



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 5/9/26 – 5/11/26 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 May 11 at 11:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **3**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **270** (10 on May 9–11)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 86** (at least 13 on May 9–11)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 325** (at least 7 on May 9–11)

- **Note:** Many of these ships are local fast boats, tugboats, or landing craft, not commercial vessels. Numerous ships in the area are also transmitting false locations.

Total blockade-eligible ships disabled or rerouted by U.S. forces: **At least 66** (At least 4 between May 9–11)

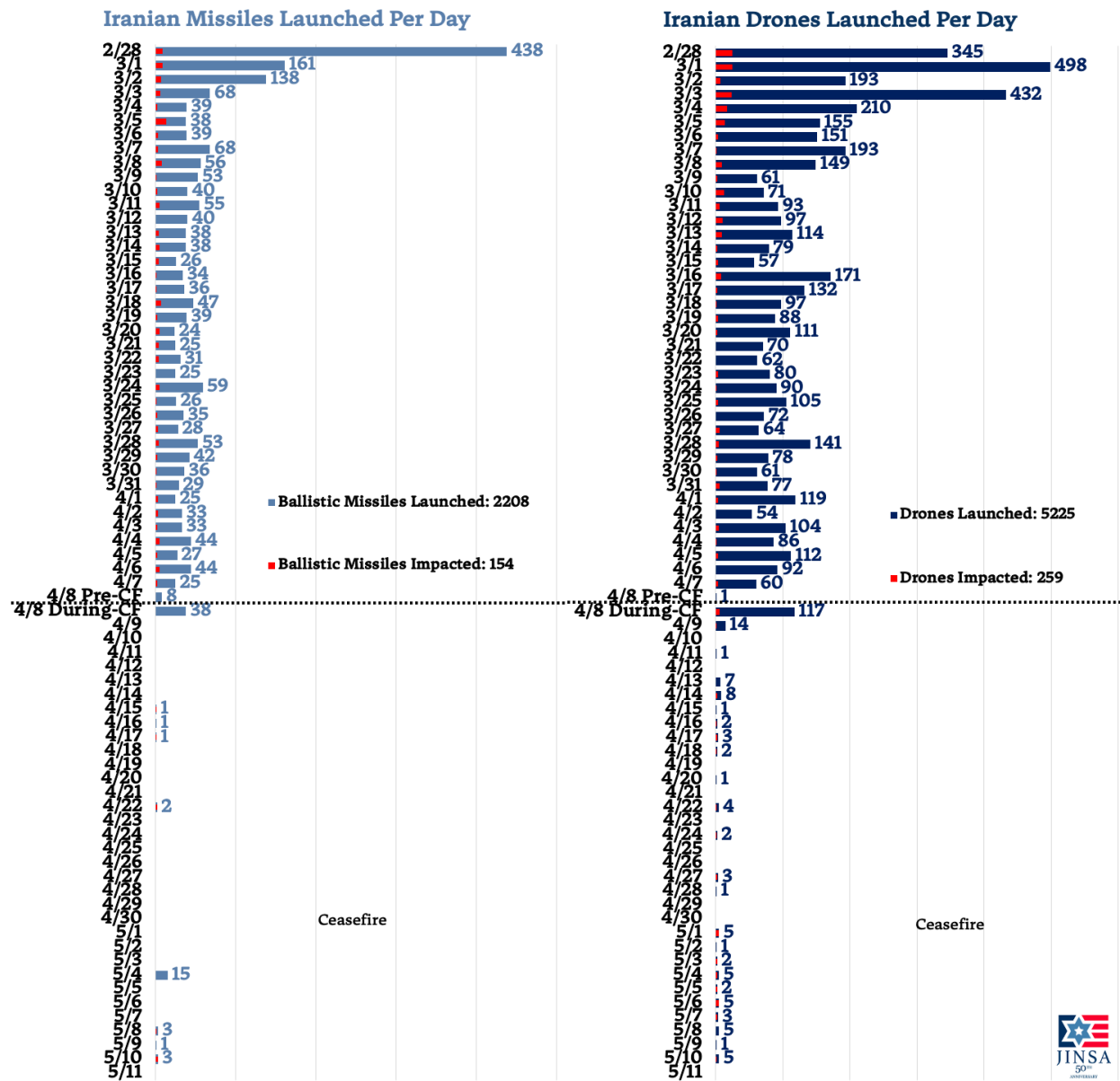
Total blockade-eligible ships that [evaded the blockade](#): **At least 23** (2 between May 9-11)

- **Note:** The blockade line that the Pentagon announced crosses where the Gulf of Oman opens into the Arabian Sea, beyond the Strait of Hormuz itself. Some of the ships that evaded the blockade are small vessels with limited utility to the Iranian regime.

