



Iran War Update: July 25–27, 2026

Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Rena Gabber
Research Associate

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 release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of July 27 at 11:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 366** (2 between July 25–27)

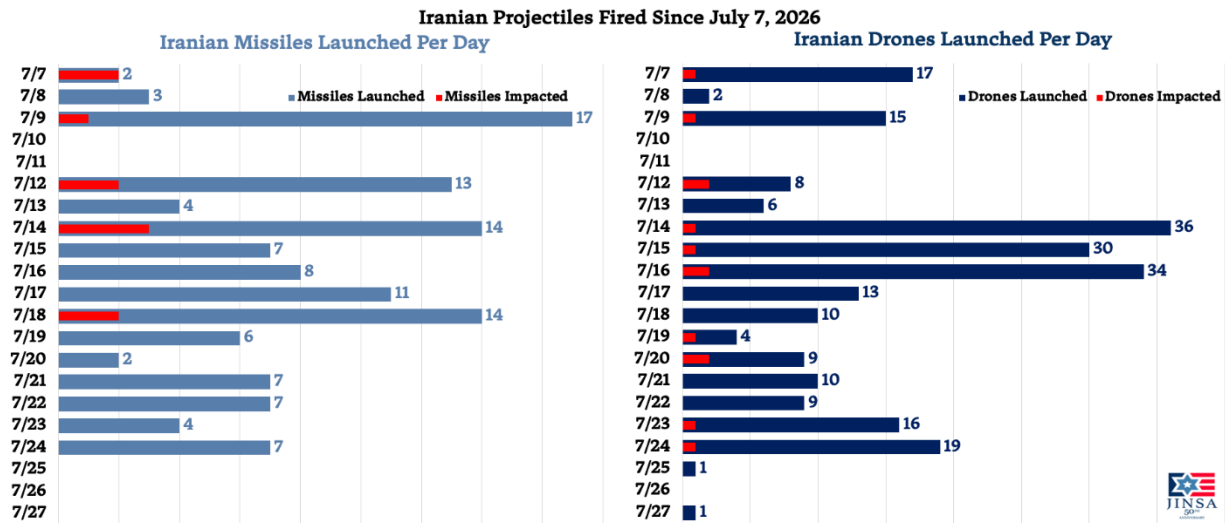
Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$89.48 a barrel](#)** as of **11:20 am ET** ([day range](#): \$87.55–93.60)

1. Overview

- On July 24, President Trump [ordered](#) the U.S. military to refrain from conducting new strikes against Iran, following thirteen consecutive nights of U.S. strikes.
- In recent days, media outlets indicated that President Trump's decision to pause the [planned escalation](#) of strikes against Iran stemmed from concerns over diminishing U.S. munitions stockpiles and a military assessment that the campaign was reaching the limit of its effectiveness.
 - » On July 27, President Donald Trump [told](#) *Axios* that he paused U.S. strikes on Iraq at the request of mediators to allow negotiations another chance, but warned he was prepared to resume “very strong military action” if diplomacy failed.
 - » Also on July 27, *Axios* [reported](#) that Commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Admiral Brad Cooper told President Donald Trump that American military strikes had severely degraded Iranian capabilities but that the United States should stop its bombing campaign near the Strait of Hormuz because it had already hit most of the targets.
 - Admiral Cooper suggested that the United States could resume major combat operations to hit the 20 percent of targets it had not struck during Operation Epic Fury, but advised that unless it pursued this escalation, the United States should not continue the bombing campaign against Iranian sites along the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » In an interview with CBS News on July 26, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (U.N.) Mike Waltz [noted](#) that the halt in strikes against Iran is “giving diplomacy some space” and “a little bit of time” to be effective. However, he noted that more U.S. military assets are entering the region.
 - » According to reporting from [The New York Times](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#) over the weekend, President Trump's decision to put aside plans for a significant escalation in

Iran came amid concerns of further depletion of the already reduced U.S. stockpile of interceptors and air defenses.

