



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/15/26 Update

Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Rena Gabber
Research Associate

The United States, Israel, and Iran reached a two-week ceasefire agreement on April 7. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of April 15 at 10:00 am ET.

Days left in ceasefire: **7**

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **181** (6 on April 14-15)

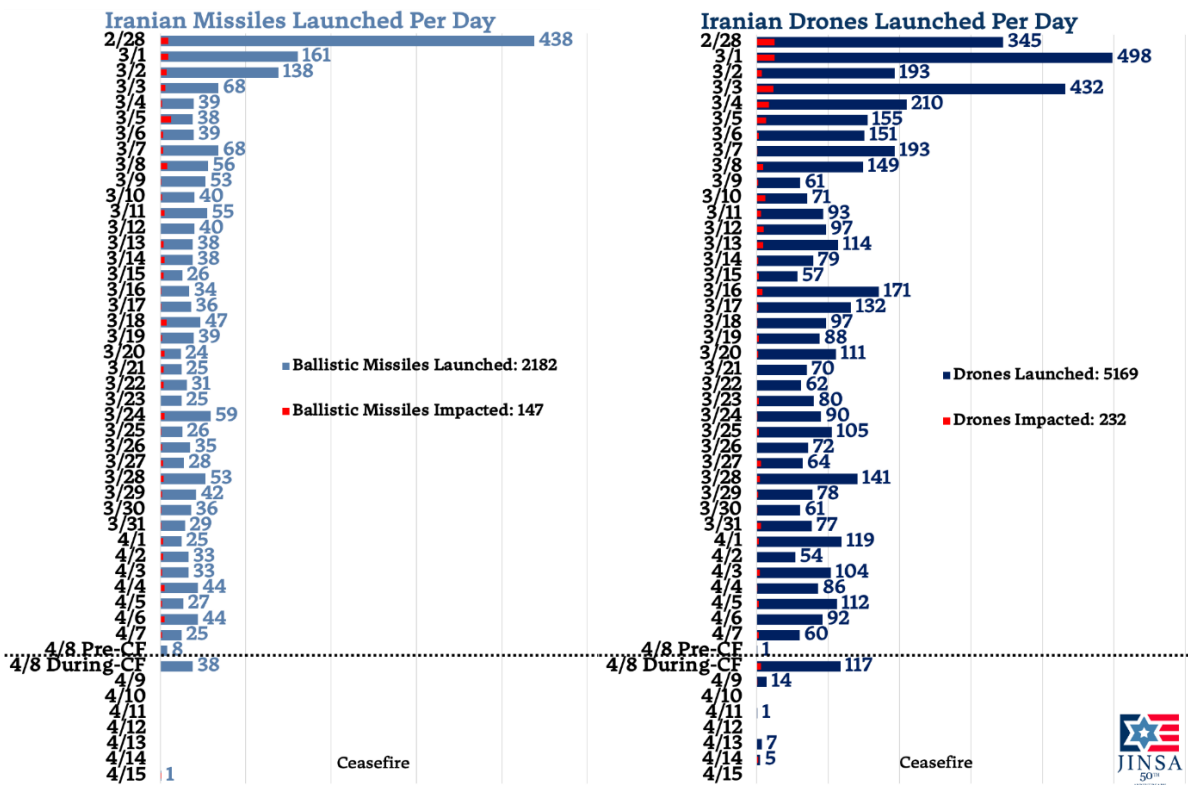
Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 57** (12 since April 14).

