



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/22/26 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 22 at 10:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **4**

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **203** (6 on April 22)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **6** (2 on April 22)

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 192** (at least 2 on April 21–22)

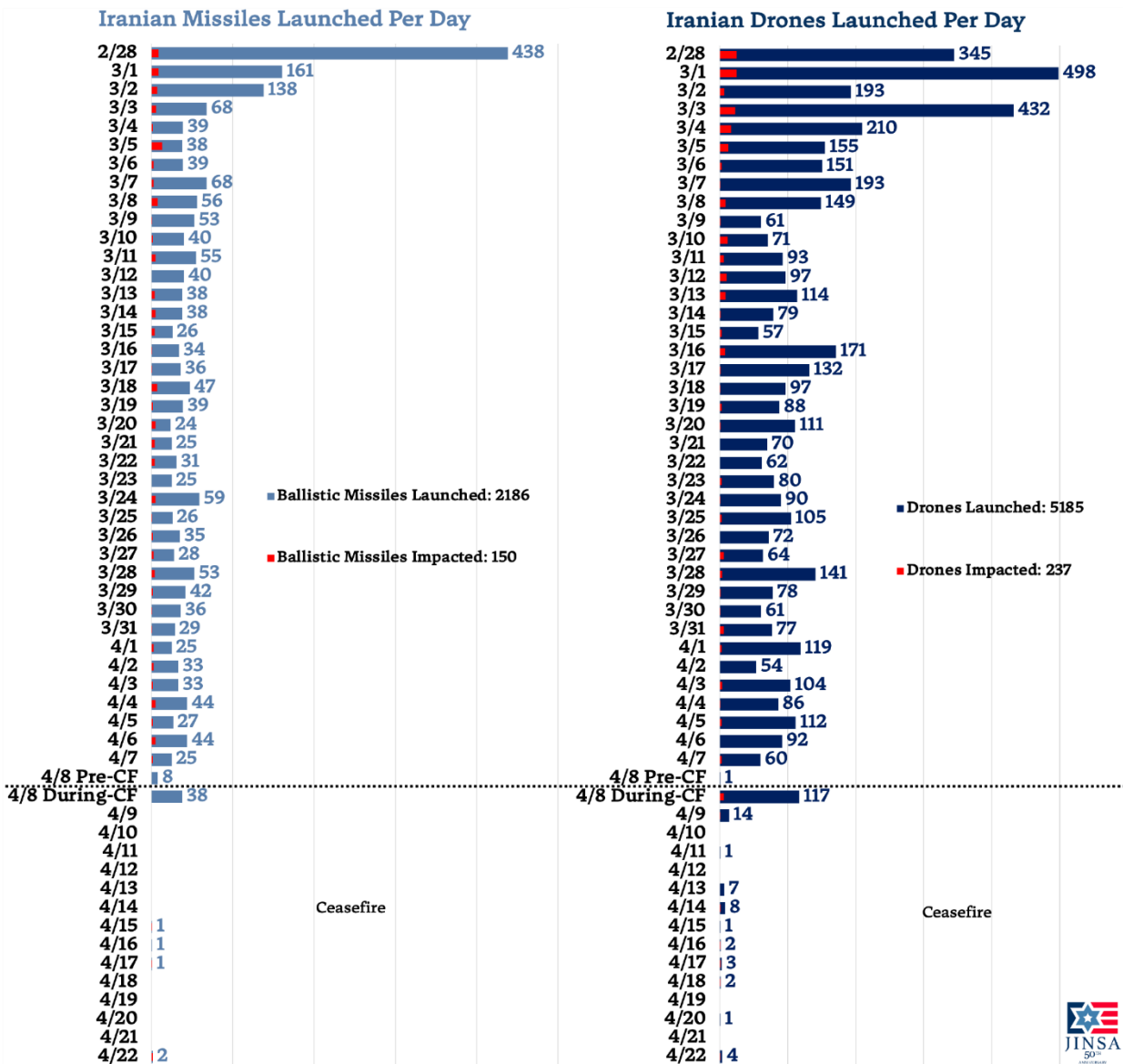
- Note: The blockade line that the Pentagon announced crosses where the Gulf of Oman opens into the Arabian Sea and is at a different location than the Strait of Hormuz itself.

