



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/20/26 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 20 at 10:00 am ET.

Days left in U.S.-Israel-Iran ceasefire: **2**

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **6**

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **196** (0 on April 19-20)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **3** (0 on April 19-20)

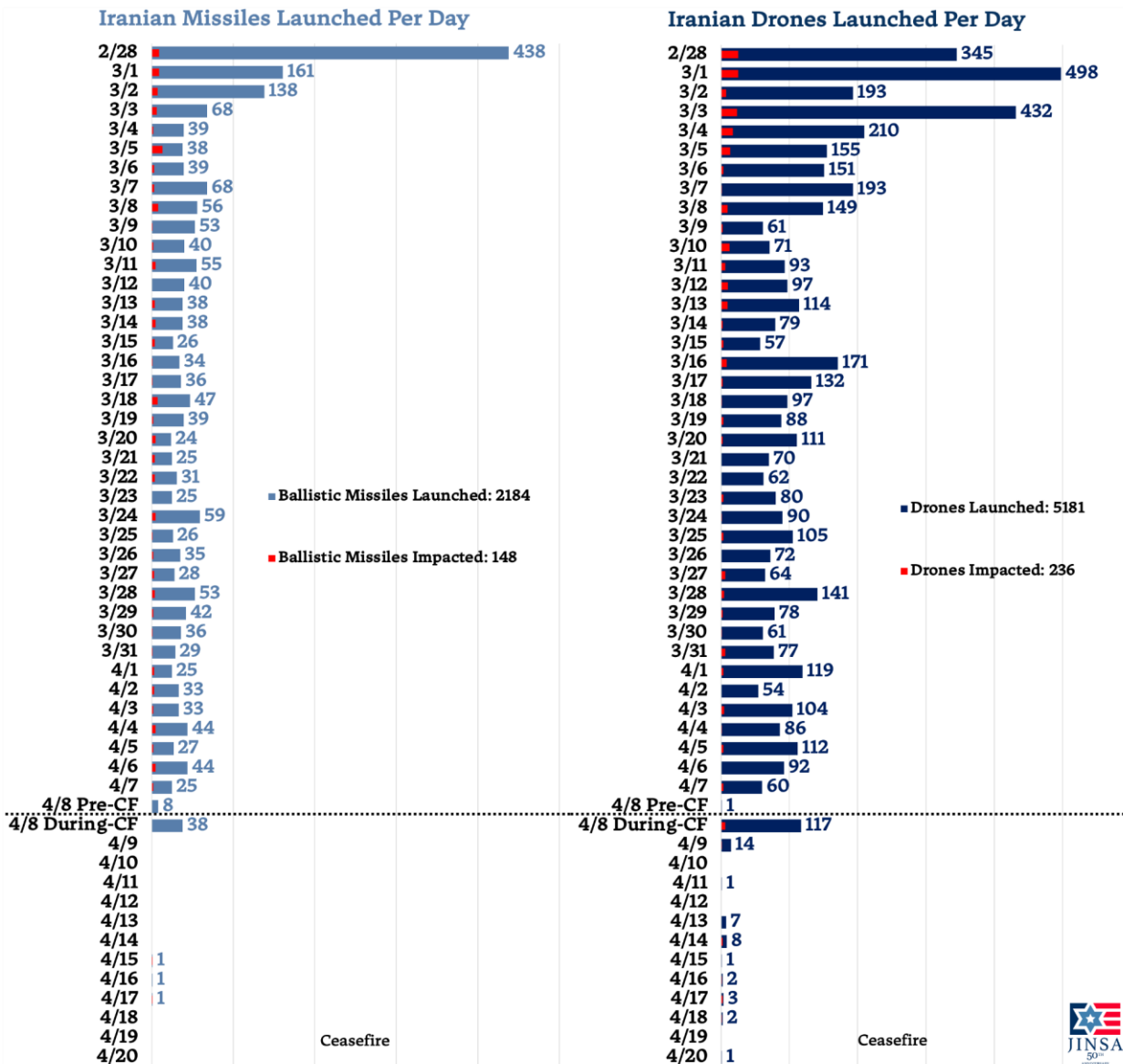
Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 180** (at least 11 from April 19–20)

