



## Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/2/26 Update

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With the United States and Israel launching a joint campaign—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 2 at 11:00 am ET.

### 1. Overview

- The U.S.-Israel joint campaign against Iran continued to expand on its third day, with President Donald Trump [indicating](#) it may continue for several more weeks, at least.
- In total, approximately 2,000 Iranian targets [have been struck](#) in the campaign.
  - » American forces have [struck](#) well over 1,000 targets across Iran.
    - U.S. Central Command [confirmed](#) Kuwaiti air defenses mistakenly shot down three U.S. fighter jets; all six aircrew members safely ejected.
  - » Israel has flown over 700 sorties and [dropped](#) over 2,500 munitions, destroying at least 600 Iranian regime targets.
- Iran has conducted more persistent fire than during any of its previous wars with Israel. In addition to the thousands of drones that Iran has launched at Israel and Gulf nations, the over 680 short- and medium-range ballistic missiles that Iran has fired since the war began have already exceeded the 574 medium-range ballistic missiles that it launched during the 12-Day War.
  - » Iranian attacks have shifted from focusing on Israel to increasingly targeting Gulf states and regional infrastructure, signaling a shift from immediate battlefield shock toward sustained regional disruption.
  - » A large attack wave against Bahrain on March 2 demonstrated Iran's ability to continue conducting large strikes on nearby Gulf nations.
- What remains of the Iranian senior leadership cadre, according to a March 1 article from the *Wall Street Journal*, reportedly [reached out](#) via Omani mediators to the United States in an attempt to resume talks. However, Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani, the Iranian security chief, [denied the claim](#). What remains of the Iranian senior leadership cadre, according to a March 1 article from the *Wall Street Journal*, reportedly [reached out](#) via Omani mediators to the United States in an attempt to resume talks. However, Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani, the Iranian security chief, [denied the claim](#). What remains of the Iranian senior leadership cadre, according to a March 1 article from the *Wall Street Journal*, reportedly [reached out](#) via Omani mediators to the

United States in an attempt to resume talks. However, Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani, the Iranian security chief, [denied the claim](#).

- » Secretary of War Pete Hegseth [declared](#) the next morning, at a March 2 press conference, that the U.S. military would continue to execute “a clear, devastating, decisive mission” until a time of “President Trump’s choosing—nobody else’s.”

## 2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

### **Day 3 of Operations: March 2**

#### *Iran*

- President Trump stated in a March 2 interview with *CNN* that, based on the intelligence estimates and briefings he has received, the U.S. and Israeli joint campaign is “going very well.” However, he [revealed](#) that the campaign will soon be intensifying dramatically, stating the “big wave hasn’t even happened. The big one is coming soon.”
  - » President Trump also [stated](#) that the United States “probably” does not need to send ground troops to Iran, indicating he has not ruled out the decision to deploy them.”
- Previously, on March 1, President Trump [announced](#) that Iran’s “entire military command is gone,” while “thousands” of Iranian officials are seeking to surrender.
  - » That day, he also [stated](#) that “he will be talking” to Iran’s leaders. However, a senior U.S. official [later clarified](#) that he was referring to “new potential leadership” that has “indicated they want to talk.”
- Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine [said](#) on March 2 that hundreds of Iranian missiles have been intercepted across the region since the war began. He added that additional U.S. forces would be deployed to the theater in the coming hours.
- U.S. Central Command separately [confirmed](#) that U.S. forces struck over 1,000 targets across Iran in the campaign’s first 72 hours, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force facilities, logistics depots, and air defense systems.
- U.S. Central Command also confirmed that Kuwaiti air defenses accidentally [shot](#) down three U.S. F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets that were engaging Iranian aircraft and hostile projectiles. The jets’ six aircrew members safely ejected from their respective aircraft.
- According to U.S. Central Command, a vast array of military assets are currently operating in or around Iran, [including](#):
  - » B-2 Spirit stealth bombers; F-16, F-18, F-22, and F-35 fighter jets; A-10 attack aircraft; EA-18G electronic warfare planes; MQ-9 drones; P-8 maritime patrol aircraft; RC-135 reconnaissance planes; and airborne early warning platforms.
  - » B-1 heavy bombers, which [flew](#) nonstop from the United States to Iran, also struck “above-ground ballistic missile and command and control sites,” according to a senior U.S. official.
- Since the start of Operation Roaring Lion, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have [dropped](#) over 2,500 bombs on Iranian regime targets, destroying approximately 600 Iranian regime targets, including 200 air defense systems, 150 [surface-to-surface ballistic missiles](#) and launchers, 20 Iranian security-leadership owned sites, and Iranian military personnel in the process of operating air defense systems against Israeli aircraft.
  - » The IDF has [mobilized](#) around 110,000 reservists.
- Israel’s [combat operations](#) on March 2, according to military sources who spoke with Israel’s *Walla News*, primarily targeted missile launchers and regime leadership targets, with a specific focus on sites in central and western Iran.

