



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/6/26 Update

Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Rena Gabber
Research Associate

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 6 at 11:00 am ET.

1. Overview

- Iranian ballistic missile fire continues to drop compared to the opening days of the war, and it has shifted toward launching intermittent attacks with roughly one to three missiles.
 - » On March 5, Iran's rate of ballistic missile fire dropped to just 43 missiles, a 90 percent decline from the 428 missiles fired on February 28.
 - » Iran has likely fired roughly 900 ballistic missiles and over 2,000 drones.
 - » Iran has placed a greater emphasis in recent days on attacks targeting Kurdish areas of Iraq, with 25 percent of all attacks on March 5, suggesting the regime seeks to deter reported U.S. plans to arm Kurdish groups.
- Potentially helping to turn the tide against the regime, many Iranian officials, including a large number within the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), are now reportedly [refusing to obey orders](#) from regime leadership.
- President Donald Trump [posted](#) to Truth Social that “there will be no deal with Iran except UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!”
 - » President Trump also wrote that “after that, and the selection of a GREAT & ACCEPTABLE Leader(s), we, and many of our wonderful and very brave allies and partners, will work tirelessly to bring Iran back from the brink of destruction, making it economically bigger, better, and stronger than ever before.”
- Russia is [reportedly providing](#) Iran with intelligence about the specific whereabouts of U.S. fighter aircraft and warships, among other American military assets.
 - » This intelligence, according to [media reports](#), may have augmented Iran's ability to strike American targets thus far in the war, as it did in a March 1 drone attack on a U.S. position in Kuwait that killed six American servicemembers.
- Congressional efforts to [restrict](#) President Trump's authority to wage war on Iran were dealt a major blow on March 5. That day, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 219-212 to reject a resolution that would have curtailed the president's powers to wage war on Iran, following the Senate voting down a similar measure the previous day.

2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- The U.S. and Israeli militaries will [prioritize](#) striking Iran's subterranean ballistic missile sites during the second phase of Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, which they are now shifting to.
 - » Already, substantial progress has been made towards achieving the objective of neutralizing Iran's ballistic missile capabilities.
 - » 60 percent of Iran's capability to launch missiles at Israel has been [destroyed](#), according to the Israeli military.
- Meanwhile, U.S. and Israeli operations also seem to be setting the conditions for a ground campaign by Iraqi and Iranian Kurdish forces.
 - » President Trump [told](#) Reuters that if Kurdish opposition forces were to launch a ground offensive against the Iranian regime, he would "be all for it" and that the Kurds' objective should be "to win."
 - » Israel has [begun](#) aerial bombardment targeting Iranian military and law enforcement sites in northwestern Iran to enable Kurdish forces to establish positions in that part of Iran, adjacent to Kurdish-held areas in neighboring Iraq.
 - » The United States [sent](#) additional air defenses to Erbil, Iraq to protect its forces and Kurdish partner forces.
- In addition, President Trump [urged](#) Iranian diplomats abroad to request asylum and for members of Iran's security forces to lay down their arms in exchange for immunity.
- American and Qatari officials are working to [acquire](#) Ukraine's interceptor drones as a means of countering Iranian Shahed drone attacks on sites across the region.
- Since the beginning of the war, Israel has [dropped](#) over 6,000 munitions across Iran.
 - » Within the first 24 hours of the operation, Israel [dismantled](#) approximately 80 percent of Iran's air defenses, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir announced on March 5.
- Israel's military [stated](#) that it carried out an additional wave of strikes in western and central Iran that hit some 200 targets.
- Israel plans to [gradually re-open](#) its airspace for departing flights starting on March 9.

Day 7 of Operations: March 6

Iran

- Overnight, approximately 50 Israeli fighter jets [dropped](#) 100 bombs on former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's underground bunker in Tehran, a common meeting site for senior Iranian military leaders.
- The IDF [targeted](#) the Office of the Supreme Leader's Acting Chief of Staff, Asghar Hijazi, in an airstrike in Tehran.
- Strikes reportedly continued to target regime sites throughout Iran, including:
 - » The [Intelligence headquarters and IRGC base](#) in Pol-e Dokhtar;
 - » The [4th Tactical Fighter Base](#) in Andimeshk;
 - » [IRGC positions](#) in Parand;
 - » An [IRGC base](#) in Durisan;
 - » [Miyān Doab city police station](#);
 - » [Headquarters](#) of government institutions in Khomein County; and

- » [Regime positions](#) in Malard.
- Explosions were also reported in [Karaj](#), [Saggez](#), [Ashtian](#), [Robot Karim](#), [Bandar Abbas](#), [Isfahan](#), [Qom](#), [Ilam](#), [Shiraz](#), [Kermanshah](#), [Pol-e Dokhtar](#), [Shahr-e Rey](#), [Abadan](#), [Paveh](#), [Takab](#), and [Parand](#).