- 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

- A second round of [talks](#) between Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Yechiel Leiter, and his Lebanese counterpart, Nada Hamadeh Moawad, is scheduled to take place on April 23 at the U.S. State Department headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Israel-Lebanon ceasefire is currently set to expire on April 26.
- On April 20, President Donald Trump [indicated](#) that Vice President J.D. Vance, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, and White House advisor Jared Kushner will arrive in Islamabad, Pakistan, later in the day to negotiate with Iran.
 - » However, with only two days left before the expiration of the U.S.-Israel-Iran ceasefire on April 22, Iran has not yet indicated whether it will [send](#) a delegation to Islamabad for the talks.
- The USS *Spruance* [disabled and seized](#) the Iranian-flagged cargo vessel M/V *Touska* in the north Arabian Sea on April 19 after it ignored warnings and attempted to transit toward Bandar Abbas, Iran, in violation of the U.S. naval blockade. U.S. Marines boarded and took custody of the ship.
 - » While it remains unclear what was onboard the *Touska*, it is a U.S.-sanctioned ship owned by an Iranian company that has [proliferated weaponry](#) and last visited a Chinese port with ties to ballistic missile [precursor](#) exports.

- On April 20, Iran's *Tasnim News* [claimed](#) to launch drones at a U.S. Navy ship after the seizure of the *Touska*, with no confirmed evidence that an attack took place or reports of damage.
 - » 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 5,181 drones, 2,184 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Noting that “we’re supposed to have the talks,” President Trump [emphasized](#) on April 20 that he “would assume at this point nobody’s playing games.”
 - » While Iranian officials have indicated that they are continuing to [review](#) the possibility of joining talks with the United States in Islamabad, they stated that no decision had been made yet.

- Iranian state broadcaster IRIB [reported](#) on April 19 that the country had “no plans” at the moment to join another round of negotiations.
 - » Earlier that day, Iran’s IRNA state media [stated](#) that “there is no clear prospect of fruitful negotiations” due to the United States’ “maximalism and unreasonable and unrealistic demands, frequent changes of positions, constant contradictions, and the continuation of the so-called naval blockade.”
- A senior Iranian source [told](#) Reuters that the “continuation of the U.S. blockade on the Strait of Hormuz undermines the peace talks.”
 - » The source added that Iran’s “defensive capabilities,” such as its missiles, are not up for discussion in talks, and disagreements persist between Washington and Tehran on the nuclear file.
 - » A source cited by the *Fars News Agency*, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), [said](#) that the end of the U.S. blockade on Iran would be required before negotiations could resume.
 - » Pakistani Chief of Defense Forces Field General Asim Munir, who has been mediating U.S.-Iran talks, [reportedly](#) has told President Trump that the U.S. naval blockade on Iran’s ports is an obstacle to progress in peace talks. President Trump told General Munir he would consider his advice, according to a Pakistani security official who [spoke with](#) the *Middle East Eye*.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [continued](#) to voice his support for pursuing a diplomatic path with the United States on April 20, but also noted that remaining vigilant and distrustful of the United States is an “undeniable necessity.”

Lebanon

- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [announced](#) on April 20 that Lebanon can pursue “either the continuation of the war with all its humanitarian, social, economic, and sovereignty repercussions, or negotiations to put an end to this war and achieve sustainable stability,” noting that “I have chosen negotiation,” and that “I am full of hope that we will be able to save Lebanon.”
 - » Aoun’s office [said](#) in an April 20 X post that ongoing negotiations with Israel will aim to “to halt hostilities, end the Israeli occupation of southern areas, and deploy the Lebanese army up to the internationally recognized southern borders.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- The Secretary for the Association of Iranian Airlines [announced](#) on April 20 that U.S. and Israeli strikes seriously damaged around 20 aircraft, but that approximately 95 percent of Iran’s airport infrastructure is operational.

Lebanon

- Despite the ongoing ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) commanders told Israel’s *Haaretz* outlet on April 19 that the Israeli military is [proceeding](#) with the destruction of buildings in key towns in southern Lebanon to rid the area of Hezbollah fighters and infrastructure.
 - » *Haaretz*’s report claimed that IDF commanders told them Israel is paying some contractors based on the number of buildings they demolish, a similar payment structure to Gaza, as part of an effort to encourage the population not to return to areas near the Israeli border.

