



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/11/26 – 4/12/26 Update

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The United States, Israel, and Iran reached a ceasefire agreement on April 7 to pause fighting for two weeks. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of April 12 at 11:00 am ET.

Days left in ceasefire: **10**

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **170** (One since April 9)

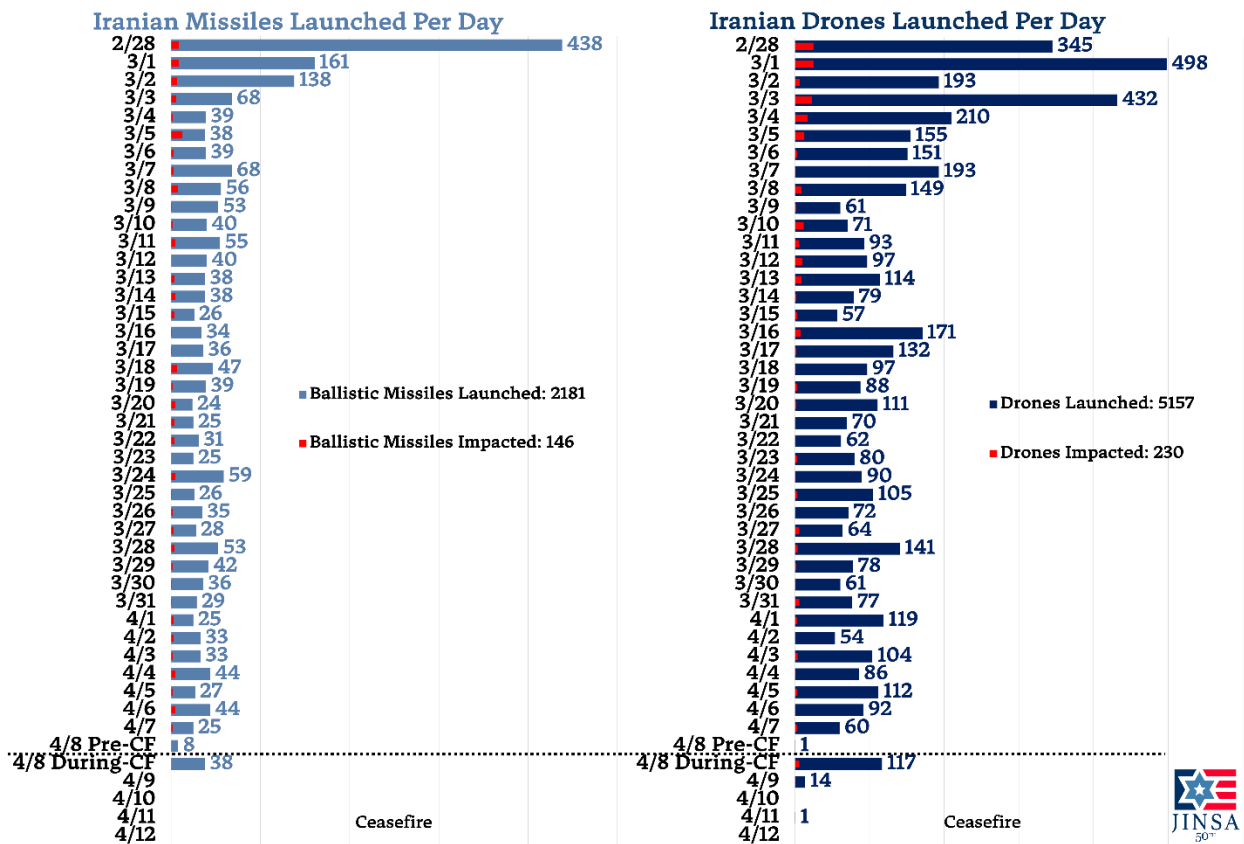
Ships through Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: [roughly 30](#)

