



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/1/26 Update

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With the United States and Israel launching joint strikes—Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, respectively—against Iranian regime targets and Iran launching retaliatory missile and drone attacks against U.S. forces in the region, Israel, and Arab nations, dubbed Operation True Promise IV, JINSA will regularly release updates detailing the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of March 1 at 11:00 am ET.

1. Overview

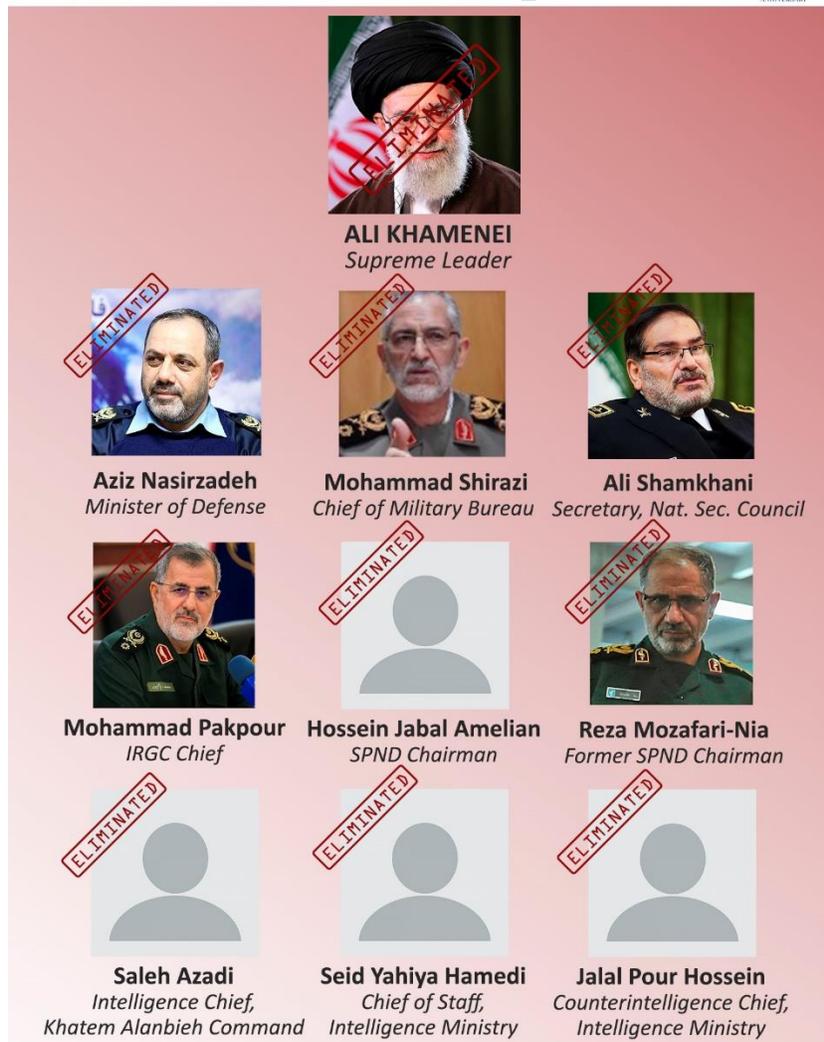
- U.S. and Israeli strikes continued for a second day, with over 900 strikes during the first 12 hours alone, while Iran sustained its retaliatory missile campaign against U.S. bases, Israel, and Gulf countries, launching roughly 420 missiles across nine countries and ships at sea. Iran launched 39 percent for a total of 162 missiles at Israel, 40 percent at the United Arab Emirates for a total of 167 missiles, and 11 percent at Qatar for a total of 46 missiles. Iran also expanded targeting to maritime traffic, launching attacks against commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.
- After initial denials, Iran state media [confirmed](#) on March 1 that Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a February 28 airstrike.
- On March 1, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “Iran just stated that they are going to hit very hard today, harder than they have ever hit before. THEY BETTER NOT DO THAT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IF THEY DO, WE WILL HIT THEM WITH A FORCE THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE!”
 - » Trump later [told](#) *CNBC* that the operations were moving “ahead of schedule” and [added](#) that the U.S. operation is for the sake of the entire world, not just American national security.