- » Reportedly, Israel's strikes aim to [neutralize](#) all aspects of the Iranian missile supply chain.
- » Many of the Israeli strikes, according to [media reports](#), are being conducted by un-manned aerial vehicles.
- The IDF, in the past 24 hours, confirmed that it had [eliminated](#) several additional senior Iranian intelligence officials in its initial strikes on February 28, including:
  - » Deputy Intelligence Minister for Israel Affairs Seyed Yahya Hamidi;
  - » The Intelligence Ministry's Espionage Department head, Jalal Pour Hossein.
- In total, since the war began, at least 48 members of the Iranian regime's senior leadership have [been eliminated](#).
- In the campaign thus far, the following targets have been struck throughout Iran:
  - » Several [regime targets](#) in Tehran that had suppressed anti-government protests and dissent, including the country's Tharallah Headquarters, responsible for overseeing numerous activities of the Basij internal-suppression militia;
    - The *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) strikes had also targeted the Iranian police command's special units headquarters. The police command, also known as the Faraja, suppresses protests and contains civil unrest.
  - » An IRGC base in [Marivan](#) in Iran's Kurdistan province, destroying the facility;
    - As a result of airstrikes at the Central Prison of Marivan, all detainees were [reportedly](#) released.
  - » An aircraft manufacturing company in [Shahin Shahr](#);
  - » An Iranian Army naval air facility in [Bandar Abbas](#);
  - » An IRGC's naval facility in [Bushehr](#);
  - » A possible military ammunition depot in [Ahvaz](#);
  - » Security and military sites in Sanandaj and Mahabad were also struck, with reports of at least [10 missile strikes](#) in Sanandaj targeting facilities, [including](#):
    - IRGC Imam Ali base (Shahramfar Command Center)
    - Shahramfar Basij base
    - IRGC training center
    - Ministry of Intelligence office
    - Police Shalman Command
  - » Additional targets [struck](#) in the past 24 hours include regime headquarters, internal repression nodes, anti-aircraft systems, missile sites, and Iranian state media broadcasting facilities.

### *Lebanon*

- Overnight, in response to [Hezbollah's rocket and drone attack](#) on Israel, the IDF [struck](#) at least 30 terrorist sites throughout Lebanon, [targeting](#) its headquarters, infrastructure, commanders, and senior fighters.
  - » The IDF [launched](#) airstrikes targeting and killing Mohammad Raad, the head of Hezbollah's bloc in the Lebanese parliament, in Hezbollah-stronghold Dahiyeh, a southern Beirut suburb.
- The IDF [launched](#) an airstrike eliminating Hezbollah's intelligence chief in Beirut.

