



Iran War Update: 6/19/26 – 6/21/26

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President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 17, outlining terms to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The MOU launches 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 21 at 9:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 4** (0 on June 17–21)

Hezbollah projectiles fired since June 19 ceasefire announcement: **[At least 176](#)**

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 68** (at least 34 between June 17–21)

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

1. Overview

- Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the United States and Iran on June 17 that began a 60-day negotiation period, talks between U.S., Iranian, Qatari, and Pakistani officials [began](#) on June 21 in Switzerland to discuss remaining issues. Conversations will reportedly include Iran's nuclear program, as well as the status of freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire.
 - » However, on June 21, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry [said](#) it will be impossible to negotiate a final agreement unless fighting in Lebanon stops.
 - » On June 20, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the United States and Qatar are working on a plan to enable Iran to access \$6 billion in frozen funds for humanitarian purposes.
- On June 20, Iranian state media reported that Iran's military is again [declaring](#) the Strait of Hormuz closed. The action, per the Iranian military, was taken in response to Israeli strikes against Hezbollah in Lebanon.
 - » Iran's military [threatened](#) additional action if Israeli strikes in Lebanon continue, calling the closure "the first step" and adding that "further measures have been planned and will be implemented to compel the enemy to abide by and carry out its obligations."
 - » U.S. officials and the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) publicly [disputed](#) Iran's claim that the Strait was closed. In addition, a senior U.S. defense official told *Axios* that Iran has [not begun](#) any new military activities to threaten shipping.

- On June 20, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “There will be NO TOLLS in the Hormuz Strait for 60 days during the Cease Fire Period, and there will be NO TOLLS after the 60 day period has expired, unless they are imposed by and for the United States of America, should the deal not be completed, for services rendered as the Guardian Angel to the countries of the Middle East for purposes of both past, present, and future reimbursement of costs.”
- On June 19, Iran’s Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, posted on Telegram that he sent a letter to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian indicating that he opposed the MOU but [approved](#) the talks with the United States based on Pezeshkian’s advice and “explicit acceptance of responsibility” for the deal.
- On June 19 at 4:00 pm local time, a [new ceasefire](#) between Israel and Hezbollah took effect. However, Hezbollah [launched](#) at least 176 projectiles at Israel, and Israeli troops in southern Lebanon between June 19–20, and Israel [continued](#) firing on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. Israel reportedly halted its strikes on June 20, while its forces maintained their positions.
- On June 19, President Trump [noted](#), “we fought very well with Israel, and we’ve had a great relationship with Israel,” while calling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a “warrior prime minister.”
- During a [press conference](#) and [interviews](#) on June 18–19, Vice President JD Vance strongly [criticized](#) Israeli leaders and pro-Israel Americans for not supporting the MOU and revealed that there have been “gentleman’s agreements” with Iranian officials, including some that are in writing, over details like Iran’s uranium stockpiles.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

- Secretary of State Marco Rubio plans to [travel](#) to Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) during the week of June 21, according to *Axios*’s Barak Ravid.

Iran

- 3 between America’s interests and Israeli interests, because they’re not always the same, but the second is always conflating criticism of a particular government with Jew hatred, because if everything is Jew hatred, then nothing is Jew hatred.”
- On June 18, Vice President Vance also criticized the Israeli response to the U.S.-Iran MOU, noting during his [press conference](#) that “Israel has the right to defend itself, but fundamentally the Israelis, just like everybody else, have to respect this peace process that is fundamentally good for them and good for the entire region.”
 - » He claimed that “you have seen people within Bibi [Netanyahu]’s cabinet who have come out and attacked the deal, and in some ways very personally attacked the president of the United States.” The vice president did not indicate who he was speaking about or any specific public comment from an Israeli official.
 - » Vice President Vance argued, “Donald J. Trump is the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time. And he happens to be the head of state of the world’s superpower. If I was in the cabinet of the Israeli government, I might not be attacking the only powerful ally that I have anywhere left in the entire world.”
- During a *New York Times* [interview](#) with Ross Douthat released on June 18, Vice President Vance stated that he “find[s] this whole freakout in Israel a little bit odd because I think that it comes from a place of mistrust, and I think that America has earned the trust of that region of the world.”
 - » He added that his “response to them would be: What is your exact proposal?... You can’t just kill your way out of solving every single national security problem that you have.”

- On June 18, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter [stated](#) that Israel is “hopeful that in these 60 days, the issue of ballistic missiles is also going to be discussed and hopefully terminated because Tehran is not like any other state in the region; they’re not like any other state altogether.”

