



Iran War Update: July 28, 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 28 at 10:30 am ET.

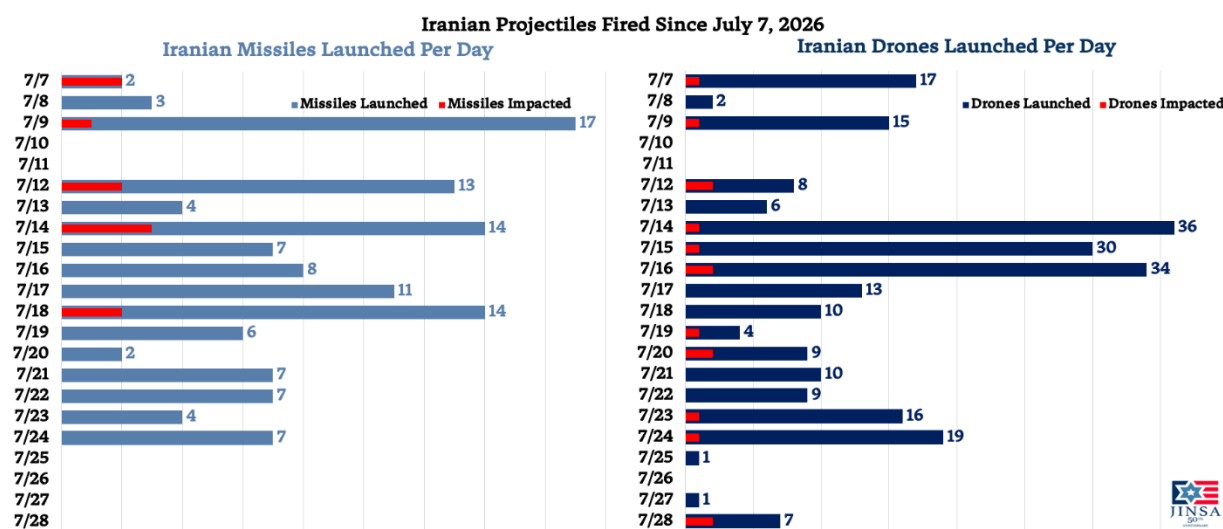
Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 373** (8 between July 27–28)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$86.43 a barrel](#)** as of **10:30 am ET** ([day range](#): \$84.70–88.06)

1. Overview

- On July 28, President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has traveled to Washington, D.C., for the late Senator Lindsey Graham's funeral, will [meet](#) for the first time since the Iran war began.
 - » In an interview with *Fox News* on July 28, President Trump [remarked](#) that Prime Minister Netanyahu will discuss intelligence on Pickaxe Mountain during the leaders' meeting today because “he wants me to stay involved.”
 - President Trump noted that Iranian construction at Pickaxe Mountain is “not a big problem,” adding that “We took out their nuclear sites, and we'll have to take out Pickaxe if they don't make a deal.”
 - President Trump further claimed that the United States “could take out most of their [Iran's] bridges in less than an hour” and eliminate all of Iran's power plants within one day.
 - » Israel's Channel 12 [reported](#) on July 28 that the White House indicated Prime Minister Netanyahu would need a diplomatic achievement in order to secure the meeting, which prompted the Israeli security cabinet's expedited decision to approve the International Security Force deployment under the Board of Peace-led plan.
 - » Vice President JD Vance will also [attend](#) the meeting following his recent criticism of Israel.
- Despite earlier indications that Israeli and Ukrainian officials were [trying to schedule](#) a meeting between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky while both are in Washington, D.C. this week, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on July 28 that the two leaders will not meet.

- In the early hours of July 28 local time, Iran conducted [drone attacks](#) against at least six locations in Iraqi Kurdistan, with video evidence indicating two drones [hit](#) targets, and later [launched](#) a drone that Jordanian forces intercepted.
- An American official speaking to [Axios](#) on July 27 noted that Iran is “more scared of Treasury than the War Department,” as U.S. intelligence suggests a worsening economic crisis in Iran.
 - » According to the official, Iran’s government is failing to pay its soldiers while the country risks bank runs and gasoline shortages.
- On July 27, President Trump [claimed](#) that “Right now, there are very friendly negotiations going on,” with Iran, insisting “You can’t bribe them. You’ve got to beat them, and we’ll beat the hell out of them. But we’ll see how it turns out.”
- Earlier on July 27, President Trump [stated](#) that the United States and Iran are “having good talks,” noting, “I think there’s a good chance that something could happen, and if it does, good, if it doesn’t, we go back to doing what we were doing two days ago.”