- » The IDF [issued](#) evacuation orders for Hezbollah-linked buildings and branches of the Al-Qard al-Hasan association across Lebanon, announcing its troops would be striking the targets soon.
  - Hezbollah utilizes the Al-Qard al-Hasan association as a quasi-bank to help [fund](#) its terrorist activities.
- » The IDF [struck](#) two members of Hezbollah’s Radwan Force in southern Lebanon’s Kfar Dajjal area.
- IDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir [announced](#) that Israel had launched an “offensive campaign” against the Iran-backed, Lebanon-based terror group, emphasizing that the country will “need strong defensive readiness” and that troops must prepare for “several days of fighting.”
  - » The IDF [announced](#) that it would “not allow the organization to pose a threat to the State of Israel and harm the residents of the north.”
- The IDF’s Northern Command Chief, Maj Gen Rafi Milo, [announced](#) that Israel has “significantly” built up its military presence along the country’s northern border with Lebanon, vowing that Israeli strikes on Hezbollah will intensify.
  - » He also [stated](#) that Israel will not evacuate its northern towns, allowing residents to stay in their homes.

### **Day 2 of Operations: March 1**

- President Trump [told](#) the *New York Times* that the joint U.S.-Israeli military operations in Iran will last around “four to five weeks.”
- U.S. Central Command [announced](#) that its forces had successfully struck over 1,000 Iranian targets in the past two days, including the IRGC and IRGC Aerospace Forces headquarters and the regime’s command and control centers.
- IDF Spokesman Brig Gen Effie Defrin, a former JINSA visiting fellow, [confirmed](#) that 100 Israeli Air Force fighter jets struck and destroyed dozens of IRGC headquarters in Tehran, including those belonging to its intelligence, air force, and internal security units.

## **3. Iranian Operations**

- Since the war began, Iran has targeted Israel with hundreds of missiles and drone attacks, most of which have been intercepted.
  - » Israeli officials have [revealed](#) that Iran is altering its missile launch patterns, firing larger missile barrages than the first two days of the war, though with longer gaps of time between launches. These more complex launches are an attempt to overwhelm Israeli air defenses.
    - Israel’s *Ynet* outlet [reported](#), citing Israeli military estimates, that Iran is working to coordinate between regional commands in order to stage launches of at least 20-30 missiles per salvo, but has not yet succeeded.
  - » The Iranian regime appears, as part of this effort, to be deploying missiles with cluster munition warheads to challenge Israeli defenses.
    - Among Iran’s overnight attacks, according to [Israeli authorities](#), was one in which Iran [fired at least one missile](#) with a cluster munition warhead.
      - These warheads are unique in that they are capable of releasing many munitions as they approach the target.
    - In the June 2025 Israel-Iran war, Iran used some missiles capable of dispersing up to 20 munitions from a single warhead.

- » Iran has experienced only limited success in this effort so far. However, shrapnel from intercepted missiles has, in some cases, landed in civilian centers.
  - On March 1, shrapnel from an Iranian missile [landed](#) in the West Bank city of Nablus, causing property damage.
- Iran has also launched attacks on Cyprus, various Gulf countries, Middle East nations, and commercial vessels in international waters. These include Iranian drone or missile strikes targeting:
  - » Bahrain
    - The Bahrain Defense Force [announced](#) that its air defenses had intercepted 61 missiles and 34 drones launched by Iran.
    - While anchored in the Port of Bahrain, on March 2, the U.S.-flagged tanker *Stena Imperative* was [struck](#) by two missiles and sustained extensive damage. No casualties have been reported.
  - » Cyprus
    - Overnight, an enemy drone [struck](#) the United Kingdom’s Akrotiri Air Force base in Cyprus, causing limited property damage and no casualties.
    - A Cypriot government spokesperson also [announced](#) that its forces had intercepted two unmanned aerial vehicles launched at the Akrotiri base.
      - According to Israel’s *Maariv* outlet, each of the drones involved in the [attack](#) was an Iranian-made Shahed attack drone.
  - » Iraq
    - Late afternoon local time on March 2, Iranian proxies in Iraq [claimed](#) to have launched 23 attack drones at an unspecified U.S. base in Iraq over the full course of the day.
    - Large explosions were [reported](#) near Iraq’s Erbil Airport, which serves as a base for several U.S.-led coalition troops. An Agence France-Presse photographer [claimed](#) that air defense systems had intercepted several drones approaching the Erbil airport.
    - Saraya Awliya al-Dam, a pro-Iran Iraqi Shiite militia, [stated](#) that its forces had targeted U.S. troops in a drone attack on the Baghdad International Airport. However, neither the United States nor Iraq commented on the claimed attack.
  - » Kuwait
    - Smoke [rose](#) from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City, and Kuwait’s Ministry of Interior announcing that its forces had intercepted an unspecified number of Iranian drones. While the embassy has not confirmed it has been hit, it warned personnel, “there is a continuing threat of missile and UAV attacks over Kuwait. Do not come to the embassy.”
  - » Saudi Arabia
    - An Iranian drone strike [ignited](#) a small fire at Saudi Aramco’s Ras Tanura refining facility—the largest refining facility in the world. The fire was isolated and is now under control; the facility remains [shut down](#).
  - » Qatar
    - State-affiliated *Al Jazeera* [reported](#) on March 2 that Qatar had shot down two Iranian Su-24 fighter aircraft, as well as seven ballistic missiles and five drones. Further details were unavailable.

