



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/1/26 Update

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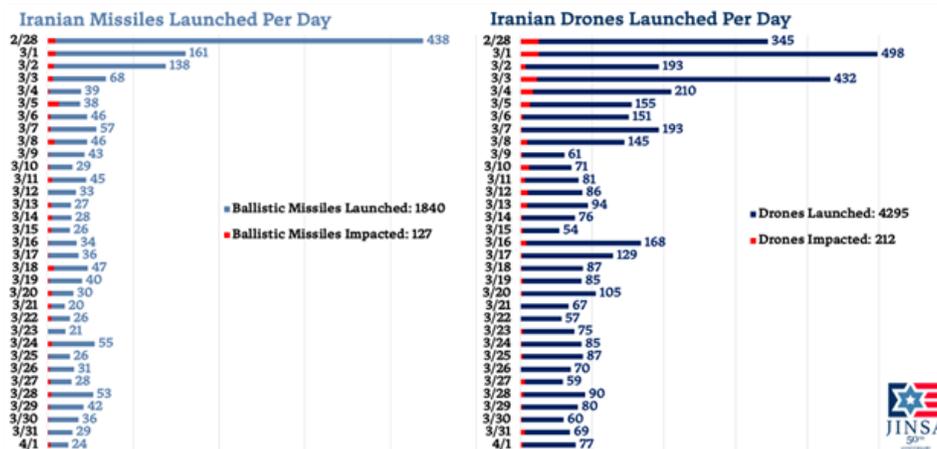
With the United States and Israel launching a joint campaign—Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, respectively—against Iranian regime targets and Iran launching retaliatory missile and drone attacks against U.S. forces in the region, Israel, and Arab nations—dubbed Operation True Promise IV—JINSA will regularly release updates detailing the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of April 1 at 11:00 am ET.

In observance of the Passover holiday, JINSA will release its next update on Sunday, April 5.

1. Overview

- The White House [announced](#) on March 31 that President Donald Trump will be delivering an address to the American people on April 1 at 9:00 pm Eastern Time “to provide an important update on Iran.” No further details were available.
 - » In an [interview](#) with Reuters ahead of the speech, President Trump claimed, “Iran will not have nuclear weapons, and they don't want them either.” He argued, “we have achieved a complete regime change in Iran, and we are about to leave there quite soon.”
 - President Trump further stated, “we have a few more targets left. If we need to, we'll return to carry out pinpoint strikes,” and “I don't care about the nuclear material in Iran. We'll watch it via satellite.”
 - » President Trump [said](#) in a statement released on April 1 that Iran's “new regime president” has requested a ceasefire. He stated, “We will consider when Hormuz Strait is open, free, and clear. Until then, we are blasting Iran into oblivion.”
- When asked about Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, President Trump [told](#) CBS News on March 31, “I don't even think about it. I just know that, you know, that's so deeply buried it's going to be very hard for anybody [to recover it].” He added that even in peacetime, Iranian officials “haven't been able to [recover] it. ... It's pretty safe.”
 - » In [separate remarks](#) that day, President Trump asserted that Iran “will not be able to [have] a nuclear weapon for years.”
- President Trump [stated](#) on March 31 that the United States may end combat operations without reaching a diplomatic agreement with Iran. That day, he [claimed](#) that the war is “coming to an end,” likely [within the span](#) of “two weeks, maybe a couple of days longer.”
- The United States is [deploying](#) the USS *George H.W. Bush* aircraft carrier and several support ships to the Middle East, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on March 31.
- On March 31, American freelance journalist Shelly Kittelson was [kidnapped](#) in Baghdad, Iraq, by Iran-aligned group Kataib Hezbollah.