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Over the weekend, Oman [shared](#) a proposal with Iran for a mechanism to jointly manage the Strait of Hormuz, in which those using the strait would make voluntary contributions to fund services including coordinating navigation, protecting the environment, and search-and-rescue efforts, according to a Gulf source speaking to Reuters on July 28.
 - » Reuters reported that this proposal has received regional backing.
- On July 27, a Trump administration official [shared](#) with Israel’s Kan News that U.S.-Iran talks are at a “serious stage,” noting that both sides have shared proposals.
- On July 27, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [held](#) separate phone calls on the Strait of Hormuz with Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan.
 - » Araghchi’s call with his Saudi counterpart followed Saudi reporting that it had intercepted drones launched by Iran-linked groups in Iraq.

Lebanon

- On July 28, the U.S. State Department [confirmed](#) that the next round of U.S. mediated talks between Israeli and Lebanese officials will take place between August 4–6, in Rome.

- » A State Department official claimed that the talks will focus on implementing details from the [framework](#) that the two countries agreed to last month, which “includes expanding the pilot zone process, resolving all outstanding border issues, and working on a comprehensive peace and security agreement.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On July 28, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [insisted](#) during an interview with Israel’s Channel 14 news that “We very much want to strike Iran’s energy targets. The United States is not approving it at the moment because of the concern that Iran would attack neighboring countries, causing a global oil crisis.”
 - » He added that “As far as we’re concerned, we’re prepared to set [Iran] back 40 years.”
 - » Defense Minister Katz also [acknowledged](#) that while “the Iranians have been firing at everything, apart from” Israel, the Iranians “know that American aircraft are taking off from here, and refuelers are taking off from here, to strike.”
 - » He added that “This does not mean [we know] what will happen tomorrow. It means what our response will be. I announced, the prime minister announced, we made it absolutely clear: If they fire at Israel, we will strike [back] with full force.”

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On July 27, *The Wall Street Journal*, citing the ship-tracking firm Kpler, [reported](#) that despite the pause in strikes between the United States and Iran, shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is low, with only around six to 12 ships transiting the strait each day.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Iraq

- On July 28, a drone [struck](#) a military base affiliated with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan northwest of Sulaimani, Iraqi Kurdistan, causing a large fire.
- On July 28, U.S.-led International Coalition air defenses [intercepted](#) four drones over the Kurdistan Region, shooting down one over Erbil and three over the Soran Independent Administration. No casualties or damage were immediately reported.
- On July 27, three drones [targeted](#) facilities belonging to the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) and the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan north of Erbil, causing material damage but no reported casualties.

Jordan

- On the morning of July 28, Jordanian forces [intercepted](#) a drone over the country’s eastern region.
 - » Earlier in the day, the Israeli Air Force also [shot down](#) an unmanned aerial vehicle flying over the Jordanian border.
 - » The same type of incidents [occurred](#) on July 27, when Israeli forces intercepted two drones near the border and Jordanian forces also separately shot down two drones flying over its airspace.

Yemen

- On July 27, Yemeni Foreign Minister-designate Afrah al-Zouba [warned](#) that the Houthis were seeking to replicate Iran’s strategy in the Strait of Hormuz by disrupting shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- In the early morning hours of July 28, Iranian authorities [executed](#) two men in Isfahan who protested against the regime in January.
 - » Overnight, security forces erected a scaffold for the executions and clashed with protesters in the city's Alikhani Square.

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

- On July 28, Iranian state media [threatened](#) that Iran will not allow anyone who receives frozen Iranian funds as compensation for damaged ships to travel through the Strait of Hormuz.
- On July 28, Iran's *Tasnim News Agency* [published](#) a video threatening First Lady Melania Trump and Barron Trump, including a message stating, "Barron Trump, wait for us!"
- On July 27, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei [warned](#) that Ukraine's attack on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea "will certainly not go unanswered," saying Kyiv and its supporters would be held responsible for the incident.

8. International Response

- On July 28, in response to Ukrainian strikes on an Iranian ship in the Caspian Sea, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov [stated](#) that "This [Ukrainian] threat must be neutralized and definitively destroyed."
- Following reports of Iran-backed groups in Iraq firing drones at Saudi Arabia, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi [urged](#) officials to investigate the incident on July 27, according to his spokesman.
- While visiting Lebanon on July 27, the United Nations Human Rights Chief Volker Türk [called](#) on Israeli forces to halt home demolitions and urged them to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

