



Iran War Update: August 25–26, 2026

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President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a now-expired 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 August 26 at 11:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 426** (2 on August 18)

Brent Crude Oil Price: [\\$86.62 a barrel](#) as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$85.41–87.22)

1. Overview

- In an interview with *Al Jazeera* on August 26, President Donald Trump [stated](#) with regard to restarting talks with Iran, “I’m not in a hurry. I have no time schedule at all.”
 - » He stated that the United States is “winning very big” in its war against Iran and added that the Iranians have “got massive inflation, their economy is falling apart, they’re treating their people very badly, they are killing many, many protesters.”
 - » When asked if pressuring Tehran economically was more effective than kinetic strikes, he remarked, “I think they are both effective.”
- On August 26, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [announced](#) that Iran and Oman have agreed on each country’s share of the Strait of Hormuz’s waters and revenues from the strait.
 - » The two governments [announced](#) in a joint statement on August 25 that they were nearing a deal to establish a joint temporary corridor in the Strait.
- According to *Axios* reporting on August 25, Secretary of State Marco Rubio [told](#) several foreign counterparts that the United States does not plan to launch new strikes against Iran “for the time being,” as the administration’s focus is on applying other means of pressure against Iran, citing an American official and a second source familiar with the matter.
 - » While Secretary Rubio underscored that the United States is not planning for a resumption of major combat operations, he did not preclude strikes should Iran attack first.
- In a Truth Social post on August 25, President Trump [stated](#), “I have just been informed by the United States Navy that all mines have been removed and/or detonated from within the International Waters of the Strait of Hormuz.” Previously, on August 18, President Trump [claimed](#) in a post that “All water mines have been removed or detonated.”

- » He added, “Iran has been notified that any ship or boat placing new mines will be immediately and systematically destroyed. Through Space Force, we are watching every square inch of the Strait, as we are, also, with Pickaxe Mountain and the already destroyed three other Nuclear sites. There is a Zero Tolerance policy on mine placement in full force and effect.”
- In an earlier Truth Social post on August 25, President Trump [stated](#) that “The failing Islamic Republic of Iran is not paying large segments of their military, while at the same time killing protesters, even when they are not protesting, at levels not seen before.” It is [unclear](#) whether President Trump was discussing the January 2026 protests, a new round of protests not previously reported, or executions of protesters.
 - » He added, “It is a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, and must be stopped, NOW.”
- On August 25, the U.S. dollar [traded](#) for a record 2.054 million rials in the Iranian open market.
- On August 24, the U.S. Treasury Department [launched](#) “Operation Economic Outcast,” a sanctions campaign targeting the Iranian regime and the economic lifelines sustaining it.
- On August 24, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [told](#) Israel’s Channel 14 news that Tehran attempted to kill one of his sons.
 - » According to Newsmax reporting on August 25, citing an American law enforcement official, last December, Israeli intelligence [uncovered](#) an Iranian plot to kill Yair Netanyahu, who at the time was living in Florida.
- According to reporting from *The Wall Street Journal* on August 24, in the days leading up to Operation Epic Fury, former Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard had [warned](#) President Trump that eliminating then Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei would likely cause a more hardline Iranian regime that would be open to getting nuclear weapons to come to power.
 - » She also reportedly raised the risks of Iran closing the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian attacks on U.S. troops and partners in the region.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

- On August 25, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that the United States is preparing to send American diplomats back to the embassies they were working at in the Middle East prior to the war, including staff stationed in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

Iran

- On August 26, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesperson [declared](#) that “If the United States stops obstructing and returns to the memorandum, we can reopen the Strait of Hormuz within the framework of the agreement,” adding, “If the United States does not accept our conditions, the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened under any circumstances.”
- *Axios* [reported](#) on August 25 that, in calls with several foreign counterparts, Secretary of State Marco Rubio laid out the administration’s current approach to Iran:
 - » Refrain from military action against Iran for now;
 - » Amplify economic pressure against Tehran through the blockade and new sanctions from the Treasury Department; and
 - » Move as much oil as possible through the Strait of Hormuz.

- » An American official cited by *Axios* stated that this policy is expected to be in place until after the midterm elections in November, or longer, after which a new military campaign could be an option.
- On August 25, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari [said](#) Doha was continuing contacts aimed at restarting U.S.-Iran negotiations, calling the restoration of normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and protection of global energy, food, and supply-chain security Qatar's priorities.
- Following Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir's August 24 visit to Tehran, Pakistan's Interior Minister [announced](#) that Pakistani and Iranian officials made "significant progress" during their talks, which focused on the U.S.-Iran war and diplomatic efforts to establish peace in the region.
 - » The officials also [addressed](#) efforts to de-escalate tensions and re-open the Strait of Hormuz.