1. Overview

- Hours before the ceasefire with Iran was set to expire on April 21, President Donald Trump [announced](#) that the United States would extend the temporary ceasefire agreement until Iran offers a clear and “unified proposal” for ending the war.
 - » On April 22, Pakistani sources told *The New York Post* that talks could resume within the next “36 to 72 hours.” When asked about this claim, President Trump told the media outlet, “it’s possible.”
 - » Iranian officials [signaled](#) their rejection of President Trump’s extension and [refused](#) to participate in a potential second round of talks with the United States in Pakistan before the ceasefire was set to expire.
- The U.S. naval blockade will continue to [remain in effect](#) indefinitely, President Trump said on April 21.
 - » According to an April 22 article from Israel’s *Walla News* outlet, Israeli intelligence believes Iran’s oil exports have [declined by an estimated 80 percent](#) as a result of the U.S. blockade. This will reportedly inflict estimated losses of over \$1 billion a month on the regime, collapsing much of Iran’s energy sector.
- Iranian naval forces fired upon [three ships](#) in the Strait of Hormuz on April 22, [seizing](#) at least two of the vessels.
- With the Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors to the United States [expected](#) to hold negotiations at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., on April 23, Lebanon will reportedly

ask to extend the ceasefire for one month and for Israel to halt strikes against Hezbollah, which has continued to target Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and northern Israel.

- On April 22, Iran launched two attacks against Kurdish opposition groups, involving a total of two missiles and four drones, marking the largest number of projectiles it has fired in the past week.
 - » 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 5,185 drones, 2,184 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Three senior U.S. officials [told](#) Axios's Barak Ravid on April 21 that President Trump wants to let Iran's competing factions work out an agreement amongst themselves. However, one unnamed official told Axios, "it's not going to be open-ended," adding, "Trump is willing to give another three to five days."

- President Trump [declared](#) in a Truth Social post on April 22 that “Iran doesn’t want the Strait of Hormuz closed, they want it open so they can make \$500 Million Dollars a day.”
 - » He added that Iran only wants the Strait blocked off “because I have it totally BLOCKADED (CLOSED!), so they merely want to ‘save face.’”
 - » He also noted that if the United States allows Iran to open the strait “immediately,” then “there can never be a Deal with Iran, unless we blow up the rest of their Country, their leaders included!”
- Mahdi Mohammadi, a national security adviser to the speaker of Iran’s parliament and lead Iranian negotiator Mohammad Ghalibaf, [said](#) in an April 21 X post following the announcement that “Trump’s extension of the ceasefire means nothing.”
 - » He added, “The losing side cannot set the terms. Continuing the siege is no different from bombing and must be responded to militarily. Meanwhile, Trump’s extension of the ceasefire certainly means buying time for a surprise strike. It is time for Iran to take the initiative.”
- Following the ceasefire announcement on April 21, Iranian Foreign Minister Esmail Baghaei [declared](#) that Iran may pursue diplomatic channels when “the necessary and reasonable conditions exist to use this tool to achieve national interests.”
- According to Iran’s semi-official Tasnim News Agency, Iran [informed](#) the United States on April 21 that it would not send a delegation to Pakistan for negotiations, labeling the talks “as a waste of time,” due to “excessive” American demands.
- Prior to President Trump’s announcement to extend the ceasefire on April 21, an American official [stated](#) that the Trump administration halted Vice President J.D. Vance’s trip to Islamabad for holding talks with Iranian negotiators, as Iran refused to send a delegation to Pakistan for discussions.

Lebanon

- The Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors to the United States plan to convene at the U.S. State Department headquarters in Washington, D.C. on April 23. In the planned meeting, Lebanon is [expected](#) to request a one-month ceasefire extension.
 - » The team of U.S. mediators will [include](#) the same officials as the first round of negotiations, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, State Department Counselor Mike Needham, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa, and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- President Trump gave his [assessment](#) of the war’s rationale and current progress in an April 21 Truth Social post, stating, “for 47 years, [Iran’s leaders] have killed our people, and many others, and taken advantage of every president, except me.”
 - » According to President Trump, Iran’s “entire Navy is at the bottom of the Sea, their Air Force is gone, their Anti Aircraft and Radar is wiped out, their Nuclear Labs and Storage Areas were OBLITERATED late one dark June evening by our Great B-2 Bombers, their leaders are DEAD, including General Soleimani.”
 - » He continued, “the Strait of Hormuz is BLOCKADED and totally controlled by the U.S., with no ships allowed to go to Iranian Ports—it is said that they are losing 500 Million Dollars a day because of this.”
- The U.S. Treasury Department [imposed](#) sanctions on 14 individuals, entities, and aircraft based in Iran, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates on April 21 “for their involvement in procuring or transporting weapons or weapons components on behalf of the Iranian regime,” the department said in a press release.

