



## Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/14/26 Update

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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 14 at 10:00 am ET.

Days left in ceasefire: **8**

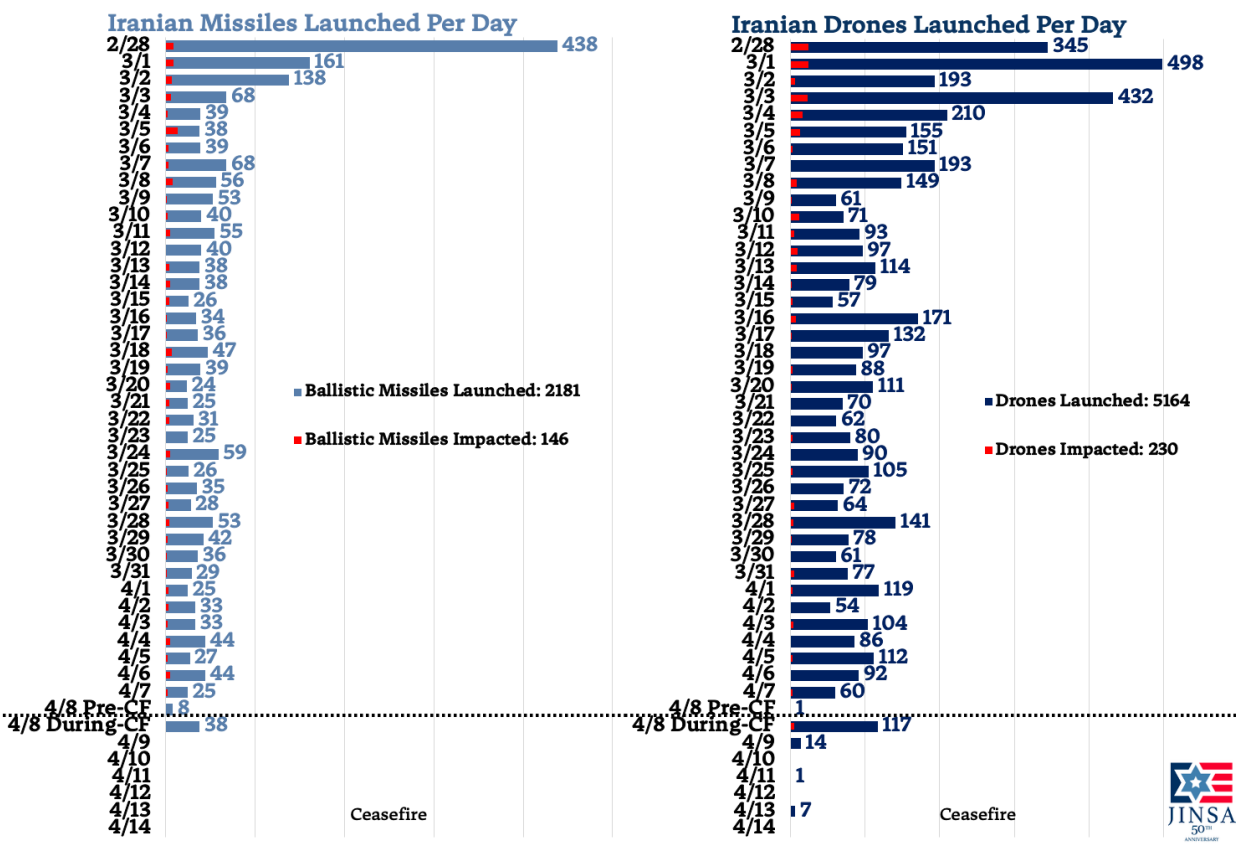
Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **176** (0 since April 13)

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **45** (5 since April 13).

