



## Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/6/26 Update

**Ari Cicurel**  
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

**Yoni Tobin**  
Senior Policy Analyst

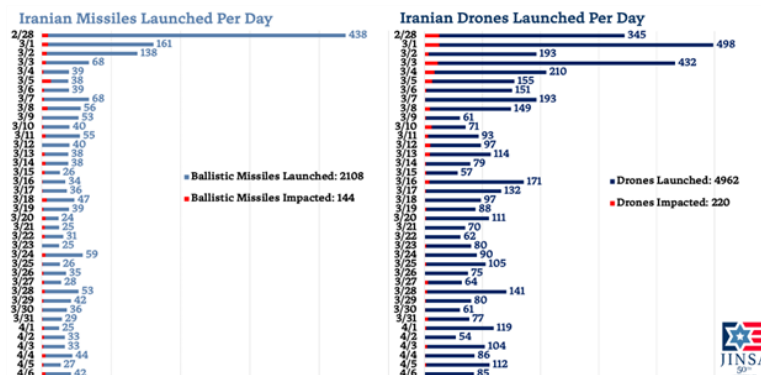
**Jonah Brody**  
Policy Analyst

**Sarah Havdala**  
Policy Analyst

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 6 at 11:00 am ET.

### 1. Overview

- On April 6 at 1:00 PM EST, President Donald Trump is scheduled to hold a [press conference](#) about the recent rescue of two U.S. airmen whose F-15 aircraft was shot down over Iran. During the press conference, President Trump will reportedly [give an update](#) on negotiations with Iran.
- Pakistani mediators reportedly [put forth](#) a framework proposal overnight, which would involve a 45-day ceasefire.
  - » However, Iran reportedly [rejected](#) the temporary ceasefire on April 6, demanding that there be a permanent end to the war, guidelines for the secure transit of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, the lifting of sanctions, and reconstruction guarantees.
- 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 United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), and Kuwait.
  - » Iranian missile fire fell sharply on April 5, with 27 missiles fired, down from 44 on April 4. However, Iran has already fired 42 missiles on April 6.
    - Iran has sharply increased missile fire against Israel so far on April 6, launching 15 missiles—including 10 over three closely timed attacks—compared to seven on April 5. Iran’s use of cluster munitions led to four missiles dispersing bomblets that hit dozens of sites in Israel.
    - Iran has launched roughly 4,962 drones, 2,108 ballistic missiles, and 58 cruise missiles since the war began.



## 2. Diplomatic Engagement

- President Trump [told](#) Israel's *Channel 12* outlet on April 5 that "there is a good chance" a deal with Iran will be reached by Tuesday, April 7. However, if a deal is not reached by then, the President said he plans to begin "blowing up everything over there."
- Pakistan [presented](#) U.S. and Iranian negotiators with a framework proposal overnight, according to Reuters. Sources who spoke with Reuters allege the window for an agreement is closing quickly.
  - » According to Reuters, "Mediators have urged Iranian officials not to delay any further, stressing that the next 48 hours are the last opportunity for them to reach a deal ... [and] avoid a dramatic escalation in the war."
  - » Reuters reported, citing insider sources, that the proposal would not involve an official, comprehensive agreement but rather an interim 45-day ceasefire for issues to be worked out in greater detail.
  - » The Iranian regime has reportedly rejected the notion that it has to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and has not shown flexibility on its enriched uranium stockpile. Iran's failure to compromise on these two key issues may prove insurmountable.

