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Israel's Operation Rising Lion: 6/20/25 Update

During the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, JINSA will regularly release updates. JINSA continues to map Israeli strikes against Iranian targets and track international responses to Israeli and Iranian operations. The update below includes information as of June 20, 2025 at 11:20 am ET since JINSA's last release.

1. Israeli Operations

- Overnight on June 20, over 60 Israeli fighter jets fired 120 munitions at several military and nuclear sites throughout Iran.
  - » Israel's Air Force attacked a missile launch site, eliminating ballistic missiles primed for launch and an Iranian military commander.
  - » 25 IAF jets destroyed 35 missile launchers and storage sites in Tabriz and Kermanshah.
- On June 20, the IDF confirmed that in recent days, Israel has solidified its air supremacy over Iranian skies with their forces hitting air defense batteries in Isfahan and Tehran, including surface-to-air missile launchers and radars.
- On June 20, the Israeli Air Force said that in recent days, it has conducted strikes against Iran's internal security agency headquarters in Tehran. Although the exact target remains unclear, it may be Iran's infamous Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) or Basij paramilitary force headquarters.
- Israel continues to target Iran's nuclear program, including strikes to neutralize key facilities and personnel.
  - » On June 20, the International Atomic Energy Agency announced that Israel had damaged buildings at the Khondab heavy water reactor facility.
    - – Though the reactor is inactive, if operationalized it could have produced spent fuel for Iran to reprocess into plutonium for nuclear weapons.
  - » On June 20, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Israel killed an Iranian scientist in Tehran earlier that day in a drone attack.

» On June 20, Israel's *Channel 12* reported that the Israeli military launched Operation Narnia last week in which its forces simultaneously assassinated 9 out of Iran's top 10 nuclear scientists.

» On June 19, the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that Iran's Arak heavy water reactor was damaged after Israeli forces targeted the facility earlier that day.

- On June 19, Israeli media outlet *Ynet* reported that an Israeli drone strike killed several Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) soldiers in the Bustan Abad area of western Iran.

» As many as 11 IRGC officers were reportedly killed in the attack.

2. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On June 20, Iran launched roughly 26 ballistic missiles and five drones at Israel in two waves of attacks. Iran's use of cluster munitions for at least the second time indicates that it has launched its more advanced weaponry to inflict maximum damage in Israel and evade Israeli air defenses. Iran may be turning to cluster munitions as a means of hitting Israel with more munitions per missile fired, while still using fewer ballistic missiles due to Israel degrading its launch capabilities.

» At approximately 5:00 am Israel time, Iran launched one ballistic missile that struck Be'er Sheva, injuring at least five people.

– Videos and footage of the attack indicated that Iran likely used a cluster munition.

– The IDF indicated that Iran planned to launch a larger attack, but the IDF destroyed three primed launchers in Iran.

» At roughly 3:45 pm Israel time, Iran launched approximately 25 ballistic missiles, seriously injuring at least three people, and lightly injuring at least 20 more individuals. One woman died a heart attack while sheltering during the attack.

– Israel's *Arutz Sheva* outlet reported that missiles or shrapnel impacted in the cities of Ashkelon, Bnei Brak, Be'er Sheva, Haifa, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv.

» On June 20, the IDF deployed a new variation of its ground-based Barak air defense system earlier in the day to shoot down one of five Iranian drones launched into Israeli territory.

– The IDF intercepted four drones overnight, including one that reached the Haifa area.

– The IDF also intercepted a drone over the Golan Heights.

- On June 20, terrorist operatives in Gaza launched a rocket into Israel.

» The projectiles landed in an open area near the town of Beeri and did not cause any injuries.

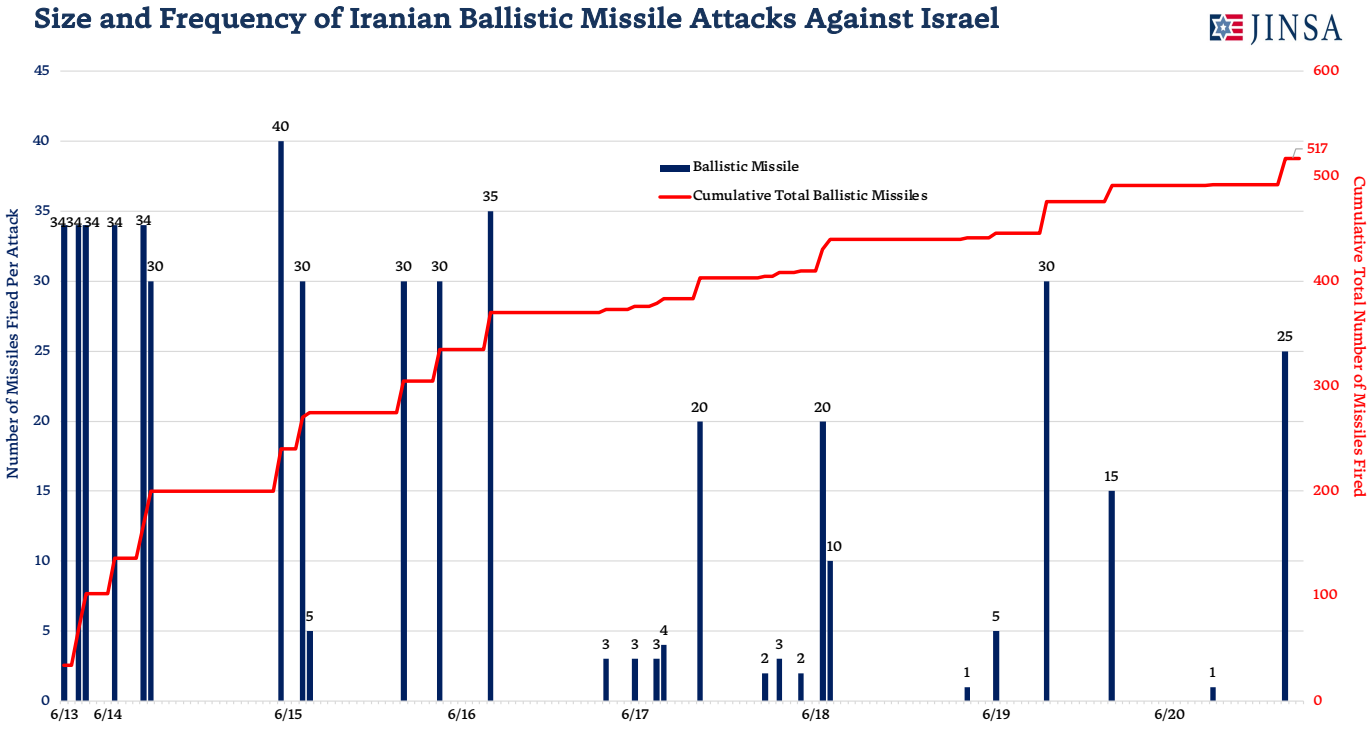
- According to IDF spokesman and former JINSA visiting fellow Brigadier General Effie Defrin, Israel's military has intercepted over 480 drones since last Friday.

