transited the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, launching at least eight one-way attack drones, five anti-ship ballistic missiles, and three anti-ship cruise missiles at the USS *Spruance* and the USS *Stockdale*. All the projectiles were [shot down](#) by the destroyers, and no injuries or damage was reported.
- On November 11, Israel [intercepted](#) a missile fired from Yemen. The IDF said, "The projectile did not cross into Israeli territory. Sirens were sounded in accordance with protocol."
- On November 9 and 10, CENTCOM [executed](#) a series of precise airstrikes on Houthi weapons storage facilities in Yemen.
- On November 3, the Houthis [said](#) they would maintain their maritime blockade against Israeli vessels that had been sold to other companies, saying they would not recognize the change of ownership of these vessels. The Houthis also wanted against any collaboration with companies who purchased Israeli-owned or linked maritime assets.

Malign Activities Abroad:

- On November 22, *CNN* [reported](#) that a Norwegian man, working as a security guard at the U.S. Embassy in Oslo, was arrested on allegations of spying for Iran and Russia.
- On November 21, Rabbi Zvi Kogan, an emissary to Abu Dhabi's Chabad chapter and an Israeli-Moldovan dual citizen, was kidnapped and [murdered](#) in Dubai, UAE.
 - » The three suspects, all Uzbek nationals, were [apprehended](#) in Turkey and extradited to the UAE.
 - » Israeli officials and media have [voiced suspicions](#) that Iran had recruited the Uzbeks to carry out the murder, though Israel [has not officially accused](#) Iran of involvement.
- On November 18, *Israel National News* [reported](#) that Canadian forces foiled an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate Irwin Cotler, Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General from 2003 to 2006. Cotler is an outspoken critic of Iran's regime.
- On November 8, the U.S. DOJ [unsealed](#) an indictment against an Afghan national in connection with an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate now-President-elect Donald Trump. According to the DOJ, Farhad Shakeri, 51, who was tasked with "providing a plan" to kill Trump, has not been arrested and is believed to be in Iran.
 - » The DOJ also [charged](#) two others who were allegedly recruited to kill an American journalist who has been an outspoken critic of Iran's regime.
- On November 3, the U.S. State Department [confirmed](#) that an Iranian-American journalist, Reza Valizadeh, had been detained by Iran.
 - » Valizadeh had previously worked at U.S. government-funded Radio Farda, an outlet under Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In February, Valizadeh wrote on X that his family had been detained by Iran's regime to pressure him to return to Iran. In August, he wrote on X that he had returned to Iran "without any security guarantee, even a verbal one."

Russia/China Ties:

- On November 24, the *Financial Times* [reported](#) that Russia's armed forces had recruited hundreds of Yemeni men to fight in Ukraine after they were deceived and then trafficked by a company linked to the Iran-backed Houthis. According to the report, the Yemeni men were promised high-salaried employment and Russian citizenship, but upon arrival in Russia, they were forcibly conscripted and then sent to the front lines in Ukraine.
- On November 18, *Business Insider* [reported](#) that U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen, Tim Lenderking, had raised concerns about Russia providing assistance to the Iran-backed Houthis.
 - » Lenderking said, "It does seem as though there is a fairly serious level of engagement happening... We are particularly concerned about the kind of equipment that would really enable the Houthis to be more accurate in their targeting of US and other ships in the region — that would enhance the Houthi capability to strike those targets."
- On November 12, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte [said](#), "Russia working together with North Korea, Iran, and China is not only threatening Europe, it's threatening peace and security, yes, here in Europe, but also in the Indo-Pacific and in North America."
- On November 11, Iran and Russia [linked](#) their bank card systems, allowing Iranians to withdraw money in Russia. Iran's state media said there are plans to allow Iranians to use their bank cards to pay for in-store purchases.
- On November 5, Russia [launched](#) a Soyuz rocket carrying 55 satellites, including two small Iranian satellites: the Kowsar, a high-resolution imaging satellite, and the Hodhod, a small communications satellite.
- On November 5, *Reuters* [reported](#) that the price of Iran's crude oil sold to China is at a five-year high as lower exports help drive up the price.

Domestic/Human Rights:

- According to *Voice of America*, between October 23 and November 21, Iran [executed](#) at least 133 people, including one person who was publicly executed. Iran also issued at least 24 new death sentences and upheld seven previously given.
- On November 12, following Israel's strikes near Tehran on October 26, Iran [began construction](#) on a "defensive tunnel" linking the Tehran metro network to the Imam Khomeini hospital.
- On November 6, Iran's currency, the rial, [fell](#) to an all-time low as it became clear that Donald Trump won the U.S. presidency again.
- On November 6, a revolutionary court in northwestern Iran [sentenced](#) four people to death for allegedly spying for Israel.
- On November 4, Iran's state media [reported](#) that Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) general Hamid Mazandarani, the commander of the Nineveh Brigade of Golestan province, and a pilot, Hamed Jandagh, were killed in a helicopter crash in the country's southeast.

Cyber:

- On November 12, Israeli cybersecurity firm ClearSky Cyber Security [reported](#) that Iran-linked hackers have undertaken a new cyber warfare campaign, which they dubbed “Iranian Dream Job,” targeting the aerospace, aviation, and defense industries of Israel, the UAE, Turkey, India, and Albania.
 - » In this new scheme, hackers have posed as recruiters on LinkedIn, offering their targets lucrative job offers in order to distribute malware, which allows the hackers to access systems and steal sensitive data.
- On November 11, *Haaretz* [reported](#) that hackers believed to be affiliated with Iran’s intelligence apparatus had leaked the personal information of a Israeli nuclear scientist who worked at Israel’s Soreq Nuclear Research Center.
 - » The hackers also claimed to have breached the personal account of a former Defense Ministry director general and leaked the personal information of a current Israeli ambassador and a former military attaché in the United States.
- On November 10, an Israeli clearing company was [targeted](#) in a cyberattack by Iran-linked hackers, preventing some people from using their credit cards in stores in Israel for several hours.
- On November 4, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [released](#) a joint statement, warning that “Iran also remains a significant foreign influence threat to U.S. elections.”
 - » The joint statement said, “As noted in a prior update, we have assessed that Iran has conducted malicious cyber activities to compromise former President Trump’s campaign. Iranian influence actors may also seek to create fake media content intended to suppress voting or stoke violence, as they have done in past election cycles.”

Recent JINSA Publications on Iran:

- November 26: “[Iran Nuclear Tracker: November Update](#),” Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin
- November 21: “[Northern Escalation Projectile Tracker: 11/21 Update](#),” Ari Cicurel
- November 20: “[Suppressing Iran’s Ring of Fire in Lebanon](#),” IDF BG Effie Defrin and Yoni Tobin
- November 18: “[Now That Harris Has Lost, Let Israel Win](#),” *The Wall Street Journal*, Michael Makovsky, PhD and Blaise Misztal
- November 15: “[How Israel and the Trump Administration Can Win the War and Shape Middle East Policy](#),” *The Jerusalem Post*, IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror
- November 14: “[Northern Escalation Projectile Tracker: 11/14 Update](#),” Ari Cicurel
- November 14: “[Iran’s Missiles Push it Closer to Russia — at the West’s Expense](#),” *The Defense Post*, Lt Gen Thomas Bergeson, USAF (ret.) and Jonathan Ruhe
- November 13: “[U.S. Should Undercut the Iran-Russia-China Three-Legged Stool](#),” *RealClearDefense*, Lt Gen Charles L. Moore, USAF (ret.) and Ari Cicurel
- November 12: “[Monthly Iran Projectile Tracker: October 2024](#),” Ari Cicurel