



Iran War Update: 5/27/26

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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 27 at 10:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **34**, following May 15 45-day extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **At least 314** (0 between May 26–27)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 157** (at least 10 between May 26–27)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 390** (at least 10 between May 26–27)

- 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 113** (5 between May 26–27)

Total blockade-eligible ships that [evaded the blockade](#): **At least 13** (0 between May 20–21)

- Note: JINSA has revised down its evasion estimates after the U.S. military revealed on May 23 that it permitted 26 ships to pass the blockade line for humanitarian reasons.
- 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

- Iranian state media [reported](#) on May 27 that Tehran received an initial unofficial U.S. framework for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to end the conflict and ensure commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz fully resumes.
 - » The White House [disputed](#) the Iranian regime's account, saying in a statement, "This report from Iranian controlled media is not true and the MOU they 'released' is a complete fabrication. Nobody should believe what Iranian state media is putting out."
 - » According to the reported framework, Iran would restore commercial shipping through the Strait to pre-war levels within one month, while the United States would withdraw

forces from Iran's vicinity and lift its naval blockade. Shipping through the strait would be managed by Iran together with Oman.

- » Iranian media stated Tehran would take no action without “tangible verification” and that any final agreement could eventually be codified in a United Nations Security Council resolution.
- During a [ceremony](#) on May 27 at Israel's Nevatim Air Base to receive its first Boeing KC-46 “Gideon” aerial refueling tanker, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir noted that Iran's “leaders are being hunted, most of its military capabilities have been destroyed, its nuclear program has been set back by years ... Its economy is collapsing, and its citizens have yet to grasp the scale of the disaster their extremist leaders have brought upon them.”
 - » Israeli Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Omer Tischler explained that “the arrival of the new plane significantly strengthens the air force's superiority in the ongoing multi-front war and in long-range operations.”
 - » In [2018](#)—years before Israel agreed to purchase four of the aircraft—JINSA became the first American organization to [recommend](#) the delivery of the [advanced](#) refueling tankers.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [spoke](#) with President Donald Trump on May 26 following a security cabinet meeting held amid intensified Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran

- Iran is seeking substantial economic [concessions](#) in ongoing negotiations with the United States, including the release of approximately \$12 billion in frozen assets, according to an Iranian official cited by *The Washington Post* on May 27.
 - » American officials have stated that any sanctions relief or asset release would remain contingent on Iranian compliance with other elements of the deal.
- According to two Iranians who spoke with *The Jerusalem Post* for a [report](#) on May 27, Iranians are increasingly fearful that the sacrifices they made to demonstrate against the Iranian regime will go unfulfilled if the United States agrees to a deal with Iran.
- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio [told](#) reporters on May 26 that negotiations with Iran will “take a few days” as there is “a lot of talking back and forth going on about specific language in the initial document.”
- According to a Middle Eastern official cited by Israeli outlet *Israel Hayom* on May 26, significant disagreements [persist](#) between the American and Iranian negotiating positions, and reaching the MOU is a distant prospect.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On May 27, President Trump will [convene](#) his Cabinet for a meeting to discuss foreign and domestic issues, after canceling a planned trip to Camp David due to bad weather.
- Before launching strikes on Iranian targets on May 25, the United States [identified](#) suspicious behavior by the Iranian military, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) speedboats attempting to lay mines in the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian one-way attack drones operating near U.S. Navy warships enforcing a maritime blockade in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman, and increased activity at Iranian surface-to-air missile positions, according to a May 26 *New York Times* article.

Lebanon

- On the afternoon of May 27, the IDF [conducted](#) several airstrikes in southern Lebanon targeting Hezbollah facilities after issuing warnings for residents of Nabatieh and five other towns to evacuate. The prior day, Israel's military [issued evacuation orders](#) for over 20 Lebanese towns north of the Litani River as it expanded its campaign northward.
- On the morning of May 27, the Israeli Air Force [killed](#) a Hezbollah fighter seeking to retrieve one of the group's fallen unmanned aerial vehicles in southern Lebanon.
- On May 27, the IDF announced that its troops [bombed](#) more than 150 Hezbollah sites and fighters over the past day in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley, Tyre, and Nabatieh.
- According to Israeli media on May 26, the United States [gave the green light](#) for Israeli plans for expanded operations against Hezbollah, but discouraged airstrikes targeting Beirut, which could harm U.S. negotiations with Iran.
 - » However, an unnamed senior Israeli official claimed that "There is approval for targeted assassinations in Beirut if an operational opportunity presents itself."
 - » Other senior Israeli officials stated that "We have freedom of action in southern Lebanon—less so in Beirut. We do not want to be perceived as undermining President Donald Trump's agreement with Iran."
- The IDF [announced](#) on May 26 that it had eliminated Hezbollah operatives and targeted infrastructure used by Hezbollah for rocket launches.
- Israel's *Maariv* outlet [cited](#) the IDF on May 26, reporting that since the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon went into effect in April, Israeli forces have killed an estimated 610 Hezbollah operatives and attacked over 2,100 sites belonging to the group.
- The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) [announced](#) that an Israeli airstrike on May 26 in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley killed one soldier.
- Israeli leaders continue to explore ways to counter the threat from Hezbollah's fiber-optic drones, which are resistant to electronic warfare jamming and hard to detect.
 - » On May 27, Israel's *Walla News* [reported](#) that Israeli defense officials have made progress towards fielding several solutions to the threat, including:
 - Utilizing smoke and other decoys to mask the visual signatures of tanks and other armored personnel carriers;
 - Installing floating nets above armored vehicles, military outposts, and other sensitive sites;
 - Experimenting with the use of high-powered microwave defenses;
 - Using shotguns to shoot down low-flying drones;
 - Fielding optical radar tools that used AI-based sensors to identify drones by shape and pattern, rather than electronic signature; and
 - Deploying defensive drones to counter Hezbollah drones.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On May 27, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) that it has redirected 109 vessels in total, an increase of four vessels since JINSA's last update, since the U.S. naval blockade took effect.
- CENTCOM [posted](#) on X on May 26 that Project Freedom, the U.S. effort to facilitate the passage of commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, has not resumed, and the U.S.