Lebanon

- On the evening of June 19, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter [wrote](#) on X that “At 11:30 this morning, Israel halted all offensive operations; Hezbollah and Iranian claims to the contrary are bold lies,” adding, “If Hezbollah honors the agreement and ceases its hostilities, they will be met with quiet.”
 - » He continued, writing, “The end of Hezbollah will mark the beginning of a beautiful peace between our two countries,” adding that “Israel is in the security zone in southern Lebanon to rid the area of Hezbollah and dismantle its terror infrastructure. We will remain there until that mission is accomplished.”
 - » He also emphasized that “The people of Lebanon deserve a future free from Hezbollah’s grip, and a real, genuine peace between our two countries remains possible.”
- On June 19, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [responded](#) to Israeli strikes targeting Hezbollah operatives and infrastructure in Lebanon while ignoring Hezbollah’s constant attacks on Israeli troops, stating that the “killing and destruction constitute a dangerous escalation,” and that “It effectively targets all ongoing efforts to consolidate the ceasefire and end the war.”
- On June 19, President Aoun [held](#) a call with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The United States later published a readout of the call in which Aoun urged that “Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory [need] to cease through the achievement of a comprehensive ceasefire, which Lebanon considers a fundamental basis for advancing the Lebanese-US-Israeli negotiations scheduled to take place in Washington next week.”
 - » Secretary Rubio also reportedly “reaffirmed the United States’ full support for the Government of Lebanon’s efforts to create a fully sovereign Lebanese state that is at peace with all its neighbors.”
 - » Additionally, Secretary Rubio “underscored that Lebanon’s bilateral negotiations with Israel represent the only feasible path to reconstruction, economic recovery, and ending recurrent cycles of violence.”
 - » The readout also noted that “Rubio reiterated the need to disarm Hezbollah and to reestablish control over all Lebanese territory.”
- During his [press conference](#) on June 18, Vice President Vance claimed that “what the president gets very frustrated [with] sometimes is that we seem to be right on the cusp of a major breakthrough in the agreement, and then all of a sudden, there’s a major explosion that goes off in a civilian population center in Beirut, and a lot of people who have nothing to do with Hezbollah lose their lives. That’s not acceptable. That’s the sort of thing that we’ve asked for closer coordination so that we ensure it doesn’t happen.”
 - » Vice President Vance indicated, “we expect Hezbollah is not going to be firing rockets and firing drones at the Israelis. But we also expect that the Israelis are not going to be going wild in Lebanon,” while noting that “both sides have to honor their end of the deal.”
 - » He indicated that “what we’re going to want to see is the Lebanese government, the elected representatives of the people of Lebanon, who are able to police southern Lebanon so that Hezbollah has not taken over the country, the Israelis are not threatened, and then consequently the Israelis are not attacking southern Lebanon or Beirut either. That’s the plan there.”
- On June 18, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter [stated](#) that Israel is concerned about Lebanon’s inclusion in the MOU, while adding, “we can’t have Hezbollah on

our border, and we can't have Hezbollah continue to maintain tens of thousands of their terrorist fighters that try to infiltrate northern Israel and fire shoulder-to-shoulder missiles and killer drones into our communities. So, we're hopeful that Iran will not be allowed to dictate the future of Lebanon for [the] Lebanese and for Israel."

- Addressing Israel during his June 18 [press conference](#), Vice President Vance stated "Over the last three months, two-thirds of the defensive weapons that have protected your homeland have been built by American hands and paid for by American tax dollars."
 - » He added, "the problem for Israel is not Donald J. Trump... And anybody in Israel who thinks their biggest problem is the president of the United States needs to wake up and smell the reality of the situation that country is in."

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On June 18, the U.S. Treasury [sanctioned](#) Lebanese politician Sleiman Frangieh and Hezbollah Political Council Deputy Chairman Mahmoud Qamati, accusing them of supporting Hezbollah and obstructing Lebanon's peace process and the group's disarmament. The Treasury also expanded sanctions on a Hezbollah-associated business network operating across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Oman.

