



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

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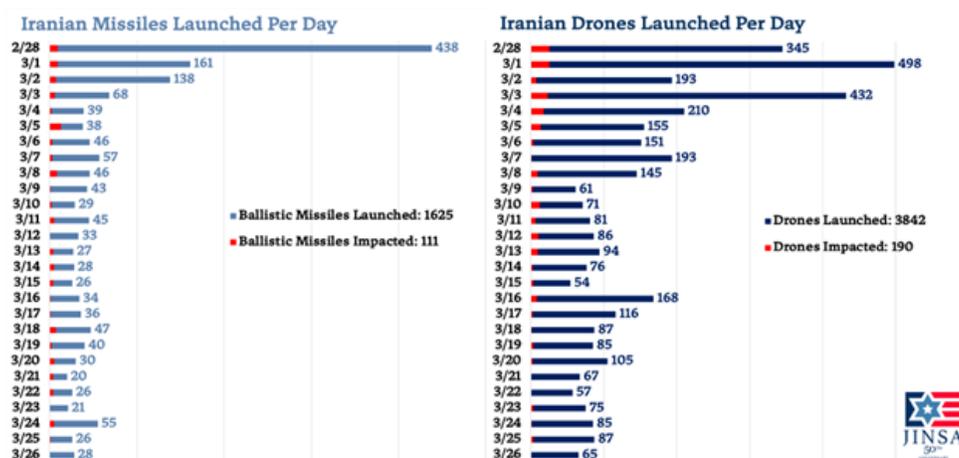
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With the United States and Israel launching a joint campaign—Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, respectively—against Iranian regime targets and Iran launching retaliatory missile and drone attacks against U.S. forces in the region, Israel, and 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 26 at 11:00 am ET.

1. Overview

- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) has [struck over 10,000 targets](#) across Iran thus far in the war, destroying at least two-thirds of Iran's military production sites, CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper said on March 25.
 - » CENTCOM also [announced](#) that the United States destroyed 92 percent of “large ships” in the Iranian Navy.
- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy Commander Alireza Tangsiri was [killed](#) in an Israeli strike overnight, Israeli officials announced.
 - » Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [stated](#) that Tangsiri was “directly responsible” for disrupting commercial ships' passage through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The United States is reportedly [preparing](#) for major escalatory action against Iran, including a significant increase in airstrikes and the use of ground forces, if ceasefire talks stall and ships remain hesitant to pass through the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » The four main military options on the table, per *Axios*, are:
 - A blockade or invasion of Iran's Kharg Island terminal;
 - An invasion of Larak Island, which Iran uses to threaten ships in the Strait of Hormuz;
 - An invasion and seizure of Abu Musa island and two other islands in the Arabian Gulf, near Iran's shores; and
 - Blockading, or taking control of, ships transporting Iranian oil.
 - » At the same time, U.S. leaders are weighing ground operations, likely involving special forces, to seize Iran's enriched uranium stockpile. Alternatively, the U.S. Air Force may conduct large-scale strikes on the sites where the uranium is being kept to make them inaccessible.