### 1. Overview

- The U.S. Navy's maritime blockade of Iranian ports went into full effect on April 13. The United States has 16 warships presently stationed in the region, but none are [currently operating](#) in the Gulf, according to defense officials who spoke with *The Washington Post*.
- Reuters reported on April 14 that sources familiar with the U.S.-Iran negotiations indicated that talks in Islamabad could [resume](#) later this week.
- Vice President JD Vance [stated](#) on April 13 that the United States had made “a lot of progress” during talks with Iran in Islamabad last weekend.
  - » Both [Axios](#) and [The New York Times](#) reported that U.S.-Iran talks in Pakistan between April 11–12 broke down over two core issues—Washington's demand for a 20-year enrichment moratorium, which Iran countered with five years, and the fate of Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpile.
- On April 13, two ships sailing from Iran, the Liberia-flagged *Christianna* and the Comoros-flagged *Elpis*, safely [transited](#) the Strait of Hormuz, despite the U.S. blockade against vessels using Iranian ports.
  - » Additionally, a U.S.-sanctioned Chinese ship, *the Rich Starry*, [transited](#) the Strait of Hormuz, making it the first ship to cross the Strait into the Gulf since the United States imposed the blockade on April 13.
- On April 13, U.S. Central Command Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [arrived](#) in Israel to meet with his Israeli counterpart, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir, as the two militaries heighten their readiness for resumed combat with Iran.
- On April 14, Israeli Mossad Director David Barnea [stated](#) that the agency's “mission [in Tehran] has yet to be completed” and will finish “only when this radical regime is replaced.”
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni [stated](#) on April 14 that Italy had decided against automatically renewing its defense cooperation agreement with Israel.

- As Israeli ground operations continue against Hezbollah, Israel's *Channel 12* [reported](#) on April 13 that Israel has established a security buffer zone reaching nine kilometers into Lebanon. The new security perimeter will reportedly involve 15 new permanent Israeli outposts and the destruction of villages used for Hezbollah activity.
  - » *Israel Hayom* [reported](#) on April 14, citing senior Israeli defense officials, that Israel is planning to remain in the security zone for months and possibly years to come.
- The seven drones that Iran launched at Bahrain on April 13 remain the only Iranian attacks since April 11.
  - » 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 5,164 drones, 2,181 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



## 2. Diplomatic Engagement

- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will [host](#) Israeli and Lebanese delegations in Washington, D.C., on April 14 to begin direct [negotiations](#), the first in 43 years.
  - » The three negotiating teams will reportedly be led by Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter, Lebanese Ambassador to the United States Nada Hamadeh, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michael Issa, and State Department Counselor Michael Needham.
  - » While negotiations are ongoing, Israel has reportedly [agreed](#) to limit its strikes on Beirut's Dahiyeh area, a longtime Hezbollah stronghold.

- » Lebanese leaders are [seeking](#) a full cessation of Israeli attacks; the full restoration of its sovereignty; and aid and reconstruction for its damaged southern regions, according to Israeli media reports.
- On April 13, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif [claimed](#) that “efforts are ongoing to resolve the outstanding issues” between the United States and Iran.
- Vice President Vance [stated](#) on April 14 that the United States made “a lot of progress” in talks with Iran, while [reiterating](#) that Washington “must have the enriched material out of Iran. We must have their conclusive commitment to not develop a nuclear weapon,” and that “if the Iranians are willing to meet us there, then this can be a very, very good deal for both countries.”
  - » He further emphasized that “whether we have further conversations, whether we ultimately get to a deal, I really think the ball is in the Iranian court because we put a lot on the table.”
- The United States [proposed](#) a 20-year moratorium on Iranian uranium enrichment during talks in Islamabad between April 11 and 12, but Iran [countered](#) with a period of just five years, which President Donald Trump rejected, according to U.S. and Iranian officials cited by *Axios* and *The New York Times*.
  - » The two sides also [clashed](#) over Iran’s existing stockpile of highly enriched uranium, with the United States demanding its removal from the country while Iran offered only a monitored dilution process—a step that could be reversed.
  - » Despite the impasse, President Trump told reporters on April 13 that Iran had reached out and “want[s] to make a deal,” while an Iranian parliament member, Seyyed Mahmoud Nabavian, who participated in the talks, [said](#) the nuclear demands were the sole reason no agreement was reached.
  - » According to *Axios*, the Iranians [believed](#) a preliminary deal was near by the morning of April 12, but were caught off guard when Vice President Vance held a press conference giving no indication of progress and announced the U.S. delegation was leaving Islamabad.
    - Pakistani, Egyptian, and Turkish mediators are now working to bridge the remaining gaps before the ceasefire expires on April 21.