Lebanon

- On the evening of June 20, Israel's Channel 12 [announced](#) that Prime Minister Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz ordered the Israeli military to "hold its fire," as it operates in Lebanon.
 - » However, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has [announced](#) that it has been instructed to remain stationed inside the Israeli military's security zone in southern Lebanon. While it continues to combat Hezbollah inside this security zone, including a tunnel system in the area and the Ali Taher ridge, the IDF has "halted its fire" in other parts of Lebanon.
 - The IDF [confirmed](#) that it is "committed to the ceasefire agreement in accordance with the directives of the political echelon and will continue to act to remove any threat to the State of Israel and IDF troops."
- On June 20, the IDF [struck](#) numerous Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon after the group fired around 50 projectiles at Israeli soldiers in multiple overnight attacks.
 - » Despite the strikes, the IDF released a statement saying that it is "committed to the ceasefire agreement," but that the constant targeting of Israeli soldiers and civilians "constitute[s] repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement by the Hezbollah terror organization. The IDF will not accept harm to Israeli civilians and its forces, and will respond forcefully to any use of force against them."
- On the morning of June 20, Lebanese media [reported](#) that five people were killed as a result of an Israeli strike on the town of Arabsalim in southern Lebanon.
- A *Washington Post* [article](#) on June 19 indicated that U.S. intelligence believes Israeli actions to continue fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon could undermine U.S.-Iranian diplomatic efforts since upcoming elections in the fall may encourage Prime Minister Netanyahu to maintain a forceful posture.
- CNN reported on June 19 that the United States [informed](#) Iran that Israel does not plan to escalate its operations in Lebanon, while emphasizing that "Hezbollah violated the ceasefire" and that "it's up to Hezbollah to stop."
- On the morning of June 19, the IDF [bombed](#) several Hezbollah sites throughout southern Lebanon, targeting the group's fighters and infrastructure in response to rocket fire targeting Israeli troops.

- » The strikes reportedly resulted in the deaths of 16 people, according to Lebanese media, which does not report differences between combatant and civilian deaths.
- On June 19, Prime Minister Netanyahu [stated](#) on June 19 that Israel would remain in its security zone in southern Lebanon “for as long as necessary” following Hezbollah attacks that killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded others.
 - » Netanyahu said Israel had struck more than 80 Hezbollah targets in response and warned that Hezbollah would pay a “very heavy price” for attacks against Israeli forces and territory.
- On June 19, top spokesperson for the IDF and former JINSA Visiting Fellow Brigadier General Effie Defrin [stated](#) that Israeli forces retain “full freedom of action” in southern Lebanon and that “there is no limit” on operations to remove threats, despite the ceasefire with Hezbollah.
- Between the evening of June 18 and noon on June 19, the IDF [bombed](#) around 80 Hezbollah targets in eastern and southern Lebanon, including in the Beqaa Valley and Nabatieh.
 - » The targets the Israeli military struck included Hezbollah’s rocket launchers and command centers, as well as Hezbollah operatives.
- Overnight between June 18 and 19, the IDF responded to Hezbollah rocket fire by eliminating two Hezbollah operatives who were leaving a rocket launch site in southern Lebanon, while also destroying their launcher.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On June 20, Iran [announced](#) that it was again closing the Strait of Hormuz, citing Israeli military operations in Lebanon in violation of the MOU.
 - » Iran’s Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters stated that the closure was a “first step” in response to the breach and warned that additional measures could follow if Israeli operations continued.
 - » CENTCOM rejected Iran’s claim, [stating](#) that “Iran does not control the Strait of Hormuz,” that maritime traffic continued to flow through the waterway, and that U.S. forces [remained](#) “present and vigilant” to ensure compliance with the agreement.
- On June 19, Iran’s Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) [announced](#) that it would waive transit fees in the Strait of Hormuz during the 60-day negotiation period established under the MOU with the United States.
 - » Despite the fee waiver, the PGSA [stated](#) that vessels must still submit transit requests at least 48 hours in advance and coordinate routes and transit times with Iranian authorities before entering the waterway.
 - » On June 18, Iran’s Supreme National Security Council [declared](#) that the PGSA would issue expedited transit authorizations for vessels using the Strait of Hormuz and oversee navigation while mean-clearing operations are conducted under the MOU.
- On June 18, CENTCOM [announced](#) that “all U.S. military blockade enforcement efforts have ceased” and that maritime traffic is once again permitted to enter and exit Iranian ports and coastal areas, while U.S. naval forces remain in the region to oversee implementation of the agreement.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Israel

- On June 20, Hezbollah launched several attacks on Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon.

