



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/27/26 Update

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The United States, Israel, and Iran reached a two-week ceasefire agreement on April 7, which President Donald Trump extended indefinitely on April 21. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of April 27 at 11:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **17**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **205** (2 on April 27)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 31** (at least 7 on April 26–27)

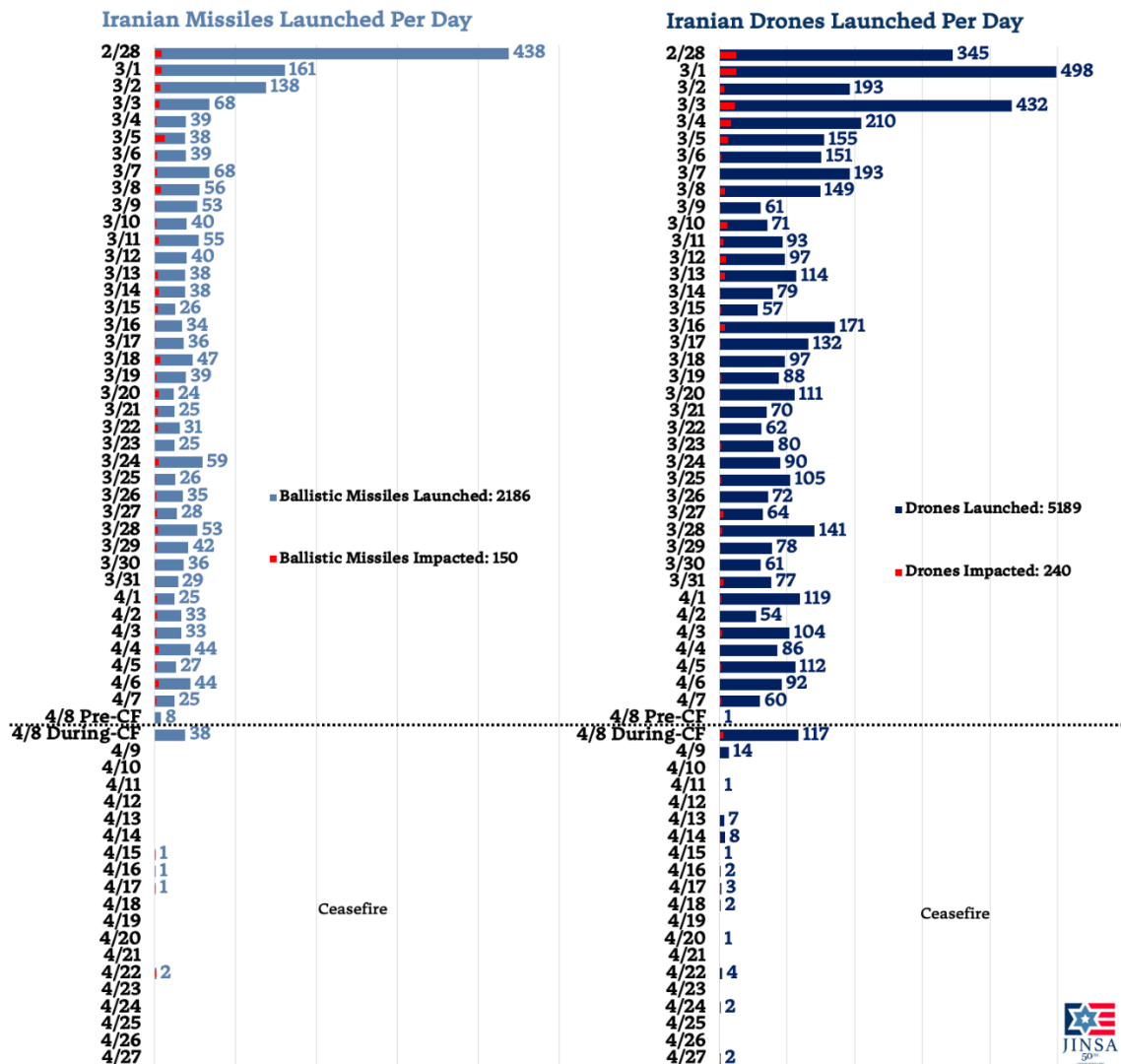
Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 240** (at least 17 on April 26–27)

- 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

- Iran [submitted](#) a new proposal to the United States to end the war and restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz while deferring questions regarding Iran's nuclear program—including suspending enrichment and removing its highly enriched uranium stockpile—to a later phase, according to sources cited by *Axios* on April 26.
- For the first time in three weeks, Israeli forces [carried out](#) strikes in the Beqaa Valley region in eastern Lebanon on April 27, expanding attacks outside of the country's south despite the active ceasefire.
- Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains far lower than the pre-war average of well over 100 ships per day. As of evening local time on April 27, just 11 ships had passed through the Strait so far that day, according to JINSA-reviewed data from Kpler.
 - » JINSA has not detected any vessels heading to, or from, an Iranian port crossing the U.S. blockade line since April 22, with the exception—as noted in JINSA's prior war update—of the Marshall Islands-flagged *Ascanio* bulk carrier.
 - Reuters [reported](#) on April 27 that “four million barrels of Iranian oil onboard tankers sailed through the U.S. blockade on April 24.” Yet, it did not clarify if these ships were traveling to or from an Iranian port, or just loaded the oil at a separate location in the Gulf or via ship-to-ship transfer.
 - » Iran is trying to [circumvent](#) the blockade by sending oil by rail en route to China, according to the spokesman for Iran's oil exporters' union.

