



Iran War Update: 6/17/26

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The United States and Iran digitally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to end the war on June 14, with a signing ceremony scheduled to take place in Switzerland on June 19. The MOU will launch a 60-day period of technical negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of June 17 at 10:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 4** (2 on June 16)

Hezbollah attacks since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 8** (at least 7 on June 16–17)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 21** (at least 15 between June 16–17)

- Note: Numerous ships in the area are transmitting false locations.

Total blockade-eligible ships disabled or rerouted by U.S. forces since blockade began April 13: **At least 153**

- Note: President Donald Trump [announced](#) the end of the U.S. blockade on June 14 as part of the U.S.-Iran deal.

1. Overview

- While attending the G7 Summit on June 17, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social, "The trip was a Great Success but, mostly what people wanted to talk about, is the fact that Iran will not have a Nuclear Weapon, and that the Strait of Hormuz will immediately be opened!"
 - » President Trump noted that "recent Stock Market numbers are through the roof because of the settlement and, likewise, Oil Prices are tumbling down!"
- On June 16, [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), and the Saudi network [Al-Arabiya](#) released identical texts for the U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU calls for an end to the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon; waivers for Iranian oil sanctions and the release of frozen Iranian funds; the restoration of pre-war levels of ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz; and the creation of a \$300 billion fund for Iran's reconstruction and development.
 - » Upon the signing of the MOU, scheduled for Friday, June 19, a 60-day period for negotiations on Iran's nuclear issues and the lifting of all sanctions on Iran will begin.

- » White House Director of Communications Steven Cheung [challenged](#) this reporting, stating on June 17 that “the supposed text of the MOU that was obtained by CNN does not reflect the language of the actual MOU.”
- Speaking at the G7 Summit on June 16, President Trump [stated](#) that the U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expected to be formally signed on June 19 is “not final,” warning that “if I don’t like it, if they [the Iranians] don’t behave, we’ll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head, okay? Because they’ve misbehaved for 47 years.”
 - » President Trump noted that the Strait of Hormuz is “already partially opened” and “It’s going to be opening up soon in full over the next day or two.”
 - » President Trump [refuted](#) reports that a final agreement with Iran would include the creation of a reconstruction fund worth \$300 billion, adding that the United States is not investing in Iran, nor did it ask Gulf states to do so.
- Discussing the benefits Iran would receive in the deal, Vice President J.D. Vance [stated](#) during an interview on June 17 with CBS Mornings that this meant “sanctions relief on their economy ... We’ve destroyed their nuclear program, but one of the things the president is trying to do is give them the incentive not to try to rebuild that program for the long haul.”
 - » According to Vice President Vance, “what the president is really saying is, if Iran fundamentally transforms how it deals with the United States and the region, the rest of the world, then Iran can get some economic benefits.”
 - » Vice President Vance claimed that Qatari and Pakistani negotiators “asked us not to release the full text [of the U.S.-Iran deal] for a little while” but that “we’re actually trying to push them to get it out today, because we want to tell the American people what’s in this deal.”
- During a briefing with reporters on June 16, a senior Trump administration official [claimed](#) that “people shouldn’t read too much into the language of the MOU,” describing it as a “political document.”
 - » The senior official added, “what’s more important than the actual document is the understandings we have with each other, and that’s why it’s important to get it done, that we can create the environment to go and talk about all these things, because it basically says we will release sanctions, we will do a deal with nuclear, we will unfreeze funds.”
 - » The same senior official also noted that “we’ll release sanctions when, you know, based on progress. We’ll release funds once we’ve agreed on the mechanisms to do so.”
- On June 16, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the United States would allow Iran to sell oil immediately and that the first Iranian crude oil tanker had crossed the former U.S. blockade line that day.
- On June 17, Saudi Arabia’s *Asharq Al-Awsat* newspaper, citing a source linked to Hezbollah and Amal, [reported](#) that Israeli forces will have to withdraw from Lebanon over the next 60 days and must complete the withdrawal before Iran signs a nuclear deal with the United States.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Reuters [reported](#) on June 17, citing a source with direct knowledge of the U.S.-Iran MOU, that the \$300 billion fund reportedly included in the preliminary agreement will be financed by the private sector and function as a mechanism for private investments. The source claimed that over \$150 billion has already been committed to the fund.