- » Iran is reportedly working to [fortify](#) Kharg Island to complicate a potential U.S. operation to take the island. The regime has reportedly begun stationing more air defenses and military personnel on the island, as well as laying anti-armor and anti-personnel mines.
- On March 25, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt [implied](#) the war would end soon by noting that since it began on February 28 and was expected to last four to six weeks, “you can do the math on that.”
- In a March 25 op-ed published in *The Wall Street Journal*, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) Ambassador to the United States, Yousef Al Otaiba, [argued](#), “A simple cease-fire isn’t enough. We need a conclusive outcome that addresses Iran’s full range of threats.”
- Israeli leaders, on March 25, reportedly [ordered](#) the military to destroy as much of Iran’s military production infrastructure as possible within 48 hours. Israel believes the war may conclude in the coming days as U.S.-Iran indirect negotiations continue to progress, according to *The New York Times*.
- According to recent Israeli media reports, President Donald Trump [rejected](#) a March 17 request from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the two leaders to jointly call for an Iranian uprising, citing concerns the regime would violently crush mass protests.
- Iran has been [running](#) a “de facto toll booth” in the Strait of Hormuz for at least two weeks, requiring commercial ships to first submit documentation and receive clearance before entering the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » At least 26 ships have passed through the waterway under this coercive system since March 13. The Iranian regime has extracted payments from at least two of them, according to Lloyd’s List, both denominated in China’s Yuan currency.
- The Pentagon may [send](#) high-end munitions to the Middle East, particularly missile interceptors, that had previously been allocated for the Russia-Ukraine war, *The Washington Post* reported on March 26.
 - » Israel has [received](#) approximately 8,000 tons of weaponry and other military equipment since the war began, Israel’s Defense Ministry announced.
- Iran continues to launch far fewer missiles than it did during the opening days of the war, but it has escalated its attacks against Israel, the U.A.E., and Bahrain in recent days, while maintaining high levels of drone fire against Saudi Arabia.
 - » After a 162 percent increase in Iranian missile fire on March 24, Iran decreased the number of missile attacks by 53 percent on March 25, firing 26 missiles. Iran has fired 28 missiles so far on March 26, in particular 15 against the U.A.E.
 - » Iran has launched at least 3,842 drones, 1,625 ballistic missiles, and 28 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- President Trump [stated](#) that Iranian leaders “want to make a deal so badly, but they’re afraid to say it, because they figure they’ll be killed by their own people. They’re also afraid they’ll be killed by us.”
 - » President Trump also posted to Truth Social, stating that Iran’s negotiation delegation is “begging” the United States to enter a ceasefire agreement.
 - » He noted that it would benefit Iran to make the deal because it has “been militarily obliterated, with zero chance of a comeback.”
 - » He also warned that Iran must respond to the U.S. ceasefire proposal, noting that “they better get serious soon, before it is too late, because once that happens, there is NO TURNING BACK, and it won’t be pretty!”
- Iranian state-run Press TV [reported](#) that Tehran rejected the U.S. 15-point proposal.
 - » The senior official interviewed by Press TV noted that Iran posed a counter-proposal with [five key demands](#):
 - Recognition of Iran’s sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz;
 - The war will cease across all fronts, encompassing Iran and its proxies;
 - Payment of reparations to Iran;
 - Guarantees to ensure the conflict does not restart;
 - “An end to aggression by the enemy.”
- The White House [noted](#) that negotiations are ongoing, describing them as “productive.”
- Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar publicly [confirmed](#) that “U.S.-Iran indirect talks are taking place through messages being relayed by Pakistan.”
 - » He added that Iran is reviewing the 15 points proposed by America, and noted that Turkey and Egypt are supporting the talks.
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jasem AlBudaiwi [stated](#) that GCC member states must participate in negotiations or agreements to end the war.
- U.S. and Arab officials [told](#) *The Times of Israel* that Iran permitted numerous tankers to transit the Strait of Hormuz over the last few days, noting that this is the “present” that President Trump said Iran had given the United States earlier this week.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [announced](#) that Operation Roaring Lion is “continuing at full force, despite what is reported in the media.”
 - » He also added that Hezbollah’s ground incursion threat to Israel “no longer exists,” but that now Israel’s military must focus on “dismantling Hezbollah” as it works to develop a buffer zone in Lebanon to protect northern Israeli communities from the group’s anti-tank missiles.
- The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [announced](#) that its troops eliminated at least 700 Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon throughout March.
 - » Over the past few days, the IDF has [killed](#) more than 30 Hezbollah operatives, including 10 Radwan Force troops, in southern Lebanon.

- The United States and Israel have temporarily [removed](#) Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf from their list of targeted officials as part of efforts to advance peace talks, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.
- Iranian strikes on U.S. bases across the Middle East have [forced](#) CENTCOM to relocate thousands of troops to hotels and office spaces throughout the region and in Europe, effectively requiring much of the land-based military to conduct operations remotely.
 - » The IRGC has urged informants to report the new locations of dispersed personnel.

