



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 5/13/26 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 13 at 10:30 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **1**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **270** (0 on May 11–13)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 93** (at least 9 on May 12–13)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 330** (at least 2 on May 12–13)

- 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 rerouted by U.S. forces: **At least 69 (0 on May 12–13)**

Total blockade-eligible ships that [evaded the blockade](#): **At least 24** (1 between May 12–13)

- 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 12, President Donald Trump told reporters before leaving for a [summit](#) with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing that “I don’t think we need any help with Iran.” He [added](#), the United States will “make a deal [with Iran] or they’re going to be decimated,” and that the United States will “win it [the war with Iran] one way or the other. We’ll win it peacefully or otherwise.”
- Australia is joining the proposed British and French-led defensive mission in the Strait of Hormuz, the Australian government announced on May 13, by [contributing](#) an E-7 surveillance aircraft. Over 40 nations are [involved](#) in the effort at some level, though most are not expected to contribute aerial assets or warships.
 - » There are no indications that the United States is participating in the mission.
- The Pentagon is considering [renaming](#) the Iran war “Operation Sledgehammer” if the ceasefire collapses and President Trump orders resumption of hostilities, two U.S. officials told NBC News on May 12. According to the officials, the name change could allow President Trump to claim a reset of the 60-day Congressional [authorization clock](#).

- According to [reporting](#) from *The New York Times* on May 12, classified assessments from U.S. intelligence agencies earlier in May found that Iran possesses retains significant missile capabilities, including:
 - » Access to 30 of 33 missile facilities along the Strait of Hormuz;
 - » About 70 percent of its prewar missile inventory;
 - » Approximately 70 percent of its mobile missile launchers;
 - » Restored access to about 90 percent of its missile launch sites and underground storage facilities, which are “partially or fully operational.”
- Israel’s Channel 12 outlet [reported](#) on May 13, citing an unnamed senior Kurdish official, that Kurdish fighters planned to launch a ground assault against the Iranian regime at the start of the war.
 - » This marks one of the first times a Kurdish source seemingly [confirmed prior reporting](#) about plans for such an operation.
 - » The Kurds anticipated U.S. and Israeli direct support in the operation, which was to be launched in early March, the official said. He claimed the plan was vetoed by President Trump under pressure from the Turkish government.
- Saudi Arabia reportedly [conducted](#) several strikes against Iran in late March, with a Western official telling Reuters that they were “tit-for-tat strikes in retaliation for when Saudi (Arabia) was hit.” The operations would mark the first known instances of Saudi Arabia targeting Iranian territory.
- The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) [launched](#) strikes against Iran both before and after the ceasefire, according to reporting in *Bloomberg* on May 12, with one of the strikes having been coordinated with Israel.
 - » The *Bloomberg* article followed an earlier [story](#) from *The Wall Street Journal* indicating that the U.A.E. had targeted the refinery on Iran’s Lavan Island in April before the ceasefire.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Speaking to reporters on May 13, President Trump [stated](#), “the only thing that matters when I’m talking about Iran [is] they can’t have a nuclear weapon. I don’t think about Americans’ financial situations. I don’t think about anybody. I think about one thing: we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon. That’s all.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On May 13, *The Wall Street Journal*, citing Arab officials and another knowledgeable source, [reported](#) that David Barnea, the chief of Israel’s Mossad, traveled to the U.A.E. in March and April to coordinate with Emirati officials on the Iran war.
 - » The report comes as additional information emerges of Israeli-Emirati cooperation during the war, including Israel’s deployment of an Iron Dome battery to the U.A.E. and coordinated attacks between the two countries on Iranian regime targets.
 - In recent days, multiple media outlets reported that the U.A.E. has struck Iranian sites, with *Bloomberg* [reporting](#) that it did so both before and after the ceasefire took effect.

- Reportedly, at least one of the strikes, which targeted an Iranian petrochemical facility on April 6, was [coordinated](#) with Israel.
- » On May 13, Israel's *KAN News* outlet [reported](#) that David Zini, the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, also traveled to the U.A.E. during the war to discuss regional security.
- On May 13, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir [discussed](#) Israel's military operations, stating that "The campaign is not over. The IDF is prepared to resume fighting if required and remains in constant readiness and alertness in defense and offense, from Judea and Samaria to Tehran."