1. Overview

- On April 12, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social following the breakdown of U.S.-Iran talks in Islamabad the previous day that “the meeting went well, most points were agreed to, but the only point that really mattered, NUCLEAR, was not. Effective immediately, the United States Navy, the Finest in the World, will begin the process of BLOCKADING any and all Ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz.”
 - » The president indicated that he has “instructed our Navy to seek and interdict every vessel in International Waters that has paid a toll to Iran. No one who pays an illegal toll will have safe passage on the high seas. We will also begin destroying the mines the Iranians laid in the Straits. Any Iranian who fires at us, or at peaceful vessels, will be BLOWN TO HELL!”
 - Prior to President Trump’s announcement, a [partial, informal blockade](#) on Iran was reportedly already in effect, which allowed only certain Iranian ships headed to China, India, and Russia to proceed to those countries.
 - Approximately 100 commercial ships have [transited](#) the Strait of Hormuz over the past month, with non-Iranian vessels negotiating toll payments of up to \$2 million per ship to Iranian authorities, according to an April 11 article from *The Wall Street Journal*.
 - » President Trump later [posted](#) on Truth Social that “Iran promised to open the Strait of Hormuz, and they knowingly failed to do so. ... As they promised, they better begin the process of getting this INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY OPEN AND FAST!”
 - President Trump further stated, “there is only one thing that matters — IRAN IS UNWILLING TO GIVE UP ITS NUCLEAR AMBITIONS! In many ways, the points that were agreed to are better than us continuing our Military Operations to conclusion,

but all of those points don't matter compared to allowing Nuclear Power to be in the hands of such volatile, difficult, unpredictable people.”

- » Two U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyers began transiting the Strait of Hormuz on April 11 “to ensure the strait is fully clear of sea mines previously laid by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps,” U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#). Underwater drones will soon be deployed as part of the operation, according to CENTCOM’s statement.
- » On April 12, President Trump [told](#) Fox News that the United Kingdom and other unspecified countries are sending minesweepers to contribute to the clearing effort in the strait.
- After 21 hours of negotiations in Islamabad, talks between senior American and Iranian officials [ended](#) on April 11 without reaching a deal. Vice President JD Vance, who led the American delegation, described the U.S. position as “a very simple proposal, a method of understanding that is our final and best offer. We’ll see if the Iranians accept it,” but added, “we have made very clear what our red lines are ... and they have chosen not to accept our terms.”
 - » The talks marked the most senior face-to-face meeting between American and Iranian officials since the Islamic Republic of Iran’s founding in 1979.
- On April 11, President Trump [claimed](#) that Iran “is militarily defeated,” and added, “we’re going to open up the Gulf with or without them, but that’ll be open ... I think it’s going to go pretty quickly, and if it doesn’t, we’ll be able to finish it off, one way or the other. It’s going well. The air force is gone. The navy is gone. All anti-aircraft [systems are] gone. The leaders are gone.”
- U.S. intelligence believes that China is preparing to [provide](#) Iran with man-portable anti-air defense systems (MANPADS) in the coming weeks, according to a CNN article published April 11. The CNN report indicated that China would ship these air defenses through third-party countries to hide their origin.
 - » President Trump responded to the report, stating, “if China does that, China will have big problems.”
- An Iranian drone that targeted Bahrain on April 11 was the only Iranian projectile launched since April 9.
 - » 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 5,157 drones, 2,181 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- Over the weekend, U.S.-Iran negotiations in Pakistan concluded with the two delegations walking away without a deal. Both negotiating teams [have left](#) Pakistan.
 - » The U.S. delegation included Vice President J.D. Vance, U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, and White House advisor Jared Kushner.
 - » The [Iranian team](#) of 70 political and technical officials included Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi; Ali Bagheri Kani, a member of Iran’s National Security Council; Admiral Ali Akbar Ahmadian, secretary of the Defense Council and a former Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) chief of staff; General Esmail Ahmadi Moghadam, head of Iran’s National Defense University; and Abdolnasser Hemati, governor of the Central Bank of Iran.
 - » The discussions reportedly broke down due to Iran’s insistence on controlling the Strait of Hormuz and Iran’s refusal to provide what Vance [described](#) as “an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon, and [that] they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon.”
 - » On April 12, Iranian officials blamed Washington for the talks’ collapse.
 - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei [claimed](#) that “from the beginning, we should not have expected to reach an agreement in a single session. No one had such an expectation.”
 - Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf posted to X, “the opposing side ultimately failed to gain the trust of the [Iranian](#) delegation in this round of negotiations.” He added in a later post, “America has understood our logic and principles, and now it’s time for it to decide whether it can earn our trust or not.”