Lebanon

- On August 26, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [advocated](#) for continued diplomacy as the best path forward for Lebanon, saying that "We made the decision to negotiate in order to avoid the calamities and tragedies caused by the war," and adding, "It is true that it is not easy or quick and there are obstacles and difficulties, but it remains much better than war."

Syria

- On August 24, the U.S. State Department officially [removed](#) Syria from America's State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

3. U.S., Israeli, and Arab Partner Operations

- On August 26, President Trump [stated](#) in an interview with commentator Glenn Beck that "We're going to have a big victory here [in Iran] very soon" and reiterated previous assertions that the Strait of Hormuz is open and has been cleared of mines.
- On August 25, a Thai official [announced](#) that the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, which was deployed for over 200 days and supported Operation Epic Fury, will dock at a port in Thailand next week.

Iran

- On August 26, President Trump [stated](#), discussing Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khomeini, "I don't think he's dead. He was very seriously wounded. The left side of his body, the arm, the leg, the whole thing."
- On August 25, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [said](#) Iranian leaders were acknowledging the effects of U.S. economic pressure, arguing that "the pressure is working" and pledging that the Treasury Department would continue to "sever every economic lifeline" sustaining the Iranian government.
- On August 25, an American official [told](#) *Al Arabiya* that the U.S. blockade on Iran was being enforced "with full force and effectiveness."
- In a press conference on August 24, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth [stated](#) that "economic pressure... hurts [Iran] the most right now," before adding that "by no means are we foreclosing using kinetic strikes anywhere in the Strait of Hormuz or around Iran."
- On August 24, the Treasury Department [launched](#) Operation Economic Outcast, which it announced would "sever the economic lifelines that sustain the Iranian regime and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)."

- » The Departments of State, Defense, and Treasury are in contact with their counterparts globally to underscore that the United States expects “immediate action” to sever economic support to Tehran.
 - According to the announcement, “Every country will be given a defined timeline to shut down the Iran-related activity we have identified. If they fail to act, Treasury will act.”
- » Any entity that assists Iran through enabling money laundering or sanctions evasion could be shut out of the U.S. financial system.
- » The announcement of Operation Economic Outcast broadened the categories of Iran-related activity that could be subject to secondary sanctions and will increase the speed of U.S. enforcement.
- » The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued sanctions on close to 60 entities, individuals, and ships that are a part of Iran’s networks for nuclear and missile technology, cyber activities, and oil smuggling.
 - OFAC also suspended multiple general licenses permitting some remittance payments to Iran and allowing Iranians to access the American education and cultural system, and released guidance on the sanctions risks of meeting Iran’s demands regarding the Strait of Hormuz.
- » Prime Minister Netanyahu [lauded](#) Secretary Bessent and his announcement of new sanctions on Iran, stating “You justly exact a steep price from that cruel dictatorship and from those who assist its continued aggression.”
- On August 23, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir [met](#) with U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach and Israeli Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Omer Tischler to discuss the regional situation, lessons learned from the joint U.S.-Israeli campaign, and future areas of cooperation.

Syria

- On August 25, while visiting troops in Israel’s buffer zone in Syria, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [insisted](#) that “We will not move from Mount Hermon and the security zone as long as there are jihadist threats to the State of Israel. The message to the president of Syria is clear — when you wake up in the morning in the palace in Damascus and look up at Mount Hermon and see the IDF, you know that we are here to defend our communities and our border.”
 - » Addressing last week’s strikes on Syria, Minister Katz stated that Israeli forces “acted against a Turkish attempt to establish itself in Syria, while putting Israel’s security interests at risk,”
- On August 25, Israel’s Channel 12 [reported](#) that following Israeli strikes on the base in northern Syria, Turkey has set aside its interest in deploying military forces to the location due to de-escalation efforts by Israeli, Syrian, and Turkish officials.

Yemen

- On August 25, *Al Arabiya* [reported](#) that Yemeni government forces launched drone strikes on the Iran-backed Houthis, killing 33 fighters south of Hodeidah.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On August 26, Reuters [published](#) that, during the previous day, five commodity vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz, well below the 10-day average of 15 vessels, according to preliminary Kpler data. Two LPG tankers and one bitumen tanker exited the Gulf, while two empty product tankers entered.