- Iranian drones [struck](#) critical liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure in Qatar, prompting the country to indefinitely halt LNG production and [spiking](#) European energy prices.
- The two sites [targeted](#) in the attack were Ras Laffan, a natural gas processing site, and Mesaieed, another natural gas facility.
- Qatar is responsible for [producing around 20 percent](#) of global LNG supply and is the world's [third-largest](#) exporter of natural gas.
- In addition, Iranian missiles [targeted](#) Qatar's international airport, though these projectiles were intercepted.
- » Oman
  - A Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker was [struck](#) by a remote-controlled drone boat off the coast of Oman, causing a fire and engine room explosion that resulted in the death of a crew member—the first reported fatality in commercial shipping linked to the current conflict.
- » Strait of Hormuz
  - Three ships were [struck](#) by unknown projectiles, although all crews were reported to be in safe condition.
- In addition, Iran's terror proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah, has begun targeting Israel as part of the war, marking an expansion of the war to Lebanon.
  - » Hezbollah [launched](#) a salvo of several rockets and drones overnight targeting population centers in northern Israel.
    - One rocket was intercepted by Israeli defenses, while several others fell in uninhabited areas. No casualties were reported.
    - Multiple drones were [intercepted](#), including at least one by Israel's newly-fielded laser defense system, Or Eitan, or Iron Beam.
- Iran-backed entities launched a series of missile and drone attacks against the Iranian Kurdish opposition group, the Kurdistan National Army (SMK), the armed wing of the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK):
  - » On March 2, Iran launched separate drone strikes targeting SMK bases in [Altun Kupri](#) and [Ashkawt Saqa](#) in Iraq.
  - » On March 1, Iran launched a [drone](#) against an SMK base in Erbil that resulted in an unspecified number of casualties following the launch of a series of ballistic missiles that were [reportedly](#) intercepted by air defenses.

#### 4. Casualties of Iranian Operations

- The U.S. military [announced](#) on March 2 that a fourth American soldier has been killed in the war, following the deaths of three U.S. servicemembers the day prior.
- Since the [war's outbreak](#), many other casualties have also been reported.
  - » As of current estimates, 11 Israelis have been [killed](#) and dozens injured;
  - » At least three persons [were](#) killed in the United Arab Emirates;
  - » At least 550 people have been [killed](#) inside Iran, though it is believed that many were Iranian regime officials.
- The [injury toll](#) from an Iranian strike on a residential area in Beer Sheva rose to 19, with most lightly hurt.