- According to *Iran International*, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) apparatus has [stymied](#) Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian’s decision-making and ability to appoint new officials.
 - » Reportedly, the IRGC is closely guarding Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and preventing him from meeting with Pezeshkian or other senior officials. More generally, “a military council composed of senior IRGC officers now exercises full control over the core decision-making structure” in Iran, the outlet reported.
- The Israeli Air Force (IAF) has [dropped](#) over 16,000 munitions in over 10,000 different strikes on more than 4,000 targets thus far in the war, Israel’s military said on April 1.
- Iran continues to launch far fewer missiles than it did during the opening days of the war, but it launched its largest missile salvo against Israel since the beginning of the war on April 1, escalated its attacks against Bahrain and Iraq in recent days, and has maintained heavy fire against the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.).
 - » Since mounting a large escalation on March 28, Iranian missile fire has continued to decline, with the regime launching 29 missiles on March 31 compared to 36 on March 30. So far on April 1, Iran has fired 24 missiles.
 - In the morning on April 1, Iran launched four attacks against Israel within a two-hour window. Later that day and shortly before the start of the Jewish holiday of Passover, it launched an attack with [10 ballistic missiles](#), its largest attack since the early days of the war.
 - Iran escalated its drone attacks against Iraq on March 31 and against Bahrain and Kuwait on April 1.
 - » Iran has launched roughly 4,295 drones, 1,840 ballistic missiles, and 37 cruise missiles since the war began, according to JINSA data.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- On April 1, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “Iran’s New Regime President, much less Radicalized and far more intelligent than his predecessors, has just asked the United States of America for a CEASEFIRE! We will consider when Hormuz Strait is open, free, and clear. Until then, we are blasting Iran into oblivion or, as they say, back to the Stone Ages!!!”
- On April 1, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei [claimed](#) that the United States “isn’t serious about diplomacy,” according to Iranian state television.

- President Trump [told reporters](#) on March 31 that ultimately, Iranian leaders “don’t have to make a deal with me. When we feel that they are, for a long period of time, put into the Stone Ages and they won’t be able to come up with a nuclear weapon, then we’ll leave. Whether we have a deal or not, it’s irrelevant.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- Reiterating the rationale for the war, President Trump [stated](#) on March 31, “Four dollar [per gallon gas prices], yeah. And [Iran] is not going to be throwing a nuclear weapon at us in six months.” He added that the American people “are feeling a lot safer.”
- On March 31, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [spoke](#) of several major accomplishments by the Israeli military thus far during Operation Roaring Lion. Prime Minister Netanyahu highlighted that Israel has:
 - » Developed “new alliances” with other states in the Middle East;
 - » Created new “security zones” on Israel’s borders with Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria;
 - » Been “hitting hard and distancing two existential threats,” Iran’s regime and Hezbollah;
 - » Degraded “the industrial capability of the [Iranian] regime to produce these tools of destruction”; and
 - » Ended the “strategic threat” Hezbollah posed to Israeli security.

Day 33 of Operations: April 1

Iran

- As Iran launched a salvo of 10 ballistic missiles at Israel, the IAF [announced](#) that it was conducting an “extensive” wave of attacks on regime targets in Tehran.
- An airstrike [targeted](#) the compound of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, where the regime’s Basij force established an anti-American museum. Between 1979 and 1980, regime forces seized the embassy and held hostages there for 444 days, and never relinquished control of it.
- According to *Iran International*, strikes also [targeted](#) several other regime sites throughout Iran, including:
 - » The Electronics Industries Complex in Shiraz;
 - » The Meraj IRGC base, Al-Hadid artillery site, and the airport in Ahvaz;
 - » The [Chitgar Aerospace Facility](#) and a [helicopter manufacturing complex](#) in western Tehran; and
 - » Regime sites in [the cities](#) of Aligoudarz, Amol, Bandar Abbas, Bushehr, Chalus, Karaj, Kelardasht, and Tabriz.

Lebanon

- An Israeli strike in the Beirut area [killed](#) Youssef Hashem, Hezbollah’s chief of military operations in Iraq, according to Hezbollah and Lebanese government sources who spoke with AFP.

Day 32 of Operations: March 31

Iran

- The IAF [bombed](#) 20 weapons facilities throughout Iran, including sites for developing and experimenting with ballistic missile engines and an air defense system manufacturing facility.

- The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [struck](#) a factory where the regime was manufacturing fentanyl for the purposes of researching and developing chemical weapons.
- The Israeli military [carried out](#) an airstrike on the Iranian city of Mahallat, killing the IRGC Quds Force's Lebanon Corps chief of engineering, Mahdi Vafaei.
- According to Iranian media, strikes [targeted](#) Sefid Dasht Steel Complex in Borujen, Khuzestan Steel in Ahvaz, Mobarakeh Steel, and another steel mill in Isfahan.
- Strikes also reportedly [targeted](#) the Iran Marine Industrial Company in Bushehr, as well as other regime facilities in Andimeshk, Kermanshah, Ramhormoz, and Shiraz.