1. Overview

- During an April 15 [interview](#) with Maria Bartiromo of Fox Business, President Donald Trump stated about the Iran war, “I think it’s close to over,” and that, “if I pulled up stakes right now, it would take them 20 years to rebuild that country. And we’re not finished.”
- On April 15, an Iranian official [told](#) Lebanon’s Hezbollah-affiliated *Al Mayadeen* outlet that Israel and Lebanon agreed to a one-week ceasefire that will take effect the night of April 15.
 - » A senior Israeli official [told](#) *The Times of Israel*, “There is no ceasefire in Lebanon,” but another Israeli official [conveyed](#) to Reuters that the Israeli security cabinet will meet the night of April 15 to discuss the potential for a ceasefire.
- In the morning of April 14, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [wrote](#) that “no ships made it past the U.S. blockade” on Iran in the first 24 hours of the blockade, adding that six commercial ships departing from Iranian ports were stopped and cooperated with U.S. military instructions to return to port.
- At least 20 commercial vessels [transited](#) the Strait of Hormuz between the morning of April 13 and the morning of April 14, U.S. officials told *The Wall Street Journal*, including cargo ships, container vessels, and tankers.
 - » Both the *Journal* and *The New York Times* [reported](#) that commercial ships traveling through and near the Strait of Hormuz are using spoofing tactics, or shutting off their transponders, to avoid revealing their locations to Iran.
- On April 15, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “China is very happy that I am permanently opening the Strait of Hormuz. I am doing it for them, also - And the World... They have agreed not to send weapons to Iran.”
- On April 14, President Trump [remarked](#) that negotiations could resume in Islamabad during the next two days. He noted that he would not participate in the talks.
 - » President Trump criticized the reported U.S. proposal for a 20-year freeze on Iran’s enrichment, stating, “I’ve been saying they can’t have nuclear weapons,” and adding, “so I

don't like the 20 years.” He also noted that, “I don't want them [Iran] to feel like they have a win.”

- » In an earlier phone interview, President Trump noted that negotiations are “happening, but ... a little bit slow.”
 - On April 15, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei [stated](#) that talks with the United States have continued through Pakistani mediators, with *Al Jazeera* reporting that Pakistan’s army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, [landed](#) in Iran for further discussions.
- The Trump administration is taking measures to increase economic pressure on the Iranian regime, complementing its ongoing naval blockade.
 - » The U.S. Treasury Department [announced](#) on April 14 that it will not renew its 30-day waiver of sanctions on Iranian oil, which is set to [expire](#) on April 19.
 - » In addition, the Trump administration sent letters in recent days to banks in China; Hong Kong; Oman; and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) [alleging](#) that they “allowed Iranian funds used for illicit activities to be funneled through them,” Fox Business reported on April 15. A senior U.S. official told Fox Business that secondary sanctions will soon be imposed on the banks.
- On April 14-15, Iran launched six projectiles that targeted Iraqi Kurdistan, with three hitting Kurdish opposition group locations.
 - » Over the first two days of the ceasefire, Iran launched 131 drones and 38 ballistic missiles at Israel and Gulf nations.
 - » Iran has launched roughly 5,169 drones, 2,182 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- In a taped interview aired on April 15, President Trump [addressed](#) the war with Iran, noting that “I think it’s close to over,” and that “if I pulled up stakes right now, it would take them 20 years to rebuild that country. And we’re not finished.”
- On April 14, Vice President J.D. Vance [remarked](#) that President Trump “doesn’t want to make ... a small deal [with Iran]. He wants to make the grand bargain.” He stated that President Trump’s offer is that, if Iran commits to not obtaining a nuclear weapon, the United States will “make Iran thrive.”
 - » Vice President Vance [added](#), “there is a lot of, of course, mistrust between Iran and the United States of America. You are not going to solve that problem overnight,” but “I feel very good about where we are.”
- On April 15, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Baghaei [said](#) that Iran’s right to enrich uranium is “indisputable,” but added “the level and type of enrichment ... is negotiable.”
 - » Baghaei also [noted](#) on April 15 that Iranian negotiators have exchanged messages with the United States through Pakistan since the meeting in Islamabad, as Pakistan’s military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, [landed](#) in Iran to continue negotiations.
- On April 15, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan [stated](#) that Turkey is “conveying the necessary suggestions and carrying out initiatives to ease tensions, extend the ceasefire, and maintain talks.” He added, “There can be no negotiating with clenched fists.”
- On April 15, an Iranian official [told](#) Lebanon’s Hezbollah-affiliated *Al Mayadeen* outlet that Israel and Lebanon agreed to a one-week ceasefire that will take effect the night of April 15. However, a senior Israeli official [told](#) *The Times of Israel* that “there is no ceasefire in Lebanon,” and that “it’s in Lebanon and Israel’s mutual interest to dismantle Hezbollah.”
 - » However, on April 15, a senior Israeli official [told](#) Reuters that the Israeli security cabinet would convene later that evening to discuss the potential for a ceasefire with Lebanon.
 - » On April 14, Israeli and Arab media [reported](#) that U.S. officials privately assured Lebanon they would strongly urge Israel to agree to a ceasefire.
- On April 14, Ambassadors Yechiel Leiter and Nada Hamadeh, the Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors to the United States, respectively, [met](#) for two hours at the U.S. State Department headquarters in Washington, D.C., to negotiate a potential ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon.
 - » In a joint statement [released](#) following the meeting, Israel and Lebanon “agreed to launch direct negotiations at a mutually agreed time and venue.”
 - » After the meeting, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter [told](#) journalists that Lebanese negotiators “expressed a strong will to, this time, disarm Hezbollah.”
 - Ambassador Leiter added, “the Lebanese government made it very clear that they will no longer be occupied by Hezbollah.”
 - He further stated, “we discovered today that we’re on the same side of the equation, and that’s the most positive thing we could have come away with. We are both united in liberating Lebanon from an occupation power dominated by Iran called Hezbollah.”
 - » A State Department official [told](#) *The Times of Israel* that Israel-Lebanese talks are entirely distinct from U.S.-Iran negotiations, and that “Iran dragged the Lebanese people into a war so it cannot pretend to be Lebanon’s protector.”
 - » The official added, “Hezbollah is a terrorist organization that does not deserve a place. It must be fully disarmed and the United States supports that goal. Iran will not be allowed to dictate the future of Lebanon any more. These talks are part of that effort.”