- President Trump [challenged](#) the reporting, telling *The Wall Street Journal* that “we have far more munitions than anyone in the world, and far more than we need.”
- While Iran de-escalated its fire against Bahrain and Kuwait on July 25–27, it continued to target locations in Iraqi Kurdistan and its proxies in Iraq and Yemen escalated [attacks](#) against Red Sea shipping and Saudi Arabia, including hitting oil facilities in Abqaiq, Yanbu and Jazan.
- On July 25, Yemen’s internationally recognized [government](#) announced it had struck Houthi weapons depots and missile and drone launch facilities, following strikes late the previous night by the Saudi-led [coalition](#) that targeted Houthi assets threatening shipping through the Red Sea.
- On July 25, Israel’s Channel 12 [reported](#) that during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s upcoming meeting with President Trump on July 28, the Israelis intend to share new intelligence on Iranian nuclear and military reconstitution and Iran’s efforts to move toward nuclear weapons capability.
 - » On July 25, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that U.S. intelligence believes Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is more willing to pursue nuclear weapons than his father and predecessor Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.
- On July 25, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [posted](#) on X that, “Since the beginning of July, we have recorded active Russian satellite surveillance of the Gulf states and U.S. military facilities located there. These images subsequently appear in Iran. At the same time, there is a clear correlation between Russia’s satellite imagery of these sites and Iranian strikes—both before the attacks, in preparation for them, and afterward, to assess the damage inflicted.”
- On July 25, U.S. officials who spoke with *The Wall Street Journal* [indicated](#) that Iran has continued to improve its ballistic missiles to thwart air defenses. Since fighting escalated in July, Iran reportedly fired Kheiber Sheikhan missiles along “different flight paths, maneuvers and speeds to try to confuse U.S. defenses.”
- On July 24, NBC News [reported](#) that the United States had chosen [not to intercept](#) some Iranian missiles and drones targeting areas without U.S. troops—even if they could hit base infrastructure—in order to maintain its shrinking stockpile of air defense interceptors.
 - » This included not intercepting Iranian projectiles that the United States would have previously tried to shoot down.
- On July 24, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Bahrain and Kuwait secretly conducted airstrikes against military targets inside Iran earlier in July, marking their first direct military retaliation against Tehran. During the operation, the United Arab Emirates reportedly provided intelligence and defensive air cover.
 - » Following publication, Kuwait denied claims of participating in any military operations against Iran.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On July 26, President Trump [posted](#) a photo generated by artificial intelligence (AI) depicting U.S. warplanes conducting strikes against Iran’s Kharg Island energy terminal.
 - » As JINSA has previously [noted](#), the Kharg Island export facility is “responsible for the vast majority of Iranian oil exports.” Energy exports are a leading source of revenue for the Iranian regime.
- On July 27, *The Washington Times* [reported](#), citing regional officials, that Pakistani and Qatari mediators are making “significant progress” in advancing U.S.-Iran negotiations, particularly regarding a potential Iran-Oman joint mechanism for future control of the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » Another regional official told the Associated Press that day that U.S. and Iranian leaders are privately indicating they [want to reach a diplomatic agreement](#).
- On July 27, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei [stated](#) that the United States had not been involved in talks between Iran and Oman on July 24–25 regarding management of the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » Baghaei previously [shared](#) that in talks at the end of last week, Iran and Oman discussed “common principles and operational mechanisms for managing the safe passage of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz while respecting the sovereign rights of the two coastal states.”
 - » Baghaei noted political and technical discussions between Iran and Oman will continue in the future.
 - » He also stated that the status of shipping through the Strait remains unchanged.
- On July 26, Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa [spoke](#) by phone with Israeli President Isaac Herzog to discuss regional developments and bilateral relations under the Abraham Accords. The Bahraini monarch initiated the call amid ongoing Iranian attacks on Bahrain.
- Speaking to the press on July 24, President Trump [remarked](#) that U.S.-Iran talks to end the conflict are continuing, adding, “I think ... they are being by far the most serious that we’ve seen them, but that doesn’t mean we get there. We’ll see what happens.”
 - » President Trump noted, “There’s a military exit where we just keep going just the way we are, and we can even make it a heavier dose, and it’s knocking out everything they