Lebanon

- Israeli forces have [struck](#) more than 500 Hezbollah targets across Lebanon since the terrorist group joined the conflict on March 2. Since Hezbollah joined Iran's attacks on Israel, more than 70 of the terrorist groups' operatives have been [killed](#) in Lebanon.
 - » In the past 24 hours, the IDF [targeted](#) Essam Khashan, a Hamas "fundraising apparatus," in a strike on southern Lebanon

Day 6 of Operations: March 5

Iran

- Strikes reportedly targeted several regime sites throughout Iran, including:
 - » The [General Command Headquarters](#) in Qods City;
 - » A [Basij base](#) in Fardis;
 - » A [Basij base](#) in Harsin County;
 - » A [Basij base](#) in Sanker and Kolyai County
 - » [Barracks](#) in Goldasht;
 - » [IRGC complexes](#) in Kashan;
 - » [Law Enforcement Command](#) in Karaj;
 - » [Government buildings](#) in Tehran;
 - » Regime targets in [Khomeini City](#); and
 - » A [missile launcher hidden inside a fodder warehouse](#) in Tehran.
- Explosions were also reported in [Damavand](#), and the IDF [issued](#) an evacuation warning for the Abbas Abad Industrial Zone and the Shenzar Industrial Zone, near Sharif Abad in eastern Pakdasht.

Lebanon

- The IDF [struck](#) a Hezbollah rocket launcher that had fired 20 projectiles at the Israeli city of Acre earlier in the day.
- The IDF [announced](#) that a March 4 Israeli strike on a site in Beirut killed Zaid Ali Jumaa, Hezbollah's top commander of firepower management and the head of its artillery forces division in southern Lebanon.

U.S. and Israeli Rationale and Policy Objectives

United States

- President Trump [posted](#) to Truth Social that "there will be no deal with Iran except UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!"
 - » President Trump also wrote that "after that, and the selection of a GREAT & ACCEPTABLE Leader(s), we, and many of our wonderful and very brave allies and partners, will work tirelessly to bring Iran back from the brink of destruction, making it economically bigger, better, and stronger than ever before."

Israel

- On March 5, Israeli Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir [announced](#), "We are now moving to the next phase of the campaign, in which we will increase the damage to the foundations of the regime and its military capabilities."
- According to an [Israeli military spokesman](#), the Iranian regime was on track to possess 8,000 ballistic missiles by 2027 if Israel and America did not act.
- Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz has now revealed that Prime Minister Netanyahu [set the goal](#) of eliminating former Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei in November 2025.

3. Iranian Operations

- In a significant development in the war, according to intelligence sources who spoke with [Western](#) and [Israeli](#) media outlets, Iranian soldiers; IRGC officials; and Iranian police forces are increasingly disobeying high-level orders and not showing up for work.
 - » Fearing U.S. and Israeli attacks, many Iranian military officers have "[abandoned](#)" their quarters and have left "conscripts behind in the barracks without support," according to *Iran International*.
- Since the war began, Iran has [fired](#) around 200 missiles targeting Israel and approximately 300 missiles at sites across the Middle East.
 - » In addition, its terror proxy Hezbollah has [launched](#) over 150 rockets from Lebanon towards Israel in the war thus far, as well as a small number of drones.
 - On March 6, eight Israeli soldiers were [wounded](#)—at least five seriously—after a Hezbollah rocket struck an Israeli army position in northern Israel.
- Iranian and proxy attacks continued to target the Israeli homeland over the past 24 hours, including by launching:
 - » A [Hezbollah rocket attack](#) on northern Israel;
 - » A ballistic missile attack carrying a [cluster bomb warhead](#), which was intercepted over central Israel;
 - » Other missile barrages targeting [central](#) and [southern](#) Israel.
 - Shrapnel from the barrage targeting central Israel [landed](#) in 5 sites across the area, lightly injuring 11 people; the barrage [targeting](#) southern Israel was intercepted and no injuries were reported.
- Though its missile launches are going down, Iran has [sought to compensate](#) by firing an increasing number of missiles with cluster munition warheads. Some of these missiles can disperse as many as 80 munitions from a single warhead.
- Iran has focused its attacks on targets that are not as well-defended and closer in proximity to it, including surrounding nations' civilian infrastructure and commercial vessels in regional waters. These include sites in:
 - » Bahrain;
 - An Iranian missile [struck](#) the state-run Bapco Energies refinery.
 - An unspecified Iranian projectile [hit](#) a hotel and two residential buildings in the capital Manama, causing material damage but no fatalities.
 - » Kuwait;
 - Due to ongoing Iranian attacks against several U.S. targets in Kuwait, the U.S. Embassy [suspended](#) its operations in Kuwait City on March 5.

