



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/17/26 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 17 at 10:00 am ET.

Days left in U.S.-Israel-Iran ceasefire: **5**

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **9**

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **190** (0 on April 17)

Hezbollah missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **0**

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 100** (25 on April 16–17)

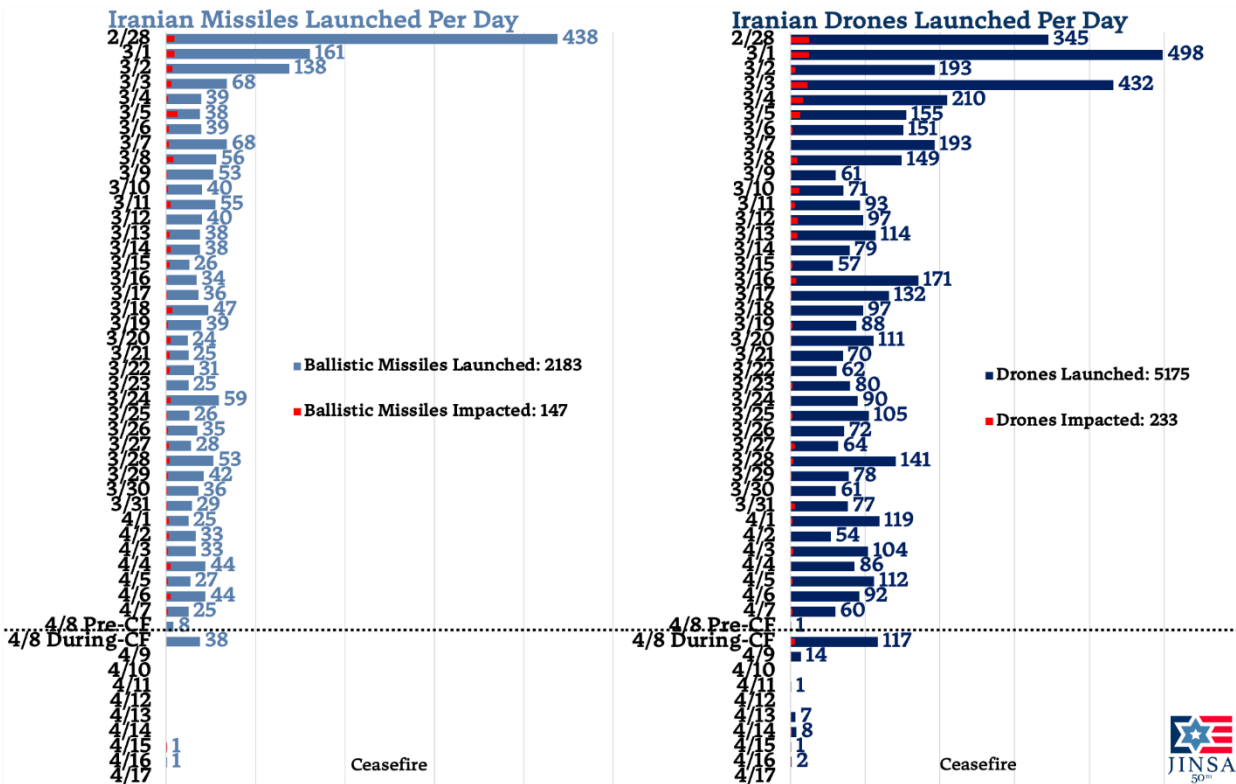
- **Note:** The blockade line that the Pentagon announced crosses where the Gulf of Oman opens into the Arabian Sea and is at a different location than the Strait of Hormuz itself.

1. Overview

- On April 17, President Donald Trump [shared](#) on Truth Social that Tehran declared that the Strait of Hormuz is completely open but that the U.S. blockade would [remain](#) in place until “OUR TRANSACTION WITH IRAN IS 100% COMPLETE.”
 - » On April 17, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [posted](#) on X, “In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of ceasefire.”
- On April 17, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) released a [statement](#) that “Since commencement of the blockade, 19 ships have complied with direction from U.S. forces to turn around and return to Iran. ZERO vessels have evaded U.S. forces during the blockade.”
 - » At least two outbound ships that appeared to have left Iranian ports—the *Al Owais* and the *Blue Sky 4*—have crossed the U.S. blockade line since April 15, according to Kpler data reviewed by JINSA. In addition, certain other ships’ movements in the Arabian Gulf are indicative of ship-to-ship transfers.
- On April 16, President Trump [shared](#) with reporters that the second round of U.S.-Iran negotiations could occur this weekend, adding that he hopes a ceasefire extension will not be needed.
 - » President Trump added, “We have a very good relationship with Iran right now... and I think it’s a combination of about four weeks of bombing and a very powerful blockade.”
 - » According to *Axios* reporting on April 17, U.S. and Iranian officials are currently [negotiating](#) a three-page deal that would include the United States releasing \$20 billion in frozen

Iranian funds in exchange for Iran giving up its highly enriched uranium stockpile through a combination of exporting it to a third country and downblending it.