## 3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On April 6, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) [confirmed](#) that sites near the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Iran were struck recently, but that the facility itself remains intact.
- On April 6, Israel's Ministry of Defense [announced](#) it had entered an agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries to increase "the production rate and quantity of Arrow interceptors."
  - » However, amid rumors that Israel is running low on its Arrow interceptors, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz reassured that "Israel has sufficient interceptors to protect its citizens, and the current move is intended to ensure continued operational freedom and the necessary endurance."
- On April 5, President Trump [stated](#) during an interview that Iran's military shot down an American F-15 fighter jet on April 2 with a shoulder-fired missile, noting that "they got lucky."
  - » According to Israel's *Channel 12*, the American weapons system officer from the downed fighter jet was [unable to contact](#) rescue teams due to being unconscious and suffering a concussion after his ejection. He finally contacted U.S. forces from a high point, then hid in a crevice on the evening of April 3 as he awaited evacuation.
- Adding to the rescue's cinematic nature, *The New York Times* reported that the Central Intelligence Agency attempted to [convince](#) Iranian forces that U.S. forces already had extracted the colonel and were moving out of Iran.

### **Day 38 of Operations: April 6**

#### *Iran*

- The Israeli Air Force (IAF) [bombed](#) the largest petrochemical facility in Iran, at the South Pars gas field in Asaluyeh. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) noted that this facility is a "central target responsible for about 50 percent of the country's petrochemical production" and that strikes to this facility and another facility last week are "a severe economic blow amounting to tens of billions of dollars to the Iranian regime."
  - » Iran's *Fars News Agency* [reported](#) that the Marvdasht Petrochemical Complex was also attacked during the day, igniting a fire.

- The Deputy Governor for Political and Security Affairs of Fars Province also [reported](#) strikes targeting the Shiraz Institute of Mechanics and the Persian Gulf Oil Company's power pole in Shiraz.
- In an early morning strike, the Israeli military [killed](#) the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Chief of Intelligence, Majid Khademi.
  - » Overnight, the Israeli military also [eliminated](#) the chief of the IRGC Quds Force's Unit 840, Asghar Bakri, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Unit 840 is responsible for coordinating and conducting the IRGC-Quds Force's covert operations outside Iranian territory.
- Overnight, the IAF [destroyed](#) dozens of Iranian aircraft when it [struck Mehrabad Airport, Bahram Airport, and the Test Airport](#) in Tehran used by the IRGC Quds Force, targeting runways, control towers, and a drone manufacturing factory.
- Strikes also targeted several other regime sites, including:
  - » [Sharif University of Technology](#) in western Tehran, particularly the [Electronics Research Center](#);
  - » The [Fath military base](#)—a helicopter production site in Alborz;
  - » The [Mashhad Basij Base](#); and
  - » A [shipyard](#) in Khuzestan, adjacent to the Khorramshahr bridge.

#### *Lebanon*

- The IDF [announced](#) that in recent days, Israeli troops killed the Hezbollah operatives responsible for killing four Israeli soldiers in the Nahal Brigade's Reconnaissance Unit last weekend in southern Lebanon.
- Israel [launched](#) several airstrikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut and the city's southern suburbs.

#### **Day 37 of Operations: April 5**

#### *Iran*

- Iranian media [announced](#) that a strike in Shahin Shahr killed Masoud Zare, the commander of Iran's army air defense academy.
- Strikes also [targeted](#) the Shahid Soleimani International Airport in the city of Ahvaz for the third time.

#### *Lebanon*

- The Israeli military [bombed](#) the Imam Hossein Division's main headquarters in Lebanon, killing the group's senior artillery head, Kamil Melhem, a commander's aide, and other operatives. Imam Hossein Division is an Iran-backed group that coordinates with Hezbollah.
- The IAF [bombed](#) command centers belonging to Hezbollah in Beirut, with the IDF confirming that, in recent days, its military also attacked two other Hezbollah-owned Al-Amana gas stations that the group uses to finance its operations.
- Troops in Israel's Golani Brigade [discovered](#) Hezbollah equipment inside a school in Lebanon, including military uniforms, Radwan Force certificates, and manuals for operating rocket-propelled grenades, as well as other weapons adjacent to the school.
- Overnight, in an attempt to kill a Hezbollah fighter near Beirut, the Israeli military accidentally [killed](#) Pierre Moawad, a senior official in the Lebanese Forces, an anti-Hezbollah Christian group.