- » Iraq;
 - A Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) base was [targeted](#) by seven missiles and several drones.
 - A Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) base was [targeted](#) by missiles and drones, injuring four individuals.
 - A drone [targeted](#) Basra International Airport.
 - In addition, two drones were [launched](#) at the U.S. base near Erbil.
- » Jordan;
 - According to satellite imagery, a U.S. military facility in Jordan was [struck](#) by an unknown projectile.
- » Qatar;
 - A drone targeting U.S. forces at Al Udeid Air Base was [intercepted](#).
- » Saudi Arabia;
 - The Saudi Defense Ministry [announced](#) that its forces had intercepted three ballistic missiles barreling towards Prince Sultan Air Base after also [intercepting](#) three Iranian drones east of Riyadh.
- » United Arab Emirates;
 - Iran launched a missile targeting the Emirati city of [Abu Dhabi](#).
 - Iranian missile fire [prompted](#) an Air France repatriation flight from the U.A.E. to divert back to its airport of origin.
 - Radar bases housing a key U.S. missile interceptor were [hit](#) in the U.A.E.
- » Commercial vessels operating in nearby waters;
 - Nine commercial ships have been [targeted](#) by Iran in the war thus far, prompting leading commercial shipping firms Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd to indefinitely [cancel](#) all shipping routes through the Middle East.
- Iran’s Interim Leadership Council, consisting of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chief Justice Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje’i and Ayatollah Alireza Arafai, now [holds](#) the authority to make official military decisions and declare war.
- Two drones were [launched](#) towards an oil field in the city of Duhok, Iraq, causing material damage and forcing the facility to halt production.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [stated](#) that some countries have begun mediation efforts to end the war.
- Russia is [providing](#) Iran with intelligence to attack U.S. targets, according to the *Washington Post*. The *Post* article, citing three officials, claims that Russia has provided the Iranian regime with the specific locations of U.S. aircraft and warships as well as potentially other military assets.
 - » Reportedly, this intelligence may have directly abetted Iran’s strikes on U.S. forces, including the March 1 attack in which six American soldiers were killed.

4. Casualties of Iranian Operations

- An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) six U.S. servicemembers at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait on March 1, including:
 - » Maj. Jeffrey O’Brien, 45;

- » Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, 54;
- » Capt. Cody Khork, 35;
- » Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, 39;
- » Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, 42;
- » Sgt. Declan Coady (posthumously promoted from specialist), 20.
- 18 other U.S. servicemembers have been seriously [wounded](#).
- At least 10 IDF servicemembers have been injured in clashes with Hezbollah.
 - » Eight soldiers were [wounded](#)—at least five seriously—when a Hezbollah rocket struck an Israeli army position in northern Israel on March 6.
 - » Two soldiers were also [wounded](#)—one seriously and another moderately—during fighting with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon on March 5.
- Since the war’s [outbreak](#), numerous other casualties have also been reported.
 - » As of current estimates, 13 Israelis have been [killed](#) and over 1,473 hospitalized;
 - » At least 18 people [were killed](#) in the U.A.E., and 94 have been [wounded](#);
 - » Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#) and a [Kuwaiti civilian](#) have been killed, and over 67 Kuwaiti military personnel have been [injured](#);
 - » Four people have been [killed](#) in Syria;
 - » In Qatar, 16 people have been [wounded](#);
 - » One person has been [killed](#) in Oman;
 - » Four civilians have been [injured](#) in Azerbaijan;
 - » At least 123 individuals have been [killed](#) and 638 have been wounded in Lebanon;
 - » At least 1,168 Iranian civilians have been [killed](#); and
 - » Thousands of IRGC and internal security officials have reportedly been [killed](#) in the war.

5. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

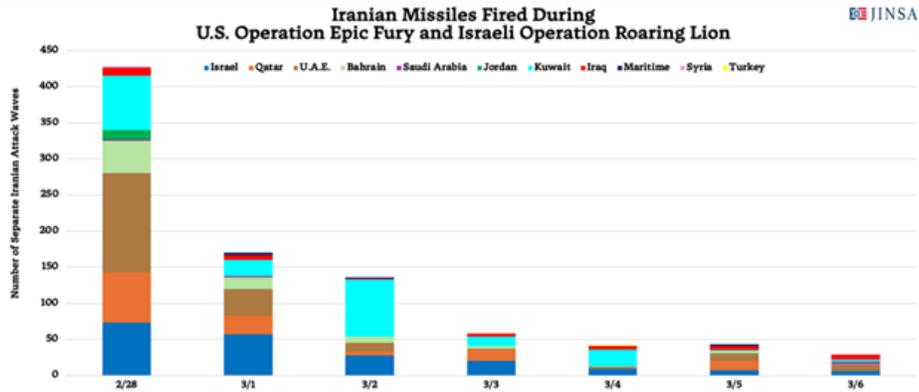
- Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf [described](#) Iranian Kurds as “worthless separatists,” warning that if they “make the slightest misstep,” they will “once again be sent to the dustbin of history.”
- IRGC general-turned-lawmaker Salar Abnoush [threatened](#) that security forces have been authorized to shoot those individuals who “align with the enemy.”
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [warned](#) in an *NBC News* interview that any potential ground invasion would spell “disaster” for Iran’s foes.
 - » Araghchi also [stated](#) that Iran was not asking for a ceasefire or negotiations with the United States.
- A senior Iranian defense leader [threatened](#) the Kurdistan Region, saying, “if these groups or regime elements are allowed to continue their presence, plotting, and entering the borders of the Islamic Republic through the region ... all facilities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, as the rear base of these groups and the regime, will be widely targeted.”

6. International Response

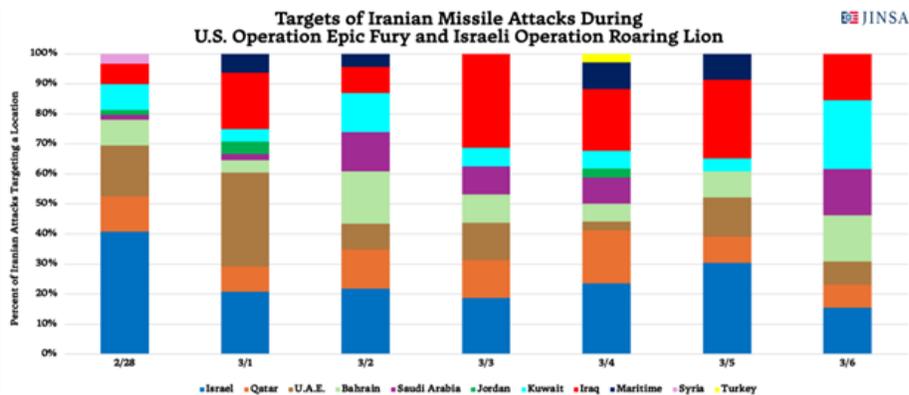
- The U.A.E. is looking to [freeze](#) Tehran's billions of dollars worth of assets in Abu Dhabi, a move that would directly disrupt the regime's ability to access international trade networks and currencies abroad, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.
- China has reportedly [entered](#) talks with Iran that would permit a safe passage for crude oil and Qatari liquefied natural gas vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [told](#) French President Emmanuel Macron during a phone call that Turkey is undertaking serious efforts to promote diplomacy and return to negotiations with Iran.
- After the interception of an Iranian missile targeted at Turkey, NATO allies have [increased](#) their alliance-wide ballistic missile defense posture.
- President Trump [said](#) he would accept assistance from any country when asked about Ukraine's offer to help defend against Iranian drones.
 - » Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [acknowledged](#) that Ukraine received a special request from the United States for help in dealing with Iranian drones.
- Following an Iranian drone attack on Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan [withdrew](#) its diplomatic staff from Iran.
- Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi [said](#) that the war has plunged Egypt's economy into a "state of near-emergency" and warned of runaway inflation.
- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [asked](#) French President Emmanuel Macron to urge Israel not to bomb Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold.
 - » The Lebanese government [announced](#) it will arrest IRGC members operating in the country and ban their military activities, with officials also indicating that detained individuals could be deported and that visa-free entry for Iranian nationals may be revoked.
- French President Emmanuel Macron [announced](#) that France would provide the Lebanese Armed Forces with armored vehicles amidst escalating tensions in Lebanon, while also warning that "everything must be done to prevent" the country "from being dragged into war once again."
- The French General Staff [said](#) that while France has not authorized the deployment of American assets at its Middle East bases, it has allowed U.S. support aircraft to use the Istres-Le Tubé Air Base in southern France.