9. 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

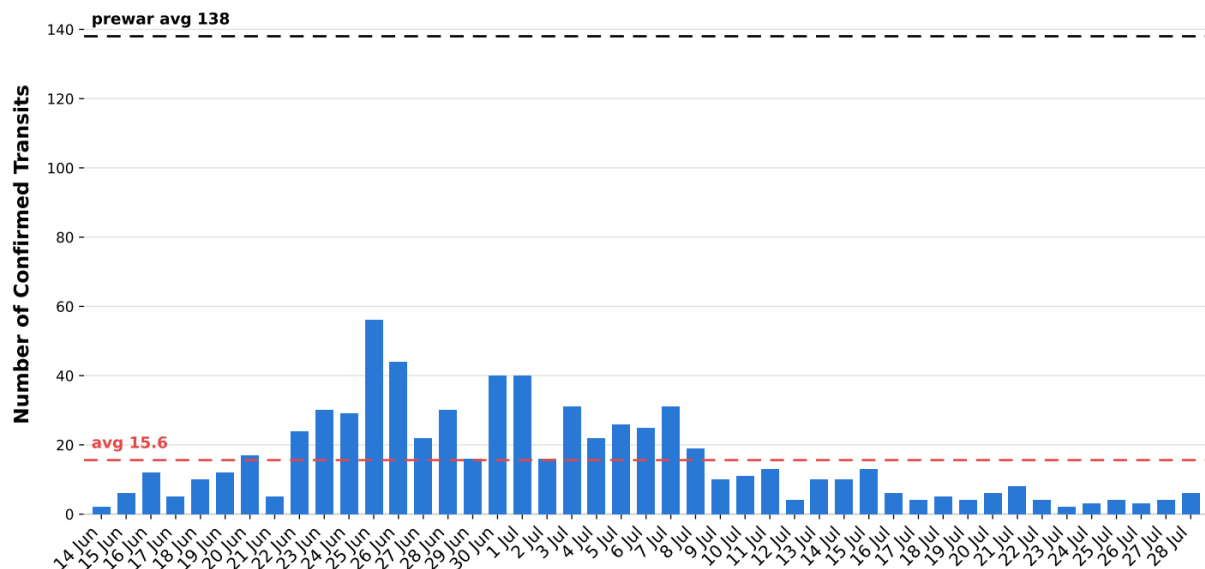
Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations



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	4,333	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.

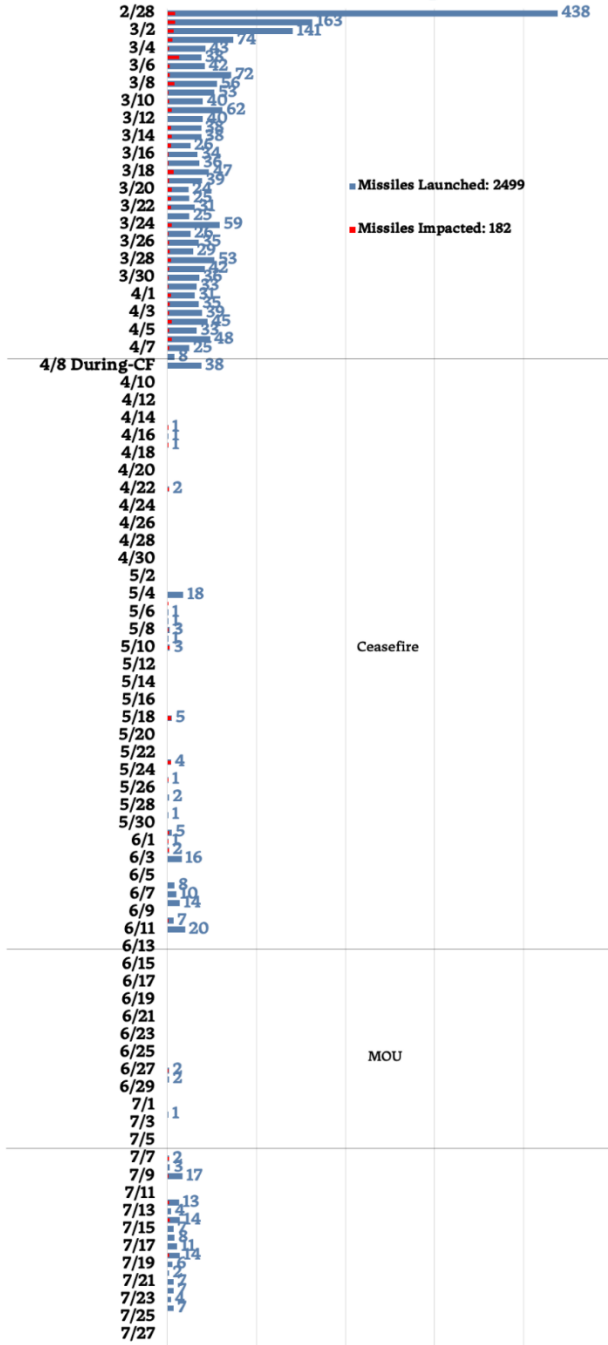
Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



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