- An Iranian official [cited](#) by the Associated Press contested President Trump’s claim that negotiations broke down over the issue of Iran’s nuclear program. The official alleged that Iran is willing to restrict its nuclear activities, including uranium enrichment.
- » Reuters reported on April 11, citing an Iranian source, that the United States agreed to [unfreeze](#) restricted Iranian assets held in Qatar and other countries in exchange for the safe transit of ships in the Strait of Hormuz. However, an American official who spoke to Reuters later [denied](#) the claim.
 - According to Reuters, the [release](#) of frozen Iranian assets held in Qatar and other foreign countries, estimated at \$6 billion, was a central Iranian demand in the weekend’s negotiations. *The New York Times* [reported](#) that Iran sought the release of a far larger sum, roughly \$27 billion, of overseas frozen assets.
- » On April 11, President Trump [claimed](#), “whether we make a deal or not makes no difference to me. The reason is because we’ve won.”
- » On April 11, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [noted](#) that Tehran is “begging for a ceasefire, there are internal disputes among the leadership. ... We see their growing difficulty to meet citizens’ demands.”
- The status of Israel-Lebanon negotiations remains somewhat unclear.
 - » Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam [announced](#) on April 11 that he would not travel to Washington the following week for talks as planned. He cited his desire to “to safeguard the security of the Lebanese people and preserve national unity.”
 - Lebanese and Israeli officials had planned to [participate](#) in negotiations in Washington starting April 14. It is not fully clear if the negotiations will continue without Prime Minister Salam, if they are postponed or canceled, or if they are moving to a different location.
 - On April 12, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that talks will still take place in Washington on April 14, but without Salam. Yet, that day, *Israel Hayom* and Lebanon’s *Nidaa Al-Watan* outlet [reported](#) that Lebanon refuses to enter talks until Israel’s operations against Hezbollah conclude.
 - Meanwhile, Hezbollah supporters [held](#) large protests across Beirut on April 11 and 12, which involved blocking roads, to oppose talks.
 - Lebanese President Joseph Aoun has reportedly started [convening](#) emergency meetings with his defense and intelligence ministers, as well as Lebanese military commanders. Aoun is reportedly concerned that the protests could escalate further in the coming days.
 - » Previously, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter had [announced](#) on April 10 statement that formal peace talks between Israel and Lebanon were set to begin on April 14. Leiter’s statement followed a call earlier that day with his Lebanese counterpart and the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon.
 - However, Leiter also stated, “Israel refused to discuss a ceasefire with the Hezbollah terrorist organization, which continues to attack Israel and is the main obstacle to peace.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On April 11, President Trump [posted](#) on X that the American military is “now starting the process of clearing out [Iranian naval mines in] the Strait of Hormuz.” He noted that “all 28 of their [Iran’s] mine dropper boats are also lying at the bottom of the sea.”

- » On April 11, as negotiating teams met in Islamabad, two U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyers [traveled](#) through the Strait of Hormuz for the first time since the start of Operation Epic Fury, with a U.S. official telling *Axios* that “this was an operation that focused on freedom of navigation through international waters.” CENTCOM also [noted](#) that this operation was “part of a broader mission to ensure the strait is fully clear of sea mines.”
- The U.S. State Department [announced](#) on April 11 that the Trump administration had revoked the green cards of Eissa Hashemi, his wife, and their son. Hashemi and his family resided in the Los Angeles area, but were born in Iran. Hashemi is related to Masoumeh Ebtekar, who served as a spokeswoman for the operatives who took over the American Embassy in Tehran and took American citizens hostage in 1979.
- Israel’s leaders ordered its military to return to a [state of immediate readiness](#) against Iran on April 12 following the breakdown of U.S.-Iran talks. This procedure is the same procedure conducted right before past Israeli operations against Iran.
- On April 11, Prime Minister Netanyahu [stated](#) that the war in Iran is “not over” and “we still have more to do,” while recognizing the campaign’s “historic achievements.”
 - » Netanyahu [noted](#) that Israel “succeeded in smashing its [Iran’s] nuclear program, in smashing its missile program.” According to Netanyahu, Israel eliminated eight nuclear scientists involved in Iran’s nuclear weaponization program; its Arak heavy water reactor; its ability to produce centrifuges; and its entire existing array of centrifuges.
 - » Israel also succeeded at “smashing the Iranian regime” and pushing it to its “weakest point” in the regime’s history, Netanyahu [alleged](#).
 - » Netanyahu [noted](#) that Israel launched Operation Roaring Lion because Iran “was very close to achieving a nuclear weapon” and having sufficient capabilities to build thousands of missiles. He stated that, had Israel not attacked Iran in 2025 and this year, Iran “would already have a nuclear weapon.”
 - » He [added](#) that Israeli intelligence last year revealed that Iran was making preparations to weaponize its enriched uranium. After several months, intelligence also revealed that Iran planned to augment its missile and nuclear programs and locate them deep underground.
- The Israeli Finance Ministry [estimated](#) on April 12 that Operation Roaring Lion cost Israel around NIS 35 billion (\$11.5 billion), including NIS 22 billion (\$7.25 billion) for the military, defense, and security sectors; NIS 12 billion (\$3.95 billion) for a compensation plan to address direct missile damage, economic loss for businesses, and employees’ unpaid leave; and NIS 1 billion (\$3.29 million) for civilian sectors impacted by the war, such as hospitals, emergency response teams, and the Social Affairs Ministry.