1. Overview

- On May 10, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that he had “just read the response from Iran’s so-called ‘Representatives.’ I don’t like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!”
 - » Iran’s May 10 [response](#) to a U.S. proposal to end the war reportedly included a demand for Tehran to [maintain](#) control over the Strait of Hormuz and for the United States to lift sanctions.
- On May 11, Iranian Ambassador to China Rahmani Fazli [posted](#) on X that Tehran supports China’s [four-point](#) plan for peace and stability in the Middle East.
- A total of 62 ships have been [rerouted](#), and four others have been disabled as part of U.S. blockade enforcement since it went into effect on April 13, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on May 11.
- Commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains almost completely stopped. Just seven commercial vessels transited the waterway between May 9 and 11, according to JINSA-reviewed data from the Kpler analytics firm.

- A *Wall Street Journal* [report](#) on May 9 indicated that Israel had established a secret base in Iraq to support its operations against Iran, as well as for possible search-and-rescue operations within the country. Israel reportedly conducted strikes against Iraqi forces early in the war, who tried to investigate the facility.
- Russia is sending [drone parts](#) to Iran through the Caspian Sea, according to an article in *The New York Times* on May 9, enabling Moscow to provide supplies that would normally sail through the Strait of Hormuz to replenish Iran's military arsenal.
- On May 10, Emirati and Kuwaiti forces engaged Iranian drones targeting their countries, and an Iranian drone hit a commercial vessel within Qatar's territorial waters. Iran also launched three missiles that hit an Iranian Kurdish opposition base near Erbil, Iraq.
 - » On May 9, Iran continued its drone attacks against Iraqi Kurdistan, with two separate ballistic missile and drone attacks targeting opposition groups there.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On May 11, Iranian Ambassador to China Rahmani Fazli [posted](#) on X, “The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced its readiness to support the Chinese President’s four-point plan aimed at establishing lasting security and shared development in the Persian Gulf region.”
 - » According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mao Ning on April 14, Chinese President Xi Jinping’s [four points](#) are:
 - “Stay committed to the principle of peaceful co-existence;”
 - “Stay committed to the principle of national sovereignty;”
 - “Stay committed to the principle of international rule of law;”
 - “Stay committed to a balanced approach to development and security.”
- On May 11, Esmail Baghaei, spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, [shared](#) Tehran’s demands for a ceasefire agreement, including:
 - » “An end to the war;”
 - » “Lifting the [U.S.] blockade and piracy;”
 - » “Releasing [frozen] Iranian assets;”
 - » “Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz;” and
 - » “Establishing security in the region and Lebanon.”
- On May 10, President Trump [spoke](#) with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about Iran’s response to the U.S. proposal to end the war, but told *Axios* that the Iran talks are “my situation, not everybody else’s.”
- After President Trump [condemned](#) Tehran’s response to the U.S. proposal as “totally unacceptable” on May 10, Iranian state media [shared](#) that Iran had rejected the U.S. proposal.
 - » On May 10, the *Iranian Students’ News Agency* (ISNA) [reported](#) that Tehran’s response to the most recent U.S. ceasefire proposal centers on “ending the war, and maritime security” in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.
 - According to state media, Tehran [demanded](#) “war reparations by the US, full Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, an end to sanctions, and the release of seized Iranian assets” immediately [following](#) the signing of the initial Memorandum of Understanding.
 - Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-affiliated *Tasnim News Agency* [added](#) that the Iranian response also [demanded](#) the lifting of the U.S. blockade immediately upon signing the deal; assurances against additional strikes; “ending the war on all fronts;” and the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil over the course of 30 days while negotiations continue.
- While Pakistan remains the primary mediator, President Trump has reportedly [pushed](#) Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to take a more active role in facilitating discussions between the United States and Iran in recent weeks.
 - » Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff on [May 10](#) and with Vice President J.D. Vance on [May 8](#).

