



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/30/26 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 30 at 10:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **14**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **209** (0 on April 29–30)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 50** (at least 10 on April 29–30)

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 270** (at least 21 on April 29–30)

- 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

- Admiral Brad Cooper, Commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), will brief President Donald Trump on April 30 about [new military options](#) against Iran to push it to return to the negotiating table, according to *Axios*.
 - » Multiple officials who spoke with *Axios* indicated that various plans may include:
 - A “short and powerful” series of strikes against infrastructure;
 - Operations to take over control of part of the Strait of Hormuz, which could include the use of ground forces; and
 - A special operations forces raid to secure and remove Iran’s highly enriched uranium.
 - » However, the United States is also reportedly reducing its naval force posture in the region. *The Washington Post* [reported](#) on April 29, citing U.S. officials, that the USS *Gerald Ford* aircraft carrier will soon be leaving the Middle East.
 - Two other aircraft carriers, the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and the USS *George H.W. Bush*, are still deployed in the theater.
- On April 29, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the Trump administration has proposed a multinational coalition called “the Maritime Freedom Construct,” jointly led by the State Department and CENTCOM, that would enable transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

- CENTCOM [announced](#) on April 29 that U.S. forces have redirected a total of 42 ships that “attempted to violate the blockade” since the blockade entered effect on April 13.
 - » JINSA-reviewed data from the Kpler advisory firm suggests that U.S. blockade enforcement has prevented the vast majority of, though not all, attempted blockade breaches.
 - » The *Georgia S*, a Portuguese-flagged bulk carrier traveling from Brazil, crossed the blockade line on April 29 and is now outside Iran’s Chabahar port, according to JINSA-reviewed Kpler data. The bulk carrier is likely waiting to offload its cargo or is engaged in a ship-to-ship transfer.
- On April 29, President Trump told *Axios* that he had [rejected](#) Iran’s offer to first open the Strait of Hormuz and remove the U.S. blockade on Iran, and then discuss the nuclear issue later.
 - » President Trump added that he saw the blockade as “somewhat more effective than the bombing. They want to settle. They don’t want me to keep the blockade. I don’t want to [lift the blockade], because I don’t want them to have a nuclear weapon.”
- A written statement [attributed](#) to Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was read aloud on Iranian state television on April 30. The statement threatened the United States, saying it does not belong in the Persian Gulf or Gulf of Oman, except “at the bottom of its waters.”
 - » The statement also asserted that Iranians consider the country’s “nuclear and missile capabilities” as “national assets,” and that they “will protect them just as they protect the country’s waters, land and airspace.”
- On April 29, John Hurst, who is performing the duties of Department of Defense comptroller, [testified](#) before the House Armed Services Committee that the war with Iran had cost \$25 billion, with most of the cost going toward munitions.
 - » CNN later reported that this was the Pentagon’s low estimate and that including reconstruction and replacing destroyed equipment would [increase](#) the costs to a total of \$40–50 billion.
- Israel’s *Channel 12* outlet reported on April 29 that Israeli officials have asked the United States to [limit](#) the timetable to reach an Israel-Lebanon deal to two to three weeks, and for President Trump to approve expanded Israeli operations if they fail to reach an agreement.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Speaking to reporters on April 29, President Trump [stated](#) Iran’s leaders have “come a long way. The question is whether or not they’re going to go far enough. At this moment, there will never be a deal unless they agree that there will be no nuclear weapons.”
 - » When asked if Russia’s war in Ukraine or the war in Iran would conclude first, President Trump remarked, “Maybe they’re on a similar timetable.”
 - » President Trump stated that Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed that Russia could take control of Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium. However, President Trump noted that he would rather Russia concentrate on reaching an end to the war in Ukraine.

Lebanon

- On April 29, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [noted](#) that Beirut is waiting for Washington to decide on a date for direct Lebanese-Israeli negotiations to begin.
 - » President Aoun noted that Israel can only ensure its security through talks, but it would have to agree to a complete ceasefire before negotiations begin.