Lebanon

- The Israeli Navy [carried out](#) targeted strikes in Beirut, killing Hezbollah's Southern Front Commander, Hajj Yusuf Ismail Hashem, the most senior Hezbollah operative to be killed since the group joined the war in March.
- The Israeli military [bombed](#) several Hezbollah rocket launchers soon after the group fired around 45 rockets at northern Israel.
- The IDF [eliminated](#) a group of Hezbollah fighters who had conducted a drone attack on Israeli soldiers, wounding three reservists in the 226th Paratroopers Brigade.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Iran, Hezbollah, and the Houthis continue to target Israel with an array of drone, missile, and rocket attacks.
 - » Iran [launched](#) 10 ballistic missiles at central Israel, its largest barrage since the beginning of the ongoing war.
 - » In a separate incident, submunitions from an Iranian ballistic missile [equipped](#) with a cluster bomb impacted sites near Tel Aviv, striking a building in Bnei Brak and wounding 14 people, including an 11-year-old girl in critical condition.
 - » Hezbollah [fired](#) a barrage of around 45 rockets at northern Israel. Israeli air defenses shot down a majority of the rockets, while several others crashed into open areas, and a projectile impacted a town. Emergency response teams reported three injuries from the attack, including a [6-year-old child](#).
 - » In a separate Hezbollah attack, a rocket [crashed](#) into a home in Kiryat Shmona, lightly injuring a man.
 - » Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) a Houthi ballistic missile launched from Yemen.
- Arab countries continue coming under Iranian and proxy fire. Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. each reported attacks on their country over the past day:
 - » Bahrain:
 - Bahrain [intercepted](#) four missiles and 19 drones, with one building sustaining [damage](#) as a result of an attack.
 - » Iraq:
 - Four drones [struck](#) the storage facilities of a British-owned engine oil company in Iraqi Kurdistan.
 - A Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) base near Erbil was [targeted](#) by at least six Iranian missiles and drones.

- » Kuwait:
 - An Iranian drone [targeted](#) Kuwait International Airport, causing minor material damage but no casualties. Iran has [launched](#) three cruise missiles and 15 drones into Kuwaiti airspace over the past 24 hours, according to Kuwait's military.
- » Qatar:
 - Three Iranian cruise missiles [targeted](#) Qatar, with two intercepted and a third striking a Kuwaiti-owned oil tanker without causing casualties.
- » Saudi Arabia:
 - The Saudi Ministry of Defense reported it intercepted 12 drones on March 31 and four drones on April 1.
- » U.A.E.:
 - The Emirati Ministry of Defense [reported](#) it intercepted five ballistic missiles and 35 drones over various parts of the country.
- On March 31, an American freelance journalist, Shelly Kittelson, was [kidnapped](#) in Baghdad by the Iran-aligned Iraqi militant group Kataib Hezbollah, with footage circulating online appearing to show her being forced into a vehicle.
 - » Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs Dylan Johnson [said](#) that the State Department had previously warned Kittelson of threats against her and is coordinating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to secure her release.

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, 37 [people have been killed in](#) Israel, while over 6,239 people have been [injured](#). [Ten](#) of these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » Iran:
 - At least 3,519 people, including at least 1,212 military personnel, have been [killed](#), with at least 24,800 [wounded](#). However, *Iran International* reported that over 4,700 security personnel have been [killed](#), including members of the Basij, IRGC, and police forces.
 - » 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 1,268 people have been [killed](#), and more than 3,750 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
 - Three UN peacekeepers from Indonesia were [killed](#) in separate incidents within a 24-hour period on March 30 and 31. The IDF's preliminary investigation [determined](#) that at least two of the three deaths were likely caused by Hezbollah explosives.
 - » 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.:
 - 12 people have [been killed](#), and over 180 others have [been injured](#).

6. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

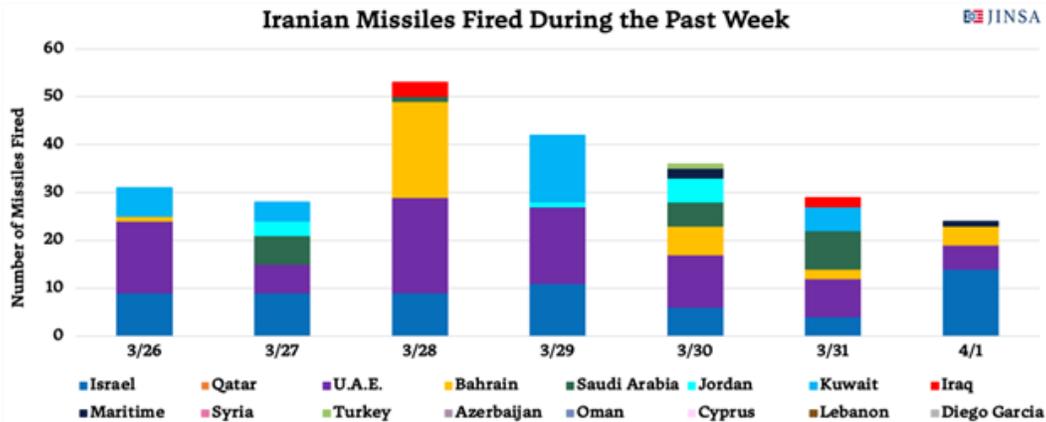
- On April 1, the IRGC [stated](#) it will begin targeting U.S. companies operating in the region as of April 1, naming 18 firms, including Microsoft, Google, Apple, Intel, IBM, Tesla, and Boeing. The IRGC warned, “these companies should expect the destruction of their respective units in exchange for each terror act in Iran.”
- On March 31, Iranian Parliament National Security head Ebrahim Azizi [declared](#) that the Strait of Hormuz will reopen only on Iran’s terms, warning the United States it will not regain access and stating that the “47 years of hospitality are over forever.”

7. International Response

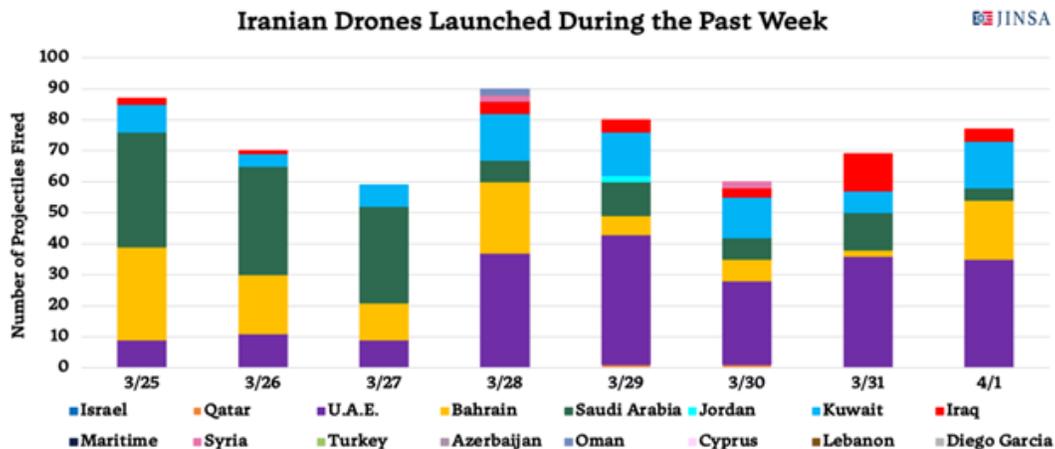
- On April 1, President Trump said he is seriously considering [withdrawing](#) from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after the alliance declined to join the U.S.-Israeli campaign against Iran, telling *The Telegraph* that he “always knew they were a paper tiger” and that the alliance’s refusal had pushed him beyond reconsideration.
 - » In 2023, Congress [passed](#) legislation preventing any U.S. president from withdrawing from NATO without securing [approval](#) from two-thirds of the Senate or an act of Congress.
- On April 1, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the U.A.E. is readying to help the United States and allies use military force to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and is exploring what military contributions it can make.
 - » A U.A.E. official later told *The National* that the *Journal’s* report was “[misleading](#),” and that the country maintains a “defensive posture” while remaining willing to support multi-national efforts to safeguard maritime security.
- On April 1, the U.A.E. [barred](#) most Iranian nationals from entering or transiting through the country, with Emirates and Etihad Airways both implementing the restrictions, though exemptions apply to long-term Golden Visa holders and select categories, including athletes, doctors, investors, and spouses of U.A.E. citizens.
 - » The day prior, *Iran International* [reported](#) that the U.A.E. arrested dozens of money changers linked to the IRGC who had facilitated financial transfers on behalf of Iranian-linked entities, shut down their associated companies, and summoned additional money changers to leave the country.
- On April 1, Bahrain [circulated](#) a revised United Nations Security Council draft resolution on protecting commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz that retains authorization for “all necessary means” but drops explicit reference to Chapter VII enforcement powers, after diplomats indicated the original draft was unlikely to pass given an expected Russian and Chinese veto.
- On April 1, International Energy Agency head Fatih Birol [warned](#) that oil supply disruptions from the Middle East will intensify in April, with more than 12 million barrels already lost since the start of the war.
- On March 31, the United Kingdom [announced](#) it would deploy Sky Sabre systems to Saudi Arabia and extend the deployment of Typhoon fighter jets in Qatar.
- On March 31, Argentina [designated](#) the IRGC as a terrorist organization, citing the group’s support for Hezbollah and its role in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people.

