Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/30/26 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 30 at 11:00 am ET.

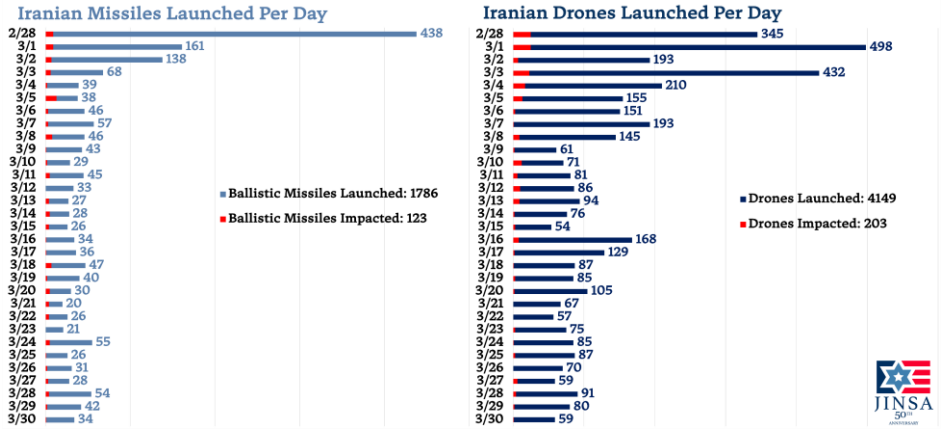
1. Overview

- In a statement released March 30, President Donald Trump said that the United States "is in serious discussions with a new, and more reasonable, regime to end our Military Operations in Iran" and that "great progress has been made."
  - » President Trump warned that "if for any reason a deal is not shortly reached" and ships' safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz does not resume, then the United States "will conclude our lovely 'stay' in Iran by blowing up and completely obliterating all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island (and possibly all desalinization plants!), which we have purposefully not yet 'touched.'"
  - » Previously, on March 29, President Trump told reporters that "today, we had very good negotiations with Iran," and that "I do see a deal with Iran, could be soon." Yet, he cautioned that "it's possible we won't [see a deal]," noting that "we negotiate with [the Iranians], and then we always have to blow them up."
  - » Also on March 29, President Trump confirmed that Iran responded to the U.S. 15-point proposal, noting, "They gave us most of the points. Why wouldn't they?"
- According to *The Wall Street Journal*, President Trump is considering a U.S. operation to seize the roughly 1,000 pounds of enriched uranium remaining in Iran should Iran fail to agree to relinquish it in negotiations.
- On March 29, President Trump, discussing Iran's leadership, stated that "the one regime was decimated, destroyed, they're all dead. The next regime is mostly dead, and the third regime—we're dealing with different people than anybody's dealt with before… and frankly, they've been very reasonable." He added, "it truly is regime change…you can't do much better than that."
- During a March 29 interview, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent claimed that the United States will eventually "retake control" of the Strait of Hormuz to help ensure freedom of navigation, whether in the form of "U.S. escorts or a multinational escort."
- Israel is preparing an offer to the Trump administration for the United States to station more military personnel and assets in Israel after the war on a long-term basis, according to Israel's *Channel 12* outlet. This would reportedly include the option of both shifting U.S.

personnel and weapons platforms to existing Israeli bases, as well as potentially constructing new ones for American use.

  - » JINSA previously recommended that the United States explore both options in past analyses—highlighting the benefits of constructing a new U.S. airbase in Israel in a July 2025 op-ed in *The Washington Times*, and noting the potential utility of Israel's Ovda base to American operations in a November 2025 report co-authored by three senior U.S. generals, among others.
  - » In a March 29 press release, JINSA Fellow for American Strategy Jonathan Ruhe commented, "The United States should seize the opportunity to get better, safer, more hospitable facilities than it has anywhere else in the Middle East." Ruhe further noted that the American military "already recognized the unique value of operating from Israel by sending F-22s there before the war started; now, it should expand these arrangements."

- Iran continues to launch far fewer missiles than it did during the opening days of the war, but it has escalated its missile and drone attacks against the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.).
  - » After one of its largest escalations since the earliest days of the war on March 28, Iranian missile fire decreased 22 percent on March 29, with 42 missiles fired, down from 54 the day before. So far on March 30, Iran has fired 32 missiles.
  - » Iran has launched roughly 4,149 drones, 1,784 ballistic missiles, and 30 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- On March 29, President Trump shared that Iran agreed to permit 20 additional oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz beginning on Monday, March 30, in what he called a "sign of respect."
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio noted that the United States needs to be ready for the possibility that diplomacy with Iran will not succeed. He remarked, "If there are new people now in charge who have a more reasonable vision of the future, that would be good news for us, for them, for the entire world. But we also have to be prepared for the possibility, maybe even the probability, that that is not the case."
- Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei announced on March 30 that Iran views the U.S. ceasefire proposal currently on the table as "unrealistic, illogical, and excessive," a seeming rejection of the offer.
- Egyptian, Pakistani, Saudi, and Turkish representatives held a meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, on March 29, with Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar noting that the countries discussed "possible ways to bring an early and permanent end to the war." He also noted China's support for Pakistan's role in mediating the talks.

- Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that the country would host U.S.-Iran talks, stating that "Pakistan is very happy that both Iran and the U.S. have expressed their confidence in Pakistan to facilitate the talks," and noting the talks would occur "in the coming days."
- According to Israel's *Channel 12* news, Iran is looking for international guarantees to ensure talks are not a deception strategy and hopes to broaden the framework to bring in China and Russia.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- U.S. operations have severely degraded a number of critical nodes in Iran's ballistic missile program, satellite imagery reviewed by *The Washington Post* revealed.
  - » U.S. and Israeli strikes caused major damage to four of Iran's main ballistic manufacturing sites–used to make the missiles themselves and the propellant with which to launch them–and 29 of its missile launch bases. At one of these sites, at least 88 different installations were destroyed, according to the *Post*.
- Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent remarked on Fox News on March 29, "Over time, the U.S. is going to retake control of the straits and there will be freedom of navigation, whether it is through US escorts or a multinational escort."
- On March 29, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander Admiral Brad Cooper traveled to Israel, where he met with Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir to discuss the U.S.-Israeli operations in Iran. This is his first publicly announced visit to Israel during the Iran war.
- In remarks delivered on March 29, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described "visible cracks" in Iran's regime, which now resembles a "battered [enemy] fighting for [its] existence."
- Prime Minister Netanyahu stated on March 29 that Israeli forces are broadening their security buffer zone in southern Lebanon, announcing that "I have now instructed [the military] to further expand the existing security zone in order to finally thwart the threat of invasion and to push the anti-tank missile fire away from our border."
  - » A senior Israeli military source told Israel's *Walla News* outlet on March 30 that Israel is fully implementing the "Gaza Model" in southern Lebanon, meaning the evacuation; demilitarization; partial demolition; and territorial control of certain Hezbollah strongholds. The primary current goal is establishing a buffer zone four to nine kilometers from the border to prevent anti-tank missile attacks on Israel.
    - – According to *Walla News*, Israel is holding certain strongholds, like the town of Al-Khayaam, indefinitely while razing terror infrastructure there.
    - – Further, *Walla News* reported that Israel's Division 36 is operating north in the Litani Valley, and Division 162 is working to control additional villages and locate launch squads and weapons further south. Troops are also working to sever Hezbollah supply lines—to this end, Israel has neutralized four major bridges over the Litani River.
- The Israeli and U.S. military have approved attack plans for the coming days targeting Iran's heavy industries, missiles, and nuclear industries, with strikes intensifying as commanders seek to destroy as much strategic infrastructure as possible before a diplomatic agreement halts operations, according to Israel's *Channel 12*.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced that damage to Iran's Khondab Heavy Water Research Complex sustained on March 27 is so severe that the facility is no longer operational.

Day 31 of Operations: March 30

Iran

- Overnight, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) dropped more than 80 bombs on Iranian weapons facilities in Tehran, including a long-range anti-aircraft missile assembly facility, an anti-tank and anti-aircraft missile component production site, and a ballistic missile engine production compound.
- The Israeli military announced that its forces recently bombed an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) weapons research and development complex hidden within the Imam Hossein University in Tehran, targeting the university's subterranean wind tunnels that the military uses to test ballistic missiles, a chemical weapons research site, and a weapons engineering facility.
- Strikes also reportedly targeted:
  - » Abadan Oil Refinery;
  - » Tabriz Petrochemical Company's industrial facilities; and
  - » IRGC facilities in Dehgolan.

Lebanon

- Three Hezbollah operatives were killed, and three others were wounded in a targeted Israeli airstrike on Hezbollah infrastructure in the southern Beirut suburbs.
- Israeli ground troops in southern Lebanon discovered and destroyed a Hezbollah arms depot storing anti-tank missiles, as well as a separate subterranean weapons storage site.

Day 30 of Operations: March 29

Iran

- The IAF unleashed more than 120 bombs on strategic military facilities in Tehran, including a site for developing components for ballistic missiles, an IRGC compound for researching and producing ballistic missiles and satellite launchers, and an Iranian army weapons complex.
- The IAF struck more than 140 ballistic missile targets, including launch and storage facilities and air defense systems.
- The IAF bombed Iranian air defense systems hidden in a forest in northern Iran, located near the Caspian Sea.
- Strikes also reportedly targeted several locations over the weekend, including:
  - » Shiraz Electronics Industries;
  - » Bushehr Airport; and
  - » Alghadir base in Yazd.