## *Iraq*

- An unclaimed airstrike [targeted](#) positions belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in Nineveh and Saladin governorates, reportedly without causing casualties.

## 4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Iran, Hezbollah, and the Houthis continue to target Israel with an array of drone, missile, and rocket attacks.
  - » Iranian Attacks:
    - On April 6, cluster munitions from an Iranian ballistic missile directly [impacted](#) a building in Ramat Gan, as well as other sites in Givatayim, Bnei Brak, and Petah Tikva in central Israel.
    - In a separate Iranian ballistic missile attack on April 6, fragments [struck](#) a woman in Petah Tikva, and another man was lightly injured by glass shards.
    - In the early morning of April 6, Iran [fired](#) a total of 10 ballistic missiles in three salvos at central Israel over the course of a few minutes.
    - On April 5, an Iranian ballistic missile [struck](#) a residential building in Haifa, causing severe damage. Rescue teams recovered four bodies from the rubble after an 18-hour search, with a top Home Front Command officer noting that this recovery operation was one of the “most complex” rescues in the ongoing war.
  - » Hezbollah Attacks:
    - On April 5, Hezbollah [fired](#) a drone at northern Israel, impacting a home in Shomrat.
  - » Houthi Attacks:
    - On April 6, Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) several Houthi drones targeting Eilat in southern Israel and lost contact with the other drones, which suggests the drones landed in open areas.
- Arab countries continue coming under Iranian and proxy fire. Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. each reported attacks in the past day.
  - » Bahrain:
    - Bahrain [intercepted](#) two drones targeting the country.
  - » Iraq:
    - On April 6, four drones were [intercepted](#) near Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan.
    - Overnight between April 5–6, four drones [targeted](#) a Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs base in Iraqi Kurdistan.
    - On April 5, strikes targeted several sites across Iraq:
      - Air defense systems in Iraqi Kurdistan [intercepted](#) seven drones;
      - A Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) base was targeted by a drone and rocket;
      - A drone strike [targeted](#) Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan; and
      - A drone attack [targeted](#) the U.S. military’s Victoria base near Baghdad International Airport.

- » Jordan:
  - In the past 24 hours, Jordan was [targeted](#) by a missile and three drones, of which two drones were intercepted, while the remaining drone and missile fell inside Jordanian territory, causing material damage.
- » Kuwait:
  - Iran’s military [claimed](#) to have struck U.S. forces on Kuwait’s Bubiyan Island with drones, targeting satellite equipment and munitions. Iran has [launched](#) two cruise missiles, 14 ballistic missiles, and 46 drones into Kuwait airspace over the past 24 hours, resulting in at least six [injuries](#).
- » Qatar:
  - On April 5, the Qatari Ministry of Defense stated it [intercepted](#) an unspecified number of drones and two cruise missiles.
- » Saudi Arabia:
  - The Saudi Ministry of Defense reported it [intercepted](#) two drones.
- » U.A.E.:
  - The Emirati Ministry of Defense [stated](#) it intercepted two cruise missiles, 12 ballistic missiles, and 19 drones, while also reporting four civilian injuries from the attacks.
- On April 6, the IRGC claimed to have [targeted](#) the U.S. amphibious assault ship USS *Tripoli* (LHA-7), forcing it to retreat into the southern Indian Ocean, and separately claimed to have [struck](#) an Israeli container ship with a cruise missile, without specifying the location of the incident.