- On April 16 at 5 pm EDT, Israel and Lebanon [entered](#) a U.S.-brokered 10-day [ceasefire](#).
 - » Under the 10-day ceasefire’s terms, Israeli troops will [remain stationed](#) in southern Lebanon, with an Israeli official stating that it will immediately react to any “emerging threat” and that “if in the next 10 days the Lebanese government does not take practical action to dismantle Hezbollah, we will do so with great force immediately afterward.”
 - » On April 16, President Trump [announced](#) he will invite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to the White House for what he described as “the first meaningful talks between Israel and Lebanon since 1983.”
 - » On April 16, a senior Israeli official [shared](#) with *The Jerusalem Post* that the “US will be far more involved” with disarming Hezbollah, noting that the United States plans to spearhead the effort and commit U.S. resources to achieve disarmament.
- Iran has not conducted any projectile attacks so far on April 17, which would mark the first day without any Iranian attacks since April 12.
 - » 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 5,175 drones, 2,183 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- U.S. and Iranian negotiators are reportedly [expected](#) to meet in Islamabad over the weekend to resume negotiations, with Pakistan mediating and Egypt and Turkey playing mediation roles as well.

- According to *Axios* reporting from April 17, the Trump administration is [considering](#) a deal to supply Iran with over \$20 billion in funds, specifically frozen Iranian assets, in exchange for Iran relinquishing all its enriched uranium.
 - » The deal also reportedly includes a “voluntary” moratorium on Iran enriching uranium, although Iran would be allowed to have medical nuclear research reactors that would all be above ground.
 - » President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social on April 17 that the “U.S.A. will get all Nuclear ‘Dust,’ created by our great B2 Bombers - No money will exchange hands in any way, shape, or form.”
- Speaking to reporters on April 16, President Trump [alleged](#) that Tehran agreed that it will not obtain a nuclear bomb and relinquish its highly enriched uranium stockpile.
- Reuters [reported](#) on April 16, citing two Iranian sources, that “U.S. and Iranian negotiators have scaled back ambitions for a comprehensive peace deal and are instead seeking a temporary memorandum to prevent a return to conflict.”
- On April 16, Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeid Irvani [shared](#) that Tehran “remain[s] cautiously optimistic” about talks with Washington, noting that, should the United States pursue “a rational and constructive approach ... these negotiations can lead to a meaningful outcome.”
- *Bloomberg* [reported](#) on April 16, citing European and Gulf officials, that some leaders in both regions think that reaching a U.S.-Iran agreement would take about six months and the ceasefire should be extended accordingly.

Lebanon

- On April 17, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer. They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the U.S.A. Enough is enough!!!” He also noted that the United States will cooperate with Lebanon to deal appropriately with Hezbollah.
- The U.S. State Department released the text of the ceasefire [deal](#) between Israel and Lebanon that indicated:
 - » “Israel shall preserve its right to take all necessary measures in self-defense, at any time, against planned, imminent, or ongoing attacks. This shall not be impeded by the cessation of hostilities. Besides this, it will not carry out any offensive military operations against Lebanese targets, including civilian, military, and other state targets, in the territory of Lebanon by land, air, and sea.”
 - » “The Government of Lebanon will take meaningful steps to prevent Hezbollah and all other rogue non-state armed groups in the territory of Lebanon from carrying out any attacks, operations, or hostile activities against Israeli targets;” and
 - » “All parties recognize Lebanon’s security forces as having exclusive responsibility for Lebanon’s sovereignty and national defense; no other country or group has claim to be the guarantor of Lebanon’s sovereignty.”
- When announcing the ceasefire via Truth Social on April 16, President Donald Trump [indicated](#) that he had directed Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine “to work with Israel and Lebanon to achieve a Lasting PEACE.”
- While speaking with reporters on April 16, President Trump [highlighted](#) that the Lebanese government would “take care of Hezbollah,” and that the ceasefire is “a very nice little package for about a week, and we’re not going to have lots of bombs dropping.”