- » The latest sanctions, per the Treasury Department, are part of Economic Fury, which *The Wall Street Journal* described on April 21 as an ongoing [joint effort](#) by the Defense, State, and Treasury Departments to maximize economic pressure on the Iranian regime.
- » These new designations targeted multiple persons and entities affiliated with Iran's Mahan Air company. JINSA has previously [highlighted](#) how Mahan Air has often skirted sanctions, exploiting lax Western sanctions enforcement.
- Reuters reported on April 22 that the United States has [begun deploying](#) Ukrainian counter-drone technology at Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Air Base, where U.S. troops and assets are stationed and have come under repeated Iranian attack during the war.
 - » According to Reuters, "Ukrainian military officials arrived at the base in recent weeks to train U.S. warfighters with Sky Map," a command-and-control platform that aids with detection and interception.
 - » Ukraine's military uses Sky Map, Reuters reported, "to detect incoming drone threats—including Iranian-developed Shahed drones—and launch counter-attacks with interceptor drones."
- The Trump administration is [reportedly](#) considering extending its 60-day waiver of the Jones Act, a law requiring U.S. ships to carry goods between American ports that some economists argue raises shipping costs, in an effort to increase oil shipments between U.S. ports.
 - » White House spokesperson Taylor Rogers told *Axios* on April 21 that since the waiver took effect, "the data reveals more supply has reached U.S. ports faster."
 - » Another unnamed U.S. official revealed to *Axios* that "as long as the Iranians are a threat and raising fuel prices, the president would like to keep the waiver in place for as long as is necessary."
- Newsmax reported on April 22 that the Trump administration is [sorting its North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\) allies](#) into different classifications based on their perceived support of, and helpfulness in, the U.S. war with Iran.
 - » According to Newsmax, this tiered system is "laying the groundwork for a possible re-shuffling of troop deployments, joint exercises, and weapons sales."
- According to *The Wall Street Journal* on April 21, the United States [paused](#) dollar shipments to Iraq and halted some security cooperation programs to pressure Baghdad to take action against Iraqi militias backed by Iran.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [stated](#) during his April 21 address celebrating Israel's Independence Day that "Israel is stronger than ever, and together with the United States, we are leading the fight against the forces of evil in the world."
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu also commented that while enemies have risen up consistently throughout history to threaten the Jewish people, Israel is now entering a "generation of revival" in which it instead rises up against its enemies.
 - » He further added, "We dealt a heavy blow to Iran's regime of terror, harming its ability to endanger us. We strengthened Israel's position as a regional power. We forged new alliances and opened the door to expanding the circle of peace."

Iran

- President Trump said in an April 21 Truth Social [post](#) that the U.S. Space Force "has cameras on every inch" of Iran's three primary nuclear sites, adding that the American military's Operation Midnight Hammer in June 2025 on those sites "totally obliterated the Nuclear Dust locations to the point where ... Iran has been able to get to it or dig it out."

Lebanon

- The Israeli military [announced](#) on April 22 that before the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire took effect on April 17, Israeli forces carried out operations in the southern Lebanese town of Dibbine, striking over 70 Hezbollah targets and killing more than 20 Hezbollah fighters.
- On April 22, *The Jerusalem Post* [reported](#) that the Israeli military's Yahalom Combat Engineers unit has increased its deployment of robots to rapidly destroy Hezbollah infrastructure, particularly in tunnels and other places that are difficult for troops to access, in the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil.
- In three separate incidents on April 21, the Israeli military [eliminated](#) Hezbollah operatives violating the ceasefire agreement, including fighters who had “crossed the forward defense line and approached the forces in a manner that posed an immediate threat,” near the town of Qoussair, as well as other armed fighters operating within the ceasefire line near the [Wadi Saluki stream](#).

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- Shipping executives at the FT Commodities Global Summit on April 22 [said](#) Asian ship owners are expecting to resume their shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz at some point in the near-future.
- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [stated](#) on April 21 that 28 vessels in total—an increase of one from the day prior—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the U.S. blockade took effect.
- U.S. destroyers were [escorting](#) at least two Iranian tankers, the *Dorena* and *Sevin*, on April 21 after both departed from the Iranian port of Chabahar before the blockade commenced on April 13, according to *The Washington Post*. An American official declined to say where the Iranian tankers would be escorted.
 - » Satellite imagery obtained by the *Post* showed the *Dorena* was in the Arabian Sea on April 18, about 300 miles west of India's southern coast, among a group of vessels that satellite photographs had shown in Chabahar before the blockade took effect.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Maritime