Navy is not escorting commercial ships through the strait, despite media claims to the contrary.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- On May 27, Hezbollah [claimed](#) that its fighters were engaging in clashes with Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon north of the Litani River, according to Lebanese media.
 - » However, the IDF stated that it was “unaware of anything unusual” regarding Hezbollah’s claims.
- In the mid-afternoon of May 27, Hezbollah [launched](#) a barrage of explosive drones that impacted Israeli territory, prompting sirens in several northern communities without immediately causing injuries.
- In the early afternoon of May 27, Hezbollah [fired](#) several explosive drones that crashed in Israeli territory, triggering sirens in the town of Shlomi in northern Israel, but failing to cause any injuries.
- On May 27, “suspicious aerial targets” flying near Israeli troops in southern Lebanon [triggered](#) sirens in the northern Israeli town of Rosh Hanikra, prompting the IDF to fire an interceptor at the projectiles.
- On May 26, a rocket launched from Lebanon [fell](#) in an open area in northern Israel.
- On May 26, the IDF [declared](#) an incident had concluded after it lost contact with a “suspicious aerial target” that triggered sirens in the northern Israeli community of Baram.

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 53 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 23 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 3,213 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 9,737 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](#).
- » United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.): 13 people have been [killed](#), and at least 230 have been injured.

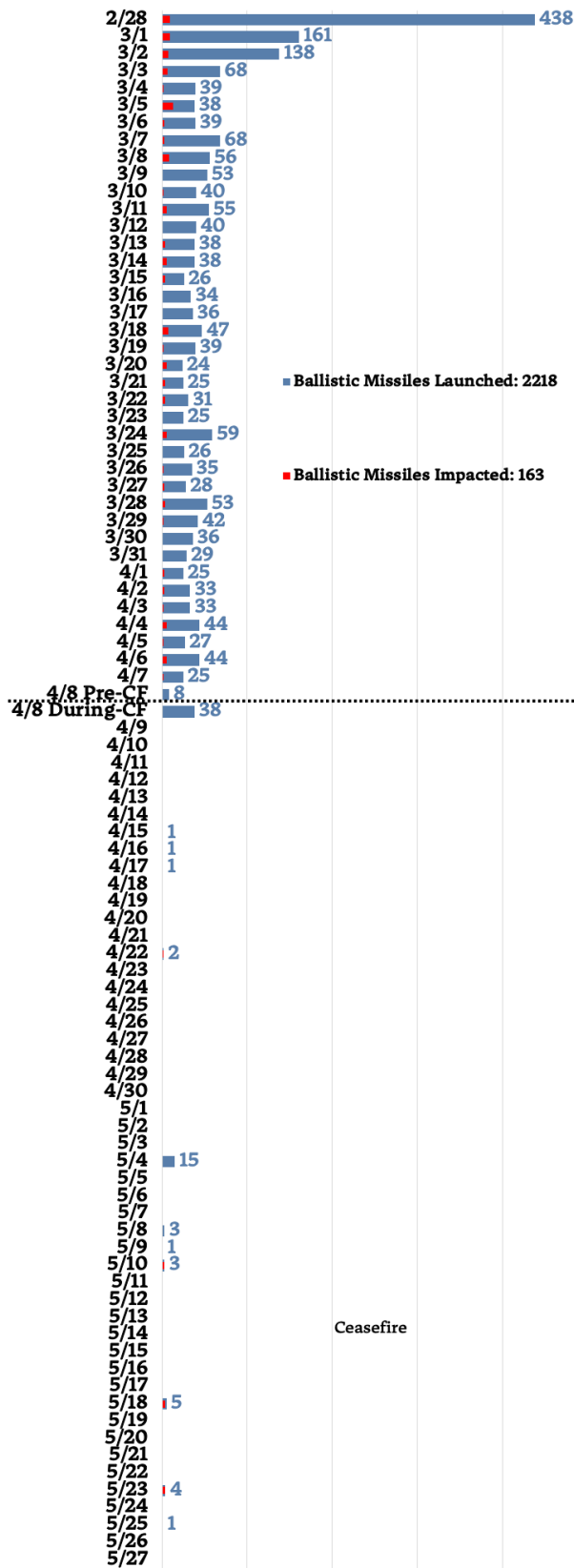
7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- IRGC Navy deputy political chief Mohammad Akbarzadeh [stated](#) on May 27 that renewed conflict with the United States is unlikely due to the “enemy’s weakness.” He added that Iran’s armed forces remain prepared to respond to any attack and would turn Iran’s southern coastline “into a graveyard for aggressors.”
- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei [posted](#) on X on May 26, “The shaken Zionist regime and the cancerous tumor of Israel are approaching the final stages of their wretched existence.”