2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Day 2 of Operations: March 1

- Israeli military officials claimed the [strikes](#) hit [hundreds of targets](#) and were a “joint, broad, and powerful operation” with the United States, and that the countries “aimed at a thorough strike against the Iranian terror regime and at eliminating existential threats to the State of Israel over time.” The operation was reportedly the [largest](#) in the history of the Israeli Air Force, with 200 fighter aircraft using hundreds of munitions to hit roughly 500 targets.
- The IDF revealed on March 1 that it [conducted](#) over 700 sorties since the war began, launching thousands of munitions and achieving air superiority in the area of Tehran.
- Following the first day of operations, the IDF [reported](#) that Israeli Air Force fighter jets had dropped more than 1,200 munitions on targets in Iran.

Key Iranian Regime Officials Eliminated on February 28



- Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said on March 1 that Israel has now attained air superiority above Iran, enabling it to [strike](#) sites in Tehran with stand-in munitions, meaning munitions dropped from almost directly above their targets.
- On March 1, President Trump [announced](#) in a Truth Social post that the U.S. military has sunk nine Iranian warships, as well as destroyed Iran’s “naval headquarters.”
 - » He added mockingly, “other than that, their Navy is doing very well.”
- The ongoing joint operation has also struck several sites across Iran, including:
 - » Regime infrastructure and internal security targets:
 - [Tehran Revolutionary Court](#).
 - [IRGC’s Tharallah Headquarters](#).
 - [IRGC’s Vali Asr Barracks](#).
 - [Internal security force’s headquarters](#).
 - » Airpower and air supremacy targets:
 - [Mashad Airport](#).

- Two Iranian [F-4 and F-5 fighter jets](#) waiting to take off from Tabriz Airport.
- [Iranian aerial defense systems](#).
- » Ballistic missile infrastructure:
 - [Missile launchers](#) and related command posts.
 - A facility in the Qom area used to store “H-1” [Ghadr missiles](#).
- » Naval targets:
 - A Jamaran-class [Iranian corvette](#), reportedly sinking at a pier in Chah Bahar in the Gulf of Oman.
- » Additional unspecified strike locations:
 - Sites in Bandar Abbas, Bushehr, Chabahar, Ilam, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Kharg, Parchin, Qom, Shiraz, Tabriz, and Tehran, according to Israel’s [N12](#) outlet.
- U.S. Central Command [announced](#) that its forces had successfully intercepted hundreds of Iranian missile and drone attacks.

Day 1 of Operations: February 28

- A senior U.S. official [confirmed](#) that the United States, during the first 12 hours of Operation Epic Fury, carried out 900 strikes against Iranian targets. The Israeli military also confirmed that 200 of its jets hit nearly 500 targets in Iran on the first day of the operation.
 - » Among the confirmed U.S. assets used were [one-way attack drones](#), [Tomahawk cruise missiles](#), [F/A-18 Super Hornet and F-35 fighter jets](#) and, according to media reports, at least four [B-2 Spirit stealth bombers](#).
- Joint U.S.-Israeli strikes [killed](#) at least 40 Iranian military and political leaders, including:
 - » Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
 - Both President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed his death, with Trump [writing](#) in a social media post that “Khamenei, one of the most evil people in History, is dead.”
 - Iranian state media also [announced](#) Khamenei’s death, stating the former Supreme Leader was killed at his compound in Tehran. In response to the assassination, Iran’s cabinet [declared](#) 40 days of national mourning.
 - After news of Khamenei’s death broke, Iranians across the country and abroad [celebrated](#), while mourners also [filled](#) Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Square and Enghelab Square.
 - According to the [New York Times](#), shortly before launching the joint strikes on Iran, the United States and Israel adjusted the timing of operations after U.S. intelligence determined Khamenei would attend a meeting of senior officials at a leadership compound in central Tehran.
 - » Minister of Defense [Aziz Nasirzadeh](#)
 - » Iran’s Armed Forces Chief of Staff [Abdolrahim Mousavi](#)
 - According to Israeli military sources [cited](#) by Israel’s *Walla News*, Mousavi’s death leaves Iran’s air defense system without its top manager and the Iranian military’s premier air defense expert. Defense sources cited by *Walla News* also claim that his killing has left both Iran’s conventional Armed Forces (Artesh) and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in a [state of disarray](#).
 - » Chief of Military Bureau [Mohammad Shirazi](#)