## 5. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

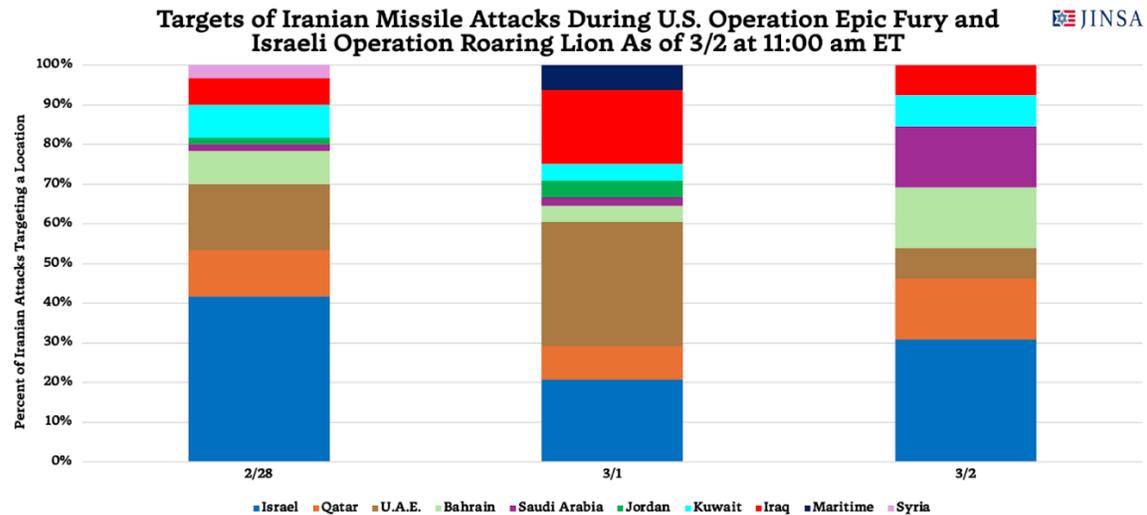
- Hezbollah [pledged](#) to confront the United States and Israel following their attacks on Iran, with terror group chief Naim Qassem stating, “We will undertake our duty of confronting the aggression.”

## 6. International Response

- March 2, Greece [announced](#) the deployment of two frigates and F-16 fighter jets to Cyprus following a drone attack on the island nation. Russian President Vladimir Putin [referred](#) to Khamenei’s assassination as a “cynical violation of all norms of human morality and international law.”
- British Prime Minister Keir Starmer [said](#) he agreed to allow the United States to use UK bases to launch “defensive” strikes targeting Iranian missiles and their launchers.
- Following [reports](#) that France would deploy its aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* and its naval strike group to the eastern Mediterranean, the French Foreign Ministry publicly [denied](#) the claims.
- German Foreign Minister Johan Wadepuhl [said](#) that Germany has “no intention of participating” beyond “defensive measures” in the U.S.-Israeli campaign against Iran, stating that Berlin lacks the corresponding military resources.
- Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E [issued](#) a joint statement with the United States strongly condemning Iran’s missile and drone attacks on sovereign territories across the region as “indiscriminate and reckless.”
  - » Moreover, the U.A.E [closed](#) its embassy in Iran and recalled all its diplomatic corps following Iranian missile attacks against Emirati soil.
- Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam [described](#) Hezbollah’s overnight missile launches at Israel as “illegal acts” and called on Lebanon’s military to prevent further attacks originating from Lebanese territory outside of legitimate state institutions.
- According to Agence France-Presse, a source close to the Saudi government [said](#) the kingdom may respond militarily—including potential strikes on Iranian oil facilities—if Aramco is targeted, after a drone hit a Saudi refinery earlier in the day, causing a fire and forcing some operations to shut down.
- After the *Washington Post* [reported](#) that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman had urged President Trump to strike Iran, Fahad Nazer, the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington, DC’s spokesperson, declared that Saudi Arabia supported “diplomatic efforts” for pursuing an Iran nuclear deal and that “at no point” did Riyadh persuade the Trump administration to “adopt a different policy.”
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [expressed](#) his condolences for Khamenei following his assassination, while declaring his steadfast support for regional peace.
- China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi [told](#) his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in a call that Beijing supports Iran in defending its sovereignty and legitimate interests against U.S.-Israeli strikes, while urging Washington and Jerusalem to immediately cease military operations and prevent further regional escalation.
- Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, [said](#) the agency has “no indication” that any nuclear installations in Iran were damaged or hit in the recent U.S.-Israeli strikes.

