



Iran War Update: July 15, 2026

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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 over a 60-day period of further negotiations. However, on July 8, President Donald Trump [declared](#) the MOU to be “over,” and both sides have resumed exchanging fire. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA’s last update](#) as of July 15 at 10:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 U.S.-Iran MOU announcement: **At least 175** (55 on July 13–14)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 626** (at least 13 between July 13–July 14)

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **20.1**

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz prior to the Iran war: **138**

1. Overview

- Overnight on July 14, the United States conducted a [seven-hour wave](#) of strikes against Iran, and conducted additional strikes on July 15 during a [90-minute wave](#), with targets including missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, coastal defense systems, and cruise missile storage and launch sites located on Greater Tunb Island.
- On July 14–15, Iran launched attacks against Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan. The 50 projectiles that Iran launched on July 14 was the largest daily fire since the ceasefire began on April 8.
 - » The escalation was largely due to Iran launching 36 drones—also the highest number since the ceasefire started—with 33 [targeting](#) Kuwait alone.
- On July 14, President Trump [reportedly](#) held a Situation Room briefing with his national security team to discuss a potential major U.S. offensive against Iran in the coming days.
 - » Reportedly, the planned targets include Iran’s strategic assets rather than air defenses and missile sites, as U.S. strikes in recent days have focused on.
 - » The new strike campaign, according to *Axios*, would aim to force the Iranian regime to capitulate to the United States on key issues like the Strait of Hormuz and Iran’s nuclear program.

- On July 15, *The Times of Israel*'s Lazar Berman [reported](#) that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will leave for the United States on July 18 and may meet with President Trump on July 20 before attending Senator Lindsey Graham's funeral on July 21.
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit will occur shortly before Lebanese President Joseph Aoun meets with President Trump on July 22.
- On July 15, the sixth round of U.S.-brokered direct talks between Israel and Lebanon [concluded](#) in Rome.
- In a Fox News interview on July 14, President Trump [stated](#) that the United States will hit Iran "very hard" that night and on Wednesday and Thursday night, sharing that "next week it gets really bad for them," as the United States will start striking Iran's bridges and power plants.
 - » He noted, "We're going to knock out all their power plants. We're going to knock out all their bridges unless they get to the table and negotiate," adding, "I'll save the energy targets for last, but ultimately we'll hit energy targets."
- In remarks to reporters on July 14, President Trump [backtracked](#) on his proposal one day earlier to charge a fee for securing the Strait of Hormuz, stating that "I don't think anybody should be able to charge a fee," though he added that "it's not fair that we're protecting this Strait for the entire world."
 - » He noted that regional leaders had called him to propose another arrangement: investing in the United States "with billions and billions of dollars."
 - » Earlier on July 14, President Trump [wrote](#) on Truth Social, "Based on highly productive conversations with Middle East leadership, I have decided to replace the 20% United States Reimbursement Fee with Trade and Investment Deals that the various Gulf States will be making into the United States."
- On July 14, *Axios* [reported](#) that President Trump had pressured Prime Minister Netanyahu to redeploy Israeli troops out of Lebanon and Syria during a phone call between the two leaders on July 9.
 - » According to July 15 reporting from *Israel Hayom*, during a July 7 meeting, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [strongly urged](#) President Trump to pressure Israel into withdrawing all its troops from Lebanon and Syria.
 - » It is unclear if Erdogan's alleged statements contributed to President Trump reportedly urging Israel to withdraw its forces two days later.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- In a Fox News interview on July 14, when asked what message the United States had shared with Iran, President Trump [stated](#), "You better make a deal. You're not going to have anybody left. We're being very careful with the civilian population, but you better make a deal [or] you're not going to have anything left."

Lebanon

- In direct talks in Rome on July 15, Israel and Lebanon [discussed](#) a verification mechanism to ensure that pilot zones that the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) will be responsible for securing have no Hezbollah militants or weapons, according to Lebanese outlet *Al Jadeed*.
 - » Disarmament in pilot zones will be verified by a third party, possibly United Nations (UN) forces. However, Israel and Lebanon did not reach an agreement on who would take on this role.

