



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 5/1/26 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 1 at 11:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **13**, following April 23 three-week extension

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

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 56** (at least 12 on April 30–May 1)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 285** (at least 11 on April 30–May 1)

Total blockade-eligible ships rerouted by U.S. forces: **44** (at least 2 on April 30–May 1)

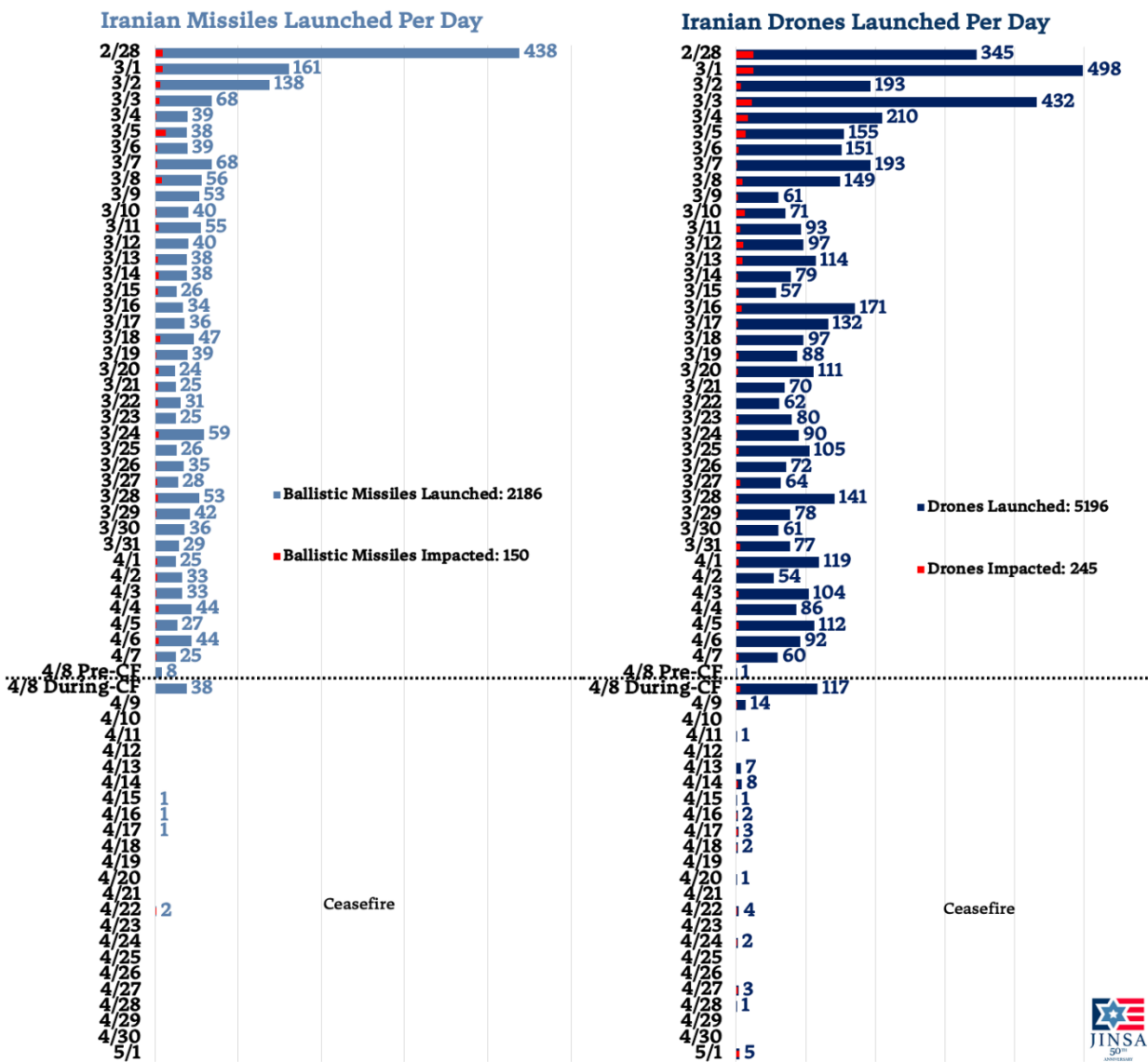
Total blockade-eligible ships that evaded [blockade](#): **At least 17** (none on April 30–May 1)

- **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

- In his testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on April 30, U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth [claimed](#) that President Donald Trump does not need to receive the congressional authorization legally required to continue a war for longer than 60 days—a deadline reached today—as “we are in a cease-fire right now, which our understanding means the 60-day clock pauses, or stops, in a cease-fire.”
- According to Iranian state media, on April 30, Iranian officials [submitted](#) a new proposal to Pakistani mediators outlining Tehran’s plans for negotiations with Washington.
 - » The new Iranian proposal is a [response](#) to amendments put forward by U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff on April 27, in which he added the nuclear file back into a proposal sent by the Iranians last weekend.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf are [looking to oust](#) Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, claiming he is going behind Pezeshkian’s back and obeying the orders of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officials regarding nuclear negotiations, according to an April 30 *Iran International* article.
- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) on April 30 that U.S. forces have redirected a total of 44 ships since the blockade entered into force on April 13.