8. Charts and Trends

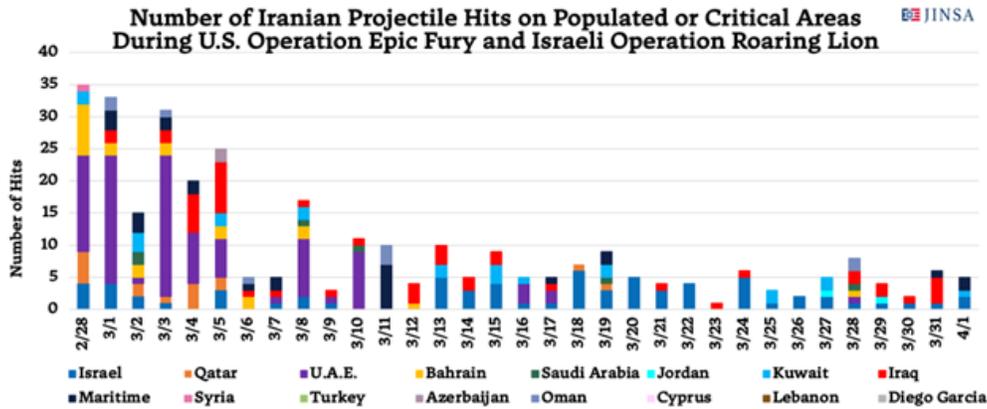
- Iran's missile fire has continued to fall each day since its escalation on March 28, with it launching 29 missiles on March 31, a 19 percent decline from 36 on March 30. So far on April 1, Iran has fired 17 missiles.
 - Following the Houthis launching a ballistic missile against Israel in the morning on April 1, Iran launched four separate missile attacks against Israel within a two-hour period. Shortly before the start of the Jewish holiday of Passover, Iran launched 10 ballistic missiles, its largest attack against Israel since the early days of the war.
 - Over the past few weeks, Iranian attacks against Israel typically consisted of one to three missiles.



- On April 1, Iran resumed heavy drone attacks against Bahrain, launching 19 drones after firing just two on March 31. Tehran similarly escalated against Kuwait on April 1, with 15 drones targeting the country, compared to only seven the day before.
 - Iran also maintained its elevated drone attacks against the U.A.E., with 35 drones targeting the country already on April 1.



- On March 31, the number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets increased to six hits, with four drones striking Iraq, up from two total hits on March 30. So far on April 1, five Iranian projectiles struck targets, with two hitting ships, two cluster munitions impacting in Israel, and one projectile hitting a fuel tank at Kuwait's international airport.



9. JINSA Resources

- Meriem Mokhtari, [The Triple Betrayal: Operation Epic Fury, The Gulf’s Public Discourse, and U.S. Stakes](#), March 31
- Jonathan Ruhe, [Strengthening U.S. Force Posture at Israeli Bases](#), March 31, 2026
- Yoni Tobin and Sarah Havdala, [From the Ceasefire’s Ashes: War Returns to Israel’s Northern Front](#), March 30, 2026
- 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