



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/3/26 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 3 at 11:00 am ET.

1. Overview

- Since March 2, Iran's missile campaign has continued to decrease and slow down. Its rate of fire has dropped 95 percent since the start of the conflict. So, too, has the number of successful attacks, with hits on populated areas, bases, and infrastructure falling 71 percent from 21 on February 28 to 6 on March 3. However, Iran's hit rate as a percentage of missiles fired has increased from 4 percent on February 28 to 24 percent on March 3, likely reflecting a shift toward drone attacks, which Gulf state defenses have struggled to intercept.
 - » Iran has launched over 1,200 drones and at least 770 ballistic missiles since the war began.
 - » Iranian attacks have shifted from focusing on Israel to increasingly targeting Gulf states and regional energy infrastructure.
 - » Drones appear to be responsible for most of Iran's successful strikes in the Gulf.
 - » Iran has shifted where it targets in the Gulf, alternating between focusing on Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, as it seeks to find seams in U.S. and Arab air defenses.
 - » Iran is likely to continue, if not escalate, this pressure tactic in an attempt to get Gulf countries to coerce U.S. leaders to end the war.
 - The U.S. State Department [urged](#) Americans to depart immediately from 14 Middle Eastern countries.
- President Donald Trump [wrote](#) in a Truth Social post that the U.S. munitions stockpile has “never been higher or better” and that the United States has enough weapons to keep fighting “forever.”
 - » He [added](#) that the world will “find out very soon” how the United States plans to respond to Iran's attack on the U.S. embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Israel estimates that approximately 1,000-1,500 members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran's security forces have been [killed](#) since the war began.

2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Day 4 of Operations: March 3

Iran

- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) that its forces had destroyed numerous IRGC command facilities, missile and drone launch sites, air defenses, and military airfields across Iran.
- U.S. and Israeli forces launched a joint attack on Iran's Assembly of Experts' office in Qom as it [convened](#) to vote on the country's next Supreme Leader after also targeting the board's Tehran compound overnight.
- Overnight, approximately 100 Israeli Air Force fighter jets [dropped](#) at least 250 bombs on Iran's Supreme National Security Council, the presidential bureau, other frequented meeting locations of senior officials, and an army training facility.
 - » The Israeli military [launched](#) several other airstrikes on Tehran, targeting the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting building, which the IRGC utilized for military operations, as well as [Daoud Alizadeh](#), the commander of the IRGC's Quds Force Lebanon Corps.
 - » According to *CBS News*, several airstrikes [targeted locations](#) in western Iran along the Iran-Iraq border.
 - » Iranian media reported that Tehran's [Mehrabad Airport](#) was targeted in an airstrike, and explosions were reported in [Tabriz](#), [Shiraz](#), and [Bushehr](#). Additional strikes were reported at a [helicopter factory](#) in Karaj, a [coastal radar site](#) close to Kish Airport, [Imam Ali barracks](#) in Tehran, the Defense Ministry's [Iran Electronics Industries](#) building in Isfahan, an [IRGC base](#) in Urmia, an [industrial zone](#) in Bandar Abbas, and [Parchin](#), which hosts a secure military facility allegedly linked to nuclear weapons and explosives testing.
 - Israel [issued](#) evacuation warnings around 3:50PM local time in Iran on March 3, urging Iranians to leave the Tehran industrial area and Karaj's Payam Airport, declaring that its forces would soon strike these locations.
- Overall, U.S.-Israeli military cooperation has been effectively seamless, according to Israeli Air Force Commander General Tomer Bar.
 - » General Bar hailed the unprecedented military cooperation between the United States and Israel, [stating](#) that "There are no secrets between the countries" and "Everything is transparent. We share every piece of information – every detail. There is no suspicion."

Lebanon

- Overnight, Israeli forces targeted and [struck](#) several Hezbollah sites throughout Lebanon, including the terror organization's command centers, weapons caches, and satellite communications devices that allowed the group to spread propaganda and gather intelligence.
 - » Over the last day, the IDF [struck](#) over 160 Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.
- In the Hezbollah-controlled Dahiyeh suburb of Beirut, Israel also [launched](#) airstrikes targeting the group's Al-Nour radio station and TV news station, *Al-Manar*.
- Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops [deployed](#) in southern Lebanon, beyond the five posts already held by Israel, "as part of an enhanced forward defense posture."
 - » Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [stated](#) that the IDF will "advance and hold additional dominant terrain in Lebanon" in order "to prevent the possibility of direct fire at Israeli communities."