- On August 26, Reuters [reported](#) that at least three Indian oil refiners and a major global energy company planned to stop using vessels on Iran's 45-ship blacklist, including for ship-to-ship transfers, because of security concerns.
- On August 26, Reuters [reported](#) that Saudi Aramco was offering additional crude for September loading via ship-to-ship transfers off Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, and Sohar, Oman, allowing buyers to load Saudi oil outside the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » Aramco had already sold at least four million barrels of crude to China through transfers off Sohar in August and reportedly used tankers with tracking systems switched off to move oil through the Strait amid security risks.
- Two U.S. officials speaking to Axios on August 25 [affirmed](#) President Trump's announcement that all mines had been cleared from the Strait of Hormuz and shared that the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), a shipping lane located between Iran and Oman, had been cleared by the Navy.
- On August 25, TankerTrackers [reported](#) at least 20 ship-to-ship transfer operations in the Gulf of Oman involving roughly 25 million barrels of crude oil, as well as refined petroleum products. The crude originated from nearly every Gulf country except Iran.
 - » TankerTrackers later [identified](#) Iranian liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) among the cargoes involved in the additional transfers.
- On August 24, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [reported](#) that U.S. forces have redirected 71 commercial vessels attempting to bypass the Strait of Hormuz blockade reimposed on July 14, disabled three ships that failed to comply with these orders, and boarded two others to enforce compliance.
- On August 24, the U.S. Treasury Department [warned](#) that mariners and shipping companies could face U.S. sanctions or other penalties for responding to information requests from Iranian entities involved in regulating the Strait of Hormuz, even if no payment is made.
 - » The Treasury specifically identified the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, Persian Gulf Marine Insurance Company, and HormuzSafe Marine Services Authority.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Maritime

- On August 25, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) [said](#) it had confirmed 68 maritime incidents in the Gulf and neighboring waters since the Iran war began, killing at least 20 seafarers or port workers, wounding 35, and leaving one missing.
 - » Roughly half of the incidents involved tankers, while the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Centre classified 47 of the 68 incidents as attacks.
- On August 24, UKMTO [reported](#) that an oil tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile approximately nine nautical miles northeast of Ash Shishah, Oman, damaging its engine room and disabling the vessel.

Outside the Middle East

- On August 25, responding to an Iranian video threatening to assassinate Barron Trump, the Secret Service [stated](#) that it is "aware of the video and investigates anything that can be perceived as a threat toward our On August 25, responding to an Iranian video threatening to assassinate Barron Trump, the Secret Service stated that it is "aware of the video and investigates anything that can be perceived as a threat toward our protectees."

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

- On August 26, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [addressed](#) new U.S. sanctions on Iran, saying that “With the measures that the government’s economic sectors have foreseen, America will not achieve anything with economic pressure at this stage, just as it was unable to achieve anything in the war,” and adding, “Our principle is understanding and resolving issues through interaction and negotiation, but at the same time, we will stand firm against economic pressures, as we have done so far and will continue to do.”
- On August 26, Iran’s hardline newspaper *Kayhan* [reported](#) on Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir’s visit to Tehran, writing, “The rushed visits by regional mediators to Tehran mark a new phase of the White House’s deception operation aimed at escaping the war’s quagmire.”
 - » The newspaper added that “Asim Munir’s presence in Tehran, as an American pawn and following his direct phone call with Trump the gambler, was less an act of balanced diplomacy than carrying out a mission assigned by the White House.”
- On August 26, Iranian Army Air Defense Force Commander Alireza Elhami [announced](#) that Iran seeks to expand its efforts to produce high-performing air defense systems and alter their deployments and positions after learning several lessons from the recent war.
- On August 26, an Iranian army spokesperson [urged](#) Qatari officials to expand efforts in investigating the status of the three missing Iranian pilots who were allegedly shot down over Qatar in March, stating that “Up to today, the response we have received from the Qatari side is that they are unaware of the fate of these pilots.”
- On August 25, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf [declared](#) that “America was defeated by Iran in the military and political war, and it will also be defeated in its economic measures.”
- On August 24, Iranian Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh [addressed](#) new U.S. sanctions on Iran, claiming, “They have done everything they could to test the determination of the Iranian people and the country’s officials, but they have failed every time. It seems they wished to suffer yet another defeat.”
 - » He added that “We’ve been waiting for these plans for a long time, and the government is and was ready and has a two-year plan to manage these events.”
- On August 24, Houthi Deputy Foreign Minister Abdulwahid Abu Ras [cautioned](#) countries against engaging in the United States’ “psychological warfare” and being used as “tools” to help implement U.S. sanctions on Tehran.