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On May 10, before announcing his dissatisfaction with Iran’s offer to end the war, President Trump [posted](#) that “For 47 years the Iranians have been ‘tapping’ us along, keeping us waiting, killing our people with their roadside bombs, destroying protests, and recently wiping out 42,000 innocent, unarmed protestors, and laughing at our now GREAT AGAIN Country. They will be laughing no longer!”
- On May 9, the U.S. Department of the Treasury [sanctioned](#) 10 people and companies, many of which are located in China or Hong Kong, for contributing to the Iranian military’s efforts in producing Shahed drones.

Iran

- On May 10, Prime Minister Netanyahu [spoke](#) of Israel’s goals in Iran on CBS’s 60 Minutes, stating, “I think [the war] accomplished a great deal, but it’s not over because there’s still nuclear material, enriched uranium that has to be taken out of Iran.”
 - » He added, “There are still enrichment sites that have to be dismantled. There are still proxies that Iran supports. There are ballistic missiles that they still want to produce. Now, we’ve degraded a lot of it, but all that is still there, and there’s work to be done.”
 - » Regarding efforts to remove Iran’s highly-enriched uranium, he said, “What President Trump has said to me: ‘I wanna go in there.’ And I think it can be done physically. That’s not the problem. If you have an agreement and you go in and you take it out, why not? That’s the best way.”
 - » When asked about a recent *New York Times* article assessing that Prime Minister Netanyahu believed before the war that the Iranian government would be too devastated by U.S. and Israeli strikes to threaten shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, he [stated](#), “I don’t claim perfect foresight, and nobody had perfect foresight. Neither did the Iranians.”
 - » Regarding another *New York Times* article that claimed Prime Minister Netanyahu told U.S. officials in the Situation Room on February 11 that this operation would collapse the Iranian regime, he [stated](#), “I think that you can’t predict when that happens. Is it possible? Yes. Is it guaranteed? No. But I can tell you it’s like bankruptcy, you know? It ... proceeds gradually and then it falls.”

Lebanon

- While attempting to recover injured Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon on May 11, an Israeli Air Force helicopter [suffered](#) a technical issue and got stuck, requiring another helicopter to remove the soldiers before technicians repaired the first helicopter and safely evacuated the aircraft.
- Over the weekend between May 9–10, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [bombed](#) around 40 Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon, [including](#) one of the group’s drone-launching sites, two primed rocket launchers used to fire at Israeli troops and Israeli territory, and numerous weapon depots, killing at least 10 Hezbollah operatives.
- Between May 8–9, the Israeli military [struck](#) a subterranean Hezbollah weapon manufacturing facility in Lebanon’s Beqaa Valley, as well as 85 other Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- Only seven commercial ships transited the Strait of Hormuz between May 9 and 11, according to Kpler data reviewed by JINSA.
- CENTCOM [announced](#) on May 11 that 62 vessels in total—an increase of 10 vessels from JINSA’s last update on May 8—have complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian

ports since the U.S. naval blockade took effect, and that another four vessels have been disabled as part of CENTCOM blockade enforcement operations.

- JINSA's analysis of Kpler shipping data indicates that two commercial vessels heading towards or away from an Iranian port have breached the blockade since May 8.
 - » The *Niki*, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, appeared to cross the blockade line traveling east on May 8 after previously departing Chabahar, Iran, on May 2.
 - » The *Star Nasia*, a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier traveling from San Lorenzo, Argentina, crossed the blockade line traveling west on May 9 with a declared destination of Bandar Imam Khomeini, Iran. It is currently located right off the coast of Iran's Qeshm Island.
 - » While bulk carriers breaching the blockade is significant, Iran has been unable to export its oil using tankers, which, unlike bulk carriers, are designed to ship large quantities of crude oil.
- Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser [warned](#) on May 10 that the world has lost approximately one billion barrels of oil over the past two months and that energy markets will take time to stabilize even after flows resume.
- Satellite imagery has [revealed](#) a suspected oil spill covering approximately 17 square miles of sea west of Iran's Kharg Island oil export hub, according to Reuters on May 8.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- While Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, has not been seen publicly since he suffered injuries during an attack that killed his father and predecessor, Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, U.S. intelligence believes that he is still playing a key role in shaping Iran's war strategy, CNN [reported](#) on May 8.
 - » Khamenei's [prolonged](#) absence is fracturing Iran's leadership at a critical moment in negotiations, with hardliners questioning the legitimacy of the talks and accusing Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and the National Security Council of making excessive concessions to Washington, according to a *Wall Street Journal* article published May 10.