Day 3 of Operations: March 2

- CENTCOM [confirmed](#) that the United States had struck more than 1,250 Iranian regime targets during Operation Epic Fury's first 48 hours, including ballistic missile sites, naval assets such as submarines, and command-and-control hubs.
 - » The U.S. military [confirmed](#) that its forces had sunk 11 ships belonging to the Iranian Navy in the Gulf of Oman since the start of Operation Epic Fury.
- The Israeli military [launched](#) a wave of airstrikes on Tehran, targeting 10 headquarters of the Intelligence Ministry, an IRGC Quds Force command center, a weapons production site, ballistic missile launchers, and internal security bases linked to dissent suppression.
- Satellite imagery from March 1 and 2 [depicted](#) new damage to the Natanz nuclear facility buildings in Isfahan.
 - » U.S. and Israeli forces previously targeted the Natanz nuclear facility during the 12-Day War in June 2025.
- Strikes targeted additional locations in Iran, including a [Basij base](#) in western Tehran, [Tabriz Airport](#), a [police command center](#) in Sanandaj, a [military base and missile site](#) in the Bidganeh mountains of Tehran, and an [IRGC intelligence building](#) in Kermanshah.

Lebanon

- The IDF [announced](#) that it had struck approximately 70 Hezbollah weapons caches and rocket launch sites throughout Lebanon.
- Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) claimed that the commander of its al-Quds Brigades in the Lebanese arena, Adham al-Othman, was [killed](#) overnight in an Israeli airstrike on Beirut's southern Dahiye suburb.
 - » The Israeli Navy also [killed](#) a senior leader of the IRGC's Quds Force and Quds Force Lebanon Corps Chief of Staff, Reza Khazaei, in a strike on Beirut.
- The IDF [shot down](#) two Hezbollah drones that had crossed into Israel after sirens blared throughout several northern towns.

Additional Information on Preceding Strikes

- According to the *New York Times*, the United States and Israel [delayed](#) their initial strikes on Iran by a day after the Central Intelligence Agency acquired intelligence on the whereabouts of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several other Iranian Supreme Leaders for the morning of February 28, allowing for the successful decapitation strike that killed Khamenei and his top advisors.
- The U.S. military [announced](#) that its forces struck Iran's IRIS *Shahid Bagheri* naval drone carrier during its initial attacks on February 28.
- According to the *Financial Times*, Israel's Mossad spy agency [hacked](#) Iranian traffic cameras over a year ago to track the former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's bodyguards, leading to his assassination on February 28.
 - » During the strike that killed Khamenei, the United States and Israel deliberately [interrupted](#) cellular service near his location to ensure his bodyguards could not receive advanced warnings of the incoming attack.

U.S. Rationale and Policy Objectives

- President Donald Trump [wrote](#) in a Truth Social post that while the Iranian regime has now indicated that it is ready to hold negotiations, he has emphasized that they are "too late" after refusing to comply with U.S. nuclear demands.

- U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance [stated](#) that the war’s objective is to ensure that “Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon” and “commit[s] long-term to never trying to rebuild their nuclear capability.”
- The United States [assessed](#) that an Iranian attack was imminent after collecting intelligence that Iran would target American infrastructure if Israel struck first, according to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.
 - » Rubio stated that the United States acted “proactively” to deter Iran from “inflicting more damage.”
- Following Secretary Rubio’s comments, President Trump [denied](#) being pulled into war by Israel, saying he may have “forced Israel’s hand” rather than the reverse, arguing Iran was preparing to strike first and asserting that U.S.-Israeli operations have significantly degraded Iran’s military capabilities, including its missile arsenal.
- On March 3, U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff [announced](#) that the Iranian negotiating team revealed during negotiations that the regime owned 460 kilograms of 60 percent enriched uranium—enough material for 11 nuclear weapons.
 - » Iranian Foreign Minister reportedly [yelled](#) at U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff during their meeting in Geneva two days before the start of Operation Epic Fury, claiming an “inalienable right” to enrich uranium, with Witkoff responding, “If you prefer, I can leave.”
- On March 3, President Trump [spoke](#) by phone with Iraqi Kurdish leaders Masoud Barzani and Bafel Talabani to discuss the potential involvement of Kurdish forces along the Iran-Iraq border, with one diplomatic source telling *Axios* that the Kurds will “come out of the woodwork ... they’re going to rise up.”
- During an [interview](#) with *Fox News* on March 4, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the notion that the United States and Israel are conducting an “endless war because... this terror regime in Iran is at its weakest point” and “this is going to be a quick and decisive action.”

