



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 5/7/26 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 7 at 11:00 am ET.

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

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **7**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **249** (6 on May 6–7)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 72** (at least 3 on May 6–7)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 318** (at least 6 on May 6–7)

- 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 52** (At least 1 on May 6–7)

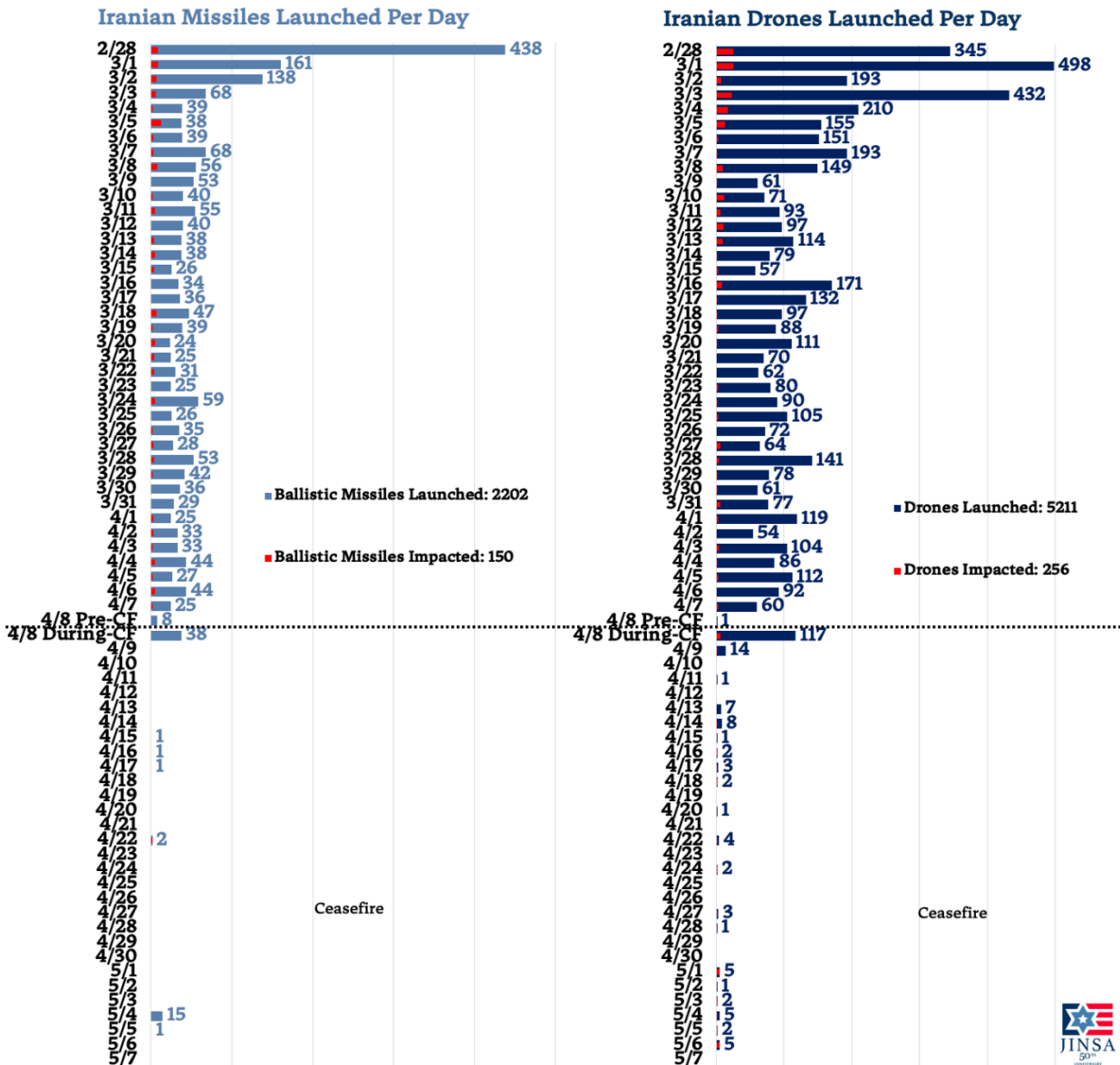
Total blockade-eligible ships that [evaded the blockade](#): **At least 21** (None between May 6–7)

- 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 6, *NBC News* [reported](#) that President Donald Trump decided to pause Project Freedom, the U.S. effort to help commercial ships leave the Persian Gulf, after Saudi Arabia told the United States that it would not allow U.S. aircraft to take off from bases in the country or use Saudi airspace for the operation.
 - » Israel's *i24 News* later [reported](#) that Saudi Arabia will restrict U.S. access to its bases and airspace until the United States “provides proper protection” against Iranian attacks.
 - This concern may have stemmed from the Trump administration focusing more on achieving a deal with Tehran and failing to conduct a military response against targets in Iran after Iranian missile and drone attacks hit the United Arab Emirates on May 4.
 - » Commercial shipping flows through the Strait of Hormuz remain minimal. According to JINSA-reviewed Kpler data, only two commercial vessels transited the Strait on May 6, compared to pre-war averages of around 120 commercial ships per day.