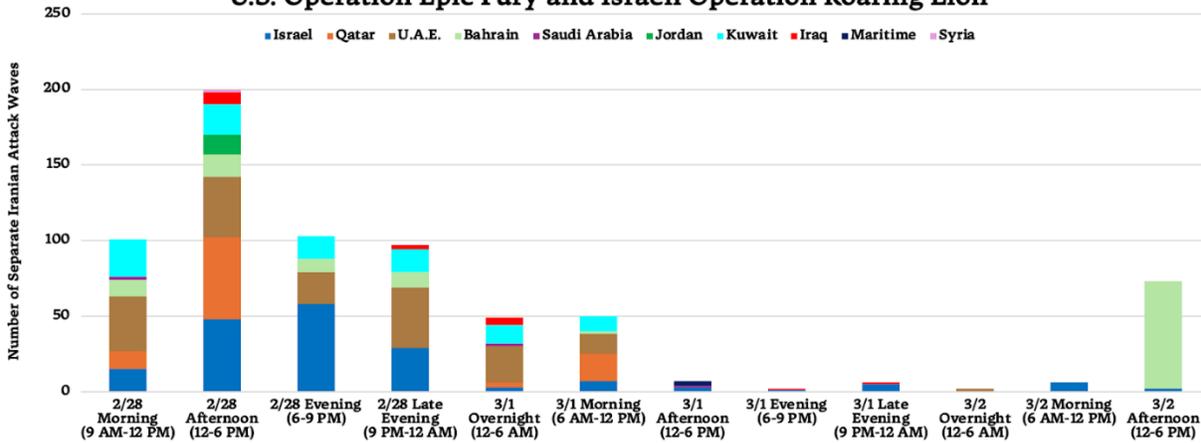
## 7. Charts and Trends

- Beginning in the afternoon of March 1, Iran shifted its targeting more toward the Gulf, with the percentage of Iranian attacks targeting Israel falling from roughly 42 percent on February 28 to about 27 percent on March 2. Over the same period, the percent of Iranian fire targeting the U.A.E. rose from 17 percent to 31 percent on March 1 before falling to 7 percent on March 2 as overall attack volume collapsed.
  - » Since the start of the war, Iran has directed 32 percent of its attacks at Israel and 21 percent at the U.A.E.