## 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. Kliner, 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 365 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war.
  - » Ten 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, [42 people have been killed in](#) Israel, while over 7,035 have been [injured](#). [Eleven](#) of these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

- » In the past 24 hours, 163 individuals were [hospitalized](#), including an elderly man in serious condition.
- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
  - » Iran:
    - At least 3,546 people, including at least 1,219 military personnel, have been [killed](#), with at least 26,500 [wounded](#). *Iran International* reports 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 46 people [have been injured](#), including five [Emirati soldiers](#).
  - » Iraq:
    - At least 108 people have been [killed](#), including 14 [people](#) in Iraqi Kurdistan.
  - » Jordan:
    - At least 31 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 eight [civilians](#), including two [medical staff](#), have been wounded.
  - » Lebanon:
    - At least 1,461 people have been [killed](#), and more than 4,430 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
    - Three UN peacekeepers were [injured](#) in a projectile explosion on April 3.
    - 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 likely were caused by Hezbollah explosives.
  - » Oman:
    - At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 15 have been [wounded](#).
  - » Qatar:
    - Around 20 people have been [wounded](#), and seven 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.:
    - Thirteen people have [been killed](#), and at least 221 have been [injured](#).

## 6. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

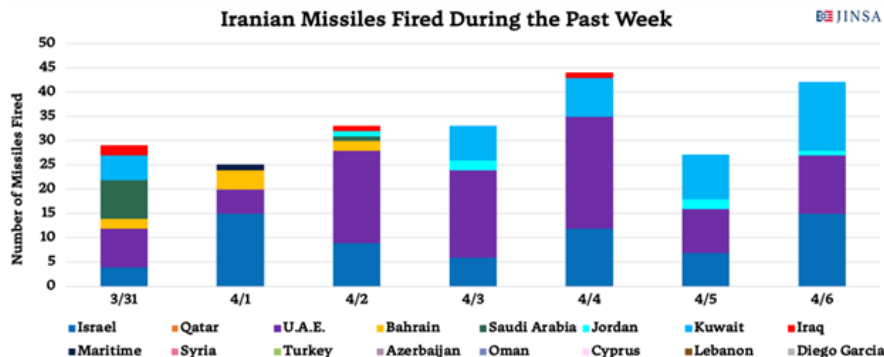
- On April 6, Iran’s central military command [warned](#) of “much more devastating and wide-spread” retaliation if civilian targets are struck again in response to President Trump’s threats to destroy Iranian civilian infrastructure if Tehran does not agree to a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.
- On April 6, the IRGC Naval Command [declared](#) that the Strait of Hormuz “will never return to its former state, especially for the U.S. and Israel,” announcing it is completing preparations for what is described as a “new Persian Gulf order” following President Trump’s threats to strike Iranian power plants.
- On April 6, *Tasnim News Agency*, linked to the IRGC, [published](#) a list of U.S.-affiliated educational institutions in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E., denoting them as strike targets for the Iranian regime in retaliation for attacks on Iranian universities in recent days.
- On April 5, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, one of Iran’s negotiators, [warned](#) that the Middle East “will burn” and accused President Trump of dragging the United States into a “living HELL” by purportedly following Prime Minister Netanyahu’s “commands.”

## 7. International Response

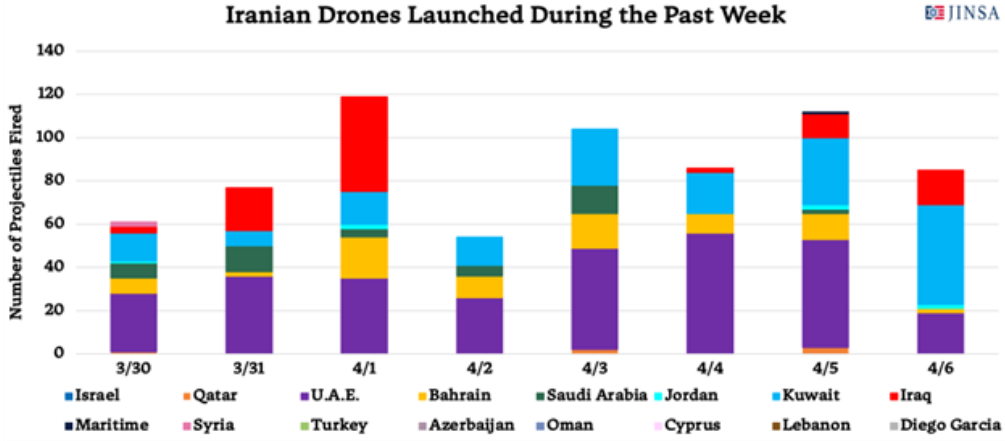
- On April 6, the IAEA [warned](#) that strikes near Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant “pose a very real danger to nuclear safety and must stop,” adding that one recent strike landed roughly 75 meters (250 feet) from the plant’s perimeter, and cautioning that such attacks could cause a severe radiological incident extending beyond Iran’s borders.
- Between April 5–6, several Iranian Kurdish party leaders [denied](#) receiving weapons from the United States after President Trump claimed Washington had sent arms to Iranian protesters through Kurdish intermediaries, saying “we sent guns to the protesters, a lot of them, and I think the Kurds took the guns.”
  - » Senior figures from both the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) and the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) said they had received no U.S. weapons, with one PAK official noting they still rely on “old Kalashnikovs” from the fight against the Islamic State.