- » He added, “If Israel believes that through its violations and the destruction of border villages, it can achieve security, then it is mistaken, because it has tried that before and it did not lead to any result.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On April 30, Israel’s Defense Ministry [confirmed](#) that Israel’s Ashdod and Haifa ports received two cargo ships containing approximately 6,500 tons of military gear from the United States.
 - » According to the Defense Ministry, the shipments contained “thousands of air munitions, ground munitions, military trucks, JLTV combat mobility vehicles, and additional equipment,” which were then transported to military sites throughout Israel.
- *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) on April 29 that a U.S. State Department cable instructed American diplomats to urge foreign countries to join a U.S.-led coalition, the “Maritime Freedom Construct” (MFC), that would facilitate navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » The MFC would enable diplomatic coordination, intelligence sharing, and sanctions enforcement among participating countries. It would be “complementary” to other multilateral efforts to secure the Strait of Hormuz, including the task force led by the United Kingdom and France.
 - » The cable noted, “Your participation will strengthen our collective ability to restore freedom of navigation and protect the global economy,” adding that “collective action is essential to demonstrate unified resolve and impose meaningful costs on Iranian obstruction of transit through the Strait.”
 - » The cable also noted that American officials should see whether foreign countries would like to be a “diplomatic and/or military partner,” although the MFC is not a military coalition.
 - » The MFC would be a shared initiative by the State Department and CENTCOM: the State Department will act as “the diplomatic operations hub,” and CENTCOM “will provide real-time maritime domain awareness” for commercial vessels and facilitate information sharing between militaries in the coalition.
- U.S. officials told *The Washington Post* on April 29 that the USS *Gerald Ford* aircraft carrier will [leave](#) the Middle East in the coming days, bringing the number of U.S. aircraft carriers in the region down to two.
 - » The *Ford* has spent 10 months at sea—the record for longest modern U.S. aircraft carrier deployment and far more time than the typical six to seven month deployment. The ship requires extensive maintenance and has required repairs after a fire in a laundry room, and has suffered repeated toilet problems.
- *Bloomberg* [reported](#) on April 29 that CENTCOM has asked the Pentagon to expedite sending the U.S. Army’s Dark Eagle hypersonic missile to its area of operations in the Middle East, claiming that it is necessary now that Iran has repositioned its launchers beyond the range of the U.S. military’s Precision Strike Missile.
 - » The Dark Eagle, which is a long-range hypersonic missile, can reportedly reach more than 1,725 miles, far longer than the Precision Strike Missile, which has a range of about 300 miles.
 - » If CENTCOM’s request is approved, it will be the first time the U.S. military has ever deployed the Dark Eagle.

Lebanon

- On April 30, Israel’s Alpinist Unit and Yahalom Combat Engineering Unit [destroyed](#) several Hezbollah sites, including posts for firing rockets, on the Lebanese side of Mount Dov.

- On April 30, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) and Israel's 91st "Galilee" Regional Division [bombed](#) several Hezbollah-occupied buildings in southern Lebanon that the Israeli military claimed the group used for planning terror attacks.
- While visiting Israeli troops in the southern Lebanese town of Taybeh on April 29, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir [asserted](#) that operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon will continue, stating that "we will not tolerate attacks and fire on our communities, and we will not leave until long-term security for the northern communities is ensured."
 - » He continued, "on the combat front, there is no ceasefire; you continue to fight, to remove direct and indirect threats from the northern communities, to thwart terror infrastructure, to locate and kill terrorists."
 - » Referencing the IDF's forward defensive line in southern Lebanon to protect Israel's northern communities from Hezbollah, he assured that "any threat, anywhere, to our communities or our forces, including beyond the Yellow Line and north of the Litani [River], will be removed. Your mission and duty are to act with freedom of action and remove any threat."
- In separate April 29 incidents, the IAF [eliminated](#) five Hezbollah fighters in southwest Lebanon, and the IDF [bombed](#) a Hezbollah rocket launcher located inside a civilian building aimed to fire at Israeli targets.
- On the morning of April 29, the Israeli military [struck](#) around 20 Hezbollah facilities in Baraashit and Shaqra in southern Lebanon, including buildings the group used for military operations and weapon depots.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- CENTCOM [announced](#) on April 29 that 42 vessels in total—an increase of three vessels from JINSA's last update on April 28—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the blockade took effect.
 - » CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [said](#) in a statement that 41 tankers carrying 69 million barrels of Iranian oil—worth an estimated \$6 billion—are currently unable to reach buyers.
- JINSA-reviewed Kpler data indicates that while U.S. blockade enforcement has been largely effective, a small number of vessels have managed to breach the blockade line.
- The Portuguese-flagged bulk carrier *Georgia S* successfully crossed the blockade line on April 29 and is now positioned outside Iran's Chabahar port, likely awaiting cargo offloading or a ship-to-ship transfer.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- In several incidents on April 30, Hezbollah drones targeted Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and northern Israel, along with northern border communities.
 - » A Hezbollah drone [struck](#) an IDF artillery position in northern Israel, wounding twelve soldiers. Two were moderately injured, and the rest are in "good condition."
 - » In four separate [incidents](#), the IDF [intercepted](#) Hezbollah drones targeting Israeli troops in different operating positions in southern Lebanon.
 - » The IDF [launched](#) an interceptor missile at a Hezbollah drone, which had prompted sirens in the northern Israeli communities of Misgav Am and Kfar Giladi.