Day 27 of Operations: March 26

Iran

- The Israeli Air Force (IAF) [eliminated](#) Commander of the IRGC Navy Alireza Tangsiri as well as the Navy's intelligence head, Behnam Rezaei, and other senior Navy officials, in overnight airstrikes on Bandar Abbas.
 - » The IDF [confirmed](#) that Tangsiri "led efforts to close the Strait of Hormuz and advanced terror attacks in the maritime domain," and that he was "one of the primary figures responsible for disrupting the global economy."
- Strikes also targeted regime sites throughout Iran, including:
 - » [IRGC Ansar al-Hussein headquarters](#) in Hamadan;
 - » [Regime infrastructure](#) in Isfahan;
 - » [Military installations](#) in Shiraz; and
 - » [Kalahdoz Barracks](#) and other military positions in Semnan Province.

Lebanon

- Israeli aircraft [struck](#) the town of Shaqra in the Bint Jbeil district, while artillery targeted multiple sites across the Nabatieh and Bint Jbeil districts.

Iraq

- An unattributed strike [hit](#) a position belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in Saladin Governorate, with no reported casualties.

Day 26 of Operations: March 25

Iran

- Strikes targeted several regime locations throughout Iran, including in the cities of [Mashhad](#), [Malard](#), [Karaj](#), [Shahriar](#), and [Tehran](#).

Lebanon

- Shortly after Hezbollah [fired](#) 10 rockets at Haifa, the IDF struck and destroyed the rocket launcher used in the attack.
- Overnight, Israeli forces [captured](#) the commander of the Hezbollah-aligned and funded Lebanese Resistance Companies in southern Lebanon.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Iran and Hezbollah continue to target Israel with an array of drone, missile, and rocket attacks. Over the past 24 hours:
 - » Within a span of two hours, Iran [fired](#) four ballistic missiles at Israel.
 - An Iranian ballistic missile carrying cluster munitions on its warhead [impacted](#) at least two sites in Kafr Qasim, resulting in damage and [injuring](#) at least five people.

- An Iranian ballistic missile attack [involving](#) a cluster bomb damaged two homes, according to the Samaria Regional Council.
- An Iranian ballistic missile with a cluster bomb warhead [caused](#) damage and injured two people in Tel Aviv.
- » Hezbollah [launched](#) six rockets at targets in central Israel, with reports suggesting that Israeli air defenses intercepted the entire volley.
- » Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) a Hezbollah drone over the Western Galilee, with falling shrapnel injuring two people.
- » A Hezbollah rocket [impacted](#) a site in Nahariya, killing one man and seriously injuring another man.
- Arab countries continue coming under Iranian and proxy fire. Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. each reported attacks on their country over the past day:
 - » Bahrain:
 - Bahrain [intercepted](#) one missile and 19 drones over the country.
 - » Iraq:
 - Iraq intercepted two drones, including [one](#) in Kirkuk Governorate and [one](#) in Iraqi Kurdistan.
 - » Saudi Arabia:
 - The Saudi Ministry of Defense [reported](#) it intercepted 31 drones, primarily over the country's Eastern Region.
 - » U.A.E.:
 - The U.A.E. [intercepted](#) 15 missiles and 11 drones over various parts of the country.
- Iran's parliament is reportedly working on [legislation](#) to formalize the fees being charged to vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, with a lawmaker quoted by state-linked media saying the bill aims "to formally codify Iran's sovereignty, control and oversight" over the waterway, "while also creating a source of revenue."
 - » Iran has begun [charging](#) transit fees of up to \$2 million per voyage on select commercial vessels traveling through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar [informed](#) the United Nations Security Council that Hezbollah has conducted at least 3,500 rocket, missile, and drone attacks on Israel since March 2.
- The Iran-backed Islamic Resistance in Iraq [claimed](#) it has carried out over 600 missile and drone attacks on targets in Iraq since February 28.
- An unnamed senior Houthi official [claimed](#) that the Iran-backed Yemen-based Houthis "stand fully militarily ready with all options" to assist Iran and that the group's leadership will determine "when is the suitable time to move."

5. Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations

- Thirteen U.S. service members have died during Operation Epic Fury.
 - » An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) six U.S. servicemembers at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait on March 1: 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; and Sgt. Declan Coady (posthumously promoted from specialist), 20.