3. Iranian Operations

- Senior Iranian military officer Ahmad Vahidi, wanted for the bombings of the AMIA Jewish community center and Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires in the early 1990s, was [appointed](#) IRGC chief, replacing Mohammad Papkour, who was recently killed in the joint U.S.-Israeli operation.
- Iran launched a salvo of ballistic missiles targeting central Israel with at least one missile [equipped](#) with submunitions from a cluster bomb warhead. Magen David Adom announced that at least 12 people have [sustained](#) injuries from the attack.
 - » Israeli security officials reportedly [believe](#) that the pace of Iranian ballistic attacks will slow down in the coming days.
- Iran has continued to launch attacks on Cyprus, various Gulf countries, Middle East nations, and commercial vessels in international waters. These include Iranian drone or missile strikes targeting:
 - » Saudi Arabia
 - Overnight, two Iranian drones [struck](#) the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, damaging parts of the building and igniting a small fire. Following the attack, additional explosions were [heard](#) in Riyadh.
 - Saudi forces also [intercepted](#) eight drones near Riyadh and Al-Kharj after the initial attack.
 - » The UAE

- The Emirati Defense Ministry [reported](#) that its air defenses intercepted nine ballistic missiles, six cruise missiles, and 148 drones on March 2.
 - Since Saturday, Iran has fired 174 ballistic missiles at the UAE, 161 of which were intercepted while 13 fell into the Persian Gulf.
 - Only 44 of the 689 Iranian drones have made it through, and while eight cruise missiles were destroyed, damage was caused.
- » Cyprus
 - Senior Cypriot officials [say](#) that an Iranian Shahed drone carried out an attack on a British airbase in Cyprus.
 - The drone was most likely fired by Hezbollah in Lebanon.
 - The officials stressed that the drone was intended to hit the British base and not the Cypriot mainland.
- » Iraq
 - Iraqi forces [dismantled](#) a rocket launcher in Iraq’s Abu Ghraib area readying to fire nine rockets at Baghdad Airport.
 - Iran claimed that its forces [launched](#) approximately 30 drones against anti-Islamic Republic groups in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- » Oman
 - Oman [intercepted](#) two suspected Iranian drones in its Dhofar Governorate, while a third drone crashed near the country’s southern Salalah port.
- » Strait of Hormuz
 - After Iranian attacks on at least four commercial vessels in the opening days of the war, *Bloomberg News* reported on March 2 that the Strait is *de facto* [closed](#), with over 40 oil tankers idling within the Persian Gulf.
- Five rockets were [launched](#) from Lebanon at Israel, with no reported injuries.
- Iran-backed entities launched a series of missile and drone attacks against the Iranian Kurdish opposition groups, including the Kurdistan National Army (SMK), the armed wing of the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK), and the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI).
 - » On March 3, three drones [struck](#) a camp housing PDKI members outside Erbil, Iraq, resulting in one injury.
 - » On March 3, a separate drone strike [struck](#) a camp housing SMK fighters at an unspecified base in Iraqi Kurdistan.

4. Casualties of Iranian Operations

- CENTCOM [announced](#) that two additional American soldiers have been killed after an Iranian drone attack on Kuwait, totaling six fallen U.S. service members since the operations’ commencement.
- 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;
 - » Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#) have been killed;

- » Hundreds of people have been [killed](#) inside Iran, though it is believed that many were Iranian regime officials. Over 1,000 IRGC and internal security force officials have reportedly been [killed](#).

5. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

- Ebrahim Jabari, a senior adviser to the IRGC commander-in-chief, [said](#) that the Strait of Hormuz is closed and that Iran would fire upon any ship attempting to pass through it.
- Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei [warned](#) European countries that taking part in the U.S.-Israeli campaign against the Islamic Republic "would be an act of war."
- The IRGC released a message via [Telegram](#) warning that no leniency would be shown toward Kurdish groups—or any hosts of these groups—accused of actions against Iran's national security.

