



Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Israel's Operation Rising Lion: 6/16/25 Update

With Israel conducting Operation Rising Lion against Iranian military, nuclear, and leadership targets and Iran launching retaliatory missile and drone attacks, dubbed Operation True Promise III, against the Jewish state, JINSA will regularly release updates detailing the conflict. JINSA also continues to [track international responses](#) to Israeli and Iranian operations. The update below includes information as of June 16, 2025 at 10:30 am ET since JINSA's [last release](#).

1. Israeli Operations

- While continuing to strike Iranian military, nuclear, and leadership targets, Israel expanded its operation to include Iranian energy facilities and other regime targets. Since the start of the operation, Israel has hit over 865 targets at over 350 locations in Iran.
 - » On June 16, Israel claimed that it had [destroyed](#) more than 120 ballistic missile launchers, comprising one-third of Iran's total arsenal. IDF Spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin, a former JINSA visiting fellow, also indicated that the IDF had established "full aerial superiority" over the skies of Iran.
 - » On June 16, Israel struck approximately [100 military targets in Isfahan](#), the [Parchin nuclear site](#), and [command centers](#) for the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force. Israeli strikes also preemptively destroyed more than twenty Iranian ballistic missiles before they could launch and [vehicles](#) transporting missile launchers to Tehran.
 - » On June 15, Israel hit 80 targets, including the Sazman-e Pazhouheshhaye Novin-e Defa'i ([SPND](#)) nuclear project headquarters, the [Mashhad Airport](#) in northeast Iran—its most distant strike ever at 2,300 km away from Israel—and Iranian [ballistic missile launchers](#). Israel also reportedly targeted Iranian [government](#) buildings, including the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), the Law Enforcement Command (LEC) headquarters, and the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) in Tehran.
 - Israel [killed](#) the head of the Intelligence Organization of the IRGC Mohammad Kazemi and his deputy, Mohammad Hassan Mohaqiq, [as well as](#) the head of the Quds Force Intelligence Directorate, Mohsen Bakri and his deputy Abu al-Fadl Nikouei.
 - » On June 14, Israel struck military, nuclear, and energy targets in Iran, with Israeli sources indicating that Israel had struck [150 targets](#) since the operation began on June 13.

- Israeli military targets included the [Iranian Defense Ministry](#) headquarters; [Tehran's Mehrabad Airport](#); the [Amand missile base](#); [Tabriz missile bases](#); the Ghadir site in Tehran, which may have a connection to Kheibar Shekan and Fattah missile integration; the Hamedan air base; the Bakhtaran underground missile site Kermanshah, which [reportedly stores](#) Qiam-1 and Fateh-110; and Iranian ballistic missile [launchers](#).
- Iran claimed that Israeli strikes had caused limited damage at the [Fordow](#) nuclear site, but Israel [denied](#) it had attacked the site.
- For the first time during the operation, Israel targeted Iranian energy facilities, with strikes against the [Shahran fuel and gasoline depot](#), the South Pars Oil Field, which Iran shares with Qatar, and the [Fajr Jam Gas Refining Company](#).
- » On June 13, Israel struck Iran's [Hamadan and Tabriz air bases](#) and the [Isfahan nuclear site](#).
- » Following Israel's initial strikes that killed twenty senior Iranian military and nuclear scientists, Iran later confirmed that Israeli strikes [killed](#) two additional senior military leaders: General Gholamreza Mehrabi, deputy head of intelligence of the armed forces general staff, and General Mehdi Rabbani, deputy head of operations.

