



Iran War Update: July 23, 2026

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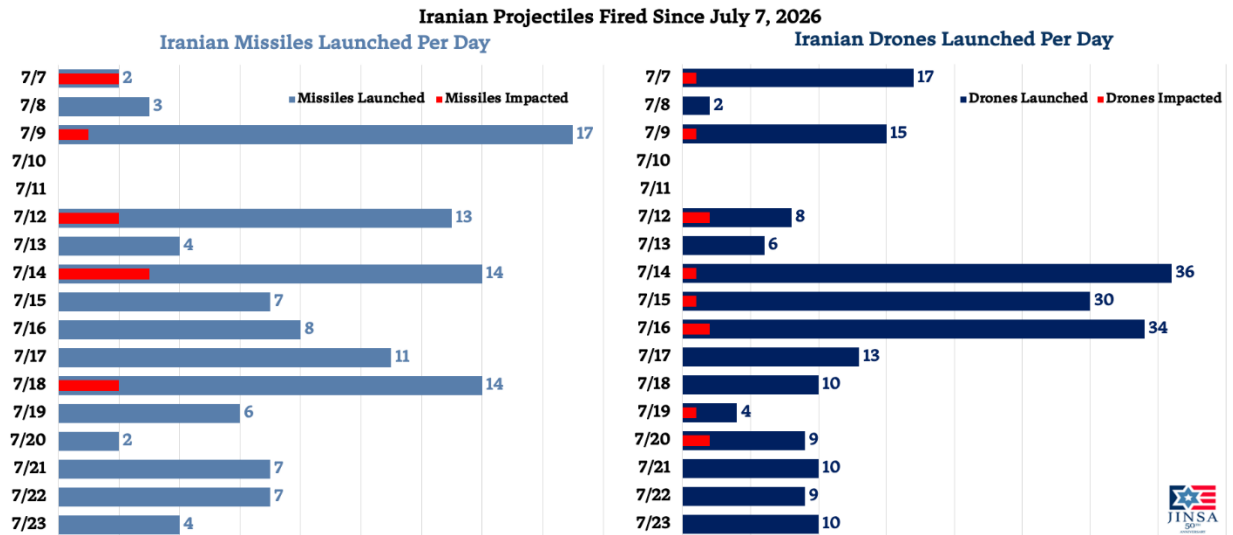
President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 17, outlining terms to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz over a 60-day period of further negotiations. However, on July 8, President Trump [declared](#) the MOU to be “over,” and both sides have resumed exchanging fire. JINSA continues to re-release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of July 23 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 332** (30 between July 22–23)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **\$100.50 a barrel as of 10 am ET** (peak of \$100.77)

1. Overview

- On July 23, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that since the U.S. campaign against the Houthis ended in May 2025, “they have acted very responsibly.” However, he cautioned that if the Houthis shoot at ships again, as they did on July 22, “the U.S. will hold Iran responsible, in that the Houthis are a Surrogate and/or Proxy of Iran, and major military punishment will be inflicted upon Iran and, of course, the Houthis, themselves.”
- On July 22, the Houthis launched projectiles that [hit](#) two Saudi crude oil tankers in the Red Sea, the first attacks by the group since it declared a [blockade](#) of Saudi Arabia on July 20.
- On July 22, in the twelfth consecutive night of U.S. strikes on Iran, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) strikes hit “Iranian military targets including maritime capabilities, missile and drone storage facilities, coastal surveillance sites, and air defense assets,” according to a [statement](#) from CENTCOM.
- On July 22, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that a review of public satellite imagery indicates Iran was able to “inflict damage on precise targets” in its drone and missile attacks on nine U.S. military sites across the Middle East over the past two weeks.
- On July 22, the U.S. House of Representatives [passed](#) its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2027 in a vote of 216 in favor to 212 against.
 - » The NDAA authorized a record \$1.5 trillion for defense spending, and included provisions that would strengthen U.S.-Israel security cooperation.
- Reuters [reported](#) on July 22 that Iranian strikes on CIA sites located in the Gulf have led American intelligence analysts to investigate possible Russian targeting or technology assistance.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On July 23, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [discussed](#) the stalled negotiations, telling Iranian state media that “The problem is the American approach, which is irrational, excessive, and domineering.” He added, “Until they understand that there is no alternative to respecting Iran’s people and their interests, there will not be the conditions for progress.”
- *Axios* [reported](#) on July 22 that Qatari mediators continue talking with the United States, Iran, and Oman in an attempt to reach a new ceasefire agreement that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, citing sources familiar with the matter.
- On July 22, President Trump [remarked](#) at a rally that Iran is “getting hit so hard, and they want to make a deal.” However, he noted, “they’re not ready to make a deal. Because every time they make a deal they want to change it and everything.”
 - » President Trump added that “They’ll be ready very soon.”
 - » He also claimed that “We [the United States] don’t need the Hormuz Strait, but we do it [target Iranian capabilities along the Strait] because we have to do it because we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon.”