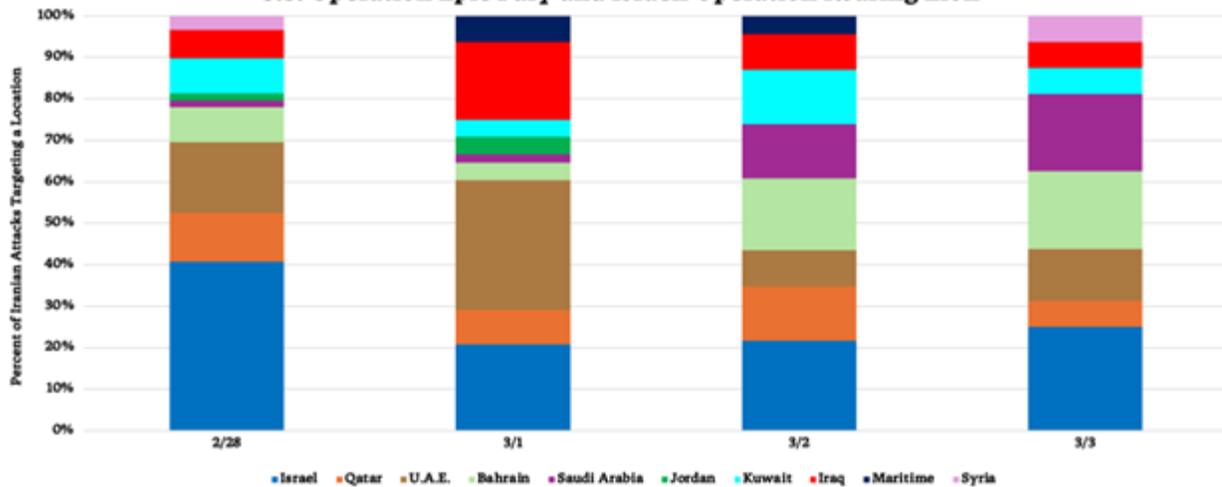
6. International Response

- The United Kingdom will [deploy](#) a warship to defend the RAF Akrotiri sovereign base in Cyprus after it was targeted by Iranian drones on March 2.
- Qatar [reportedly](#) carried out strikes inside Iran over the past day in response to Tehran's retaliatory attacks across the Gulf, though Qatar's government [denied](#) this.
 - » Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari [said](#) there is currently no communication between Qatar and Iran and that efforts to force a return to U.S.-Iran negotiations by pressuring Gulf countries will fail.
- The United Arab Emirates and Qatar are reportedly [urging](#) allies to press President Trump to quickly conclude the military campaign against Iran amid fears of energy disruptions, while simultaneously seeking additional missile defense support.
- French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot [said](#) France is "ready" to defend Gulf countries and Jordan against Iran if necessary. France also [announced](#) plans to send multiple air defense systems to Cyprus, and its Rafale fighter jets overflew Emirati territory over the weekend after Iranian attacks on the U.A.E.
- Germany is considering [fulfilling](#) a request from Cyprus to send a frigate to the island nation, potentially to aid in the country's air defense efforts.
- China has reportedly [urged](#) Iran not to disrupt shipping through the Strait of Hormuz or target oil and LNG infrastructure, particularly in Qatar, amid concerns over global energy supplies.
- Russia's state nuclear company, Rosatom, has also reportedly [paused](#) operations at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant after evacuating 100 Russian staff members from the facility on February 28. Six hundred more staff members are soon to leave Iran as well, according to Rosatom's head.