- On May 6, a U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet [fired on and disabled](#) an Iranian-flagged tanker in the Gulf of Oman that refused to comply with blockade warnings, marking the first known instance of American forces physically disabling a vessel attempting to breach the cordon.
 - » A total of 52 ships have been [rerouted](#) as part of U.S. blockade enforcement since it went into effect on April 13, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on May 6.
- On May 6, Israel conducted its first [strikes](#) targeting Beirut, killing Hezbollah's Radwan Force commander, since the ceasefire with Lebanon began.
- Iran has continued to attack Iraqi Kurdistan, with at least three attacks on May 6–7 involving five drones.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On May 7, a Pakistani official [told](#) Reuters that “our priority is that they [the United States and Iran] announce a permanent end to war and the rest of the issues could be thrashed out once they get back to direct talks.”
- During an interview with PBS on May 6, President Trump [shared](#) optimism about reaching a deal with the Iranians, stating, “I think it’s got a very good chance of ending,” adding that “if it doesn’t end, we have to go back to bombing the hell out of them.”
 - » When asked about whether Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium perhaps could be transferred to the United States, President Trump definitively replied, “No, not perhaps. It goes to the United States.”
 - » President Trump also confirmed that the deal would involve a halt to Iranian use of underground nuclear facilities.
 - » According to President Trump, the deal would not include a clause allowing Iran to enrich uranium to 3.67 percent purity after the freeze on enrichment.
- On May 6, *The Wall Street Journal*, citing senior U.S. officials, [reported](#) that the majority of sanctions relief would be conditioned on Iran meeting the requirements laid out in an agreement, although freezes on some assets could be lifted at the beginning of the deal.
 - » The article noted U.S. redlines for the negotiations, including: an attestation from Tehran that it will not try to obtain a nuclear weapon; taking apart nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan; a prohibition on underground work on Iran’s nuclear program; inspections of Iranian facilities when requested, accompanied with penalties for violations; and Iran must relinquish all enriched uranium,
 - The United States is also looking for a pause on nuclear enrichment for 20 years.
 - Tehran would also need to agree to gradually re-open the Strait of Hormuz.
- According to Israel’s Channel 12 news reporting from May 6, U.S. officials [have indicated](#) to their Israeli counterparts that Tehran has exhibited “surprising openness” to sending its highly enriched uranium to a third country. There is reportedly not yet a consensus regarding which country the nuclear material would be transferred to.
 - » Channel 12 reported that President Trump told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that without resolving which country would take control of Iran’s highly enriched uranium, there could not be an agreement.
 - » Although “part of the Iranian leadership” seems amenable to “significant steps” to reach a framework agreement, the United States and Israel are concerned about the risk that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) acts as a spoiler, according to Channel 12.
 - » Channel 12 reporting also indicated that Israeli officials feel that Iran’s ballistic missile program has not been sufficiently taken into account.
 - Israeli officials would like the framework agreement with Iran to include a cap on the range of its ballistic missiles.
- In his introductory remarks at a meeting of the Israeli cabinet on May 6, Prime Minister Netanyahu [noted](#) that the United States and Israel “share common goals, and the most important objective is the removal of all enriched material from Iran and the dismantling of Iran’s enrichment capabilities.”
 - » He added, “President Trump believes he can achieve this in one way or another. However, we are prepared for any scenario, and this is the directive I have given to the IDF [the Israel Defense Forces] and our security agencies.”
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu also noted, “There is full coordination between us [the United States and Israel]; there are no surprises.”

Lebanon

- On May 6, Barak Ravid of Israel's Channel 12 outlet [claimed](#) that the alleged one-page Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and Iran "would end the war throughout the region, including in Lebanon."