7. International Response

- On August 25, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lin Jian, addressing U.S. sanctions against Iran and secondary sanctions on countries cooperating with Iran, [stated](#) that “China has already stated many times that it firmly opposes illegal unilateral sanctions... China will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its own rights and interests.”
- On August 25, Reuters [reported](#) that European shares increased even after the United States imposed new sanctions on Iran, with healthcare and heavyweight industrial stocks “lifting the benchmark.”
- On August 25, British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey [commended](#) new U.S. sanctions against Iran and American efforts to pursue diplomacy with the regime while also urging Iran to halt “destabilizing activity” in the Middle East and Strait of Hormuz.
- On August 24, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres [announced](#) that the UN would like to help facilitate the safe transit of fertilizers across the Strait of Hormuz,

saying, “The purpose is simple: to reduce immediate risks, support more orderly and predictable transit, and help rebuild the confidence necessary for diplomacy and de-escalation.”

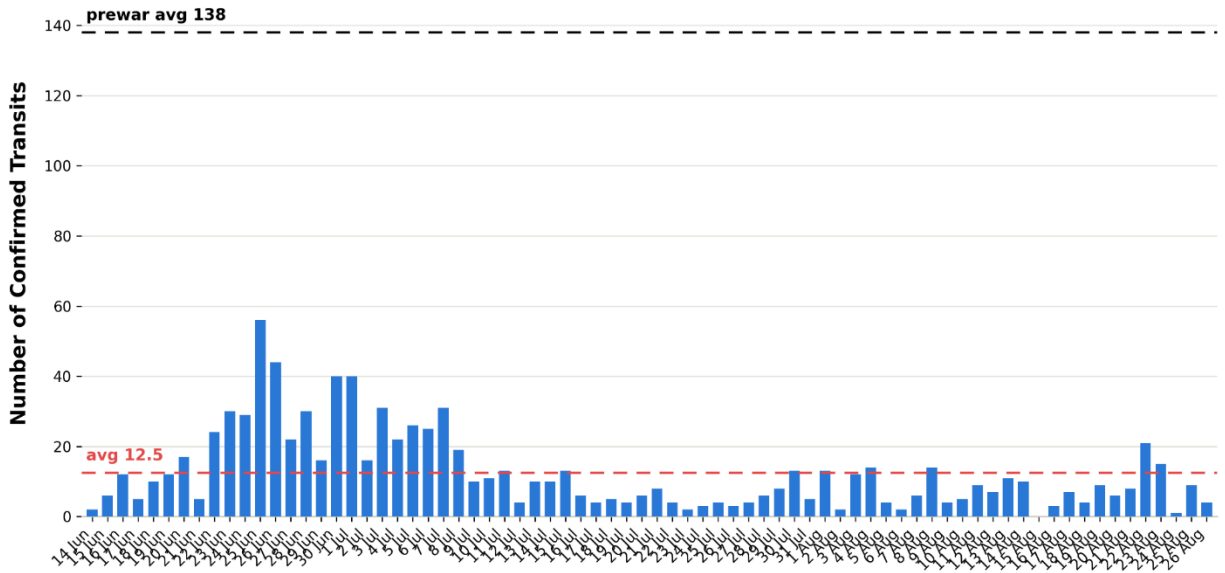
8. JINSA Resources

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, John Hannah, Blaise Misztal, and Jonathan Ruhe, [Shifting the Center of Gravity: Transforming the U.S.-Israel Security Partnership](#), August 18, 2026
- Gen Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), and VADM John W. Miller, USN (ret.), [“U.S. Must Reopen the Strait of Hormuz,”](#) *The Washington Times*, August 3, 2026
- Yoni Tobin, [Not Bottlenecks, But Strategic Opportunities: Making Room for More U.S. Refueling Tankers in Israel](#), August 3, 2026
- Giran Ozcan, [While Washington Pauses, Tehran Targets the Kurds](#), July 31, 2026
- 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
- John Hannah, [“Trump’s Hands Are Tied in Hormuz. Here’s ‘Plan B.’”](#) *The Washington Examiner*, July 23, 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

Estimated Casualties of Iran War Operations			JINSA
Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	18	500+	1 missing; 10 seriously wounded; 100 wounded in July; 358+ returned to duty
Israel	67+	7,798+	Killed include 26 civilians and 41 troops killed fighting Hezbollah (40 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	4,346	12,301	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	23	Killed occurred in March 22 helicopter crash
Saudi Arabia	3	34	Killed include 1 Saudi national and 2 foreign nationals
Syria	4+	Several	
United Arab Emirates	12	230	
International Waters	16	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.