- On April 30, Hezbollah [alleged](#) that its fighters shot down an IDF Hermes 900 drone with a surface-to-air missile. Israeli officials have not publicly responded to the claim.
- On April 29, the IAF [downed](#) an alleged Hezbollah drone fired from Lebanon that triggered sirens in the northern border town of Misgav Am.
- On April 29, the IDF [fired](#) an interceptor missile at an alleged Hezbollah “aerial target” that was firing over Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

Outside the Middle East

- On April 29, the suspected Iran-linked Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiya (HAYI) [claimed](#) that one of its “lone wolves” was responsible for stabbing two Jewish men in the Golders Green area of North London.
 - » The group has claimed responsibility for several terror attacks targeting Jewish sites in Europe since the war in Iran began in late February.

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.
 - » On April 30, 12 Israeli soldiers [sustained injuries](#) after a Hezbollah drone hit a cargo carrier, causing a fire and artillery shells to explode.
- 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 2,576 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,962 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: 13 people have been [killed](#), and at least 224 have been [injured](#).

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- In response to a report that CENTCOM has readied plans for a “short and powerful” series of strikes, a senior IRGC official [stated](#) on April 30 that Iran would retaliate to any U.S. attack with “long and painful strikes” on American positions in the Middle East.
 - » Commander of Iran’s Aerospace Force Majid Mousavi stated on April 30, “We’ve seen what happened to your regional bases, we will see the same thing happen to your warships.”
- On April 30, Iranian Navy Chief Shahram Irani [warned](#) that Iran’s forces would confront its enemies “very soon” by deploying a weapon “it is deeply afraid of,” without elaborating on the weapon or its capabilities.
 - » Addressing the U.S. Navy’s blockade on Iranian ports, Shahram stated that “If they move any closer, we will take operational action without delay.”
- On April 30, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Iran’s Parliament and lead negotiator, in honor of “Persian Gulf Day,” [wrote](#) on X that “Iran, by exercising control over the Strait of Hormuz, will ensure that it and its neighbors enjoy the precious blessing of a future free from the presence and interference of America.”
 - » On April 29, Ghalibaf [instructed](#) Iranians to “maintain unity,” stating that the United States “has entered a new phase and wants to activate economic pressure and internal division through naval blockade and media hype to weaken or even make us collapse from within.”

8. International Response

- In a phone call on April 30 with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi [expressed](#) her strong expectation for the early resumption of U.S.-Iran talks and the achievement of a final agreement.
 - » Prime Minister Takaichi noted that she “considers the passage through the Strait of Hormuz of a Japan-related vessel with three Japanese crew members on board as a positive development.”
 - » She also “strongly urged Iran to promptly ensure free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz for vessels of all countries including Japan and other Asian countries.”

- On April 29, after senior Iranian officials departed Canada prior to a FIFA Congress, citing poor treatment by Canadian immigration officials, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [stated](#) that “IRGC officials are inadmissible to Canada.”

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
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- 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
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- 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
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- 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