Yemen

- On July 23, the Omani Foreign Ministry [announced](#) in a statement that it is coordinating with Saudi Arabia, parties in Yemen, and the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen “with the aim of resuming the political track and roadmap to achieve security and stability in the region.”
- On July 22, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jasem Al Budaiwi [condemned](#) Houthi threats to restrict shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in remarks to the United Nations Security Council, stating that “This is a dangerous escalation ... and a direct threat to the freedom of international navigation and to the security of one of the world’s most strategically important maritime choke points.”
 - » He added, “We call for a firm international response that unequivocally rejects these Houthi threats.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On the evening of July 22, CENTCOM [announced](#) on X that for the twelfth night in a row, American forces launched strikes on key Iranian military targets, including “maritime capabilities, missile and drone storage facilities, coastal surveillance sites, and air defense assets.”
 - » U.S. forces also reportedly [struck](#) the Shalamcheh border crossing connecting Iran and Iraq.
 - According to Iran’s Tasmin News Agency, the overnight strikes [resulted](#) in the death of an Iranian army communications officer.
 - » Iranian media also reported strikes and explosions occurring in cities across Iran overnight and into the morning, including [Ahvaz](#), [Andimeshk](#), [Bushehr](#), [Islamabad-e Gharb](#), [Jask](#), [Konarak](#), [Ramshir](#), and [Sirik](#).
- U.S. officials cited by *Axios* on July 22 [said](#) that U.S. forces utilized a B-1 bomber for strikes on Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) assets the day prior.
 - » This was the first time that a B-1 bomber was used in strikes on Iran since the resumption of fighting earlier this month.
- On July 22, Israel’s Kan public broadcaster [reported](#) that U.S. officials have spoken to their Israeli counterparts regarding their plans to increase operations against the Iranian regime in the coming days, which would entail deploying heavy bombers to potentially strike Iran’s nuclear facility at Pickaxe Mountain.
- On July 22, *Axios* [reported](#) that Mossad Director Roman Gofman traveled to Washington earlier in the month to discuss the Iran war with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Ratcliffe and other White House officials during his first visit to Washington since taking office in June.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- According to a [statement](#) from CENTCOM on July 22, so far in July, U.S. forces have redirected nine commercial ships and disabled one vessel to maintain the U.S. blockade on Iranian ports.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Bahrain

- On the morning of July 23, air raid sirens [sounded](#) in Bahrain, warning of an incoming Iranian attack on the Gulf nation.

Iraq

- On July 22, five explosive-laden drones were [intercepted](#) over Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Jordan

- On July 23, Jordan’s military [shot down](#) six drones and ballistic missiles fired at the kingdom by Iran.
 - » Iranian forces claimed to have targeted American military assets during the attack, including a Patriot system, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system, a helicopter hangar, and a C-RAM radar.

Kuwait

- On July 23, a drone [struck](#) the Abdali border crossing between Kuwait and Iraq, resulting in damage to the area.

Maritime

- On July 23, the Iran-backed Houthis [claimed](#) to have targeted two Saudi oil tankers, the En-celia and Layla, with missiles and drones for “their violation of the blockade” against the kingdom.
 - » The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [reported](#) it received notification of a tanker being struck by an unspecified projectile off the coast of Shuqaiq, Saudi Arabia.