- On April 27, two drones struck Kurdish opposition groups in Iraqi Kurdistan.
 - » 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 5,186 drones, 2,189 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.
- On April 26, an image of Iranian Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, who reportedly sustained significant injuries in the war's opening strikes and has not been publicly seen or heard from since assuming power, was [included](#) in a memorial display in Iran's Mashhad Ardehal.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- In a Fox News interview on April 26, President Donald Trump [stated](#), "If they [the Iranians] want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us."
 - » He added, "They know what has to be in the agreement. It's very simple: They cannot have a nuclear weapon, otherwise there's no reason to meet."

- » To discuss Iran's recent proposal, President Trump [scheduled](#) a Situation Room meeting for April 27 with his senior national security and foreign policy staff, according to an *Axios* article.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [visited](#) Oman on April 26, meeting with Omani leader Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said, before returning to Pakistan for further discussions with Pakistani officials. He then traveled to Russia on April 27 to [meet](#) with President Vladimir Putin.
 - » According to Iran's state-run media, in his meeting with Sultan al-Said, Araghchi [recommended](#) a security framework for the Middle East that would not involve states outside the region.
 - » Tehran's semi-official *Tasnim News Agency* [reported](#) that, in discussions with Pakistani officials on April 26, Araghchi discussed "implementing a new legal regime over the Strait of Hormuz, receiving compensation, guaranteeing no renewed military aggression by warmongers, and lifting the naval blockade."
 - » Regarding Araghchi's meeting with Putin today, Tehran's envoy to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, [posted](#) on X that the meeting would [take place](#) "in continuation of the diplomatic jihad to advance the country's interests and amid external threats."
 - Jalali added, "Iran and Russia are present in a united front in the campaign of the world's totalitarian forces against independent and justice-seeking countries, as well as countries that seek a world free from unilateralism and Western domination."
 - In his meeting with Araghchi, Putin [remarked](#) that Russia "will do everything that serves your [Iran's] interests, the interests of all the people of the region, so that peace can be achieved as soon as possible."

Lebanon

- Diplomatic sources [told](#) *The New Arab* on April 27 that the three-week Israel-Lebanon ceasefire extension established on April 23 was set as a deadline for Lebanese officials to develop a comprehensive plan for disarming Hezbollah by May 17.
 - » According to the sources, if Lebanon fails to meet the deadline, the United States would not "restrain" Israeli troops from operating against the group in Lebanon, nor would Saudi Arabia financially contribute to south Lebanon's reconstruction.
- Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar [informed](#) United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert on April 27 that Hezbollah's continued violations of the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire agreement "undermine" Lebanon's goals and that "Hezbollah systematically places its operatives and military assets in close proximity to UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] positions and exploits UNIFIL's presence for hostile activity."

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Lebanon

- On April 26, the Israeli military [bombed](#) several Hezbollah facilities north of the security zone in southern Lebanon, including operatives coordinating a rocket attack and a rocket launcher primed to fire at Israeli targets.
 - » The Israeli Air Force also [struck](#) and killed three Hezbollah fighters operating near the forward defense line in southern Lebanon and bombed Hezbollah's Bint Jbeil headquarters, which was equipped with weapons.
- On April 26, the Israeli military [bombed](#) Hezbollah sites in the Beqaa Valley in eastern Lebanon for the first time in three weeks.