Maritime

- A bulk carrier was [struck](#) by an unknown projectile approximately 23 nautical miles northeast of Doha, sparking a small fire that was quickly extinguished with no casualties or environmental impact reported, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center.

Lebanon

- On May 11, Hezbollah attempted to attack Israeli troops and sabotage Israeli military equipment in southern Lebanon.
 - » In the afternoon local time, Israeli forces [fired](#) an interceptor missile at a Hezbollah surface-to-air missile trying to down an Israeli drone in southern Lebanon, prompting warning sirens in the northern Israeli town of Neve Yam.
 - » In a morning attack, three Israeli soldiers were lightly [wounded](#) by a Hezbollah explosive drone.
 - » In the morning, Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) a suspected Hezbollah drone operating near Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.
- Over the weekend, Hezbollah launched a series of drone and missile attacks targeting Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon, as well as sites in northern Israel.

- » In [two separate](#) afternoon incidents on May 10, the IDF intercepted Hezbollah rockets and drones targeting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.
- » On the morning of May 10, the IDF [intercepted](#) two suspected Hezbollah drones flying over parts of southern Lebanon where Israeli troops are operating.
- » In two [separate incidents](#) on the evening of May 9, the Israeli military intercepted a suspected Hezbollah drone flying near Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.
- » On May 9, a Hezbollah rocket that [triggered](#) air raid sirens in the northern Israeli village of Baram crashed into an open area without causing injuries.
- » On May 8, Hezbollah [claimed](#) to have targeted an Israeli air traffic control military base on Mount Meron in northern Israel with a drone barrage.
- » On May 8, the IDF [fired](#) an interceptor missile at a Hezbollah drone flying near Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

Iraq

- On May 10, at least three missiles [hit](#) a base belonging to the Komala of the Toilers of Kurdistan in Iraqi Kurdistan without any reported casualties.
- On May 9, Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) fighters were [targeted](#) by an unspecified number of missiles and drones in the Balisan mountains in Iraqi Kurdistan.
 - » In a separate May 9 attack, a PDKI civilian camp was [targeted](#) by an unspecified number of Iranian missiles near Koya, Iraqi Kurdistan.

U.A.E.

- On May 10, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) [engaged](#) two drones over the country's airspace without any reported casualties.

Kuwait

- On May 10, Kuwait [engaged](#) an unspecified number of drones that entered the country's airspace without any reported casualties.

Internal Dynamics and Repression

- On May 11, Iran [executed](#) Erfan Shakourzadeh, a 29-year-old aerospace engineering graduate convicted of passing classified scientific information to U.S. and Israeli intelligence services while working at a satellite-related scientific organization, according to the Iranian judiciary's Mizan Online outlet. The Iran Human Rights Society said he was arrested in 2025 and provided a forced confession.

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. service-members were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
- Since the war began, [at least 48 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 18 of these [casualties](#) include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
 - » On May 11, a Hezbollah drone [attacked](#) Israeli troops stationed in southern Lebanon, lightly injuring three.
 - » On May 10, Israeli soldier Warrant Officer (res.) Alexander Glovanyov was [killed](#) after Hezbollah fired numerous explosive drones at his position in northern Israel near the Lebanese border.
 - » On May 8, a Hezbollah drone attack on northern Israel [injured](#) two Israeli soldiers, including one seriously.
- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » Iran: 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 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 2,846 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 8,693 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
 - » Oman: At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 17 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 230 have been injured.

7. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

- On May 11, Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Esmail Baghaei [referred](#) to the United States as “the greatest threat to international peace and security,” stating that “The very presence of the United States in the region, the US military bases in the region are an example of creating a cycle of violence and bullying in the region.”