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

- On July 23, Iranian army spokesperson Mohammad Akraminia [warned](#) that “The armed forces’ retaliatory attacks will continue as long as the US attacks on the country’s infrastructure and coastal areas continue,” insisting Iran is prepared for “every enemy scenario.”
- On July 22, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [responded](#) to President Trump’s threats to bomb Iranian infrastructure, writing on X that “Our defense doctrine is clear: eye for an eye. Any aggression against Iran, including our infrastructure, will compel a powerful and decisive response.”

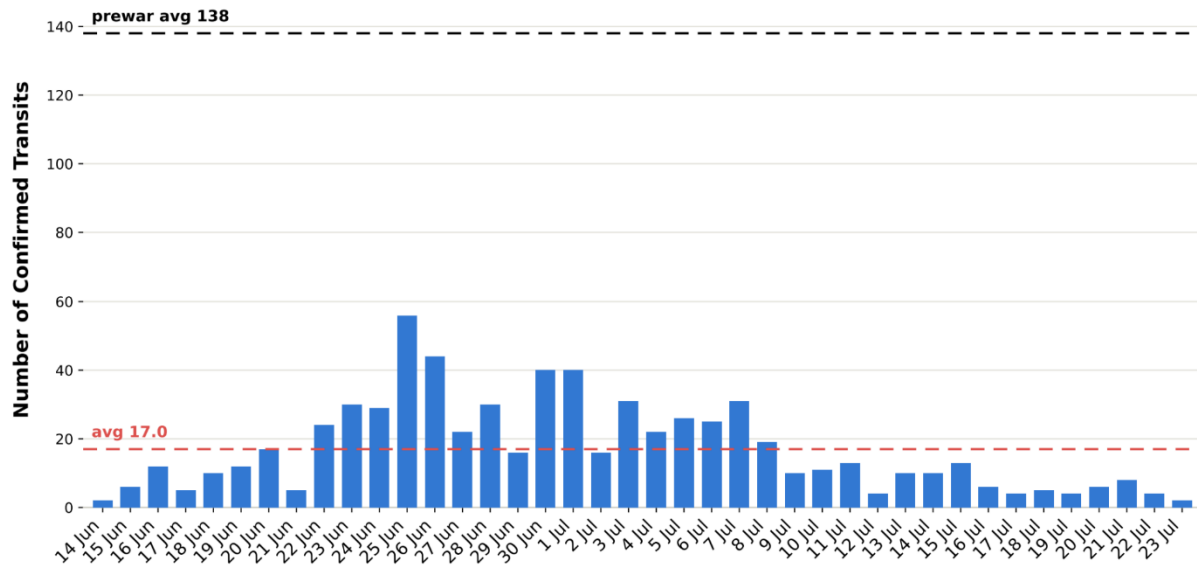
7. International Response

- On July 23, Greece [approved](#) the procurement of Achilles’ Shield, a \$4 billion multi-layer air defense system. Israeli radars and missile systems from Rafael and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will form the core of the anti-ballistic, anti-aircraft, and anti-drone system.
- On July 22, the United Kingdom temporarily [withdrew](#) its diplomatic staff from its embassy in Tehran, citing the volatile security situation in Iran.

Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations			JINSA
Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	18	500+	1 missing; 10 seriously wounded; 100 wounded in July; 358+ returned to duty
Israel	65+	7,795+	Killed include 26 civilians and 39 killed fighting Hezbollah (38 soldiers, 1 contractor)
Iran	3,720+	26,580+	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	127	Several	Includes 28 in Iraqi Kurdistan
Jordan	—	31+	
Kuwait	8	161+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,328	12,232	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	23	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

- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Arsenal of Procrastination: The United States Must Expand Munitions Production, Not Merely Replenish](#), July 21, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, [“The Long, Dark Shadow of the Iran Nuclear Deal,”](#) *The Dispatch*, July 17, 2026
- 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