Lebanon

- The Israeli military announced that one of its air force drones killed several Hezbollah fighters after troops identified them operating inside a building in southern Lebanon.
- Givati Brigade soldiers identified and killed several Hezbollah operatives working to install explosives and fire mortars at Israeli troops, and also discovered a Hezbollah weapons site where anti-tank missiles and grenades were stored.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Iran, Hezbollah, and the Houthis continue to target Israel with an array of drone, missile, and rocket attacks.

  - » Iran fired several ballistic missiles at Israel, including multiple targeting Beersheba, where homes were destroyed, and 11 people were injured when missiles impacted open areas.
  - » Iran and Hezbollah launched simultaneous attacks on northern Israel, with six impacts reported across Haifa, Kiryat Shmona, and Shfaram, resulting in two injuries.
  - » Hezbollah attacked Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon with anti-tank missiles and drones, killing one soldier and wounding several others.
  - » Israeli defenses intercepted two Houthi drones headed towards the southern city of Eilat.
- An intercepted missile fragment struck a fuel tanker and an industrial building at the Bazan Oil Refinery in Haifa, causing a fire. Authorities are investigating whether the missile came from Iran or Lebanon.
- Arab countries continue coming under Iranian and proxy fire. Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the U.A.E. each reported attacks on their country over the past day:
  - » Bahrain:
    - Bahrain intercepted eight ballistic missiles and seven drones.
  - » Iraq:
    - A salvo of rockets struck Iraq's Mohammed Alaa airbase west of Baghdad, destroying an Iraqi Air Force Antonov-132 aircraft.
    - On March 29, Iraqi air defenses intercepted a drone that targeted Balad Air Base north of Baghdad.
  - » Kuwait:
    - An Iranian missile struck a Kuwaiti army camp, wounding ten military personnel, while a separate strike hit a power and water desalination plant, killing an Indian worker.
  - » Saudi Arabia:
    - The Saudi Ministry of Defense reported it intercepted five missiles and seven drones.
  - » Syria:
    - The Syrian army reported a large-scale drone attack targeting several of its bases near the Iraqi border.
  - » U.A.E.:
    - The Emirati Ministry of Defense reported it intercepted 11 missiles and 27 drones over various parts of the country.
- Iranian-linked cyber groups have successfully hacked into 50 security cameras throughout Israel since the start of the war, possibly doing so to assess missile strike damage and track Israeli troop movements, according to Israel's National Cyber Directorate.
  - » Similar attempts have been made against security cameras in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E., according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

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 303 members of the U.S. military have been injured thus far in the war.
  - » 10 have been seriously wounded, and at least 273 of the injured have reportedly returned to duty.
  - » In the March 27 Iranian attack on a U.S. base in Saudi Arabia, at least 15 U.S. servicemembers were injured, including two who were seriously wounded. Over the past week, at least 24 American troops sustained injuries in various Iranian attacks on the base, according to *PBS*.
- Since the war began, 33 people have been killed in Israel, while over 6,000 people have been hospitalized. Six of these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
  - » Over the past day,
    - – A 19-year-old Israeli soldier was killed, and an Israeli officer was wounded after a Hezbollah anti-tank missile attacked their tank in southern Lebanon.
    - – Three Israeli soldiers were severely injured, and other soldiers were moderately wounded by Hezbollah attacks while operating in southern Lebanon.
    - – 11 people were wounded after an Iranian ballistic missile impacted an open area in Beersheba.
    - – Two people were injured after a simultaneous Hezbollah and Iran attack targeted northern Israel.
- An Indonesian soldier with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was killed by an unknown projectile in southern Lebanon on March 30. The cause of death is under investigation by the United Nations.
- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
  - » Iran:
    - – At least 3,486 people, including at least 1,211 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 42 people have been injured, including five Emirati soldiers.
  - » Iraq:
    - – At least 100 people have been killed, including 13 people in Iraqi Kurdistan.

» Jordan:

– At least 25 people have been injured.

» Kuwait:

– Two Kuwaiti navy sailors, two Kuwaiti interior ministry officers, two Kuwaiti civilians, and an Indian national have been killed, over 90 Kuwaiti military personnel have been injured, and two medical staff have been wounded.

» Lebanon:

– At least 1,238 people have been killed, and more than 3,543 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.

» Oman:

– At least three people have been killed, and at least 15 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 178 others have been injured.

6. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

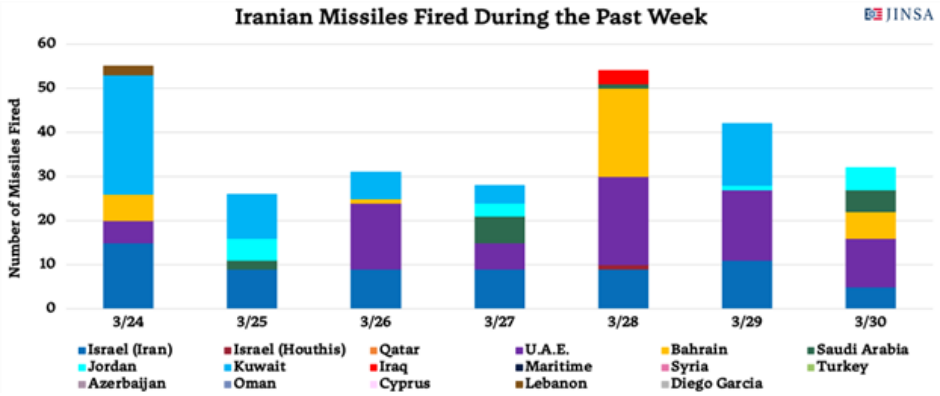
- On March 29, the IRGC issued a statement warning all employees and students of U.S. universities in the region to stay at least a kilometer away from these campuses and that Iran has now deemed these universities to be legitimate targets.
- Iran's parliament will review a possible withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, with the foreign ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, insisting that Iran has not and will not pursue a nuclear weapon.
- According to an Iranian diplomatic source, Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Mohammad Reza Sheibani will not leave Lebanon, in defiance of the Lebanese government's order for him to depart the country by today.

7. International Response

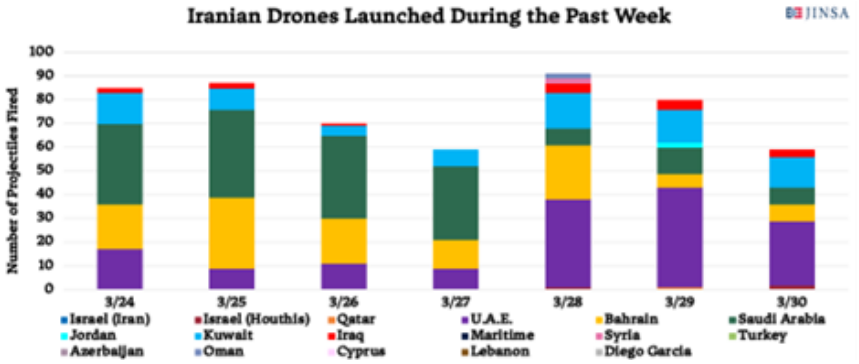
- Spain will not allow the United States to travel through its airspace "for actions related to the war in Iran." Spain had previously denied the U.S. military access to jointly-operated bases for war-related actions.
- Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi asked President Trump to end the war, stating, "I tell President Trump: nobody can stop the war in our region in the Gulf but you. …. Please help us stop the war. You are capable of doing so."

8. Charts and Trends

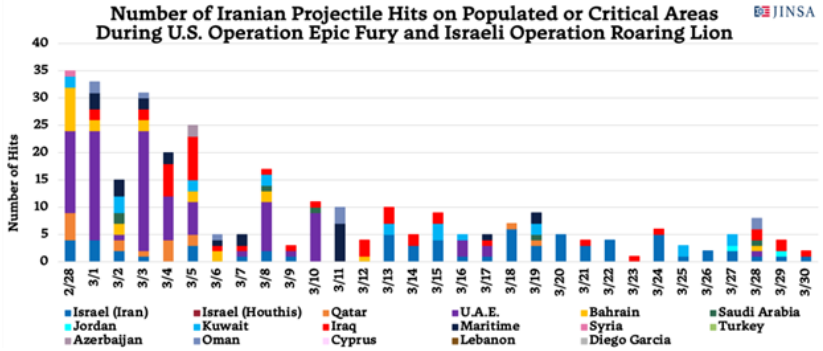
- After Iranian missile fire on March 28 combined to reach one of its largest escalations since the earliest days of the war, Iranian missile launches declined 22 percent on March 29, with 42 missiles fired. So far on March 30, Iran has fired 32 missiles.



- Since March 28, Iran has maintained high levels of drone attacks against the U.A.E., launching 27 drones already on March 30.
  - » Iran launched 42 drones at the U.A.E. on March 29 and 37 on March 28, up from 9 to 11 drones per day from March 25 to March 27.
  - » At the same time that Iran escalated its drone attacks against the U.A.E., it sharply reduced the number of drones it launched at Saudi Arabia, launching just seven to 11 drones per day from March 28 to March 30, compared to 31 to 37 drones per day from March 24 to March 27.



- On March 29, the number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets decreased from eight hits on March 28 to four hits on March 29, while also narrowing from six countries hit to three.



9. JINSA Resources

- Svante E. Cornell, *Turkey on Iran: Gains, Risks, and Strategic Restraint*, March 30, 2026
- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, *If Tehran Survives*, March 27, 2026
- 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
- 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