2. Iranian Operations

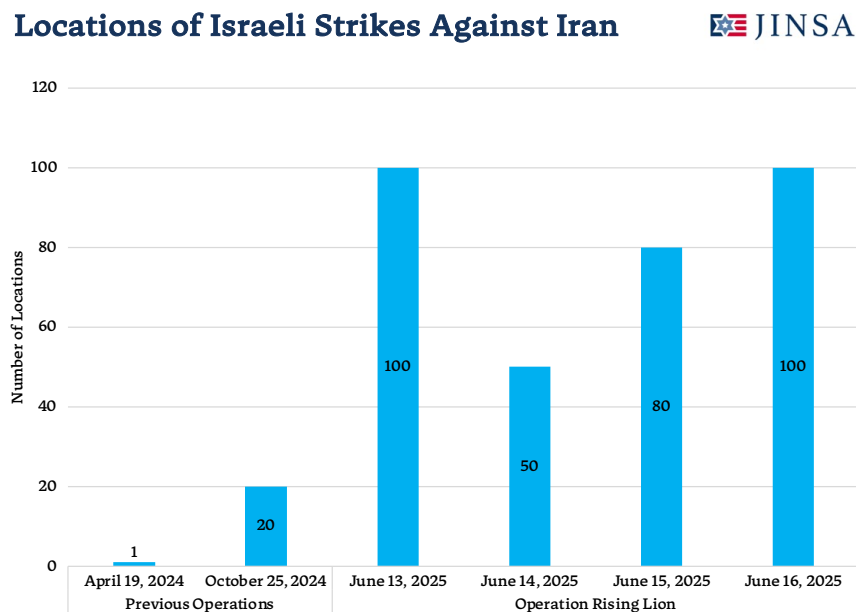
- Over the weekend, Iran launched at least 345 ballistic missiles at Israel, [killing 24 people](#) and [injuring](#) at least 590 individuals. Overnight on June 16, Iran [launched](#) 65 ballistic missiles, which killed eight civilians and injured dozens of individuals, as well as at least 13 drones at Israel.
 - Israel used a [Barak Magen air defense system](#) aboard an Israeli Sa'ar 6 missile ship to intercept a drone for the first time.
 - Iranian missiles [struck](#) population centers across Israel, including the cities of Haifa, Petah Tikva, Bnei Brak, and Tel Aviv.
 - The Tel Aviv missile strike [damaged](#) a United States embassy building.
- » On June 15, Iran launched 30 ballistic missiles against Israel. This attack occurred during the daytime, contrasting with previous missile attacks that had occurred overnight. There were no reports of impacts at the time of this release.
- » Earlier on June 15, Iran launched at least [75 ballistic missiles](#) and [20 drones](#) in three waves overnight against Israel. The IDF also later [intercepted](#) an Iranian drone over the Jordan Valley.
 - A projectile hit a home in Tamra, killing four civilians. Another struck Bat Yam, killing at least six civilians and injuring nearly 200. A third landed in Rehovot, leaving 40 more wounded.
 - An Iranian missile [impacted](#) at Israel's largest oil refinery, located in Haifa, during the attack.
- » On June 14, Iran launched roughly 200 ballistic missiles against Israel in six waves. Israeli air defenses shot down most of the projectiles, but [roughly 25 percent](#) of the missiles struck Israel, killing three people, injuring roughly 70 individuals, and causing heavy damage in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ramat Gan, and Rishon Lezion.
 - On June 14, an Israeli Sa'ar class warship in the Red Sea [downed five drones](#), and Israel neutralized [two drones](#) in northern Israel.

- At least [seven missiles](#) struck Tel Aviv, with additional impacts in Bat Yam, Rehovot, and in Kiryat Ekron, killing one person and injuring at least 30 people.
- Iran's ballistic missile fire has decreased, likely due to Israeli operations degrading its launch capabilities and stockpile, with Iran instead supplementing its missile fire with drone attacks. As Israeli operations continue to target Iranian missile capabilities, Iran will likely be able to fire fewer ballistic missiles against Israel and may instead turn to cruise missiles and drones.
 - » According to [The New York Times](#), Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamanei ordered the Iranian military to launch 1,000 missiles at Israel to overwhelm its air defenses and inflict maximum damage, but Israeli strikes on Iranian missile bases and launchers prevented Iran from launching its missiles quickly.
 - Israeli officials believe that Iran has around 2,000 ballistic missiles but was on track to reach 8,000 missiles over the next two years, according to [Fox News's Trey Yingst](#). This contributed to Israel's decision to begin the operation.
 - Contrary to claims by Iranian officials, Israeli officials indicated that Iran has not used [maneuverable ballistic missiles](#), which would be much more difficult to intercept.
- While Hezbollah has [remained on the sidelines](#), Iran's other proxies joined by attacking both Israel and U.S. forces.
 - » On June 16, the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen [launched](#) a ballistic missile at Israel.
 - » Overnight on June 15, a drone was downed that had been [targeting the U.S. consulate](#) in Erbil, Iraq.
 - » On June 14, Iran-backed fighters were likely responsible for [launching three drones](#) that targeted U.S. forces at the Ain al-Asad airbase in Iraq, marking the first Iran-linked attacks against U.S. forces since December 3, 2024.
 - » While Iran's attack was ongoing on June 14, four rockets were [fired](#) from [Gaza](#) in two separate incidents.
 - » On June 14, the Houthis [launched three drones](#) at Israel that the Israeli Air Force neutralized.
 - » On June 13, the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen launched a ballistic missile that [landed in the West Bank](#), wounding five Palestinians, including three children.
- Following the Houthis' attacks, Israel also launched airstrikes in Yemen on June 14, which reportedly [targeted](#) the senior Houthi military leader Muhammad Abd al-Karim al-Ghamari. Israel's operation likely intended to deter further Houthi attacks. It remains unclear if the attack was successful.
- While U.S. aircraft have not joined Israel's strikes against Iran, the United States has supported Israeli operations.
 - » Israel's use of Iraqi airspace to conduct strikes against Iran was crucial to its ability to launch standoff missiles and likely needed to be coordinated with the United States.
 - » U.S. air defense platforms have [helped defend Israel](#) against Iran's ballistic missile attacks, although it remains unclear which U.S. platforms have been used.
 - The United States has [deployed](#) both Patriot missile defense systems and Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) systems in the Middle East, which are both capable of neutralizing ballistic missiles.