- » On the evening of June 20, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Yechiel Leiter revealed on X that over the past day, Hezbollah [launched](#) 176 projectiles at Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon, including 147 rockets, 20 drones, and 9 anti-tank missiles.
- » Hezbollah [asserted](#) that while it has “adhered to the ceasefire,” it fired at troops overnight that it claimed were seeking to seize the Ali Taher ridge near the city of Nabatieh.
 - Hezbollah also stated that “alongside its commitment to the ceasefire, it will not tolerate any attempt by the enemy to seize land and expand its occupation.”
- Overnight between June 19 and 20, Hezbollah [fired](#) several rockets and an explosive drone at Israeli tanks in southern Lebanon, killing five soldiers in two separate incidents.
 - » One of the attacks targeted a tank, killing four soldiers, including Lt.-Col. Dor Gedalia Ben Simhon, St.-Sgt Yoav Klein, [St.-Sgt Liav Kababia](#), and [St-Sgt. Nave Habshoosh](#).
 - » Another attack targeted a separate tank, killing Sgt. First Class Nir Ben Ari.
- On the evening of June 18, Hezbollah [launched](#) numerous rockets at Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon, with the IDF intercepting some of the projectiles and the other projectiles impacting near the soldiers, but failing to cause injuries.

Iraq

- Reuters [reported](#) on June 19 that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has established covert cells in Iraq that report directly to Tehran and operate outside traditional militia command structures in order to conduct attacks against U.S. interests and Gulf partners.
 - » According to the report, the cells launched at least seven drone attacks against targets in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates between April 20 and May 17.

6. Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations

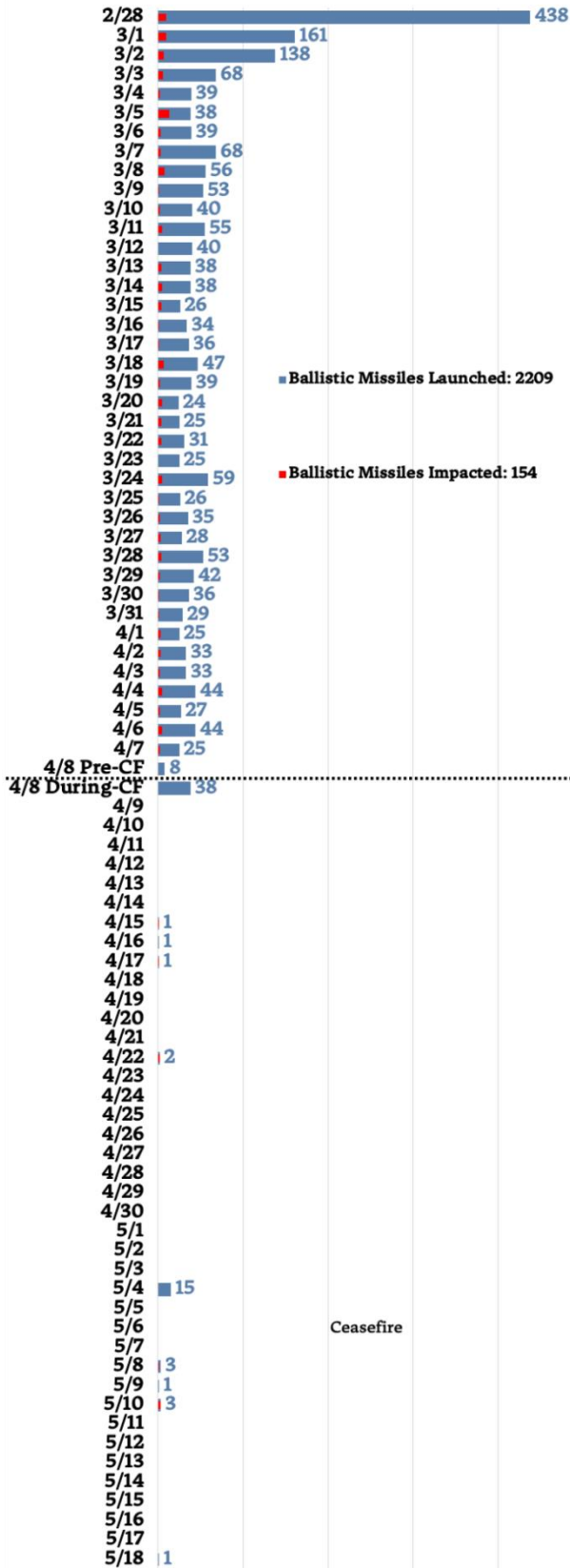
- Thirteen U.S. service members have died during Operation Epic Fury.
 - » An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) six U.S. servicemembers at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait on March 1: Maj. Jeffrey O’Brien, 45; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, 54; Capt. Cody Khorak, 35; Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, 39; Sgt. 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 63 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 33 of these [casualties](#) include Israeli soldiers and one defense contractor killed while fighting Hezbollah.