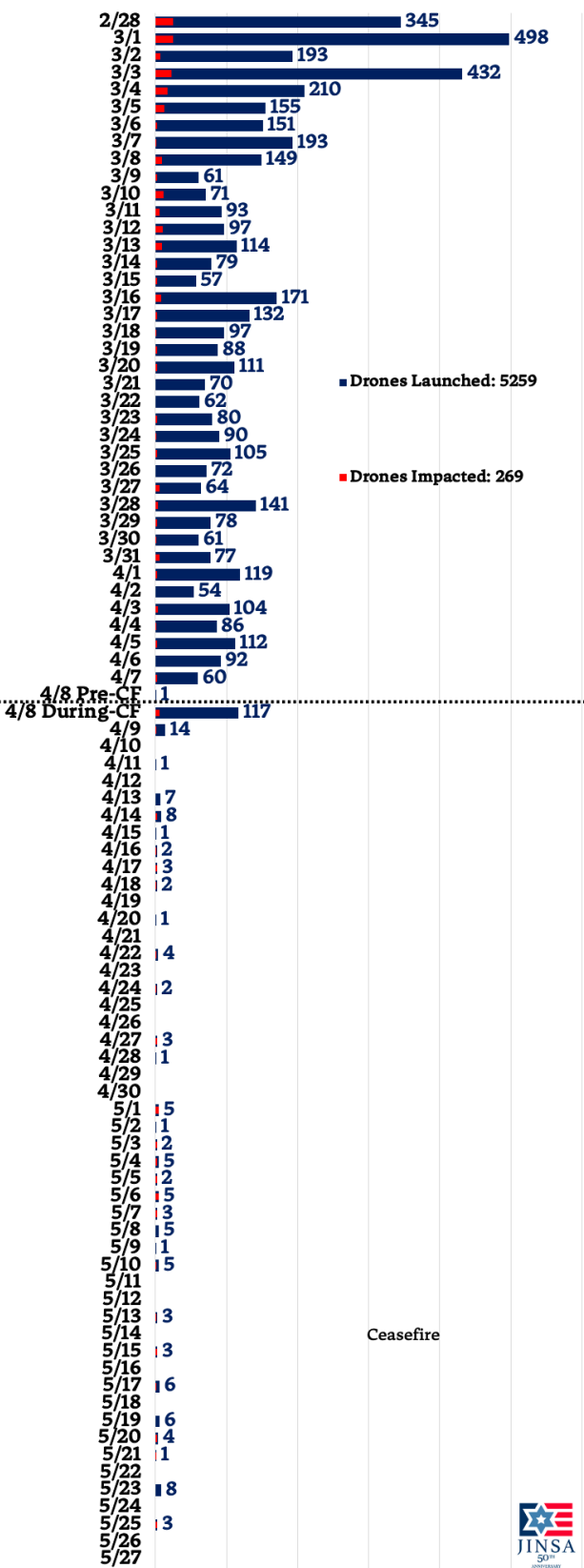
8. International Response

- On May 27, Reuters [reported](#) that the Netherlands will deploy a minesweeper to the Mediterranean Sea this week, with its estimated arrival time in mid-June.
 - » With the minesweeper in the region, it can immediately access the Strait of Hormuz to help the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) guarantee safe transit for ships in the waterway once the war has concluded.
- On May 27, South Korea [summoned](#) Tehran’s ambassador in Seoul after concluding that Iran was likely responsible for attacking a South Korean cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz with anti-ship missiles in early May.
- On May 26, without pinning blame on Iran or Iran-backed militias in Iraq, the United Nations Security Council [condemned](#) a drone attack that targeted the U.A.E.’s Barakah nuclear power plant on May 17.

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day



9. JINSA Resources

- LTG Charles Hooper, USA (ret.) and Yoni Tobin, [Abraham's Fortress: Strengthening Middle East Defenses Against Iran](#), May 19, 2026
- Yoni Tobin, [Blockade Evasion Update – 5/19/26](#), May 19, 2026
- Rena Gabber and Jonah Brody, [Holding China Accountable for Iran](#), May 13, 2026
- 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