7. Charts and Trends

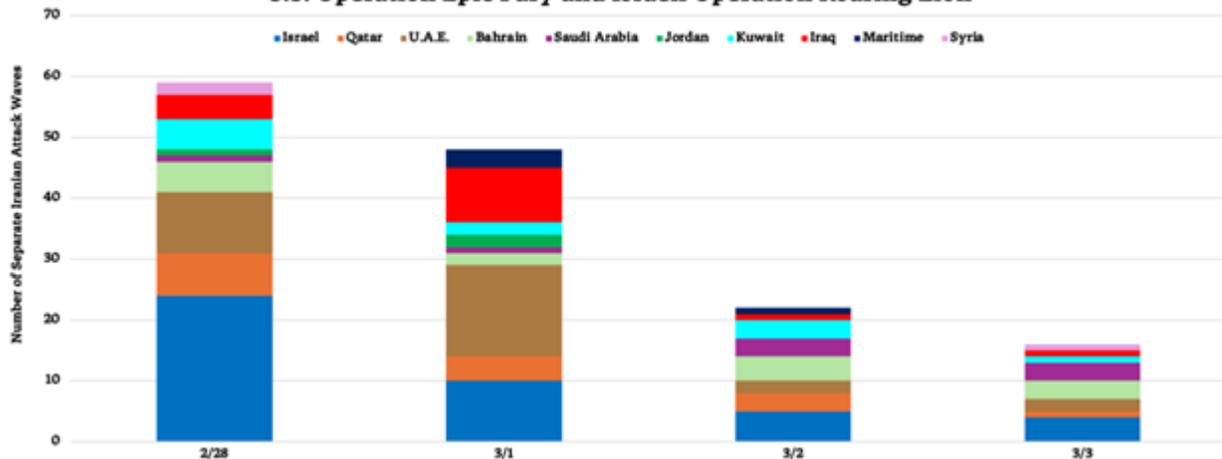
- Since the afternoon of March 2, Iran continued shifting its targeting away from Israel toward Gulf states, with the percentage of Iranian attacks targeting Israel falling from roughly 41 percent on February 28 to 20 percent on March 2 and rising slightly to 25 percent on March 3. The percentage of attacks targeting the U.A.E. continued its decline from a peak of 31 percent on March 1 to eight percent on March 2 and 13 percent on March 3, as Iran dispersed fire across a wider range of Gulf targets, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.
 - » Since the start of the war, Iran has directed 29 percent of its attacks at Israel and 20 percent at the U.A.E.

Targets of Iranian Missile Attacks During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



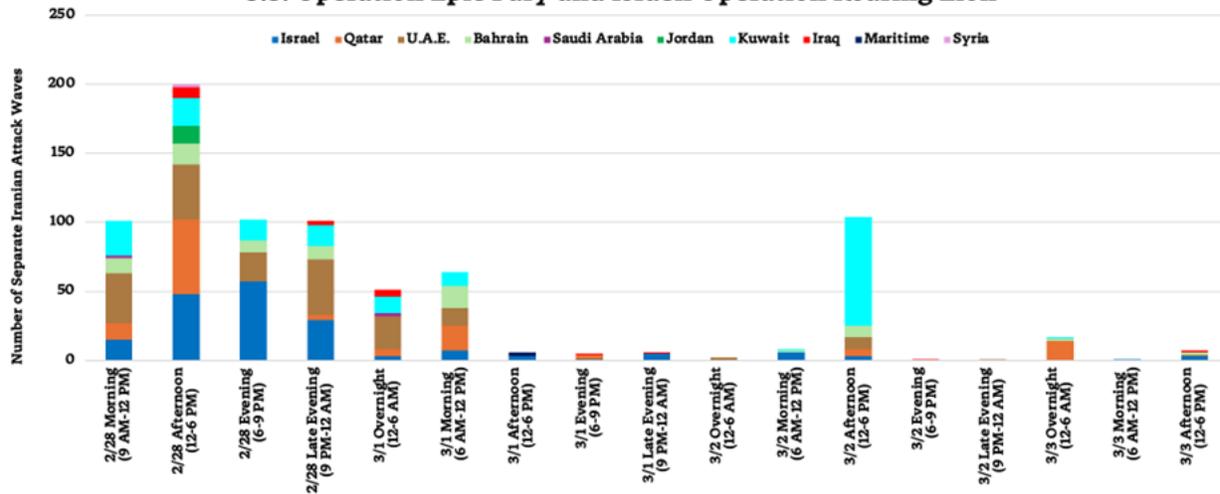
- Since the afternoon of March 2, Iran's total missile fired continued to collapse, falling from 504 missiles on February 28 to 132 on March 1, 116 on March 2, and just 25 on March 3. This represents a 95 percent decline in daily missile fire from the opening day of the conflict, likely due to the sustained U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian launchers and command-and-control infrastructure.

Number of Iranian Missile Attacks During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