- » Secretary of the National Security Council [Ali Shamkhani](#)
- » Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Chief [Mohammad Pakpour](#)
 - In response to his death, Iran [appointed](#) Ahmad Vahidi as the new Commander of the IRGC.
- » Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research Chairman [Hossein Jabal Amelian](#)
- » Former SPND Chairman [Reza Mozafari-Nia](#)
- » Khatem Alanbieh Command Intelligence Chief [Saleh Azadi](#)
- » Intelligence Ministry Chief of Staff [Seid Yahiya Hamedi](#)
- » Intelligence Ministry Counterintelligence Chief [Jalal Pour Hossein](#)
- » Head of Counterterrorism [Ali Khorandish](#)
- » Former Iranian President [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#)

U.S. Rationale and Policy Objectives

- The U.S. objectives in Operation Epic Fury, according to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Michael Waltz, [include](#) dismantling the regime’s missile capabilities; interfering with its ability to arm its proxies; degrading its naval assets; and ensuring that the regime cannot obtain nuclear weapons capability.
 - » Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon [stated](#) that Israel, for its part, acted to stop “an existential threat before it became irreversible,” stressing that Israel did not act on impulse or out of aggression.
- Iran had [refused](#) to comply with international nuclear obligations, with a senior U.S. official claiming that while the United States offered the regime “free nuclear fuel forever... it was very clear that the intent for them was to preserve their ability to do enrichment, so that over time, they could use it for a nuclear bomb.”
- Contributing to the urgency of launching Operation Epic Fury were recent American [intelligence estimates](#) that if the United States “sat back and waited to get hit first, the amount of casualties and damage would be substantially higher than if we acted in a preemptive, defensive way to prevent those launches from occurring,” according to an unnamed senior U.S. official quoted by *The Times of Israel*.
 - » The official added that Iran’s short-range ballistic missile arsenal presented “an intolerable risk” to U.S. personnel at locations across the Middle East.
- Over the past few months, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman [called](#) Trump several times, urging the United States to attack Iran, according to the *Washington Post*. Relatedly, Netanyahu and Trump began plans for the operation in December, per [Axios](#).
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a [video on X](#) in Persian, telling Iranians, “Now is the time to unite your forces to overthrow the regime and secure your future.”

3. Iranian Operations

- Iran’s military retaliated against the joint operation, launching missile and drone attacks targeting:
 - » The American [aircraft carrier](#) USS *Abraham Lincoln*, but failed to [hit the ship](#);
 - No U.S. Navy ships have been struck, and the fleet remains [fully operational](#); and damage to U.S. installations is minimal and has not impacted operations.
 - » Cities across Israel, including:

- Tel Aviv, where a missile hit a [residential area](#);
- Beit Shemesh, near Jerusalem, where a ballistic missile struck a [residential area](#), with a [direct hit](#) on a public shelter, and near [Highway 38](#);
- Jerusalem, where an Iranian warhead [struck](#) less than a kilometer from Temple Mount;
- Eilat, where drone infiltration alerts [sounded](#) after the Israeli military reported around a dozen hostile aircraft flying towards the country;
- Additional sites across northern and southern Israel, where, according to the IDF, three drones were [intercepted](#). In total, over 50 Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles targeting Israel have been [intercepted](#) since the war's outbreak.
- » The United Arab Emirates;
 - The Emirati government [announced](#) that it has detected at least 165 ballistic missiles in its airspace. Its forces have destroyed 152 and intercepted two cruise missiles. Additionally, 541 Iranian drones were detected over Emirati skies, 506 of which its forces intercepted.
 - In particular, Iran has targeted the Emirati city of Dubai.
 - One Iranian strike targeted the [Dubai Airport](#), injuring four employees, while another attacked the Dubai Fairmont Palm hotel.
 - Drone debris caused a fire at the [Burj Al Arab hotel](#) on the Palm Jumeirah man-made island.
 - Debris from an interception caused a fire at the [Jebel-Ali port](#), which hosts American warships.
 - Abu Dhabi:
 - Debris from an intercepted drone [damaged](#) a complex in Abu Dhabi that served as the location for multiple international missions, including the Israeli embassy.
 - A drone struck the [Zayed International Airport](#), killing one person and injuring seven others.
- » Kuwait;
 - A drone [struck](#) a passenger terminal at Kuwait International Airport, causing minor damage and injuring several workers.
 - A second drone was [downed and crashed](#) in Bnaider on the coast without causing injuries.
- » Bahrain, where 300 British personnel were within [200 meters](#) of an Iranian missile and drone strike on the U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain base;
 - No casualties were reported in the strike, according to [The Guardian](#).
- » Oman's [Duqm commercial port](#), injuring one;
 - Two Iranian drones [struck](#) the port, with debris from one of the drones falling near fuel tanks.
- » Saudi Arabia, where Iranian missiles [en route](#) to Riyadh's international airport and the Prince Sultan Airbase, which hosts U.S. troops, were intercepted.
- » Commercial vessels in or near the Persian Gulf, including:

- The [Palau-flagged Skylight oil tanker](#) near the coast of Oman, injuring four. The tanker’s 20-person crew was successfully [evacuated](#).
- A [vessel](#) 17 nautical miles northwest of Mina Saqr in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates. The [impact](#) from an unknown projectile caused a fire that was later extinguished, allowing the vessel to continue its voyage.
- In addition, the IRGC has reportedly sent vessels [radio transmissions](#) stating that “no ship is allowed to pass the Strait of Hormuz,” according to the European Union’s naval mission Aspides.
- The Marshall Islands-flagged [MKD VYOM crude oil tanker](#) was struck by an unknown munition off the coast of Oman.
- » Iranian missiles were “fired in the direction of [Cyprus](#),” according to UK defense secretary John Healey, who stated the missiles were not likely targeting Cyprus.
- IRGC units reportedly [clashed](#) with the Iranian Kurdish opposition group, the Kurdistan National Army (SMK)—the armed wing of the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK)—in Kermanshah.
 - » The IRGC also [launched three missiles](#) toward an SMK base near Ebril, Iraq, which were reportedly intercepted.

4. Casualties of Iranian Operations

- U.S. Central Command [stated](#) as of 9:30 AM E.T. on March 1 that three U.S. servicemembers were killed in action with five seriously wounded.
- At least [12 Israelis have been killed](#) thus far in the war.
 - » An Iranian strike [killed](#) at least 9 individuals in the city of Beit Shemesh.
 - » Multiple Iranian strikes on Tel Aviv [killed](#) one person and injured at least 27 other individuals.
- So far, the attacks in total have [killed](#) three individuals and injured 58 in the UAE.
- Iranian strikes on Kuwait [killed](#) one person and hurt 32 others.
- Three people were [wounded](#) in Iranian strikes on Bahrain.

5. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

- Following the announcement of Khamenei’s assassination, the IRGC [threatened](#) that “the hand of revenge of the Iranian nation for a severe, decisive and regrettable punishment for the murderers of the Imam of the Ummah will not let go of them.”
- Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, [posted on X](#), “The brave soldiers and the great nation of Iran will deliver an unforgettable lesson to the hellish international oppressors.”
- Iran’s UN Envoy Amir Saeid Iravani [stated](#), “The number of innocent civilians continues to rise. This is not only an act of aggression; it is a war crime and a crime against humanity.”

6. International Response

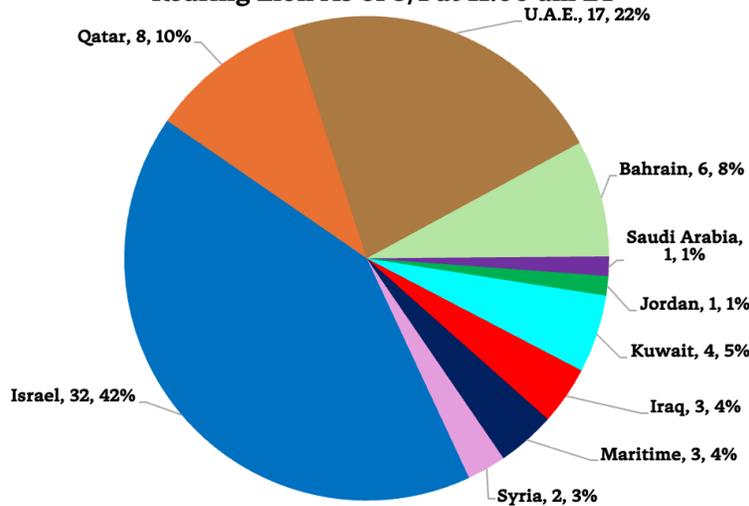
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [condemned](#) both U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran as well as Iran’s attacks on Gulf States, stating that the latter is “unacceptable, regardless of the circumstances.”
- Russian President Vladimir Putin [referred](#) to Khamenei’s assassination as a “cynical violation of all norms of human morality and international law.”