- During an April 26 operational accident at a military base in southern Lebanon, four Israeli soldiers [sustained](#) injuries after their Humvee overturned.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- During an interview with Fox News on April 26, President Trump [stated](#) that Iran only has “about three days left” until its oil lines explode due to the blockade on Iranian ports, noting that “when it explodes, you can never rebuild it the way it was.”
- Hamid Hosseini, the spokesman for the Iranian oil exporters’ union, said Iran is [attempting](#) to transfer oil to China by rail, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on April 27.
- U.S. Central Command [stated](#) on April 26 that 38 vessels in total—an increase of one vessel from JINSA’s last update on April 26—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the blockade took effect.
- Six Iranian tankers recently [completed](#) round trips from Iranian ports through the Strait of Hormuz carrying roughly 10.5 million barrels of oil, though not necessarily across the blockade line. An additional four million barrels of Iranian oil aboard various vessels breached the U.S. blockade on April 24, according to a Reuters report on April 27, citing analysis from TankerTrackers.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- In an April 27 interview with Al Jazeera, a Hezbollah official [warned](#) that the group is deploying “suicide fighters” in areas where Israeli troops are operating to “confront officers and soldiers of the enemy in the occupied Lebanese villages.”
- On April 27, Hezbollah [fired](#) an explosive-laden drone at an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) position in southern Lebanon, with the IDF stating the drone landed near the position but did not cause casualties.
- On April 26, Hezbollah [launched](#) an explosive-laden drone at Israeli soldiers operating in Taybeh in southern Lebanon, killing one and injuring six others.
 - » Hezbollah launched two other explosive drones at the soldiers while they were being evacuated, with one crashing near them and Israeli defenses intercepting the other projectile.
- In a separate April 26 attack, an explosive-laden drone was [fired](#) at members of the IDF’s Golani Brigade in southern Lebanon but was successfully intercepted.

Iraq

- On April 27, a camp belonging to an unspecified Iranian opposition group was [targeted](#) by two drones near Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Internal Dynamics and Repression

- Iran’s *Tasnim News* [reported](#) on April 27 that Iranian authorities detained nine people in Iran’s Kerman province, accusing them of espionage.

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 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 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. servicemembers were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
- Since the war began, [at least 47 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,794 have been [injured](#). [At least 16 of these casualties](#) include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
 - » Sgt. Idan Fox, 19, of Petah Tikva, was named as the Israeli soldier [killed](#) in a Hezbollah drone attack on April 25.
 - » 11-year-old Nesiah Karadi, from Israel's Bnei Brak city, [died](#) on April 24 from wounds sustained in an Iranian missile attack earlier this month.
- 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 119 people have been [killed](#), including 20 [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 2,509 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,755 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.): 13 people have been [killed](#), and at least 224 have been [injured](#).

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On April 27, Ebrahim Azizi, the head of the Iranian parliament's national security commission, [called](#) for Iran's Armed Forces to control the Strait of Hormuz under Tehran's latest ceasefire proposal.
 - » He also claimed that ships wishing to pass through the Strait would have to pay Iran's military in the country's dying rial under the proposed deal.
- On April 27, the Iranian Navy's deputy commander, Faramarz Bemani, [warned](#) that while some of Tehran's forces have yet to engage in the war with the United States and Israel, these forces are "awaiting orders" from senior leadership to act.
- On April 27, Iran [banned](#) steel exports until May 30 after U.S. and Israeli strikes disrupted the annual production of 10 million tonnes of steel, roughly 25 to 30 percent of its total capacity.
- On April 27, Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem [denounced](#) Lebanon's plans to hold direct negotiations with Israel, demanding that Lebanese leaders "back down from their grave sin that is putting Lebanon in a spiral of instability."
 - » Qassem stated that "There are those who advocate surrender. They reap gains at the expense of the destruction of their brothers and families in Lebanon and the occupation of parts of Lebanon," but noted that "No matter how much the enemy threatens, we will not back down, we will not bow down, and we will not be defeated."
 - » Qassem also [affirmed](#) that Hezbollah refuses to "relinquish its weapons or its defenses."
- On April 26, Hezbollah [released](#) a statement defending its actions against Israel and Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon during the ceasefire, calling them "a legitimate response" to Israel's "continued ceasefire violations" and "continued occupation of Lebanese territory."

8. International Response

- On April 27, Bahraini authorities [revoked](#) the citizenship of 69 individuals, as well as their families, for "expressing support for Iranian attacks."
- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [stated](#) on April 27 that Israel-Lebanon talks are "not betrayal," noting that "betrayal is carried out by those who take their country to war to serve foreign interests," referring to Hezbollah.
 - » Aoun remarked that "if the war [in southern Lebanon] were for Lebanon, we would support it—but when its purpose is to serve the interests of others, I reject the war entirely."
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen [shared](#) on April 27 that European states paid roughly \$32 billion more to import gas and oil since the Iran war commenced, noting that the European Union's reliance on fossil fuel imports exposes member states to risk.
 - » On April 27, von der Leyen [stated](#) that "we think the dropping of sanctions [on Iran] would be too early" and "we first have to see a change, a fundamental change in Iran for the dropping of sanctions."
- On April 27, German Chancellor Frederick Merz [stated](#), "the Iranians are obviously very skilled at negotiating, or rather, very skillful at not negotiating, letting the Americans travel to Islamabad and then leave again without any result."
 - » He added, "an entire nation [the United States] is being humiliated by the Iranian leadership, especially by these so-called Revolutionary Guards. And so I hope that this ends as quickly as possible."

9. JINSA Resources

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- Hussein Mansour, [The Emirati Moment: The U.A.E.'s Strategic Cycle and the Iran War](#), April 24, 2026
- 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