- » In a post on Truth Social, President Trump [wrote](#), “I hope Hezbollah acts nicely and well during this important period of time. It will be an GREAT [sic] moment for them if they do. No more killing. Must finally have PEACE!”
- » President Trump [spoke](#) with Prime Minister Netanyahu shortly before calling Lebanese President Aoun to discuss a potential ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, according to Israel’s *Channel 12*, with Trump telling Aoun he was committed to meeting Lebanon’s request for a truce.
- » A senior Israeli official told *The Jerusalem Post* that the United States seeks to play an [active role](#) in disarming Hezbollah and use U.S. resources to achieve this objective.
- Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu [responded](#) to the ceasefire’s announcement on April 16, emphasizing that Israel has “an opportunity to reach a historic peace agreement with Lebanon.”
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu claimed that Israel agreed to a “temporary 10-day ceasefire” to push negotiations forward, but emphasized that the main Israeli demands of disarming Hezbollah and achieving “sustainable peace – peace through strength,” remain.
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that he rejected Hezbollah’s ceasefire demands, including “that Israel withdraw from all Lebanese territory up to the international border” and “a ceasefire in the format of ‘quiet for quiet.’”
 - » Addressing the future of the Israeli military’s position in southern Lebanon, he stated that “we are remaining in Lebanon in an expanded security zone ... 10 kilometers wide, much stronger, more powerful, more continuous, and more solid than what we had before,” as to “block the threat of infiltration.”
 - » Regarding Hezbollah’s weapons, Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that “there are still rockets that they have left. We will also need to address that as part of progress toward a security agreement and a lasting peace agreement.”
 - Prime Minister Netanyahu reportedly quietly [agreed](#) to the ceasefire on the evening of April 15, with the announcement catching the Israeli security cabinet by surprise.
 - Israeli media further [reported](#) that Prime Minister Netanyahu told the security cabinet he agreed to the ceasefire at President Trump’s request, declining to hold a formal vote on the matter. Netanyahu reportedly stated that “when Israel’s greatest friend, President Trump, is acting alongside us in close coordination, Israel cooperates with him.”
 - His agreement [followed](#) an April 14 meeting in Washington, D.C., between the Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors to the United States, where Lebanon “acknowledged Hezbollah is a mutual problem for both Israel and Lebanon,” according to a U.S. official.
- On April 17, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [noted](#) that the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) will deploy to Lebanon’s southern border with Israel after the Israel Defense Forces’ (IDF) withdraws from Lebanon.
 - » He remarked that “direct negotiations [with Israel] are crucial ... and a ceasefire is the gateway to proceeding with negotiations.”
 - However, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [reiterated](#) Prime Minister Netanyahu’s message, emphasizing on April 17 that “the IDF holds and will continue to hold all the areas it has cleared and captured” and that “We are inside Lebanon in the midst of a war against Hezbollah, with a temporary freeze and a 10-day ceasefire.”
 - Defense Minister Katz added that “The goal we defined — dismantling Hezbollah’s weapons through military or diplomatic means — was and remains the objective of

the campaign” and that, “If hostilities resume, any residents who return to the security zone will have to evacuate in order to allow the mission to be completed.”

- On April 16, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam [commended](#) the ceasefire brokered between Israel and Lebanon, emphasizing that “As I congratulate all Lebanese on this achievement, I pray for the martyrs who fell, and affirm my solidarity with their families, with the wounded, and with the citizens who were forced to flee their cities and villages.”
 - » He added that “I hold full hope that they will be able to return to them as soon as possible.”
- On April 16, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Iranian Parliament Speaker and lead negotiator, [wrote](#) that “the ceasefire was nothing but a result of Hezbollah's steadfastness and the unity of the Axis of Resistance.”
 - » He added, “we will deal with this ceasefire with caution, and we will remain together until the full realization of victory.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On April 17, the IDF Home Front Command [lifted](#) all wartime restrictions across Israel, with schools and workplaces resuming normal operations nationwide. Communities along the Lebanon border will maintain a gathering limit of 1,000 until Saturday, April 18, at 8 p.m. local time, after which all restrictions will be lifted.