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi [said](#) that the U.S.-Israeli strikes were “unacceptable” and condemned the “blatant killing of a sovereign leader and the incitement of regime change.”
- The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs [issued a statement](#) in which it “condemned and denounced in the strongest terms the blatant Iranian missile attacks that targeted the UAE and several brotherly nations in the region.”
- In support of the Iranian regime, Lebanese Hezbollah [declared](#) that its fighters would “undertake [its] duty of confronting the aggression” posed by the United States and Israel.
- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney [announced](#) that “Canada supports the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent its regime from further threatening international peace and security.”
- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese [said](#) in a statement that “We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.”
- In response to the joint U.S.-Israeli strikes, 9 people were [killed](#) after hundreds of pro-Islamic Republic protesters tried to storm the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.
- After reports emerged of Khamenei’s assassination, hundreds of protesters in Iraq [tried](#) to storm Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone, which includes the U.S. embassy.
- Exiled Iranian Crown Prince and son of the former Shah, Reza Pahlavi, [celebrated](#) the death of Khamenei, writing on X that “the Islamic Republic has in effect reached its end and will very soon be consigned to the dustbin of history.”
- EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas [posted on X](#) that “The death of Ali Khamenei is a defining moment in Iran’s history,” adding that “there is now an open path to a different Iran, one that its people may have greater freedom to shape.” Ursula von der Leyen, President of the EU Commission, [wrote on X](#), “With Khamenei gone, there is renewed hope for the people of Iran.”
- The E3—France, Germany, and Great Britain—[remarked](#), in a joint statement, that they “condemn Iranian attacks on countries in the region in the strongest terms” and called for negotiations to resume.

7. Charts and Trends

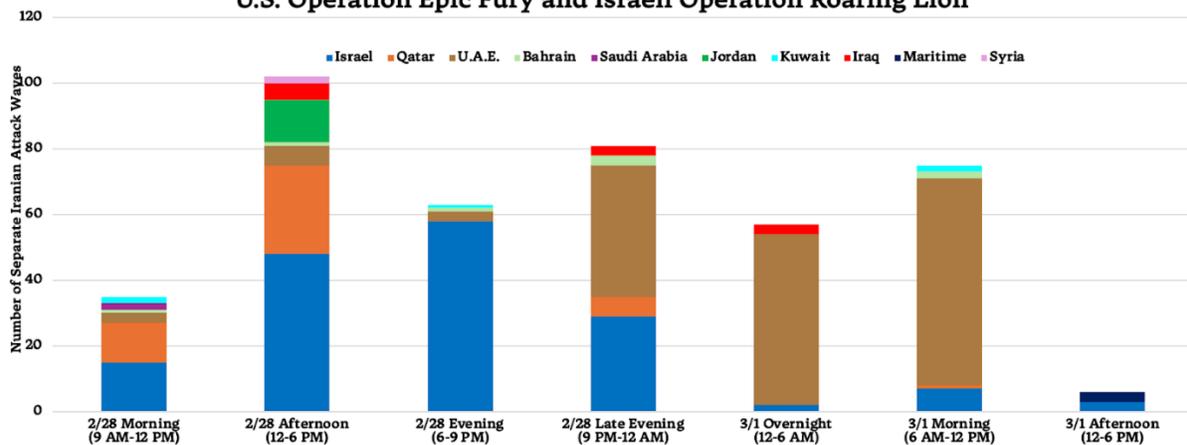
- After peaking during the afternoon of February 28, Iran’s attack pattern shifted from sustained Israel barrages to a concentrated overnight UAE assault, with overall intensity declining sharply by March 1 morning, according to JINSA’s initial assessment.
 - » Israel faced sustained waves throughout, with 11 waves in the afternoon and nine in the evening, showing persistent targeting.
 - » The UAE saw a surge overnight into March 1, with six separate attack waves during the overnight period, more than any other country during that phase.
 - » The number of Iranian missile attacks declined sharply by March 1 in the afternoon, with only three waves total, likely indicating either degradation of its launchers, stockpile, and command-and-control.