Lebanon

- On May 13, Lebanese media reported that the IDF struck [two vehicles](#) in the Jiyeh area of Lebanon in separate incidents.
 - » The first strike targeted a vehicle traveling along a highway connecting southern Lebanon and Beirut.
- In separate incidents on the morning of May 13, the Israeli military [carried out](#) several air-strikes in southern Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah infrastructure across the region, including weapon depots and primed rocket launchers.
- On May 13, the IDF [stated](#) that its troops bombed approximately 40 Hezbollah sites, including weapon depots and other Hezbollah posts, over the past day.
- On May 12, the IDF [announced](#) that over the past day, its troops eliminated around 15 Hezbollah operatives and bombed rocket launchers in southern Lebanon.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains minimal. Data from the Kpler shipping analytics firm reviewed by JINSA indicates that just two commercial ships transited the waterway on May 13.
- On May 12, the Maltese-flagged bulk carrier *Mary Gorgias* appeared to cross the U.S. blockade line en route to Iran's Bandar Imam Khomeini port, in violation of the blockade, according to JINSA-reviewed Kpler data.
 - » The ship is now located off the coast of Iran's Qeshm Island. The ship departed Parana-gua, Brazil, in late March, according to Kpler data.
- On May 12, Newsmax [reported](#) that many vessels are obeying Iranian shipping requirements for safe passage across the Strait of Hormuz, including taking "Iranian-designated transit routes" and potentially paying fees to the regime.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- On May 13, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) [noted](#) that it had been repeatedly targeted by Hezbollah drones over the past few days, including:
 - » On May 12, a drone explosion outside the UNIFIL Naqoura headquarters, followed by a drone explosion, presumably by Hezbollah, inside the headquarters;
 - » On May 11, three drones, presumably operated by Hezbollah, detonated "within meters" of the UNIFIL headquarters;
 - » On May 10, a drone, seemingly produced by Iran, crashed into the UNIFIL headquarters.

- » Previously, on May 5, a presumed Hezbollah armed drone crashed into a building at a U.N. position close to al-Hanniye.
- In the afternoon of May 13, several Hezbollah drones [exploded](#) in close proximity to Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon, and Israeli air defenses intercepted two suspected Hezbollah drones.
- On the morning of May 13, Hezbollah [launched](#) a rocket attack targeting Israeli soldiers, while Israeli defenses also intercepted a suspected Hezbollah drone.
- In several incidents on May 12, Hezbollah fired rockets and drones at northern Israel and Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon.
 - » Hezbollah [fired](#) a barrage of explosive drones targeting Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, with air defenses intercepting one of the drones and another drone crashing in Israeli territory.
 - » Soon after the drone crashed, another Hezbollah drone [exploded](#) inside Israeli borders, prompting sirens in the northern towns of Margaliot and Manara. Immediately after, more Hezbollah drones [exploded](#) in northern Israel without causing injuries.
 - » Hezbollah [launched](#) a barrage of rockets targeting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, with some of the rockets striking open areas and defenses intercepting the others.
- Recent media reports indicate that Hezbollah is increasingly desperate, facing the loss of its historical strongholds in southern Lebanon and losing funds and popular support.
 - » The Lebanese public, including Lebanon's Shiite Muslim community, is reportedly growing increasingly frustrated with Hezbollah after the group [dragged](#) Lebanon into the broader regional conflict in early March.
 - » Israel's *Walla News* [reported](#) on May 12 that Hezbollah is planning to militarily occupy parts of Beirut, Lebanon's capital city, as part of a last-ditch effort to prevent the government from reaching a diplomatic agreement with Israel.
 - » Moreover, Israeli intelligence sources told *Walla News* that Hezbollah is facing an [unprecedented financial crisis](#), with Iran having radically decreased its amount of funding to the terror group. Israeli strikes have also knocked out many Hezbollah banks and currency exchange networks, compounding the situation.