- » Lebanese officials speaking to *Al Jadeed* noted that Beirut is pressing for pilot zones to be implemented “as soon as possible,” at the latest, within one week.
- » The first pilot zone will encompass “the villages Zatar El-Gharbiyeh, Zatar El-Sharqiya, Ghandouriyeh, Froun, Srifa, and Burj Qalaouiyah,” which are located on the Litani River’s northern and southern banks.
- According to a statement on July 15, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [remarked](#) that “The framework formula is the best possible and has begun to yield its effects, and Washington has started to listen to us, with the Lebanese file now on the US president’s table.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On July 15, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [conducted](#) several strikes on Iranian regime targets, including defense systems along the Iranian coast and facilities for storing and launching missiles on the country’s Greater Tunb Island.
 - » According to Iranian state news, U.S. forces also [struck](#) three sites in Bushehr—the city hosting Iran’s civilian nuclear plant.
- During a seven-hour wave of strikes on July 14, “U.S. fighter aircraft, drones, and naval vessels launched precision munitions against Iranian missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, and coastal defense systems,” according to a [statement](#) from CENTCOM.
- On July 14, House Speaker Mike Johnson [shared](#) that Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth would brief Republican Representatives that night to discuss the White House’s defense spending request of over \$350 billion.
- The Treasury Department [announced](#) sanctions on July 14 targeting the network of Mohammad Hossein Shamkhani, which “remains a major force behind Iran’s oil exports and has expanded into global containerized shipping and commodities trading.”
- On July 14, Israel’s *Ynet News* site reported that CENTCOM officials were [frustrated](#) with Israeli Transportation Minister Miri Regev’s announcement capping the number of U.S. aerial refueling tankers deployed to Ben Gurion Airport at 20 aircraft due to the need to have space for commercial traffic.
 - » *Ynet* reported that one senior Israeli official claimed, “the American request is justified ... The refueling aircraft are a strategic asset for the United States in the region and an integral part of the joint preparations against Iran. From an operational standpoint, it is important that they be able to operate under the conditions set by the Americans.”

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping

- On July 15, CENTCOM [stated](#) that it had redirected two ships during the first 17 hours of the U.S. blockade against Iranian ports being reinstated.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On July 14 and 15, Iranian forces carried out several attacks on Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, and ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » Bahrain
 - On July 15, Bahraini forces [shot down](#) several Iranian projectiles targeting the Gulf nation.

- » Jordan
 - On July 15, Jordanian forces [intercepted](#) three Iranian missiles in the early morning hours.
- » Kuwait
 - In the afternoon on July 14, Kuwait’s Ministry of Defense [announced](#) that throughout the day, its forces intercepted several hostile Iranian projectiles targeting the Gulf country, including 33 drones, five cruise missiles, and one ballistic missile.
 - Additionally, Iran [fired](#) at a Kuwaiti Navy vessel on July 14, wounding four troops in the attack.
 - Footage published on the night of July 14 [depicted](#) an Iranian Shahed-136 drone striking a target in Kuwait.
- » Strait of Hormuz
 - On the evening of July 14, CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [announced](#) that “Over the past seven days, Iran has intentionally targeted civilians across the region by attacking seven commercial ships resulting in nearly a dozen civilian crew members killed, missing, or injured.”
 - On July 14, Iranian forces [launched](#) attacks on two commercial tankers transiting the Strait of Hormuz, with the death toll rising to two people.
 - Several other crew members were wounded in the attacks.
- On July 14, the *Financial Times* [reported](#) that Iranian forces likely tracked American troops and contractors operating in the Middle East by exploiting vulnerable, outdated phone signals.

6. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian and Proxy Officials

- On July 15, Iran’s army [announced](#) that it would deliver a “decisive response” after seven Iranian troops were killed overnight in U.S. strikes on a military base in the city of Bampur.
- On July 14, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [warned](#) that, as long as the United States continued to carry out “evil actions” in the Middle East, “not a single drop of oil and gas” would be exported from the region.
 - » The IRGC added that continued American “aggressions” would only delay the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.
- On July 14, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi [told](#) Iranian state media that Iranian responses to U.S. strikes “will not be proportional; rather, it will make them regret it.”
 - » He also [stated](#) that the Strait of Hormuz is integral to Iran’s national security and that Tehran would exercise sovereignty over the waterway at whatever cost.