- » JINSA-reviewed data from Kpler advisory form suggested that no blockade-eligible ships evaded the blockade between April 30–May 1.
- *The Financial Times* reported on April 30 that during the war, Israel [deployed](#) a version of its Iron Beam laser air defense system and Spectro surveillance system to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) to identify and intercept Iranian missile and drone attacks.
- On April 29, Iran launched five drones that [struck](#) Kurdish opposition camps 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 5,196 drones, 2,186 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On May 1, a senior Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officer [noted](#) that “If the nuclear objective is not achieved,” referring to ceasing Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium and halting



further enrichment, “then everything we did in Iran will be one big failure. The evil Iranian regime can pounce on the nuclear program.”

- » The officer stated that “if the uranium is removed from Iran through diplomatic means, we have done our part,” but if this is not achieved, the IDF would need to commence a new operation in Iran.
- According to Iranian state media, on April 30, Iranian officials [submitted](#) a new proposal to Pakistani mediators outlining Tehran’s plans for negotiations with Washington.
 - » The proposal comes days after U.S. Special Envoy Witkoff [submitted](#) several amendments to Iran’s last proposal, focusing on addressing Iran’s nuclear program, including a “demand that Iran commit not to try to move any enriched uranium out of its bombed nuclear facilities, or restart any activity at those sites, as long as negotiations continue.”

Lebanon

- On May 1, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michael Issa and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [gathered](#) in the Presidential Palace in Lebanon to discuss the current ceasefire with Israel.
 - » According to a readout from Lebanon, continued discussions in the United States with Israeli negotiators “would lead to achieving the accomplishment of peace and stability along the borders.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- May 1 marked the 60-day deadline for President Trump to seek congressional authorization to continue the war in Iran.
 - » A senior U.S. official [claimed](#) on April 30 that “for War Powers Resolution purposes, the hostilities that began on Saturday, February 28, have terminated,” stating that the United States and Iran have not exchanged fire since the start of the ceasefire.
- On May 1, Reuters [reported](#) that the U.S. Navy awarded Domino, an artificial intelligence (AI) company, a contract of up to \$100 million to assist the Navy in detecting mines in the Strait of Hormuz with underwater drones.

Iran

- On April 30, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [noted](#) on X, “Amid the impact of Economic Fury, Iran’s currency has hit an all-time low,” along with posting a graph showing that the rial exchange rate reached 1,800,000 rials per USD on April 29.
 - » Secretary Bessent added, “With their oil industry closing and their currency plummeting, it is past time for the Iranian regime to concede that the people of Iran deserve much better than the ruins of their current regime can provide.”
- Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [assured](#) during an April 30 speech that “US President Trump, in coordination with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is leading the effort to complete the campaign’s objectives in a way that ensures Iran will not return to being a threat to the existence of Israel, to the United States, and to the free world for generations to come.”
 - » He added, “We support this effort and provide the necessary backing, but we may soon be required to act again to ensure the objectives are achieved.”
- According to Israel’s *Channel 12* on April 30, the Israeli military is preparing to [resume fighting](#) in Iran, assessing that negotiations between the United States and Israel could fail by next week.
 - » Per the report, Israeli cabinet members have assessed that the U.S. military may need to pressure Iran further in the Strait of Hormuz by bombing Iranian infrastructure, including gas and energy sites.

- On April 30, Iran’s semi-official state media outlet, *Tasnim News Agency*, [reported](#) that Iranian air defenses engaged with surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and small drones over Tehran.
 - » The projectiles’ operators and origins remain unclear, but Ali Khezrian, a member of the Iranian parliament’s National Security Committee, [described](#) the projectiles as “the enemy’s micro aerial vehicles.”