Internal Dynamics and Repression

- On May 12, Iran [executed](#) Ehsan Afrashteh, a 32-year-old engineering graduate and IT professional convicted of passing classified information to U.S. and Israeli intelligence services, according to the Iranian judiciary's Mizan Online outlet. Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRANA) [said](#) he was arrested in 2024 and sentenced in 2025 on the basis of false confessions.

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 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.
- 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 2,883 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 8787 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, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- In his May 12 statement, Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem [announced](#) that Hezbollah would work with the Lebanese government to secure Lebanon's future in five key areas. Their demands include:
 - » The IDF halting operations in Lebanon;
 - » The IDF withdrawing from Lebanese territory;
 - » Israel freeing Lebanese prisoners;
 - » Israel allowing civilians to return to southern Lebanon; and

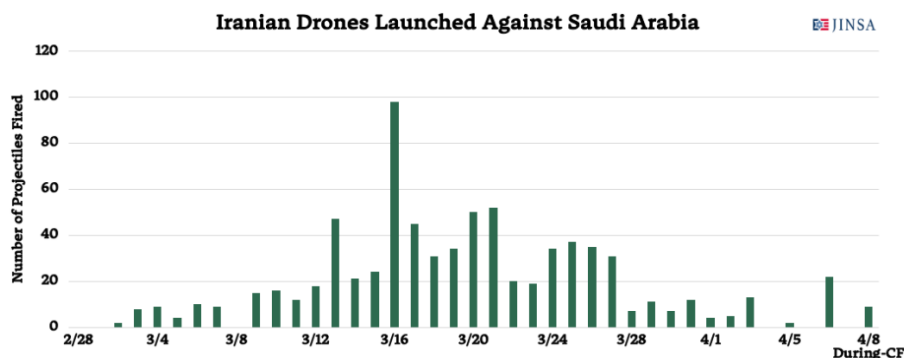
- » The Lebanese government focusing on reconstruction efforts.
 - Regarding Israeli military action, Qassem also noted that Hezbollah “will respond to the aggression and violations, and we will not return to the pre-March 2nd status quo.”

8. International Response

- On May 13, the U.A.E. [designated](#) 16 Lebanese individuals and five Lebanese organizations as terrorists due to ties to Hezbollah.
- In a report released on May 13, the International Energy Agency (IEA) [noted](#), “The world is drawing oil inventories at a record pace as importing countries confront unprecedented disruptions to Middle Eastern supplies,” adding that “rapidly shrinking buffers amid continued disruptions may herald future price spikes ahead.”
- On May 12, the United Kingdom [announced](#) its contributions to a multinational mission to secure the Strait of Hormuz: the HMS *Dragon* guided-missile destroyer, which is already en route to the region; Typhoon fighter jets; mine-clearing unmanned platforms; and high-speed drone boats.
 - » British Defense Minister John Healy [stated](#) that the mission will be “defensive, independent, and credible.”
 - » Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles [announced](#) on May 13 that Australia would join the “strictly defensive” French- and British-led mission. It will contribute a Wedgetail E-7A surveillance aircraft currently in the region.
 - » Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto [said](#) on May 13 that Italy is positioning two mine-sweeping ships closer to the Gulf; these ships could be deployed as part of the multinational defensive mission, should a more stable ceasefire or “a definitive peace” be reached.
- Iraq and Pakistan have [struck](#) separate energy deals with Iran to secure passage for oil and liquefied natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, according to sources cited by Reuters on May 12.

9. Charts and Trends

- While the exact timing of Saudi Arabia’s “tit-for-tat strikes” against Iran remains unknown, Reuters [reporting](#) that they took place in late March would coincide with an escalation in Iranian drone attacks against Saudi Arabia.
 - » Between March 16–27, Iran launched 486 drones at Saudi Arabia, compared to only 193 over the previous 12 days.
 - » The de-escalation from March 28 until the start of the ceasefire on April 8 to only 92 Iranian drones targeting Saudi Arabia suggests that Saudi strikes had a deterrent effect on Iran.



10. 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
- Yoni Tobin, [Blockade Evasion Update - 5/8](#), 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
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [In Defense of the War. And How to Finish It](#), April 17, 2026