### 3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On April 13, the U.S. Navy [implemented](#) a full maritime blockade on Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, controlling all Iran-affiliated naval traffic in the region.
- Israeli forces [continue](#) ground operations against Hezbollah, which are focused on the town of Bint Jbeil, Hezbollah’s last remaining command-and-control node in southern Lebanon, Israel’s *Channel 12* outlet reported on April 13. More broadly, Israel has reportedly established a security zone extending nine kilometers into Lebanon.
  - » The Israeli government has, according to *Channel 12*, decided to establish a string of at least 15 permanent outposts across southern Lebanon near the Israeli border to prevent Hezbollah from resuming activity in those areas.
  - » In that region of Lebanon, most villages—which Hezbollah used to stage attacks on Israeli towns, as JINSA has [documented](#)—will reportedly be demolished.
  - » Over 100 Hezbollah terrorists have been [eliminated](#) in the Bint Jbeil operation, Israeli media reported on April 14.
- On April 14, while operating in southern Lebanon, Israeli troops [discovered](#) a Hezbollah weapons cache inside a civilian’s home, [including](#) Kalashnikov rifles, magazines, and military gear.

- On April 14, Mossad Director David Barnea [stated](#) that Israel’s mission in Iran will not be complete until the regime falls. He vowed that the agency—which he said operated “in the heart of Tehran” during the campaign—will continue working toward regime change even after the cessation of strikes.
- On April 13, the IDF [bombed](#) around 150 Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon, including the group’s headquarters, operatives, rocket launchers, drones, and sites for launching anti-tank missiles.

#### 4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- During the U.S. ceasefire with Iran, Hezbollah has continued to attack Israel. Hezbollah has [launched](#) over 400 projectiles at Israel since the ceasefire began on April 8, including 71 at the city of Kiryat Shmona alone, Israeli media reported on April 13.
  - » On April 14, [drone infiltration](#) alerts went off in dozens of towns across northern Israel. No further details were available, and no casualties have been reported.
- Five Hezbollah projectiles launched into Israel on April 14 were [intercepted](#) or landed in uninhabited areas.

#### 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, [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.
  - » During clashes with Hezbollah operatives in Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon on April 14, 10 Israeli soldiers were [injured](#), including three of them seriously.
  - » On April 13, one Israeli soldier was [killed](#), and three others were injured after their Humvee overturned in southern Lebanon.
  - » On April 13, eight Israeli soldiers were [injured](#), including two moderately, after a Hezbollah drone crashed near them 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, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (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 2,089 people have been [killed](#), and more than 6,762 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, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- In a letter to the United Nations Security Council on April 13, Iran [alleged](#) that Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E., Qatar, Bahrain, and Jordan permitted the use of their territory for strikes on Iran, remarking that this is a “flagrant act of aggression.” Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani said that these states should pay Iran “full reparation” for war damages.

## 7. International Response

- In a new April 14 World Economic Outlook report, the International Monetary Fund [emphasized](#) that “the global outlook has abruptly darkened following the outbreak of war in the Middle East,” and that “the war interrupted what had been a steady growth trajectory.”
- On April 14, Italian Prime Minister Meloni [chose](#) not to automatically renew the Italian-Israeli defense cooperation deal. While she did not provide reasoning, Italy has recently criticized the Israeli military for its operations in Lebanon.
- On April 14, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic [stated](#) that Serbia and Israel plan to start a joint combat drone program.
- On April 14, Spokesman for China’s Foreign Ministry Guo Jiakun [said](#) that the U.S. blockade on Iran “will only exacerbate tensions and undermine the already fragile ceasefire agreement and further jeopardize safety of passage through the Strait,” noting that it is “dangerous and irresponsible.”
- On April 14, in rare public remarks on the war in the Middle East, Chinese President Xi Jinping [advocated](#) for upholding the international rule of law in the region, noting that it

cannot be “used when convenient and discarded when not.” He added, “We must not allow the world to revert to the law of the jungle.”

- On April 13, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Saudi Arabia was [pushing](#) the United States to end its blockade of Iran and return to the negotiating table. The report also claimed that Saudi officials had secured a pledge from the Houthis not to attack their territory or Saudi ships sailing through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- On April 13, Bahrain [summoned](#) Iraq’s envoy to Manama, criticizing Iraqi drone attacks on Bahrain and its allies in the Gulf.
- In separate conversations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and President Trump on April 13, French President Emmanuel Macron [pushed](#) for talks to restart and cautioned against additional escalation. He added, “It is essential, in particular, that the ceasefire be strictly respected by all parties and that it include Lebanon,” noting that the unconditional re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz is “equally important.”
  - » President Macron also noted that France, along with the United Kingdom, will lead a conference on Friday, April 17, for “non-belligerent countries ready to contribute ... to a multilateral and purely defensive mission aimed at restoring freedom of navigation in the strait when security conditions allow.”

## 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
- 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
- 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