- » A U.S. servicemember, Sgt. Benjamin Pennington, 26, was [killed](#) in a March 8 Iranian attack targeting U.S. troops at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.
- » Six U.S. servicemembers were [killed](#) when a KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft crashed over western Iraq on March 12: Major John A. Klinner, 33; Captain Ariana G. Savino, 31; Technical Sergeant Ashley B. Pruitt, 34; Captain Seth R. Koval, 38; Captain Curtis J. Angst, 30; and Technical Sergeant Tyler H. Simmons, 28.
- At least 200 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war, 10 of whom have been “seriously wounded,” according to CENTCOM Capt. Tim Hawkins.
- Since the war began, 29 [people have been killed in](#) Israel, while over 4,000 people have been [hospitalized](#).
 - » Three of these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have [been killed](#) while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
 - » According to *The Times of Israel*, over the past day:
 - One [IDF soldier](#) in the Golani Brigade’s Reconnaissance Unit was killed during a fire-fight with Hezbollah fighters.
 - [Five people in Kafr Qasim](#) were injured in an Iranian ballistic missile attack involving cluster munitions.
 - [Two people in Tel Aviv](#) were injured after cluster munitions from an Iranian ballistic missile impacted the city.
 - One [man in northern Israel](#) was hit by potential cluster munition shrapnel from an Iranian ballistic missile.
 - [Two people in Israel’s Western Galilee](#) region were lightly hurt by shrapnel after Israeli defenses intercepted a Hezbollah drone.
 - [One man was killed](#) and another man was seriously injured when a Hezbollah rocket impacted a site in Nahariya.
- Since the war’s outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » Iran:
 - At least 3,300 people, including at least 1,167 military personnel, have been [killed](#), with at least 24,800 [wounded](#). However, *Iran International* reported that at least 5,000 military personnel have been [killed](#).
 - » Azerbaijan:
 - Four civilians have been [injured](#).
 - » Bahrain:
 - Three people have [been killed](#), including a [Moroccan contractor](#), and at least 40 people have [been injured](#), including five [Emirati soldiers](#).
 - » Iraq:
 - At least 86 people have been [killed](#), including:
 - 64 Iran-backed militia fighters;
 - Seven Iraqi soldiers;
 - Six Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga;
 - Five Iranian Kurdish militants;
 - Five members of Iraq’s Counter-Terrorism Service;

- Four individuals, reported to be Iranian, in a targeted airstrike in Baghdad;
 - One French soldier in Iraqi Kurdistan;
 - One airport security guard in Erbil; and
 - One civilian southeast of Baghdad.
- » Jordan:
 - At least 29 people have been [injured](#).
 - » Kuwait:
 - Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#), two [Kuwaiti interior ministry officers](#), and two [Kuwaiti civilians](#) have been killed, over 70 Kuwaiti military personnel have [been injured](#), and two medical staff have been [wounded](#).
 - » Lebanon:
 - At least 1,094 people have been [killed](#), and more than 3,119 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
 - » Oman:
 - At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 10 people have been [wounded](#).
 - » Qatar:
 - Around 20 people have been [wounded](#), and seven people were [killed](#) on March 22 in a helicopter crash in Qatari territorial waters due to a technical issue.
 - » Saudi Arabia:
 - Two foreign nationals have been [killed](#), and at least 16 others have [been injured](#).
 - » Syria:
 - At least four people have been [killed](#) in Syria, and several others have been [injured](#).
 - » U.A.E.:
 - 11 people have been [killed](#), and at least 169 have been injured.

6. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [rejected](#) prospects for negotiations with the United States, saying “our policy is the continuation of resistance” and declaring that “speaking of negotiations now is an admission of defeat.”
- A broadcaster on an Iranian state-run television channel [threatened](#) that Tehran could take control of the Emirati and Bahraini coastlines.
- The IRGC-linked Tasnim News Agency [reported](#) that U.S. military action to reopen the Strait of Hormuz could cause Iran to commence operations in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- The IRGC [lowered](#) its minimum age requirement to 12 years old to meet wartime demands, with the Guard’s “For Iran” initiative promoting children to help at checkpoints and partake in patrols.