3. U.S. and Partner Operations

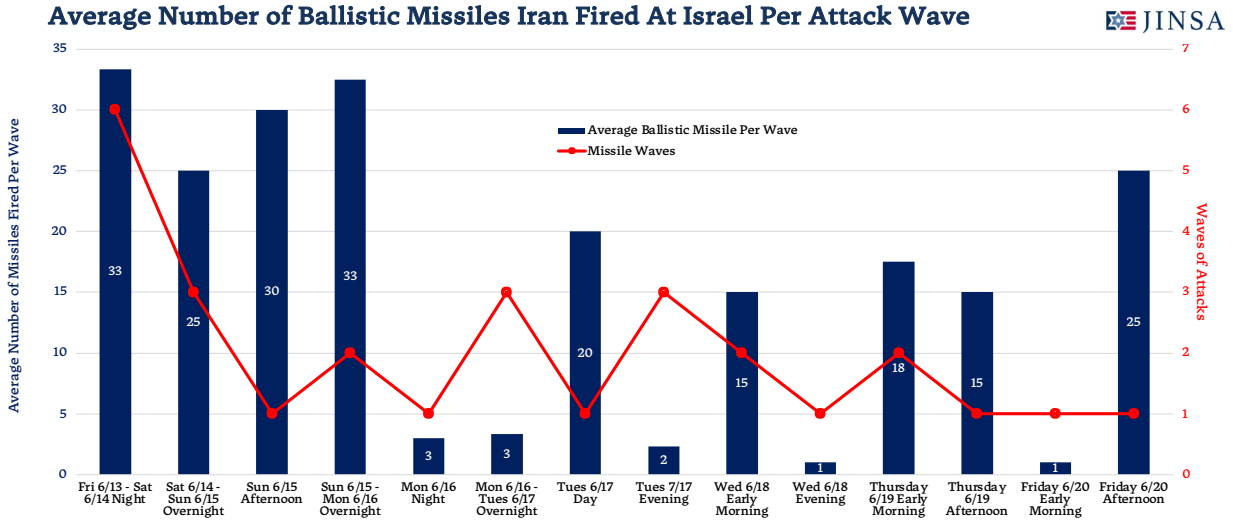
- On June 19, satellite images revealed that U.S. military cleared its aircraft from the tarmac at the Al Udeid military base in Qatar in a possible attempt to protect American assets from potential Iranian strikes.
- On June 19, the IDF indicated that 14 cargo planes have arrived in Israel carrying military equipment from foreign nations since June 13. The United States supplied most of the equipment.

4. Charts and Trends

- Iran did not launch any missile attacks at Israel overnight on June 19-20, the first time it has not launched any nighttime attacks since it began firing overnight on June 13-14. Iran fired roughly 16 percent fewer missiles during its latest barrage on June 20 compared to its previous barrage on June 19.
  - » Iran's barrage on June 20 consisted of roughly 25 ballistic missiles, compared to the barrage Iran launched on June 19 of 30 ballistic missiles.
  - » Iran also shifted the timing of its barrage. Iran's large missile attacks have typically occurred in the evening or early morning hours. Iran's barrage on June 20 at roughly 4:45 pm Israel time was the first attack during the afternoon since June 15.
  - » Despite launching only one ballistic missile during the early morning hours of June 20, Iran was able to successfully strike Be'er Sheva by using a cluster munition that released 20 separate munitions.
  - » Iran has launched roughly 517 ballistic missiles at Israel since June 13.



- Iran launched 67 percent more ballistic missiles per wave during the afternoon of June 20 than the afternoon of June 19. Iran has continued its approach of launching small missile attacks in between its larger barrages. This is likely a reflection both of Iran's desire to paralyze the Israeli populace over a longer portion of the day and the regime's desire to avoid exposing many of its launchers to Israeli strikes at one time.
  - » The average of 25 ballistic missiles per wave that Iran launched during the afternoon of June 20 was the highest average per wave since Iran's overnight attacks on June 15-16.



- Iran has launched 48 percent fewer ballistic missiles so far on June 20 than it did by this point in the day on June 19.
  - » Iran launched 26 ballistic missiles at the time of this release, compared to 50 ballistic missiles by the same time on June 19.

