



# Iran Summary July 2025

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## Summary

In July 2025, Iran sought to recover from devastating blows to its nuclear program and military sustained during the 12-day war with Israel. Iran demonstrated limited interest in pursuing further diplomacy over its nuclear program in the wake of the conflict, instead reverting to its prewar maximalist demands. It also revamped its proxy aggression, most notably with the Houthis launching at least 20 missiles and drones at Israel and sinking two commercial vessels in the Red Sea. Concurrently, Iranian cybercriminals targeted Israeli soldiers and civilian companies.

Facing increasing pressure from the United States and Israel, Iran appealed to Russian and Chinese officials for diplomatic, technical, and military support. Amid serious water shortages, the regime also cracked down internally with widespread internet outages and executions.

## Nuclear

Despite the historic U.S. and Israeli military campaign which severely compromised Iran's nuclear capabilities in June, the Islamic regime retains its hardline prewar diplomatic stance.

- On July 31, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [told](#) the *Financial Times* that Iran demands the United States provide compensation and guarantees of no future attacks on the country before continuing nuclear talks.
- On July 30, Iranian authorities [announced](#) that the country would welcome an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation in early August for talks, but not inspections, following the regime's decision in June to suspend cooperation with the watchdog organization.
- On July 25, an Iranian delegation [traveled](#) to Istanbul to meet German, British, and French representatives regarding the European powers' threats to "snapback" United Nations Security Council sanctions if the regime fails to comply with the IAEA by the end of August.
  - » The visit follows a July 15 [report](#) by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-backed *Tasnim News* that Iran would retaliate by enriching uranium up to 90 percent and possibly abandoning the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- On July 3, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi [stated](#) that while Iran has no further intentions to attack the United States, the regime will continue to enrich uranium for its nuclear program.

- On July 2, at the command of President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran [suspended](#) its legally-binding IAEA safeguard commitments after accusing the agency of collaborating with the United States and Israel to destroy Iran's nuclear program.
  - » Following the announcement, Araghchi [denied](#) claims of Iran halting its cooperation with the IAEA, claiming that Tehran remains committed to the NPT.

## Iran-backed Proxy Aggression

According to [JINSA data](#), the Houthis launched at least 23 attacks at Israel and sank two commercial vessels transiting the Red Sea. The Iran-backed group has now sunk four ships since it began targeting commercial shipping in November 2023. Iran-backed terrorists also continued operating in Syria, prompting two [Israeli special forces raids](#).

- According to [JINSA data](#), Iran-backed militias were likely responsible for conducting at least 18 attacks against Kurdish areas in Iraq, particularly targeting oil fields, throughout July.
- On July 29, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani [announced](#) that his government foiled 29 Iran-backed drone and missile attacks possibly targeting U.S. military bases in Iraq and Israeli territory during the Israel-Iran war from June 13-24.
- On July 27, the Houthis [declared](#) their group would attack merchant ships associated with companies that conduct business with Israel.
- On July 16, United States Central Command [posted](#) to X that the Yemeni National Resistance Forces (NRF) had successfully intercepted more than 750 tons of illegal Iranian weapons bound for the Houthis.
- On July 13, Syria's Interior Ministry [announced](#) that its forces had detained a Hezbollah fighter suspected of planning to carry out a terror attack in Syria.
- On July 7, the Houthis launched roughly two unmanned surface vehicles (USV), rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), and small arms fire at the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned [Eternity C](#) in the Red Sea near Yemen, sinking the ship, killing at least four crew members, and taking 11 other mariners hostage.
- On July 6, the Houthis launched roughly five USVs, eight RPGs, and small arms fire at the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned [Magic Seas](#) in the Red Sea, sinking the ship.

## Russia/China Ties

The Iranian government appealed to its Russian and Chinese allies, seeking a united front against international pressure to its nuclear program, particularly as European nations threaten to reinstate UN snapback sanctions on the regime. Iran also collaborated with China and Russia on its military and technological advancements such as improving the regime's satellite systems.

- On July 31, *CBS News* [revealed](#) that China continues to evade U.S. sanctions by covertly purchasing Iranian oil through a "dark fleet" that illegally transfers oil from ship to ship while still at sea.
  - » The report comes one day after the Trump administration [imposed](#) intense sanctions on the regime's shipping industry.
- On July 26, Iran reportedly [tested](#) a Russian-produced S-400 Triumf air defense system near Isfahan.

- On July 25, Iran [launched](#) a telecommunications satellite into orbit utilizing a Russian Soyuz rocket.
- On July 21, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei [announced](#) that Iran is consulting with Russian and Chinese authorities in hopes of avoiding snapback sanctions.
- On July 21, the Iranian and Russian militaries [launched](#) CASAREX 2025, a combined naval drill in the Caspian Sea.
- On July 15, Araghchi [pleaded](#) with several countries, including China and Russia, within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to collaborate on “a permanent mechanism to monitor, document and coordinate responses to military aggression, acts of sabotage, state terrorism, and violations of national sovereignty of members states,” in the wake of U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities.
- On July 14, Iranian Deputy Minister of Communications, Ehsan Chitsaz, [announced](#) that deliberate interference to Iran’s global positioning services (GPS) prompted the regime to pursue adopting China’s BeiDou satellite navigation system.
- On July 7, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov [said](#) that Russia is prepared to process Iran’s excess highly enriched uranium and return power-generation-grade uranium to Iran for its nuclear facilities, following U.S. and Israeli strikes on the nuclear sites in June.