7. International Response

- In an op-ed for *The Wall Street Journal* published on March 25, U.A.E. Ambassador to the United States Yousef Al Otaiba [remarked](#), “A simple cease-fire isn’t enough. We need a

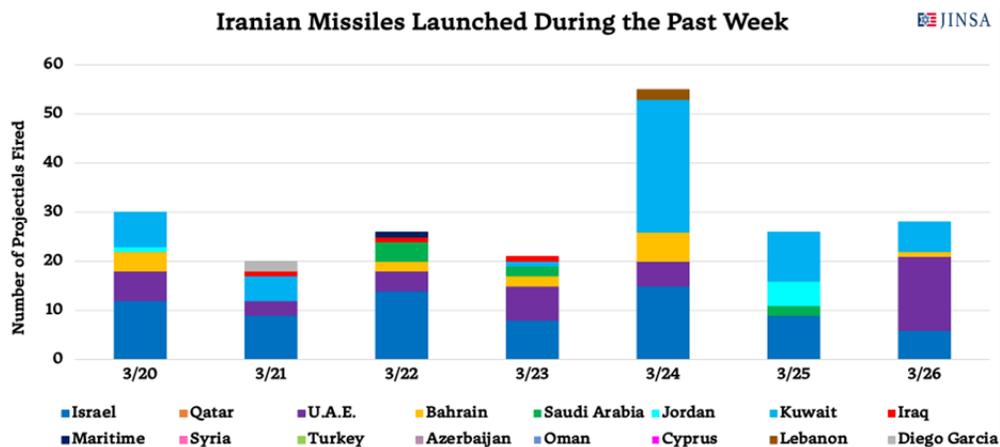
conclusive outcome that addresses Iran's full range of threats: nuclear capabilities, missiles, drones, terror proxies and blockades of international sea lanes."

- » Ambassador Otaiba stated, "This isn't a war we wanted."
- » He also affirmed the U.A.E.'s willingness to join a regional or international effort to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.
- » Separately, senior Emirati advisor Anwar Gargash [wrote](#) on X on March 22, "Iran's brutal aggression against the Arab Gulf carries profound geopolitical repercussions ... and the result is to bolster our national capabilities and the joint security, as well as to solidify our security partnerships with Washington."
- Houthi leaders [reaffirmed](#) their support for Iran but clarified that any decision to join the conflict would be made themselves.
- After yesterday's attack on PMF positions resulted in the death of seven Iraqi soldiers, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Al-Sudani [said](#) that the Iraqi government and military "will not remain silent." He noted that the attack "harms the relationship that binds the peoples of Iraq and the United States of America."
- A shipment of drones from Russia to Iran is nearly complete, the [Financial Times](#) reports. Russia has also provided Iran with ISR capabilities, including satellite imagery and information for engaging targets.
- Senior Ukrainian energy official Oleksii Riabchyn [denounced](#) the U.S. decision to lift Russian oil sanctions, stating, "this is the wrong approach, because the more they [Russia] have, the more they will ship drones or missiles to Iran, or the more they fire on us [Ukraine]."
- France, South Korea, and the United Kingdom will soon be [holding discussions](#) as part of an informal coalition to protect ships traversing the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » The British Royal Navy is reportedly [planning](#) to participate in operations in the Arabian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to protect maritime traffic.
 - » However, no nations have publicly announced they are sending military assets.
 - President Trump lambasted NATO countries in a March 26 [statement](#), saying that "NATO nations have done absolutely nothing to help with the lunatic nation, now militarily decimated, of Iran. The U.S. needs nothing from NATO, but never forget this very important point in time."
- China will [host](#) President Trump in May, the White House said on March 25, after the original planned state visit was postponed due to the war.
- Following reported strikes targeting the Bushehr nuclear plant in Iran, Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear company, [evacuated](#) 163 workers from the facility, as approximately 300 staff members remain stationed at the nuclear site.
- In a joint statement, the U.A.E., Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Jordan "[call on](#) the Iraqi government to take the necessary measures to immediately halt the attacks launched by factions, militias, and armed groups from Iraqi territory toward neighbouring countries, in order to preserve brotherly relations and avoid further escalation."
 - » In addition to denouncing Iranian attacks and attacks by Iran-linked groups in Iraq, the countries also condemn attacks by " sleeper cells loyal to Iran and terrorist organisations linked to Hezbollah."
- Kuwait [arrested](#) six Hezbollah-linked individuals who allegedly plotted to assassinate Kuwaiti political leaders.
- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [hosted](#) Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty in Beirut amid Egyptian efforts to end hostilities in the region.