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi [warned](#) on April 15 that “Iran has a very ambitious, wide nuclear program so all of that will require the presence of IAEA inspectors,” and that “otherwise, you will not have an agreement. You will have an illusion of an agreement.”
 - » He further emphasized that any nuclear agreement with Iran “requires very detailed verification mechanisms.”
- On April 14, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres [claimed](#) that “it is highly probable that these [U.S.-Iran] talks will restart,” adding that “it would be unrealistic to expect... such a complex problem, long-lasting problem, could be resolved in the first session of a negotiation. So we need negotiations to go on, and we need a ceasefire to persist as negotiations go on.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- The United States is in the process of sending [10,000 U.S. troops](#) to the Middle East, according to reporting in *The Washington Post* on April 15. Among the forces reportedly being deployed are 6,000 sailors and Marines in the USS *George H.W. Bush* Carrier Strike Group and 4,200 sailors and Marines in the USS *Boxer* Amphibious Ready Group.
- On April 14, CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [announced](#) that U.S. forces had implemented a full blockade on Iranian ports, allowing them to entirely block maritime trade in and out of Iran as the United States maintains “maritime superiority in the Middle East.”
 - » In an April 14 post on X, CENTCOM [noted](#) that more than 100 aircraft, over a dozen warships, and over 10,000 members of the U.S. military are maintaining the blockade.
 - » CENTCOM added that “U.S. forces are supporting freedom of navigation for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz to and from non-Iranian ports.”
 - » Two U.S. officials [told](#) *The Wall Street Journal* that the U.S. military does not plan to fire at tankers departing Iran’s ports, though it could use drones to target Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) speedboats.
- On April 15, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [announced](#) that over the past day, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) had bombed more than 200 Hezbollah sites throughout southern Lebanon, including 20 rocket launchers, buildings where Hezbollah members were operating, and fighter cells.
- On April 15, Israeli troops [discovered](#) an anti-tank guided missile launcher aimed towards Israel, along with anti-tank guided missiles, and other types of weapons in southern Lebanon.
- On April 15, Lebanese media [claimed](#) that the IDF struck two vehicles near the coastal towns of Jiyeh and Saadiyat.
- On April 14, three Hezbollah fighters, including a Radwan Force operative, surrendered to Israeli ground soldiers after exchanging fire in Bint Jbeil. Following their surrender, they were [transferred](#) to Israel for questioning.
- Overnight on April 14, the Israeli military [bombed](#) several Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon’s Aadisht, including the group’s headquarters, rocket launchers, and weapons arsenals. According to the IDF, Hezbollah has launched around 130 rockets from Aadshit since fighting resumed on March 2.
- On April 14, the IDF [announced](#) that overnight, its forces killed three Hezbollah fighters responsible for injuring 10 Israeli paratroopers in Bint Jbeil.