have.” Alternatively, he added, “there’s a smarter strategy, and that’s you make a deal. And they want to make a deal. I just don’t think they’re ready yet.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- In an interview with Fox News on July 26, Prime Minister Netanyahu [said](#) the conflict with Iran would end only when the regime either collapses or abandons its nuclear program, adding that, “with a deal or without a deal,” Tehran’s nuclear program “must come to an end.”
- On July 24, President Trump [ordered](#) the U.S. military to refrain from conducting new strikes against Iran, following thirteen consecutive nights of U.S. strikes.
 - » According to *Axios* [reporting](#), President Trump decided to hold off on another night of strikes against Iran in order to facilitate diplomacy and due to his recognition that more strikes at the current level would not be effective—unless the United States returned to major combat operations.
 - Two sources told *Axios* that while planning in the U.S. military for a potential return to major combat operations is ongoing, President Trump has not ordered the military to proceed on that path.
 - Israeli officials cited by *Axios* said that the Israeli security cabinet and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) expected the United States to continue strikes against Iran and had prepared for a major U.S. escalation.
 - » *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) on July 26 that the United States held off on a major escalation to allow time for diplomacy with Iran on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and as U.S. officials raised concerns about the depletion of U.S. munitions.
 - According to several officials speaking to *The Wall Street Journal*, CENTCOM Commander Adm. Brad Cooper thinks that the U.S. military could handle a decreased interceptor stockpile because more significant U.S. strikes, if approved, would inhibit Iran’s ability to fire large quantities of missiles.
 - According to July 25 reporting from *The New York Times*, citing U.S. officials, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine [warned](#) in private conversations that renewing major combat operations, while doable, would dangerously reduce the supply of interceptors that CENTCOM could use.

Lebanon

- On July 26, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) [accused](#) Israel on X of destroying homes and infrastructure, damaging a Litani River water project, burning agricultural land, and firing near Lebanese military positions in southern Lebanon, which the LAF said impeded its operations.

Strait of Hormuz

- On July 24, *Axios* [reported](#) that the United States and United Kingdom are planning to hold an international conference about the Strait of Hormuz during the week of July 27.

Yemen

- On July 25, Yemen’s internationally recognized, Saudi-backed air force [launched](#) several air-strikes on Houthi weapons depots, as well as missile and drone launch facilities in Yemen’s Marib and al-Jawf provinces.
- On July 25, Saudi military spokesman Turki al-Maliki [announced](#) that the Saudi-led coalition carried out several strikes on Houthi facilities in Yemen that the group uses to disrupt Red Sea shipping, declaring on X that their “military response is now over.”

- » Later that day, Houthi media [reported](#) that Saudi forces carried out strikes on telecommunications facilities in the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, as well as sites on Karaman island.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- According to Kpler data cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, 7 commercial ships [passed](#) through the Strait of Hormuz on July 26, including 3 oil tankers linked to Iran, following the transit of 3 vessels on July 25 and 7 on July 24 through the strait.
 - » The data also showed that 11 commercial vessels, including 7 oil tankers, transited Bab el-Mandeb on July 26—the lowest number of ships passing through the chokepoint in months.
- On July 25, CENTCOM [announced](#) that U.S. forces redirected 12 commercial vessels attempting to bypass the Strait of Hormuz blockade, disabled two ships that failed to comply with orders, and boarded two others to enforce compliance throughout the month of July.
- On July 25, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [claimed](#) its naval forces stopped four commercial vessels attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz via what it described as an “illegal and unsafe route,” as Iran continued efforts to force vessels into designated shipping lanes.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On July 26, Iranian military spokesman Amir Akraminia [remarked](#) that Iran had stopped its attacks as its strategy had been “entirely retaliatory” and U.S. strikes had halted.
 - » That day, a senior Iranian source [told](#) Reuters that Iran’s position “remains ‘attack for attack’: if the attacks stop, Iran will also halt its operations.” The source noted that this message had been shared with the United States.
- On July 24, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that an Iranian threat to target President Trump drove the decision to switch from him using the new Qatari-donated Boeing 747-8 to the old Air Force One aircraft when leaving the NATO summit in Turkey earlier in July.

Iraq

- On July 27, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) [said](#) Iran launched a drone strike against a residential area near the city of Koya, Iraqi Kurdistan. No casualties were immediately reported.
- On July 25, Iraqi air defenses [intercepted](#) a drone near the U.S. consulate in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Israel

- On July 27, Israeli media reported that Israel’s internal intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, believes that Iran is trying to meddle in the upcoming Israeli parliamentary elections.
 - » According to *The Times of Israel*, Boaz Bismuth, chairman of the Knesset Subcommittee for Intelligence and Secret Services, told a [closed-door briefing](#) over the weekend that the election “will be a central target for enemies of Israel, and there is a substantial fear that elected officials and candidates will be physically harmed.”
 - » Shin Bet Director David Zini, according to media reports, is “very disturbed” by the intelligence on Iran’s election interference efforts, which reportedly [involve](#) other unspecified foreign countries as well.

Jordan

- On July 27, Jordanian forces [shot down](#) two drones of unknown origin.

- » The IDF [announced](#) that the drones were intercepted over the Jordanian border, but that they did not cross into Israeli territory.