- On June 16, [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), and the Saudi network [Al-Arabiya](#) reported on the text of the U.S.-Iran 14-Point MOU, with all three outlets sharing the same text:
- During an interview on The Megyn Kelly Show on June 16, Vice President Vance [claimed](#) that “the reason why we haven’t released it yet is there are some delicate diplomatic things going on,” adding “I don’t, frankly, fully understand it, but there are sensitivities that exist in the Arab and Muslim world that we’re trying to be responsive to.”
- On June 16, Israel’s Channel 12 [reported](#), citing senior Israeli officials, that Israeli leadership believes Iran will not uphold its end of the MOU and instead will use the 60-day window for ensuing nuclear negotiations to resume nuclear activity and work towards developing a nuclear weapon.
 - » Israeli officials have also reportedly claimed that Iranian leaders “will drag out the process, and the 60 days of negotiation will turn into much more.”

Lebanon

- According to Israel’s Channel 12, Israel and Lebanon are [close](#) to reaching a ceasefire agreement, mediated by the United States, as details of the deal are being finalized.
 - » The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) have reportedly started to deploy to specific areas in Lebanon as part of the potential agreement.
 - » The agreement is expected to permit evacuated residents of southern Lebanon to move back to their homes.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On June 16, President Trump [invoked](#) the Defense Production Act to accelerate munition production after heavy use during the war with Iran, [authorizing](#) the Department of Defense to make “voluntary agreements and plans of action to help provide for the national defense.”
- On June 15, the U.S. military [revealed](#) that its Project Maven utilized a government version of Grok, an artificial intelligence tool, for targeting in Iran.
 - » A Pentagon official claimed that the project’s Maven Smart Systems “enabled US forces to deploy over 2,000 munitions to 2,000 distinct targets within 96 hours during Operation Epic Fury.”

Lebanon

- On June 17, Lebanese media [reported](#) that the Israeli military was carrying out airstrikes in the area of Nabatieh in southern Lebanon near Kfar Tebnit.
- On the morning of June 17, Lebanese media [reported](#) that Mansouri and Aaziyyeh in southern Lebanon came under fire, with three drone strikes hitting the towns and causing injuries.
 - » Lebanon’s National News Agency also reported that another strike hit the town of Barashit.
 - » Earlier in the day, Lebanese media also [claimed](#) that an Israeli fighter jet carried out a strike on Nabatieh al-Fawqa, while a drone attacked the coastal town of Ansariyeh.
- On the evening of June 16, after Hezbollah [fired](#) a barrage of rockets at Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon, the Israeli Air Force carried out a strike, eliminating the rocket launcher.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- CNN [reported](#) on June 16, citing three sources, that “U.S. intelligence agencies have recently assessed that Iran can effectively shut down access to the Strait of Hormuz at will from now on.”
 - » Reportedly, U.S. intelligence estimates also indicate that “Iran has been plotting an economic nuclear option if negotiations with the U.S. fall apart: getting the Houthis ... to close the Bab el-Mandeb strait.”
 - » The Houthis previously conducted a months-long assault in late 2023 and 2024 on commercial shipping, including over 127 separate drone and missile attacks between October 2023 and May 2024. JINSA has [documented](#) how this cost the United States over \$1 billion in defensive operations alone over that period.
- Between June 15–17, [three vessels](#) carrying Iranian crude oil passed the U.S. blockade line, which, according to Tanker Trackers, “are Iran’s first crude oil exports in two months.”

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Israel

- On the morning of June 17, Hezbollah [launched](#) explosive drones at Israeli troops operating in Kfar Tebnit in southern Lebanon.
 - » One drone exploded next to an Israeli tank, injuring four soldiers.
 - » Another drone then attacked the vehicle that the Israeli military deployed to rescue the injured soldiers, wounding a fifth servicemember.
- On the evening of June 16, Israeli air defenses [intercepted](#) multiple Hezbollah rockets that the group fired at Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon.
- On June 16, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [identified](#) a vehicle near Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.
 - » After firing warning shots at the vehicle, the IDF struck the vehicle “to remove the threat” it posed to the soldiers.