7. Charts and Trends

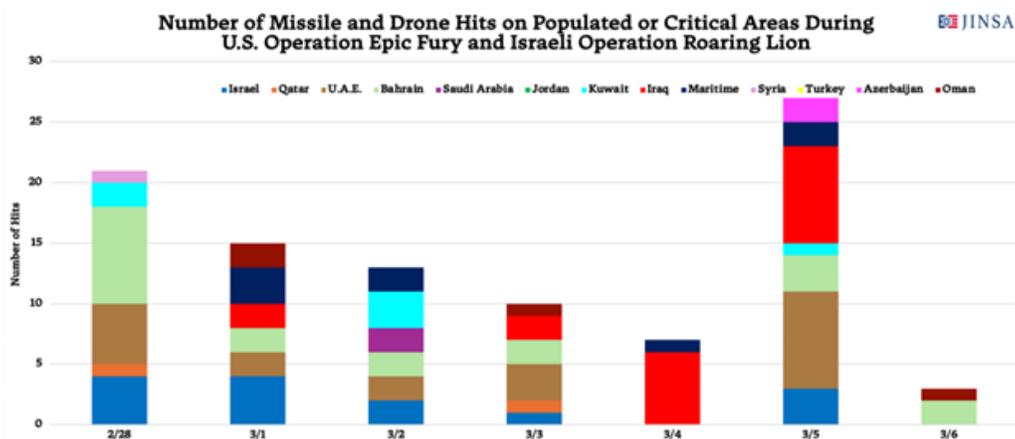
- Overall, Iranian missile fire has continued a sharp decline compared to the first days of the war, continuing a pattern of roughly one to three missiles per attack with only sporadic bursts of larger fire. By March 5, the 43 missiles Iran fired marked a 90 percent decrease from the 428 missiles it launched on the first day of the conflict.
 - » So far on March 6, Iran has launched roughly 30 percent as many missiles as it did on March 5, suggesting that today's fire will continue the downward trend.



- Since the afternoon of March 5, Iran has shifted away from targeting Israel, with the percentage of attacks against Israel declining from 29 percent on March 5 to just 15 percent on March 6. To deter Kurdish groups from mounting an offensive, Iran has continued to emphasize targeting Kurdish regions of Iraq, with six attacks representing 25 percent of all attacks on March 5.



- Since the afternoon of March 5, the number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets decreased 88 percent from 24 hits on March 5 due to its greater use of hard to intercept drones against the U.A.E. and targeting of Kurdish regions in Iraq that lacked sufficient air defenses.
 - » Most successful strikes continue to appear to have been from drones.



8. JINSA Resources

- Blaise Misztal, [Principles for U.S.-Kurdish Partnership](#), March 6, 2026
- Hussein Mansour, [Gulf Situation Assessment: Iran's Attacks on Arab States Will Backfire](#), March 5, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [Iran's Missile Fire Has Almost Run Out](#), March 5, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, [Iran is Not Iraq](#), March 4, 2026
- Giran Ozcan and Jonah Brody, [The Kurdish Moment in Iran](#), March 4, 2026
- 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