Maritime

- On July 26, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency [reported](#) that an oil tanker struck a naval mine in the Strait of Hormuz after departing the route designated by Iranian authorities, causing an explosion. Iranian officials did not immediately comment on the reported incident.
- On July 26, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [stated](#) it received notification of a tanker being targeted by an unknown projectile in the Red Sea. The projectile landed in water near the vessel, and no crew members were harmed.
- On July 25, UKMTO [reported](#) an "incident involving a tanker and military forces" in the Gulf of Oman.
- On July 24, a Saudi commercial vessel [sustained](#) minor damage without any reported casualties in a Red Sea attack as the Iran-backed Houthis continued their blockade campaign against Saudi ports.

Saudi Arabia

- On July 27, drones reportedly [struck](#) Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq refinery, leading to a large fire at the site. Riyadh has blamed the attack on Iranian-backed groups in Iraq.
- On July 27, the Houthis [announced](#) that their forces had fired drones at several sensitive facilities affiliated with Saudi Arabia's crude oil supply, as well as transportation sites that link the country's Eastern Region to the city of Yanbu on the Red Sea.
- On July 27, Saudi Arabia's air defenses [intercepted](#) several drones fired from Iraqi territory targeting Saudi petroleum facilities in Riyadh and the country's Eastern Province.
- On July 25, the Houthis [claimed](#) that they fired at Saudi Aramco facilities in the cities of Yanbu and Jizan.
 - » Earlier in the day, Greek forces in Saudi Arabia [shot down](#) two ballistic missiles that the Houthis fired at the country's Yanbu oil refineries.
 - » That morning, the rebels also [posted](#) to Telegram, writing that their forces had launched a missile at the city of Jizan.

Yemen

- On July 26, the Houthis' military spokesman Yahya Saree [assessed](#) that the group's forces "successfully shot down a Turkish-made ... armed reconnaissance drone belonging to the Saudi enemy while it was conducting hostile operations."

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On July 26, *Iran International* [reported](#) that according to senior Iranian officials, intermediaries who were responsible for covertly moving Iran's oil revenue to evade international sanctions have actually misappropriated around \$1.6 billion.

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

- On July 27, Ahmad Bakhshayesh Ardestani, a member of the Iranian parliament's national security committee, [revealed](#) that "We do not buy weapons from China. Instead, we receive intelligence systems from them. Their satellites help us," adding, "It is natural for China and Russia to say they do not help Iran, but in reality, they do."
- On July 27, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei [asserted](#) that "Bulgarian decision-makers must be held accountable for this unjustified and dangerous decision, which could effectively reduce their country to the role of an accomplice."

- » Baghaei's statement came after the Bulgarian government permitted the U.S. Air Force to deploy refueling aircraft to a Bulgarian base in support of military operations in Iran.
- On July 26, Iranian military spokesman Amir Akraminia [remarked](#) that "the US strategy is unclear even to the country's own officials. This is evident in the remarks of US officials, particularly the US president, as well as in the actions of US Central Command."
- On July 26, in response to a Ukrainian attack on an Iranian ship that killed a sailor in the Caspian Sea, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [posted](#) to X, writing, "Zelenskyy has attacked an Iranian commercial vessel, killing a sailor. A blatant UN Charter violation done at Israel's behest to drag Europe into its war."
 - » He referred to Zelenskyy as a "freeloader" and stated that the strike "CANNOT GO UN-ANSWERED."
 - » Zelenskyy [claimed](#) that Ukrainian forces had targeted Russian ships carrying Iran-linked military cargo.

8. JINSA Resources

- Jonathan Ruhe, "[Taking Out Iran's Pickaxe Nuclear Site is Key — Here's How Trump Can Do It](#)," The New York Post, Friday, July 24
- Giran Ozcan, [The Iran War Through the Kurdish Lens](#), July 24, 2026
- 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