4. Covert Operations in Iran

- On April 15 in Tehran, two remotely controlled improvised explosives [detonated](#), lightly injuring a member of the Iranian Basij force and two other individuals, and a separate device was defused, according to Iranian state media.
 - » Mohammad Balideh, an IRGC Commander stationed in Tehran, stated that “nothing extraordinary happened here, just a limited explosion on the street at the hands of traitorous and unpatriotic elements, with no fatalities or serious damage.”

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On April 15, the SoarAtlas mapping platform [released](#) satellite imagery from April 10 that indicated “equipment removing debris at a blocked tunnel entrance at a missile base south of Tabriz, Iran.”
- On the morning of April 15, Hezbollah [fired](#) almost 40 rockets at northern Israel, with Israeli defenses intercepting several projectiles and allowing others to hit open areas. Shrapnel from the barrage [struck](#) a man near the town of Tamra, lightly injuring him.
- On April 15, the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (PDKI) [stated](#) that a camp in Iraqi Kurdistan was hit by a drone.
- On April 14, the Kurdistan Regional Government [reported](#) that two drones targeted Iraqi Kurdistan, which were shot down by fighter jets, and two Iranian Kurdish opposition groups [stated](#) that separate drone strikes targeted their positions.
 - » An attack that hit a base belonging to the Komala of the Toilers of Kurdistan [killed](#) one fighter and wounded another.
 - » An attack that struck a camp belonging to the PDKI did not result in casualties.

6. 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 399 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war.
 - » Ten have been seriously [wounded](#), and at least 354 of the injured have reportedly returned to duty.
 - » At least 15 Americans were [hurt](#) in an Iranian drone strike on Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait on April 6, most of whom were lightly injured.
 - » 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.
- Since the war began, [44 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,740 have been [injured](#). [Thirteen of](#) these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

- » While operating in southern Lebanon, the commander of Israel's 401st Armored Brigade's 52nd Battalion [sustained](#) severe injuries on April 14.
- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » Iran: Through April 7, at least 3,636 people, including at least 1,221 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 118 people have been [killed](#), [including](#) 17 [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 2,124 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,000 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 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: Three people have been killed, including a Saudi [national](#) and two [foreign nationals](#), and at least 23 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 224 have been [injured](#).

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On April 15, Iran's military [warned](#) it would block all trade through the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and Red Sea if the U.S. naval blockade continues. The commander for Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Ali Abdollahi, declared that any insecurity created for Iranian commercial vessels would constitute "a prelude" to a ceasefire violation.

8. International Response

- On April 15, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov [declared](#) that Iran maintains an "inalienable right" to enrich uranium for civilian purposes. He added that Russia would support whatever approach Iran takes in its negotiations with the United States on the matter, and that Moscow and Beijing "firmly support" talks to end the war.
- Iran [utilized](#) a Chinese spy satellite to target U.S. military bases across the Middle East during the war, according to an April 15 *Financial Times* article citing leaked Iranian military documents.
 - » The IRGC Aerospace Force reportedly acquired the TEE-01B satellite—built and launched by the Chinese Earth Eye Co—in late 2024 and directed it to monitor major U.S. military sites.
- On April 14, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom [expressed](#) concern in a joint statement for the

“worsening humanitarian situation and displacement crisis in Lebanon,” as the Israeli military continues its operations against Hezbollah fighters.

9. JINSA Resources

- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Operation Epic Fury: A Work in Progress](#), April 10, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Jonathan Ruhe, [“Iran’s Next Move Is the Bomb—If the Regime Survives,”](#) *RealClearDefense*, April 9, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, [“Trump Risks Losing the Plot—and the War—in Iran,”](#) *The Dispatch*, April 7, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [Finishing the Job: Targeting Iran’s Repression Machine](#), April 7, 2026
- Jonah Brody, [Greece and Cyprus in the War Against Iran](#), April 6, 2026
- 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
- 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