7. International Response

- On July 15, the U.A.E’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs [condemned](#) Iran’s overnight attacks targeting Jordan, Bahrain, and Kuwait, criticizing Tehran for violating the sovereignty of the three nations.
- On July 14, the United Kingdom [summoned](#) Iran’s chargé d’affaires after British authorities linked the IRGC to several attacks on European targets earlier this year.

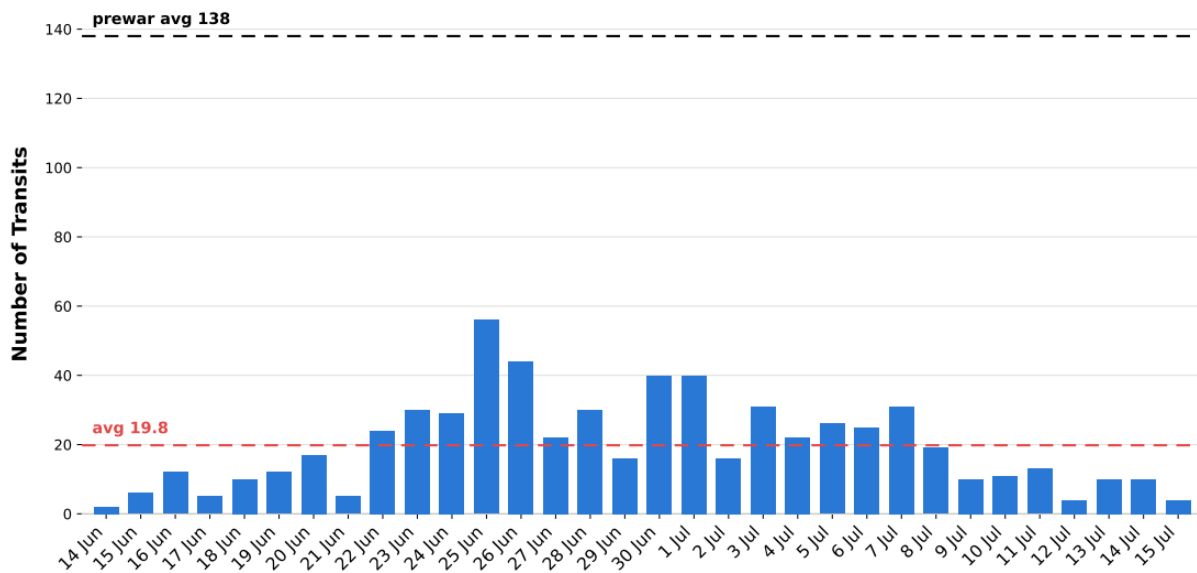
Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations