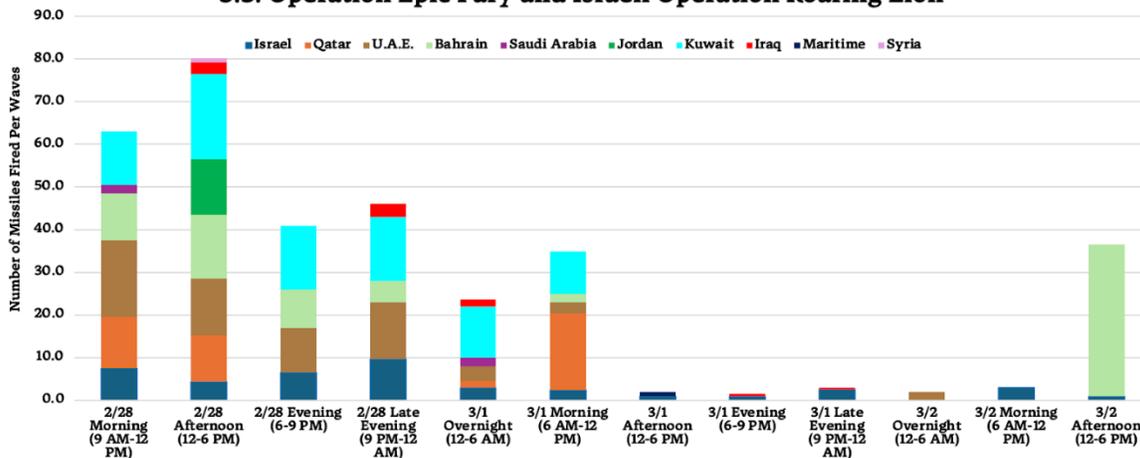
- Since the afternoon of March 1, Iranian offensive fire generally declined but did not collapse, as Iran followed up a lower-volume pattern with at least one large missile salvo against Bahrain on March 2.
- Between the afternoon of March 1 and the morning of March 2, Iranian offensive fire decreased substantially, likely due to persistent U.S. and Israeli operations to hunt its launchers and disruption of its command-and-control. Iran conducted a large attack wave against Bahrain with 70 missiles and 59 drones, likely signaling growing fears within the regime that it will lose its missiles due to U.S. or Israeli operations regardless of whether it exposes them during launches.
  - » Between the morning and afternoon on March 1, the number of missiles that Iran fired fell 85 percent, from 47 to seven missiles, and remained at roughly six missiles or fewer in every subsequent phase of the day since then, other than its large attack against Bahrain.

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



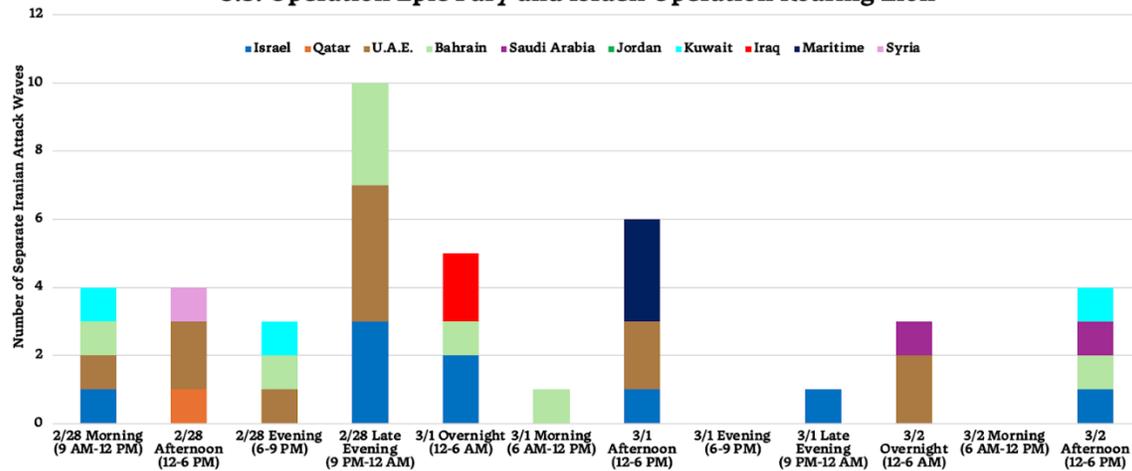
- Iran’s decreased number of attacks between the afternoon of March 1 to the morning of March 2 also coincided with it decreasing the number of missiles it fired per attack wave by roughly 60 to 85 percent, dropping from about 6 to 8 missiles per attack on February 28 to about 1 to 3 missiles per attack by later in the day on March 1.

## Number of Iranian Missile Launches Per Attack During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



- Since the afternoon of March 1, Iranian projectiles have hit fewer targets in Israel than at the beginning of the war but hit the U.A.E far more often over the same period. Most of the hits appear to have been from drone attacks, with Gulf nations intercepting many of the missiles Iran has fired.

## 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

- Gen. Frank McKenzie, USMC (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Oded Bassiuk, and John Hannah, "[Webinar: Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion](#)," March 1, 2026
- 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