- On April 19, the Israeli military [eliminated](#) an armed Hezbollah fighter operating beyond the “forward defense line,” violating the ceasefire.
- Overnight, the IDF [bombed](#) a primed Hezbollah rocket launcher in the Qalaouiyah area of southern Lebanon, north of the forward defense line, but posing “an immediate threat to IDF troops and Israeli citizens.”
- Verifying the validity of an image depicting an Israeli soldier destroying a statue of Jesus in southern Lebanon, the IDF [announced](#) that Israel’s Northern Command is investigating the incident, that “appropriate measures will be taken against those involved in accordance with the findings,” and that the IDF will help restore the statue.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On April 19, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) that the USS *Spruance* disabled the Iranian-flagged cargo vessel M/V *Touska* after it ignored six hours of warnings while transiting the north Arabian Sea toward Bandar Abbas, Iran, in violation of the U.S. naval blockade.
 - » *Spruance* fired several rounds from its guns into the *Touska*’s engine room after directing the crew to evacuate it, with Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit subsequently boarding and taking control of the vessel.
 - » It remains unclear what was onboard the vessel when the U.S. interdicted it, but its [most recent port](#) was in Zhuhai, China, which *The Washington Post* had previously [revealed](#) is a key location for exporting necessary chemical precursors for ballistic missile solid rocket propellant.
 - » The *Touska* and its owner, Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, are under U.S. [sanctions](#) for transporting military equipment to Iran.
- CENTCOM [reported](#) on April 19 that 25 ships in total—an increase of two from the day prior—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the U.S. blockade took effect.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Maritime

- On April 19, the French-flagged container ship *CMA CGM Everglade* was [targeted](#) in the Strait of Hormuz by warning shots from Iran, causing minor damage to the ship but no injuries.

Lebanon

- Hassan Fadlallah, a Hezbollah member in Lebanon’s parliament, [stated](#) on April 20 that “we will bring down this yellow line through the resistance (Hezbollah),” and that “no one in Lebanon or abroad will be able to disarm the resistance.”

Iraq

- The U.S. State Department [issued](#) a security alert on April 20, warning that “Iraqi terrorist militias aligned with Iran continue to plot additional attacks against U.S. citizens and targets associated with the United States throughout Iraq, including in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.”
 - » The alert added that “Some elements associated with the Iraqi government continue to actively provide political, financial, and operational cover for these terrorist militias.”

Gulf States

- On April 20, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) [announced](#) that the country's State Security Service had dismantled a terrorist cell linked to Iran's Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist system and arrested its members for planning terrorist attacks within the country.

Outside the Middle East

- U.S. authorities [arrested](#) a woman on April 18 at the Los Angeles International Airport for allegedly helping Iran sell weapons, including bombs, drones, and ammunition, to the Sudanese Armed Forces.
- In a joint announcement on April 20, the Mossad, IDF, and Shin Bet reported they [exposed](#) a clandestine IRGC terrorist network tasked with striking senior Israeli officials and strategic infrastructure globally.
 - » The network was headed by Rahman Moqadam, who also led the IRGC Intelligence Organization's Special Operations Division, and operated under senior IRGC official Majid Khademi, with key operative Mohsen Suri managing field activities. All three individuals were eliminated in Israeli strikes during Operation Roaring Lion.
 - » Israeli intelligence foiled plots by a cell in Azerbaijan to target the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, the Israeli embassy, a synagogue, and Jewish community leaders in Baku. The suspects were arrested by Azeri authorities.
 - » Also part of the terror cell was IRGC official Mehdi Yaqa-Dehqam, who Israeli officials said was involved in "the smuggling of explosive drones from Iran to Turkey and then to Cyprus, as well as intelligence collection on the Incirlik U.S. Air Force Base in [the Turkish city of] Adana."

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, [46 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,794 have been [injured](#). [Fifteen 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 2,294 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,544 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 20, the Iranian Khatam al-Anbiya military command [charged](#) that the United States breached the ceasefire by targeting an Iranian commercial vessel and threatened that the Iranian army “will soon respond and retaliate against this armed piracy.”

8. International Response

- In an April 20 phone call, Chinese President Xi Jinping [spoke](#) with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman about keeping the Strait of Hormuz open for normal passage, while also expressing his support for an end to the Iran war.
- The U.A.E. has [approached](#) the Trump administration about a potential currency swap to shore up its dollar reserves due to wartime financial struggles, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on April 19. According to the *Journal*, last week, “Emirati officials told the U.S. officials that if the U.A.E. runs short of dollars, it may be forced to use Chinese yuan or other countries’ currencies for oil sales and other transactions.”
- Kuwait’s state-run energy company [declared](#) force majeure on certain shipments of crude oil, *Bloomberg* reported on April 20. Kuwait has sustained Iranian strikes on its energy infrastructure throughout the war.

9. JINSA Resources

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- Blaise Misztal and Yoni Tobin, [Lebanon Ceasefire Cannot Become Iranian Leverage](#), April 17, 2026
- 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
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- 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