Targets of Iranian Missile Attacks During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion As of 3/1 at 11:00 am ET



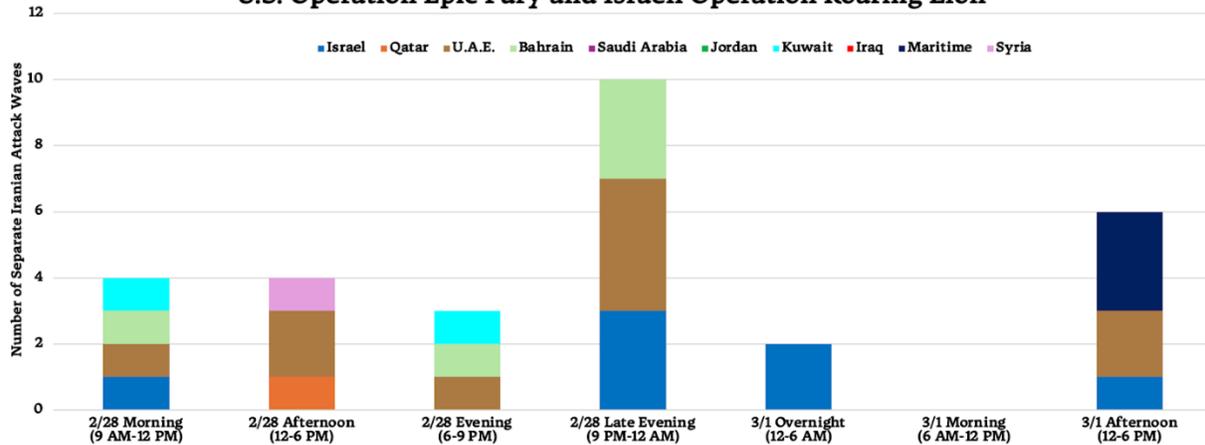
- » Iran launched roughly 420 missiles across nine countries and the maritime domain since the start of the war, with 39 percent of Iranian missile fire targeting Israel and 40 percent against the UAE.
 - Iran launched at least 162 missiles at Israel and 167 missiles targeting the UAE.
 - Since the evening of February 28, the number of Iranian missiles targeting Israel dropped sharply from 58 missiles to 29 in the late evening to just 12 so far on March 1, while fire against the UAE intensified from 40 missiles in late evening, followed by 63 on March 1.

Iranian Missiles Fired During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



- » However, Iran also demonstrated that any projectile attack could have devastating effects. Iranian drones in particular have struck targets in the Gulf and, occasionally, in Israel. The late evening on February 28 was the most destructive period with 10 confirmed missile and drone hits across 3 countries, resulting in multiple fatalities, including the deaths of at least three U.S. service members.

Number of Missile and Drone Hits on Populated or Critical Areas During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



8. JINSA Resources

- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [U.S.-Israel Joint Operations Against Iran's Regime](#), February 28, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Israel: America's Third Aircraft Carrier in the Middle East](#), February 25, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Iran's Evolving Missile and Drone Threat](#), February 20, 2026
- Lt Gen Thomas Bergeson, USAF (ret.), LTG Karen Gibson, USA (ret.), and Lt Gen Sam Mundy, USMC (ret.), "[Any Action Against Iran Needs to Account for the Proxies](#)," *Breaking Defense*, February 19, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, "[Iran Has Teeth. Can America Extract Them?](#)", *JNS*, February 12, 2026
- IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, VADM Robert Harward, USN (ret.), Lt Gen Charles Moore, USAF (ret.), and Blaise Misztal, "[Webinar: How Should the United States Respond to Iranian Protests?](#)", January 15, 2026
- Gen Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), and LTG Robert Ashley, USA (ret.), [Operation Rising Lion: Insights from Israel's 12-Day War Against Iran](#), November 20, 2025
- Ari Cicurel, [Shielded by Fire: Middle East Air Defense During the June 2025 Israel-Iran War](#), August 21, 2025