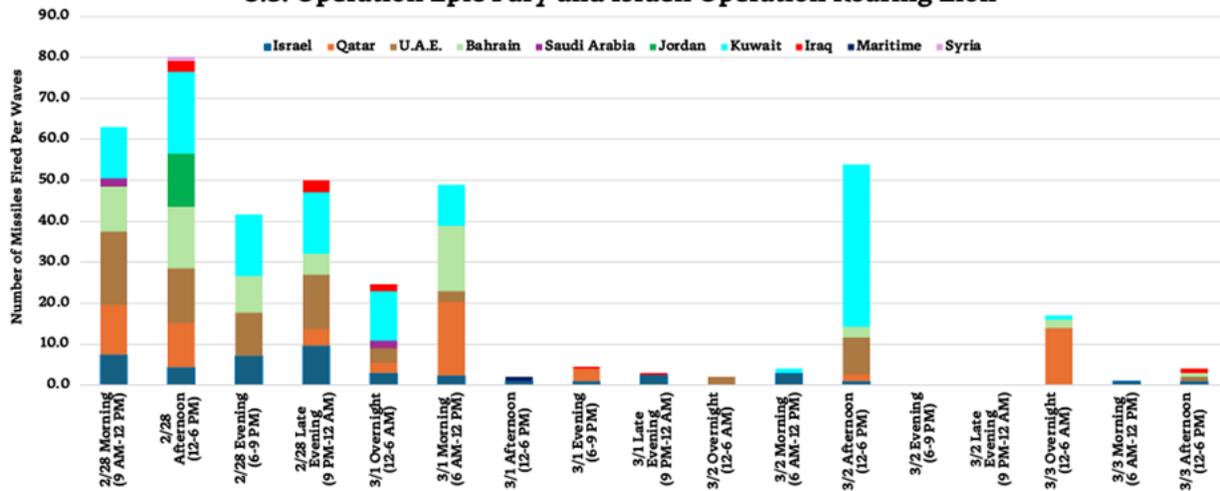
- While Iran's overall fire has remained much lower over the past two days, it has temporarily escalated its attacks in short bursts, particularly against U.S. forces in Gulf states like Kuwait and Qatar, likely reflecting Iran's effort to find where it can inflict U.S. casualties and damage infrastructure by thwarting air defenses with its remaining missiles and launchers before U.S. and Israeli strikes destroy them.
 - » Iran's increased fire against Kuwait likely sought to exploit the confusion after Kuwaiti forces accidentally [shot down](#) three U.S. aircraft.

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



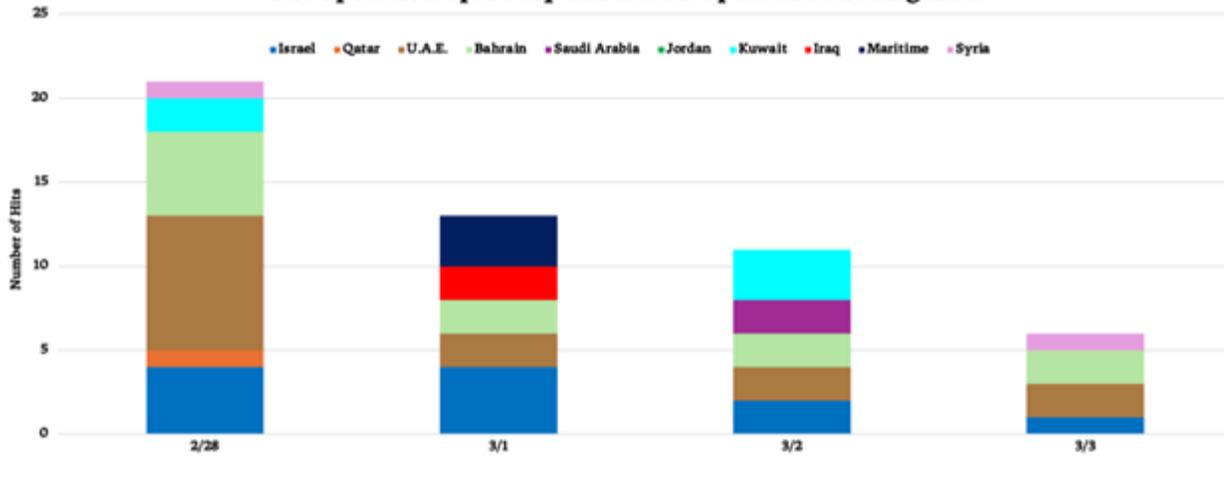
- So far, on March 3, Iran has fired fewer missiles per attack, averaging roughly one to two missiles per attack compared to roughly five on March 2 and nine on February 28. Excluding a large series of attacks against Kuwait on the afternoon of March 2, Iran has typically fired between one and three missiles per attack since the afternoon of March 1.

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



- The number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets has continued to decline throughout the war. Since March 2, Iranian projectiles have struck a few targets in Israel, although shrapnel has caused damage. Iranian strikes have hit oil infrastructure in the U.A.E. and a port in Oman. Most of the hits continue to 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
- Blaise Misztal, Giran Ozcan, and Jonah Brody, [The Rise of Iran’s Kurdish Coalition](#), February 27, 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