Day 44 of Operations: April 12

- Troops within the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [entered](#) a southern Lebanon hospital in Bint Jbeil, killing 20 Hezbollah operatives and seizing a weapons cache located inside the medical facility.
- The Israeli Air Force (IAF) [bombed](#) a primed Hezbollah rocket launcher in the Jouaiya area of southern Lebanon.
- The IDF announced that its troops had [eliminated](#) the Hezbollah operative responsible for the death of an Israeli soldier killed in southern Lebanon.

Day 43 of Operations: April 11

- The IDF [assessed](#) that it had struck around 200 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon throughout the day, including rocket launchers and the group’s infrastructure.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- During the ceasefire with Iran, Hezbollah has continued to attack Israel.
 - » On April 12, the IDF [assessed](#) that its air defenses likely shot down a Hezbollah drone over the northern town of Kiryat Shmona.
 - » On April 11, Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) several Hezbollah rockets and allowed others to crash into open areas near the city of Safed in northern Israel, while emergency response teams were [dispatched](#) to Shlomi after reports emerged of a Hezbollah drone impact at a building in the village.
 - » On April 11, the IDF [began](#) investigating why its air defenses failed to detect Hezbollah rockets that entered Israeli airspace, impacting the city of Kiryat Shmona and causing damage.
 - » On April 11, during clashes with Hezbollah operatives in southern Lebanon, two Israeli paratroopers were moderately [injured](#).
- Bahrain [intercepted](#) a drone on April 11, marking the only reported attack against any Gulf nation since April 9.
- Iran is [unable](#) to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz because it cannot locate and remove all the mines it placed in the water, U.S. officials told *The New York Times* on April 10. The unnamed officials said that careless Iranian mining has left only limited safe routes through the waterway, that Iran lacks the capabilities to clear them, and that Iran did not track where it dropped all its mines.
 - » According to *The New York Times*, “the U.S. military lacks robust mine removal capabilities, relying on littoral combat ships equipped with mine sweeping capabilities.”
 - » Tehran has also pledged to continue blocking traffic in the Strait until Israel halts its strikes on Hezbollah.

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 Khorak, 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 373 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war.
 - » Ten have been seriously [wounded](#), and at least 280 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 overnight, 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, [43 people have been killed in](#) Israel, while over 7,656 have been [injured](#). [Twelve](#) 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: 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 117 people have been [killed](#), [including](#) 16 [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 2,020 people have been [killed](#), and more than 6,436 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](#).
 - » United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.): Thirteen people have been [killed](#), and at least 224 have been [injured](#).

6. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

- On April 12, the IRGC [warned](#) it would “deal severely” with any military vessels attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz and declared that passage would only be granted to civilian vessels under specific conditions.
- On April 11, Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah [called](#) the forthcoming Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in Washington a “blatant violation” of Lebanon’s constitution and national pact that would exacerbate domestic divisions.

7. International Response

- Pakistani fighter aircraft and support aircraft have [deployed](#) to Saudi Arabia in accordance with the 2025 Saudi-Pakistani mutual defense pact.
- The East-West pipeline across Saudi Arabia has [returned](#) to full capacity at around seven million barrels per day, after being hit by projectiles during the conflict with Iran.
- After condemnation from President Trump, Britain is no longer [proceeding](#) with its plan to give the Chagos Islands, which host the U.S.-U.K. Diego Garcia base, to Mauritius.
- In an April 10 interview, World Bank President Ajay Banga [noted](#) that even if the ceasefire becomes effective, the Iran war will have ripple effects on the world economy.

- Pope Leo XIV [condemned](#) the “delusion of omnipotence” behind the Iran war and called for an end to hostilities and peace talks.

8. 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