Lebanon

- On May 1, the IDF [revealed](#) that its troops had eliminated approximately 200 Hezbollah fighters in the Bint Jbeil area over the past few weeks, as well as destroyed around 900 Hezbollah sites and facilities, including a stadium Hezbollah had booby-trapped.
- The IDF [announced](#) that between April 30 and May 1, its troops bombed more than 40 Hezbollah facilities throughout southern Lebanon, including some of the group’s command centers.
- The IDF [claimed](#) that it has only made limited use of the Iron Beam laser air defense system during the war because it requires 14 batteries to provide enough coverage that would yield an appreciable impact, according to a report in *The Jerusalem Post* on May 1.
- On April 30, the IDF [blew up](#) a Hezbollah tunnel extending 140 meters in the Ras al-Bayada area in southern Lebanon.
 - » Before destroying the tunnel, Israeli forces discovered several weapons and rooms used by Hezbollah operatives inside the underground structure.
- The IDF is developing [new countermeasures](#) against Hezbollah’s fiber-optic drones, which cannot be electronically jammed and have repeatedly struck Israeli forces, though an IDF official conceded on May 1 that no near-term fix is likely and that the most effective approach—dismantling the drone supply chain and targeting drone operators—remains off-limits under the current ceasefire framework.
 - » Under the ceasefire framework, Israel is only able to target impending threats to soldiers, such as a drone operator actively handling a drone.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- CENTCOM [announced](#) on April 30 that 44 vessels in total—an increase of two vessels from JINSA’s last update—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the blockade took effect.
 - » JINSA’s [report](#) on the status of the maritime blockade indicated that “just 17 blockade-eligible ships crossed the blockade line as of April 30—and, of the 17, around a quarter did so on the blockade’s first day, suggesting early enforcement issues that have since been resolved.”

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- According to *NBC News* reporting on April 30, during the ceasefire, Iran has been [speeding up](#) efforts to excavate its munitions, including missiles, that were stored underground or buried in U.S. and Israeli strikes, citing a U.S. official and two others informed on the issue.
 - » The United States assesses that Iran is attempting to rapidly reconstitute its missile and UAV capabilities so it could retaliate with strikes across the region in the event of a renewed U.S. campaign.

Maritime

- A bulk carrier captain [reported](#) being approached by a skiff with seven armed occupants in the Gulf of Aden southwest of the Yemeni port city of Mukalla, the U.K. Maritime Trade Operations agency reported on May 1.

Lebanon

- On May 1, at least six Hezbollah drones were launched at Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and northern Israeli communities.
 - » According to the Israeli Air Force ([IAF](#)), four drones were intercepted—three of which were downed in southern Lebanon and one near Rosh Hanikra. An interceptor was fired at the fifth projectile, with the status of the intercept attempt under review.
 - » A sixth Hezbollah drone [impacted](#) in Misgav Am, wounding two and destroying a vehicle.
- In several incidents on April 30, Hezbollah projectiles targeted Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and northern Israeli communities.
 - » Two Hezbollah drones [targeted](#) an IDF position in the Lebanese town of Qantara. One drone was intercepted, but the second landed near the grouped Israeli soldiers, resulting in one death and one injury.
 - » A Hezbollah drone [struck](#) an IDF position in the Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil, causing two moderate injuries.
 - » A rocket [fired](#) from Lebanon crossed into Israeli territory, but impacted in an open area with no reported casualties.
 - » The IAF [intercepted](#) a Hezbollah drone before it crossed into Israeli territory.

Iraq

- Four Iranian drones [targeted](#) civilian homes and farmland near Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (PDKI) bases in Koya, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Internal Dynamics and Repression

- On April 30, Iran [executed](#) 21-year-old Sasan Azadvar, who was charged with violence against police during the January protests.
 - » The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, [stated](#) on April 29 that Iran had executed at least 21 individuals since February 28.

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. service-members were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
- Since the war began, [at least 47 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 17 of these [casualties](#) include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
 - » On April 30, Sgt. Liem Ben Hamo, 19, of the Golani Brigade's 13th Battalion, was [killed](#) in a Hezbollah drone attack in southern Lebanon.
- 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 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 2,586 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 8,020 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 30, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [claimed](#) that the U.S. military's naval blockade on Iranian ports "is an extension of military operations against a nation paying the price for its resistance and independence. Continuation of this oppressive approach is intolerable."

8. International Response

- On April 30, British Prime Minister Keith Starmer [delivered](#) a statement to address the suspected Tehran-linked antisemitic stabbing attack in north London on April 29, claiming, "We

need stronger powers to tackle the malign threat posed by states like Iran, because we know for a fact that they want to harm British Jews.”

- » Following the April 29 attack and several others targeting Jewish sites in the U.K., Britain [altered](#) its national terrorism threat level, increasing it from “substantial” to “severe” on April 30.
- On April 30, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres [warned](#) that traffic disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are “strangling the global economy,” and that “supply chains will take months to recover, prolonging lower economic output and higher prices.”
- On April 30, the Emirati Ministry of Foreign Affairs [announced](#) that it “bans travel to Iran, Lebanon, and Iraq and calls on citizens of the United Arab Emirates present in these countries to return at the earliest opportunity.”

9. JINSA Resources

- 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
- 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