Lebanon

- On April 16, the IDF [hit](#) more than 380 Hezbollah targets, including several Hezbollah [rocket launchers](#) the group used to fire projectiles at northern Israel, before the ceasefire went into effect.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- As the ceasefire [went into effect](#) at midnight local time on April 17, residents began returning to Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, with celebratory gunfire erupting into the air for over half an hour as people waved Hezbollah flags and carried portraits of slain leader Hassan Nasrallah.
- Following the ceasefire announcement but before it went into effect, Hezbollah [fired](#) 10 rockets and two drones at the Western Galilee region in northern Israel on April 16, wounding three people, including two seriously, who were struck by shrapnel in Karmiel, and another man moderately in Nahariya.
 - » Israeli air defenses intercepted most of the projectiles, with one rocket crashing into an open area.
- In a separate attack on April 16, Hezbollah [launched](#) five rockets at the Krayot area of Haifa, with Israeli air defenses intercepting some of the projectiles and allowing the others to strike open areas.

5. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On April 17, CENTCOM [reported](#) that 19 ships in total—an increase of six from yesterday's update— have complied with directions to turn around since the blockade took effect on Monday, April 14, with no vessels having evaded U.S. forces.
 - » President Trump also confirmed the blockade remains in force despite Iran's declaration that the Strait of Hormuz is open following the ceasefire in Lebanon.

- According to tracking firms Kpler and TankerTracker, Iran has continued shipping crude oil out of the region. Satellite imagery [shows](#) nine million barrels of crude departed from floating storage in the Gulf of Oman after the blockade went into effect.
 - » Three U.S.-sanctioned Iranian tankers, the *Deep Sea*, *Sonia I*, and *Diona*, [sailed through](#) the Strait of Hormuz on April 16. The ships loaded oil at Iranian ports on April 2, 8, and 9, respectively. It is unclear if they passed the U.S. blockade.
 - » Additionally, Kpler data indicates that two sanctioned cargo vessels, the *Zaynar 2* and *Neshat*, had [sailed](#) through the Strait of Hormuz on April 16 with destinations in the Iranian cities of Larak and Bandar Abbas, respectively. The *Neshat* appears to have redirected away from the U.S. blockade line on April 11 before sailing through it on April 13.

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 7,791 have been [injured](#). [Thirteen](#) 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, 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 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 2,196 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,185 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](#).

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On April 17, the head of the Iranian Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Ali Abdollahi, [warned](#) that Iran’s military is ready “to make adversaries regret their actions and will continue operations until full victory,” noting that U.S. and Israeli leaders must “yield to Iran’s power.”
- On April 17, Hezbollah [declared](#) it is keeping its “finger on the trigger” in case of Israeli violations of the newly brokered ceasefire.
- On April 16, Houthi leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi [accused](#) the United States of pursuing “impossible demands for any independent country to accept” in nuclear negotiations with Iran. He added that the ongoing ceasefire is the result of the U.S. and Israeli failure to achieve their war aims.

8. International Response

- On April 17, France and Britain chaired a [meeting](#) of approximately 40 countries in Paris to plan a strictly defensive multinational mission to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz once a lasting ceasefire is in place.
 - » Following the meeting, Kaja Kallas, the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, [stated](#) that “Europe will play its part in restoring the free flow of energy and trade, once a ceasefire takes hold.” She added, “The EU’s Aspides naval mission is already operating in the Red Sea and can be quickly strengthened to protect shipping across the region. This could be the fastest way to provide support.”
- While welcoming the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire, French President Emmanuel Macron [noted](#) on April 17 that the agreement “may already be undermined by ongoing military operation.”
- On April 17, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency Fatih Birol [remarked](#) that about two years will be required to restore lost Middle East energy output, with variation by country.
- Ursula Von Der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, [praised](#) the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire on April 16, claiming that “This is a relief, as this conflict has already claimed far too many lives,” and that “Europe will continue to call for the full respect of Lebanon’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.”
- On April 17, French Defense Minister Catherine Vautrin [said](#) that France, the Netherlands, and Belgium possess mine-sweeping capabilities that can be employed in the Strait of Hormuz.
- In a statement on April 16, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful [shared](#) that the direct Israel-Lebanon negotiations this week can facilitate “a future as good neighbors” for the

two countries, so long as “Israel’s legitimate security interests and Lebanon’s right to territorial integrity and sovereignty” are heeded.

- » He added, “Lasting security in the region will only be possible with the effective disarmament of Hezbollah,” noting that Beirut is now responsible for “implement[ing] this effectively.”

9. JINSA Resources

- Rena Gabber and Jonah Brody, [Epic Fury Reveals Vulnerabilities in the Axis Behind Iran](#), April 16, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, [Blockade Iran’s Military. Not Just Its Export Revenue](#), April 15, 2026
- 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