- U.S. Navy ships also [helped defend](#) Israel, according to a U.S. official. However, it remains unclear whether U.S. ships launched interceptors, as they did when defending against Iran’s April and October 2024 attacks.
- The U.S. Navy [ordered](#) the USS *Thomas Hudner*, an *Arleigh-Burke* class guided-missile destroyer that specializes in ballistic missile defense, to reposition from the western Mediterranean to the eastern Mediterranean.
- The USS *Nimitz* aircraft carrier also [left the South China Sea](#) on June 16 on a course headed to the Middle East.

3. Charts and Trends

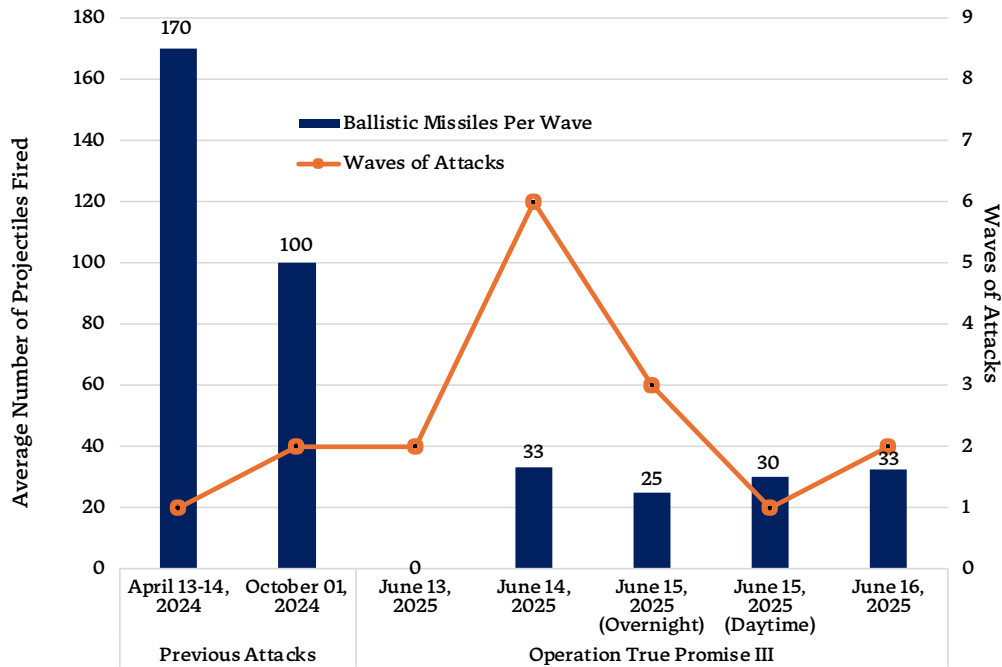
- After decreasing the number of sites struck in Iran in the operation’s second day, Israel has been steadily increasing locations targeted each of the subsequent days.
 - » Israel struck at least 100 locations on June 16, compared to 80 locations on June 15 and 14 sites on June 14.
 - » Israel has struck [865 targets](#) at over 350 locations in Iran since Operation Rising Lion began.



- Iranian missile launches have been down overall compared to the April and October 2024 attacks, likely due to Israeli strikes eliminating Iran's launchers and stockpile, a trend that will likely continue as Israeli operations further degrade Iranian capabilities.
 - » The number of ballistic missiles that Iran launched per wave during its June 15 attacks was down 70-75 percent compared to the October 2024 attack and 82-85 percent compared to the April 2024 attack.
 - » Iran launched 40 ballistic missiles in a single wave overnight on June 16, compared to 25 ballistic missiles over three waves of attacks overnight on June 15, 30 ballistic missiles during an attack later that day, and 33 ballistic missiles over six waves on June 14.
 - » Since its initial attack on June 14, Iran has decreased the number of waves of ballistic missiles it launches against Israel.

- Iran launched six waves of attacks on June 14, compared to three waves overnight on June 15, one wave during the daytime on June 15, and two waves on June 16.

Average Number of Ballistic Missiles Iran Fired At Israel Per Attack Wave



- » As Iran has been launching fewer ballistic missiles, it has been using more drones in its attacks on Israel.
- Iran launched 65 ballistic missiles and 13 drones on June 16, compared to 75 ballistic missiles and 20 drones on June 15 and 200 ballistic missiles and 7 drones on June 14.

Projectiles Iran Fired At Israel