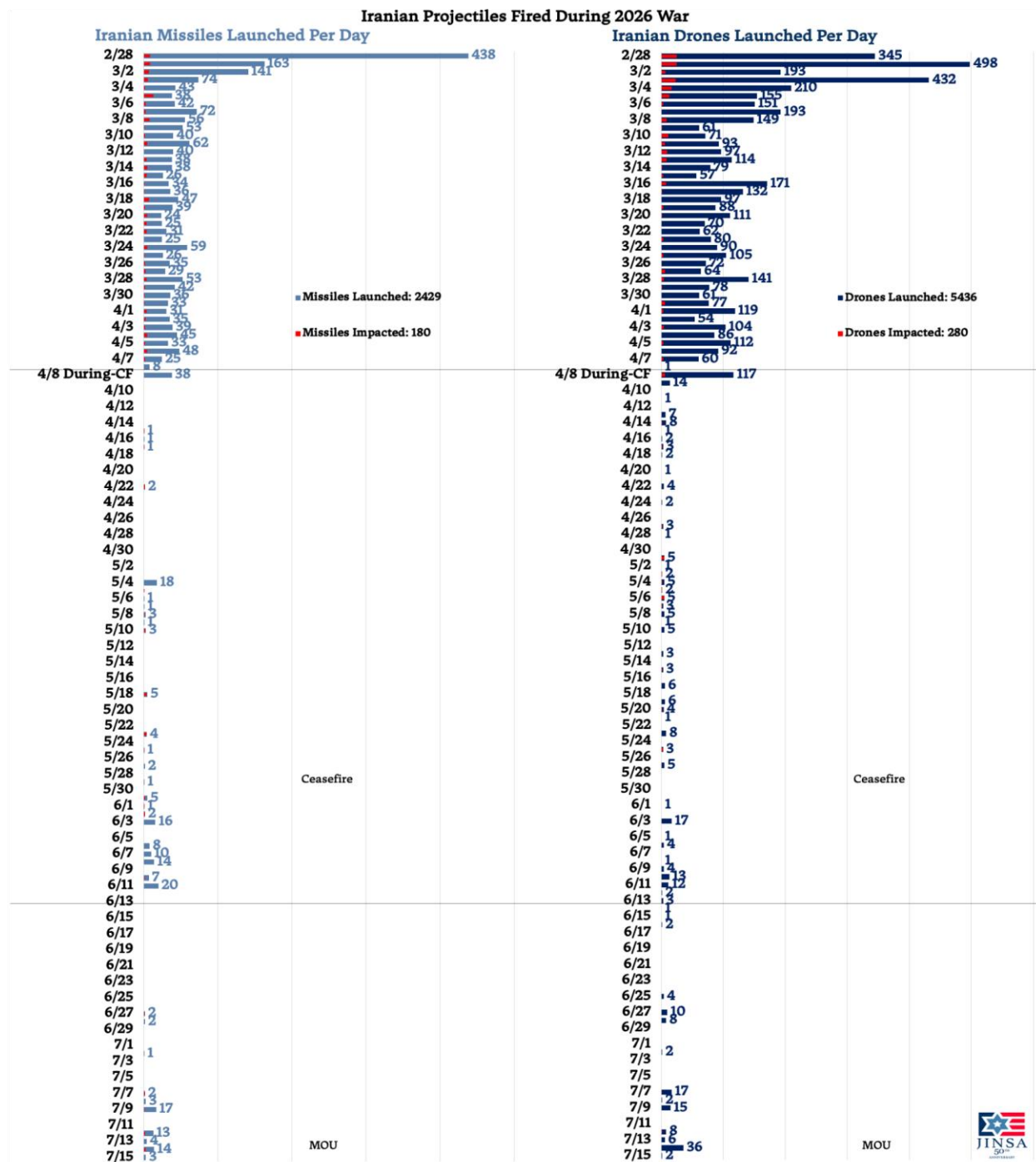
Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	14	400+	10 seriously wounded; 354+ returned to duty
Israel	65+	7,795+	Killed include 26 civilians and 39 killed fighting Hezbollah (38 soldiers, 1 contractor)
Iran	3,680+	26,500+	Includes 1,221+ military; Iran International reports 4,700+ security personnel killed
Azerbaijan	—	4	All civilians
Bahrain	3	46	Killed include a Moroccan contractor; injured include 5 Emirati soldiers
Iraq	119	Several	Includes 20 in Iraqi Kurdistan
Jordan	—	31+	
Kuwait	8	161+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,324	12,221	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	20	Killed occurred in March 22 helicopter crash
Saudi Arabia	3	23	Killed include 1 Saudi national and 2 foreign nationals
Syria	4+	Several	
United Arab Emirates	12	230	
International Waters	10	Several	

Data compiled by JINSA from various sources.

Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



Figures derived from Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA.



8. JINSA Resources

- Yoni Tobin, [Oil For Tehran, Not Us: Removing Iran's Strait Jacket on Global Energy Flows](#), July 8, 2026
- John Hannah, "[How Trump Can Win Back Allies and Rejuvenate U.S. Diplomacy on Iran](#)," *The Hill*, July 5, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [Getting on Base: Israel is the Solution to Vulnerability of U.S. Bases in the Gulf](#), July 2, 2026
- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, [The Unmaking of America's Persian Gulf Order](#), June 26, 2026

- Jonathan Ruhe, [How the MOU's "Nuclear Status Quo" Negates a Good Iran Deal](#), June 24, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, John Hannah, Blaise Misztal, and Jonathan Ruhe, [Reversal of Fortunes: The U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding](#), June 23, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, ["Trump Went to War to End Iran's Missile Threat. Now He Endorses It,"](#) *Jewish News Syndicate*, June 23, 2026
- [Infographic - The Iran MOU: Did the U.S. Understand the Assignment?](#), June 18, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, ["Epic Fury Ends with a Flop,"](#) *Jewish News Syndicate*, June 17, 2026
- 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 5, 2026