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Lebanon

- On May 7, the Israeli Air Force [struck](#) a building in the southern Lebanese town of Jouaiyya in which a Hezbollah operative was hiding himself and his rocket launcher after he fired at Israeli troops. The strike ultimately killed the Hezbollah member.
 - » Additionally, Israel's military bombed a separate rocket launcher that Hezbollah used to target Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon.
- On May 7, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [bombed](#) one of Hezbollah's weapon manufacturing facilities, as well as other buildings occupied by the group in the southern Lebanese town of Nabatieh.
 - » Overnight, the IDF also struck around 20 Hezbollah sites, targeting the group's drone launching posts, weapon caches, and Hezbollah members operating a vehicle full of weapons in southern Lebanon.
- On May 6, the Israeli military [killed](#) Hezbollah's Radwan Force Commander Ahmed Ghaleb Balout in its first strikes on Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern Dahiyeh suburb since Israel and Lebanon reached a fragile ceasefire agreement in mid-April.
 - » In a statement on the elimination of the Radwan commander, Prime Minister Netanyahu [remarked](#), "I say to our enemies in the clearest possible way: No terrorist has immunity."
- On May 6, Israeli forces [bombed](#) other Hezbollah sites in Lebanon, killing Muhammad Ali Bazi, the group's head of intelligence for the Nasr Regional Division, and Hussein Hassan Romani, Hezbollah's chief for aerial defense.
- According to the IDF, as of May 6, Israeli troops have [eliminated](#) over 220 Hezbollah fighters since the ceasefire went into effect.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On May 6, CENTCOM [reported](#) that U.S. forces disabled an Iranian-flagged oil tanker, the M/T *Hasna*, in the Gulf of Oman after its crew ignored repeated warnings that it was violating the blockade. A Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet fired 20mm cannon rounds to disable the vessel's rudder.
- CENTCOM [announced](#) on May 6 that 52 vessels in total—an increase of one vessel from JINSA's last update—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the U.S. naval blockade took effect.
- JINSA-reviewed data from the Kpler analytics firm indicates that 21 blockade-eligible ships, including seven small ships of limited utility to Iran, have traveled across the blockade line since the blockade entered effect. None that crossed the blockade line with their Automatic Identification System (AIS) turned on have been oil or gas tankers.
- However, other estimates in recent days suggest four energy tankers with Iranian cargo indeed have crossed the blockade line, though with their AIS switched off. JINSA has not been able to independently verify these claims.
 - » On May 6, United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) [asserted](#) that the Iranian-flagged oil tanker *Huge* crossed the blockade line after leaving Iran on April 14, and is now off Malaysia's coast.

- » Windward Intelligence, a shipping analytics firm, [claimed](#) on May 4 that the Botswanan-flagged oil tanker *Vigor* traveled across the blockade line in mid-April to Iran's Kharg Island export terminal. The tanker is not transmitting its location.
- » Windward Intelligence also claimed this week, acknowledging no direct evidence the ships carried Iranian cargo, that an [unnamed Madagascan-flagged](#) liquified petroleum gas (LPG) tanker and an [unnamed Vietnamese-flagged](#) LPG tanker may have breached the blockade heading towards East Asia.
- The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), despite Iran's threat to commercial shipping in the area, [exported](#) at least 6 million barrels of oil in April through the Strait of Hormuz, Reuters reported on May 7.
 - » The U.A.E. reportedly used a variety of means, including deactivating ships' AIS location transmitters and conducting ship-to-ship transfers, to ensure the valuable cargo was not damaged by Iranian attack.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- On May 7, Hezbollah [launched](#) several rockets and drones at Israeli forces deployed in southern Lebanon. The IDF shot down the rockets and several drones, but some drones exploded near Israeli troops.
- In the early morning hours of May 7, suspected Hezbollah rocket and drone activity [triggered](#) warning sirens in Kiryat Shmona and other communities in northern Israel.
- On May 6, Hezbollah [fired](#) an explosive drone at Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon, seriously injuring one.

Iraq

- In the evening on May 6, three drones [targeted](#) a base belonging to the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) in Iraqi Kurdistan. No casualties were reported.

Outside the Middle East

- On May 7, *The New York Times*, citing five high-ranking German officials, [reported](#) that since the war in Iran began, Germany's intelligence community has clashed with the country's political leaders as Berlin's intelligence agencies believe Iran-linked threats to Germany are "more concrete and urgent than those leaders let on."

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.
- 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 2,702 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 8,311 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 227 have [been injured](#).

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On May 6, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of Iran's Parliament and its lead negotiator, [derided](#) the United States for suspending Project Freedom, posting on X, "Operation Trust Me Bro failed. Now back to routine with Operation Fauxios."
- On May 6, Iran's United Nations (U.N.) mission [called](#) on member states to reject a U.S.-backed U.N. Security Council draft resolution on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, dismissing it as a pretext "to advance its political agenda and legitimize unlawful actions" rather than resolve the crisis.

8. International Response

- On May 6, French President Emmanuel Macron [called](#) for the immediate and unconditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz even before a formal end to the war, posting on X, "All parties must lift the blockade of the Strait immediately and unconditionally."

9. JINSA Resources

- 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