- On April 22, Iranian naval forces [attacked](#) three ships in the Strait of Hormuz, seizing at least two of them.
 - » Iran reportedly gave [permission](#) for the Greece-owned and Liberia-flagged *Epaminodes* to sail through the Strait prior to an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) [gunboat](#) approaching the vessel and firing at it, damaging the bridge.
 - While confirming the attack, Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis [said](#) to CNN on April 22 that he “cannot confirm” if the ship “has been seized by the Iranians.”
 - » Iran also claimed to have attacked and [seized](#) the United Arab Emirates-owned, Panamanian-flagged MSC *Francesca*. The *Francesca* is currently roughly six miles off Iran's coast in the Gulf of Oman, Kpler data seen by JINSA indicated.
 - » Iranian media reported that Iran also [attacked](#) the Panamanian-flagged *Euphoria*, but it remains unclear if Iran seized the vessel. The ship remains off the Emirati coast in the Gulf of Oman, according to Kpler tracking data reviewed by JINSA.

Lebanon

- In total, Hezbollah [launched](#) over 8,500 drones, missiles, and rockets towards Israel between March 2—when Hezbollah first entered the war—and April 16, when the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire began, Israel’s *Makor Rishon* outlet [reported](#) on April 21.
 - » The article, which cited a senior Israeli defense official, stated that approximately one-third of the Hezbollah attacks targeted Israeli villages, while the remaining two-thirds targeted Israeli military personnel or bases.
 - » According to the article, around half of the attacks were launched from north of the Litani River, around 6 miles north of the Israel-Lebanon border.
 - » Some launches were even reportedly initiated in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, specifically the Dahiyeh area that has long been a Hezbollah stronghold.
- On April 22, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [announced](#) that its air defenses intercepted a drone that Hezbollah had launched at Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon, calling the attack a “blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement.”
- On April 21, Hezbollah [claimed](#) responsibility for launching a drone at an IDF artillery site in Kfar Giladi in northern Israel and firing rockets at Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, claiming it was in response to Israel’s more than “200 ceasefire violations,” according to a *Times of Israel* article.
 - » Israeli air defenses intercepted the drone before it crossed into Israeli territory, and, in response, Israeli forces struck the rocket launcher Hezbollah used to fire at the ground troops.

Iraq

- On April 22, the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) [indicated](#) that an Iranian drone attack involving four drones injured three of its fighters at a base outside Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- In a separate April 22 attack, two missiles [hit](#) a base belonging to the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan near Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Internal Repression

- Iran has now executed the eighth person [connected](#) to the country’s nationwide protests this month. It is alleged that the individual, Amir Ali Mirjafari, was part of a Mossad plot.

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 Reobert 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 400 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. service-members 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.
 - » A United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeeper wounded in an April 18 Hezbollah attack has died, French President Emmanuel Macron [announced](#) on April 22. Another UNIFIL peacekeeper also died in the attack.
- 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 2,454 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,658 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 22, Iran's *Tasnim News Agency* [threatened](#) Gulf Arab states' undersea cables located in the Strait of Hormuz, noting that "simultaneous damage to several major cables—whether through accidents or deliberate action—could trigger severe outages across the Persian Gulf."
- On April 21, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi [described](#) the U.S. military's blockade of Iranian ports as an "act of war," threatening that "Iran knows how to neutralize restrictions, how to defend its interests, and how to resist bullying."
- On April 21, IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Majid Mousavi, referring to Gulf nations, [warned](#) that "the southern neighbours should know that if their geography and facilities are

used in the service of the enemies to attack the Iranian nation, they should bid farewell to oil production in the Middle East.”

- In an apparent show of force hours before the ceasefire between the United States and Iran was set to expire on April 21, the Iranian military [held](#) several missile parades throughout Iran, including one in which its forces paraded a Ghadr ballistic missile around Tehran’s Vahak Square.

8. International Response

- Germany and Italy [rejected](#) proposals to suspend the European Union’s (EU) association agreement with Israel at the April 21 meeting of the bloc’s foreign ministers in Luxembourg.
 - » German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl called the proposals “inappropriate,” while Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said that “no decision will be taken today.”
- Top United Nations (UN) leaders [welcomed](#) President Trump’s ceasefire extension between the United States and Iran on April 21.
 - » UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, via his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, said the announcement will create “critical space for diplomacy and confidence-building between Iran and the United States.”
 - » International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi said it is “very important that an opportunity for peace is given.” He also added that any peace deal must include the IAEA from the start to enforce oversight over Iran’s nuclear program.

9. JINSA Resources

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [In Defense of the War, And How to Finish It](#), April 17, 2026
- 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
- 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