Maritime

- On June 16, NBC News [reported](#), citing a U.S. official, that Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has targeted commercial ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz with drone attacks every night since the United States and Iran digitally signed the MOU on June 14. The official claimed that the U.S. military has intercepted all of the drones.

Iraq

- On June 16, a drone [targeted](#) a site belonging to the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI), marking the first time the IRGC has targeted the party since the announcement of the U.S.-Iran MOU.

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. Kliner, 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 58 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 28 of these [casualties](#) include Israeli soldiers and one defense contractor killed while fighting Hezbollah.
- 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 two [Indian nationals](#) have been [killed](#); over 90 Kuwaiti military [personnel have been injured](#), and [over 70 civilians](#), including two [medical staff](#), have been wounded.
 - » Lebanon: At least 3,783 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 11,699 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.

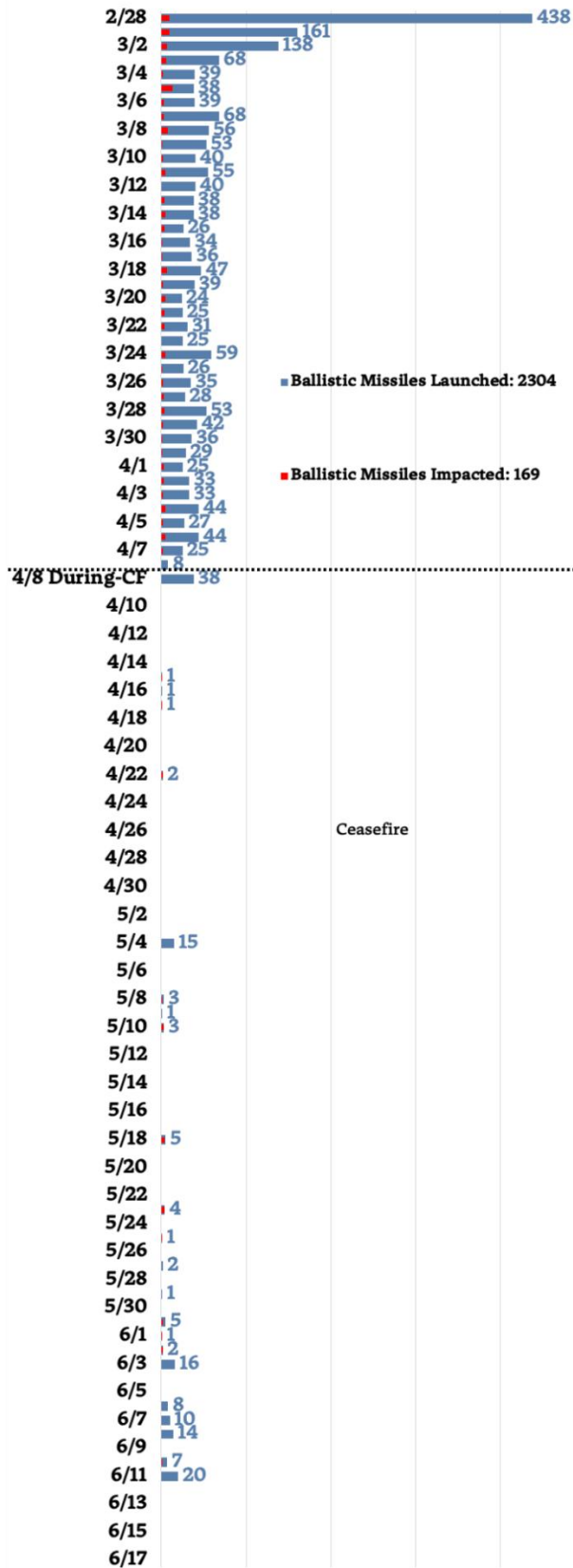
7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On June 16, the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee chief Ebrahim Azizi [wrote](#) on X that "Washington must prove its commitment by ending the war against Lebanon and upholding every clause of the MOU. Any breach will be met with a decisive, crushing response."

