



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/28/26 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 28 at 10:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **16**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **208** (3 on April 27)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 34** (at least 4 on April 27–28)

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 250** (at least 19 on April 27–28)

- 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 28, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “Iran has just informed us that they are in a ‘State of Collapse.’ They want us to ‘Open the Hormuz Strait,’ as soon as possible, as they try to figure out their leadership situation (Which I believe they will be able to do!).”
- On April 28, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) [announced](#) that it will leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) this Friday, May 1.
- An April 27 Reuters article [reported](#) that President Trump is opposed to Iran’s proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz because it excluded discussion of Tehran’s nuclear program.
 - » According to the report, Iranian officials proposed that nuclear discussions be postponed until after the war, but the United States demands that Iran address its nuclear program as part of negotiations to end the war.
- JINSA-reviewed data from the Kpler analytics firm indicates that, since April 26, two Iranian-flagged ships and another vessel traveling outbound from an Iranian port crossed the U.S. naval blockade line.
 - » One Iranian-flagged ship, the *M13526* cargo vessel, appeared to travel from Karachi, Pakistan, to Iran’s Chabahar port.
 - » Another Iranian-flagged cargo vessel, the *Alyasin19932*, left Iran’s Konarak port and moved east past the blockade line into the Arabian Sea.

- » The Panamanian-flagged *LB Energy* bulk carrier, which left Iran’s Bandar Imam Khomeini port on April 19, crossed the blockade line on April 27. Its logged destination port is Santos, Brazil.
- Iranian oil tankers—including 6–8 supertankers—have been [accumulating](#) near Iran’s port of Chabahar, close to the U.S. blockade line, as Iran’s shipping traffic has fallen to near zero, according to an April 28 *Bloomberg* article.
- Iran has requested the immediate transfer of S-400 air defense systems that Russia has delayed delivering, according to an [article](#) published in *The Telegraph* on April 28 about a meeting the previous day in Moscow between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On April 28, Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani [claimed](#) that “lasting stability and security in the Persian Gulf and the wider region can only be achieved through a durable and permanent cessation of aggression against Iran supplemented by credible guarantees of non-recurrence and full respect for the legitimate sovereign rights and interests of Iran.”
- On April 27, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio [said](#) that the United States cannot accept Iran’s purported offer to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, claiming that “what they mean by opening the straits is, yes, the straits are open, as long as you coordinate with Iran, get our permission, or we’ll blow you up and you pay us.”
 - » Secretary Rubio also [stated](#) during an April 27 interview with Fox News that Iran is wielding its ability to disrupt shipping in the Strait of Hormuz as an “economic nuclear weapon.”
- On April 27, during the opening of the four-week-long Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, U.S. officials [criticized](#) Iran’s [election](#) to be one of the 34 vice presidencies for the conference.
 - » U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and Nonproliferation Christopher Yeaw noted that “rather than choosing to use this review conference to defend the integrity of the NPT and call Iran to account, we instead elect Iran a vice president.”
 - » Australia and the U.A.E. backed the U.S. position, while the United Kingdom, France, and Germany—members of the 2015 nuclear deal—expressed “concern” over Iran’s candidacy.
- Iran’s Foreign Minister Araghchi [claimed](#) in a Telegram post on April 27 that President Trump is pursuing diplomacy because the United States failed to achieve its objectives, that “the world has now realized Iran’s true power,” and “it has become clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a stable, solid and powerful system.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir [condemned](#) recent “unethical incidents” involving Israeli soldiers in Lebanon on April 27, saying that “We must not compromise on our values. The erosion of norms could be no less dangerous than operational threats.”

Lebanon

- In remarks on April 27, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [noted](#) that “there are still two central threats” Hezbollah poses, its arsenals of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and 122mm rockets. He added that if the IDF is able to thwart these threats “through a combination of operational and technological means ... we are essentially on the path to disarming Hezbollah—because this is their primary weaponry.”