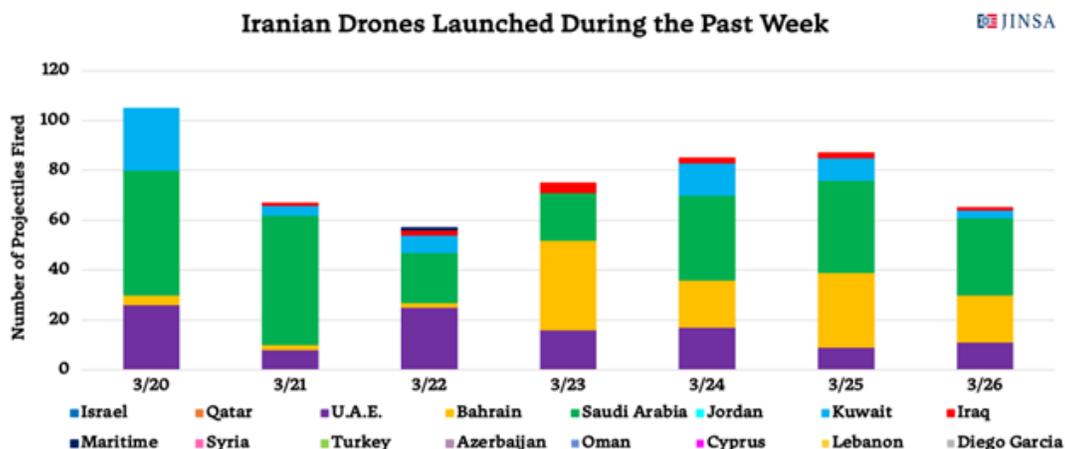
- » Abdelatty claimed that while the United States and Iran have yet to reach “specific conclusions” on how to halt the fighting, both parties seek “calm” and are interested in pursuing negotiations.
- » Abdelatty also expressed Egypt’s condemnation of Israeli interests to occupy southern Lebanon militarily.
- Australia will [not allow](#) Iranians to enter the country for work or leisure for the next six months, out of concern that they may overstay their visas.
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres [demanded](#) that the U.S. and Israeli militaries halt their attacks on Iran, noting that the ongoing war “has broken past limits even leaders thought imaginable,” while also calling on Iran “to stop attacking their neighbors.”

8. Charts and Trends

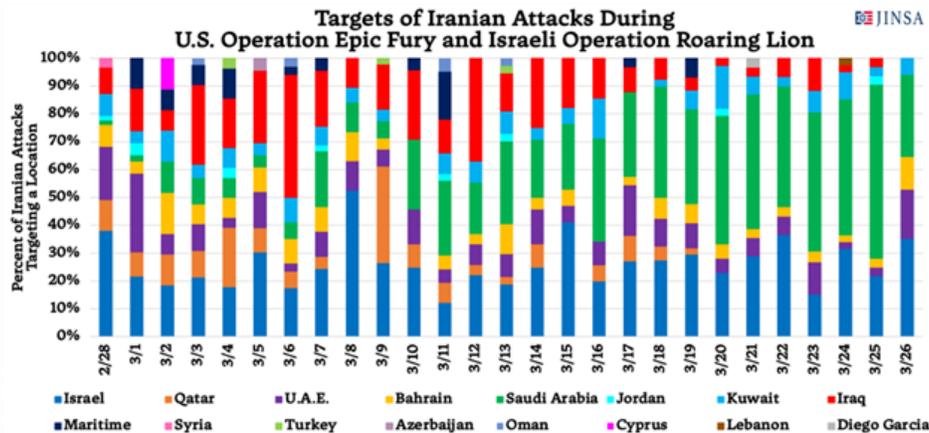
- After a 162 percent increase in Iranian missile fire on March 24, Iran decreased the number of missiles it fired on March 25 by 53 percent, firing 26 missiles that day. Already on March 26, Iran has fired 28 missiles, in particular 15 against the U.A.E.