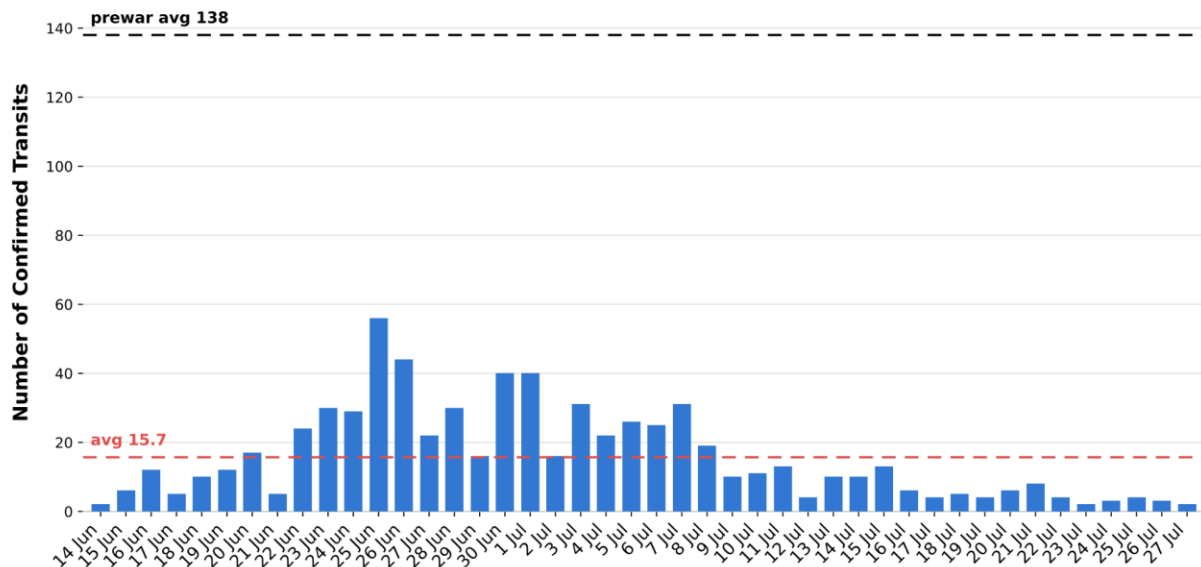
Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations



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	4,330	12,236	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.

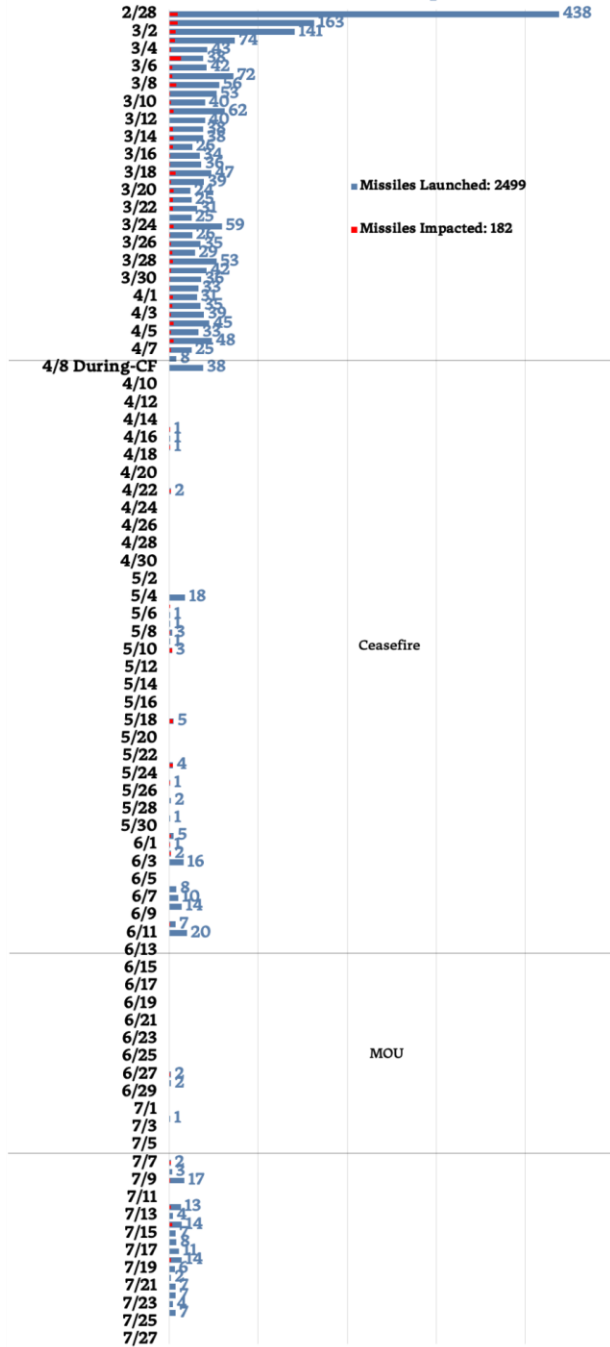
Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



Figures derived from Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA.

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