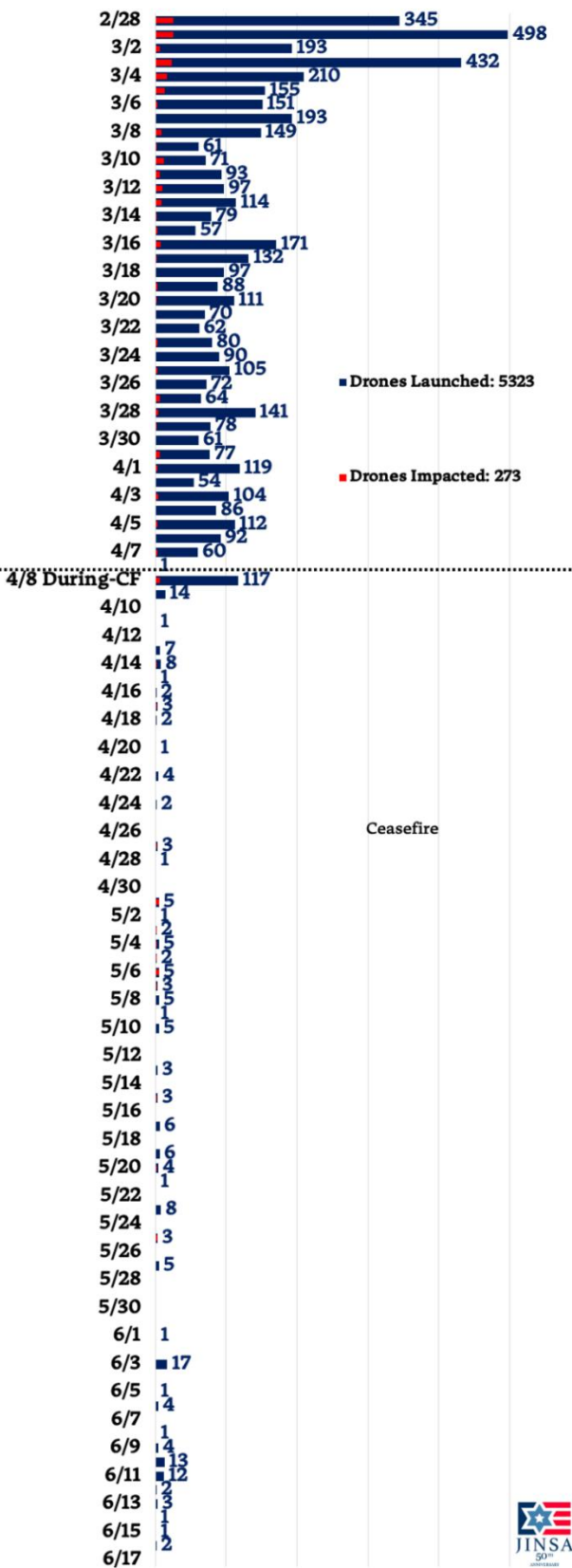
8. International Response

- On June 17, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General Mark Rutte [praised](#) the U.S.-Iran MOU, claiming, “The restoration of free passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be a massive step forward, and I know that many allies, through the initiative led by France and the United Kingdom, are ready to support.”
- On June 17, U.A.E. Presidential Adviser Anwar Gargash [appeared](#) to criticize the U.S.-Iran MOU for not addressing Iranian attacks targeting the U.A.E. and other Arab countries, writing on X that “Iran has not been content with conflict against Israel or the United States; rather, it has carried out direct aggression against the State of the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf Arab states. And any serious approach to the region’s future must proceed from respect for sovereignty and rejection of aggression against Arab Gulf states—not leaping over it or ignoring it.”

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day



9. JINSA Resources

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, [The Origins of the Iran Deal](#), June 16, 2026
- Sarah Havdala, [While the War Raged On: Repression in Iran](#), June 16, 2026
- [Infographic: What's the Deal with the Deal?](#) June 12, 2026
- John Hannah, "[Trump Is Stuck and His Iran Leverage Is Spent](#)," *The Washington Examiner*, June 12, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, "[We Need a Long-Term Strategy to Deal With Iran](#)," *The Dispatch*, June 11, 2026
- Maj Gen Charles Corcoran, USAF (ret.) and Yoni Tobin, "[What the Iran War Shows About the Future of Warfighting](#)," *RealClearDefense*, June 8, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [Trump Is Lost on Iran](#), June 5, 2026
- IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, Stephen Rademaker, and Blaise Misztal, [Webinar: Bad Deal Rising?](#), May 26, 2026
- 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