- » Prime Minister Netanyahu connected these two threats to the negotiations with Lebanon, remarking that “on the diplomatic side, I believe we will be able to resolve things, if we have resolved this.”
- » Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that IDF strikes are occurring “both in the security zone, north of the security zone, and north of the Litani [River],” commending the IDF’s “freedom of action to thwart [both] immediate and emerging threats,” as a component of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement with Lebanon.
 - He noted that Hezbollah retains only approximately 10 percent of its missile stockpile compared to when the current round of Israeli strikes began in early March.
 - He highlighted Israel’s achievements in its operations in Lebanon, such as the “elimination” of Hezbollah’s rocket arsenal and Israel’s “security zone” in south Lebanon, adding that the latter “prevents the possibility of an invasion into northern Israel, and now also prevents direct anti-tank missile fire, while allowing us to change the situation in Lebanon.”
- On April 27, the Israeli military [bombed](#) around 20 Hezbollah facilities throughout the Beqaa Valley region and southern Lebanon, including weapon arsenals, manufacturing, and storage sites.
- During a raid in southern Lebanon, the IDF [discovered and seized](#) a Hezbollah weapons cache filled with first-person view drones, explosive drones, anti-tank explosives, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), and remote detonation systems.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright [claimed](#) on April 28 that not every mine placed in the Strait of Hormuz needs to be removed for ship travel to resume in the waterway, stating that “You just need a pathway for ships to be moved in and out.”
- A group of Iranian tankers, including six to eight supertankers, is [idling](#) near the Iranian port of Chabahar in the Gulf of Oman, close to the U.S. blockade line, according to a *Bloomberg* article published on April 28. *Bloomberg* also reported that Iran’s shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is now near zero, and Tehran could soon be forced to shut its production as storage capacity runs low.
 - » An estimated 155 million barrels of Iranian crude are currently in transit or floating in storage worldwide.
- For the first time since Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz in March, the first fully-loaded liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker, the Emirati-operated *Mubaraz*, [passed](#) through the waterway around the weekend of April 18–19, finally turning on its transponder on April 27 near India after turning it off in late March.
- The Associated Press [reported](#) on April 27 that roughly 20,000 seafarers aboard hundreds of vessels remain stranded in the Persian Gulf as they are unable to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- Hezbollah [claimed](#) on April 28 that it struck an IDF bulldozer with an explosive-laden drone while it was destroying homes in Bint Jbeil.
- The IDF [fired](#) an interceptor missile at an alleged Hezbollah drone flying over Israeli troops in southern Lebanon on April 28.

- Two Israeli soldiers were [wounded](#), including one seriously, after Hezbollah fired an explosive drone at them while they were operating in southern Lebanon on April 27.
 - » Hezbollah reportedly [fired](#) several more explosive drones at Israeli troops on April 27 without causing injuries.

Iraq

- On April 27, a civilian camp belonging to the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (KDPI)—an Iranian Kurdish opposition group—was [targeted](#) by an unspecified number of Iranian drones near Koya in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Outside the Middle East

- Iran’s embassy in London has [encouraged](#) residents in the United Kingdom to register for an official “martyrdom” program, calling on “brave and noble children of Iran” with a willingness to die for the regime to come forward, according to an April 27 exclusive from the *Daily Mail*.

Internal Dynamics and Repression

- Iran’s Supreme National Security Council [convened](#) a meeting chaired by Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, the council’s secretary, to address growing concerns over a potential resurgence of protests, according to sources cited by Iran International on April 27.
 - » Internal assessments have warned that worsening economic conditions could catalyze new waves of unrest.

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 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](#).
 - » 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 28, Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Reza Taleai-Nik [stated](#) that Tehran is willing to provide its defensive capabilities to “independent countries, especially members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).”

8. International Response

- The U.A.E. announced its decision to leave OPEC earlier today, [noting](#) that “this decision reflects the UAE’s long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile, including accelerated investment in domestic energy production, and reinforces its commitment to a responsible, reliable, and forward-looking role in global energy markets.”
- On April 28, Germany [bestowed](#) high military honors, the Gold and Silver Crosses of Honor, on two Israeli officials involved in deploying the Arrow 3 missile defense system to Germany.
- On April 28, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman [hosted](#) a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the first in-person discussion among leaders of GCC member states since the start of the Iran war.
 - » According to a Gulf official cited by Reuters, the goal of the session was to develop a response to the Iranian drone and missile strikes on Gulf countries during the war.
- On April 27, Emirati presidential advisor Anwar Gargash [condemned](#) the response of the GCC during the Iran war, remarking that “The GCC’s stance was the weakest historically, considering the nature of the attack and the threat it posed to everyone.”

- » He added that Gulf states had implemented a “containment policy” toward Iran, but “these policies have failed miserably, and we are now facing a major reassessment.”
- On April 27, French President Emmanuel Macron [noted](#), “We have established a coalition whose purpose is precisely to ensure security, to secure and stabilize, to demonstrate that the international community supports an opening [of the Strait of Hormuz].”
 - » He added, “I hope that we will be able to convince the stakeholders [Iranian officials] in the coming days” to reopen the strait.
- On April 27, Stephen Doughty, the U.K. minister of state for Europe and North America, [re-marked](#) that the United Kingdom is not in favor of the U.S. blockade of Iran.
 - » He added that the U.K. is supportive of cooperating with the United States and other countries to facilitate the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

9. JINSA Resources

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [The Iranian People: America’s Most Powerful Weapon](#), April 26, 2026
- 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