## Domestic/Human Rights

Following the 12-day war, widespread internet and energy shortages, as well as targeted arrests, plagued Iran. As dissidents expressed their concern, the regime arrested thousands of individuals, including two U.S. citizens, and executed at least 102 others in July alone.

- According to the U.S.-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, the Islamic Republic [executed](#) at least 102 people throughout July, contributing to a cumulative 730 executions in 2025 as of July 31.
- Iranian authorities [arrested](#) two American citizens after the 12-day war, according to a *New York Times* report on August 2.
- On July 31, Pezeshkian [urged](#) his government to take action as officials warn of a severe water crisis and the possibility of Tehran’s water supply running dry in the next few weeks.
- On July 29, *Iran International*, citing Human Rights Activists News Agency, [revealed](#) that the regime is disrupting phone services to suppress dissidents.
  - » According to the report, users experiencing disruptions are prompted to contact IRGC-backed government services that require individuals to “sign a pledge not to criticize the state and post twenty messages of praise for the Islamic Republic on social media.”
- On July 28, Israeli media [reported](#) that Iranian authorities arrested 35 Jewish Iranians following the 12-day war.
- On July 23, the head of Iran’s judiciary [stated](#) that Iranian authorities arrested approximately 2,000 individuals accused of collaborating with Israel during and after the 12-day war.
- On July 11, Araghchi [confirmed](#) that Iranian authorities detained French-German teenager Lennart Monterlos in June. Araghchi did not elaborate on the details of his alleged crime.
- On July 5, millions across Iran [experienced](#) a major internet outage, allegedly designed to promote regime support and suppress government opposition.

## Malign Activities Abroad

Authorities worldwide arrested at least seven individuals allegedly spying for Iran. Of these seven individuals, five of them hold Israeli citizenship. These arrests accompanied a larger trend of Israelis spying for Iran in exchange for financial compensation. Simultaneously, Iranian actors issued threats to European and other global interests.

- On July 27, Israeli authorities [charged](#) an Iran-born Israeli with providing Iran intelligence related to the 12-day war.
- On July 23, a former security guard for the U.S. Embassy in Norway was [indicted](#) for allegedly spying for Iran and Russia.
- On July 21, IRGC-affiliated *Tasnim News* [announced](#) that Iran's Qased Satellite launcher successfully completed its first test since the 12-day war.
- On July 17, Israeli authorities [charged](#) two citizens with spying for Iran, including a soldier and a Bedouin teacher.
  - » Israel alleges that both filmed military assets during the 12-day war and intentionally sent the footage to Iranian agents in exchange for financial compensation.
- On July 16, Iran's *Mehr News* [reported](#) that Iran captured a ship and arrested 17 crew members after authorities suspected the vessel of transporting two million liters of smuggled fuel through the Gulf of Oman.
- On July 13, Mohammad Javad Larijani, a former senior Iranian judiciary official and adviser to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, [threatened](#) that "It's entirely possible that in the near future, five drones could strike a European city."
- On July 11, U.S. authorities [arrested](#) an Iranian national for illegally exporting electronics to Iran.
- On July 5, the *Irish Times* [reported](#) that Irish authorities suspect Iranian regime members and Hezbollah operatives financed a plan to smuggle 2.2 tons of cocaine, worth 157 million euros, into Ireland in 2023.
- On July 3, Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami [called](#) for the assassinations of U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, blaming the men for the war in Gaza and the assassination of IRGC-Quds Force Commander Qasem Soleimani in 2020.
- On July 1, Danish authorities [arrested](#) a Danish man who German prosecutors claim worked for an Iranian intelligence service to collect details on Jewish targets for a possible attack in Berlin.
- On July 1, Israeli police [detained](#) a couple in Ra'anana on suspicion of spying for Iran.

## Cyber

Iran-backed actors carried out a series of cyberattacks, particularly targeting Israeli institutions and civilian interests.

- On July 11, the *Jerusalem Post* [reported](#) that Iranian spies were infiltrating Facebook and WhatsApp donation groups to collect intelligence and target Israeli soldiers.
- On July 6, cybersecurity expert Marwan Hachem told *Iran International* that pro-Iran hackers [contributed](#) to nearly 450 cyberattacks targeting Israeli interests since the 12-day war.

## Recent JINSA Publications on Iran

- July 31: “[America Should Nix—Not Try to Fix—UNIFIL](#),” Yoni Tobin
- July 30: “[To Put Iran on Ice, the U.S. Must Freeze Out China](#),” *RealClearDefense*, VADM Robert Harward, USN (ret.) and Yoni Tobin
- July 25: “[There’s More Work to Do on Iran](#),” *Dispatch*, Jonathan Ruhe
- July 21: “[Burn Rate: Missile and Interceptor Cost Estimates During the U.S.-Israel-Iran War](#),” Ari Cicurel
- July 18: “[Iran-backed Violence Against Americans](#),” Sarah Havdala
- July 14: “[The United States Must Continue Showing Resolve to Prevent an Iranian Nuclear Weapon](#),” *Algemeiner*, RADM Paul Becker, USN (ret.) and Yoni Tobin
- July 14: “[A Regime Collapse Strategy for Iran](#),” *Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*, Blaise Misztal and Jonathan Ruhe
- July 10: “[Time to end UNIFIL](#),” *Washington Examiner*, Gabriel Noronha
- July 9: “[The Window for Sanctioning Iran Is Closing](#),” *National Interest*, Gabriel Noronha
- July 3: “[Not Over: Ensuring Iran Does Not Rebuild](#),” Michael Makovsky, PhD, John Hannah, Blaise Misztal, and Jonathan Ruhe