- » On June 19, five Israeli soldiers were [killed](#) in two separate incidents after Hezbollah attacked their positions 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 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 4,057 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 12,120 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.

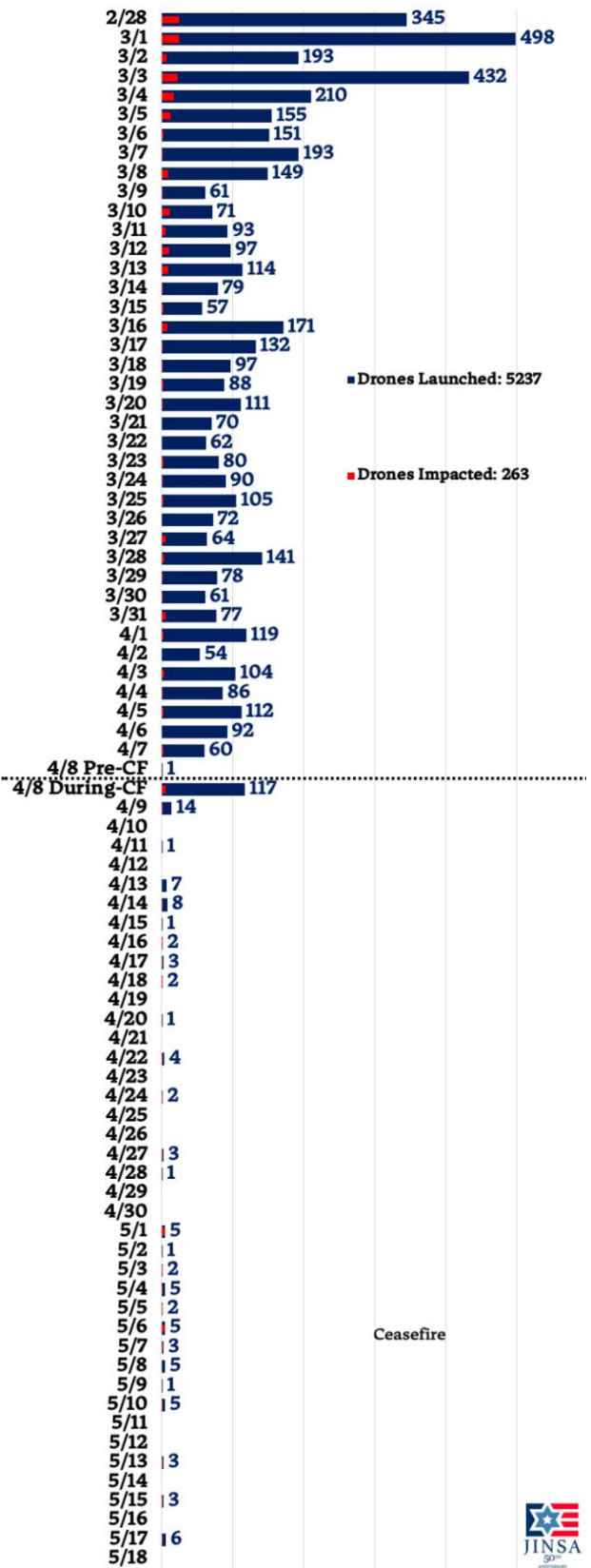
7. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

- On June 19, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [posted](#) to X after Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir claimed that “all Lebanon must burn” in response to four Israeli soldiers being killed in a Hezbollah attack earlier in the day, writing, “This is not a rant by a random genocidal lunatic. It’s a public post by the national security minister of the Israeli regime. The genocidal death cult headquartered in Tel Aviv is a threat to all of humanity. It threatens all humans. Its only interest is permanent war.”
- On June 19, Iran [criticized](#) Israeli operations in Lebanon, with officials blaming the United States for the continued IDF strikes on Hezbollah targets.
 - » Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei demanded that the ceasefire in Lebanon be respected and that Iran would take “all necessary measures” to protect its interests in the region.
- On June 19, Hezbollah [defended](#) its attacks against Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon, claiming, “The Islamic Resistance will remain vigilant against any aggression. Its fighters will defend their land and people,” and adding that “the enemy has never complied with any ceasefire agreement.”

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day



8. JINSA Resources

- Blaise Misztal, [*Uncertifiable and Illegal, but Probably Unstoppable: Congress Must Review the Iran MOU*](#), June 17, 2026
- 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 4, 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