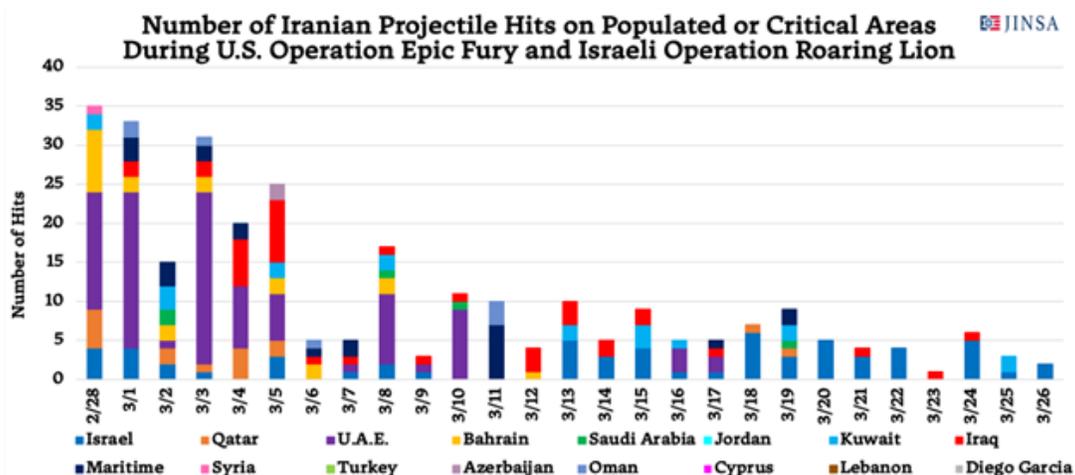
- Iran sharply escalated drone attacks against Bahrain, launching 30 drones on March 25, up from 19 on March 24, and compared to just one to four drones per day from March 19 through March 22. So far on March 26, Iran has launched 19 drones against Bahrain.
- » Iran maintained its drone attacks against Saudi Arabia on March 25, with 37 drones launched against the country, and has already launched 31 drones on March 26.



- Iran increased its focus on Saudi Arabia on March 25, with 63 percent of attacks targeting the country, up from 50 percent on March 24. So far on March 26, Iran shifted focus away from Saudi Arabia, with only 29 percent of attacks targeting the country, while increasing the share of its attacks targeting Israel to 35 percent and the U.A.E. to 18 percent, up from 22 percent and three percent, respectively.



- On March 25, the number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets decreased by 50 percent from six hits on March 24 to three hits. So far on March 26, at least two Iranian missiles have hit sites in Israel.



9. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel, [The Eroding Shield: Air Defense Against Iran](#), March 26, 2026
- Jonah Brody and Rena Gabber, [The Axis Behind Iran: How China, Russia, and North Korea Sustain Tehran's Military Threat](#), March 25, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, [Scared Strait: Ending Iran's Threat to Hormuz and the Gulf](#), March 19, 2026
- VADM Herman Shelanski, USN (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and Blaise Misztal, ["Webinar - Iran's Threat to Global Shipping: What Can Be Done?"](#) March 19, 2026
- Giran Ozcan and Jonah Brody, [Iran's Kurdish Coalition and the Future of the Opposition](#), March 18, 2026
- Hussein Mansour, [If Tehran Falls: How Iran's Collapse Reshuffles Arab Gulf Relations](#), March 16
- Infographic: [Operation Epic Fury—What is the Aim Point?](#), March 13, 2026

- VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and Jonathan Ruhe, “[Webinar: Washington and Jerusalem’s Next Moves](#),” March 12, 2026
- Meriem Mokhtari, [How the Muslim Brotherhood Funds Iran’s Proxies](#), March 11, 2026
- Robert McNally and Michael Makovsky, PhD, “[Webinar: Iran War Energy Disruption: Short-Term or Here To Stay?](#)” March 10, 2026
- 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