- » He condemned Washington’s “unreasonable” ceasefire demands.
- » He also warned against the deployment of European warships to the Strait of Hormuz, stating that European states “should refrain from any move that would undermine their interests. ... The US and Israel started their aggression against Iran. European countries shouldn’t be fooled.”
- On May 10, Ebrahim Rezaei, the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, [posted](#) on X, “As of today, our restraint is over. Any aggression against our vessels will be met with a heavy and decisive Iranian response against American vessels and bases.”
 - » He added, “The clock is ticking against the Americans’ interests; it is to their benefit not to act foolishly and sink themselves deeper into the quagmire they have fallen into.”
- On May 10, the IRGC [warned](#), “Any attack on Iranian tankers and commercial vessels will result in a heavy attack on one of the American centers in the region and enemy ships.”
- On May 8, Mohammad Mokhber, an advisor to Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, [stated](#) that “The Strait of Hormuz represents an opportunity as precious as an atomic bomb.”
 - » He noted, “having in one’s hands a position that allows you to influence the global economy with a single decision is a major opportunity.”
 - » Mokhber shared that Tehran had “neglected” its strategic position near the Strait of Hormuz for a long time, and he vowed not to “forfeit the gains of this war.”

8. International Response

- Representatives from at least 40 countries are [set](#) to convene on May 11 to lay out plans for an operation, to be led by the United Kingdom (U.K.) and France, to help ships cross the Strait of Hormuz once the United States and Iran establish a concrete ceasefire.
 - » On May 9, the U.K. defense ministry [shared](#) that a British warship will be deployed to the Middle East to “ensure that the UK is ready, as part of a multinational coalition jointly led by the UK and France, to secure the strait [of Hormuz], when conditions allow.”
- On May 11, following U.S. sanctions on three firms based in China that have supported Iranian military operations, Chinese spokesman Guo Jiakun [stated](#) that Beijing “will firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises.”
 - » He added, “The pressing priority is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting, rather than using the war to maliciously associate and smear other countries.”
- On May 11, the U.K. [sanctioned](#) 12 Iran-linked people and entities, including suspected members of the Zindashti criminal network, for financially supporting efforts and planning attacks aimed at destabilizing the U.K. and other nations.
- On May 11, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Fatih Birol [warned](#) that even if transit through the Strait of Hormuz resumes, “the vase has been broken. You can’t glue it back together.” He added, “If it was once closed, it can be closed again.”
 - » Birol noted, “The solution to this problem doesn’t go through the energy sector, but through diplomacy.”
- On May 9, the Bahraini Interior Ministry [shared](#) that it had arrested 41 individuals with ties to the IRGC.
- The United States [updated](#) a draft United Nations (U.N.) Security Council Resolution last week, sharing a revised draft on Thursday, May 7. China and Russia reportedly pushed back on the original draft put forward by the United States and Bahrain earlier in the week.

- » The revised draft cut a reference to Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, which authorizes the use of force. However, the draft does not eliminate the possibility of military action; it “re-affirms the right of member States ... to defend their vessels from attacks and threats, including those that undermine navigational rights and freedoms.”
- » The updated draft also includes a clause stating that, should Iran fail to comply with the resolution, the U.N. Security Council would “meet again to consider effective measures ... including sanctions measures, in order to ensure the freedom of navigation in the area.”
- On May 9, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [voiced](#) his concern regarding recent attacks targeting Iraqi territory, including the town of Erbil, during a meeting with the Prime Minister of Iraq’s Kurdish Regional Government, Masrour Barzani.
 - » During the meeting, he emphasized his hopes that the current conflict does not expand further throughout the Middle East.

9. JINSA Resources

- Gen Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), VADM Robert Harward, USN (ret.), LTG Karen Gibson, USA (ret.), VADM John Miller, USN (ret.), VADM John Bird, USN (ret.), Blaise Misztal, Jonathan Ruhe, and Ari Cicurel, [Epic Fury II: Securing U.S. Objectives in Iran](#), May 8, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, “[The U.S. Blockade of Iran Is a Means, Not an End](#),” *The National Interest*, May 8, 2026
- Giran Ozcan, [Iranian Attacks on Iraqi Kurdistan Threaten a Vital U.S. Partnership](#), May 7, 2026
- Yoni Tobin, [Turning Tides: U.S. Blockade Enforcement Exceeds Iranian Evasion](#), May 1, 2026
- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, [The UAE’s OPEC Exit: Strategic Implications for the Gulf Order](#), April 29, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [Iron Dome Deployment to U.A.E. Showed Abraham Accords Defense Potential](#), April 28, 2026
- 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
- Blaise Misztal and Yoni Tobin, [Lebanon Ceasefire Cannot Become Iranian Leverage](#), April 17, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [In Defense of the War, And How to Finish It](#), April 17, 2026