## 8. Charts and Trends

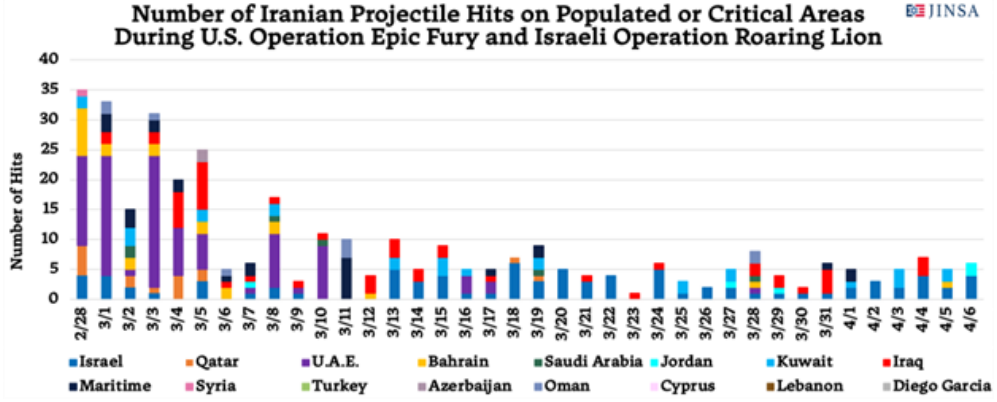
- After an escalation on April 4, total Iranian missile fire fell 39 percent on April 5, with 27 missiles fired. However, Iran has fired 28 missiles already on April 6.
  - » Iran has sharply increased missile fire against Israel so far on April 6, launching 15 missiles—including 10 over three closely timed attacks—compared to seven on April 5.
  - » Iran escalated its missile attacks against Kuwait on April 6 as well, with 14 missiles targeting the country, compared to nine the previous day.



- Iran maintained heavy drone attacks against the U.A.E. on April 5, launching 50 drones, but it has only launched 19 drones against the country so far on April 6.
- » Iran also escalated drone attacks against Kuwait, by launching 46 drones on April 6—its largest single day total against the country since the first week of the war—and 31 on April 5, compared to 19 on April 4.
- » Meanwhile, drone fire against Bahrain has dropped sharply so far on April 6, falling from 12 to just two drones.



- On April 5, the number of Iranian projectiles that successfully hit targets fell from seven on April 4 to five on April 5. However, six Iranian projectiles have hit targets so far on April 6.
- » So far on April 6, four Iranian missiles have hit targets in Israel, including cluster munitions that spread bomblets across dozens of locations.



9. JINSA Resources

- JINSA Iran Policy Project, [End States, Not End Dates: Defining Success for Operation Epic Fury](#), April 1, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, [How This War Will End. If It Ends Now](#), April 1, 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 Aboubakr 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